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Newsletter 48

"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, Alexander Siddig, 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, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to the final IDIC newsletter.

So many of you have written expressing your regret at the club's closure and thanking us for running IDIC that you have made us feel quite guilty! However we still feel that we are closing the club at the right time. We are getting very stale and really need a break; and we would rather finish with a newsletter that we think you will enjoy than let the newsletters decline in standard. We have also seen both Beyond Antares and Spotlight on Leonard Nimoy closing down recently, possibly for much the same reasons. They were both good clubs and will be missed.

We must point out that the success of the newsletter has not been due solely to us but to all of you who have contributed to them and we would like to thank regular contributors (in particular) for their input. Other than compiling news, what we have tried to do is give you a platform to communicate with each other and to share your joy of Star Trek. Here is a tip from Janet to anyone wanting to edit a letterzine or to encourage reader participation in a newsletter. Restrain yourself and don't write

comments in answer to letters you print - even if the letter refers to something you have said. Doing this gives you an unfair advantage over the rest of the readers. If you feel you must answer the letter then wait until the next newsletter like everyone else has to. Don't answer people's questions unless it is something that needs a very brief reply. Sure, you may know the answer but so do a lot of the readers and they may be encouraged to write in with the answer. This is how we have tried to edit the IDIC newsletter and it does seem to have worked.:-)

We want to take this opportunity to thank a lot of people: Committee assistants Helen White, Karen Sparks, and Jean Sloan for their help; the Chain Gang (currently Frances Abernethy, Carol Kean, Amanda Robertson, Allison Rooney, Stephen Rothwell) - addressing the envelopes isn't too difficult, but stuffing them, especially when there have been two or three flyers to include, is a job and a half, and they have been cheerful and very co-operative about doing it - and Hilde Barrie, Kimberly Bonella, Lorraine Poole, Jim Robertson, Lesley Walker and Jackie Comben

who all helped at different times; without the Chain Gang, putting out the newsletters would have been extremely difficult. We owe a lot to our printer Frank Urban for keeping the price down as much as possible, to Richard Urban for delivering the newsletters to Sheila and Sheila's postman for picking up the newsletters from her house every second month. There are also the people who have rattled the Guide Dog collecting box at conventions - especially Jackie Comben, Sue Jones, Brenda Kelsey, Taruka Quauhtezcatl, Judith Taylor, Kathryn Trimble. Thank you all very much for your help.

Also thanks to Peter Carmody, Jacqueline Comben, Anne-Marie Flowers, Fiona McDonald, Harminder Pal, Margaret Richardson, Edward Woo, Linda Wood and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings for this news letter.

Many thanks all of you who have donated money to the club funds, whether you have sent in a cheque or donated the remainder of your dues. All your donations are appreciated very much but we feel we must give special mention to Claudia Baschke, Christine Bury, Donald Campbell, Ian Forrest, Gary Heron, Carl Jurgens, Lorraine Kelly, William McIvor, Gloria Rigg and Marion Stamatu. Due to the generosity of you all, plus the success of the two raffles and the tombola at Contagion, we not only have enough money to close the club in the black, but also to sponsor another Guide Dog. There should also be enough money to make a start on another dog.

We can't tell you the exact state of the club accounts at the moment as it will take a few months to finalize them. We will probably keep the books open for 6 months as after then any cheques not cashed are void. Any money left in the club account will be transferred to the IDIC Guide Dog fund and any money collected from the sale of IDIC zines will also go into the Guide Dog Fund. We will give details of the progress of the Guide Dog Fund and the progress of our new dog in the STAG newsletter, the IDIC Mailing List (see later) and maybe in some other clubs as well.

REFUNDS - If you have requested a refund a cheque should be enclosed with this newsletter. 70 members still haven't returned their refund form or let us know by letter what they want, so if you are due a refund because you have paid beyond this newsletter, and you want it, please contact Janet before the end of October '96.

CREDIT - If you have requested credit and not used it yet, we have a note of this, but if possible please use it before the end of October. Just tell Sheila when you want to use it.

ZINES - Zine buyers can leave an SAE with Sheila for notification of new titles - write on the back whether you are interested in all zines or you can specify TOS, TNG or DS9. Members with an email address may join the Scotpress mailing list and receive info on all our new zines. This info may be extended to cover zines from other publishers if they want to send the details to Janet.

Conventions, clubs, ST zines in general - If you want details of these contact Janet in her role as STW British Rep. Enclose an SAE - an extra 26p stamp would be appreciated to cover the cost of printing the list. It isn't feasible to leave an SAE with Janet for updates because the information will be constantly updated so you will need to write again whenever you want information.

RAFFLE

Congratulations to Valerie Donnelly who won the Franklin Mint Pewter Enterprise, and thanks to everyone who bought tickets.

IDIC MAILING LIST

For the moment Janet has decided to form a mailing list rather than do a web page. To start with this will be more of an irregular newsheet which is available to anyone with an email address. Janet gets quite a bit of interesting information - for instance recently she was asked to spread word of Star Trek Marathons of all 7 films at Harrow and Leicester. This is easier and much cheaper to do on the Internet. Whether the newsheet develops further and whether a web comes out, we'll just need to wait and see.

To join the mailing list email Janet at janetq@post.almac.co.uk and ask to be added to the IDIC Mailing List.

Hopefully those receiving the newsheet will pass news on to their friends, so if you don't have access to the Internet it might be worth your while making friends with someone who does. :-)

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

Sheila took more stamps and the collecting box to Forfar after Contagion; it held £31.43, mostly from Contagion. We weren't pushing the collecting box at the con because of the tombola, so that was really quite good. Another 10 kilos of stamps went up in early September. As already mentioned, we do have enough money to sponsor a dog and have "booked" Kirk, the Shepherd from the same kennel as Aero and Sadie. He started his preliminary training in mid-August and although it's too soon to know how he's likely to do, we're quietly hopeful that he'll do as well as Aero. We'll post any information on his progress that we get in letters to STAG. This means that in the 8 years the club has been running, we've raised £10,000 and sponsored 7 dogs. Our thanks to everyone who has helped in any way to raise this money.

USED STAMPS

We would like to thank Liz Aris, Stacey Bailey, Neil Barrett, Alistair Blackett, Jennifer Blanchard, Kimberly Bonella, Silvia Boy, Donald Campbell, Helen & Margaret Connor, Sheila Cornall, Linda Court, Alistair Craig, James O Donovan, Veronica Duthie, Darren Evans, Julie Evans, Garry J Foggo, Ian Forrester, Gloria Fry, Emma Garland, Alberto Gorin, Kathleen Glancy, Karen Halstrom, Martin Helsdon, Catherine Hill, Glyn Holland, Dave Houston, A Johnston, Carol Kean, Brenda Kelsey, Marlies Kuratli, Jessica Lemmer, Lloyd Lewis, Lisa Livermore, Richard Lowe, Elaine McCue, D McGrory, Kayta Phillips, Marie and David Raper, Gloria Rigg, R M Robinson, Allison Rooney, Stephen Rothwell, Scottish Pharmaceutical Federation, Peter Scarisbrick, Alex Shorrock, Margaret Sibbald, Ingrid Smith, Alexis

Stokes, Helen Thompson, Jenny Turner, Olga Fernandez del Val, Carl Vandal and Scotforce, Stephen Whitmore, Edward Woo, James Woodman 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.

While we are grateful to everyone who donates anything at all to our Guide Dog Fund, even if it's only half a dozen used stamps, at the risk of embarrassing her we would particularly like to thank Brenda Kelsey - thanks to a sponsored slim she raised £1400 for the Fund. Her donation last year gave us enough to sponsor Brodie, and a further cheque this year has ensured that we have enough to sponsor Kirk, thus closing the club on a positive note. Indeed, the amount she raised single-handed was nearly three-quarters of the amount needed to sponsor a dog in her own name. Thank you, Brenda.

Incidentally, we know that some of you feel that the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has plenty of money (oversubscribed, as one member put it) but the training centre in Scotland is, as far as we know, autonomous when it comes to fund-raising and is not as well-off as the English centres.

We thought you might like to know that dogs that fail as Guide Dogs for minor reasons are now often passed on to Dogs for the Disabled or Hearing Dogs for the Deaf - a fault that makes a dog unsuitable for a blind owner doesn't necessarily prevent it from being a perfectly good Hearing Dog, or being trained to pick up things for people who are - say - confined to a wheelchair.

Remember, we will be continuing to save stamps and sell second hand books/zines for the Guide Dogs, so please do keep on sending them in! Bill Hupe is leaving Mason and dropping out of active fandom; however, anyone in America who has been sending stamps to him for us can continue to send them via Peg Kennedy, New Leaf Productions, 413B 19th St Suite 121, Lynden, WA 98264, USA.

We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving ¼" (1 cm) of envelope around the stamp.

The list of second hand books and zines does change fairly regularly; anyone interested can sent Sheila an SAE from time to time for updates (4 - 6 monthly would probably be realistic timing).

Sheila is hoping to leave Dundee for the west coast inside the next year, but obviously will be taking out a year's forwarding of mail, and as long as the return address of anyone sending in stamps is on the packet, she'll let them know what her new address is; we'll also be announcing it with zine ads in club newsletters.


If anyone is interested Janet still has quite a lot of TNG CIC videos for sale - see small ads.

Well, that about covers everything. We have been asked to recommend a club but while we are stopping short of doing that, we intend to join STAG, BSFR and The Transatlantic Star Trek Federation. We will also join the Zine Reader Zine and any letterzine which starts up. We would like to join many more clubs but we couldn't afford it.

We do intend to stay active in fandom, just slightly less active than we have been. We hope to see many of you at conventions or 'meet' you in other club newsletters.

Peace and Long Life

Au Revoir

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 15/9/96 



compiled by Janet Quarton

TV & SATELLITE

The BBC celebrated Star Trek's 30th Anniversary on Monday 26 August, on BBC 2 with an evening of special programmes. These were: an introduction to the night celebrating 30 years of STAR TREK with Craig Charles; To Boldly Go Where No Quiz Has Gone Before; Science; The Final Frontier; Spoof Trek; Star Trek Story; Funk Me Up Scotty; Star Trek Voyager - Caretaker (Pilot).

There were a number of short STAR TREKKERS items that night and the previous week where celebrities talked about their love of characters and the show.

- Star Trek Deep Space Nine is continuing where it left off with the second season's 'Profit and Loss' on Thursdays at 6pm BBC 2.

- Star Trek The Next Generation's pilot was shown on Wednesday 22/08/96 and the BBC

have started a complete re-run of the series on Wednesday nights at 6pm BBC 2.

- Sky One is continuing to show TOS on Sundays at 1.00pm and DS9 at 3pm and repeated at 6pm. As of 15/9/96 TOS is up to the second season episode The Changeling and DS9 is up to the 4th season episode The Shattered Mirror.

- According to TV Zone issue 83 Voyager starts on BBC2 on Sundays from 29th September. DS9 will be repeated from the beginning on Sky 2 daily from 27th September. DS9 on Sky One will end mid-October (at the end of Season 4).

It looks like we are celebrating Star Trek's 30th Anniversary with plenty of Star Trek on TV over the next few months.

BBC - screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
TOS		
01	The Cage	19/08/96
06	The Man Trap	20/08/96

TNG

101	Encounter at Farpoint	21/08/96
103	The Naked Now	28/08/96
104	Code of Honor	04/09/96
105	The Last Outpost	11/09/96
106	Where No One Has Gone Before	18/09/96

DS9

2nd Season		
438	Profit and Loss	29/08/96
439	Blood Oath	05/09/96
440	The Maquis, Part I	12/09/96
441	The Maquis, Part II	19/09/96

Voyager

Caretaker	26/08/96
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STAR TREK VOYAGER

Star Trek: Voyager.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Eps	Date	UPN #	Prod	Title
42	04/09/96	STV301	146	Basics Part II [season premiere]
43	11/09/96	STV302	145	Flashback
44	18/09/96		147	The Chute
45	25/09/96		148	The Swarm

SPOILERS

301 "Basics, Part Two" - Directed by Rick Kolbe; Written by Michael Piller. Special guest star Brad Dourif as Ensign Suder; guest starring are Anthony De Longis as Culluh, Martha Hackett as Seska, Nancy Hower as Ensign Wildman, Simon Billig as Ensign Hogan, Scott Haven as the Kazon engineer, David Cowgill as the alien #2, Michael Bailey Smith as the alien #1 and Russ Fega as the Talaxian.

Left for dead by the Kazon, Captain Janeway and her crew brave the elements and hostile natives on Hanon Four, a primitive planet. When one of their group is viciously killed and then Kes is abducted, Chakotay and Tuvok must attempt a precarious rescue. They prepare for a vengeful alien attack while a gloating Culluh at the helm of Voyager announces a new era in Kazon history and prepares to annihilate most of the Delta Quadrant.

As Culluh tests the ship's power, Seska activates the Emergency Medical Holographic Program only to have the Doctor report startling facts about her newborn baby. The Doctor detects that Ensign Suder is stowed away on board and learns that Lieutenant Paris, with the help of a Talaxian convoy, is piloting a damaged shuttlecraft, desperately working to somehow save Voyager. The Doctor soon arouses Seska's suspicions and is permanently deactivated, leaving Suder as the only hope to retake the ship. All the while, Suder is tortured by the realization that he must resort once again to violence.

The episode was filmed on location in Lone Pine, California.

303 "Flashback" - Directed by David Livingston; teleplay by Brannon Braga. Guest starring Grace Lee Whitney as Commander Janice Rand, Jeremy Roberts as Valtane, Boris Krutonog as the helmsman, Michael Ansara as Kang and George Takei as Captain Hikaru Sulu.

Tuvok suddenly begins having strange, disorientating attacks which cause a disturbing childhood memory to resurface. As the trauma begins to degrade his neural system he knows he must take action or he will die. To access and conquer the debilitating memory fragment, he asks Captain Janeway to act as his guide and enter into a mind-meld with him. Amazingly, the mind-meld takes Tuvok and Janeway to the scene of the young Vulcan's first Starfleet duty - on the bridge of the U.S.S. Excelsior with Captain Hikaru Sulu in command.

This episode commemorates the 30th anniversary of the hugely popular "Star Trek" franchise and marks the first time a cast member from the classic "Star Trek" series has appeared on "Star Trek: Voyager." The

episode also contains references back to the feature film *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*.

While The Doctor and Kes monitor them, Janeway and Tuvok delve deep into the mind-meld. Tuvok attends to duties with his then fellow crew members including Commander Janice Rand, while Janeway is an unseen observer. She learns that Tuvok's first deep space assignment, as a junior science officer aboard the *Excelsior*, was a disagreeable tour of duty for the young Vulcan and sees how it eventually led to his departure from Starfleet over 50 years ago. Janeway also has a chance to see firsthand what her kindred officer, Captain Sulu, chose to do in the heat of battle with the Klingons, led by Commander Kang ("Deep Space Nine").

Tuvok clashes with Sulu over the Captain's orders to make the bold mission to the Klingon Homeworld to rescue Captain Kirk and Doctor McCoy (*Star Trek VI*) and Janeway gets to "ride shotgun" with a different breed of Starfleet officer. Janeway and Tuvok continue with the mind-meld in hopes that it will yield just which repressed memory is causing such a physical reaction in Tuvok - until something goes wrong and without warning, Sulu and the *Excelsior* crew can see Janeway.

Unofficial

143 "Sacred Ground" Directed by Robert Duncan McNeill (Tom Paris).

Chakotay episode where we find out what tribe he belongs to. Janeway must adopt an alien religion in order to save Kes' life. Harry Groener (Tam Elbrum in TNG's "Tin Man") as the Magistrate. Becky Ann Baker as the Guide.

144 "False Profits" Directed by Cliff Bole; Teleplay by Joe Menosky and Kenneth Biller. Story by George A Brozak.

The two Ferengi from the TNG episode "The Price", who disappeared into the Barzan wormhole, are discovered. Guest stars include Dan Shor as Dr Arridor, Leslie Jordan as Kol, Rob LaBelle (the Talaxian prisoner from "Faces") as Kafar, Michael Ensign (Krola from TNG's "First Contact" and Lojal from DS9's "The Forsaken") as Bard, and Alan

Altshuld (Pomet from TNG's "Starship Mine" and Yranac from "The Gambit, Part I") as Sandal.

"Future's End, Parts 1 & 2," - the Voyager crew battles a threatening 29th century Starfleet ship, and the U.S.S. Voyager is thrown back in time to Earth in 1996. Captain Janeway (Kate Mulgrew) and an Away Team beam down to Earth to discover that an egocentric computer whiz named Starling (Ed Begley, Jr.), has stolen 29th century Starfleet technology. His misuse of this advanced technology could lead to billions of deaths and the destruction of the planet. Captain Janeway and the Voyager crew must outwit this crafty adversary in order to save the inhabitants of Earth in the 29th century, and rescue the Doctor (Robert Picardo), whom Starling has kidnapped.

"Q and Grey"-- Q comes to Voyager to impregnate Janeway after the Q go to civil war over Quinn's death. To restore the balance, a new Q must be born. Q chooses Janeway. One scene involves Q dressed as Butler from "Gone With The Wind" and Janeway as Scarlet. Q is carrying her up the stairs.

"The Chute" - Harry trapped in an alien prison.

"The Swarm" The Doctor gets amnesia and loses his memory.

- Andrew Robinson (Garak on DS9) will be directing a Voyager episode this season.

- Here are some extracts from **Roxann Dawson's** (Lt. Torres) **America On Line** chat about new Voyager episodes:

Question: Do you feel your character has become "less Klingon" than originally envisioned?

Roxann: Yes and we're working on that. Because there are 9 characters in our cast...at times it's hard to keep developing all of them at the same time. And the Klingon side of B'Elanna...is a side, I think, we'll explore much more this season.

Question: Any truth to the rumour that a major character gets killed this season?

Roxann: That "TV Guide" article is making us all paranoid. If anybody knows anything, please let me know.

Question: Will your character have any strong episodes this upcoming season?

Roxann: Yes. I just completed an episode called "Remember." The plot is about...an old alien woman with telepathic ability...who gives the memories of her life to me before she dies. I live these memories...in vivid dreams. During which I'm actually living this woman's life. She gives me these memories...to reveal that her species has committed a kind of holocaust. A systematic extinction of another race. She wants me to know so that the younger generation can be told...and will remember....so that this won't happen again. This episode was amazing for me to work on. We've just completed it...and I hope I can live up to the wonderful script.

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STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

EPISODE SPOILERS

Here's an unofficial DS9 schedule for the new season:

30/9/96 "Apocalypse Rising" (Picks up where "Broken Link" left off)

7/10/96 "The Ship" (Sisko and crew battle Jem 'Hadar over their crashed warship)

14/10/96 "Looking For Par'mach In All The Wrong Places" (Grilka, from "House of Quark," is back. Quark tries to woo her, with the entire crew helping him. Dax finally sexually nails Worf)

21/10/96 "Nor the Battle To The Strong"

(Jake Sisko and Dr. Bashir answer a distress call on their way home.)

4/11/96 "Trials and Tribble-ations" (30th Anniversary Episode) Episode is said already to be one million dollars over budget and they haven't begun filming yet. Terry Farrell is going to be in a Nurse Chapel uniform. Siddig and Colm will be the bar during this episode. Producers planned to use original classic uniforms, but the uniforms were unusable because most of the DS9 stars are taller and thinner compared to the classic stars. New uniforms were made.

DS9 will utilize cutting edge special effects to honour the 30th Anniversary of STAR TREK in an episode entitled "Trials and Tribble-ations." In this special episode, Captain Sisko (Avery Brooks) and the Deep Space Nine crew will journey back in time and come face-to-face with Captain James T. Kirk, the legendary crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise and the troublesome Tribbles. "This episode not only represents a first-ever for STAR TREK, but is a real break-through in television special effects," Executive Producer Ira Steven Behr comments. "We will use 'Forrest Gump'-type effects to enable cast members from a current series to visit a classic television show, produced 29 years ago, and interact with the characters, creating an entirely new episode."

"Trials and Tribble-ations," is scheduled to air the week of November 4, 1996. In this episode, Captain Sisko and the Defiant crew are transported back in time by a Klingon thief, Darvin, bent on taking revenge upon Captain Kirk, who exposed him as a spy. Upon reaching the Enterprise, Captain Sisko encounters the fuzzy, cuddly creatures known as "Tribbles," which have achieved cult status among STAR TREK fans.

Through an insidious plot using the seemingly harmless Tribbles, Darvin attempts to destroy Kirk and his crew, and Captain Sisko must race against time to prevent the destruction of the original U.S.S. Enterprise. July 25 /PRNewswire/

Other items

* Dr. Bashir will get new doctor scrubs.

* Odo has a real problem dealing with being human, and a bigger problem dealing with alcohol.

- According to Andrew Robinson, Garak and Gul Dukat fans will rejoice as the duel of all duels between the two is in approximately episode #8 over Gul Dukat's daughter, Ziyal. Furthermore, the Cardassians will return to being villains by mid-season.

- Some extracts from Visions 96 con report as posted on the net. "Visions '96: Boston's Science Fiction Exposition" was held on Sat. & Sun., August 17-18. Guests included Armin Shimerman, Robert Duncan McNeill & Denise Crosby

Armin Shimerman was *very* forthcoming. The entire cast of DS9 is contracted through the 6th season. When asked if he would sign another contract, he debated whether to tell us the truth. When we urged him to, he admitted that the *entire* cast is *very* upset about their salaries, calling them *embarrassing*! They feel that they are paid *significantly* less than others on television. He said that 2 cast members in particular make *very* little, though he declined to say who. They recently had a cast meeting in which they *all* agreed that they would *not* sign new contracts unless Paramount paid them *much* more for their gruellingly long work days.

Armin said that his decision on whether to renew his contract would also have a lot to do with whether or not his face could take the make-up. He said that as time has gone on, the make-up has been physically more and more irritating to his skin.

When asked if, given that DS9's ratings have been getting worse and given that the entire cast will be asking for much more money, there's a good chance of Paramount just deciding to end DS9 after the 6th season, he said that there was a good chance.

Armin said that the cast of DS9 feels that they are one of the finest on television. They are very serious, and do not spend much time on gags and practical jokes as have some of the "younger" Trek casts (his word!) But they do spend a lot of time preparing each scene to make sure it's just right.

He said that due to the timing of DS9's release, they feel like the middle child. When DS9 started, TNG was in the middle of their

best seasons, ratings-wise. Then TNG got all of the publicity for the finale. Then the movie got all of the attention. Then Voyager, being the premier show on the UPN network got all of the attention. They feel like they've been somewhat ignored, both by Paramount and by the fans.

Robert Duncan McNeill was very tired. He had just done a week of location shooting with particularly long hours.

Someone mentioned what Armin had said about the DS9 cast being very unsatisfied with their salaries and treatment from Paramount and asked if he or the rest of the Voyager cast felt the same way. He said that the Voy cast were very happy and satisfied to be working on Trek.

He is very excited to be getting the chance to direct. He will be directing at least one upcoming episode, though he hopes it won't be with Q, since DeLancie is notoriously difficult to work with, he says.

He thinks that perhaps one of the reasons that Paris hasn't gotten all of the attention he should is that he was so busy pitching to direct that he didn't pitch for as much character development as he should have. The cast have recently had individual meetings with the producers about where the characters are going and where they felt they should be going. He said that his biggest disappointment with Paris is that they brought him in to be a "hero", yet they have given him relatively few chances to be a hero. Instead they have focussed on his rebellious nature. He says that the producers have agreed to give him more chances to be a hero.

- Rene Auberjonois at Shore Leave XVIII Saturday July 13, 1996.

Filming for the 5th season of DS9 began the previous Tuesday. Rene said he couldn't believe it because "it's been quite a journey." The very first episode he appears as Klingon, along with Colm Meaney and Avery Brooks! It has to do with the Gowron/Founder storyline brought up in last season's "Broken Link." He said he always suspected that Klingon or Cardassian make-up was more comfortable than his Odo make-up and he was RIGHT! He said it's much easier to deal with Klingon make-up. The Odo make-up "makes me feel like I have a toilet plunger on

my face all day." Colm Meany absolutely hated the make-up experience and pouted and whined all day. As a result, Rene, along with Michael Dorn have been teasing him about what a baby he is.

In this season opener, even Gul Dukat is in Klingon make-up. Dukat takes them to a Klingon planet and has a line "Do you know the way to...." and suddenly everyone, fully dressed as Klingons, broke into song "Do you know the way to San Jose" etc... Rene said it was *very* funny looking.

* He did not expect the Klingon boots to be so uncomfortable. He said they come in only one size and are simply very difficult to work in.

Regarding filming for "Broken Link" and being naked, he said the bottom line was: he was 56-years-old and very nervous. He said DS9 has two of the most beautiful women on television: Nana Visitor and Terry Farrell. He said sometimes these two women wear outfits that look like clothing has been painted on them – they just look *gorgeous* and "men's jaws drop" all over. He said he's a man who's hardly in shape and ready for a nude scene. So he went to the director, Les Landau and expressed his fears. Together, he and Landau picked an area on the rock to shoot on so that Rene could lie in such a way that he didn't have to suck up his stomach all the way.

* The day of shooting, Rene walks on stage wearing a bathrobe and an itty bitty skin-coloured bikini. He looks around him, walks to the rock and takes off the robe and lies down quickly. The wardrobe person comes behind him and starts pulling down the bikini little by little until basically he has to cover his front with his hands. He's really nervous and is assuming that everyone is staring at him. Suddenly he looks around and notices that NO ONE is looking at him at all - - that they're busy eating or talking and are completely ignoring him. So by the time the 3rd shot is done he's feeling rather comfortable and doesn't mind the situation at all.

* On his reaction to remaining in Odo-like appearance after becoming Human, Rene said it really intrigued him that that was the decision that was made by the producers. He remembers a time when the Odo make-up bothered him because he felt it was taking

away the most valuable tool he felt he had as an actor - his face. He knows the Trek make-up artists have gotten compliments from the Babylon-5 people on make-up and how it is done so well. He knows the make-up has always been done well, but he used to have real problems with it. Now he doesn't because he *loves* the way Odo looks. He feels it is quite a challenge to him as an actor to make Odo an expressive character through anything *but* his face – through voice, hand gestures, body language, etc. He loves masks and has taught mask classes. Rene feels one's face can more often *hide* emotions than express them and using a mask forces people to use other parts of their body. He collects masks and feels they are very important to acting. He would have been *very* sorry if Odo had lost his facial features in becoming a Solid.

He does not believe there will be a "Deep Space 9" movie. He says he *loves* doing DS9 as a TV series and does not feel it should go to movie status – it wouldn't excite him to do a movie, his best work is on the show. He said he was under the distinct impression that Paramount was going to support "Next Generation" as the movie franchise... and that DS9 or Voyager weren't in the picture. He said Paramount probably knows that having TWO Trek movie series going at the same time would be iffy, just as they are finding that out with two Trek TV series...

* Rene said that the world is different now than it was several years ago (when TOS movies were being made). There is more competition out there and that that is a good thing, but the reality is that Trek is not the only major sci-fi offering anymore. He feels DS9 is the dysfunctional family of the Trek Family and that simply is not movie making material.

After Trek is over for him, his intention is to go back to doing stage work. He would like to do King Lear and some other works. He wants to do challenging things.

Rene says he is very good friends with Nana Visitor and Alexander Siddig. Nana is a powerful presence all by herself and Rene feels the writers have dealt with her pregnancy in a "clever way." Right now the Kira character is not permitted to go on various missions because of the pregnancy. Rene said he knew if Nana was not pregnant,

Kira would be on the Klingon mission with the rest of the executive crew. He feels Kira is one of the richest characterizations on the show and also one of the most popular.

Nana's baby is due in November. Rene feels it won't take very long for Nana to get back into shape for the show because she started filming DS9 only 6 weeks after she had given birth to her first child, Buster in 1990. Rene does not know if Alexander & Nana are going to get married, but they probably will. He said he knew what was going on before others did because his trailer was in-between Nana's and Alexander's and the two would be going back and forth across his trailer. Eventually he offered his trailer to one of them and switched so the two could be next to each other.

STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT

- According to Starburst the Star Trek film is now due for release in the UK on December 20th not December 6th which was the first date set as the UK release date. This date may change again. (Starburst)

- In the July 11 issue of the Reno Gazette-Journal, it was reported that First Contact will shoot for a week beginning July 22 in Verdi, a suburb of Reno about 7 miles west. The reason stated for the location shooting was that they needed a forest fire scene for the movie and there was a fire in this area about a year ago (the Crystal Peak fire for any locals out there). The article also states that the location will be remote and that the actors will need to be helicoptered into the shooting location.

- An article in the Toronto Star states that Q is in the First Contact screenplay but may not be in the final cut.

- Info from Toronto Trek 10 Star Trek convention. David Rossi was a production assistant on the TNG series and Movies, including Generations and First Contact

1) Zephram Cochrane will be a drinker who is unwilling to help the crew and does not accept the notion that he will be this great historical figure. According to David Rossi,

when the crew is working to help Cochrane he continually makes excuses like having to go to the washroom, and then running away.

2) Expect cameos by either name actors or actors who have appeared in other Star Trek shows.

3) The Defiant is in the movie. Rossi confirmed this rumour when someone asked how Worf will get to the Enterprise, and the next slide showed Worf sitting in the Captain's chair surrounded by dead crew men and damaged consoles. So we now know that the Defiant will be attacked, but Rossi would not confirm or deny that the Defiant is destroyed.

4) Lily Sloane, who will be from the past will be diagnosed with some kind of illness and will be transported to the ship and could possibly die.

5) The Borg will gain control of the lower half of the Enterprise while the crew will have the upper half.

6) The Borg are going to blow us away visually apparently, so much so that Rossi said the visuals of the Borg are remaining a mystery for as long as they can keep it so.

MISC

- Denise Crosby is producing a documentary about you, the fans of Star Trek.

- Paramount have announced that it will bring together the entire cast of the original Star Trek series -- who also starred in the original theatrical features -- as well as stars from the current TV series, including Kate Mulgrew, Michael Dorn, Robert Picardo, John de Lancie and Armin Shimerman for the Star Trek 30 weekend set for Huntsville, AL on Sept. 7 & 8. Apollo astronauts Alan Shepard, Charlie Duke, Ed Mitchell, Buzz Aldrin and Alan Bean have also been rounded up for the event. The studio said it will also screen "never-before-seen Star Trek footage including a world premiere behind-the-scenes sneak peek" of Star Trek: First Contact.

- The Way of the Warrior received a nomination for "The 1996 Primetime Emmy Awards" Outstanding Special Visual Effects category. This is an area award, with the possibility of one or more than one award being handed out.

- Planned for release to TV syndication in 1997 is "Battleground Earth," a series based on a 25 year old Gene Roddenberry script. The show has a "basic story line about aliens on earth." Majel Barrett Roddenberry is one of the series' executive producers. Majel Barrett Roddenberry has stated that her upcoming television series "Battleground Earth" revolves around aliens who come to Earth and solve all of our problems (disease, famine, etc.) but it appears they have ulterior motives. A secret group is formed to fight the aliens. One man is chosen to infiltrate the aliens and fight them from the inside. The series has not been casted yet.

- The California Lottery plans to launch a new "Star Trek" Scratchers game Nov. 1 timed to coincide with the Nov. 22 release of the "Star Trek: First Contact" movie.

The game will feature six tickets, five of which will bear different incarnations of the Starship Enterprise from various "Trek" TV shows and movies, said Lottery spokeswoman Gina Stassi. The sixth ticket will bear a specific reference to "First Contact."

Each of the 8 million tickets will cost \$1. Odds of winning the \$1,000 top prize are one in 600,000. Reuters/Variety

- The following awards were given out at William Campbell's Fantasticon:

The Gene Roddenberry Award

Recognizing Extraordinary contributions in shaping the direction of Science Fiction and fantasy.

Winner: Rick Berman

Pegasus Award

Recognizing trailblazers who carry the message aloft to new heights.

Winners: Majel Barrett and Herb Solow

Shooting Star Award

Recognizing those who have made special contributions to the genre over a length of time.

Winners: Jimmy Doohan, Dorothy Fontana, Bob Justman, DeForrest Kelly,

Walter Koenig, June Lockhart, Billy Mumy, and Nichelle Nichols.

- UPN will be airing "Star Trek: 30 Years and Beyond" on October 6th at 8 PM ET. The two-hour live TV special/tribute's proceeds will benefit The American Oceans Campaign, Cities in Schools and The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights.

- The 48th Annual Prime-Time Emmy Awards were held on Sunday, September 8, at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

The ST: Voyager episode 'Threshold' won the award for Outstanding Individual Achievement In Makeup For A Series.

Between them DS9 and Voyager received nominations in the categories: Costume Design, Hairstyling, Makeup, Music Composition For A Series.

- The Cathy Dunkley The Family Academy has announced nominations for its 11th annual family film and TV awards.

Among the nominees are Patrick Stewart for his role in the "The Canterville Ghost." Kate Mulgrew is nominated as best TV actress for Star Trek: Voyager, and James Cromwell for "Babe" (Cromwell is the future Dr. Cochrane in the upcoming Star Trek: First Movie).

- The Producers and Writers of Star Trek Voyager and Star Trek: The Next Generation were awarded Public Education Recognition Award Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in New Orleans.

They were given the award to recognize their outstanding contributions to improved public understanding and appreciation of anthropology and scientific archaeology.

These two StarTrek series have portrayed archaeology and cultural anthropology in positive ways that emphasize the importance of mutual cultural understanding through awareness of material remains and the excitement scientific archaeology, and have countered the inappropriate perception of archaeology as treasure-seeking adventurism. As one of the most successful series on network television, programs reach a large and varied audience each week with a reminder of the Star Trek mission: exploration of other worlds is to be peaceful,

the goal is to learn about other worlds, respect is to be accorded other cultures encountered, and interference with cultural and social development in other contacted societies is prohibited. In particular, four specific programs are cited: Star Trek Voyager's "Emanations" and Star Trek: The Next Generation's "The Chase," "Gambit(Parts 1 and 2)," and "Captain's Holiday." The personnel recognized are Executive Producers Rick Berman, Michael Pillar, and Jeri Taylor; Supervising Producer Brannon Braga; and writers Ira Steven Behr, Joe Menosky, Ronald D. Moore, and Naren Shankar.

• "To The Fans of Gene Roddenberry:

Thank you for all your letters and faxes urging the Television Academy to induct Gene Roddenberry into 'The Television Academy Hall of Fame.'

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee met several months ago and has already selected the next group for induction. Their names will be announced at a ceremony in July, and the actual induction ceremony will take place in Orlando, Florida, in October. I am not a liberty to divulge the names at this time, but I am sorry to say that Gene Roddenberry was not selected this year.

Mr. Roddenberry has been under very favourable consideration for some time and will continue to be until the time he is selected, which I am confident will be soon.

Please be assured that your letters of support will be forwarded to the Selection Committee so that your voices will be heard."

Signed James L. Loper

• Star Trek: Continuum Debuts! Paramount's new official online Star Trek service, "Star Trek: Continuum," debuted on The Microsoft Network on July 10th.

• In a recent interview on "Later with Greg Kinnear", William Shatner noted that Paramount almost decided to make a movie out of "The Return", the second of a trilogy of Star Trek novels by Shatner. It was decided, however, that killing off and reviving Kirk was not the best of ideas. Paramount has reportedly left the option open, however, of bringing Kirk back.

• Waterstone's Bookshop, Swansea, held a special celebration one afternoon in mid-August to mark the 30th Birthday of Star Trek. This event was reported afterwards in the South Wales Evening Post, published in Swansea. The reporter quoted the organiser as having served Klingon food and a blue drink - Romula Nail!!!

• The TV Guide August 19, 1996 was a Star Trek 30th anniversary issue with 4 covers, one per captain. Captains Kirk and Janeway are on the left (spine) side of their issues, and Captains Picard and Sisko on the right side of their issues. The covers combine to make one picture but you need to buy 4 copies of the TV Guide to get them!

[Sources of information include Ruben Macias' Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet, rec.arts.startrek.current@infodan.com.]



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

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

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

- **Marc Aliamo** (Gul Dukat) is planning to open a restaurant in Agoura Hills, California called "Abode Catina" with Texican (Texas Mexican Food).

- **Rene Auberjonois** will be guest starring on UPN's new upcoming show "Outbreak" as a evil scientist.

- **Attorney Melvin Belli**, who became part of Star Trek lore when he played the "Friendly Angel" in the TOS episode "And the Children Shall Lead," died of pneumonia on July 9. He was 88.

- **Avery Brooks** hosted a Celebration of 1996 National Black Arts Festival, The Ark Of The Spirit, a one-hour special capturing the essence of the 1996 National Black Arts Festival.

- **LeVar Burton** is currently celebrating his 13th season as the host and co-executive producer of the highly acclaimed PBS children's television series, "Reading Rainbow", winner of this year's Emmy for Outstanding Children's Television Series.

His company, Eagle Nation Films, just signed an exclusive deal with Paramount Pictures to produce television as well as feature films. He recently sold his first TV series to UPN — a half-hour comedy entitled "Daddy's Little Girl." "I created the show as a homage to the 'Courtship of Eddy's Father,' — a show I absolutely loved as a kid." LeVar will executive produce as well as star in the pilot which will be shot in the Fall of 96.

- **Bibi Besch** (Dr. Carol Marcus in Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, 1982) passed away on Saturday, September 7, 1996, after an extended battle with cancer. She is survived by her daughter, actress Samantha Mathis. We would like to send our condolences to her family and friends.

- **James Doohan** - on August 19-21 James Doohan reprised his recurring role as Damon Warwick on the highly-rated CBS soap opera The Bold and The Beautiful. Doohan will portray a Scottish father who abused his psychiatrist son as a child, blaming him for his wife's death in childbirth.

James Doohan has a recurring role as Pippen in "Homeboys in Outer Space," the new half-hour science fiction comedy focusing on the inter-galactic antics of spacemen Tyberious Walker (Flex) and Morris Clay (Darryl M. Bell), two brothers from Earth. Produced by Sweet Lorraine Productions in association with Touchstone Television, filmed at The Walt Disney Studios.

- **Aron Eisenberg** (Nog) got married on August 4th.

- **Terry Farrell** will be in the USA Network movie "Reasons of the Heart".

- **Michelle Forbes**, who played Ensign Ro (now of the Maquis) on Next Generation will be joining the cast of Homicide: Life on the Street, as their new medical examiner.

- **Whoopi Goldberg** - "Bogus," a comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg and Gerard Depardieu, will make its world premiere at the 22nd American Film Festival in the French resort town of Deauville.

- **Kate Mulgrew** - episode 10 "For It May Come True" of the upcoming "Gargoyles: The Goliath Chronicles" will feature Kate Mulgrew as Titania yet again.

- **Nichelle Nichols** has returned to television in the Prime Time Entertainment Network's new camp children's series, "The Adventures of Captain Zoom in Outer Space." PTEN launched its new camp/children's series the weekend of August 16th.

Nichols plays a high priestess on the series. "Captain Zoom" is about a hack TV show actor who is mysteriously transported to a distant world where he was prophesied to be the world's saviour from evil.

- **Leonard Nimoy** - Jonathan Pryce, Leonard Nimoy, Sheryl Lee and Nathaniel Parker

have been cast to star in Turner Network Television's sixth Old Testament movie, "David". It will be the first of the highly rated series under Julie Anne Weitz. Parker will play the lead role of the shepherd boy who became the king of Israel in the production directed by Robert Markowitz ("Decoration Day" and HBO's "Tuskegee Airmen") that is scheduled to premiere in 1997.

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson will lend their voices, and Leonard Nimoy will guest star as himself, when Homer has an alien encounter in the episode, "Springfield Files"

- Andrew Robinson has completed a radio drama of the "Invisible Man" for John Delancie new company. The radio drama features Armin Shimmerman, John DeLancie, Andrew Robinson and Leonard Nimoy.

- George Takei made a journey of a different kind. He went on a four-day pilgrimage to the World War II internment camp where he and his family lived for three years when he was a boy. Takei, 59, was among 275 Japanese-Americans who left San Francisco for the Tule Lake Relocation and Segregation Center near the Oregon border. Takei told ABC News he has fond memories of a dog he and the other kids in the compound adopted. He also remembers watching movies such as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in the mess hall at the camp.

- Brent Spiner has just been signed to co-star with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau in "Out to Sea" for 20th Century Fox. Variety says he'll play a fastidious cruise director named Gil Godwyn who clashes with the duo. Fox had been after Spiner for another movie ever since the studio saw what he did in the role of mad scientist Dr. Okun in the Fox blockbuster Independence Day."

Brent Spiner (Data) reads on Texas Bound Vol. 2, an audiocassette, that is sold at the Dallas Museum of Art and through Texas A&M Press, and ideally at area bookstores.

- Patrick Stewart will be performing his one-man show of A Christmas Carol again this year. He will present it from December 2-22 in Los Angeles (location and ticket details are being finalized).

Patrick Stewart won the award for Best Actor in a TV Film for his portrayal of The Canterville Ghost at the Family Film Awards (22 August 1996). The film was a favourite among voters as it was also honoured with awards for best actress and best film.

- Patrick Stewart & Gates McFadden have just been nominated as Best Actor & Actress, for their performances in fantasy/horror adventure 'Unknown Kadath', in Movie Mogul, the fantasy filmmaking game.

- Nana Visitor has completed the audio book for "The Unofficial X-Files Companion: Part One."

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





MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES

- Oct TNG Crossover by Michael J. Friedman
TNG#43 A Fury Scorned by Sargent and Zebrowski
- Nov TNG-HB Star Trek: First Contact by J.M. Dillard
DS9-HB Saratoga by Michael J. Friedman
VOY#10 Bless The Beast by Karen Haber
- Dec ST#81 Mudd In Your Eye by Jerry Olton
TNG#44 Death of Princess by John Peel

The Pocket Books schedule for the remainder of the year and into 1997, according to John Ordovery, runs as follows:

- September: TNG novel "Infiltrator" by W.R. Thompson; TOS novel "The Joy Machine" by Theodore Sturgeon and James Gunn.
- October: VOY hardcover "Mosaic" by Jeri Taylor; DS9 novel "Heart of the Warrior" by John Betancourt; VOY novel "Flashback" (adaptation of the upcoming VOY episode) by Diane Carey. [The audio version of "Mosaic" will be read by Kate Mulgrew.]
- November: TNG paperback "Crossover" and DS9 novel "Saratoga" by Michael Jan Friedman.
- December: TNG hardcover "First Contact" (movie adaptation) by J.M. Dillard; TNG novel "A Fury Scorned" by Sargent and Zebrowski; VOY novel "Bless the Beasts" by Karen Haber.
- January 1997: TOS novel "Mudd in Your Eye" by Jerry Olton; TNG novel "Death of Princes" by John Peel.
- February: DS9 novel "The Tempest" by Susan Wright; VOY novel "The Garden" by Melissa Scott.
- March: TOS paperback "The Return" by William Shatner; TNG novel

"Intellivore" by Diane Duane.

April: Hardcover "All Avenger" by William Shatner; DS9 novel "Trial by Error" by Mark Garland; VOY novel "Chrysalis" by Dave Wilson.

May: TOS novel "Mind-Meld" by John Vornholt; TNG paperback "Kahless" by Michael Jan Friedman.

June: DS9 novel "Wrath of the Prophets" by Peter David, Michael Jan Friedman, and Bob Greenberger; VOY novel "The Black Shore" by Greg Cox.

July: TNG novel "Day of Honor #1: Ancient Blood" by Diane Carey; DS9 novel "Day of Honor #2: Armageddon Sky" by L.A. Graf.

August: VOY novel "Day of Honor #3: Her Klingon Soul" by Michael Jan Friedman; TOS novel "Day of Honor #4: Treaty's Law" by Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch.

September: TNG hardcover "Ship of the Line" by Diane Carey; TOS novel "Assignment: Eternity" by Greg Cox; TNG novel "To Storm Heaven" by Esther Friesner.

October: DS9 novel "Vengeance" by Dafydd ab Hugh; VOY paperback "Mosaic" by Jeri Taylor.

November: TOS novel "Heart of the Sun" by Sergeant and Zebrowski; TNG novel "Dyson Sphere" by Pellegrino and Zebrowski.

December: VOY hardcover "Pathways" by Jeri Taylor; DS9 novel "The 35th Rule" by Armin Shimerman and George; VOY novel "Echoes" by Dean Wesley Smith, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, and Nina Hoffmann.

• THE GILLIS GUIDE TO TREK by S J Gillis, ISBN 0-9528441-0-9

Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of Trek, this is a reference book of all the people important in the making of ST - TOS, Animations, TNG, DS9 and VOY. Over 4000 people are listed with their other

achievements included. The RRP in bookshops is £11.99; it is also available from SGJ Communications, PO Box 44, Shrewsbury, SY2 5WB, UK for £15 inc P&P.

This is the first of a series which will include The Gillis Guide to Prisoners (The Prisoner) and The Gillis Guide to Babylon (B5).

- Star Trek Phase II has been postponed until March of 1997. At the very last minute we unexpectedly received access to literally thousands of pieces of material with regard to this series that we didn't know existed. Rather than go ahead with a book that was far less than it could have been we have decided to hold the book until this new material can be sorted and integrated into the book. - John Ordovery, Pocket Books

• VIDEO UPDATE

Please note: I have filled the titles in from my lists. Check before buying.

September 30

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine volume 4.10
Hard Time / Shattered Mirror

Oct. 7th

Star Trek volume 1.6 Episodes 16-17
Court martial/Menagerie Pts 1 & 2
Star Trek: Voyager volume 2.10
The Thaw/Symbiogenesis

Oct. 28th

Deep Space Nine 4.11
The Muse/For the Cause
Deep Space Nine 4.12
To The Death/ The Quickenings

Nov. 5th

Star Trek volume 1.7 Episodes 18-20
Shore Leave /Squire Of Gothos/ Arena
Deep Space Nine 4.13
Body Parts/Broken Link (Season Finale)

- TV ZONE 81 July 1996. Includes an interview with Robert Picardo and an episode guide to Voyager 2nd season eps. 22-26.

- TV ZONE 82 August 1996. Includes interviews with Jimmy Doohan, Rene Auberjonois, Kate Mulgrew, LeVar Burton; and a guide to DS9 4th season eps. 10-25.

- "STARBURST" SPECIAL issue #28, 30th anniversary of Trek, has lots of photos and interviews, including one with Robert Beltran.

- RADIO TIMES - Star Trek 30 Years £6.99
This publication contains articles, many coloured pictures, a poster and an episode Log of all Star Trek series and films up to the send of DS9 season 4 and Voyager season 2.

- Franklin Mint have released the a Die-Cast Replica of NCC 1701-D. £245 (10 monthly payments of £24.50). The saucer separates and part of the top lifts off to reveal the bridge. Franklin Mint Ltd., 1 South Quay Plaza, London E14 9WS.

- The Star Trek/X-Men crossover that was to serve as the premiere of all of the new Star Trek comics published by Marvel has been pushed back to a November release date.

- Boldly Writing - When Star Trek began in 1966, it instantly captured the attention of science fiction fans, and gained an attentive audience. When NBC threatened to cancel the show after the second season, the fans wrote in, demanding that it be returned to the air. After the third season, Paramount, NBC, and industry experts felt Star Trek was past. But the fans did not. They started clubs, organized conventions, published newsletters, and kept writing to Paramount to ask that Star Trek be revived. Through these actions, they kept interest in the show alive and flourishing. Currently, Star Trek lives on in four series—and the adventure continues.

Boldly Writing chronicles all of these fan efforts, and recognizes the most valuable resource of Star Trek: its fans. The trends, obstacles, hard work, and success of the revival efforts are detailed through the first 20 years of fan publications. Author Joan Marie Verba has been an active fan since the very beginning of Star Trek.

Boldly Writing sells for \$12.95 at bookstores. Order direct from the publisher and purchase the book for only \$10! (Plus postage; Minnesota residents add sales tax.)

For an order form, send an SASE to FTL Publications, P. O. Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345-0363 or send an e-mail message with "Boldly Writing" in the subject header to

103602.1572@compuserve.com or use the form at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/FTL_Publications.

- "The Ultimate Trek Trivia Challenge For The Next Generation" published by Kennington Books By James Hatfield and George "Doc" Burt was due out out August 1. The book is \$14 in the U.S. and \$17 in Canada. The German rights have been sold and other foreign rights are in the works. The ISBN number is: 1-57566-063-6

This trivia book has a quick reference Episode guide as a bonus. The book has over 1600 questions to test your knowledge of:

- * Star Trek: Next Generation
- * Generations, The Movie
- * Klingon Language and Traditions
- * Federation History
- * Technical Specifications
- * Famous Guest Stars
- * Memorable Quotes
- * Behind-the Scenes Trivia

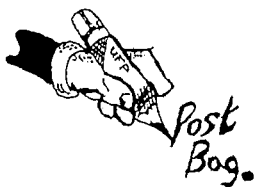
- Star Trek: Starfleet Academy comic book will be released in October. The freshest, youngest, newest faces make their debut in the Star Trek Universe. The academic year gets off to an explosive start as a routine training session turns into a nightmare when the the holodeck goes haywire. This series was created by Marvel Comics for Paramount. One scene involves a dog licking Nog's ears. The series will feature:

- * Nog from Deep Space Nine
- * Matt Decker -- grandson of Matt Decker (The Doomsday Machine) and son of William Decker (Star Trek: The Motion Picture)
- * Pava --- A female Andorian
- * T'Pol -- a female Vulcan
- * Etan Astrum -- a black, bald Human cadet

- Star Trek: The Early Voyages will be released in December. A double sized issue kicks off this new monthly series starring Captain Pike, Spock, Number One and the rest of the early U.S.S. Enterprise crew! "Flesh of My Flesh" details the Enterprise's encounter with an alien race which strips living organisms for "parts" for their bio-genetic ship!!!

- Star Trek: Voyager #1 will debut in September-- The ship runs into a an ion storm and at the center of the maelstrom is a helpless Talaxian ship. With Voyager's tractor beam rendered useless by the storm, is a rescue possible?

- The one-shot Star Trek/X-Men comic will feature the classic crew meeting The X-Men. The X-Men will include Storm, Jean Grey, Cyclops, Beast, Gambit, Wolverine, and Bishop. An interesting scene will include Dr. Leonard McCoy meeting Dr. Hank McCoy (AKA The Beast).



The following smilie symbols indicate that your comment is not to be taken too seriously.

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

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Kathleen Glancy (and Taruka) - Re tribbles being born pregnant. There is a

Terran animal - I can't remember what it is or the exact details, it's many years since I came across it - where the males mate with their sisters either just before birth or in the moments immediately following birth, so the young females are indeed born pregnant, or near enough so. If I remember correctly, it's one of the very small animals (maybe even an insect) that have multiple births, are independent from birth and get no maternal care. One of those pieces of useless

information you pick up as you go through life.

To Jean Perrin - Re the Organians and the Borg. They only interfered between the Federation and the Klingons because it was disrupting their peace. They never set out to be the protectors of the Federation!

To Vered Gilad - Re Best Destiny. I was never totally happy with the picture of Kirk as a juvenile near-delinquent, because it didn't fit with the lines in Shore Leave -

Kirk - He was my personal devil... (he goes on to list some of Finnegan's "jokes" at the academy)

McCoy - And you being the serious young officer...

Kirk - Bones, I was grim - which pleased Finnegan no end.

Or in Where No Man Has Gone Before (I can't remember the exact wording) - Mitchell comments that in Lt Kirk's class (at the Academy) you "think or sink" so he sicced a carefully rehearsed girl (whom Kirk nearly married) onto Kirk, who is, in effect, described as "a stack of books on legs". Mitchell also refers to the "highbrow" stuff Kirk read.

Even if Kirk learned a lesson in Best Destiny, it might turn him into a conscientious student but it certainly won't give him a love of "highbrow" reading!

To Valerie Herd - Re fans of TOS being critical when it first came out. I think they probably were, but back then when there was only TOS and it was setting the standard for SFX etc, it was a different kind of criticism. Story development and characterisation were criticised, while "recognise the props and scenery" was almost a game. In the 60s, too, the "happy ending", with everything in a series back to square one, was almost mandatory. I think a lot of today's criticism, especially of TOS, is not valid criticism because TOS is being judged by today's standards of SFX, photography, budgets, etc. A percentage of today's fans seem to think that an episode that doesn't include fancy SFX is poor, and today's audiences seem to

prefer stark reality to the sometimes pretty contrived endings that did get everything back to square one in the 60s. And of course, today there is also the comparison between the four series, ranging from "They're all Star Trek" to "Only TOS is really Star Trek". Some of the arguments strike me as being defensive rather than logical, with categorical statements being made rather than reasoned comments. I agree that often you can't give a definitive reason for liking or disliking something, it's a pure gut reaction, but at least you can say, "It just does something for me, leaves me feeling good" as opposed to "There's something nasty about the way things happened here, it leaves a bad taste in my mouth", rather than just "This is good, that is bad!"

To Jay Stevensen (& Kathleen Glancy) re Leonard Nimoy's story idea about aliens - Maybe the real idea is that the aliens are watching us to see what to *avoid* rather than seeing something to emulate? :-)

• James O Donovan - Cork

(This arrived just too late for N/L 47, so the comments refer to N/L 46)

To Martin Stahl - Re antennas in TNG. Listen out for a very funny (and rude) antenna joke from Quark in DS9's Homefront/Paradise Lost.

To Jacqueline Comben, Marcia Stanislawski and Anne Marie Flowers - OK, I admit it, I didn't think the DNA thing through properly and I forgot Spock was half human.

To Jean Perrin - That's exactly the point I was making. By allowing Data to join Starfleet, they were acknowledging he was sentient; the episode's plot is flawed.

Re the Voyager finding the Borg homeworld, I think this is a bad idea. The Borg are only interested in assimilating whole species, but I don't think they will allow any Tom, Dick or Harry to mess around with their homeworld. Secondly, how come the Borg have not assimilated the other races in the Delta quadrant? Why attack the Alpha quadrant without first conquering the Delta quadrant?

To Edward Woo - You said in your letter that both the Cardassians and the Romulans have been knocked for six by the Dominion. I don't think this is true. If you think back to the DS9 episode *Defiant*, we discover that the Obsidian Order is building its own fleet of ships that Central Command knows nothing about; then in *Improbable Cause/The Die is Cast* they use this fleet, along with the Romulans (possibly a Tal Shiar fleet?) to attack the Founders. Tain's message to the Cardassian homeworld gives the impression that he was working alone without the assistance of the Central Command. Therefore it's my opinion that the main fleet was not involved and only the Obsidian Order's fleet was destroyed. So the Cardassians were not knocked for six by the Dominion. However, since then the Klingons have kicked their ass!

To anyone who enjoyed *The Way of the Warrior*, I recommend reading the book. It's even better than the episode.

SPOILER ALERT I just saw DS9's *Little Green Men* a few days ago, and I have two points to make. First, how was Odo able to shapeshift into an alsatian dog? Surely it must be harder to replicate the individual hairs on the dog as opposed to a human face! Yet he must have done a good job because it fooled the nurse who was rubbing him. Secondly, when Odo transformed from the dog into himself, surely there would have been someone standing on the other side of the one-way mirror who would have noticed. The army was of the opinion that the Ferengi were aggressive, so surely they would have been watching them constantly?

Has anyone seen the Ricki Lake Show on Channel 4? She looks just like Scully from the *X-Files*.

• Beverley (Ambrose) & Stephen Wright - Barwell, Leics

We are writing to let you know how sorry we are about the end of IDIC. We have enjoyed reading the letters, the discussions and the various articles, and have enjoyed the occasional crossword too! The only appropriate thing left to say in this case would be - "All Good Things Come to an

End".

Before we go, can we thank everyone who came to our wedding on the 6th July. Thanks for all your cards, prezzies, etc. Hi also to the people who couldn't make it, but thanks for letting us know. Thanks also to Mo who did the most wonderful cake.

All our best wishes to the members and the IDIC committee.

• Alberto Gorin - Holland

As a Klingon - You're not worth to talk, fight or do anything; you give up! NO challenge! I pass you by, warp 9.

As John Hannibal Smith from *The A-Team* - Now, are you guys gonna give up or remain with all faithful members and see this bad time that you gotta go through? Hey, we will miss you guys!

As David Hasselhoff (*Knight Rider*) - You can't quit now! Look what you've built! Look at the remaining faithful members!

As myself - tooooo bad, tooooo bad; ex-girlfriend, ex-club. Are you showing a weak side, or just giving up? All right, ladies, CT came to an end, then came TNG, now *Voyager*. End the Classic IDIC, begin TNG IDIC! Now what do you say, huh?

Of course, we'll all see you on the Next Gen shuttle on our way to Space Station Freedom. I'll buy a large coke and pizza! See ya, guys.

• Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

Perhaps Shatner actually designed his *horses'* bathroom to resemble the Bridge, though probably without a commode. If the Prince Archbishops of Salzburg could have a Roman bath for *their* horses, why not? On the other hand, I may not love the man as much as some, but I have never believed him to be stupid - or wasteful of his money, in the way that an extravagant bathroom for him (or his horses) would be.

Re IDIC Log 19 - I liked Jackie's alternate *Generations* - a bit odd to see a vegetarian drooling over a steak, mind you, and

presumably they must be assumed to have eliminated BSE over the centuries. Whether the same can be said for CJD is another matter - clearly they do still have incurable degenerative brain diseases, as per Sarek's fate. However, my only real quibble is that I can't see Kirk being happy to be, in effect, Spock's chauffeur. He'd have to take orders, which he is bad at doing, observation of protocol would be *essential* in a diplomatic vessel, and he's bad at that too, he wouldn't be allowed to break the Prime Directive any more and he'd have to stay on the ship while Spock went into sometimes dangerous situations - which he'd be *particularly* bad at. As for Picard being "a quite small man" - I'll allow that Leonard Nimoy is taller, but Patrick Stewart is surely not shorter than William Shatner? Are we to infer that Spock thinks of Kirk as "quite a small man" too? That Jackie thinks of Kirk as taller than he is?

On to N/L 47, for the last time, alas. My thanks to all of you for the work you've put in on IDIC and the pleasure you have given. Have nice lives, as the Americans say. And I've included my last (sob) foray into Spock's cultural researches.

Aha! So this Captain Sulu thing is *not* a sure thing, as I suspected. If it was it wouldn't need a lobbying campaign. As I said in another context, I think the days where that worked are gone - but I really hope I'm wrong.

To Vered Gilad - I'm afraid I do think that a role like Chapel, whatever her present medical status, whose only functions were to hand things to McCoy (I will allow she may have more to do now she's a doctor) and love Spock hopelessly is going to be a lot less interesting to play than Lwaxana Troi. Chapel is a weak character - it's not Majel's fault, since she is a very good actress, but a combination of the writers and the conventions of the time which said women were there to be rescued from danger, which frightened them (can you imagine a *male* character having to say, "Captain, I'm frightened", as Uhura was obliged to?) or to be in love with a hero, like Chapel and indeed Rand until they wrote her out in favour of giving Kirk a Crumpet of the Week.

I think if Majel went back to Chapel there would need to be changes - surely she couldn't *still* be carrying her torch after all these years. Of course, they could throw in the odd surprise - what if, for example, *she* was the mother of Sulu's daughter?

As for the Ellison History of Young Kirk - I don't think the fact that someone else used the same concept in any way affects the main point I was making - Gene Roddenberry created Kirk, and what *he* says happened in Kirk's life must be taken to be the true story and in my book has priority over what any other writer, however talented, may claim for the purposes of a particular story. I'm sure you will agree that *for the TV script* Gene *had* to make changes to keep it in line with the show's "bible" - if such changes weren't made, you would have Ellison's "Kirk ran away to space" one week, then another writer's "Kirk was conscripted into Starfleet but found he liked it" the next, and "Kirk joined to forget the woman who broke his heart - he did so well he's forgotten her name now" the week after that and "Kirk's planet was about to explode so his parents put him in a rocket ship" - no, I think *that* one was a different show.

Sheila, I am sure my letter said Marvel NOW had the Star Trek concession. If they did NOT have it, they couldn't do the X-Men crossover. Hmmm. Perhaps it was a Freudian slip? *[Sheila - Very likely! The mind absolutely boggles...]*

- Gul Melset - Federation Medical Centre

Vered Gilad told me about the end of IDIC, and for me it seems like the end of an era - I always enjoyed the discussions in the Postbag as I could always obtain information on current developments in fandom, or some amusement (Kaferian Apple Debate, for one), or a serious article on some element of Star Trek, no matter which series. If there is a letterzine in the planning, or if someone knows of a club which offers a semblance of a Postbag, I will certainly join.

It is not necessary for me to say what IDIC meant for me - what Vered wrote in her opening paragraph says it best, and with the feelings I have been trained to conceal, unless

among the most trusted friends. A number of you have become my friends, friends I would not have found otherwise. To the others, all the best, and hope to meet you in another group.

The "interminable" discussions made it possible to see various points of view, differences in mentality, all elements that make up diversity.

To Vered Gilad - Worf's regression is understandable. When you have to interact with another people and gain a modicum of acceptance, you have no choice but to adapt. These constraints disappear as soon as you are among your own kind again; of course you are observed more carefully by your Klingon/Cardassian/Bajoran or Human counterparts for differences, but it is your way, your language, your own mindset. When I returned home after some years, it was nearly a kind of liberation, but made the return to my post extremely hard. You *know* what is expected, but revolt against being forced back into the alien pattern.

About Kira - I did read that there was some concern about her looking too "mannish". The uniform is all right, but those boots are the ultimate in ludicrous. Try to run, engage in hand-to-hand combat with such heels - it is impossible. The size argument does not tally. 5'8" is not small by any standards - or have they taken over Klingon ideas of size? I really do not think the actors and actresses have much input. Marc Alaimo would like to have Gul Dukat in something else but his uniform, but so far he still has to keep it.

To Rhiannon - Here we have one of the differences in mentality. For me it would be impossible to change either given name or surname, as both are a part of what I am. El Fadil got tired of mispronunciations - any word can be mispronounced, and it is irritating, but to change it? Never!

I agree with you about there being no innate fear of the unknown. Children learn what is a threat or a danger by their parents' reactions. A change in speech or intonation, a tighter grip, an even marginally different

stance is understood as "Careful! This means danger!" Little ones are excellent in recognising and reading body language. As we do correspond, I will check my collection of data for a series of articles with some very good examples of the Black experience with racism.

To Annike Bissinger - It would seem everyone is hoping his/her favourite character will get a ST series. I, for myself, do not want a series that has but one real centre of attraction as it automatically limits viewer potential. I, for one, would hardly look at "Captain Sulu - the Series" or "Starship Profit - the Adventure of Captain Nog" as I prefer a series in which many characters get their highlights.

To Rosalyn Holland - The profusion of Trek on TV, in magazine, novels, merchandise, are the factors that are not destroying, but weakening, the cohesiveness of fandom. In the 70s we had so very little, virtually nothing in my area, so if we wanted more Trek, we had to work at it ourselves. That produced a family feeling, an immense network of contacts. Today, all you need do is lean back, choose a video or whatever, go to the local bookshop, and you can walk back home, "prey" firmly in hand. At present there are specialised contacts, encompassing many more factors with Trek as the element which facilitated first contact, but in no way detracted from the excitement of a possible new friend. Thank you, Vered and Rhiannon! I am hoping for the return of small cons with their family feeling.

To Keren Breen - You, too! The Visitor was the first film in years that had me close to tears. It was a wonderful episode.

To Lynne Bannister - You will have received an application from me by the time you read this. I once was a member of STAG, years ago.

• Olga Fernandez del Val - Arroya Mediallegua, 33, 9-92. 28030-Madrid, Spain

(In case anyone wants to write)

This letter was overdue and all the comments refer to N/L 46.

A ST/X-Men comic book? Really, I love both parts of the mixture but putting them together... I just don't know.

To Martin Stahl - I liked your article very much. You're right, aliens are too similar to humans in looks and culture. I suppose it is harder to show a different culture when you film than it is when you draw or write, but they should try to use their imagination. And why does everybody in the universe have the same number of arms and legs, and in the same place? In this aspect, perhaps the Horta was the most original alien shown on film. I wasn't perfectly made, but at least it was different. And if you manage to create a totally different race, imagine the cultural clash and the stories it could make! Anyway imagining that aliens can be the same as humans really scares me. Poor aliens! :-)

By the way, to Stephen Daniels - Don't worry; if aliens are really like us humans they will never be able to separate themselves from their planet.

To David Williams - Of course they test-driven the USS Voyager... so that it did exactly what it does! It's the same thing they do with modern electrical gadgets everywhere. Imagine a TV that always works; it would be a disaster for the company that built it! So they make it in a way that'll enable them to repair it, put new pieces into it... and get paid for it. I suppose it will be the same in the future with the difference that this ship has had the terribly bad luck of getting lost very far away from the repairing shops. I don't want to think what will happen when the guarantee is over! :-)

Talking about VOY, I've had the opportunity of watching more episodes. It's great! But you have to overlook the fact that they don't seem to be in a great hurry to come back home. Have they done anything bad for them not wanting to come back? Yes, the Maquis have, but what about the rest?

I have a question that has troubled me since I saw The Cage and during TNG. Why is the second in command of the ship called Number One? Shouldn't it be Number Two? Is the Captain Number 0, then? [Janet - the second in command is the First Officer, hence

Number One.]

Now on to N/L 47.

Could I find The Crack in the Mirror anywhere? I feel interested. [Sheila - Unfortunately it's now sold out, but we don't think there's enough interest for us to do a reprint. Perhaps someone might want to sell their copy?]

To Helen White - Don't worry, your joke is funnier now that I understand it, and very naughty :-)

I loved it.

To Sandra de la Cruz - Indeed, they *should* have sung Yesterday. Or better still, Starman.

Finally, and copying someone, I want you to know that I am and always shall be... an IDIC member. Bye for now, and thank you for everything.

• Alistair Blackett - 64 Ashton Gardens, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7HQ

Hello, everyone, this will be my last contribution to the IDIC newsletter (unless of course the considerable amount of lobbying has brought about a change of heart from the committee?)

With the unfortunate demise of IDIC (at least so far as the newsletter is concerned) lots of people have been asking about other Star Trek clubs. A couple of months ago I joined the Transatlantic Star Trek Federation which is run by IDIC member and N/L contributor James Woodman. I duly received a copy of their N/L which is printed in an A4 format and consists of 6 pages (11 sides, the back is not "backed") of news, reviews, quizzes, amusing poetry and general information. James would be the first to admit that it is not the IDIC newsletter, but it is early days - the September issue will be no 3. Any N/L is only as good as the contributors; I will be contributing to future issues and it would be nice to see familiar names from IDIC N/L as well as new contributors airing their views and supplying information to this publication.

I have also joined Starfleet Command, which is a very large organisation with a

controlling committed "The Admiralty Board" of 28 people (this includes a number of support staff). The club is administered by a number of Commanding Officers who command groups "ships". There are 18 of these with more being formed. The ships are located through the UK from Dorset to Northumberland. There are none in Scotland (nor Eire, Northern Ireland or Europe). I am not entirely certain what these ships do, as the one that I chose to be assigned to (the USS Saratoga) is withdrawing. I have had no contact from it, and would welcome such (I'm sure that someone reading these pages has some involvement with this ship). However, I was telephoned by "Admiral" Janice Brett, Starfleet Command's Director of Operations, who advised me that they were trying to resolve the situation and to whom I indicated that I would be happy to help. I am sure the situation with the other ships is much happier indeed. Janice told me that other ships are due to be commissioned. I did receive a Training Manual, a copy of the Articles of Federation, a quarterly newsletter and an exam paper, all of which was fascinating. I shall look forward to playing an active role in this society once the "office politics" have been resolved.

To Lindsay Wright and Dave Styles - I would be interested in receiving and contributing to a letterzine which might also include short features, etc.

To Lynne Bannister - I will probably join STAG, and may well have done so when this is printed.

To everyone else - I look forward to making your acquaintance on the pages of other publications, at conventions, or by correspondence (and maybe on the Internet in the future).

• Martin Stahl, Germany

I am so afraid that there is only one more newsletter before IDIC will close.

IDIC was a very important part of my life as a Star Trek fan, which accompanied me from the last years of school, during my life as a student until my first year as a biologist. For a few months now I have been a biologist

on yeast genetics.

It helped me a lot to improve my English, and when I read the new N/L, I always felt at home. During the last years when ST and its fandom changed, IDIC remained a constant, something I always felt I could trust. And it never disappointed me. Of course the N/L changed during the years, but the spirit always remained the same. It is hard to express what IDIC really meant to me. Nevertheless I accept your decision. Eight years is a long time and means much work. I know this from our club. Of course there are many interesting moments I really enjoy, but there is also dull and boring work like licking 900 stamps every month. At the moment I still enjoy the work but I don't know how I will feel about it after doing it for 8 years.

I think I will join another British club after IDIC closes since I don't want to lose contact with British fandom. I consider joining STAG, or perhaps one of the members will manage to publish a letterzine in the spirit of IDIC.

Although I regret IDIC's close I don't think it would be a good idea to continue with IDIC under a new committee. IDIC means Janet, Sheila and Valerie and would not be the same without them, as well as Star Trek without Gene is not the same any longer. My membership began with the first N/L (something which I'm very proud of, and I still have all the N/Ls).

• Maggie Symon, Fochabers

I'd like to add my regrets that IDIC is going, but I can certainly appreciate why; we all get times where there are things we want to do more than Star Trek, and most of us can - but not if you are responsible for getting a newsletter out regularly. Like I said to you at Contagion, if you ever decide to start again, count me in. I joined fandom when you were running STAG!

There were a few points brought up in the last newsletter that I wanted to answer.

The biggest loss to me is the letters pages and zines reviews and Ads - all the other stuff I can get from other N/Ls. So if anyone is

starting a letterzine, I would be interested in joining.

I agree with Margaret Rainey, fandom has changed (and not for the better) over the last few years and we have lost something for it. Haven't you noticed how nostalgic we are all getting for the Good Old Days... when we had nothing and, basically, had to make our own entertainment? (zines, pictures, filk, costumes, cocktails....) But we had more fun doing it! I hope we can get back to that again in Margaret's ghetto!

To David Povey - I think you miss the point, the whole point of the newsletter is the letters pages, and that is what makes IDIC what it is - every other N/L is crying out for more letters because they want something like what IDIC has. The essence of Fandom is fans talking/discussing things, which they never fail to do in IDIC. Yes, the whole tone of the letters got bad for a while but that doesn't mean that the letters page is a bad idea! Personally I don't care for episode reviews and merchandise etc. And maybe you weren't around at that time but it was brought up in the N/L and decided against discussing other things beside Star Trek. This is only one club, and there are plenty others out there probably quite happy to discuss other things. Most of us are in fandom to get away from 'the real world' for a while, and we don't need reminding about it in the N/Ls too. If you want to discuss other SF, there are plenty of other SF clubs around.

To Dave Styles - I haven't the luxury of time to read back issues so I will have to take your word that it is only the 'long-time' fans who are attacking people in IDIC; that isn't true in every club though. One particular incident in Beyond Antares springs to mind. Okay, it wasn't an attack on a fan but on Original ST, a series of 'unbiased' articles comparing Original ST with TNG which was the most biased attack on Original ST I have ever seen. I originally assumed it was a wind-up and refused to be wound up, but it transpired that it wasn't and the writer honestly believed every word he wrote was unbiased. He also, if I remember correctly, never answered any point made about his articles fairly. I have encountered new fans

in person (admittedly they usually came from other fandoms with the start of TNG) who believed the way ST fans did things was wrong and proceeded to tell us so. The phrase 'Bloody Cheek' springs to mind. Now *they* are the 'johnny-come-latelies' I really object to. But any new fan joining Trek fandom who is willing to accept that everyone has their favourites and none of them is any better than another are fine by me, and welcome.

To Marie I. J. Raper - I know I am jumping in without following your discussion from previous N/Ls, so sorry if I have got the wrong end of the stick. I beg to differ with you. The main reason that The Cage was dropped was it was, in the executives' opinion, 'too cerebral' - uh, we-were-too-dumb-to-get-it. It had nothing to do with people not being able to accept a female officer giving orders to male subordinates. It was the same executives who didn't feel comfortable with Number One, and incidentally Spock - which just goes to show how much they knew. And if they objected that much, why did they permit Menagerie to be aired using The Cage footage? That was all just a sign of the times, and you can't blame ST for that - what it did get away with under those conditions was tremendous. How about a Black Female Lieutenant, in a not so token role, giving orders to a man in The Alternative Factor? You queried what Kirk would have thought of Data - simple; Norman in I, Mudd, who they assumed was a man and risen through the ranks. Don't mistake what they would have liked to do with what they managed to do. They got away with a lot more in the Animated, too - female Admirals, if I remember right.

• James Woodman - Le Relais des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grisolles, France

Well, this is the last issue of IDIC, an issue that I think all of us will remember even if renewals were dropping and that there was a slight bit of tension. I hope that we will all wear our IDIC badges with pride when we go to conventions, it will make it easier for us to recognise each other; even if you don't have one, you can always make

your DIY IDIC badge!

I would like to thank Janet Quarton and the rest of the committee who managed to put out issues every two months for 8 years - you really do deserve a break. I have one question, however, for Janet - will you still be running the Welcommittee for the UK, or have you passed the Olympic Flame to someone else? [*Janet - Yes, I will be continuing as the British Representative for Star Trek Welcommittee.*]

Even though I have only been a member for 1.5 years, I learned many things about Star Trek, and IDIC has made me enjoy all Star Trek shows; when I asked a friend what TOS was like, he said "crappy acting, awful sound and soppy stories" - because I had no access to TOS I kept the general idea of that in my head, but when I watched ST: 3, 4 & 6, I began to appreciate what a really good show this was - I now try to watch TOS episodes from time to time (thank you to all those who told me their favourite episodes!). My favourite show is, however, DS9 followed by TNG and TOS; VOY still needs to improve. DS9 I think was the most heavily criticised ST show when it started, just because it was on a space station and there were no Vulcans!! Even though seasons 1 & 2 are not the best DS9 episodes, it is really a sci-fi soap opera, nearly every week the story continues on the same wavelength, not like TOS and TNG "alien of the week" story. My favourite line has to be the Grand Nagus and Pel, Rules of Acquisition, when he says, "Shame on you!"

IDIC was the first Star trek club that I joined; I have since joined Black Nebula but that was in April and I still have not received an issue. I have tried writing to them, but no response - if anybody knows what has happened then please write to me. I think that we Star Trek fans need a good strong fanzine that we can relate to, not just STM which is just merchandising with a couple of half-baked interviews and spoilers.

People will say to themselves, "Oh no, not that again!" but here I go. I run a fanzine called The TransAtlantic Star Trek Federation; the latest issue is just out and is packed with news, reviews, interviews,

quizzes. You must be saying to yourself, "How much for a new Star Trek fanzine?" - well, *it's absolutely free!* - Well, nearly. Just send 2 IRCs or £1 for an issue. (This was not, by the way, an advert for a washing up liquid of some sort.)

Has anybody tasted that new Star Trek drink, is it warp 9 or does it stay in standard orbit? Please tell me!

I hope to hear from all of you soon. Let's start a campaign, the "wear your IDIC badge with pride" campaign. Everybody knows the old war song, "We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day" (sob, sob!)

Live long and prosper.

• Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

Firstly, I was shocked to read that you are closing IDIC though I appreciate that you've all worked hard for many years, including your work in STAG. I'll miss the N/Ls especially the articles - and Postbag, even if I am a minority in that. I would have written for N/L 47 but have been working away a lot and I'm very behind with everything.

A few responses - N/L 46, re Sheila's comment about dropping same sex partnerships in fiction - maybe that's why we now have male/female buddy-buddy teams like on the X-Files.

To Jacqueline Comben - I wonder why you think Original Trek fans must be 43+ - I became a (total!) fan at the tender age of 12 in 1969 and I think I felt the original "impact" of something as remarkable as TOS. [*Sheila - I think Jackie was talking mainly about people who didn't see TOS in its first showing or weren't old or mature enough to appreciate it in its first showing. A mature 12-year-old would feel the impact it made; an immature one probably wouldn't. I understand exactly what she meant, but I feel that it is extremely difficult to express it clearly and unambiguously. It's linked, I think, to people nowadays being more blase, more accustomed to fancy SFX and camerawork - it takes far more technology than TOS had available to impress them and*

make them say "Wow!" - and for some of them it's the technology that makes something "good", not the story, characterisation or acting.]

To Miriam Moss - Re ambiguous stories. There's also the DS9 story where refugees want to settle on Bajor but the Bajorans can't cope.

To Vered Gilad - Apart from B5 books, I've only seen one set of 'micromachines'.

To Valerie Herd - What 'nasty book' has Ellison written about Gene? *[Sheila - Ellison recently wrote his version of the events surrounding City on the Edge of Forever in which I understand he explains how brilliant his original script was and how Gene ruined it by changing it.]*

Michael Flett's article made a lot of good points. ST has become a merchandising 'cash cow' and I think this accounts for the lack of originality and decent plotting.

N/L 47 - To Margaret Rainey - I agree that ST fans were once a despised minority who kept alive their love through creativity - even I wrote 4 'novels' which Scotpress published. It was incredibly difficult to obtain the few merchandising items available, like The Making of Star Trek or the Blish adaptations, and I must have practically worn the print off them re-reading them over and over. Now we're falling over new Trek series and collectibles every time we turn round, and a lot of it is just rip-off standard. I hope you're right and we survive the boom/bust and Paramount's cynicism. I also hope that DS9 picks up because I originally was very positive about it but find it has lost conviction. Have only seen the Voyager pilot, but various comments indicate it's not too promising. Still, I keep hoping. I agree with Anike Bissinger that Paramount should improve the quality - especially scripting - of current shows before bringing out yet more.

Finally, to those asking who belongs to what, I'm a STAG member. Currently STAG does not have a large Postbag so unless we all take it over, I'll be interested in a new letterzine (also printing articles).

• Jean Perrin - Burton upon Trent

Well, all good things come to an end, and I'd just like to say goodbye to all my friends in IDIC and how sorry I am it has finished.

Perhaps we all wanted different things from it. While David Povey thought the postbag section was much too long, for me that was the most important part. There are more than enough professional magazines that will tell you all you want to know about episodes, articles, book reviews, cons etc, but the IDIC magazine is the only one I know where you can talk to each other and exchange ideas about Star Trek. There are still a lot of questions I want to ask, but it's too late now.

Over all, I think, the ending of TNG is mainly responsible for the rundown in fandom. It seems to be the most popular of the four series and one film every two years is not enough to keep interest alive. I don't see why they couldn't have made some TV episodes as well, even if fewer than usual; there's no law that says you can't have both and I'm sure most of the actors with the possible exception of Patrick Stewart would have been willing, and it would be just as good under "Captain" Riker.

To Roberta Martin - For what it's worth, I agree that if you asked any non-ST person what they knew about Trek they'd say Kirk and Spock (with Beam me up Scotty) and they're the ones who come up with regularity on quiz shows.

To Jill Searle - I watched some old videos of the early TNG the other night and was surprised to find how far Star Trek has now moved away from Gene's ideas. The early TNG episodes could just as easily have been written for the OS characters but no way could you imagine Kirk and Co in the later episodes.

To all members of IDIC - Live Long and Prosper.

• Russell Witheyman - Crawley

This will obviously be my last letter for the postbag, so first of all I'd like to thank Janet, Sheila and Valerie for a terrific

newsletter. I've enjoyed each and every one and shall definitely miss it coming through my letterbox every two months. I wish you all the best for the future and I'm sure that many of us would rejoin IDIC if you started it up again in the future. Once again, many thanks.

I went to the Generations 2 con in London, and I've got to say that the whole autograph affair was a fiasco. I hope Stargazer will do better next time.

Season 2 of Voyager has improved quite nicely although it has still not completely hit its stride yet. Best episodes are Tattoo, Cold Fire, Death Wish, Deadlock, Basics and the completely wonderful Tuvix.

Season 4 of DS9 has generally been excellent although as usual it has a few mid-season shows that were very talky and station-bound. Best episodes - Way of the Warrior, To the Death, Shattered Mirror, Sons of Mogh and who can forget The Visitor?

On a last note, am I the only person who didn't like Our Man Bashir - it was boring, although I will say that Siddig did have more panache than Timothy Dalton and George Lazenby. Perhaps Sid can audition for the next Bond flick!

To all IDIC members, Live Long and Prosper.

• Maria Woodward - Ashcroft, East St, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hants

Well, so this is the very last newsletter. I shall miss it.

Hey, where are you guys (and girls)? Only 1 person wrote to me. So come on, let's stay in touch!

I will miss reading the N/L pages, and the reviews and the latest information. I always found IDIC had the news before anyone else did! Where will I get all the gossip and new penpals from now? I really am, truly, going to miss IDIC.

So from one member (I started with issue

17, I think), wishing everybody all the best. Cheers to all of you, peace and long life; good health!

• Anne Barkham - Thornton Heath, Surrey

It is not often I put pen to paper (or should that be fingers to typewriter?) but having read in the N/L that you are closing the club, I felt I just had to let you know my feelings on the matter.

I joined IDIC at the beginning, and except for one brief period when I forgot to renew my membership (oops!) I have been with you ever since. When I first discovered that clubs even existed, I joined several, but after a few years gave them all up as I realised that yours was by far the best.

I will admit that I never read each N/L cover to cover, as I invariably found that it contained some things which were not of interest to me, but that didn't mean that I disliked it or would have thought to write requesting you to amend your layout. After all, the N/L is read by a wide range of fans and no two people are *ever* alike. Indeed, what I enjoyed may well have been the item least liked by others. I still felt I was definitely getting my money's worth and still very much looked forward to receiving the next issue.

I have never been a person who lived and breathed Star Trek and couldn't exist a few weeks without seeing an episode or reading a zine, but I am definitely a fan. I do not go to a lot of conventions (perhaps an average of one a year) but I used your newsletter to keep track of which conventions were being held and what new zines were being published. I also responded to quite a few of the Wanted and For Sale adverts, even gaining a few new friends by doing so. I also kept a note of the ~~many~~ Star Trek zines and clubs which you advertised. I feel that now that you are closing, there will be a gap in this respect, and I will therefore miss you. You very much kept me in touch.

Despite my disappointment, I can fully understand why you are winding up. Just looking at the newsletter, I can see it much have taken a great deal of your time to

produce it and keep the high standard, and I can appreciate that this could well become a chore rather than a pleasure, if your interests were changing. It seems to me it is the sort of things that you can only do if you truly want to and, very importantly, have the time - and how on earth *did* you find the time?

Anyway, if you can recommend another N/L that would be even half as good at keeping me informed I would be grateful for your suggestion as I am now going to have to find another club to join or I see myself missing out in the future.

Many thanks for the hours of happy reading, and I wish everyone on the committee all the best for your future.

• Bianca ter Morsche - Netherlands

IDIC is going to stop! What a shame. I receive several zines from other ST fan clubs, but I have always considered the IDIC newsletter as the most interesting and the most informative. I am going to miss it!

A big "thank you" to everyone who sent me addresses of shops in Leeds. I had a wonderful time in Leeds and managed to find some nice ST items when I was there!

To everyone - Live long and prosper, and keep Trekkin'!

• Adam J North - 88 Aylesham Rd, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2HN

Well, this is it, the last IDIC newsletter. There will now be a missing part from all our lives; I'm sure I speak for everyone.

As a lover of all Star Trek, it saddened me when people began to bicker about whose Trek is best and why all the rest is complete rubbish; everybody began to forget what IDIC meant. We joined IDIC to join people with a common love of Trek, not to argue and alienate each other.

People are saying that Rick Berman is destroying the Trek we know, but he isn't - Star Trek is evolving, like everything has to evolve; if all Trek was the same it would become stale.

My feeling is that if Star Trek is destroyed, it will be by the fans. In my opinion Berman & Co are doing a fine job. Gene lives on in each series. Think about Trek as personalities - Classic Trek is the young heroic side of a person, TNG is the older, mature side, DS9 is the darker side and Voyager is the side that is alone and is trying to deal with problems on its own.

So it's Goodbye, IDIC. Well, as they say, All Good Things...

Famous last words? It was... FUN! (Kirk - Generations)

• Vered Gilad - P.O. Box 6404, Tel Aviv, Israel email - royvered@netmedia.net.il

The worst thing about this being IDIC's final issue is that I won't be hearing any of your comments about what I said, or about what others said. As a result, I am finding it hard to write, but still, expressing myself is something great which IDIC let me do, and I so much enjoy doing...

To David Povey, P22 - I don't know about you, but when I joined IDIC it was *because* of the Postbag. I knew exactly what I was getting myself into. I wanted to share my thoughts with others. IDIC is (was) unique because it let its members participate actively. From what I understand, most N/Ls do not. I think that you should have chosen a different ST N/L if you were more interested in information and less in fan mail, or better still - join 2 N/Ls, one like IDIC (if there is one) which concentrates on letters, and another one for ST info. As for discussing stuff outside the ST spectrum in a ST zine - I don't see the point of joining a ST N/L which does not deal with ST. True, we all live in the real world, but I find plenty of places and people to discuss non-ST stuff at and with. I want at least one place devoted solely to my beloved Star Trek.

To Sandra, P23 - It's lovely to see your post in IDIC. I was wondering when I was going to see it - and Olga, where are you? At last, your cartoon is in IDIC. I knew you were good, and I hope to see another one of those in the Grand Finale edition.

To Jean Perrin, P23 - First, a bit of nostalgia (for me, at least). You were the first person whose letter I commented on in IDIC, although I seem to always disagree with you... I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so - I just enjoy finding things to disagree on. :-) Anyway, as far as episode names go, I don't think I am nearing the age of senility, but I can never connect an episode name with its contents either, if this gives you comfort. I usually end up describing episodes to people so they'll know what I'm talking about, and asking them to do the same so I'll know what they're talking about... Now to Tuvok (again). I'm speculating about his rank not being higher due in the Vulcan Science Academy. Actually, you raised an interesting issue about Vulcan promotions - are they different due to their different life span? Or in general - are the promotions in Starfleet connected to the different species' life span? Say the Ocampa joined Starfleet (kind of problematic because of the distance at the moment) - would they be promoted sooner due to their short life span?

Engineers in Starfleet, officers or not? If I can take our Defence Force as an example - we have people who study engineering before they join the regular army. The intention is that when they become soldiers they will go to officer academy and be trained as officers, but not all people are cut to be officers, and some army engineers just can't pass the officer course, so they get a rank which is between an officer and a regular soldier. They are above regular soldiers but have certain elements in their job description which are different from real officers. Sorry to have confused you all, but I was thinking that this could be a good explanation as to why some engineers in Starfleet are officers and some aren't.

Roberta Martin's letter (P32) brought a couple of thoughts to my mind - first, the "only OT" N/L suggestion which has been mentioned already quite a few times. On the one hand, since TOS is my favourite, I feel that I would enjoy discussing only it, but my problem is that I cannot just ignore the other series. They *do* exist and I think there will be no way of escaping the need to mention them

and refer to them, even in an "all TOS" N/L. I know that in the past TOS was all there was and there was no problem only discussing TOS, but then there wasn't much else to refer to; but such is not the case any more. The other point, also mentioned by many others, that the end of ST is nearing. I have to join the others who said that they wish this *will* happen, as at the moment we have ST coming out of our ears, and I feel the need for a breath of fresh air. The disregard to Paramount/Viacom/Berman and Co to "what ST really is about" and to Roddenberry's basic rules about what should or shouldn't be in an ST episode, their lack of new writers (for books and episodes), the over-merchandising and the feeling that they are so sure of themselves that they do not care what WE say - all these combine to the feeling that it is time to let ST die. To let us long for ST like the fans did in the 70s. To hope that somebody who understands ST and its fans will come some day and bring it back, and hopefully not only for the money.

To Jill Searle, P48 - I think you would be surprised how much we think alike. I have also been reading Roddenberry's biography and have found myself admiring the man more and more. I don't think it was pure luck that he stumbled upon the right combination for long-lasting phenomena. He was very, very talented. He didn't have a series with all its fame drop into his lap like Berman. He had to work hard to satisfy the viewer, and also get along with the demands of a certain time period (ie the studio executives of NBC). What impressed me the most was that he took the time (and he was an extremely busy person) to reply to fans who asked him serious and thought-provoking questions. He read a lot of scientific material in order to be able to utilise it in his series. He always put the viewer first. Credibility was very important, and he mentioned to the writers in the guidelines that the gadgetry had secondary importance in the story; the characters came first. He made sure of this because he knew that was what the viewers wanted. Jill, I would very much be interested in continuing our conversation even after IDIC's demise, and hope that you wouldn't mind writing to me even though we have had some disagreements.

Before I really go overboard, I'll try to finish. Sheila knows that if I had the chance I would have probably filled up a whole Postbag and even more! Thank you Janet, Valerie and especially Sheila for being kind to my (always exceeding the 550 word limit) letters. Thank you for working so hard and giving us the joy of sharing our thoughts with other ST fans.

To anybody who wishes to comment on my final Postbag letter or wishes to keep in contact, by all means please write. I will answer all letters.

• Elizabeth Andrews - 65 South Drive, Chorlton, Manchester M21 8DZ

Well, it's fairly typical of me that my first entry in the postbag should be in the last issue. Forward planning was never one of my great strengths! As a member for only 18 months I'm probably a fair way down the pecking order, so I'll keep this short! Inevitably, I just want to echo everyone else's view and thank that Janet, Sheila and Valerie for all their work. For myself and my sister, IDIC has been a wonderful introduction into fandom. I hope that we find another club half as good.

As someone new(ish!) to Trek, I can't really comment on the changes that appear to be happening in fandom. I don't know what it was like before, but getting involved with Trek has been nothing but a joy for me. As a converted cynic, I have been amazed by the all-encompassing pull Star Trek has, and long may it continue. I look forward to the 30th anniversary and hope that it is not about each individual programme, but the philosophy that encompasses them all, and is truly the heart of Trek.

As someone still wearing their Trekker "L" plates, I would welcome any and all letters especially from convention goers who wouldn't mind showing me the ropes at some stage. (Hi, Mike!) Boldly go.

• Leslie Moyes - 22 Carlton Cres, Woodside, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 5AN

Well, this is it. I would just like to thank you for 3 years of excellence, and good luck in your future endeavours.

I would also like to say Hi! to all the great friends I have been in touch with through IDIC - Catherine, Anike, T'Mara & Prosbear, Ed & Maggie, Carol and Frances, Marcia, Taruka, Julie, Sanca(?), Jean and Felix; also to yourselves, the Committee.

If anyone who wants to let me know of any new letterzine, *please* do, and if anyone would like to write to me anyway, likewise.

Wow! ST: First Contact looks *stunning*!! Possibly the *best* Trek movie *ever*!! It's hot! (The uniforms suck, though :-)

To the Contagion committee - *Thanks* for a brill con. You are the *best*!!! You guys know how to treat fans, unlike Stargazer.

My top 5 eps of all Trek series -

TOS 1) Mirror, Mirror 2) The Enterprise Incident 3) Amok Time/Balance of Terror 4) Arena/Dagger of the Mind 5) This Side of Paradise/Naked Time.

TNG 1) The Best of Both Worlds 2) The Offspring 3) Chain of Command 4) Q Who/Pre-emptive Strike 5) Yesterday's Enterprise/I, Borg.

DS9 1) Improbable Cause/Die is Cast 2) The Jem'Hadar 3) The Search/Duet 4) Our Man Bashir/Defiant 5) Crossover/Through the Looking Glass/The Visitor

VOY :- 1) Faces 2) Death Wish 3) Deadlock 4) Cold Fire/Jetrel 5) Persistence of Vision/Prime Factors.

Movies 1) ST: First Contact 2) The Undiscovered Country 3) The Voyage Home 4) Wrath of Khan/Generations 5) The Search for Spock.

Well, my final quote is in the words of Q from All Good Things - "See you out there!" and you did make a difference.

• Anike Bissinger - Silcherstr 3, 74374 Zaberfeld/Michelbach, Germany

To anyone starting a letterzine - count me in!

I'm a member of the following clubs - The

Tailoring Times, Friends of Cardassia, and UFSTF (and I'm still searching for a good B5 club).

To Jean Perrin - Why are you surprised that Majel Barrett agreed to appear on B5? After all, B5 is quality TV and Majel did have a good part (and played a very essential role in the B5 story arch - by the way, does anyone have a clue what her prophecies mean?) Of course B5 is not displaying Gene Roddenberry's dream of the future. Why should it? The worst thing another sci-fi series should do is to try to imitate ST - and B5 clearly does not. This series is here to tell a story, first and foremost, and not to show a future utopia; deal with current problems (although there are issue episodes on B5 too) and display a philosophy, as ST does. B5 is much like one of those ancient legends or great fantasy, putting the forces of light against the darkness. And frankly, in my opinion B5 is clearly one of the best and most innovative things I've ever seen on TV.

Re specialisation of clubs - I hope there will still be clubs dealing with all the ST series in the future, as well as specialised clubs. I like *all* 4 ST series, and I would like to be able to discuss all the aspects of ST in a club and not only one part of it, while it is nice to be a member of a specialised club, too, where you just deal with the topics you're interested in.

To Ann Verschueren - If you send me a spare VC I'd be happy to copy Brothers Karamazov for you. I taped it off TNT, so it's very good quality. Just write to me at the above address.

So now, in closing this last letter to IDIC I'd like to say goodbye to everybody - it was fun! And I shall miss it!

• Anne-Marie Flowers. 9 Grantley Gardens, Glasgow G41 3PY
E-mail: AM.Flowers@BTInternet.com

Thanks to Janet for providing the list of Internet sites. Even if you don't have a computer or a modem, it's worth checking to see if there's a Cybercafe in your area eg Charing Cross in Glasgow, where for a small fee you can log on and surf to your heart's

delight. And I for one, would certainly be pleased to see a web site for IDIC.

To White Hawk: I think you are mistaken about Dorvan V. There is no indication that these people have any involvement with the Maquis. On the contrary, they seemed determined to live in peace with their new neighbours.

To Penny Robinson: your 'zine readers' zine' sounds very interesting. By the way, congratulations on winning the short story competition at Contagion.

To Anike Bissinger: presumably Humans have prolonged pregnancies when they mate with certain alien species.

Re The Sons of Mogh : whichever way you look at it, Worf and Bashir did conspire in an assisted suicide - Kurn is dead, which is why I think it would have been fitting for the episode to finish with Worf giving the 'death roar' for his brother.

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass: letters written to a newspaper are the very antithesis of VP since they are always screened by an editor.

To Rhiannon: In a nutshell, I still contest that sexism and racism are instinctual, but sexism and racism are not the same thing as chauvinism and bigotry. There isn't a group on earth which doesn't despise, fear or hate some other culture, race, attribute or attitude. It may be part of the self-preservation instinct (which would explain why attitudes tend to alter radically in times of war) or it may be part of some other basic Human need which I would term self-aggrandisement. I don't know. Children may not fear the unknown but they are extremely quick to recognise anyone who is 'different' and to torment them unmercifully. In my experience, tolerance has to be taught while tribalism seems to come naturally. I think the author Bruce Sterling summed it up well in his novel 'Holy Fire'. He says, "Despising other people and wanting them dead - that's a dear and precious thing to the human soul. It never has to be taught to anyone." I think history reflects that truth.

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**
106131.3457@compuserve.com

You may recall in the last newsletter I proposed starting a new Star Trek fan club to follow on after IDIC, and asked anyone who was interested to get in touch with me. I had nine replies. Nine! That is less than two per cent of IDIC's membership. With such apathy I can quite understand why IDIC's organisers have decided to call it a day. (Alan Stephen, where were you !?!)

However I have been contacted by James Woodman of the Transatlantic Star Trek Federation and would urge everyone to consider joining this venture. You can contact James at

Les Relais Des Garrigues
Route de Fronton
82170 Grisolles
France

or see the advert at end of newsletter.

Rip off of the month: I've kept this one going right till the end, haven't I? Let me relate a little episode which occurred at the Star Trek exhibition (which is now in Bournemouth). My son had found some very tacky and nasty looking music boxes / jewellery cases (with Star Trek stickers) which I honestly think would be overpriced at 50p. However they were up for sale at twenty quid each; a veritable bargain as they had been fifty pounds each. Before I could ridicule this object properly, it was snatched from my son's grasp by a lady who introduced herself as "a proper Star Trek fan who buys everything trekky". She pointed out a shoddily made child's satchel and proudly announced she had several of those, still in their wrappings. During the course of the following conversation it turned out that she bought absolutely anything and everything with "Star Trek" written on it, and had at her home over seven thousand pounds' worth of Trek-related goods. By her own admission most of her collection was of the same poor quality as the music box and satchel.

More money than sense ? Perhaps. But all the time that "proper Star Trek fans who buy everything trekky" are throwing their money

away, manufacturers are going to churn out crap.

Please can I beg everyone not be "proper Star Trek fans who buy everything trekky". Let's have a bit of discernment over what we buy. Then perhaps more decent merchandise will come onto the market at more manageable prices.

And finally to everyone: It's been fun over the years. Goodbye.

• **Jennifer Blanchard - Godalming**
My last letter to IDIC, ever!

I'm glad Lynne Banister wrote in the last N/L to invite interest in STAG. It's like a smaller version of IDIC and I was going to mention it when I recommended GHT, but I know Lynne has a busy life. As she's keen for new members to apply, I say go for it!

Good luck to all the people I've never met, but whose names are so familiar to me.

Hailing frequencies closed (sob!)

• **David Houston - Preston**

To all at IDIC, thank you for the newsletters over the last few years, which I have always found interesting and informing.

It was nice to see a few faces I knew from previous years at this year's Contagion convention. As usual, George and the gang did a great job, and it was sad to hear that they will not be "active" in any future Scottish conventions.

Will close with this "thought of the day" - It is better to be late in this world than early in the next. (Think about it!!)

• **Peter Benei - Gyongyos, Menhaz ut 37, 3200, Hungary**

To all - I joined IDIC more than two and a half years ago. At that time I was desperately searching for others like me; others who liked Star Trek in all forms. I met a few enthusiastic fans here in Hungary; we were collecting everything related to ST. Believe me, it was a real quest, for there is no official ST merchandise yet in Hungary; no

magazines, posters, books (well, only four of them), videos, CDs - nothing. If you told someone about ST, he or she asked what it was. "You know the TV series with the pointed-eared man and TJ Hooker." (This could ring a bell?)

Then Sky One (yet uncoded) started broadcasting TNG, and the satellite channel SAT1 did so as well. There were more and more people familiar with the series. We were discussing the possibility of starting a Hungarian ST fan club. Yeah, but how do we start? What do we do? Then we started to look abroad, how the long-established clubs worked there. The Official ST Fan Club at Aurora, The Central European Fan Club in Germany, Quark's Bar, etc. Just a few of the many we contacted. We had mixed experiences and I do not have to emphasise that "official" does not always mean "quality and reliability".

Then I joined IDIC.

Wow! That was a surprise. You had everything we ever dreamed of: news of the latest films and episodes, books, news about the actors we love, convention reports, articles and the Postbag. The most original forum for thoughts and opinions.

And now it's all over. Why? Renewals dropping to all-time low, etc. I can understand the personal reasons behind the committee's decision, but not the ones who complain about the newsletter. I have lived in the UK for a year and I have seen what's on the market. If they can afford £3 for a Star Trek Monthly or a TV Zone, why can they not afford £10 or so for six newsletters?

We started to produce our own newsletter in Hungarian a year ago. It has a similar structure and philosophy to what IDIC used to have, so in a way IDIC will live on after all. Q said once, "All good things must come to an end." It seems it is true for this newsletter as well.

If anyone is interested in how we manage here in Hungary, please feel free to contact me. Till then, I wish you peace and long life. (In Hungarian, Bébet es hosszú életet.)

• Sandra de la Cruz Alvarez - c/Tellez, n. 17, esc 2, 6A, 28007 Madrid, Spain

Hello again, everybody everywhere!

This is my second letter to IDIC, and unfortunately the last one.

The short time I've shared with all of you, it's been like something empty inside me was suddenly fulfilled. Thank you very much for this wonderful, though brief, relationship. It has been a very special time for me.

One question - Is there any way for anyone who wishes to remain in contact with you (ie Janet, Sheila and Valerie) to do so? If it is all right with you, of course. I've had so little time with IDIC and I would welcome the opportunity to remain in contact. *[Sheila - We'll be happy to remain in contact with anyone who cares to write to us - subject to the number being realistic, that is!]*

So I want to thank everyone who wrote me. Indeed, there are other Trekkies! Truly the truth was out there (if you'll excuse the misquotation).

To Ann Verscheuren - Re William Shatner. I have good news and bad news for you. I have The Brothers Karamazov *but* it's dubbed to Spanish. I'll try to find the original version somewhere else. And about that series in which he played a blind character. I know it was a Western series starring James Arness in the early 80s or so. Another guest star of that episode was Vera Miles, who played his wife. I know it because I have the last *four* minutes if it. (Did I mention I am a jinx? :-)) *[Janet: I must have missed that comment last time. It was an episode from The Way the West was Won and I do have it on video. I may have Brother Karamazov as well - one thing on my list of things to do is to sort through rather a lot of videos, many of which have lost their temporary sticker telling me what is on them.]*

There are many things I would like to say, but I have no space to answer. There were such fascinating discussions: the colour of the tribbles, Vulcans, Cardassians... really the kind of things I would have liked to discuss with any Trekker. If only I had met

you sooner...

Anyway, I want to say thank you for the fantastic time I've spent with you. I've been privileged to have met such an eclectic group of fascinating people. Take care of yourselves.

Finally, to two very special people: Olga (how's the translation going?) I hope I'll see you this Saturday and we go Star Trekking. And Vered, it's been a blessing meeting you. A miracle made possible by IDIC. If only for that, IDIC deserves everlasting immortality.

One last plea: Janet, Sheila, Valerie. If you close the letterzine, please come back soon, if possible. I'm not sure you're aware of all the good things you've made possible, how many dreams came true thanks to you, how many people found an end to their loneliness because of you. I desperately hope this is just a break, not a permanent goodbye.

• Nicole Comtet - France

To Margaret Rainey - Thank you for your letter in N/L 47. You have expressed exactly what I (and many fans) feel about Classic Trek, the crisis in fandom, and the strange direction that Star Trek and Paramount are taking nowadays, thinking more of profits than ideals. I am not a long-standing fan like you, having discovered Star Trek only about ten years ago, but I am ready to join you in our ghetto - count me in, and that will be four of us and a dog! And there are indeed silver linings to all these dark clouds. After all these successive cancellations of fan clubs, I have just been advised that a brand new Leonard Nimoy club is being opened to succeed our dear Spotlight which has just closed. So there is still hope that we shall continue...

To Stephen Shaw - Thank you for your nice comments on my Vulcan trilogy. It is comforting to hear that Classic Trek and Spock stories are still appreciated. I intend to go on writing about Vulcan and the Magnificent Seven as long as the ScoTpress ladies carry on with the publication of zines.

To Marie I J Raper - Re the lack of female captains in the original series. True, regards the Federation, but you forget the

magnificent Romulan Commander - of Enterprise Incident - that was a true Captain, a match to any Starfleet Commander.

To Jill Clements - Creation II report. Yes, of course, we have agreed that Vulcans are decidedly feline, and that has nothing to do with pointy ears! See you at the LN Convention in Nottingham.

And to all and sundry - These have been great times. Farewell. Peace and long life.

• Valerie Herd - 7459 Nasrullah Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 2M4

This is only my second (or is it third?) LOC as I've been lazy, and I'm very sad at having to say goodbye to IDIC. It's been great getting to know everyone, finding out what's happening in Trekdom in different parts of the world, hearing about conventions, fan fiction, etc. It's also been great hearing about the progress of the guide dogs, and it's been particularly heartwarming to have been in touch with someone who actually knew the Great Bird himself. I will miss IDIC very much, and wish Janet, Sheila and Valerie all the very best in their future endeavours.

To answer some of the comments re other clubs/newsletters, I'd like to recommend Multi Species Medicine to fans of DS9 and Dr Bashir. Multi Species Medicine has won 2 Fan Q awards, and is the newsletter of Siddig el Fadil's/Alexander Siddig's fan club, The Doctor's Exchange. It is a monthly newsletter which is always filled with interesting letters, up-to-date news on Sid, photographs, etc, and is a treat for the DS9 fan, not to be missed! Dues are \$25 US (North America) or \$35 US elsewhere, payable to Joan Marie Verba at P.O. Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345-0363, USA.

I would also be happy to answer enquiries about my monthly letterzine, Trexperts. It includes fan fiction, art, letters, news, episode reports, etc, and focuses on all four Trek series. It isn't a patch on IDIC of course, and does not include Kaferian apples, but my hamster likes it!

Unlike the person who described IDIC's Postbag as "tedious", I've always enjoyed

Postbag best of all, and the articles, con reports, cartoons etc have been icing on the cake. IDIC has done an excellent job in bringing together fans who would otherwise never have met, and although some of us letter-writers get angry and carried away at times, IDIC has always successfully put across the message of I.D.I.C.! I think Gene would be proud. May Janet, Sheila and Valerie, and all IDIC members, live long and prosper.

• Helen White - Blewbury, Oxfordshire

I can't believe that this is the last IDIC newsletter. I have been with the club since the beginning, and a contributor since n/13 - it doesn't seem like *four* years, let alone eight! Sadly ill-health prevented me from contributing much in recent years, but I am still highly chuffed to be (have been) a Committee Assistant - I count it as one of the best things that has happened to me. I know how much work running the club must be, so I can see why Janet, Sheila and Valerie are stopping, even though we'd all like them to carry on! I wish them, and my fellow Committee Assistants over the years (that makes it sound as if it's been a hundred years!) all the best for the future. Peace & long life to them and all the IDIC members, whom I hope to 'encounter' again in other Trek n/ls and at conventions in future times.

PS My favourite Trek joke: what disease do Vulcans get? Chicken spocks! (Pause for groans).

• Margaret Rainey - Harefield, Middlesex

An unauthorised biography of Patrick Stewart has recently been published in the USA. I'm not sure of its title, but it's written by Jim Hatfield and George Burt. I haven't yet seen this publication myself, but I'm told by sources in the US that in the acknowledgements of the book, both I personally, and the club I help run, PSAS (Patrick Stewart Appreciation Society - his official UK fanclub) are thanked for our contribution to the book.

I'd just like to make it clear to all and sundry that neither I as an individual, nor PSAS as an organisation, in fact "contributed" to the content of this book in any way. One

of the authors contacted me by email at a very late stage of the book's preparation, just before it went to galley proofs, and asked if I could supply him with certain specific information about Patrick, or photos of him at conventions or other events. I replied "Sorry, no" to both parts of the question, but asked him what sort of a book he was writing, and made a few enquiries from other sources. From the author, I got the impression that it would be a "proper" biography, with good research and well balanced views. From other sources, I was told that most of the "research" was coming from the likes of the "National Enquirer" and similar publications. Patrick Stewart himself very definitely did NOT co-operate in the writing of this book, nor encourage anyone else to do so. I'm told by US friends that the finished product contains much in the way of sensationalism and badly distorted "facts".

I'd like to dissociate myself and PSAS from this work entirely. Patrick's official club in the USA is in a similar position, being thanked for a "contribution" *they* didn't make either. One can only assume the authors are citing the official clubs to give their book a degree of credibility it doesn't otherwise merit.

I won't be buying this work, and I'd encourage other Stewart fans and Trek fans in the UK to likewise consider if this is the sort of thing they want to spend their hard-earned cash on. There are three unauthorised biographies of Patrick due by the end of this year can it be mere co-incidence that this is the 30th anniversary of Star Trek, and there's a bandwagon out there ripe for jumping on

• Penny Robinson, Hemel Hempstead, Herts

I would like to say that I was saddened to read that fans' indifference leads David Simons to feel he is unlikely to take on another convention.

Warp Two was my first-ever convention, and having nothing to compare it with, I did not comment earlier. (Though I did e.mail one of the organisers to say I'd enjoyed it - Brownie points for that?) Now that I've been

to a couple more cons, I can say that this was easily the best-organised of the three. Everything ran on time (well, except the Fancy Dress, but I suspect that goes without saying). Stewards were properly briefed (and informed in advance of the briefing time!). If there were technical problems I don't remember them. The tea was cheap! And there were alternative events scheduled, times and places for discussion as well as guest talks and videos. After all, I went there to talk to other fans, not just to gawp. For myself, I liked the fact that it was held in a conference centre, as subsequent experiences suggest to me that actually, hotels can be mighty inconvenient and confusing.

The Warp Two committee did a terrific job. I hope you've had some more positive feedback. And if you run another convention, I for one will do my best to be there.

To finish - thanks again to IDIC, without you I would never have dreamed of going to a convention! I shall miss these wonderful newsletters. Peace and long life to all.

• Stephen Daniels - Edinburgh

New e-mail -

stephen.daniels@edinburgh.almac.co.uk

Boo hoo, sniff, sniff - Oh pull yourself together man!

Star Trek night on BBC2 - I thoroughly enjoyed it, although I would sacrifice it all for Star Trek to get a decent timeslot on BBC1! I particularly enjoyed the programme that compared Star Trek science fiction with present-day science fact. Did you see that woman who was on the Whitewater Trial jury in the States wearing a TNG uniform? How embarrassing, showing us all up like that, I mean what self respecting Trekker would wear sunglasses like *those* in public?! I hope everyone saw the full "Get a life" clip on that night too, it put the comment into perspective for me, and I don't think it was that bad after all (the only thing is, it gives ammo to the anti-Trek league who like to shoot us down).

I guess come the autumn, there will be all three versions of the new Star Trek on the

BBC - it would be great if they picked up where they left off with the original as well.

Did anyone see Jerry Hardin (Samuel Clements - TNG, Deep Throat - X Files) at Contagion this year? He was a very interesting man to listen to, and seemed totally genuine and down to earth. Another nice thing was that when he was signing autographs (and I'm quite sure he signed just as many as John De Lancie), he was happy to sign his full name for everyone, rather than some daft unrecognisable squiggle that means nothing to anyone, that the 'bigger' stars seem to go for. He was at the Edinburgh Festival reading some of Samuel Clements' writings (I believe in the TNG makeup and voice), I didn't get a chance to see him, and am kicking myself for it.

Has anyone seen Patrick Stewart in a film called Jeffrey? It is very funny, he really camps it up, and is far removed from Jean-Luc!

Please feel free to contact me at the above e-mail address anytime. See you all some place else.

BYE!

• Rhiannon, Kuhstr.35, 42555 Langenberg, Germany

First of all, Thanks to Stephen for the lovely postcard, and to Janet, for listening...

To Margaret Rainey - If you are saying there is too much Trek around nowadays, I must agree with you. Somebody forgot to tell P.mount that quantity does not equal quality... (And I am saying this although I like all series.) Yes, unfortunately I can also see P.mount blame us when all of a sudden (!!!) interest in merchandise decreases. But I cannot see (probably because I am very optimistic, but hey, I might even be right!?) them succeed in dropping Trek like a hot potato. Do you not think that fans would be able to get together again, no matter which series they like or dislike most, in order to keep their favorites from disappearing?

I am glad you referred to "many of the newer fans" instead of all of us when talking about the generation gap. Why so? Cuz

yours truly also made the experiences you describe as being typical for the older fans.

To Jean Perrin - Why did the Organians not do anything against the Borg? Well, maybe they, too, were assimilated...

To Vered Gilad - Your remark in nl.46 did not offend me, really. What I wrote in that nl. to Bill I did because I keep hearing such things, not only from foreigners, and I just can't hear it anymore. Of course every people has some "black sheep", some more than others, but never have I heard of a people consisting only of those...

To Jennifer Blanchard - If it is of any interest, I am member of the USS Invention (Germany) and will join STAG and/or TASTF. About cons being split into "old" and "new" - I do hope most of us are grown-up enough to show a bit of tolerance. I do hope there will still be "mixed" cons in the future, as there must be more people like me who like all series.

To Simon Clay - I, too, have my problems with the time-travel-stories. Sure, in some way they do make sense, in their own way that is, but I do not like the idea of "self-fulfilling history" for example, I liked that worm-hole-thing - What a mess we would make of this universe if we were able to play around with time... While I think going into the past is impossible, I think travelling into the future would work. Time goes by slower the faster you go/ the closer you get to light-speed, right? So a hundred years or so might seem like the wink of an eye to you.

Help!!! I would really like to learn the beautiful Welsh language, - Is there any IDIC-member out there who'd be willing to try and teach me???

Now, I never thought this would happen to someone like me, but here goes. Two weeks ago my friend and I met some people from MTV, we sort of started talking, and when they found out I was a Trek-fan they wanted me to talk about that in front of their camera... So three hours later I stood in a local bookstore, next to me a cardboard-stand-up of our holographic Doc, and tried to

make a good impression. They said they'd show it on August 23rd, but then they did not, so maybe I landed in the waste-basket. Oh, well. If they should show it - I am wearing my badge, so you'll know me...

Finally, - Goodbye to you all, and thanks to those who cared to write to me, Maybe we'll meet in another club? And I do hope to see some more badges next time I come to UK!!!

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

email - 101736.3260@compuserve.com

Everyone is welcome to write or email me.

To Jean Perrin - B5 is excellent! Admittedly I do prefer DS9, but still B5 produces consistently good, complex story plots and the characters are just fantastic. Dare I say it, the characters on B5 are, in my opinion, perhaps more realistic than those on Trek because all of them have problems, eg drugs, alcohol, someone (up until a short while ago) struggling to come to terms with her sexuality, and stuff like that. But still, I would never be without my lovable Trek characters!

To Vered Gilad - I too am saddened by IDIC's closure as you probably read in my letter last N/L - I will miss this family and discussing Trek with y'all. But hopefully I'll be able to keep in touch with many of you if y'all are joining James Woodman's club (Hi, James!) - it sounds great, and I'll be joining as soon as I can find some IRCs!

Still with Vered - Kira is turning into a bimbo. Sorry that sounds so blunt but the way things are going she's really starting to annoy me. Dax is much better - she's really cool and funny!

To Anne-Marie Flowers - They thought Nana would look too small?!! At 5'8"?! Oh, boy, does that make me feel bad. Mind you, I read somewhere that with the exception of Armin Shimerman, DS9 has a very tall cast - Terry Farrell is something like 6" and all the men are taller than that!

To everyone - I recently went to my first con when I was in the US and it was excellent! Tim Russ and Rene Auberjonois both gave very funny talks and I was so impressed by both of them because they sat through over three hours of autographs until everyone in the auditorium had got at least one, and they also posed for pictures. Meeting them was a joy and an honour! Also I saw the trailer for First Contact - WOW! I can't wait to see this, it looks incredible!

Well, that's about it from me. I suddenly feel empty, knowing this is the last Postbag I can write a letter in. Oh, well, I'm gonna at least end on a positive note. I had have a *terrific* three years in IDIC and I want to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and dedication. Trek is an astounding thirty-year legacy, one which I know will go on for a long time to come, Live long and prosper, Star Trek, and to everyone here in my IDIC family! I'm gonna miss you all so much but hopefully I'll see some of you in another club somewhere.

"No goodbyes, just good memories.
Hailing frequencies closed."

See ya! :-)

• **David John Raper - Hull**

Since this is to be the last IDIC (cries of "Shame! Shame!!") I just thought that I would first express my thanks and gratitude to those whose combined efforts have made my membership so enjoyable over the years. Thanks to all of you, including those who made it all possible. Anyway, since this is the last opportunity and there will be no chance of a reply, I will now express an opinion or two and leave it at that.

CT: I watched this in the 70s and 80s and I enjoyed it; even at its worst it was still better than most of its contemporaries and even if some episodes are now distinctly dated and the actors are showing their age, so what? I am pleased to say that I have most of it on tape, and even if Kirk did die in Generations, he will still live on in the depths of my VCR for many years to come, along with the rest of his crew and the good old 1701.

TNG: was a definite dawning of a new

age of Trek and after a shaky start improved by leaps and bounds, but NOT imitating its predecessor but by being itself. I don't know anybody who would not have preferred it to go on for another few years, but at least it went out on a high note and paved the way for yet more Star Trek, which is apparently what Gene Roddenberry was hoping for when he made Farpoint nearly ten years ago.

DS9: has improved with time and I hope it's to continue for some time to come; again it was different, and not an instant hit with fans - but then neither was TNG. To those who have yet to see any of the third and fourth season episodes, I can say that at least those I have seen are as good as TNG at its best; I hope that we see more.

Voyager: may be a return to the boldly-going-where-no-one-has-gone-before format but again it is different, with a different ship, crew and a whole new area of space to explore. Kate Mulgrew makes an excellent Captain and whilst her crew may not be exactly Starfleet's finest, they are still following in a noble tradition and I hope that Voyager continues on its journey for some time to come.

As to future Trek, who knows? In the US they call it "The Franchise", that has literally made billions in profits for Paramount, and as long as it continues to attract viewers with good stories and acting, where the audience is treated as intelligent human beings and not as potential consumers, I am sure that Voyager will not be the last starfleet ship to boldly go. After all, they do have an entire galaxy to play with, and that's just the start.

So for now, goodbye to IDIC and to all of you, and thank you for the many hours of pleasure that you have given me over the years.

• **Marie I J Raper - Hull**

Greetings, fellow Trekkers, for the final N/L.

First of all, I want to say what a real pleasure it has been being an IDIC member and to express my sorrow that you are finally calling it a day after 8 years. There is no way

in the world that I could ever do as good a job as Janet and the team in compiling each and every newsletter, and the three and a half years that I have been a part of this membership have been extremely worthwhile. I shall miss IDIC, but I'd like to wish you all well for the future.

Two points to make to Jean Perrin - firstly, Chakotay's appointment as Voyager's First Officer had nothing to do with politics but the fact that he was the most experienced member of the Maquis to do so. Janeway pointed out to him in Parallax that he was an Academy graduate and that he'd had previous command experience. Bear in mind that before he joined the Maquis, Chakotay *was* a former Lieutenant Commander. Also, if Tuvok had any objections to Janeway's decision, I believe that he would have said something by now, don't you? Also I believe that Tuvok is quite content to remain as Chief of Security for Captain Janeway.

Secondly, with reference to the violence that you describe on Babylon 5, it is worth remembering that J Michael Straczynski had a completely different vision of the future compared with Gene Roddenberry. It is unfair to compare the two concepts considering the fact that the Star Trek universe is not exactly a bed of roses, what with things hotting up on DS9, for example. Quite a number of Star Trek actors have appeared on B5 at one time or another - Walter Koenig and David Warner being just two examples - so I fail to see why you should take objection to Majel Barrett-Roddenberry's participation, especially when an actress of her calibre would have had the option to say no easily enough.

To James Woodman - I agree with you: the *Admiral* Chakotay mentioned in the DS9 episode The Circle wasn't even a native American. Also the chances are that when the episode was originally shown in the USA, the character of *Commander* Chakotay hadn't even been conceived.

To Simon Clay - Your comments are quite valid concerning Jean Perrin's Relationships II article of N/L 46. They expressed everything I had wanted to say originally but

could not articulate in my own words. You're spot on about Worf, though, he does have different standards; he might be a little stand-offish, but that doesn't mean to say he doesn't like anyone. The episode where Worf states his friendship to Riker concerning the J/Nail was The Outcast.

Finally, to T Z Hunt - I don't think that Kirk being killed off in ST: Generations had anything to do with the so-called "anti-Kirk Brigade". It is worth remembering that William Shatner has played James T Kirk on and off for something like 28 years, so it is more than likely that the actor might well have wanted to call it a day and hang up his uniform.

Anyway, that's my spleen vented once more; it's finally time for me to sign off.

• Jean Sloan - Liverpool

To Helen White - Your explanation of Format C was so clear; thank you.

To Jean Perrin - definitely senility; I also have problems with remembering people's names; I can tell you everything about them except what they are called. *[Sheila - I'll join in here because it's the last time. I remember people's faces, but usually I have to forget someone's name at least 6 times before I remember it... but I also have the bad habit of reversing names - I call the dog by the cat's name, the cat by the dog's; I call Janet Valerie and Valerie Janet... and at my chronological age, that is worrying!]*

Like everyone else who has written in, I am sorry to see IDIC close, but I also understand why the committee has decided to "retire". I have been a member since N/L 1 and it has been great fun. I have come to know a lot of people over the years from putting names to faces. The club has also given me an outlet for sort-of journalistic leanings in writing up con guest talks; I have really enjoyed making notes and writing up - it was never a chore. Incidentally Sheila must be thanked for typing up those reports; I don't possess a WP. Other sources of entertainment from the club have been the range of excellent articles on a variety of topics and, of course, the Postbag, which has

been compulsive reading.

So a big thank you to the committee for their time, energy and commitment. See you around the Galaxy!

• Gillian Howden - Liverpool

I think the N/Ls are excellent, but not enough people write about Data!

My favourite characters are: TOS - Kirk, Spock, TNG - Data, DS9 - Odo, Bashir, Dax. I haven't seen any Voyager yet, but I am a bit sceptical about a female captain

My favourite episodes are: TOS - Trouble with Tribbles, City on the Edge of Forever. TNG - Any with Data as a main character. DS9 - Haven't seen many.

Do you know if the BBC are going to show the first 3 seasons of TNG, because I haven't seen them. I have a friend who is convinced they were shown on tv before seasons 4-7, after TOS - but I haven't seen them - and I never miss an episode of Star Trek. *[Janet - As you probably know BBC started a repeat showing on TNG season one on 21/8/96. Encounter at Farpoint was first shown on BBC 2 on 26/9/90 and they continued with the first 3 seasons up to 6/5/92.]*

• Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

Since this is the final issue of IDIC, I'd like to thank Janet, Sheila and Valerie for their hard work in publishing IDIC. To regularly print a newsletter takes love of the subject and commitment; you should all be very proud of your achievement. (Please publish this paragraph as I feel it's important to publicly state my, and I'm sure everybody else's, gratitude for your efforts.)

I'd also like to thank, in this the 30th anniversary year, Gene Roddenberry, Gene Coon, Robert Justman, Herb Solow, William Ware Theiss, Alexander Courage, Rick Berman and let's not forget Harve Bennett, all the scriptwriters, directors and cast and crew for giving us the wonder that is Star Trek.

Who would have thought when I first watched Star Trek all those years ago that it

would still be going all these years later. I only hope that the new movie is a great success and that the new caretakers of the show can get DS9 wider appeal and Voyager out of the rut it is in, and we can look forward to having a Star Trek series well into the future.

Now on to some unfinished business.

To Dave Styles - Dear Dave, I'll sadly miss our little discussions. I sincerely hope we meet some time and can have a pint - but didn't you feel silly being proved wrong all the time? Heh! Heh! :-)

To Harold Raitt - I wondered how long it would take till someone mentioned Inside Star Trek. I doubt the veracity of some of the chapter on City - for example Ellison telling writer Don Ingalls over drinks in a bar that he (Ellison) polished it up a little bit to make it even better. Ellison is teetotal. He doesn't drink - never has, never will. The main bone of contention between Harlan and Gene was, in Ellison's original script the crewmembers addicted to Jewels of Sound beamed down to the planet and escaped through the Guardian of Forever to another time, to be pursued by our heroes. Gene didn't like any member of Starfleet being addicted to drugs - remember, this show was made in the 60s, the *start* of the drug culture. Gene wanted the show to reflect the problems of the time. Gene rewrote that McCoy injected himself, as you'll remember from the broadcast version; Ellison thought this was dumb, and I have to agree with him. Ellison responds to sensible suggestions - turn to your copy of Inside Star Trek, P277. When preparing the Outer Limit episode Demon with a Glass Hand, Bob Justman suggested using the Bradbury Building instead of shooting all over L.A. Ellison thought this a far better idea and happily rewrote his episode around it.

I'm very sad to see IDIC cease publication. I've enjoyed the newsletters and everyone's diverse views. I don't think there is a comparable publication anywhere; most Star Trek fan mags are sycophantic rags. It was a joy to discover a fan mag that allowed a critical analysis of Star Trek. Still, as they said, "All good things..."

• Sarah Jenkin - Gillingham

I'm very sorry to hear IDIC is finally calling it a day. It has brought me many hours of delight reading the various debates and intelligent articles, poems, etc, and the spoilers which kept me ahead of all the (richer) Trekkers at university. I'll miss not having the bi-monthly package with all the "old" familiar names (Helen White's con reports, and others), but reading it has encouraged me to get more active in fandom.

About Odo becoming liquid when unconscious. He's been humanoid so long maybe the 'pattern' has been 'imprinted' onto his subconscious, so it stays without him thinking about it, the same way we know how to use a knife and fork. We don't consciously think about it, we just do it (except after a hard night at the uni bar :-)).

Re racism and sexism being "instincts". This only becomes a reaction to defend ourselves in a culture of alienation, ie "I'm all right, but those things, the others, are strange. How frightening!" :-)

Anyway, thanks again for a great newsletter.

PS - Q: How many humans does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. They can't see in the dark.

• Jessica Lemmer - Altweiherstr 58, D-91320 Ebermannstadt, Germany

When I became a member of IDIC, I was surprised by the quality of the newsletter. For me it was, and is, a valued source of Star Trek news. I also liked reading the discussions in the Postbag. IDIC showed me that I'm not alone with my love for Star Trek, and I made great friends who share my interests. I'd like to thank everyone who wrote me - letters are always well appreciated. Although I've been a rather bad example of a letter writer lately - I'm sorry for that, my apologies - should anyone want to write, please do.

Hi, Kerry (when was the last time you thought of 'the beacon in the night?'), Jason, Catherine, Raymond, Maria, Clive, Michael, Vera and Joan! Thanks a lot for writing.

Finally I'd like to wish everyone all the best for the future. Hailing frequencies closed.

• Chris Travers - Nottingham

To Janet, Sheila and Valerie - Thank you all for three wonderful years, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. I will certainly miss receiving my IDIC newsletters.

To Sheila - B5 telepaths have to be able to see the people they are reading.

• Taruka Quauhtezcatl - She of the unpronounceable name, signing off for now!

I can't believe this is my last letter to IDIC, has time gone by so fast? Doesn't seem four years, believe me. Is there is a club out there who thinks they might benefit from my unique style of writing (criticised by college lecturers as being too journalistic !) then please contact me at Tierra Venida, 15a Clevedon Rd, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YL, or if you're really desperate you can telephone 01772 768827. Providing your letter or call gets through (sometimes they don't) I'll happily answer. (Yes, I know I'm a glutton for punishment.)

Well, Ceilaer the black cat met her nemesis on Saturday - a black cat called Spindle. Honours are so far 2 - 1 to Spindle... but they meet again at the Supreme, and I hope Celi will turn the tables. (Fortunately Spindle's owner is a friend of mine.) If you're wondering how Celi got her name, if you spelled it K'Ehleyr... it means 'dear companion' in its current spelling.

I appear to have misplaced my copy of the previous IDIC, so I'm unable to comment on anything asked of me. Perhaps you could write in person? However, thank you, whoever it was who gave the compliments on my articles... I usually dashed them off while things were fresh in my memory. I didn't write a report for Wolf 359 even though I was there, because I spent nearly all my time in the dealers' room. (Anyone going there next year keep a lookout for an idiot with feathers in her hair sitting behind a table selling cat-related items. Say hello - I don't bite!) We raised £116 for the local cat charity

at Wolf, so I'm doing it again next year.

Sheila, if you need more tribbles, let me know. The guide dog harnesses aren't half fiddly! You, and everyone else, might like to know that a local cat show has a trophy called The Tribble Cup. (Guess who sponsored it!) *[Sheila - Not right now, thanks, as we won't be going to another con until Fantasticon next May; but a few guide tribbles for then wouldn't go amiss!]*

Anyway, I'll finish here. I'm going to miss these ramblings, believe me. Sorry my letter was cat-orientated, but I tend to be on a bit of a high after a show and it takes me a week to come down again.

Wishing all members peace and happiness for the future, and peace and long life to the committee. Thank you.

• John Stubbley, 66 Deldale Road, Wyberton, Boston, Lincs. PE21 7BT

I was thinking what I could do to mark the passing of IDIC..... Perhaps I could draw a cartoon, write a poem, sing a lament or carve a plaque? Naaaaahhhh! Anyway, you DON'T want to hear me sing! So I shall simply say goodbye to you all. Anyone with a pen, paper and some patience can try and write to me at the above address. Also, anyone who is out and about around the Hemel Hempstead area may see me - I'll be working there from September. I may even try Page's bar if I can persuade someone else to go with me!

So, I will bid you all farewell! I have enjoyed reading and writing to the IDIC newsletter. I know there'll never be anything that gets anywhere near it, but I'll have to start looking for it I suppose.

Live Long And Prosper (Unoriginal but appropriate!).

• Judith Taylor, Boldly escaping the attentions of a vengeful Rhesus 2.

Well, looks like it's time to go, a big and definite bye bye. It is a great pity, I joined this club because of a friend, it has given me access to a lot of people out there who have joined me in the enjoyment of a universally

respected show and its ideals. A pity. Thanks for the great enjoyment and effort you put into the mag, I look forward to seeing you in the future at conventions; that also goes for the members of this mag.

I am now going to put my address in this mag for the last time. It's 70 Leadale road, Leyland, Lancs., PR5 1QR. This is for anyone out there who wants a pen friend. I'm into anything Sci fi.

Since this is the last letter I will write in I'm now going to put forward some of these questions which have niggled me throughout Star Trek so far.

1. Where exactly does that little corridor off the observation lounge go to?
2. With the toilets on the Enterprise, etc. do they use toilet paper or a bidet? Perhaps it's the three sea shells.
3. Why was the Voyager's universal translator able to translate the Kazon, Neelix and the various other Delta Quadrant lifeforms' languages straight away?
4. Why don't the humans in the Star Trek universe ever use metasyntactic variables, or forget what something is called?
5. Is the time on the other side of the wormhole in the past, present or future?
6. Where did all the Maquis members appear from on the Voyager? You only met five at the beginning of Caretaker, four when the caretaker was biometrically assessing them, yet these damn Maquis keep popping up everywhere. Perhaps they had infiltrated the Voyager like Tuvok had infiltrated Chakotay's ship. Also why do we never meet the same Maquis member twice? (Seska is exempt due to her semi major role position) Notice we have never seen the Maquis male since he beamed aboard during the Caretaker with Chakotay and Tuvok.
7. Why is it, even in the 24th century they still don't have hospital gowns that do up properly at the back?

8. Why didn't Kim's tricorder pick up that B'elanna was half human in the Caretaker?

9. Does the Federation have public toilets for Male, Female and other?

10. Here's a biggie, when an Away Team beams down to the surface of a planet they have just arrived at, this is a planet they have never set foot on before, why aren't they struck dead by the bacteria and organisms in the air, lifeforms and fauna?

11. What does Klingon toilet paper look like? Is it sissy to use toilet paper.

12. And why the B!!!!y hell didn't they just eject the warp core at the end of Generations, and why did they have to do all the dramatics of the evacuation of the living quarters through the engineering section when engineering is in the star drive and the living quarters and other socialising areas are in the saucer section.

Well if any one has answers for these then please write to me - I am hot for a discussion. And so the time has come, the end is near, the curtain comes down. See you at a convention. All it takes is for me to now quote the immortal lines, "There can be, only one!" Sorry wrong immortal, this one's more fitting - "So long and thanks for all the fish".

• Paul Taylor, Sitting in the Restaurant at the End of the Universe waiting for the end
Woe, woe and thrice woe, the time has come
the end is here.

IDIC has come to an end. But in true Star Trek format it can never end and will appear in six more large magazines, followed by several spin off series like IDIC - The Next Companion. Finally the original format will guest in the seventh magazine passing on the flame to the new publishers with the final death of IDIC the original fan magazine. But IDIC will never die, it will live on in our hearts and through reprints, clips in people's scrap books and scratchy photocopies of original magazines. Spin off merchandise will fill stores all over the world, IDIC the pen, IDIC the computer disk, IDIC the jiffy bag even IDIC the paper shredder. Janet Quarton, Sheila Clark and Valerie Piacentini

(you know she doesn't appear in my spell checker) will be mobbed for autographs, the autographs being collectors' items will be worth infinite amounts of money to collectors of the future. Computer games will be inspired. You will be able to take the helm and sift through mountains of info, letters and articles to create the perfect IDIC magazine. You'll fight the printers, haggle the prices and come up with interesting ways of raising money for charity.

IDIC WILL NEVER
DIE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!! ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well that's it, I'm finished. I have nothing left to say.

I lied.

I do actually have one more thing to say.

Actually I don't. Oh well, bye. Daisy, Dais

• Peter Scarisbrick, 15 Crediton Avenue,
Southport, Merseyside PR9 9TP

Everyone I spoke to, or overheard, at Concorde were united in their sorrow that IDIC is closing. It is as if the death of a family member has been announced, as indeed it has. May I add my thanks to those of many others and thank Janet, Sheila and Valerie for giving birth to such a vibrant creation. We celebrate its life rather than mourn its demise.

To David Simons - I agree with you that some fans don't care. As long as someone provides a convention who cares! Can I just thank you and the rest of the Warp 2 for producing a convention on such scale. I enjoyed it. I salute all who invest of their time and effort to produce an event for the entertainment and enjoyment of others, without personal reward.

To everyone, cheer up. We have First Contact to look forward to, there is still DS9 and Voyager, and a chance that we could see the further adventures of Captain Sulu. The future is yet to come.

• Glen Parsons - Cambourne, Cornwall

I, like most people, am sad to see the end of IDIC. Having been a member for only one year I was finally beginning to feel a part of it. So if anyone is recommending other fan clubs, I certainly would be interested in joining.

One of our local libraries recently held a Star Trek day. It was very good, with some dealers having stalls. Also being shown were some Classic episodes, including The Cage, which I hadn't seen for some time and had forgotten how good it was. Also there as guest was John Freeman, editor of ST Monthly, who gave a talk and kept us up to date on what was happening to Voy and DS9. It was very nice to see an event like this happening locally.

So to sign off, I'd like to wish you all luck for the future.

• Mr D Hird - 5 Sides Rd, Carleton Park, Pontefract, W Yorks WF8 3PN

What can I say? I will really miss IDIC. I just hope one day it does return.

I can see what you are getting at, each month the number of letters slagging off one part of Trek in preference to another was on the increase. Why can't we just enjoy them all - although by looking at the letters, it tended to be the Classic fans who were more against the new series than the fans of the later series critical of the old.

Does anyone have more information on the new Sovereign Class Starship - I take it it is the next step up from the Intrepid Class light cruiser, which would make it a heavy cruiser, so it's not as powerful as a Galaxy Class vessel, more on a par with a Nebula Class vessel.

If anyone is looking for a new fanzine, I can recommend The Transatlantic Star Trek Federation.

I also thought I would list a few of my favourite episodes. TOS - Ultimate Computer, Amok Time, Journey to Babel, Tholian Web; TNG - Redemption, Best of Both Worlds, Disaster, Descent, any Q story

plus many more: DS9 - Way of the Warrior, The Jem'Hadar, The Die is Cast, The Defiant and The Adversary; Voyager - Cold Fire, Death Wish, Dreadnought and Caretaker - although I think it's time to bring Voyager back to the Alpha Quadrant. They could have a Q storyline where he could bring them back, just after making the Doctor real so he could stay on the ship as Chief Medical Officer and the Maquis could be offered positions to stay on as part of a Cardassian treaty, so to begin with Voyager could just be patrolling the Cardassian border. It's just an idea.

To Simon Clay - Can anyone just turn up at the Leeds Starfleet meetings? If so, can you give me directions, please.

If anyone would like to write to me after IDIC closes, I would love to receive letters from fellow Star Trek fans.

Finally, many thanks to Janet, Sheila and Valerie for all the hard work they have put into this magazine over the years.

• David Gallagher - 21 Hawksmoor St, Fulham, London W6 8EA

And now - the end is here,
And so we face the final newsletter.
I'm sure, you'll all agree,
That for a read, there is none better.
It's always packed and full
With news, reviews - and big debates,
And more - much more than this,
It's one of the greats!

So - this is it - the last IDIC newsletter. I will certainly miss it, but would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee in their entirety for all the hard work, dedication and commitment that they have ploughed into fandom in general, and IDIC in particular - and wish them all well for the future.

To David Raper - Why can't the Voyager crew travel home using the newly discovered transwarp system? As the Doctor has shown us how quick and easy it is to cure the "side effects"... Couldn't he just cure the whole crew?

A suggestion to the committee - it might be a good idea if you made a list of members names and addresses available to any new club that may take IDIC's place - after all, "space abhors a vacuum". *[Committee - It's an offence against the Data Protection Act to do this unless the people involved have indicated that we can pass their addresses on to other fans. You'll notice that if you reply to advertisements, there's often a box included that says 'Tick here if you do not want to receive information on goods from other firms' or words to that effect. If you don't tick the box, you are giving permission for them to pass your address on. It's a wee bit more subtle than saying 'tick if you do want to receive information... etc', but it comes to the same thing. They have it in 'writing' that they can pass the address on. A lot of members have said we can pass their addresses on to other fans; but a lot haven't given us that permission.]*

I loved the idea of Star Trek: Blackadder as the next series!

I've recently seen the film Independence Day. Is it just me, or has Brent Spiner turned into The Hooded Claw?!

That's it for now. If anyone feels the urge to write please do - I will always reply. You all take care of yourselves - and remember, in the Star Trek Universe, the end is not always the end...

• Mark Dooley - Ground Right, 241 Househillmuir Rd, Priesthill, Glasgow G53 6LP

Since starting my subscription to IDIC back at issue thirty-something, I have wanted to write to the Postbag. It always came down to college work or family life and the letter seemed to get postponed time and again. Not this time.

Saddened am I that this is my first and last letter to your zine. Through the efforts of the zine, I have been afforded many hours of enjoyment. The Postbag has been a great source of debate as well as all the other responses it provokes! I would like to thank all the contributors for all their comments and insights.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks and trust that the committee (including those behind the scenes) with whatever you choose to do in the future.

THE REQUEST - Both my wife and I are mature students. We are looking for a computer to help us with our studies. It would be of particular benefit me as I am endeavouring to study computing. Needless to say, our cash is tight. We have two young children who always seem to need feeding and new clothes, etc. Very strange, that! No-one ever told us about those things...

The deal is - if there is anyone out there with an old computer that is just gathering dust we might be interested in it. We think a PC (286/386 for the technical among you) would suit our needs better, but we will consider all offers. Even if you have 'bits and pieces' that you do not use/need it could be the start we need.

Even better for us would be a loan of a machine if that were available. Y'know, maybe you are off on holidays for weeks and the machine is going to sit there pining for you - who knows - we could give it a loving home environment until you come back. It would certainly help us and it goes without saying that excellent care would be taken.

We are prepared to pay postage locally (Glasgow/Edinburgh) or arrange collection points if the distance is greater. It's all open to negotiation, as the man says. We look forward to hearing from some of you, and thank you in advance if you can help. Believe me, it is/will be greatly appreciated.

The only thing that I can now say in closing is something I read recently. You guys have been producing IDICs for eight years, which is quite a feat. The number 8 in the Arabian culture signifies 'a new beginning'. Well, I trust that you all have *new beginnings* that bring great joy to your lives. Thank you for your efforts. Live long and prosper.

• Neil J Barrett - Somewhere in South-East London

Whereas this is the musical utterance of a

large water-bird common to the British Isles for IDIC, I am obliged to correctly align the vinyl disc used to store and reproduce sound. Disengage Vulcan mode..... Since this is the swan song for IDIC, I have to put the record straight.

Some of you may have noticed my absence over the last few issues (or am I being a little egotistical to think that?) This has not been due to any dissatisfaction with IDIC or Trek or fandom or anything connected. Just the sheer lack of free time which is a consequence of having become engaged this summer and preparing to take on the terrors of a mortgage. By the time you read this, I hope to be living in a slightly more salubrious part of the capital and will even have my Ready Room so I can catch up on all the letters I owe people.

I guess I have to agree with Margaret Rainey et al about the major changes that fandom has gone through over the last 5 years or so. When I first started collecting, I couldn't buy everything I wanted because my pocket money wouldn't stretch that far. Nowadays, as a reasonably well-paid professional (only reasonably - I work for the NHS y'know) I still can't buy everything I'd like because a) my salary doesn't stretch that far and b) I don't have any spare aircraft hangars to keep it in. When so much is available so easily, the wonder is lost and the feeling of being part of something special begins to be diluted.

It's actually started to make me cynical. When I saw the Radio Times 30th Anniversary special advertised, I didn't even bother to look through it - expecting a lot of recycled information and Franklin Mint ads. My fiancée bought it for me and I was pleasantly surprised to find new (to me anyway) material and no ads whatsoever (...oh of course, this is the BBC...) I have only been to one convention all year and to be honest, there are now so many that I miss the anticipation that there was when I first went in my student days.

However, there is still the spark from individual fans, those who debate in the Postbag or collar me at cons and I'm glad to

be part of that. I don't think that will ever die. The fair-weather fans may come and go, the wider SF fans may drop in now and then but there will be a successor to IDIC, our non-Trekker friends and spouses will occasionally be drawn in and the Klingons will rampage for many years to come... I'm proud to be part of that. As someone we all know (and many of us love) once said "We reach."

• Christopher Howell - Coventry

My final letter to IDIC expresses my opinions on Star Trek's past, present and future. All letters of agreement or live quatum torpedoes should be sent to my address printed last issue.

Classic Trek - The original, the one which makes this letter as long as it is, the one which started it all - its a pity that some people don't remember this. What it lacked in SFX it made up for with great stories. Happy Anniversary!

TNG - A brilliant follow up to TOS - I was a casual fan but *Best of Both Worlds* got me well and truly assimilated into the Trek collective. I thought it ended at the right time - 7th season was very uneven, with all time classics (*Parallels*, *Pegasus*) alongside all time stinkers (*Genesis* anyone?). It went out on a high and with respect from the fans and Joe Public with *All Good Things* - that's preferable to running out of ideas in an 8th or 9th season, and if you don't believe me, look at Voyager.

DSN - Has got better and better. Did a lot of interesting stories in the first 2 years, but was never exciting until the Dominion trilogy (*The Jem'Hadar*, *The Search I & II*). The 4th season has the best mixture yet of adventure, comedy and introspective stories, and events in *Broken Link* sets up the 5th season nicely - War between the Federation and Klingon Empire. Add the Cardassians struggle to reclaim their space, the on-going Bajoran Political/Religious arc, the activities of the Maquis and The True Way and the ongoing threat of the Dominion, and I think DSN has enough stories to carry it well beyond seven years. The opening titles may be revamped for next year, with possible music changes.

5th season starts with *Apocalypse Rising*, a feature-length story which features Sisko, O'Brien, Odo and Gul Dukat infiltrating the Klingon Homeworld to confront Gowron. Followed by *The Ship* in which the crew find a downed Jem'Hadar fighter, *Looking for Parmach in all the Wrong Places* and *Trials and Tribbleations*, DSN's salute to the 30th anniversary.

Voyager- Hmm. If they could give us the impression that the ship is in uncharted space then this series could go a long way. What I want from Voyager is the sense of the unknown, I want the ship to be meeting lifeforms which are completely different to anything we've seen before, who don't use plasma conduits and warp-drive technology. I want Tuvok not to have a clue what the strange ship/cloud/whatever is on the viewscreen. In short, I want *original* stories. Episodes like *Cold Fire*, *Maneuvers* and *Deathwish* prove that this series can be entertaining, but they've got to push the envelope more, and some serious character development (especially for Harry Kim) wouldn't hurt either. 3rd season starts with *Basics part 2*, *False Profits*, *Flashback*, *Scared Ground* and *The Chute* in which Kim and Paris are held captive by an alien race.

TNG Films - *First Contact* sounds better every month, then again, I thought the same way for Generations. Has Jonathan Frakes directing, Enterprise-E, the Defiant, the Borg and \$40 million budget; after taking all that into consideration, can't be as bad as Generations!

And beyond - I like Sulu, but there enough ST on now, and while a series based on Sulu sounds like fun, this would be overkill. Viacom should let DSN/Voyager continue, then focus on films. Starve everyone for 5/10 years with no TV-Trek, then bring it back 20 years into the future (Stardate 75045.6), with fresh ideas, new writers, CGI SFX etc. Of course, Viacom won't do this - according to *Star Trek Monthly* a mini-series which may feature TOS crew members is in the works for next year....

Oh well - I've enjoyed being a member of IDIC and I hope to see, hear whatever some

ex-members in the Obsidan Order or Transatlantic ST Federation fan clubs.

• James O Donovan - Cork

I'll keep this short because I've got a feeling there will be a lot of "goodbye and thank you" letters. I've been with IDIC since No 40 and I've enjoyed every minute of it. It was the first club I joined, so I've got nothing to compare it to, but I know that if any of the others are half as good then I'm in for a good time. I've just joined Bristol Starfleet Registry, hoping to see a few familiar names there.

I just want to thank those who made my stay so enjoyable, especially the committee who've done a great job.

Good luck in the future to all other members. Keep on trekkin', and remember - "Keep those phasers on stun".

• Julie Evans - Liverpool

I'll miss IDIC very, very much. I've met a lot of friends through the newsletter and always got a thrill out of seeing my cartoons so beautifully reproduced on the pages therein. The absence of IDIC is going to leave a big gap in my life, but as a famous TV show once said, "All good things..." (sigh!)

Love and hugs to the entire IDIC family, and may we all "Live long and..." and... Oh, what was that saying again?

Peace.

• M J Walsh - Stirling

I am upset to hear of your closing down, as I only became a member recently, but also because I had never before realised how Star Trek brings people together. It also seems to bring out the best in people, friendliness and good reasoning (albeit there are a few arguments, but these are merely minor differences in point of view, and are good and healthy)

My best wishes to all people (humanoid or otherwise).

• Jay Stevenson - Essex

To Marie J Raper (P46) - There *was* a female Captain in the original series - but she was Romulan (The Enterprise Incident). And

it's worth noting that Gene Roddenberry said somewhere that a lot of *women* reacted adversely to his super-efficient No 1 in The Cage. Walter Koenig's comments (P56) is it really surprising that the market for Trek autobiographies has dried up? I'm sure Walter Koenig's book would be a fun read (Chekov's Enterprise was) but there's only so much mileage you can wring from the same old stories. Bill Shatner's Memories were the definitive "star's eye view" of original Trek, with plenty in it for Nimoy fans, but even I Am Spock had to fall back on repetition, and was much more interesting when Mr Nimoy brought the narrative up to date.

Those wondering about the present state and possible future of Trek should remember that Trek was innovative in the sixties because the show (at its best) dealt with contemporary ideas - which made it unusual for TV sci-fi at the time. It isn't unusual any more. Note George Takei's very pertinent comments (P10) on the drop in Trek ratings. He suggests that it may be due to the current "routineness of things" and suggests a need for "something fresh... a sense of innovation, new vision and bold venturesomeness". Leonard Nimoy said the same thing in a recent interview: "I don't see any vision. I don't see any excitement happening. I don't see any new sense of - whoa, look where they're going with Star Trek".

People have been asking in the letter column about other Trek clubs, but isn't STAG still going strong? And did I hear a rumour that Dave Styles is starting a letterzine? Anyone interested in Leonard Nimoy/Spock should check out the Leonard Nimoy Fan Club (UK) (details in the clubs/groups section).

• Jill Searle - Shrewsbury

In 1979 I was buying Photoplay Magazine for its ST and SF content. In the fan club section I read about STAG, the first ST fan club I'd ever heard of. I wrote off to Janet Quarton saying I didn't even know fan clubs existed. Janet replied with a lot of info and naturally I joined at once. Then things really started to change... STAG arranged bookings for seats at the premiere of ST:TMP and I just had to go. Whilst there, I met other Trekkers

who were very friendly and urged me to attend a convention. In the meantime, I started buying zines regularly. It's hard to believe now that Sheila and Valerie used to put out several zines every two months and I used to buy most of them (ah, I had money in 'them' days!)

I found new friends via STAG's penpal column and met up with them at my first con, SOL III '83. Later I attended many more cons and reached the pinnacle of Trek fun during the years 86-89. I saw the premieres of ST:III and ST:IV, and the joy of laughing with fellow Trekkers at the latter is unforgettable. At UFP '88 few people had seen much TNG and I watched all but one episode of the first season over the weekend in packed video rooms. Around that time IDIC began and I joined immediately. I've only managed to attend three cons since 1989, but I still had IDIC to keep me up to date with everything. Now the club is closing and life will seem strange without that packed N/L dropping through the letterbox every two months. It truly seems like the end of an era.

I've just watched BBC's Star Trek 'fest'. It seems incredible that both the Radio Times and BBC2 were paying homage to ST. Bearing in mind that it was once almost shameful to admit to being a Trekker, it was very refreshing to see all those people, especially Patrick Moore, talking about the series. As for the quiz show - Picard's parents' names? I have to admit I hadn't a clue! The Science and Star Trek programme was great, and the Star Trek Story was good but I'm too familiar with the story! Then there was Caretaker, my first sight of Voyager. Well, I quite liked it. Janeway was good and Tuvok was excellent. Neelix was OK too, but the others will probably have to grow on me. As for the story - it did seem more like Star Trek than some stuff I've seen of late. Plus, the Maquis didn't come across as badly as I'd expected. I await the next episode with interest!

To Margaret Rainey - You have said it all. I hope you're right about the silver lining. I too will always be a Star Trek fan, whether in fandom or not. See you in the ghetto!

I'd like to wish the best to everyone else in IDIC. May we see each other around the galaxy.

• T'Mara and the Prosbear - Kellinggasse 8/
26, A-1150 Vienna, Austria

First of all - to Ann Verschuere and Jill Clements - If you are looking for Italian penpals, why don't you contact the Star Trek Italian Club to help you out? The address is STIC, c/o Alberto Lisiero, Via G. Cassi 9, I-30028 S. Michele T. (VE) Italia. (There is a POB address as well, with I don't remember right now, but I think Alberto will not mind you writing to his home address for a first contact.) If you are interested in finding out more about Star Trek in Italy then this club can be highly recommended. As far as I know the membership for European members is 55.000 Lit/year (6 newsletters).

Second - to all of you concerned that TPTB might conveniently forget about Tuvok's pon farr. Well, I have it on good authority that Tim Russ wants it as much as we do and he is doing his best to get a pon farr episode at approximately the right time (taking into account what has been established about Tuvok's marriage in previous episodes). It might be a good idea for us to write to the producers asking for a pon farr episode. If they are approached from various sides with the same request they might just give in! *[Sheila - Info about this comes from a answer by Mr Russ to a query from T'Mara in his club N/L, Vulcan Insider. Incidentally, T'Mara, I notice that they moved Austria to England! That's worse than my putting Vienna in Germany!]*

The only thing to say right now is Live Long and Prosper, and hopefully some of you will stay in touch with me and the Bear.

• Kim Bonella (aka Viper Katana) - 100
Helmsdale Ave, Kirkton, Dundee DD3
0NW

Hi to all. Although I have been a subscriber to IDIC for quite a few years, I have never written anything to be included - I know, shame on me! Due to this being the final newsletter, I thought it was about time I put type to disc.

To Gaile Wood - drop me a line. I haven't heard from you for ages. My address is above in case you've forgotten it (only joking). The Scottish thistle says hello to his English rose!

To anyone who knows me (or not) - please write to me. I am going to be starved for Star Trek related info and news. *[Sheila - You know Stephen and you can say that??? :-) You know you're welcome to come along to Chain Gang meetings, too - they're not stopping even though the club is.]*

To all IDIC staff - I would just like to say thank you to the committee for all the hard work they have done over the years and to the Chain Gang, which made it possible for the ray of sunshine to come through my door. (Okay, I thank the postman as well.)

Live long and prosper - hailing frequencies closed - that's all folks - roll credits - fade to black - bye!

• Gary Heron - Falkirk

Firstly let me say thanks to Valerie, Janet and Sheila for eight years of IDIC, I hope they will enjoy their free time now they are free of the hard work involved in producing the news letters and I am glad that Scotpress and the guide dog fund will continue.

I really will miss the newsletter especially the postbag. If anyone does start a letter zine please let me know, or if anyone wants to get in touch and discuss Trek my address is 98 Mungalhead Rd, Bainsford, Falkirk FK2 7JG.

I suppose if IDIC has to close then the 30th anniversary of Star Trek is the most appropriate time.

Has anyone else noticed that the 'real' Universe and the Star trek universe are getting more and more similar? Astronomers are beginning to find stars with planets, there is evidence that Mars may have at one time had life. As time goes on it seems that the probability of intelligent life on other planets increases and the Hubble Space Telescope is returning photographs of the universe which look as if they came straight out of Paramount's special effects department.

For me one of the attractions of Star Trek is that while humanity is in the earliest stages of beginning to explore the Galaxy, Star Trek lets us see one possible glimpse of what might be out there. I think that one of Gene's greatest achievements was that he gave the fans an entire universe to play in.

To Janet Taylor and Peter Hickman: Congratulations and the very best wishes for the future.

To Jean Perrin: I agree that the problem of O'Brien's rank is getting ludicrous. At this rate in the next season of DS9 he will be out of Starfleet altogether and running an electrical repair shop on the promenade. It annoys me that they seem to be trying to set up a two tier version of Starfleet, the officers who have been to the academy and the 'enlisted men'. The idea that O'Brien who is responsible for the smooth running of the whole station and has security access to almost every section has to call an ensign fresh out of the academy 'Sir' seems ridiculous.

At Contagion 96 I had a chance to talk to Richard Arnold who confirmed that in Gene's vision of Star Trek all starfleet personnel went to the academy and there was none of the division which DS9 has introduced.

I agree with the thoughts expressed by many in N/L 47 that the overall popularity of Star Trek may be waning and that this will mean that the numbers involved in fandom will fall. I think that we will be left with a smaller fandom of dedicated fans for whom Star Trek will always have a special place in their lives.

I am confident that on the 8th of September 2026 there will be fans celebrating the 60th anniversary. I certainly intend to be one.

Thanks again to the committee and the members of IDIC for making it such a great club to belong to.

Live Long and Prosper

• Vicky Roberts - St Helens, Merseyside

To Keren Breen - Re Warp 2 losses - I'd be

inclined to agree with you regarding this. I'd say that it's more likely to be a combination of things that caused the losses, rather than the placement of one con.

To Janet, Sheila and Valerie - Thanks for doing such a great job with IDIC. I'll miss being a part of the club, it's in a class of its own Good luck with your "retirement"!

• Ruth Borgars - 35 Priory St, Ware, Herts SG12 0DE

Alas, farewell IDIC! But in an effort to be positive as instructed, all the things I like about Star Trek: the theme tunes, the writers, the costumes; Spock's ears, Spock's legs, Kirk's smile; Picard's voice, Wesley's elevation to a higher plane (byeee), Data's dress sense :-); Quark's family, Odo's grunts, Garak's smile; emergency medical holograms, emergency mind melds, a way out of the Delta quadrant and this list! Lastly, you the fans; any of you wonderful, infuriating, generous, quarrelsome, imaginative and argumentative folk want to write to me, especially if you like Spock/Vulcans and fanzines, you'll get a (hopefully) intelligent reply.

Lastly, a question. What are K/Star, Surak and FanQ Awards? Who awards them, when and how? What's it all about?

Peace and long life, all.

[Sheila - These are annual American fan-voted awards for fan fiction, run by certain of the few American fan-run cons that still survive (MediaWest, for example). People nominate their favourite story in whatever category, usually material that is new that year (Surak had a category for "old" stories that were still remembered - ScoTpress won a Surak Award in that category for Variations on a Theme) - short story, novella, poetry, best editing (ScoTpress got one in that category one year), best zine, artwork, etc. The most nominated titles, maybe 5 or 6 in each category, are put to the vote. In effect, the FanQ Award is fandom's equivalent of the Hugo in SF. I think they were started by and for Star Trek fandom, but the FanQ, at least, was extended to cover any media fan fiction. I think K/Star is

limited to "I" material, and to the best of my knowledge Surak is no longer being run.]

• Stephen Rothwell - Dundee

To the Concorde committee - Thanks for letting me get a few autographs at the con. They will be swapped and used at next year's Scottish convention.

To Gail & Bo Maxwell & Pam Clarke - Thanks for the autograph items.

To everyone in IDIC - Live long and prosper.

To IDIC committee - No phone calls on Tuesday, no packing, etc... Tuesday night will not be the same! All the best in what you do with your spare time now. The Chain Gang.

Letterzine

• Scott Burgess - 25 Phillips Avenue, Largs, Ayrshire KA30 9EP

Despite being a Star Trek fan for a good few years, I've only been a member of IDIC for the past twelve months. I'll be sorry to see the newsletter come to an end as in that time I've always found it an entertaining read.

Access to the Internet and the growing number of science fiction magazines means that IDIC would struggle to be the first with news, and I suppose that's why a lot of people read it. However, I've always found the letters and articles to be the most enjoyable feature of the zine. I like to see

what other fans think and to see if I'm the only person who likes DS9, as sometimes appears to be the case!

With this in mind, I'd like to start up a letterzine of my own, as a means of keeping alive the voice of Star Trek fans and allow us all to continue to exchange opinions. My intention would be to produce a zine that consists of letters, articles, reviews and whatever else that seems like a good idea.

Before I take the plunge and start the zine, I would need to know if there was sufficient interest amongst IDIC readers. If anyone out there in IDIC land would be interested in such a letterzine, then please send an SAE to the address above. Once I've got an idea of the number of readers, I shall reply and if there are enough people interested, this will include the details of an initial release date, cost and so on.

Along with an SAE I would also welcome any letters, articles, reviews, suggestions, possible titles and quite probably some help from anyone who would like to contribute to the first issue. I hope there are enough people who would be interested in what I am proposing. It would be a shame if we all lost contact when IDIC closes down.

Just in closing, thanks again to the IDIC committee for a hugely entertaining newsletter over the past year. All the best in your future endeavours.



CONTAGION 96

reported by Edward Woo

Friday: Maggie and I got to Glasgow around 5 pm, found our way to reception - Jean and IDIC in the foyer. We had 7th floor rooms but changed them to 8th floor next to Baggy. During the evening we met up with a lot of friends; saw Richard Arnold, who told us he only had 12 slides but plenty of news. Helped Stephen set up the Charity dealers table. Finally hit the sack about 11.30 for an early night.

Saturday: Couldn't really sleep, and woke

at 6.30. Breakfast was at 8. We went out shopping (including to the bank).

By 9 am the dealers' room was open, with Richard, some American dealers, and Sheffield. There were some lovely ST paintings, limited edition... up to £1000. We bought photos of John (deLancie) and Jerry (Hardin) but there were none of Marnie (Mosiman).

Maggie won a Picard figure in the IDIC

tombola; Jean got Geordi. (I didn't buy anything as we browsed.)

My tech duties meant we got in the main hall prior to the opening ceremony. At 11.50 the attendees came in to find seats. As we waited, Scott came out of the stage box expecting it to be 1997, but George corrected him and Contagion was opened with Praxis, Nexus and Genesis Waves.

Our guests were then introduced; Richard, Jerry Hardin and John deLancie. Plenty of flash and applause greeted them, after which came the Scotty free-flight video - very entertaining, with drinks, anoraks and phasers.

John deLancie returned for his guest spot, getting the flash photography out of the way first. His Q&A session talked about Q, ST, Legend, being an actor and his career, and how he could remember lines. Jean got most of his answers down on paper for her report. Quick meal (tea and noodles) then we joined the autograph queue; got photos and my encyclopedia autographed, and watched an episode before Jerry came on.

It was Jerry Hardin's third convention. He described the character of Deep Throat, ST, his Edinburgh one-man show and an extract from Mark Twain. I got some close-up shots of him as I was in the second row.

(About 4 pm I felt really tired, but I carried on.) Richard Arnold was next, full of ST news. We had the ST Eternal Video, 12 slides from First Contact and movie news. (Patrick got \$5 million...) First Contact is to be out in the UK in December. Both Voyager and DS9 have just started filming, and Robert Beltran could have come to Contagion, had he known earlier.

At 1745 came the charity auction run by Stephen - again, mostly signed trading cards and photos that fetched up to £20 and £60 respectively. 2 signed Voyager scripts went for £50 each.

I entered the Fancy Dress as The Captain's Log, carrying Baggy's baby in a log outfit. Among others there was also a Narn,

Klingons, Airwolf, Colonial Marine (and alien friend), Q, Dr Who, Catwoman (x2), Harry Mudd, Kai Opaka. The judges gave the prize to the Narn; the Klingons also won a prize, as did three others. Then it was time for the ceilidh, a good 3.5 hours' fun.

Sunday: I got a chance to look at (and take photos of) the artwork. Noon was a decent time for Jerry's second talk; he was warmly welcomed and repeated some of his answers from Saturday. He found the Scottish accent a bit difficult to understand at times. Afterwards he was ushered away by Scott.

Richard was next, showing the trailer for First Contact twice. He then answered questions on Voyager and DS9, and how they were still doing poorly compared to B5 and TNG. He told us who smoked on the set - surprisingly, quite a lot of them. He mentioned where DS9 was going next season and the same for Voyager, and the 30th Anniversary, and the fans' reaction to Paramount's cash cow and (of course) ST merchandise. His Q&A session could have gone on for hours, but he had to start his own charity auction.

He had mostly 10x8s and signed trading cards. A signed Voyager cast photo went for £100+. There were no press kits this time. Prices were low, I thought; there were some bargains. He finished early and did more Q&As.

At 3pm, John deLancie and Marnie Mosiman came on stage. Both talked about acting, getting parts, soap operas etc. John is doing more audio cassettes of plays and the way an actor gets an acting job (if he is lucky) - ie 30 jobs a year compared to 1 for ordinary people. I was jotting his notes as Jean was stewarding at the back of the hall. They left the stage to applause and flash photography.

We had time to eat before re-setting the hall for the disco and secret agent party, then headed for the stewards' party.

Back to the Bond party; Marnie came on with her son to do some songs - really enjoyable. Then came John with an unusual poem which I found hard to understand as I


was tired. We stayed a while at the disco, but then Maggie had steward duty.

Monday: Packed, loaded the car, checked out and registered for next year...

11.40 brought the closing ceremony. The guests arrived duly honoured by our regular Scottish piper and the clapping of the attendees. A special portrait was given to the piper by the committee. The various prizes were presented, then the gifts to the guests. Both Jerry and John got quaichs (friendship

cups); John thanked everyone again, said he expects to be back in another 5 years and closed the con.

The dealers' room was still open, though people were starting to leave. We spent the rest of the day talking and watching videos; helped set up for the Dead Dog Party, enjoyed a final drink and then left for home around 9.30 pm.

A good time was had by all. 

CONTAGION 96 GUEST TALKS

reported by Jean Sloan

Contagion was compered by a specially bred example of the genus Meercat. This new genetic strain sports a red coat for purposes of display, and is prone to repetitive behaviour, viz organising other species in ritualistic performance. Scientists involved in the study of Meercatis Scottis have named the rituals the Nexus wave and the Praxis wave. Examples of these group rituals were first seen during Conundrum in July 95.

Over the Contagion weekend many other examples of ritualistic behaviour could be observed in the Glasgow Thistle, not organised by Meercatis Scottis but by a group called The Committee whom I suspect of also being a specially bred genetic strain. My, but they did a grand job - but sadly announced their retirement as a convention committee. I would like to thank them for the pleasure they have given me over the last few years.

It isn't the end of Scottish cons, though. Next year Continuum will fly the flag. The weekend is earlier than Glasgow Fair... 27 - 30 June 97.

But to get to one aspect of con ritualistic behaviour: the activity called "Listening to guests..."

JERRY HARDIN

"I spend my life pretending to be someone else..."

The son of a rancher, Jerry Hardin was

born in Reardon, Texas "into a family of show-offs". He was always interested in performing; school plays and public speaking competitions moved him towards a career in acting. He won a scholarship to the Royal Academy in London where his teachers were leading actors in London's West End. He started out on stage working in rep, then with the demise of theatre in the US he moved to LA and went into films. He likes theatre work - "the excitement of being in control of your own performance". He has had some difficult parts. Years ago he did a show where the director was "a little nuts". It was a French farce and the director had the cast changing costume all the time. Jerry had 20 changes during the show, one actually during the curtain call with 20 seconds to accomplish it. That difficulty was a technical one. A different kind of difficulty came in playing the lead in Eugene O'Neill's *A Long Day's Journey into Night* which is hard because the main character has a lot of dialogue and is on stage most of the time. He once did a whole summer of musicals playing "all the guys who didn't sing or dance" because he is tone deaf. He likes parts based on historical figures, and roles where he is the villain because he reckons that villains are more interesting than good guys. His first film was *Thunder Road*. He got killed.... "I often get killed".

Of course, he also gets killed in the *X-Files*. He was attracted to the role of Deep Throat by the money, but it is also an

interesting role because "the writing is oblique... you come at it from round the corner." When he was due to be killed, Chris Carter sent him a note: "No-one is ever dead in the X-Files". They have brought him back once, and it is planned to do so again. He thinks of DT as a man "who needs an instrument". That instrument is Fox.

Like ST, the X-Files has a cult following. No-one foresaw this and 25 episodes had aired in the US before it really hit. The reaction was much quicker here, and the show is big in Australia. He got the role because Chris Carter had seen him in a film and asked him to read. He ascribes to the conspiracy theory because "all governments do that". He does not believe in aliens "although I've seen some people who are".

"Man is the only animal that blushes or that needs to." - Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

Jerry enjoyed playing Mark Twain in Time's Arrow, not least because "that group of people" were receptive to ideas about what kind of man Clemens was. *[Jean's aside - I thought that the character of Twain was the best thing about that episode.]* JH has reprised the role of Twain in a one-man show he is taking to the Edinburgh Festival, the script for which is based on "maybe 100 different sources of Clemens' writing". Twain is a candidate for such biographical treatment because his life was so interesting. He was a printer, river boat pilot, cowboy, silver miner, journalist, the first to use a typewriter and the linotype machine. He invested in the latter and nearly went bankrupt. To salvage his debts he made a world-wide tour as a platform speaker. He is however best known for his novels... but I digress.

While working on When the Bough Breaks, Jerry met Gene, which resulted in another job in Gideon's Trumpet. Working as guest actor on ST was different from working on X-Files. An episode of the latter would be completed in a day or so, and he would just do the scene and go, only seeing the people involved in that bit of business, usually David Duchovney. He didn't meet Gillian Anderson "until the episode where she shot me". On ST, however, he knew some of the

cast and lots of the tech crew. He did not feel like an outsider, finding crew and cast "warm, inclusive and supportive". He found Elogium interesting because it is such a human problem - the desire not to investigate for fear of what may emerge.

Jerry Hardin has a hobby. He sculpts, in bone. Actually it is more than a hobby because his work is exhibited. He has a studio where one wall is stacked with bones. He puts them together with screws and wires, filling the interstices with dental cement. He gets some bones from the ranchers he knows through his father; elephant bone and large scale animal bones come from a professional dealer in New York who cleans them for labs and schools. A woman who collects his work brought him a whalebone. He uses waiting time on set to sketch ideas, which relaxes him and helps keep him fresh for action.

His plans include keeping working as long as he can. New roles keep coming. He would like to direct, but he feels inadequate; in the theatre he knows how a play arrives on stage, but film making is very complex; for example, you need to know "the psychological impact of different lenses" and he doesn't understand that.

He does get recognised...

"Hi, how are you? You work at that filling station down the road, don't you?"

"You work at that auto parts store..."

I found Jerry Hardin very interesting. I wanted to know much more about the bones... and about how he put together the Twain show... and about other elements of his very varied career.

JOHN DeLANCIE

"You make my words sound better than they are."

"You must be a writer."

"I'm Gene Roddenberry."

JDL met Gene when he was auditioning

for the part of a character called "The Q" in Encounter at Farpoint, the new ST show. JDL's agent had thought that the character name must be a typo; JDL nearly didn't read for the part because he was so busy. But he did, Gene liked his work, and Q was born. Gene took an option for further Q appearances after Farpoint but did not take the option up because he feared that the flamboyant Q would upstage the rest of the characters. In the end, though, Q was to continue, and at the con JDL had some insights into the character to offer.

The first dramatic reason for a villain's existence is to make the hero look better, and Q was very much the villain in Farpoint. However, Q became a "breakout" character, evolving from the producer's original concept. Essentially, the character has become a sort of hero. What he says has some element of truth about it, and he has ended up as "the messenger of the popular psychology of the 90s". The audience believes that the character speaks the truth; they see that some bits of what he says are important though they don't like the way he says it.

Someone asked if Q was based on Trelane. JDL did not know, but thought it a possibility. Gene wrote Q, merging two shows to create Farpoint. "He must have looked back over past years and thought about characters that were successful." Incidentally, for anyone who does not know, Q was named after Janet Quarton...

JDL is not a watcher of fictional TV. He has not watched much Trek and hasn't a favourite episode. He tends to be very critical in watching performances, analytical in a way that prevents him from seeing the whole finished product as it was intended to be. However, he thinks that the appeal of Q is that he is a character who doesn't feel constrained by the social mores which define behaviour, so he can point up things which might otherwise go unsaid. Tapestry "embodied some important thinking". Death Wish is "an intellectual feast" with some weighty ideas made entertaining.

John DeLancie is a busy actor, Q being one of the many characters he has played in a

varied career. His wife Marnie Mosiman is in the business too, and they have two sons. Marnie was at the con and was asked how they juggled their home life. She admitted it was difficult; the children are at a fixed point, at school; J is often on location - for example he spent a considerable amount of time in Arizona shooting the Legend series - his career is "rising". They both spend a lot of time in the car; she often eats in the car, and keeps a change of clothes with her - which is common practice in LA where people often drive about 150 miles a day. JDL was nearly unable to do Generations as he was working somewhere else. In the end his schedule just allowed him to fly in, film his scenes and fly out again.

Sometimes questions to actors imply that the questioner thinks that the ST role must be the most important thing in the actor's life. It was obviously important to JDL that the con audience should understand that to an actor any role is a job of work. He refused to answer speculative "what if" questions and was at pains to point out that ST was just another show among lots of TV shows... "like tomatoes on a wall, just a few stick". He was also keen to elaborate on the process of making episodes and the dynamics at work in the series. For him the predominant element in working on Trek was the complex vocabulary. The natural competitive antagonism between him and Picard makes good theatre - that did not exist in Voyager and the producers were very concerned about the relationship between Janeway and Q, that the Captain should not look as if she is allured by Q. JDL was rather disappointed that they did not go along that path; "it would have been fun and much less dangerous than losing the ship" as she does in the end-of-season cliff-hanger.

In terms of the process of making episodes, someone asked how they filmed the naked scenes in Deja Q. He took the opportunity in his reply to illustrate how long it can actually take to film a few minutes of footage; in this case 13/14 hours, all told, to get 30 seconds of film. On the day in question he arrived at about 6 am to be reminded that "today was my sans-clothes day". There were several hitches. Firstly, his

body make-up smeared; this problem was traced to his early morning shower with olive oil soap. On set he was faced with 2 step ladders and a board across the top. He climbed up wearing a jock strap while the camera was positioned from behind. It took half an hour to position the shot, then it was discovered that his jock strap made an indent. So he took it off - after giving everyone a chance to leave who wanted to leave. The rest of the scene was shot painstakingly slowly, each section being filmed from two directions with much reorganisation of furniture and equipment between takes; the actual flying sequence was achieved through bluescreen, so those effects also took time.

The filming of the Q flash is also a relatively long process. The first line is shot then the camera is sandbagged not to move. Then everyone moves away. Next Q gets into new make-up, costume or whatever, which can take anything from 10 minutes - 3 hours depending on the episode requirements. Then he gets back into position and lines himself up in the exact same image. The film is scratched at that point and the flash is later superimposed.

Marnie appeared on stage with John for a second con talk. They discussed their professional relationship - they use each other as performance critics "in an atmosphere of trust" to get "accurate, positive information". They work on scripts together, refining performance... "acting is not repeating words; it operates on a subtextual level". In the context of discussing the process of casting Marnie said that John could be "intimidating... in a small room... or even a large one" (looking round the con hall as she said it). She reckons that he may have lost parts because of that; to me this was a good description of his stage presence. He exudes self assuredness; as he answers questions he becomes a teacher, with the audience as his students. He does teach acting in L.A.

Marnie prefers stage and radio work. She is less comfortable in front of a camera. John has no preference - "each medium is unique". He quite likes radio work, though it is not possible to make a living from it. He generated the idea of a radio broadcast of

War of the Worlds with a ST cast. He got Leonard Nimoy, Brent Spiner, Dwight Schultz, Jerry Hardin, Wil Wheaton, and Armin Shimerman to take part. Leonard Nimoy enjoyed the process and created a company called Alien Voices which has made recordings of a number of sci-fi classics: The Time Machine, Journey to the Centre of the Earth, The Invisible Man, Mysterious Island.

Another project JDL has been involved with is the production of a CD Rom game starring Q. He has recently completed a pilot for a TV series, will be performing Peer Gynt in Aspen and has a movie coming up. And he does conventions, which he describes as "a phenomenon: ST is inclusive; you get together to enjoy it at whatever level and with whatever area of interest... and that is accepted." He sees fandom as the other end of the spectrum from sports fans... "ST fanatics don't go into a city centre and burn it down or shoot the actor, like other fanatics..."

[My thanks to Edward Woo who took notes for me on JDL's second talk while I was minding the door!]

RICHARD ARNOLD

"You've seen the film, now eat the cast."

This was a sign on a butcher's shop window in Australia that Richard saw when he was there for a con - referring to Babe, which was a very big hit there. The connection with ST is James Cromwell who is in THE FILM.

DISCLAIMER Richard was in very good form at Contagion. He kept going off the point, and that's when he gives lots of interesting tidbits of info. All his intelligence was up-to-date when it issued forth, but by the time you read this it will no doubt be oldish - the con was mid-July. I hope there's something of interest...

* First Contact budget, 50 million. They find "a clever way" to bring Worf in. We saw the trailer - it looks like the Defiant gets destroyed - that is MY deduction and I'm often wrong. Patrick and Brent have most to do but 3 separate storylines allow everyone a good slice of the action. It is action-adventure

like ST II. Zephraim Cochrane is featured before the development of warp drive. There is "a post-apocalyptic feel to Earth in the tie frame". Cochrane's background has been changed a bit. Sets are mostly on stages 12, 14, 15 and 29, and it features the largest engineering section built for any incarnation of Trek. The trailer says (imagine trailer-type deep voice) "One Captain, against orders..." so obviously Jean-Luc is doing a bit of rebelling. J Frakes is directing - a big job, big budget, first film. Jonathan works well with Rick Berman, and is one of the actors' favourite directors.

* Enterprise-E is a cross between Excelsior and Voyager - smaller, more military, bridge laid out differently. The new Captain's chair is more like a throne, and people sit around facing away from him. We have lost Gene's Enterprise with its family of characters to a more streamlined look.

* The emotion chip comes up in the film; it can be turned on and off.


* DS9 season 5 will feature a 30th anniversary special (airs mid-October) with a

scene aboard the 2nd season NCC 1701. Voy season 3 features an episode where Tuvok/Janeway in mindmeld flashback to when Tuvok served on the Excelsior under Captain Sulu. They had to recreate the Excelsior from scratch (airs about Sept 7th).

* Saturn awards for sci-fi, horror and fantasy: Robert Wise won an award for editing Citizen Kane in 1940.

* The Scottish con has gained a reputation with the actors. Robert Duncan McNeill, Gates McFadden (I'm a Mc after all), Robert Beltran (I drink Scotch) have all expressed interest.

* Will Dax and Worf be paired off? "Michael would like it, Terry would like it... but could Worf live down the relationship with 'the old man' and if Jadzia were killed, what if the next host was male?"

* Someone asked who smoked among the cast - well. Patrick, Brent, Jonathan, Nana, Sid, Avery, Colm; LeVar did but has given up; Marina has given up... 

CONCORDE 42: Return to Radisson


by attendee 263, Peter Scarisbrick

Returning to the Radisson Edwardian hotel evoked fond memories of Archon '94, a truly friendly and informal convention. How would Concorde '96 match up to that special event?

The opening ceremony was impressively staged with each guest led on from the back of the hall by Klingon escorts. Sadly, Patricia Tallman could not be present as she was filming for the title sequence of the fourth series of Babylon 5. It was announced that she will be in the first, third, fifth and sixth episodes. John Carrigan observed that the convention book described him as a "marital" arts expert. He wished he was! Robin Curtis said she loved to party. George Takei said that if you wanted to go jogging with him he would be at the front of the hotel at 7:15 am.

The convention rattled along with

entertaining talks from all the guests, particularly Ray Harryhausen who brought with him several of his creations carefully wrapped in customised coffins. Most notable was the Gorgon Medusa, and one of those skeletons. The undoubted highlight of the weekend was the pairing of Robin Curtis and Mark Ryan as guest auctioneers. Their on stage chemistry had the hall humming, from their one liners, visual humour, to Hollywood gossip from Robin that certainly helped the sale price of Inside Star Trek. Sunday included the launch of LEGION, a proposed new TV series. Production starts in November and a lucky attendee won a walk on role in a charity raffle. The final ceremony included a moving tribute to the crew of Challenger.

This convention will be remembered by many for the Robin and Mark show. 

CONCORDE GUESTS TALKS

reported by Jean Sloan

GEORGE TAKEI - Saturday 9 am

[Having reported George's input before, and determined only to include new stuff, I expected to have a thin sheaf of notes after his first talk; ha! the man always comes up with something new, although he did tell the Alton Towers story (with actions): however I recounted that one some time ago.]

"Looking around I can tell those of you who were the earliest fans."

George always expresses appreciation of the fans, and recognises their tenacity in the struggle to keep the original series on. "The phenomenon was something created by the fans - Paramount made the show, the fans made the phenomenon. The real Klingons lived in the executive corridors of NBC."

On the subject of hair.

George has just finished a film, *The Best Bad Thing*. In it he plays an illegal immigrant, a farmer in rural California during the depression. He had to be grey-haired for the part. They tried make-up but it looked wrong - sort of greased down: they wanted it to blow in the wind. So they stripped his hair of colour. It was fairly worrying because the next day when they combed his hair lots came out. It is dyed at the moment and they have assured him that the lost hair will grow back.

The film was shot in the hinterland of Canada; his character saves the cucumber crop. Unfortunately an unusually cold spring meant that the Canadian cucumbers weren't ripe so they had to import a crop from California.

"By God, that's a big ship."

"Aye, but not so big as her Captain I think."

Most people now know that there is a 30th Anniversary *Voy* episode featuring Captain Sulu. George has very firm ideas about where he would like to see that lead - to a new series, "The Adventures of Captain

Sulu". He was not permitted to say much about the episode - which some of you may have seen by the time you read this - except that "an ingenious sci-fi notion brings the two worlds together". For the episode, the ST:VI Excelsior set had to be recreated; Rand as the Chief Communications Officer and 2 extras who were on ST:VI have been brought back. He was asked if his character is old in the episode - his reply, "I have the same make-up as in ST:VI". *[Jean - Look at the Contagion report - Richard Arnold gave more away.]*

George was asked what he thought about his daughter in *Generations*: "Where did she come from? Who was her mother?"

He was disappointed in the *Generations* script which Paramount had promised would be a passing of the torch; but he felt that the studio only wanted the originals there to use their names for marketing. In fact, Demora's lines would have been his if he'd been in the film - and him as a helmsman in *Generations* would have broken continuity of story with ST:VI. He likes the novel *The Captain's Daughter* which was a spin-off from the film. He pronounced, tongue in cheek, that he would like to see the book made into a film, and that he would like to be in charge of casting his wife... *[Actually, as a result of George's enthusiasm for the novel, I went and bought The Captain's Daughter. It was good - a very easy read, very cinematic.]*

There will be a 30th Anniversary bash in Alabama - George thinks that the choice of location is because NASA has a space camp there. He celebrated the fact that the original cast are all hale and hearty, and looks forward to having a good time.

Sunday, 10 am

George's second slot of the weekend followed his morning run, on which he had been accompanied by a group of fans doing a sponsored run for charity. This led to the opening gambit

"ST fans are not only the most intelligent

fans, we are also the fittest."

He suggested that if we all work at it we could live longer and take over the world! He added that while we invest in space travel and new technology, we don't invest time and energy in the human machine. A doctor he was talking to said that a human body is *programmed* mechanically to be active for 130 - 150 years; it breaks down earlier than that because of what we do or don't do to it. George runs every morning as a matter of course; also it helps him get over jet lag. Flights from LA leave "disastrously" early pm or late evening, arriving here at 6 - 12 am with the whole day ahead. A confirmed anglophile, he once came to England and on arrival went for a walk in the West End. Faye Dunaway, whom he greatly admires, was in a play; he wanted to see it, and as the run was ending found that the only available seats were for that very night. So he got himself a choice spot in the middle of the front row. Anyway, into the first act, "that prickly, electric cobweb took over my brain". His head dropped back and his mouth opened, in full view of the whole theatre *and* the actors on stage. Faye D. came downstage and delivered a set of lines in a stentorian voice just in front of him. He jumped awake, then managed to stay awake until the interval with he "bolted" from the theatre, embarrassed but glad that his humiliation was over. A few weeks later, back in LA, he was preparing for a 10K run, limbering up with a "skinny young man" came over to him with the news that Faye was in LA and regaling everyone with the story of how Sulu had slept in the front row at her show - the humiliation hadn't gone away after all.

"I devoutly pray for the early invention of the transporter."

George describes himself as an anglophile, or perhaps better as a "Britainophile". He once described himself as an anglophile in an Edinburgh pub, and thought he was going to be murdered! I can attest personally to his knowledge of British cities - he once gave me directions in Leeds - he knew all the road names. He is a good con guest because he has boundless energy and is always cheerful. In fact, there's nothing *worse*

than bumping into George in a lift on the way to breakfast on a con Sunday: he's full of life and you can't keep your eyes open!

Concorde was an enjoyable con, with an impressive line-up of guests. Apart from George, there was William Campbell, John Carrigan, the cast and crew of Legion, Mat Irvine, Steven Wilson, Steve Tidey, Ray Harryhausen, Mike Tusker, Mark Ryan, Steve Gillis (who was launching his new book, *The Gillis Guide to Trek*, which is a *Who's Who of Trek*). Last but not least was the guest who is entirely responsible for me not reporting the talks from William Campbell or Mark Ryan: because Robin Curtis is a night person, the programme was rearranged because she couldn't get up in the morning; because Robin Curtis was conducting the charity auction, and because she had a story for almost every item, the auction took about two hours longer than intended, so the programme ran late. Anyway, I missed WC and MR because I was doing steward duties...

ROBIN CURTIS

"I'm 40+, single and I'm forming a committee of volunteers to address this..."

She is very entertaining. The charity auction which she conducted with Mark Ryan was very funny, but most of her stories can't be repeated for one reason or another. She has boundless energy and likes to party.

During her school days her energy manifested itself in dedication to extra-curricular activity - she loved sport, student government, cheerleading, choir, piano playing, and she had everyone co-operating to ensure that she could attend all the rehearsals, etc. However, in college it was not possible to take part in all the programmes, so she settled on singing. At school she had sung in musical theatre because she could project her voice; she carried on with singing while she studied her chosen Communications Course at college. The last semester of her course was spent in England studying the BBC; at this time she lives in Hounslow.

"Becoming an actress was the result of a swift process of elimination."

At the end of her education she had neither teaching nor secretarial skills. She didn't want to go home and into an office - home being a small town in upstate New York. So she decided, with a friend (Phyllis) to go to New York. She was "actually very shy" and the move took courage. Phyllis used to go to open auditions and was not intimidated by "singing her few bars" after a lot of others. Robin found it difficult "to go somewhere uninvited". She did a show with some people from college, one of whom got her an agent who took her on "green". Her first job was an Oil of Ulay commercial.

Robin's parents were very supportive of her career choice. When she landed the part of Saavik, her father was battling cancer, and he lived long enough to see ST:III. When she was contracted for the film, contracts were negotiated for ST:IV, V and VI to prevent what happened with Kirstie Alley. She was to be paid \$30,000 for ST:III; \$75,000 for ST:IV (when negotiations came up near production they said she wasn't in it, then she was written in and got paid \$10,000 for the job); \$150,000 for V; \$225,000 for VI. Obviously she wasn't in V or VI, but her father died believing his daughter was going to be rich.

In playing Saavik she felt no pressure to emulate Kirstie Alley in the role, and that was down to the people in charge. Leonard Nimoy as the new director obviously wanted to stamp his own mark on the film. She was a little apprehensive as she knew nothing about the Vulcan background but Leonard Nimoy helped because he directed her "minutely" - "almost orchestrated my breathing". They went over her lines piece by piece, word by word. After ST:II and IV, she didn't feel that she had "nailed" playing a Vulcan, but when faced with T'Pol in *Gambit* she felt that she knew what it was about.

"The real work is the search for the job... you guys assume that we only have to ask..."

Robin describes her career as "a paste, tape and glue" career, making a living out of perhaps 6 - 9 weeks per year, spending the

rest of the time searching for the job. For example, she might spend 3 days on a national commercial, a couple of weeks on a ST episode, 3 weeks on a low budget film - "I've become the low-budget queen" and do 3 cons. Her pleasure is to see the mortgage paid. A couple of years ago she did an "informercial" for the Braun handblender - she had to be a middle American housewife and "prattle on" about the product. Braun flew her to Fairfield among the Iowa cornfields and pig farms, then couldn't get the sort of clothes they wanted her to wear in town (middle American housewife gear) so she was driven 3 hours to Chicago just to get the right nondescript outfit. Earnings did not relate at all to rocketing sales. She has a "job jig" which she perform when she lands one.

In Jan 1993 she auditioned for a ST role; they offered it to her just 5 minutes too late - she had accepted something else. She rang Richard Arnold to see who she could "fuss and hug" to get the scheduling altered but there was no chance. She was "hugely disappointed". Eight months later she was sent the script for *Gambit* and told to read for Vicor, a "tall alien female". She read the script and asked to read for T'Pol as well. She felt good about the audition and called her agent later in the day who told her there was good news and bad news: "They love you but they're going to see more people tomorrow". The next day she went to read for a commercial. Standing outside the building was a man she'd broken up with some time earlier because he had insisted on putting his career before relationships. He asked her to lunch - and informed her that he was going to NY to be with his latest partner because *she* came before his career. After this good start to the day Robin discovered Caitlin Brown also at the commercial audition. CB asked Robin, "Did you get Star Trek? I asked because I got Vicor." By now Robin was rather depressed. She read for the commercial, not at all in the mood and thinking catty thoughts about CB. She hadn't known that CB had read for ST; CB must have gone in later and seen Robin's name in the signing-in book. After the audition Robin rang her agent, but she was at lunch until 3.00 pm. At 3.00 pm the phone rang. She had landed the part of T'Pol. "I nearly fainted..."

They made Gambit Pt 1 without knowing what happened in part 2. However Robin felt "I had some things in my pocket" a ST bearing, ST cadence (enunciating clearly and deliberately), looking sideways - "people in ST do not look at each other directly" She had more freedom with T'lera than with Saavik. It was 10 years on and she was less "green". In ST:III she'd been terrified of doing the wrong thing; in Gambit she felt she had more control of the role.

She got a real kick out of working with Patrick S. but her first encounter with him was little intimidating. "His bald head so very bald; his talent so huge; his presence so big." *[Jean - said a little tongue in cheek, I think.]*

The first thing that she was told to do was flirt with Picard; her reaction was "my God!" because she wasn't "feeling cute at all" wearing a woollen suit and a wig "like Liza Minelli on a bad day". She thought about the directive for a bit - she could use her voice, and her eyes... She felt the character had a bird-like character so she decided on some bird-like movements. The director watched then told her, "You're looking like a bird" and it wasn't a compliment. Anyway it all worked out, and the cast was lovely. What struck her about the cast was their care and professionalism about the show. Sometimes on a long-running series the actors' lifestyles become more important than the show - this wasn't the case with TNG. In Gambit 2, when Picard realises the power of the resonator, and the Away Team beams in, he tells them to drop their weapons; PS said this urgently but didn't feel right about it, so put the scene on hold while he thought it out. This made Robin feel good, less alone in feeling insecure about the story. When PS came back to the action his command to drop weapons was said gently - the only appropriate delivery as the resonator amplifies aggressive thoughts. It helped Robin seeing someone else work it out on set. The professionalism of wanting to get it right struck her.

Actors often have to deal with the unexpected - you can prepare to a point, but then you are *reacting* to others - and to direction, to marks on the floor, positions, what the camera can and cannot do, eg you

have to rise from a seat very slowly because the camera cannot make sudden movements. Robin cited one example of this from when she played a cop. She had to draw her gun and "take up the stance". She practised the evening before until she got the movements smooth and realistic-looking. The next day, she had to do the whole thing with her *left* hand because of camera position. All her preparation was wasted, and because she had spent so much time getting comfortable right-handed, it was even *more* difficult to learn the moves left-handed.

"Work is the substance and matter of our days."

Robin tried to get an audition for Janeway, but they wouldn't see her; she tried again after Genevieve Bujold left, but it was still no go though others of her "type" were being seen. She doesn't know why; it could have been the arbitrary decision of a casting director of a "directive from on high". Actors never find out - you can't get to the "people who matter" to find out the answer. She would like a chance to play a funny role, but she feels "a little insecure" about it though "I'm willing to fall flat on my face" having a go. She would also like to be on a series like NYPD Blue. Forty is a difficult age for actresses. Parts go to experienced people and there aren't many parts around. She has just wrapped a movie called Hulk Hogan *[I expected a green man bursting out of his clothes]* with Ed Begley Jr, which was 4 weeks' work. Before that she hadn't worked since November when she was in a video movie called Dark Bread. At the moment she feels she is at a crossroads in her career, which may mean a change of direction: she still has ambitions in the theatre - to play Mame on Broadway, for example...

Postscript Robin Curtis is entertaining - I've never regarded the Charity Auction as part of *con entertainment* before. She is direct, honest, straightforward: the Solow/Justman book signed by a large selection of cast sold for £200 largely because of Robin's anecdotes surrounding it. Robin's comment after the frenzy of bidding - "Oh my God, I know this is for charity but have we all lost our minds!" The Art of Star Trek, also variously signed,

made £211.

Mark Ryan was the co-auctioneer - the pair worked so hard throughout the con on stage and in auctions and still found time, energy and humour to mingle and look like they were enjoying themselves.

Anyway, that's it from Concorde. This is my last report about anything for IDIC (sob). It has been great fun and never a chore, though I must point out that Sheila has had to type all my babbling as I haven't got a PC, only a typewriter: I suppose as a fan of the future I ought to get wired!

PS - I want to thank the committee for running the club and wish them long life and prosperity. I want to let the Chain Gang who pack the N/Ls know we know they exist and appreciate them (what'll you do with those weekends now, lads and lasses??) [Sheila -

Tuesdays, actually!] I want to thank everyone who has written in to the Postbag and written articles for keeping me entertained *and* informed. What a clever/silly/talented/outlandish/mental/intelligent (all by turns) bunch we are.

PPS - ST fans raise money for charity. At Concorde, *the* Klingons kidnapped the guests and extracted money from the attendees for their release, for charity. *The* Klingons raise lots of money for charity. Stephen Rothwell is a prince among fund raisers, collecting items for Charity Auctions tirelessly. If you have anything to donate for charity that could possibly be autographed, Rothwell the Mad Scot is collecting for Continuum, the next Scottish con (and swaps with other cons): you can get him through the con address.

Jean Sloan, signing off, 29th August 1996.



Happy Birthday, Star Trek!!!

(30th Anniversary Convention in Berlin, Sept. 06th - 08th)

by Annette Boehm

To find out two days before the con that the star you most wanted to see would not be there can be quite a disappointment. In this case, the star was Majel Barrett. So I went there not expecting too much really. (Actually my parents drove me there - it was a 7-hour drive!)

I was nervous as it was my first con and I did not know at all what would be going on. It was fun from the moment I came into the hotel - the first person in Starfleet uniform I bumped into happened to be a long-time penpal of mine. In those (almost) three days I met lots of interesting, new people. And I found out just how funny Marina Sirtis can be.

One thing disturbed me about her though - hardly any of the fans said unfriendly things about ST-series they did not like, whilst she was making silly remarks about TOS (esp. Jim "We killed 'em!" Kirk), "Deep Sleep Nine" (quotation!) and Voyager (Janeway seems to be one of her "favorites"...), I guess it was supposed to be funny, but I got the

impression some fans felt somewhat offended. Fortunately, she spent most of the time talking about herself, Deanna, her relationship to Michael Dorn, her little dog and the TNG-cast. And yes, she swears she did see a UFO, she was psychic when younger, her favourite colour is yellow, and her favourite dish has nothing whatsoever to do with chocolate - bacon and eggs. At the end of the talk she said, "TNG is the best thing that ever happened to me", and I guess she is right.


Michael Ansara was also very entertaining. One fan got him to recite some Shakespeare for us. I just love Shakespeare, and I must say that Mike made a wonderful Hamlet! He told us how surprised he was when asked to be on DS9, as it had been so long ago that he appeared on Trek. He does not hear too well, and there was also a problem with the microphones, so his wife had to shout all the questions for him, which led to some funny misunderstandings... When one fan asked "Avery and Patrick are bald, so why don't you play a captain?" he

grinned; he'd love to.

And then, not to forget, there was **William Campbell**. He had us in stitches most of the time. Told us that he was the first actor to sing with Elvis (yeah, *that* Elvis...) and how he hated it back then. How Kirk Douglas taught him to ride a horse, and how shocked he was to find out that the original Tribbles he gave to the neighbour's kids after the filming now sold at \$200... I asked him if

he'd like to play a part in Voyager. "You bet your life I would!" I enjoyed his talks very much, and - since I bumped into him a few times during the con - found him to be a very nice person.

We also got to see some brilliant fan-made films.

I enjoyed the convention immensely, and I am sure it was not my last one! 

THAT RUBBISH* AND I CONFESSIONS OF A CONVICTED TREKKER

by Sue Jones

I can't honestly remember when I first started watching Star Trek. If it comes to that I don't remember what I was doing the day that JF Kennedy was assassinated, but I probably should to be ashamed to admit which of the two events has had the greatest impact on my life.

I am, unfortunately, old enough to remember the first screening of Trek on British television, but whether it was that which I saw or merely the re-runs, to say nothing of the re-runs of the re-runs, or the re-runs of the re-runs of the re-runs, fitted into awkward time-slots by the BBC and watched on a black and white set in stygian gloom with the curtains drawn against the long summer days whilst the rain beat down outside (Well this is Britain for heaven's sake!)

The point at which interest turned to fixation is mercifully lost in the mists of time, but I must have been well on the slippery slope by my University days, because I remember stumbling across the third volume of the James Blish novelisations in the University bookshop with much the same reaction as the man who stubs his toe in the dust and finds a diamond.

Even so, I had to think carefully about this rash expenditure. It represented a noticeable chunk of my student grant, but prudence soon lost out to obsession. It was a

Corgi paperback first edition and I have it still. It cost me 25p.

The other Blish books quickly followed and then colour television allowed me to see my heroes in glorious technicolour. I graduated, went to work and in the course of my job, which involved visiting firms and retail outlets around the city, I discovered a little bookshop, somewhat off the beaten track (or should that be Trek?) which sold Science Fiction, comics and most importantly TREK BOOKS!

Unfortunately the proprietor also eked out what was probably a fairly precarious existence in those days before the boom in Sci-fi and Fantasy by selling other literature of the type which relies heavily on nubile young women with silicon implants and come-hither expressions. I fled in and out of that shop as though I had made a pact with the devil.

The years passed. The movies came and went. In 1984, Granada TV announced that it was screening STTMP. I know many people don't rate the first movie all that highly, but personally I've always been rather fond of it.

In the time between Wednesday (when the TV Times was issued) and the Saturday evening, I researched, chose and bought a new state-of-the-art video (Timer programmable for one show only and a

* Customary term of reference employed by mundanes and close family members as in "Oh no, you're not watching that rubbish again are you?"

remote control designed by the SAS, since it was connected to the machine by a thin black wire which camouflaged itself against the carpet and severed the ankles of anyone foolish enough to cross in front of the TV screen.) These were the days when I thought that infra-red referred to the state of my bank balance at the end of the month.

On Saturday, I carried it home in triumph, tuned it in and hit the Record button with seconds to spare in time to record ITV's faux pas. Someone somewhere didn't realise that the version of STTMP they had been sold was the director's cut.

Ten o'clock came and went, V'ger sailed serenely on its way and twenty-something minutes of film missing from the British cinema release which helped to restore "The Motionless Picture" to something approaching the Trek that we know and love, unfolded before my delighted eyes.

As I recall, the Ten O'Clock News shuffled bashfully onto our screens at approx 10.20pm that night unheralded by its usual Big Ben chimes. I hope whoever was responsible retained their job. As far as I'm concerned, they made a friend for life that night.

More years passed; the bookshop thrived, the Science Fiction and Comics section expanded on the shelves whilst its more "exotic" wares were relegated to a far corner amidst the dust and spiders, but I continued on a Desert Island of fandom without even eight discs and the Oval cricket pitch* to keep me company.

Then one day the bookshop owner, with whom by now I was on friendly terms, waved a printed flyer under my nose and said "There's a Star Trek convention next month, why don't you go? I'm sure you'd enjoy it."

I looked at him askance. It's one thing to be a subscribing member of Eccentrics

Unanimous in the privacy of one's own home, quite another to admit it in public. I've never had the urge to be a stalker either! I wasn't sure that I wanted to spend an entire weekend in the company of a bunch of idiots pretending to be Captain Kirk and Mr Spock.

On the other hand, the flyer promised Mark Lenard as GOH - A real Trek person in the flesh! (Figuratively speaking that is.) (More's the pity!) I registered.

Friends and family were less easily convinced. As far as they were concerned I would be consorting with dangerous lunatics whom the Establishment had seen fit to let out for the weekend while they aired the beds. The words "White Slavery" never actually passed their lips, but they certainly hovered in large think-bubbles overhead. Those of you who know me will recognise the extreme improbability of this prospect. Not even from a desperate, bankrupt, purblind white slaver, down on his luck, wearing sunglasses in a dark room on a foggy day.

On arrival I phoned home.

"But are they ALL RIGHT?" the voice at the other end of the telephone enquired anxiously.

"Oh yes," I responded blithely. After all they were shooting phasers not Crack behind the potted palms in the foyer. I put down the receiver and got into the lift with a Klingon.

A KLINGON????????!! But I soon learned.

One weekend and I was hooked. It was like being given a return ticket to Camelot, or being told you'll never be too old to go back to Narnia.

In the space of one weekend I also discovered that there may be places where you can experience more warmth, fun, friendship and plain old fashioned human kindness than a Star Trek con, but these are few and far between. I had joined the "Trek Family"

*If it's good enough for John Major, it's good enough for me.

It was also at this con that I first made the acquaintance of three Scottish ladies. No, they weren't huddled round a cauldron muttering about eye of newt and toe of frog, they were huddled behind a sales table boldly labelled Scotpress, selling zines; piles and heaps and mounds and acres of zines. You won't remember me, Scotpress. I was that stack of zines with legs that staggered away from your table.

My initial impression was that they knew or were known by just about everyone in fandom and between the three of them had probably forgotten more about Star Trek than I would ever know. I didn't linger to chat much at the time for fear of being a nuisance, but since then that initial impression has been confirmed - they DO know practically everyone in fandom and have become special friends both to me and to many others. BUT, Janet, Sheila and Valerie, you have much to answer for - There would be more money in my bank account and more storage space in my house if it weren't for the habit which you started that day! It is definitely one of the laws of physics that ye canna change, that zines expand to fill the space available and then carry on expanding!

Fandom trekked on peacefully for a number of years until the rumours which had been rife for ages were finally confirmed. Paramount was making more Star Trek. Politically correct this time, boldly going where no one has gone before, and suddenly the old series became old hat. - I beg your pardon, I shall rephrase that. As old hands will remember Richard Arnold was always most insistent that no one in the original series was OLD, merely classic. Classic Trek became classic hat.

I think it was about this time that the Scotpress crew decided that, not content with being purveyors of zines to the masses they could also find the time to produce the IDIC newsletter. A friend loaned me a couple of issues which should have carried a government health warning "This newsletter is seriously addictive." After that, I subscribed and found that I had tapped into what rapidly became if not the main artery of

fandom, at least a very substantial vein. A source of information on cons and merchandise, reports on cons (well you can't go to everything) an open forum where in keeping with its name everything from Indian religious beliefs to the cooking methods for quark (cheese, not Ferengi) could be thrashed out to a satisfying conclusion and beyond. IDIC was like a bunch of friends dropping in for a chat, a fat interesting envelope waiting amongst the bills at the end of a long hard day to cheer me up.

Since then, Star Trek has moved onwards into yet more incarnations. We've boldly stood still where no man has gone before with DS9 and now those of us with Sky TV are boldly coming back from where etc etc... and almost unbelievably Star Trek and fandom are 30 years old. Maybe we are all "anoraks". Maybe, as one guest put it "You're all barking mad - but very nice with it" but personally speaking I've had a ball. I've been places and done things and met people that I would never have met if it hadn't been for Trek, but now it seems, one small star in my personal universe is about to go out. Wherever the adventure leads, IDIC it seems will not be voyaging with us and I for one will miss it enormously.

"Let's be upbeat" you said, so I will. Thank you Janet, Sheila and Valerie for everything. To coin a phrase, "It was fun." Here's to the next thirty years and may you never be short of a star to steer by. Live long and prosper.




WHEN IS A VIDEO ETHICAL?

At Concorde, two Committees bid to run the May'98 45th British Convention. The first showed a video. Alison Hopkins introduced it by saying that it showed something of Cons run in the past by the Committee members. "We are sorry there is rather a lot of Babylon 5 in it," she said. "We do know we are bidding for a Star Trek Convention. Oh, and don't take any notice of the guests, we know the Rules, we agree with the Rules, we are not mentioning guests in our bid!" She then showed us the video.

Did this depict the facilities at the Norbreck Castle Hotel? Did it show the dealers' room, the main hall, the lounge, restaurant, a typical bedroom? It did not. Instead we were treated to a montage of space shots, names of stars (of the human variety) and short pieces of guest talks from various previous conventions. Since we were not being offered Babylon 5, Deep Space Nine or U.S.S. Enterprise as a venue, the only implication one could draw from that video was, "Vote for us and we will give you guests like these!"

I felt obliged, before asking questions at that Bidding Session, to mention my doubts about the ethics of that video, but the harm had been done. The Concorde committee had worked hard to get as many attendees to come to the Business Meeting as possible. Many of them almost certainly did not understand what I meant or why mention of guests is forbidden. They saw what was clearly a promise of an exciting Con studded with famous names. The other Committee merely mentioned hotel facilities, costs etc.. The vote was 73 to 71 in favour of the bid supported by that video. I shall not be at the May'97 Con, but I may well submit a Rules Amendment at the August'97 Con, to outlaw videos which show anything but facilities at the suggested venue. You cannot comment to me via the IDIC newsletter, unfortunately, but I would welcome your opinions at

Jacqueline Y. Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea, SA3 1PL or Email hotlisp@rhossili.demon.co.uk 

MARK TWAIN - ONE MAN AND HIS WORLD


Starring Jerry Hardin

Directed by Les Landau, costume design by Robert Blackburn, makeup by Michael Westmore
1996 Edinburgh Festival Fringe Venue, 23 Chaplaincy Centre

reported by Alan Stephen

As a 22nd wedding anniversary treat, my wife and I ventured down to the capital and attended a performance on the evening of the 17th August. I think my wife was a bit apprehensive regarding the play, as in her opinion my tastes can be a mite strange. But on this occasion she agreed with me that this was a splendid evening watching a master craftsman at work who, using very few props save a table, chair, large rug and cigar, told us a tragic tale, a funny tale, observations on the human condition and (my particular favourite) a darkly humorous story about transporting the remains of a close friend by railroad. In this tale the box containing the body of the dear departed was substituted

with a box of rifles; also some other passenger had laid on the box a container that held an over-ripe cheese. The humour ensued when the ghastly smell of the cheese reached the noses of Mr Twain and the Train Guard (both played by Mr Hardin) who both thought that the odour was caused by the "body"...

Should Mr Hardin ever perform this play again and near you, I can heartily recommend that you purchase tickets. You won't regret it. 

A View to a Killing

by Anne-Marie Flowers

Going to a convention on your own can be a nerve-racking experience. Over the years the N/L has given out some good tips on how to meet people and make new friends eg by volunteering to be a steward or first aider, donning fancy dress or flaunting your IDIC badge. These are all very sound suggestions and I have tried them but I found that by far the most successful scheme was to follow the Rules of Aquisition and engage in that most despised of activities - trade.

Renting a stall in the Dealers' Room is surprisingly easy and cheap - only £20 for the weekend at Contagion. With any luck you can recoup your outlay on the first day and then you can sit back, relax and wait for people to come to you. Because all of my merchandise (second-hand books, zines, dolls, photos and badges) was TNG related, I soon found myself talking to fans with similar interests.

Being stuck at the 'shop' you might think you'd miss out on a lot, but at Contagion the Dealers' room closed for John de Lancie's talk and I found that I was able to catch up with the videos in the evenings. Of course, as a dealer, you are free to come and go as you please and, unlike the punters, you can eat, drink and even smoke (something I didn't agree with) while you are at your stall. The other major advantage of being a dealer is that you get a preview of what's on offer at all the other tables and you can browse and buy in peace and quiet after the room has closed to the public.

I realise that this 'scheme' would be restricted to those fans who have access to a car, and it's also nice if you have a helper, but if, like me, you have a lot of stuff you'd like to get rid of, then I say - go on, take the plunge, you'll have a ball!



Spockspeare

by Neil Barrett & Judith Taylor

(from an original idea by Kathleen Glancy)

"Greetings, Captain Picard. Good of you to agree to meet me at such short notice."

"Not at all, Ambassador Spock, I would be honoured to assist in any of your work."

Picard instinctively stood a little straighter as Starfleet's most celebrated Vulcan member gazed around the Ready Room.

"Normally," continued Spock, "my old sparring partner Dr McCoy provides human insight into my researches. However, I have noted that you are interested in the same subject and being possessed of an exceptionally logical mind for a human, I felt you might be able to assist me more efficiently."

"Gladly," replied Picard, tugging at his tunic to cover his pride. "Which sphere of

study are we concerned with? Archaeology? Music? Theta-band subspace waves?"

Spock rested his hand lightly on the display case containing an antique leather-bound tome. "Shakespeare," he announced, "an inspiration to many cultures across the Federation but so illogical."

"Illogical?" said Picard, sounding as he had just been insulted.

"Yes, illogical. For example, a work which by its title one would expect a discourse on the domestication of mammals of the genus *Sorex*, makes no mention of such a creature."

"Ah." The light dawned on the confused captain. "Ambassador, the phrase Taming of the Shrew refers to the wild nature of the character Katherine and Petruchio's efforts to

make her into a suitable wife."

"Indeed! Perhaps you could explain a few more for me....."

1. Trader Resident in an Earthly City Famed for its Canal System.
2. Period of Darkness which is Preceded by Eleven Similar Periods.
3. In the Manner of Your Own Preference.
4. Narration During Cold Climatic Conditions.
5. Mirth-Provoking Entertainment Derived from a Series of Misconceptions.
6. Sequence of Mental Images During Sleep which Occur at the Time of Earth's Perihelion.
7. The Spouses of the British Royal House are in a State of Mild Inebriation.
8. Equitable Exchange of Specific Quantities.
9. A Successful Conclusion Implies Universal Satisfaction.

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Retrospective: IDIC

Martin Stahl, Germany

I began quite harmlessly. Some time, in the autumn of 1988, one of my pen pals, known to most IDIC members as Gul Melset, included her letter to me a membership form of the newly founded IDIC club. Since she was not very much interested in Star Trek any longer at that time, she passed the form on to me. I thought about it for a little moment. I had not been in any British club before, and it sounded interesting and £5 for a one year membership was very cheap, so I went to a bank, bought a £5 note and sent it together with my membership form to Janet. I became member no. 133, and Janet was so kind to send me a copy of the first N/L which I enjoyed very much.

The N/L opened by a letter from Gene Roddenberry, and although I had been a member of German fandom for several years before it was like a new world that opened to me. Soon I didn't want only to read the N/L but to contribute to it as well and I wrote an article about Star Trek and its fandom in Germany. At this time I was still in school and asked my English teacher to correct the article. I was very proud when I had for the first time something published that I wrote in another language, which was in N/L 3 ("Raumschiff Enterprise").

Over and over again there were discussions about Star Trek in Germany and in Austria (written by Karin Embacher) in the

postbag among many other interesting topics, and for all the years the postbag was my favourite section in the N/L. Soon many of the names became familiar to me and each time I read the postbag section I felt I was discussing things with many good friends. Some of the earliest articles in the N/Ls were the retrospectives about conventions from the 70s which I found quite uninteresting at that time, but when I read them now, after I have been to several conventions myself, they remind me of the "good old days of ST fandom".

When I read for the first time of a "guest talk" from a convention, I thought: "Oh my god, are they printing the whole speech of the actor now?", but when I read it I found it very interesting since it (and its descendants) contained much interesting news about Star Trek. Although the quality of the N/L was very good already, the editors improved it subtly with N/L 9, and more clearly with N/L 23 with double columns, when we were introduced to Archie, Janet's new computer. At first it looked very strange to me, but soon I began to like the new layout. In the meantime the volume of the N/L rose steadily, as did the membership dues, but I never felt I didn't get value for my money. Each N/L was worth every penny.

After finishing school I began to study biology and I became even more involved in

fandom. There was much fun in contributing to the postbag although I didn't always find sufficient time to write. The book reviews were more interesting than in most other clubs since in most cases the writer explained very well why she/he liked the book or not and what was good and not so good on the particular book. I especially liked Sheila's reviews and whenever I buy a new ST novel I have a look in the IDIC N/L to see what Sheila's and other members' opinions were about this book.

ST V came and went, and when ST VI had its German premiere I went 600 kilometres to Berlin to see the film, and some months later there was my first convention with James Doohan as a guest. I looked forward to this con very much since Scotty was my favourite character from the original series, and coincidentally another IDIC member asked some weeks earlier in the postbag why Jim Doohan was not an honorary member of the Scottish club. So I asked Jim at the Warp III Convention (with Janet's permission) to become an honorary member of IDIC and gave him his first N/L - that was N/L 17. I was glad for this opportunity to give something back to IDIC after all that IDIC has given to me.

Thanks to IDIC I also got in contact with another fan, Marion Pritchard, who worked in the city where I lived several years ago. Some time later I met her at a convention. After several years out of fandom my penpal Gul Melset suddenly became interested in Star Trek again and joined IDIC too. So the circle was closed. I joined IDIC after she sent me the flyer and membership form and I told her so often how I liked this club that she also decided to join it.

In the early years there were still the discussions pro and anti TNG but they were never as insulting as those in other clubs, and finally fans came to a settlement. A similar discussion began after the birth of DS9, and during the first year I was not very keen on it. It changed in the middle of the second season when I became an O'Brien fan. Voyager I liked from the pilot on, but, nevertheless, somehow Star Trek has changed. It became increasingly commercial

and soon there was more quantity than quality. Fortunately IDIC members commented very critically about all the merchandise, and I was surprised how openly they criticised the Official Fan Club of the UK in the postbag and that the club's president valued their opinions highly.

I will never forget the discussions about graphic novels and Kaferian apples, as well as Taruka's Tribble Awards and Helen White's con reports.

In 1993, I founded a German ST club together with some friends and some aspects of our N/L were inspired by IDIC: The guest talks at conventions (do you know how great it is to write down everything the guest on the stage says in a dark room with only some light on the stage - I'm sorry, but I have no dictating machine) and its policy to value everyone's opinion. Unfortunately there are some clubs where some opinions are not allowed and when I discussed it with the president of one club I gave IDIC as an example of how it should be.

I also asked our members to send in used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Since the postage from Germany to the UK was higher than the value of the stamps I always looked for an opportunity to get the stamps cheaper to Britain. In several cases I sent them to Gul Melset when she spent her holidays there; once I gave a colleague a parcel full of stamps when he went to London for a weekend. I was very glad when I could deliver the stamps to Sheila in person - at the Generations convention in the Royal Albert Hall. After we had known each other from letters for so many years it was great to meet Janet, Sheila, and Valerie in person. Unfortunately, this convention was not the ideal opportunity to socialise, but I hope to attend another convention in Britain where I will meet many ex-members of IDIC.

I was looking forward to the next N/Ls, with reviews about ST: First Contact, the new episodes of DS9 and Voyager and all the stuff I like in the N/L.

First, I collected my N/Ls in files, but

soon they became too many. Then I placed them in a bookshelf together with other fanzines where they remained for several years. Last year I rearranged my room and placed the IDIC N/Ls on another shelf besides my ST videos, since there was some more place. Soon I had to pile up the videos to create some more place for the N/Ls and I already was looking for another solution when IDIC offered me one - one that I don't like at all. The spatial problem is solved, there won't be any new N/Ls any more, but I would have preferred to buy a new shelf than to dispense with the N/Ls. IDIC has been

very important to me and I was shocked when I heard that you decided to close it. Nevertheless I accept your decision and I am grateful that you spent eight years of work making me feeling very comfortable in fandom. I am very sad, but not angry, since I know how much work it takes to publish such a fanzine on a regular basis.

I want to close this article with a quotation from Gene's letter from the front page of N/L 1: "Thank you for helping keep the concept of IDIC alive." You really did it! Best wishes to you and all members of IDIC.



STAR TREK - A DREAM COME TRUE

Gene Roddenberry had a vision of a faraway place,
Of a crew and a starship travelling in outer space.
He said that it was a wagon train to the stars,
To go much further than the planet Mars.
Gene spent all of the night and all of the day
To write and get together a short screen play.
Gene brought his idea to life in real high tech
In a two-hour show they called Star Trek.

The first was The Cage - but it was not a smash
So the networks lent Gene Roddenberry the cash
To do another pilot that would go shore to shore
With an episode called Where No Man Has Gone Before.
Captain Kirk was put in charge of all those on ship,
To ensure that new life was discovered on this trip.
With a five-year mission to reach out and explore,
To find new civilizations, and who knows what more.

Many planets and species came through, then went,
But the Romulans and Klingons were to cement
In the minds of the fans - to copy and imitate
Everyone loved the Galactic bad guys - to hate.
After 79 episodes the networks had had enough,
So the show was cancelled, but it wasn't too rough;
There was always the re-runs on the other channel
To keep the fans of the show interested and loyal.

The show kept repeating and the fans grew and grew,
So Gene Roddenberry realised what he had to do.
He made a motion picture with the original cast
To bring them to the future and out of the past.
Then came the films two, three, four, five and six,
To watch our heroes boldly go - at the flicks -
Was every fan's dream, to keep the faith going;
But that was not the only Star Trek showing.

The Next Generation's turn was to boldly go,
 And that soon became a hit, with a top ten show.
 Captain Picard was the guide for this new trip
 To continue the voyages of that well-loved ship.
 This time the voyages went on for seven years
 And the last episode received a round of cheers.
 The fans knew from the start - and all along -
 That the networks in the beginning had been wrong.

But Star Trek was not going to die just there;
 Another series, Deep Space Nine, was on the air.
 Commander Sisko, on a station out in space,
 Meeting a new and more deadly alien race.
 Overcoming the obstacles of everyday life,
 Trying to keep the Feds out of any more strife;
 Fighting off the terrorists and making a new friend
 To show that the Star Trek idea was not to end,

Deep Space Nine may be in its fourth year;
 The new chapter, Voyager, means more work here.
 Captain Janeway is in charge of this trek into space,
 Overcoming "everything" in an uncharted space.
 New alliances - and maybe even new regulations -
 All because of a being who looks like a space station.
 To find a way to get home completely intact -
 A new dilemma - no joke - that's a fact!

We are all thankful for the new Star Trek chapter
 Because the Star Trek legend will go much farther;
 With one film under their belt for the Next Gen cast
 (Which brought together the Captains of future and past).
 We said goodbye to Kirk, and good journey to Picard;
 But with First Contact, it looks like life will be hard,
 The Borg, a battle, and a new ship to carry the name
 Because without it Star Trek just wouldn't be the same.

All that is left is to thank Gene with love
 (Who is definitely looking down on us from above).
 He now knows the secrets in this infinite pace
 And has probably explored outer space!
 He was a great man who had his dream come true.
 That means there is hope for me and you.
 Remember - the networks said no, the fans said yes;
 After thirty years on, it seems the fans knew best.

Viper Katana

IDIC . GOOD MEMORIES

by Rhiannon

When I read Dejan Ladika's article I was truly moved. I must say that I agree with Dejan: yes, you did make a difference.


I have probably mentioned this before, in one of my Postbag letters, but I would like you to know that IDIC (however silly this may sound now) restored my faith in fandom and clubs. I had made several 'not so good' experiences with other clubs, all but one not even partly being my fault, and had sort of given up on finding people who think of Trek the way I do. Then all sorts of nice people answered an ad I had sent to Janet, saying I was looking for pen friends. This was what made me join IDIC in the first place, and I am really glad I did.

I guess I have never been too self-confident, and some years ago I probably would not have dared to write something like a letter to Postbag or even an article, this also being due to the atmosphere of the club I was in at that time. I guess when you feel there

are friendly people around, too, things get easier.

The years in IDIC have given me a bit of courage and I think I have become more active now, writing stuff and getting to know more people. I even started a thingy in 'my' German club - we are collecting used stamps to support workshops for disabled people; I sort of copied the idea with the Guide Dogs.

The Guide Dogs are a wonderful idea, and for me they do have a lot to do with the principles of IDIC.

When I look at this time I spent with y'all, a bunch of people with different origins, ages, hobbies, opinions, all sharing one interest, then I must say I am glad I had a chance to be part of this. I am glad IDIC has "happened" to me, and surely memories won't be all that is left of it. But they will certainly be good memories. 

We understand that it must be 'goodbye'.
We understand that I.D.I.C. had to die,
But in our hearts, we cannot help but cry
Into the vacuum that is left, "Oh, why?"

Is fandom dying?
Is Star Trek dead?
Voyager is going
Away from where the Enterprise first led.

We are bewildered, muddled and confused.
We, fans since '69, are left bemused.
Our feelings that our loyalty has been used
By Viacom. Our wants have been refused.

Where is Gene's vision?
Not on our screens.
They portray collisions
Of species; argument and battle scenes.

We understand that it must be 'goodbye'.
We understand that I.D.I.C. had to die,
But in our hearts, we cannot help but cry
Into the vacuum that is left, "Oh, why?"

Jacqueline Y. Comben

I AM A VERY PROUD YOUNG TOS FAN

by Vered Gilad

In response to Margaret Rainey, N/L 47, P17 - quote: "But many of the newer fans were of a different kind than the 'oldies'... there was and is an inevitable Generation Gap" and then comes the description of "First Generation Fans"; and also to Jacqueline Y Comben, N/L 44, P19 - quote: "Anyone born after 1960 cannot appreciate the impact of Trek..."

On this occasion of our final issue of the N/L, I take the opportunity to discuss this aspect - being a younger fan of TOS.

First to Jacqueline's comment. I know it is a bit late to reply to this but what you stated did bother me. You see, I was born just one year after TOS was cancelled in the USA, and was exposed to TOS maybe about 10 years after. I was not a fan of Star Trek, but really enjoyed watching the series whenever it was on. I guess I have to thank my mother for this. She is an avid sci-fi lover and exposed me to this genre at a relatively young age. There were CT episodes that left quite a set of memories with me as a child - the first that comes to mind was how terrified I was of Balok, and I really couldn't watch his still face which appeared in the end of many of the episodes. Then I remember how devastated I was by the thought of encountering a disease that could make me grow old in a matter of hours (The Deadly Years) or make me go mad (Miri), I remember quite vividly that planet with only children on it. Quite understandable, as I was a child. I was fascinated by City on the Edge of Forever because of the aspect of time travel, which is still one of my favourite science fiction subjects, and also how cute tribbles were with their little purring...

So I guess I didn't understand in those days many of the political and social messages which ST held, and of course I wasn't too aware of the Vietnam War, but ST did have an impact on me.

As I grew older and had other chances of watching CT reruns I got to understand the

other layers which Trek held, and developed a special fondness towards McCoy's pep-talks, McCoy/Spock arguments and Kirk's subtle remarks on Spock. Still I was not a fan.


My realisation of just how much I liked TOS came when one day Middle East TV decided to show TNG instead. Like so many other OT fans, I could not stand it. I gave up on TNG very quickly. I could not accept an Enterprise or a series with the name Star Trek with no Kirk, Spock and especially McCoy. You know what? I still wasn't a fan, even though I had the chance of seeing two ST movies on the big screen (remember this is Israel. Most of the ST movies did not come to this place). You see, besides watching Trek, I didn't do much else about it. Gradually I also saw some TNG shows, and I watched them because they were science fiction. It didn't bother me to miss episodes, or not to watch an episode till the end. It was there, and compared to a lot of stuff it was interesting, but it wasn't TOS.

It was only three years ago when I had the chance of watching ST 25th Anniversary and later on ST:TUC that suddenly I realised how long it had been since I saw a TOS episode, and boy, what a longing it was. It was then that I started going berserk. I started my own private letter campaigns to local TV stations, begging them to bring TOS back (sounds familiar?) I started a mad search for TOS, and only TOS, books, and when I got my hands on them I devoured them. (Would you believe that I made a list of all secondhand book stores in Tel-Aviv and spent about 5 hours of walking on a very hot Israeli August day just to check which ones were worth while to me as far as ST:TOS books go. I couldn't walk afterwards for a whole day... I managed to get hold of most of Blish's adaptations of the episodes and was comforted by them before I eventually managed to get all the OT shows on tape). It was when I was studying for my final exams for University and all I could think of was Kirk, Spock, McCoy. I couldn't convince the local TV stations to show TOS and was quite

frustrated., so I recorded and of course watched the episodes from the German cable!!! even though my knowledge of the German language was very, very limited. Margaret, you may note the similarities between my behaviour and that of fans during the *dry* 70s, and there's more: what you said about "the fan feeling he is all alone in the world with his love" - well, I did not know anyone who shared this interest, and it was only some months later that by chance I got hold of Marcia's address and I found out that there are more ST fans around here and was exposed to other aspects of Trek. Still,

even though I found more Trek fans here, Marcia was the only one who also loved TOS. The rest were much more interested in the later incarnations of Trek.

I don't know if it is just me who is somehow different from the average Younger Generation of Trek fans, or maybe the fact that I live in Israel and am more isolated, but it is a fact that there are younger people who are just as devoted to OT as the Older Generation of fans.

Please give us a chance. 

AT THE PICTURES

By Kathleen Glancy

"My researches into 20th century culture," said Spock, "have moved into the cinematic realm. As illogical as ever, I fear. What has this title referring to some person or object having disappeared in the company of a meteorological manifestation measured by the Beaufort Scale to do with a story about a polyandrous young woman in the American Civil War?"

"What?" said McCoy.


"She wasn't polyandrous, she always waited till one husband was dead before marrying another, and 'Gone With the Wind' is a quotation from a poem, Mr Spock," said Uhura. "Don't listen to him, Doctor, he does this on purpose - he *knows* you'll ask him about other movies and get all upset trying to figure out what they are."

She was too late. McCoy had already taken the list Spock was holding out to him.

1. Henry, or Harold, Who is Inattentive to Personal Hygiene.
2. Speculate Upon the Identity of our Guest for the Main Repast of the Day.
3. Supernatural Event Upon a Thoroughfare in New York City.
4. Three Groups of Persons respectively Virtuous, Malignant and of Unpleasing Appearance.
5. The Reflection of a Star's Light on a

Planet's Satellite is Life-Threatening.

6. There are Persons Who have a Preference for High Temperatures.
7. The Surviving Spirit of a Dead Individual.
8. Female Ruler of a North African Country, 69 - 30 BC Old Earth Calendar.
9. Cardiac Organs of a Benevolent Disposition and the Distinguishing Headgear of Peers.
10. The Practitioner of Magic Arts Resident in the Colloquial Name of a Southern Continent on Earth.
11. Sexual Interest of a Lethal Nature.
12. Self-Liberation On a Major Scale.
13. The Harmonious Sonics Made Instrumentally and/or Vocally.
14. Logic and Emotion.
15. The Entire Entourage of the Democratically Elected Chief Executives of the USA.
16. A Duodecimal Number of Irate Male Humans.
17. A Temperature of below 0 C in the Abbreviation of a North African City.
18. Person Employed to Care for Bovines in the USA at 00.00 Hours.
19. Medical Practitioner Negative.
20. A Semi-Mythical Figure Who May Have Some Connection With a Christian Saint Succeeds in Vanquishing The Inhabitants of Sol IV, Who Are Also Mythical.
21. Veritable Mixture of Dust, Ashes and Small Stones.

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DOOMSDAY MACHINE

by Daniel Allshouse

If there is one thing Star Trek has never lacked, it's exciting, full of action, gripping episodes and movies. There has been a Classic episode that has always held that mystique for me. It is The Doomsday Machine and I can't watch it without becoming overly excited. All of us remember how the Enterprise came across the Constellation, a shadow of her former self. Such was also so of her captain, Commodore Matt Decker. It was the discovery of the planet-killer that sent him and his crew into a near-fatal confrontation. Kirk and his landing party beamed aboard to rescue him.

Scotty and Kirk put their skills as "starship savers" to the test, returning the Constellation to service, and Decker, outranking Spock, took off with the Enterprise. It appeared as though the Enterprise would fall victim to the planet-killer but Kirk and Scotty's skills paid off. The Constellation saved its sister ship, and Kirk and Decker had a confrontation of their own. This led to Decker's demotion and Spock assuming command of the Enterprise.

In an act of desperation, Decker took a shuttlecraft to her doom in an effort to rescue his shipmates aboard the Enterprise. This act, though appearing futile at first, gave Kirk and Spock the "ammunition" to destroy the planet-killer. It appeared as though Kirk was taking too high a risk in trusting the Constellation to destroy the planet-killer.

We all know Kirk was successful in destroying the planet-killer. He used the same tactics in killing Kruge, as well as Sybok. Kirk's experience as Captain had not been long before he was forced to deal with an unfeeling, quick-to-destroy planet-killer. What he did was utilise the skills of his landing party personnel as well as himself in bringing an end to the danger the planet-killer posed to the galaxy.

The difference between the planet-killer and any other foe Kirk would ever encounter was in the method he used to bring a proper

end to the planet-killer. It was not an end dictated by any kind of modern convenience, but one made necessary by the risks the planet-killer posed to the rest of the galaxy.

To glorify what Kirk did with the Constellation should not diminish what Decker did. He might have been a commodore past his prime, acting in a moment when he thought all his "chips" were down. His act brought together a Vulcan who was supposedly born without emotion and a Captain who *had* been his friend, now labouring to comprehend his motives in destroying a shuttlecraft. Those actions might have seemed lacking in purpose but would lead to Kirk's act of heroism.

The Star Trek saga has been chock-full of Kirk doing his bits of derring-do sometimes to save himself but mostly to save his ship and crew. Seeing his old friend Matt Decker having fallen victim in a similar confrontation must have caused Jim Kirk to question his own manhood. Wonder if he recalled it on that bridge in Generations?

The act of confronting the planet-killer was one that brought near-total destruction to the crew of the Constellation. No-one questioned the sorrow Decker felt at the loss of all hands. Such risk was not denied by Kirk. It was only the method which Kirk had questioned, and later on which Spock tried to use to thwart Decker's ascending to command.

There have been many times when Kirk and his crew, Picard and his crew, Sisko and his crew and Janeway and her crew have found threats just as menacing as the planet-killer. This was one Kirk had to deal with and he destroyed the planet-killer. But let us not forget Commodore Matt Decker and his sacrifice to save the crew of the Enterprise.



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DATA

FROM OMICRON THETA TO GENERATIONS

A portrait of a sentient artificial life form

by Marie I J Raper

Introduction

As the title of this article indicates, this is an attempt to outline as complete a portrait as possible on Data from his creation until 2372, and hopefully add a few of my own impressions as to the kind of man he has become during that time. He is a humanoid android who was sophisticated enough to be looked upon as a sentient life form with full civil rights as a Federation citizen as well as a Starfleet officer, which he has been for 31 of his 34 years.

Lieutenant Commander Data: The Man Behind the Starfleet Officer

Data was constructed on the Omicron Theta Colony in about 2336 by cyberneticist Dr Noonian Soong and Julianna Soong Taylor, and was, in fact, the fifth android to be built on the colony; and was considered to be one of their greatest achievements, in spite of a number of early setbacks. Although there was a brief "childhood" period, he was not made aware of this fact until Julianna Soong Taylor visited the Enterprise D in 2370, and explained that his memory was erased prior to the destruction of the colony. What made Data different from the other colonists was his gold skin and yellow eyes, which was probably an intentional attempt by Soong to identify him as an artificial life form. Unlike his brother Lore, who was constructed about 2335, Data was programmed without emotions to begin with, presumably to enable Soong to compare and contrast between his two "sons" and determine what was wrong with Lore's emotional state, as the man himself told Lore in the episode *Brothers*: "You are my firstborn son... you mean as much to me as Data ever did". Data's construction shortly afterwards merely supported Soong's intention to return to Lore's problem.

The collective memories of the Omicron Theta colonists were downloaded into Data's positronic brain shortly before the colony was attacked and destroyed by the Crystalline Entity. Data remained in a dormant state on the planet until he was discovered by an away team from the USS Tripoli in 2338.

Data as a Starfleet Officer - 2341 Onwards

The issue of whether Data was considered to be a sentient life form was addressed in a number of significant legal decisions, a debate that would be considered for the next 24 years. It was the Starfleet Academy Entrance Committee that had set the ball in motion by permitting Data to enter the Academy as a cadet in 2341. Following his graduation with honours in 2345, he served for a time aboard the USS Trieste. It is not clear when he started his tour of duty aboard the Trieste, but it makes sense to assume that it began after 2345 and before 2363, when he ultimately accepted the post of Second Officer and Operations Manager aboard the USS Enterprise NCC 1701-D.

It was only in 2365, after Data had served aboard the Enterprise-D for almost 2 years, that the issue of his sentience was finally resolved. It is worth considering that Commander Bruce Maddox had been the one opponent on the Academy's Entrance Committee of Data's entry into the Academy and becoming a Starfleet officer, because of his belief that Data was *not* sentient. With the use of legal means, Maddox tried to have Data transferred to the Daystrom Institute to enable him to determine how Data was constructed. Thanks to Captain Picard's defence, Judge Advocate General Phillipa Louvois ruled that Data was in fact a sentient being, therefore entitled to full civil rights as a Federation Citizen as well as a Starfleet

officer. It is also worth considering that if Data *had not been considered a sentient being*, then there would be no way that Starfleet would have decorated him on at least 4 occasions during his 31-year career. As of 2365, Data's citations included the Decoration for Gallantry, The Medal of Honor with Clusters, the Legion of Honor and the Star Cross.

As well as taking the centre seat aboard the Enterprise-D on a number of occasions, Data's direct experience with command came about during the early part of 2368, when he temporarily took command of the USS Sutherland, which was part of Captain Picard's armada during the Klingon Civil War. There is no doubt that he was able to lead effectively in spite of initial prejudice at the idea of serving under an android officer amongst some of the officers aboard the Sutherland. Nevertheless, it did not detract from his ability to lead others and to make command decisions.

Data's Attempts to Understand Humanity

"I am superior in many ways. But I would gladly give it up to be human."

Lt. Commander Data
Encounter at Farpoint

"You see things with the wonder of a child, and that makes you more human than any of us."

Lt Natasha Yar
Skin of Evil

In spite of the fact that he is a sentient - albeit artificial - life form, Data has made no secret of his desire not only to understand humanity but also to be human. *"I would gladly give it up to be human,"* said it all for him. Although he had long accepted the fact that he would never become a flesh-and-blood human, one valid point that he made to his daughter was, *"It is the effort itself that reaps its own rewards."*

Data could be considered the ultimate innocent abroad, which makes Natasha Yar's words to him in her farewell message all the more meaningful, and also this would account for his appeal not only to his fellow crewmates aboard the Enterprise-D but also to viewers of The Next Generation series.

During his tour of duty aboard the Enterprise-D, he has made many friends, and considers Geordi La Forge to be his best friend. In fact, just about all of the senior officers have become accustomed to working with Data and to accept him. One good example is Commander Riker, who accepted him from the moment they met, so much so that Riker refused point-blank to support Maddox's position, stating that *"Data is not only my colleague... he's my friend."*

Data's most constant companion - apart from his best friend, Geordi - is his cat Spot. She not only shares his quarters but has remained with him for almost 5 years, in spite of the fact that her master was not able to predict her preferences in food. It is likely that Spot was part of another cat's litter and was acquired by Data some time in 2367, as we saw her for the first time in the 4th season episode Data's Day. She has remained with him ever since, although she is somewhat choosy in who she likes or dislikes. On the one hand she did not care for Commander Riker, and expressed her dislike appropriately (Timescape), whilst on the other hand she was more than happy to be looked after by Lieutenant Barclay, in spite of his claiming, *"I find that hard to believe"* (Genesis), presumably because Barclay knew the right things to say and do to a cat.

A question had occurred to me not long ago when I was watching Star Trek: Generations - if Data had entered the Nexus instead of Picard, what, if anything, would happen? My personal belief is that he would have emerged as a flesh-and-blood human being. It stands to reason, doesn't it, bearing in mind that Data has made absolutely no secret about his desire to become human? Also, if Picard's idea of the Nexus was a wife and family who accepted his Starfleet lifestyle, there is no reason, hypothetically, not to believe that Data's greatest wish could be fulfilled.

Data as a Parent - 2366

"Why should biology rather than technology determine whether or not it's a child?"

Counselor Deanna Troi
The Offspring

"Ask a man to give up his child to the state? Not while I'm his Captain."

Captain Jean-Luc Picard
The Offspring

One of Data's most significant attempts to understand humanity was his one and only attempt to procreate. This came about in 2366, when he constructed an android daughter named Lal, by using his own positronic network as a template. Although they both shared identical programming, Lal was able to learn and grow that much faster to the degree where she actually exceeded his father's abilities, for example she was able to use verbal contractions. One could argue that by constructing her, Data was making an attempt to give back to Starfleet what they had given to him by educating and shaping him into a Starfleet officer, and hoping that he was given the opportunity to enable his child to make her own contribution as a Federation citizen. In a way, during the brief time that he was a father, bringing up Lal was almost like he himself was learning all over again.

Through no fault of their own, this new family caused a somewhat heated debate when Admiral Haftel tried to persuade Lal to leave her father and accompany him to Galor IV, only to be met with refusal. *"I want to stay here, Captain Picard."* When asked the same thing, not only did Data take exception to the idea, so did Picard when he pointed out that *"this is not the time... even I can see that. The umbilical cord is virtually uncut... the child needs him."*

I believe that Lal was a welcome addition to the Enterprise-D; not only had she enriched Data's life, but when she died as the result of cascade failure, Picard presumably made the sad announcement to the rest of the ship, because he was the one who told him, *"the crew is saddened by your loss, Mr Data."* Even Haftel was near tears when he told Data's friends that Lal was going to die: *"He never gave up on her... it just wasn't to be."* Data's child had developed to the point where she was able to express love for her father, telling him, when Data wished he could feel the same, *"I will feel it (love) for both of us."*

Data's Emotional Development

"Anger is a negative emotion, Counselor."
Lt Commander Data
Descent I

"Part of having emotions is learning how to integrate them into your life."

Captain Jean-Luc Picard
Star Trek: Generations

Although Noonian Soong had finally constructed an emotion chip in 2367, Lore had stolen it when he masqueraded as Data. Two years later, as leader of a group of renegade Borg, Lore was able to use his own negative emotions to coerce his brother to his side. This proved to be counter-productive, not only because of the Starfleet officer in Data ultimately reasserting itself (with help from fellow crewmembers) but also because Lore had not reckoned on a small group of dissident Borg, led by Hugh to join the Enterprise personnel to defeat him. As a result of this, Data had no choice but to deactivate Lore and remove the emotion chip to be dismantled. This was clearly the hardest decision Data has had to make, but even Lore's final words, *"I love you, brother,"* did not change his mind. But what else could Data have done? Lore had proved time and time again that his instability had made him dangerous, a fear expressed by Julianna Soong Taylor when she admitted to Data that she'd persuaded Soong to leave the android behind: *"I was afraid that you'd turn out to be just like Lore."* That wasn't the end of the matter; Geordi La Forge had advised Data to keep the emotion chip until he was ready to use it.

Finally, with Geordi's help, Data finally began to integrate emotions into his life when he had the emotion chip installed in 2371. There was no doubt that Data has his ups and downs with his new emotions, but as he told Counselor Troi later on: *"After experiencing 261 distinct emotional states, I believe I have learned to control my feelings. They will no longer control me."* Of course that didn't stop him from shedding a few tears himself when he and Troi found Spot alive... tears of joy, on this occasion.

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Dr Soong: in Defence of the Man and his Work (my own work, N/L 32)

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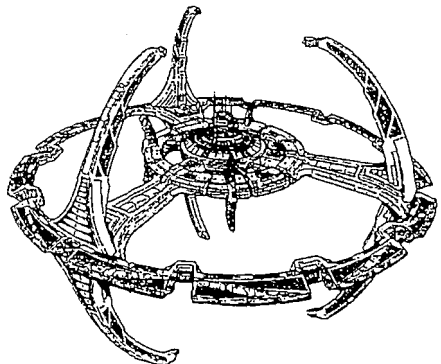


JUDITH'S REALLY HORRIBLE AND DISGUSTING DS9 QUIZ

If you watch DS9 this should really tax your brain cells, and or post ganglionic nerve fibres (sorry got a little carried away)

1. Of the main cast of Deep Space 9, who gets the Babel virus, what order of appearance do they get it and what is their first line or lines in Babelese?
2. Who was the Doctor who developed the Babel virus?
3. How was the virus introduced through the replicators, bypassing the filters?
4. What is the name of the first life form to come through the worm hole (I can take two answers for this question)?
5. What is the name of the man who killed his own clone?
6. What is the Wadi's favourite pastime?
7. What is the Grand Nagus's name?
8. Who did Quark sell out to the authorities, gaining recognition by the Nagus?
9. Who killed RoKel?
10. Who possesses Dr Bashir, giving him a severe headache?
11. How does Dr Bashir get possessed in the first place?
12. What is the name of the Cobliat security guard in 'The Passenger'?
13. What planet do the officers who tried to abduct Dax come from?
14. What ship did Sisko serve on before Wolf 359?
15. What is O'Brien's response when he discovers Q on the station?
16. How does Q stop Dr Bashir having dinner with Vash?
17. What is the name of the terrorist who cons Kira into helping him gain political asylum on DS9?
18. What is the profession of the last Cardassian left on DS9?
19. What does the last Cardassian offer the Duras sisters?
20. What is Bashir's favourite mode of chatting up the females of DS9?

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'THE OUTCAST'

by Sheila Clark

Some time ago Valerie and I wrote a series of alternate universe stories that were printed as 'Variations on a Theme'. In the Variations universe Spock was Captain and Kirk First Officer, and one of the things we did was rewrite several CT episodes to fit the new situation. I've also written a Mirror universe novel which also rewrites one or two episodes to fit that universe.

Certain episodes proved almost impossible to rewrite; those were the ones where the plotting and writing were so tight that any flaws in development were minimal and it was extremely difficult to find any way to redevelop them. Other episodes were very easy to rework; those were the ones with glaring holes in their credibility.

I don't know the TNG episodes as well as I do the CT ones, but it would be most surprising if none of them were relatively easy to redevelop. Gary Heron's excellent article (printed some time ago) on the fifth TNG season episode *The Outcast*, in particular the sentence "It may well be that the throwback idea is promoted by the J'nai government to justify their programme of brainwashing" started me thinking. I had had reservations about the episode since I first saw it, and Gary's article clarified this for me; I suddenly realised how I would handle it if I were to try fitting it into an alternate universe.

The pivot around which the episode revolves is the fact that the J'nai are not genderless but, rather, all of one gender. The episode as filmed has this as an evolutionary development from a two-sexed species, with those citizens who have a sexual preference (ie feeling themselves to be 'male' or 'female') being considered as throwbacks. Yet even the sexually conservative must be aware that, if this is regarded as primitive, a two-sex life was once, by definition, natural; one wonders how and why such an evolutionary change took place.

more effective if it was the other way round. Very early (primitive) animals (eg amoebas, worms) are one-sexed or hermaphrodite; gender is an evolutionary development. Suppose this planet was late in producing this development and the race was actually in the process of developing from single-sexed (hermaphrodite, perhaps?) to two-sexed, with those individuals who had a gender preference actually being an evolutionary advance rather than a throwback, possibly even showing the beginnings of physical diversity too. Under those circumstances, gender preference *would* be completely incomprehensible to the rest of the race; it *would* be seen as a perversion for A always to act as a male (ie never produce young) or B always to act as a female (ie always produce young but never 'father' any.) Actually, of course, under those circumstances, the 'B' preference would be hidden, so the story would have to be altered so that it was about a 'male' J'nai, possibly interacting with Troi or Crusher, rather than 'female' one. In nature such a change might occur fairly rapidly; but here 'intelligence' is applied to suppressing it.

The homophobia theme wouldn't be lost, although its reason would be different; it would be based on genuine lack of understanding rather than simple intolerance (if intolerance could be called 'simple'), and in some ways I think that might make for a stronger story. The majority would see something they couldn't comprehend, and of course they would fear it, fearing that it might suddenly happen to them as well; they aren't going to fear suddenly reverting to the ways of their ancestors quite so much, though they might fear society's response to it. Indeed, in such a society the phobia might even be called 'heterophobia'! Now wouldn't that make people think?



It occurs to me that the episode would be

CASTING CALAMITIES

by Fiona Fletcher

All Star Trek fans have their own, and often different, opinions about which actor or character makes the best captain out of the four series. My own personal favourite is William Shatner as James T Kirk, but I can also appreciate and enjoy the characters of Picard, Sisko and Janeway - they all have their good points.

On reflection, I would have to conclude that the Powers That Be at Paramount have done an excellent job of choosing actors who fit their parts extremely well.

Sometimes, however, I have wondered what our favourite TV show would have been like had someone else been chosen to play the lead role. The following is a light-hearted look at what the introductory voiceover at the start of the series might have sounded like if things had been a little different. Try and imagine the following as Captains of the Enterprise:-

John Major

Space - another Conservative frontier. These

are the voyages of the Tory Party - our four-year mission, to exploit strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilisations, to impose VAT and taxes where none have gone before.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

This is the Captain - I'll be back!

Wayne + Garth (Wayne's World)

Yo, dudes! These are the bogus journeys of the Enterprise in, like, outer space (wow!) We get to seek out little green men, go to totally awesome places and play our guitars where no guitar has gone before. Excellent. Party on.

MC Hammer

Well, we're in this place called outer space. We represent the Human race.

Enterprise is the name of our ship
And we're gonna take a five-year trip.
Strange new worlds we will explore,
Find those aliens and knock on their door.



JEFFREY A SHORT REVIEW by Gloria Rigg

Jeffrey is a bitter-sweet comedy in the style of Dennis Potter, ie fantasy, daydreams, song and dance. Sounds odd, but those are the things that spring to mind. It has to be seen to be appreciated, so go see it for yourself.

Patrick Stewart plays Sterling (a gay interior designer) who is mentor and role model for Jeffrey. Patrick plays the whole film very tongue in cheek (both his own!) - he seems to enjoy hamming it up (all with very theatrical lovie, darling and cheek kissing stuff) and he steals the show completely in the scenes he is in.

Jeffrey has a game show dreamtime/fantasy where he wins the show. He is

cloaked in red velvet and ermine, a tiara on his head and a bouquet of roses presented to him. Then one of his answers is disallowed and it means that Sterling/Patrick has won the show. Sterling/Patrick takes the tiara off Jeffrey's head and puts it on his own, nudges him from under the cloak with his bottom and snatches the bouquet of roses then proceeds to throw kisses at the audience.

The scene with Sterling/Patrick in the "Pink Patrol" (they protect gays on the street) where he is wearing a shocking pink floppy beret with matching "Pink Patrol" T-shirt and a utility belt with mobile phone is so camp. He gets a call on the phone, looks shocked and gasps in surprise, then announces that a body builder has been sighted in lycra shorts

- and runs off to have a look!

Sterling has a young partner/boyfriend who is a professional dancer and is HIV positive. He collapses, lapses into a coma and dies; this sad scene is played very sensitively by Patrick, but ends with a smile.

The basic message of the film is that everybody needs love.

I could go on, but this film needs to be viewed. Go see it yourself!



ON LINE

compiled by Janet Quarton

I haven't had time to try out many of these myself but I hope you find them useful.

"Colm Meaney's" is a virtual Irish Pub for fans of the Irish actor Colm Meaney.

At "Colm Meaney's" people can find information on the actor and about his movies. There are articles and interviews from netresources and magazines. Of course there are some pictures of Colm Meaney's roles published there, too. People are invited to share information, pictures, files and anything else dealing with Colm Meaney. In case they contribute material to "Colm Meaney's" they will be credited in an appropriate way! Some have already written and are published there in the letters section.

"Colm Meaney's" home is at

<http://members.aol.com/hheyer2003/colm/colm.html>.

It is 100% non-commercial and a true labour of love.

- TV Guide Online (US Edition) - Check for articles on Star Trek - back editions available. <http://www.iguide.com/tv/>

- The ASTRA Web Site <http://www.iinet.net.au/~sentient/ASTRA/>

- MAF's WWW Coordinates for Star Trek Captain Sulu and the U.S.S. Excelsior http://www.faries.com/maf_1c.htm

- Scottish Star Trek Fandom (Away Team) <http://www.awayteam.demon.co.uk/>

- The Star Trek: First Contact website is at to be up: <http://startrek.first-contact.com>

- Star Trek: First Contact movie still images, sounds, and even videos, go to:

<http://www.hai-maps.com/marcweb/st8.htm>

Yet another Star Trek: First Contact Site, find all the rumours and hype about the eighth Star Trek movie at the following site <http://www.cia.com.au/scarfe/stg2>

Latest info on ST8 (with pictures) can be found at <http://www.startrek.in-trier.de/news/st8.html>

You will find much interesting information and if you look around in the same site you will find spoilers on the Voyager and DS9 series.

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/nlhome/g249/heuer004/TREK/movies.txt>

- The story archive website for the alt.startrek.creative newsgroup is <http://www.Token.net/~trekindex/>

- For a list of the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition try: <http://gold.acns.fsu.edu/~jnk5842/rules.html>

- Many Photos from the Stargazer-Con in the Royal Albert Hall are here: <http://www.tu-berlin.de/~gruhlke/forum/con/>

- For more information on the Bajorans, the religion and other matters check out the Bajoran Archive and Encyclopaedia at: <http://www.csv.warwick.ac.uk/~msuej/>

- Shakaar Society announces the launch of their new Web pages at the new location of: <http://www.shakaar.demon.co.uk/>
All the usual projects continue:
o Bajoran Encyclopaedia (excellent for fans

and fan writers)

- o SF&F Episode Guides (one of the biggest selections around)
- o EROS Voting System (now with a easy voting form)
- o Card Game Resources (expanding by the month)
- And new resources now available :
 - o Top 5 Sites of the Month (nominate a site today)
 - o UK Special Store Directory (help build this valuable resource)

• Wil Wheaton fans should check out the Wil Wheaton Web Page at-
<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/1725/>

• Larry Nemechek's column is available at Starland Online <http://starland.com>.

• The September 1996 release of Fandom Directory's on-line edition is now available at <http://members.aol.com/fandata>.

• Brent Spiner, WWW
<http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~ti3y-itu/indexj.html>

• The Official Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corps (KIDC) Domain and Website, which is located at <http://www.klingon.org> has just received its 5th Web Award on its third month anniversary!

• Captain Kirk's Singalong Page has moved to www.loskene.com/singalong/kirk.html
 Hear sound clips from Mr. Shatner. Nimoy, Spiner, Stewart, Doohan and Ms. Nichols.

• A multitude of Star Trek fiction can be found at the following web site:
<http://aviary.share.net/~alara>
 The stories are listed according to series and content. There is also an "adult" section so parental supervision may be required.

[Sources of information include Ruben Macias' Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet, rec.arts.startrek.current/fanfandom.]



HAILING ZINE READERS

With the demise of the IDIC newsletter (sob!) I'm not sure where I shall find out what's new in the small-but-select world of fan fiction. And I do enjoy zines. So, I propose to produce An Idiosyncratic Review, at least once - whether it survives longer than that will depend on just how many of you are interested. We shall see.

Thus far, my intention is to include the following:

- (a) "Credo" - brief articles, opinion or information, on eg what constitutes a good zine
- (b) "Let's see what's out there" - zine ads
- (c) "Magnify" - reviews of currently-available zines
- (d) "Traders" - brief reviews of older zines plus ads for second-hand zines

I hope that A.I.R. will expand to include a "Debate" section for readers' opinions.

Okay so far? Right! Then let me urge you to contribute.

If you publish and/or sell zines, do send me your advertising copy.

If you have bought a new zine recently, whether you loved it, hated it, or fell somewhere in between, how about writing a review? Please bear in mind the following guidelines:

- no more than 500 words, please
- you are writing for The Reader (aka The Purchaser) so be honest
 - be as specific as you can about what you liked/disliked
 - be entertaining if you can, but not at the expense of truth
- no pseudonyms (if you can't put your name to it, don't write it)
- no reviews of any zine in which you have an interest (ie contributor/editor etc)
- include a rating (one to five stars)
- let me have details of where to obtain the zine, and its price.

If there is an older zine which you can heartily recommend, please write up to 150

words about it (we'll stick to praise for the first issue). Or, if you have second-hand zines to sell, send in your ad.


All copy to:
Penny Robinson
13 Greenacres
Leverstock Green
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 4LX

or, if you possibly can, e.mail me at
100630.352@compuserve.com

Deadline for first issue: 10th November 1996.

Now then. If you want to READ this reviewzine, please send me an sae. A.I.R. will be free first time round; if it looks likely to continue I will let you know about future cost, issue frequency and so forth.

I hope this strikes a welcome chord with some of you, and look forward to hearing from you.

Penny Robinson 

ANSWERS

DS9 Quiz Answers

1. O'Brien - "She's flower units about the boy herself."
- Dax - "I'm sorry Benjamin, I'm unable to foolish assemble regal control weather."
- Jake - "Left become better control entire hope."
- Dr Bashir - "Computer replay morning, Glass judge obin teletik."
- Cmdr Sisko - "All right you can cross barrels alljob aballed, red the arrived seen earlier."
- Major Kira - "I'll be in Ops if you need me use the string impact, lotshe red intense."
2. Dekon Elig.
3. Built directly into the food at a molecular level.
4. Tosk (Odo counts as well).
5. Ibudan
6. Gaming.
7. Zek.
8. His cousin.
9. Croden.
10. Vantica.
11. Vantica injects his neural energy into Bashir's gleanal cells using a microscopic generator.
12. Ty Kajada.
13. Kleastron Four.
14. Saratoga.
15. Bloody Hell!
16. He makes Bashir think he needs rest, a lot of rest.
17. Tahna Los.
18. Clothier.
19. Silk lingerie from Crpouse five.

20. Telling the story of his doctor's exam .

Spockspeare Answers

- 1 The Merchant of Venice. 2 Twelfth Night. 3 As You Like It. 4 A Winter's Tale. 5 A Comedy of Errors. 6 A Midsummer Night's Dream. 7 The Merry Wives of Windsor. 8 Measure for Measure. 9 All's Well That End's Well

At The Pictures - Answers

1. Dirty Harry. 2. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? 3. Miracle on 36th Street. 4. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. 5. Dangerous Moonlight. 6. Some Like it Hot. 7. Ghost. 8. Cleopatra. 9. Kind Hearts and Coronets. 10. The Wizard of Oz. 11. Fatal Attraction. 12. The Great Escape. 13. The Sound of Music. 14. Sense and Sensibility. 15. All the President's Men. 16. Twelve Angry Men. 17. Ice Cold in Alex. 18. Midnight Cowboy. 19. Dr No. 20. Santa Claus Conquers the Martians. 21. True Grit.

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



THE JOY MACHINE by James Gunn
Pocket Books 80 £4.99

From an outline by Theodore Sturgeon
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Timshel was *the* planet for shore leave, *the* planet for people wanting a holiday in idyllic surroundings; but it suddenly cut itself off from the outside galaxy. Two Federation agents sent to find out why disappeared; now the Enterprise has been sent to Timshel to see if Kirk and his crew can succeed where trained agents have failed.

The answer is simple; Timshel has been taken over by the Joy Machine, a technology that guarantees every hard-working, law-abiding citizen "payday" - in the form of a few moments of complete, total pleasure at regular intervals. And the Joy Machine has as its ultimate aim the giving of this total pleasure to everyone in the galaxy.

The original story was submitted by Ted Sturgeon as an outline for an episode of TOS in the sixties; it so happened that Allan Asherman had a copy of the outline, and Paramount, having cleared it with Mr Sturgeon's heirs, gave permission for Mr Gunn to develop the outline into a novel.

I'd been rather looking forward to reading this book since I first heard about it, but I have to admit that I was slightly disappointed by it. The Joy Machine, and William Shatner's "drug" Tek seem to have some points in common, though I'm sure it is just a coincidence, one with which I didn't have any problem. Part of the trouble, I think, is that knowing its background, I kept thinking of it as a novelisation of a script; and Kirk spends a great part of the book separated from the rest of his crew, interacting with the "guest" characters. Although Spock, McCoy, Uhura and Scott make an appearance, that is virtually all it is.

I got a bit bogged down in the middle of the book; it felt to me as if Mr Gunn was struggling to meet the required word count.

The characters seemed to be going around in circles and not really getting anywhere. There were a lot of things that I thought could have been developed more that were really only just hinted at - for example, the native marine species, the wampus.

And I didn't feel that the motivations of the character Marouk were examined as fully as they might have been, even though by the end I could understand them. Of course, an outline for a 50-minute script would have a lot less detailed development than one would normally expect from a 270-page book. A lot of the Bantam novels (now being reprinted as Star Trek Adventures) came in at under 200 pages, and I think this one would have been improved by being kept to that length; it would have made for a tighter story.

I have to admit to some amusement, though, near the end, by the behaviour of the policeman who keeps appearing at intervals throughout the book. Definitely a man with a one track mind!

So, basically I enjoyed the book while feeling that some of the middle section didn't do much to advance the story. 7 out of 10.

THE LAST (SOB!) CIC VIDEO REVIEWS -
by Christopher Howell

ST:DEEP SPACE NINE Volume 4.7

Crossfire sees Edon Shakaar, the Bajoran First Minister, arrive on DSN to negotiate with the Federation for Bajor's early admittance. However, news reaches Odo about the Cardassian terrorist group, 'The True Way', and their plans to kill Shakaar, and so security is stepped up, which leads to Odo watching Kira and Shakaar falling in love....

Once again Rene Auberjonois proves just what a damn good actor he is. His performance allows the audience to share his pain and frustration as he watches Kira and Shakaar become an item. The way this

romance effected Odo and his work seemed very realistic at times, and the scene between Quark and the Constable where the Ferengi uses his profits as an excuse to hide the fact that he is helping a friend is great. The question is, how long will the Kira/Shakaar romance last? 8/10

'I'm afraid I know even less about relationships, then I do about politics' Odo ST:DSN Crossfire

Return to Grace is the first episode to follow up on the events in *WOTWarrior*, and is also the sequel to *Indiscretion*. Gul Dukat, demoted to Freighter Captain once news of his daughter reached Cardassia, arrives at DSN to escort Kira to a Cardassian/Bajoran conference. Once there, they discover the venue has been destroyed by a Bird-of-Prey, which decloaks before them....

There's been a quite a few excursions from DSN in the last two years, and Grace is up there with the best of them. The dialogue between Kira and Dukat is very believable - Kira ready to help Dukat, but not ready to forgive him, and the Gul himself who has to come to terms with the damage done to his career and his people. Add a generous helping of action, the presence of Zora Ziyal and a new direction for father and daughter, and in all I would grace this with 9/10. By the way, Marc Alaimo's character is right about one thing - he and Kira *do* make an good team....

'I'm a much more complicated man than you give me credit for....' Dukat ST:DSN *Return to Grace*

ST:DEEP SPACE NINE Volume 4.8

Sons of Mogh reunites Worf with his younger brother, Kurn (Tony Todd), who has been paying the price for Worf's decision to stand against Gowron in *WOTWarrior*. Kurn has been kicked out of the High Council, all family titles, land and ships have been taken away and most importantly, Kurn has no honor. He knows a way of regaining that however, and upon arriving at DSN asks Worf to kill him....

didn't want to kill Worf, *Sons of Mogh* is a interesting story. For the thousand time, Worf gets criticized by a fellow Klingon for living amongst Humans, but this time it's member of his family that's dishing out that criticism, which results in a surprising and controversial conclusion - one which Tony Todd was *not* happy with. *Sons* also features some flirting between Dax and Worf (suggested to the Producers by Terry Farrell). The 'B' story merges into the main plot, and plays on the new relationship between the Federation and the Klingon Empire - no more Mr. Nice Guys.....8/10

'....I'm already dead to my people, and so are you, but you don't care....' Kurn ST:DSN *Sons of Mogh*

Bar Association is directed by LeVar Burton. Rom and the rest of Quark's employees have finally had enough of their harsh working conditions and after Quark announces an 1/3 cut in pay, Rom and Co. take action. They form a union - outlawed in Ferengi society - and when Quark laughs off their demands, Rom urges his fellow employees to go on strike. While Quark runs the Bar by himself, himself and himself, Rom stands firm, forcing the Ferengi Commerce Authority to despatch Brunt (from *Family Business*) to DSN with orders to stop the strike....

Max Grodenchik's character has developed throughout the last 4 years. Early on, Rom was someone for Quark to blame everything on, but in *Necessary Evil* and *Our Man Bashir* he shows off his engineering skills, and in *Bar Association* he shows his determination to get what he wants and lead his own life. The result is another of DSN's guest characters getting a new direction, and I look forward to his next appearance. The 'B' story focuses on Worf adjusting to life on board the station and features some nice moments with Odo, O'Brien and Dax. 7/10

'...It won't happen, unless you make it happen.....' Rom ST:DSN *Bar Association*

While I was a bit surprised that Kurn

VOYAGER 2.7


The lost starship encounters some debris from a destroyed ship, and while investigating Torres realizes that it's all her fault - while in the Maquis, she reprogrammed a Cardassian 'Smart' missile (formerly meant to attack the Maquis) and gave it a new mission, to attack a Cardassian Fuel Depot. Now, *Dreadnought*, thanks to the Caretaker, is in the Delta Quadrant and has locked onto Rakosa Prime, a populated planet, believing it to be the location of a Cardassian Fuel Depot...

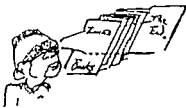
Aggrah! Another story with a link to the Alpha Quadrant. Fortunately that's the only real flaw with *Dreadnought*, another 44 minute showcase for Roxann Biggs-Dawson. The story builds up nicely, with the smart missile proving to be pretty...er, smart, and events lead to a duel between the Chief Engineer and her own programming. It's also nice to see Voyager making friends, a valuable commodity in this region of space. Meanwhile, Paris's erratic behavior is getting noticed by his colleagues and someone is keeping the Kazon informed of current events...8/10

'You are participating in the Delta Quadrant deception.....' *Dreadnought* ST:Voy

Deathwish features the return of Q in Voyager's most hyped episode so far. The crew accidentally free a member of the continuum who wants to die (Q2) - he has been there, seen it, done it etc, and he wants to end his life to relieve the boredom. Before he can do this, the TNG 'Q' arrives, determined to stop Q2. After a cat and mouse game between the 2 super-beings which almost destroys the ship, Janeway holds a hearing to decide if Q2 should be made mortal so he can commit suicide.....

Aggrah! Another story with a link - oh forget it....I liked this, a lot. *Deathwish* is probably the most serious Q story to date, but still manages to raise a smile now and again. Shawn Piller's (son of Exec. Producer Michael) story not only examines the question of assisted suicide but also gives us an explanation for Q's childlike behavior in TNG. We also get a brilliant first look at the Q continuum, a visit from Commander Riker and the *real* story behind Sir Isaac Newton's famous discovery. As ever, John de Lancie is perfect as Q, and special mention goes to Gerrit Graham who is well cast as Q2. I liked this, a lot....10/10

'Captain, you're an explorer, imagine if you had nothing left to explore.....' Q2 



ZINE REVIEWS

NUMBER ONE II Published by Orion Press, 176 A4 pages, \$20 inc p&p.
Reviewed by Anne-Marie Flowers

Number One II is (surprise, surprise!) a Riker fanzine written and illustrated by BEKi, a major-league Frakes fanatic and one-woman wonder.

The ten stories she has produced here certainly live up to the Orion Press ad, providing 'humour, action and psychological drama'. My favourites were:

The Road not Taken, which is a sequel to 'Parallels' but is set in the universe where

Riker defeated the Borg by annihilating Locutus. This story explores Will's feelings after seeing Picard alive and well in another timestream.

The Mark of Cain is an alternate reality story where, at the end of 'Second Chances' Tom sees an opportunity to get back at Will. I found this one interesting not only because Will's life hangs in the balance but because we see him struggling to make sense of his 'brother's' actions and finally coming to realise that he might have acted the same way. But will he forgive, that is the question?

The Captain's Son is an extremely well

written action story set in the future where Riker is captain of the Enterprise, married to Troi and struggling to get to know his bastard son, Reevus, the half-human mis-fit he reluctantly rescued from Malkore III.

The Last Goodbye is a bit of a weepie and certainly brought a lump to my throat. Tom Riker is in a Cardassian prison but he is allowed to speak with Troi as a last request. "I love you, I always have and I always will. Tell Jean-Luc goodbye for me and tell Wes ..." Hang on a minute! Jean-Luc? Wes?! Who is this guy? We've seen a lot of Shakespeare on Star Trek but here BEKi gives us a taste of Dickens.

I am not a Riker groupie but I think any TNG fan would enjoy this zine. BEKi certainly has a handle on Riker's character and I loved her exploration of his relationships with the crew and with Troi and Picard in particular. I give this one 8 out of 10.

CHILDREN OF THE SUN by Gloria Fry
Reviewed by Joan Foxley

This story is almost entirely based around Kirk and Spock who are abducted from their shuttlecraft. They are stranded on an unknown planet and must not only cope with the alien environment but must rely on their instinctive reactions and the strength of their friendship in order to survive.

The first few chapters are concerned with how Kirk and Spock are reunited and come to terms with their new circumstances. Kirk discovers he can communicate telepathically with a "changed" Spock and they soon realise that they are being tested. Much of the remaining story deals with their adventures together while they try to locate and identify those responsible, and effect their return to the Enterprise.

Once the scene is set we are given gradually extending insights into the abductors, who by their conversations are revealed as being powerful but amoral, and after interfering with their world's cultures are even regarded as gods by others on the planet. From the start it is clear that the

ruling council is split. The majority, who believe that experimentation is an effective and acceptable path to the goal of verifying the UFP's motivation, allow by their overwhelming interest the testing to exceed that needed to fulfil their original aims. They are vying with a minority which is almost Vulcan-like in its ethics, and some of whom, believing that the test is wrong and has already gone too far, eventually assist Kirk and Spock.

During their adventures Kirk and Spock are helped by other inhabitants of the planet and are incorporated into their folk memories to become the "Children" of the title.

This is an allegorical tale with strong parallels to the way the human race behaves today towards what it regards as lesser species. As is usual with this author, the character interaction is excellent with some good humorous interludes. There are short explanatory titles to the well paced chapters and a good peppering of twists and cliff-hangers to leave the reader eager to continue.

There is excellent artwork by Maggie Symon, Raymond Sless and Joanna McGrory. Kirk fans will love the back cover of this zine.


Children of the Sun - (96 pages, A4 format, heat-bound spine) by Gloria Fry is available, price £5.50, from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort St, Glasgow G41 3XG

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED by Kay Stagg
Reviewed by Waltraud Zucha-Glass

There has already been a very favourable review of this zine in the IDIC newsletter by Jean Sloan; while I totally agree with her on this delightful story, I think that perhaps I might add some thoughts, starting with Jean's finishing statement - yes, this is an utterly enjoyable zine. It is delightful to follow the storyline through its manyfold surprising twists and turns; one can feel the true storyteller at work here, spinning her tale with ease and competence - and realism. There's nobody like Kay Stagg for straightforward, honest, down-to-earth storytelling, which makes her stories so refreshingly realistic.

In this zine, Kay creates a very plausible world of politics and intrigue, with Klingons, secret weapons, and dangerous landing party duties thrown together to form a complex plot. However, we zine readers are usually more concerned with Kirk and Spock than with the independence of Planet X - and here Kay is at her best, as usual. Her characterisations ring entirely true, like in a good old episode. It is delightful to read all

the authentic dialogues and watch the character interplay between Kirk, Spock and McCoy. And the swimming match at the beginning is sheer indulgence for the readers!

Mission Accomplished (as well as many other excellent stories) available from Kay Stagg, 33 Barrack Rd, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6RU, England. 

ZINE ADS

"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.

Zine Flyer - for a more detailed list of available zines send an SAE plus an extra 25p stamp to Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

Scotpress/IDIC

Anyone who would like information on forthcoming zines please leave an SAE with Sheila, indicating whether you want TOS zines, TNG, or both. We also hope to have a DS9 zine (Station Log) out fairly soon - if you are interested in this, please send a separate SAE marked DS9. We won't be going ahead with this zine unless there is a reasonable amount of interest shown. For lists of zines in print and second-hand zines (Guide Dog list) send SAE to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, DD3 0PH

Note: If you have an email address you can email Janet at janetq@post.almac.co.uk and ask to be added to the zine update list. You will then be sent details of all new zines we publish.

All zines A5, UK Price includes postage. Rest of Europe add £0.50 per zine.

UNCHAINED MEMORIES by Nicole Comtet - the last part of the Spock/T'Kahalin trilogy begun in Return to the Source and Blow Black. £2.90

IDIC LOG 19 - short stories, featuring a rewrite of Generations by Jacqueline

Comben. £2.80

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 94 - Kirk learns the consequences of breaking the Prime Directive; Kirk and Spock become friends; Joanna McCoy arrives on board... married to Spock; Uhura arranges a party; others. £2.55

MAKE IT SO 26 - TNG genzine featuring Let Us Prey by Christine Carr. There is a serious problem on Exa III. £2.55

Many other zines available. Send SAE for full list with description. Titles are - Enterprise-Log Entries 82, 86 - 89 (A4), 92, 93 & 94 (A5); IDIC Log 4 - 15 (A4), 17 & 18 (A5); Make It So 6, 8 - 13 (A4), 25 (A5); Capriccio Italien by Sue Jones; Lovely - a Little Problem by Brenda Kelsey; Orcadia by Joyce Devlin and a few other titles where there are fewer than 10 copies left.

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.

As Bill Hupe has now given up handling zines all foreign enquiries should be sent to Sheila. Please enclose an SAE and 2 IRCs.

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.

BJO TRIMBLE'S SCI-FI SPOTLIGHT

A bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Sample copy \$3 USA, \$4 elsewhere. Subscription Rates for 6 issues:

USA \$15. Make cheques/money orders payable to: 8000-Trekker. Bjo Trimble's Sci-Fi Spotlight, c/o 800-Trekker, P.O. Box, 13131, Reading PA 19612-3131 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, 21365 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.

Bjo needs regular writers for every subject covered in Sci-Fi Spotlight. She does not need a whole page on every subject - 1 page is the maximum, half a column is more usual - but does need the column written by someone who knows the subject. For example, Sci-Fi Spotlight currently has very little on horror. (If the article is too long, Bjo can/will edit to length.) Send Bjo a self-addressed envelope and 2 IRCs for an info sheet on what she needs.

New Zines by Gloria Fry

CHILDREN OF THE SUN Kirk and Spock are stranded on an unknown planet where they face many dangers. They must search for those who brought them there and find some way of returning to the Enterprise. A4 96 pages. UK £5.50. Europe £6.50 or (£5+3 IRCs). Art by Maggie Symon, Raymond Sless and Joanna McGrory includes gorgeous portraits of Kirk, Spock and aliens.

SLAVEWORLD - Third Printing: On an alien planet where the humanoid population are subjugated by vulcanoids, Kirk is captured by slave-traders and sold to a brutal owner. Spock disguises himself as a member of the ruling class in an attempt to rescue his captain. A4 88 pages. UK £5.50. Europe - as above. **WARNING: ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICIT THIS STORY CONTAINS ADULT THEMES. ONLY SUITABLE FOR READERS OVER 16.** Art by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless includes lovely portraits of Kirk, Spock and the villain, Lord Zuma.

THESE AND OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW G41 3XG, Scotland.

LORE AND DISORDER is a forthcoming gezine dedicated to the antics of our favourite Interstellar bad boy, with artwork by Julie Evans, Susan Gallagher and Heike Huebner, and award-winning fiction by Christine Carr. For more details and ordering information, please write to Sara Jackson, 584 York Rd, Killingbeck, Leeds LS14 6AD, W Yorks, or Julie Evans, Flat 1, 31 Newsham Dr, Liverpool L6 7UG

FREE GROPE. In the 70s and early 80s the GROPE series was probably the best known adult Trekzine in the UK and also enjoyed a strong following in the USA. The following issues are available free for postage (75p in UK stamps) - **BEDSIDE GROPE** (1981); **GRAVESIDE GROPE** (1983). Some earlier issues are also available at £1.50 each: **GROPE FLASHBACK** (reprints from GROPE and MORE GROPE (1976)); **DEEP GROPE** (1977); **SON OF GROPE** (1977); **KING GROPE** (1988) from Ann Looker, 12 Russell St, Swansea, W Glamorgan SA1 4HR. (Not for under 18s. Age statement please when ordering).

FREE ALNITAH. Another golden oldie and winner of "Best UK Trek Fanzine" award on several occasions in the 70s and early 80s, ALNITAH is a general Trek fiction zine with high quality printing and good illustrations. It is available for postage only (75p in UK stamps) from Joyce Cluett, Antilah, 40 Lordsfield Gardens, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 3EW. Availability of any particular issue cannot be guaranteed as early ALNITAHs are long out of print. (NB - the house name is not a misprint - just a private joke!) Send SAE to Joyce for full info on availability.

AIRWAVES: a computer printed multi-media zine, photocopied. Issue 43 now available. Issue 44 out in October. SASE (or 2 IRCs) for 10 page comprehensive flyer of contents, prices. Submissions wanted for future issues, any TV topic, spoofs or cross-overs especially wanted. Submissions also needed for **THROUGH THE IMAGING CHAMBER**, a

new "QUANTUM LEAP" zine - issue 1 contains standard leaps, issue 2 (with Sam leaping into other TV characters) currently in preparation. Stories so far include the A-Team), Randall & Hopkirk (Deceased!) and The X-Files. The main QL limitations (leaping within Sam's life-time) don't necessarily need to apply with the cross-overs - he's journeying through the Imaging Chamber (in other words, the television) and could become anyone in any time, from any TV show. No limits as to the length of story but no slash material, please. Work can be submitted on disc PCW (3" - 180k or 3.5" 720k). Compatible with PCs using 720k, (but please store files as ASCII). PC's using 1.44Mb drives can read from/write to 720k discs - I can supply a formatted 720k disk if you don't have one available. Manuscripts (typed if possible, otherwise CLEAR handwriting) will be returned if requested, discs by return of post. Send to: Miss B Callaghan, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

Lindsey J Shelton

MON CHER JEAN-LUC - A Picard-orientated zine containing a variety of stories, the longest being Eternal Moonlight. After being contacted by an unknown ship, Picard is abducted by a vampire-like race, the Voiyoc. When the Enterprise finally catches up with them, they find their captain a very changed man. UK price £5.50; Europe, add 2 irls, please. Suitable for all readers.

MON CHER JEAN-LUC: The Special Edition - Contains all the above plus four "adult" tales. **WARNING** - some contain explicit material and one explores a dominant/submissive scenario. This edition will not knowingly be sold to anyone under 18. An age statement must accompany all orders. UK price £7.50

LOVE AT FIRST Q - While reminiscing over his encounters with the Enterprise, Q realises the true reason behind his fascination with Humanity. Now taking female form, Q embarks on a campaign to prove to Picard the depths of her feelings. (Some scenes are adult in nature but not explicit.) A sloppy romance. UK price £4.00.

All zines are A4 format and prices include P&P. I am currently setting up a free mailing list service for anyone who would like to

receive up-to-date flyers on future zines. For further information on any of the above write to me, Lindsey J Shelton, at 94 Parkes St, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B67 6BH. Live long and prosper!

Peg Kennedy

Many zines that were available from Bill Hupe, plus a lot of new ones, will now be available through Peg. For the moment, at least, this does not include ScoTpress/IDIC zines. Self-addressed envelope & 2 IRCs for list. Peg Kennedy, New Leaf Productions, 413B 19th St Suite 121, Lynden, WA 98264, USA. Email firefox@nas.com

Village Press

HEROES IN THE WILDERNESS - a blockbuster new K/S zine from Village Press (double issue, approx 200 pages reduced print). All new stories from Patricia Roe, Jenna Sinclair, Eva Stuart, Jane Carnall and new writer Katherine, with art by AH. Scandal threatens the integrity of Starfleet and the honour of two Captains; murder on the Enterprise - who put something nasty in the Ambassador's squushi? A tale of poison and pasta; after Khitomer - Spock is the centre of attention but what is left for an ageing Admiral?; The Enterprise brings new life to a dying world and Kirk begins a voyage of self-discovery; Vulcan, a harsh planet where humans are research animals. Heroes in the Wilderness is in the final stages of production and should be ready in the autumn; UK price approx £9.50; send SAE for notification of ready date and final price.


To readers and all those interested in Enterprise '97 (C.C), to keep in touch please send an SAE. Mrs Rosemary Wild, Cwm Croesor, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 2HG

Genzines by Kay Staggs

Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques payable to Kay Staggs and send order to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. P & P (second class) included in the price. If order from Europe, please send an IRC for information on cost.

NEW ZINE - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - A complete story. Routine life on the Enterprise is disrupted when Kirk and his crew are sent to an uninhabited planet. They

are ordered to search for a missing shuttle and its occupants, a Federation Ambassador and the leader of a peace movement. From then on, both Kirk and Spock are in continual danger from primitive natives, Klingons and an unpreventable civil war. 197 pages, £6.80. Still available: **LIFELINE** etc, 138 pp, £4.800; **TOO MANY AVENUES** 171 pp £5.25; In

PERSPECTIVE 177pp £5.25; **FREEDOM** (few left, once sold this zine will be out of print) 167 pp £5; **SECOND CHANCE** etc, £3.50 **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT** 3.75. Also available **Legends** - stories by Waltraud Zucha-Glass & Jennifer Cobbing, 93 pp £4. 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

Conventions



FAN CONVENTION DIARY - a fan production funded by voluntary contribution. It is completely independent of any fan group or organisation, and exists to provide details of conventions and similar events throughout the year. The diary lists both Star Trek and other media conventions. Send an SAE for a copy to Anne Page, 30 Fellowes Way, Broadway, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8BW.

MIDCON 15. Europe's longest running Star Trek Convention. October 4th-6th, 1996. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Confirmed guest, Chase Mastersen (Leeta, DS9). For details send SAE to: Midcon 15, 54 Campion Way, Sherringham, Norfolk, NR26 8UN. England. Please note new address.

ASSIMILATION - The Double Main Event at the Britannia Hotel, Daventry. 11th - 14th October 1996. Guests so far: Andrew Robinson (Garek - DS9), Jason Carter (Marcus Colc - Babylon 5), with more guests to be added. Full Reg £35, other rates available. SAE to Allanah Scott, 101 Shaftesbury Ave., South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0PP.

NORCON 16-17 November 1996. Everglade Hotel, Derry City, Co, London. N. Ireland. Theme: 30 years of Star Trek Fandom. SAE for info to Norcon, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon Town Co. Clare, Ireland.

CHRISTMAS STAR TREK SPECIAL (Stargazer Productions) 7th and 8th December 1996. Wembley Arena, London. As a prequel to the 10th anniversary of the Next Generation and celebrating the release of the 8th Star Trek movie: live on Stage, cast members of "Star Trek The Next Generation". Standard seating £25 per day; privileged seating £35 per day + £3.50 administration cost. If tickets purchased for both days then a 10% discount is applied. For more information Phone 0891 517037 (calls cost 39p per min cheap rate and 49p per min at all other times in the U.K. or write to: Stargazer Productions International Ltd, 4 Aspenwood House, Ipsley street, Redditch B98 7AR.

PEGASUS '97 Star Trek/Science Fiction Convention. 31st Jan - 2nd Feb 1997. Hilton National Hotel, Coventry. Charity - Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Confirmed guest Dennis Ashton. Others to be announced. Events include videos, talks, competitions. Full Adult Registration £30. Reduced rates for child and day registrations. Special Accommodation rates for weekend. Send SAE for info to Pegasus '97, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 1RZ.

3rd ANNUAL STAR FLEET BALL 14 - 16 February 1997. Bournemouth Moat House Hotel. Three days of Guest Speakers, quizzes, huge dealers room and to cap it a three course meal, cabaret and epic disco. Contact Anne Lindup, Five Elms, Holtwood, Nr Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 7DT
WWW: <http://whirligig.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~shd94/index.html>

WOLF 359 THE MISSION (The 43 British Star Trek Convention) 2nd - 5th May 1997 Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Registration: Adult Full £40.00, 2 Day £28.50, 1 day £17.00. Child (7-14 yrs) Full £23.00, 2 Day £17.50, 1 day £10.00. Registration closes on 25 April 1997. Wolf 359, 141 Waarden Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9BE.

MERIDIAN 2, 6th-8th June 1997, in Hamburg, Germany. Confirmed guests: Andrew J Robinson, Bjo Trimble. Further guests to be announced. For information send SASE to Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany

CONTINUUM, The Scottish Star Trek Convention, 28 - 30 June 1997 at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel. 50th Anniversary. They're back! First, Roswell, New Mexico, 1947. Now, Glasgow, Scotland, 1997 - Continuum are proud to present confirmed guests Armin Shimerman & Max Grodenchik (Quark & Rom) (subject to work commitments). Registration rates £40. All proceeds to charity. For details contact Continuum, P.O.Box 3822, Thornliebank, Glasgow G46 8LE.

NEXUS 97 4th-6th July 1997 Star Trek & Science Fiction Convention, The Forte Posthouse, Bristol. Organised by BSFR and the British Astronomical Society. Guests: Richard Arnold, Tim Gaskill, Steve Parkinson (Bristol Exploratory). Programme includes videos, science programme, model exhibition, dealers' rooms, Saturday evening Fancy Dress competition and disco. plus lots more. Registration £40 until 1/2/97, then £42 Full weekend - other rates available. For SAE for full details including room rates to Nexus 97, 26 Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PQ.

TEROK NOR (44th British Star Trek Convention. 22nd - 25th August 1997, The Radisson Edwardian, London. Registration (in advance): Adult Full £35.00, 2 Day £25.00, 1 day £15.00. Child (under 16) Full £17.00, 2 Day £12.50, 1 day £7.50. Registration (on door): Adult Full £38.00, 2 Day £27.00, 1 day £16.00. Child (under 16) Full £23.50, 2 Day £13.50, 1 day £8.00. Hotel rates (Edwardian): single £43 pppn, twin/double £36 pppn;

triple £30 pppn. Guest talks, Spacious Dealers Rooms, Theme Parties, Games, Quizzes, Disco, club room, panels and discussion groups, Large Video rooms. The Hotel is 5 star with every modern convenience including full en suite facilities and lissauer complex. SAE for info to Terok Nor, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

VIENNA CON '97: Oct 17th - 19th, 1997 at the Austrotel, Vienna. Guests: Richard Arnold, actors from both TNG and Classic. Registration rates: - Oct 15th, 1996 ATS 1000,-, - May 15th 1997 ATS 1.100,- thereafter ATS 1.200,- Information and registration: Galactic Friendship c/o Karin Embacher, Krottenbachstr. 104/2/3, A-1190 Wien, Austria.

OTHER EVENTS

CULT TV 1996 25th - 28th October 1996. Venue: Haven Action Centre, Caister, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Registration: £34 before 30/4/1996, £39 between 1/5/96 and 31/8/96, £44 between 1/9/96 and 21/10/96. Cult TV covers many TV programmes including: Star Trek, Babylon 5, The X-Files, VR5, Sliders, The Avengers, Dr Who, Red Dwarf, Blake's Seven, Q Leap, and The Prisoner. For more information send an email to me at 101330,2476. Please include your postal address. Send your name and address to Cult TV 1996 (CIS), PO Box 1701, Peterborough PE1 1EX

THE SIXTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 8th-10th, 1966, at the Stakis (Victoria) Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. Registration fee £25.00. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

WHO'S 7 STRIKES BACK (WHO'S 7 1996) 26/27 October 1996 at the Ashford International Hotel, Ashford, Kent. Full registration £45 - supporting £20.00. Guests (subject to work commitments): Gareth Thomas, Paul Darrow, Sylvester McCoy, Sophie Aldred, Sally Knyvette & Martin

Bowere. 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.

SF AND FANTASY TV FESTIVAL - FAN EVENT! 22nd/24th November, 1996

As part of the Folkestone and Boulogne International Film Festival, there is to be a whole weekend dedicated to television SF and fantasy. This will take place over the weekend of the 23rd/24th November, 1996 in Folkestone, England. The weekend will kick off on the evening of Friday 22nd November when *all* attendees will be taken through the Channel Tunnel to view a major SF film at Cite Europe, the brand new Gaumont cinema complex just outside Calais.

Our confirmed guests for the weekend so far are Ed Wasser (B5), Max Grodenchik (DS9), Lolita Fatjo, Eric Stillwell, Diane Duane and Peter Morwood. More will follow!

This is a *fan run* event in aid of Muscular Dystrophy and CARE, who provide international famine relief. Registration is £40 with accommodation available from £20 per person per night. For more information please email me at fn62@dnial.pipex.com or send snail mail to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2BS.

FANTASTICON U.K. 24 - 26 May 1997. Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Cult TV/Radio. (Star Trek, Star Wars, X Files, B5, Dr Who, Avengers, The Prisoner, Sherlock Holmes etc). Lots of guest actors, authors and scientists. Harrogate International Conference Centre, Harrogate, Yorks. SASE's please to: Fantasticon UK, 38 Planetree Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 9TH.

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

ROOM AVAILABLE in house 20 minutes BR to city of London. Can negotiate price but must be reliable with house and 2 cats. Liz Tuckett, 14 Little Oxcroft, Laindon, Essex S15 6NP.

Calling all Star Trek fans. I'm looking to write to fans like myself from around the globe, who share my love for all things sci-fi. Star Trek is my main love, but I'm also interested in Babylon 5, Alien Nation, The X-Files, and mostly anything to do with fantasy and science fiction. I'm also a semi computer buff. I'm 23 years old, but I am looking to write to fans of all ages. I'd love to hear from anyone and I will answer all replies. 'Qapla. Kim Bonella, 100 Helmsdale Ave, Kirkton, Dundee DD3 0NW, Scotland.

Penpal list! Send your ad to S'Talisha, 46 Broughton Rd, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2RP, England. For a copy of the list send: UK 2 second class stamps; rest of Europe, 2 International Reply Coupons; rest of world, 3 IRCs (buy from Post Office). List currently (Sept 96) has 114 listings, male/female age 11 - 54 from 26 countries worldwide, including 43 SF fans. Any queries? UK - send SAE; elsewhere, send 1 IRC (or no reply!).



ADVERTS



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

FOR SALE - TNG CIC videos, only played once. £6 per tape including p&p or £5 per tape for anyone able to collect in Glasgow or Dundee. Willing to consider offers for multiple tapes. Please enclose an SAE with offers or for list of available tapes. Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

FOR SALE - Zines for sale AND wanted - both "/" and genzines in the following: Classic Trek, Man from Uncle, Starsky & Hutch, Professionals, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, multi-media etc. Good range of prices. For list please send SAE to Gill Gaffikin, 128 Cygnet Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0DT.

FOR SALE - All Good Things Special Edition Video, in perfect condition, only played twice - Offers. Also IDIC newsletters. Please contact Michael Johnson, 30 Grosvenor Street, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 5NA.

FOR SALE - Many K/S and genzines. Please send an SAE to Marilyn Prew, 54 Beaulieu Gdns, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 0CB or ring 01252 874996 between 6 - 6.30 pm or Sunday before 11 am. Age statement required.

FOR SALE - 'Zines TOS - gen and K/S. SAE and age statement where appropriate to Catherine Carter, 39 North Lodge Avenue, Harrogate HG1 3HX

FOR SALE - K/S Zines: (DA, KSX2, NT, Nome, Icefire, Thrust, TY, SoG, a.m.). ST Gen (Kraith, GD3, Spockanalia, Plaktow, a.m.) On the Double, Treklink, Multimedia Slash & Gen, NG, DS9, B7. WG, FK, HK, some odds +ABBS. SAE + \$1 or IRC (USA 2 IRCs) for list. A Maether, Parkstr. 15, 32105 Bad Salzufen, Germany.

FOR SALE - K/S zines. SAE for list to Angela Brockett, 18 Hertford Ave, East Sheen, London SW14 8EE.

FOR SALE - Original Trek videos - I am selling my CIC Original Series videos, owing to lack of space, plus the first 4 movies. £6 each including postage, or £5 each if collected. Helen White, Blewbury, Oxfordshire (midway between Oxford & Reading) Tel (01235) 850483 between 6.30 and 9.30 pm.

FOR SALE - Zines - genzines and K/S. For list please send SAE to Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholme, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 8HN

FOR SALE - Over 50 Star Trek zines. Mainly UK but some USA. Only about 5 K/S. Plus approx 80 other media zines - UK and USA, "/" and genzines. For list, send a SAE to A M Barkham, 40 St Christophers Gardens, Warwick Rd, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7NS.

FOR SALE - Starburst, TV Zone, DWB, TNG Poster Mags, Data Entries, etc. SAE please. Mrs J Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ

SWAP - BBC videos Blake's 7 Nos 1, 2, 3, 17 & 20 for TNG CIC videos. Ring me with what you have. Glen Parsons, 01209 713534 after 6 pm.

FOR SALE - K/S zines. Please send SAE for list to Roberta Martin, 22 Wilmot St, Bethnal Green, London E2 0BS.

FOR SALE - Original series Star Trek videos released between 1987 - 1990 (1st/2nd seasons). For availability please contact Russell Murdoch at 21 Cartvale Road, Glasgow G42 9TA

WANTED - Does anyone have a spare Pizza Hut Original Series communicator cup? I can swap either a TNG cup or one of the other TOS cups. As my Trek collection is currently in boxes it may be a while before I could actually do the swap, but I can at least make contact! Freda Boydell, 84 Plain an Gwarry, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1HZ

WANTED - Original *first edition* Titan copies of Deep Domain; The Romulan Way; Memory Prime; The Final Nexus; Kobayashi Maru in *mint* condition; also ST:II Distress Calls by William Rostler; ST:III TSFS Storybook and ST:IV TVH Photo Storybook, both by Lawrence Weinberg; Voyage to Adventure by Michael J Dodge; Prisoner of Varga; The Truth Machine both by C Cerf & S Lerner. Can you help? David Gallagher, 21 Hawksmoor St, Fulham, London W6 8EA

WANTED to complete collection - Voyager season 1 series 2 trading cards no 22, 29, 43, 61, 77, S1, S2, S4, S5, S8, S9, R1, R3, R4, R6. Will swap for other cards from same set of for CCG cards; original release (white border) and alternate universe (black border). I

would also like to hear from anyone willing to swap CCG cards. Write to James O Donovan Jnr, 14 Mount Vernon Terrace, St Lukes, Cork, Ireland. Reply guaranteed.

WANTED - I would like to borrow the following episodes from the series 'The Champions' - Project Zeor, Body Snatchers, Happening. Aufwiedershen Pet series 2, episode 5 - A Home from Home. Animated Star Trek - Slaver Weapon. Will pay postage both ways. Also, can anyone tell me how many episodes of Mission Impossible there are? Jason Parker, 18 Maes-y-bryn, Llandissilo, Clynderwen, Dyfed SA66 7SY.

WANTED - Copies of all recent Rawhide episodes shown recently on C4 on Saturdays. Also Manga - Legend of Arsilian part 3 (C4), will supply tapes and postage. Did anyone get any good photos at Fantasticon in LA, especially De Forrest Kelley? Mine was 'misplaced' - good price paid. Harry, 18 East Greenlees Cres., Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX.

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: elmerisdog@mail.bogo.co.uk or TGASKILL@delphi.com
Post: PO BOX 6463, London, N22 4JU
Fax 0181-888-8008.

MISC

STAR TREK WELCOMMITTEE

Few fans realise all that is available in the world of Star Trek: over 300 clubs, 400 fanzines, 200 books, as well as conventions and sales items. That's where the Star Trek Welcomittee (STW) comes in—we can give you information on all this plus more, including Star Trek technology, the Star Trek actors, details on the making of Star Trek (the original series, animated series, the movies, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, and Voyager). Whatever your question about Star Trek, chances are we've got the

answer—or can get it for you. All we ask is an SASE (Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope) for a reply. Write us!

Our address is: Star Trek Welcomittee, PO Box 12, Saranac, MI 48881 USA

The Star Trek Welcomittee (STW) is a service organization and central information center (not a club to join) with about 50 volunteer workers in 36 states and 7 countries. These volunteer workers answer fans' questions about Star Trek and provide fans with complete information about Star Trek and Star Trek fandom. All we ask is an SASE for a reply. Write us!

For those on the Internet see our web page at <http://www.tc.umn.edu/nlhome/g586/both0006/stwhome.htm>

Directory Of Star Trek Organizations

To order: Judy Segal, PO Box 414, Pawling, NY 12564. 20+ pages of clubs, sales items, and publications. \$4 USA, \$5 Canada, \$6 overseas airmail (US funds, please). Please make checks payable to "Star Trek Welcomittee."

British Representative: Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8SX Fax No 01546 606539

Email janetq@post.almac.co.uk

I will do my best to answer any questions, especially those related to fandom in Britain.

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Ever wanted to make your name in Fandom? Well, here's your chance. "Legend", a new club that will set up shortly needs people like you! We need artists, writers, costumers, make-up artists; in fact, fans in general. Anyone who goes to conventions, runs a local club, or is involved in any way in active Fandom could have their article and name in print! For further information on this fantastic opportunity, write to Ben McClelland, 78 Woodward Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8UL, including an SASE (or 2 IRCs if writing from abroad) and details of what you could do, and how you would like to help. NB: This is not paid work, it is entirely voluntary, as we are a non-profit making club.



CLUBS & GROUPS



For a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs; local groups and Star Trek related actor clubs that we know about, write to Janet enclosing at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp.

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

UPDATES

Star Trek Action Group: Membership fee for 6 newsletters: £10.00 UK, £12 for Europe, £15 for USA and Africa, and £15.50 for the rest of the world. For further info and a complimentary newsletter please send 2 second-class postage stamps (or 2 IRCs) to: Lynne Banister, Star Trek Action Group, 49 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3 5AW.

BSFR International Star Trek Club. UK membership £10. Quarterly A5 magazines, featuring news, reviews, interviews, photos and much much more. For further details send an SAE to BSFR, Alan Roberts, 1 Lullington Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2LH.

The Transatlantic Star Trek Federation TTASTF is a fanzine trying to regroup Star Trek from all over the world, a trimestrial newsletter packed with information, reviews, penpals, etc. This is a small club and with IDIC closing down I would like a lot of you to join. I put a lot of effort in this fanzine. Honorary members include Majel Barrett-Roddenberry. The best thing is that the club is basically free; just send 2 IRCs or £1 for an issue. With the closing of IDIC in October this could be a chance to join a new generation of Star Trek fans. James Woodman, Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grisolles, France

Legend - Wondering where to turn to when IDIC disappears? Look no further than "Legend" a new, non-profit making fanzine that will offer interviews, news, your articles and contributions; a whole A4 newsletter

packed full of fun, serious, entertaining, and thought provoking articles! For updates on our progress and membership information write, including a couple of stamps with your name and address to Ben McClelland, 78 Woodward Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8UL.

Patrick Stewart Appreciation Society. Patrick Stewart's official UK fanclub. Follow Patrick's career from Stratford to Star Trek, and beyond. Quarterly newsletters. Send SAE (or IRC) for details to 12 Anderson Close, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6HF, England - or email 100027.151@compuserve.com WWW page at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/psas>

Klingon Strike Force - One-off membership fee £2.50; quarterly newsletter £5.50 per annum. SAE for info to Admiral Vixis, 11 Raven Court, Esh Winning, Durham DH7 9JS.

Starfleet Academy - UK fan club based on S.F.A in the Star Trek universe. Regular 52 page newsletter every 8 weeks with everything from Trek fans and Actor info, also stories, you name it. Plastic Id card and a parchment paper joining up certificate, and discounts with over 10 stores and charity events. Membership £4 per half year, £8 a full year. Write to Lee Close, 101 Barton Terr., Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9LL or phone the club hotline on 01506 493625.

Starfleet Command an international organisation which has a structure modelled on Starfleet Command as seen in the Star Trek television series. It is composed of a network of ships or units throughout the world, and each member carries a rank. Dues are £6.00 for 4 issues of the club magazine (£12.00 for family up to 4 members, £70.00 life. Contact addresses: Chief of Personnel, 13 Alderwood Close, Springwell Park, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS2 3QR. Members receive an ID card, Commission Certificate, Cadet Training Manual, Cadet Exam, and 4 issues of magazine Q2 Communications.

Ten Forward: TNG fan club covering TNG,

DS9, Voyager and Beyond. Ten Forward, 18 Beckwith Road, East Harringthorpe, Rotherham, Yorkshire, S65 3PD.

The Tailoring Times For those who appreciate a well cut suit, and Cardassians, a bi-monthly newsletter/discussion zine. Everything you've always wanted to know about Cardassians but were afraid to ask - in case the Obsidian Order overheard you! We want information, gossip, speculation, reviews, character and episode analysis, thoughts on their society etc. The emphasis is always on our two favourite baddies - Elim Garek and Gul Dukat! Subscription for the time being is free - just send an A4 sized self addressed envelope (with 50p stamp or 3 IRCs) to: Ann Neilson, 53 Howth Terrace, Glasgow G13 1SS.

TREXPERTS is a 36-page monthly letterzine for fans of all Treks, with fan fiction, news, art etc. Dues: 12 issues - \$24 US, \$32 overseas. Write to: Valerie Herd, 7459 Nasrullah Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 2M4.

The Leonard Nimoy Fan Club (UK) has been formed to carry on the good work started by Spotlight (now closed) and extends a warm welcome to everyone interested in all aspects of Leonard Nimoy's career, past, present and future. If you enjoy the work of this multi-talented actor/director/poet/ (and Vulcan!) our quarterly newsletter aims to keep you up to date with current news and reviews, and to act as a forum for discussion and contact between members. We also plan to produce some exclusive Specials and publicity material.

For more details and/or a membership form send an SAE (or IRC) to Maggy Edwards, The Leonard Nimoy Fan Club (UK), 22 Purefoy Rd, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5GL. Please be sure to mention the LNFC on letters or there may be a delay in your reply. If you have an email, contact Gill Wilson on gillw@liverpool.ac.uk

Leonard Nimoy Club (USA), P.O. Box 17096, St Paul, MN 55117-0096 USA

The Jonathan Frakes Appreciation Society, Cat Toy Publications, c/o Anna C Bowling,

PO Box 632, Enfield, CT 06083-0632, USA (\$27 overseas)

The Jonathan Frakes Network This is not a fan club as such, but Julia Daniell who runs it sends out regular newsletters whenever she has anything to report on Jonathan or any of the TV or film appearances. There is a nominal fee to join, plus stamps to cover the posting of the newsletters. If anyone is interested in being added to the mailing list, send an SAE to The Jonathan Frakes Network, 16 Celandine Close, Seaton, Devon EX12 2XA

Imzadi International: Pipe Dream Publishers. c/o Louise Jacobson & Judi Megna-George, 1121 Saratoga Street, East Boston, MA 02128 USA. Membership forms available from JFNetwork, please enclose SASE with request.

Red Alert - a round-up of Trek news and trivia. Pipe Dream Publishers. c/o Louise Jacobson & Judi Megna-George, 1121 Saratoga Street, East Boston, MA 02128 USA. Membership forms available from JFNetwork, please enclose SASE with request.

Ireland and International: Federation Star Trek Fan Association In Europe, 11 Town Court, Shannon Town, Co. Clare, Ireland Tel/Fax/Modem: (INT+352/0)61 361986/360 210 Dublin: John Halpin: (INT+352/01) 837 83 80 E-Mail: damon.wise@iol.ie (subject ISTF, BSTF, FE, ...)

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

Please enclose an SAE when writing for details.

Airdrie - USS Renegade, PO Box 5425, Airdrie, Lanarkshire ML6 9BW, meets monthly. SAE for details.

Bournemouth - USS Excalibur Star Trek Mini-Conventions at Bournemouth University, Poole House, Wallisdown, Bournemouth. Films, activities, raffles and competitions. Charity - The MacMillan (Cancer) Unit. Entry £2.00 Excalibur members, £2.50 non members.

Cardiff - Kronos One, affiliated to Starfleet Command. Meets on the first Sunday of every month at The Model Inn (upstairs) 14/15 Quay Street, Cardiff from 5pm. We also organize live action role plays at a site near Tintern, Gwent, ever 3-4 months. SAE for further details to Stion Kronos, 40 Queen Street, Tongwynlais, Cardiff, CF4 7NN.

Chester - The Federated Star Trek and Sci-fi Club (Chester) meets the first Thursday of each month, upstairs in the Anchor Pub, Saltney, near Chester, from 7.30pm - 11.00pm. We also hold meetings in Wrexham and Denbigh. For into contact - Denbigh (N Wales), Ian Adam, 01745 812326; Wrexham, Alex T Greene, 01978 758326

Edinburgh - Starbase East Coast. Our new location which is Champions Club on Annandale Street, just off Leith Walk in Edinburgh. Our programme runs from 10 am until 10 pm, with episodes of Voyager, Deep Space Nine, TNG and Classic as well as X-Files, Babylon 5 and other series. Enquiries - SAE to Starbase East Coast, c/o Greg Lamb, 195/2 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh EH6 5LQ.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Central Hotel 10.00am to 10.00pm. Sundays 20th Oct, 24th Nov, 5th Jan, 9th Feb, 16th Mar, 27th Apr, 1st June. <http://www.awayteam.demon.co.uk/>

Glasgow - The Holodeck: Star Trek plus SF media. Starfleet Academy, 101 Barton Terr., Fauldhouse, EH47 9LL or phone 01506 493625. Meets at the Stakis Glasgow City Hotel, Hill Street, Glasgow. £2.50 (under 15s £2.00).

Leeds - Leeds Starfleet, videos, occasional competitions and lots of talk. Meets at Centenary House, near the MGM cinema, on the second Sunday of each month. Mike Mullen, 19 Manor Avenue, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BY or ring (01532) 742977.

Liverpool - Fek'Lhr. Star Trek/Science Fiction club meets every first Sunday each month, 1 - 6 pm, £1.50. New venue: Legs of Man Public House, 2 London Rd (next to

Empire Theatre), Liverpool. For details send SAE to John Panter, 51 Church St, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 2AU

London - The London Group: Bi-monthly Trek group, 10.30am-7.00pm, Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. Dates: 14th September, 2nd November - price £7 per meeting. SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

Manchester - Manchester Starfleet - PO Box 35, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3GZ. E-Mail: cymonh@jumper.mcc.ac.uk

Merseyside - U.S.S. Discovery. Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

Merseyside - Sentinel One SF/ST club. Sheri, 17 Bridge Street, Earlstown, N - LE - W. WA12 9BE.

Northampton - Starbase Delta. Come along to our fortnightly Sunday evening meetings, which are held in a back room of the Masters Arms public house in Badby. Members aged from 13 yrs upwards are catered for, a licensed bar in the main pub is available to the older members, with soft drinks for the kids. We screen videos of all Trek, play role playing games, have quizzes and discussions and arrange trips to conventions and exhibitions. Meeting times 7.30pm 'til around 10.30 pm, price £1. For details phone: Mike (01327) 79290 or Dave (01327) 843048.

Reading - USS Runnymede, 15 Wickham Road, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3TE (please enclose a SAE for details) or ring the club information line on (01734) 616477. Meetings are held monthly on Sunday at the Phoenix Plaza, Wokingham.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

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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).



STOP PRESS

Nana Visitor's son was born on September 16th, Congratulations to Nana & Sid.