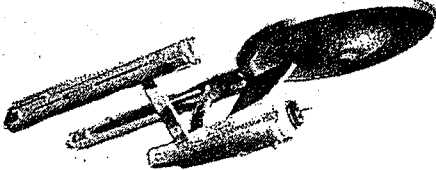


Star Trek Action Group



NEWSLETTER No. 16

COMMITTEE

President: Janet Quarton, C/O Mr. R. Woodhouse, Sutton Hill Farm, Blandford, Dorset.
Secretary: Beth Hallam, Flat 3, 36 Clapham Rd., Bedford.
Editor: Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee.

Honorary members: Gene Roddenberry, James Doohan, George Takei

First, and most important, I have two apologies to make to members. To those members who live outside Britain and get their newsletters sent airmail, and who may not yet have received N/L no. 15, I grovel. I put airmail postage on the newsletters, but completely forgot to mark them 'airmail', so they will in all probability have gone surface. I can only say that I am very sorry about that, and I'll try to remember not to do it again!

To members who ordered 'Enterprise Incidents' and then found there was something of a delay before it arrived, we also owe an apology, although the delay wasn't our fault. Helen sent me a package of illustrations early in December, and it still hasn't arrived! Poor Helen had to re-do them. Everyone who ordered 'Enterprise Incidents' should have it by now, however.

Doing those illustrations was Helen's last official duty for STAG. She writes:

Dear Fellow-Trekkers,

It is with a great deal of regret that I have decided to resign my position as STAG's Art Secretary. I have held the position for almost two years, but the pressure of other duties and interests has been steadily increasing over the past few months and now that I have taken on the editorship of the London group's new zine I find that if I am to have time for my own drawing and writing, something has to go! I considered very carefully whether or not STAG needed an art secretary as much as I need the time to finish my novel, and regretfully concluded that it didn't. Very few ST fanzines can afford to print much artwork; indeed, one of my hardest tasks has always been to tell people who have sent me lovely drawings, "We love it, but we can't print it."

With this in mind, I have decided to resign, but I shall, of course, remain a STAG member, and as much of an ST fan as ever. I can't let this opportunity slip by without thanking some of the friends I have met in and through STAG for their help and their kindness - in particular Jenny and Terry Elson, who introduced me,

like so many others, to organised ST fandom; Jennifer Guttridge, one of the few excellent ST fan writers; Jan Taylor, Barbie Bowerman, whom I met at the first minicon and have swapped ideas with ever since; Barbara Kitson, jewellery designer par excellence, reluctant model, and my collaborator on a trilogy; and, especially, all the people who let themselves be press-ganged into making, modelling and paying for some of the garments in my personal ego-trip, the Galactic Fashion Show at the last con. They are too many to list individually, but I feel very fortunate to know them all.

Finally, I should like to give my thanks and best wishes to Janet, Sheila and Beth, both for their friendship to me personally and for all their hard work for the club; and to ask you all to remember that STAR TREK LIVES, in the most meaningful way possible, when we all keep in our lives the concepts the show tried so hard to embody.

Yours,
Helen.

We're sorry to lose Helen, but of course we do appreciate her position. We wish her luck with her editorship of the London group's zine, 'City'.

Talking of local groups; Marion Dougall, 60 Sheen Court, Richmond Surrey, TW10 5DF, is part of a group which aims to help put trekkies in touch with others who live locally to them. For further info, write Marion, sending a SAE please. Scottish Trekkies contact Helen Sneddon, 12 Broomvale Drive, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 5NN.

Alnitah. An independant zine, put out by Ann Looker, The Forge, 41 Main Street, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks. Issues land 2, 45p each plus 15p P & P, 25p postage if both are ordered. The last I heard from Ann, issue 1 was nearly sold out. Issue 3 should be ready very soon, 75p including postage.

I repeat, Alnitah is an independant zine, put out by a local group, and has no official connection with STAG. Cheques and POs for it should be made payable to Ann Looker, not to STAG.

An extremely good American zine is T-Negative, put out by Ruth Berman, 5620 Edgewater Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55417, USA. Cost is two dollars for five issues, or two dollars for three back numbers, and currently nos. 1 - 13, 18 - 29 are available.

Lincoln Enterprises, Box 69470, Los Angeles, California 90069 USA, have put out a new catalogue for Star Trek's tenth year anniversary. There are a lot of new items on this catalogue, as well as a continuation of items like scripts and clips from the old catalogue. Remember to include an International Reply Coupon if you send to them for a catalogue.

In newsletter no. 15 someone anonymous touched on a comparison of Star Trek with Space 1999. I'd like to make a personal elaboration on that theme if I may. We can consider three categories: Special Effects, Acting and Scripts.

As a Science Fiction fan (NOT a Star Trek fan - there is a difference; though Star Trek is tops on my 'favourite programme' list) it makes my blood boil to see the potential Space 1999 has and the way the fools behind the programme are wasting this potential. When Gene Roddenberry conceived Star Trek he had a great idea and it STAYED a great idea until they took it off the production schedule. But Space 1999 has come from a great idea to an extravagant waste of time.

With a two and one half million pound budget and an ex-2001, A Space Odyssey special effects designer drawing a salary from that budget, you'd expect better effects on Space 1999 than on Star Trek. But this we don't get. Not in an over-all sense anyway. The extent and variability of Space 1999 scenery is greater than that of Star Trek - there is no need to fall back on 'Earth-type' planets, for instance, with a £2½M budget you build your own worlds - but what Star Trek does is to use what it has BETTER. Ol' Gene R. had QUALITY where he did not have quantity (in comparison to Space 1999, that is) For example, the Enterprise bridge is more logical than Alpha control, its Space 1999 counterpart, which seems to have been built more for effect than practicability. You don't come to know Alpha control, but we are all familiar with the bridge of the Enterprise. Lots of money does not good special effects make, so to speak. If you have a crap designer you've lost before you start.

Acting. There has to be a comparison of characters between the two programmes. There has to be a comparison of the programmes themselves. It's inevitable Star Trek was the beginning of the 'sensible' science fiction programme on television. It took us out of the 'Lost in Space' era and also out of the corny rut that science fiction on television had fallen into. It is the highest pinnacle yet reached. It has set a precedent for all who follow with Shatner's "To seek out new life and new civilisations" (and incidentally make Kirk the first Starship Captain to split the infinitive) and any other programme even remotely embodying the same theme (e.g. Space 1999) is going to be compared to the best of the time's - and right now that is Star Trek. The programme that originated the theme. All other space-adventure programmes are compared to Star Trek. Star Trek is never compared TO a programme because there is nothing to touch it yet. One day a programme will come which Star Trek will be compared to but that seems a long way off and Space 1999 is certainly not that programme (though it's difficult not to compare Star Trek to the film Forbidden Planet. Perhaps Gene R. was not as original as some people think him. Mm?)

John Koenig and James Kirk are roughly equivalent except that J. Koenig is more corny than Kirk sometimes is. Occasionally, just occasionally mind you, we get that despite Spock, Bones, Scotty, Sulu and Chekov being 'the best in their fields' etc, etc, it is Kirk who comes up with the answer to the problem at hand. It makes Spock or Bones or Scotty look stupid because they should have thought of it, but the script demands the Kirk character maintains a superior know-all position - so everyone else has to act dumb occasionally. John Koenig acts brilliant and everyone else dumb every week on Space 1999. It's pitiful to see Victor Bergman and the others missing the obvious so that John Koenig can see it, because it's completely out of character for them. Star Trek is guilty of this only occasionally but it drags Space 1999 face down through the mud.

Character for character only Bergman and Spock and McCoy and Helena are comparable. No one else has a counterpart in the other programme; and even their characters are different people. It's logical for a commander to have a science officer and a medical officer and it's logical to have a commander for a base or ship - so there's no copying here if people are reading that into the programmes.

As for scripts, where Star Trek has a message, Space 1999 has insensibilities. Star Trek has the occasional bad script, Space 1999 the occasional good script, mainly because Star Trek explains things to us lowly watchers whereas Space 1999 throws way out occurrences in your face and waves them away with a 'we don't know WHY it's happening, but it is'. Copout. A cheap, lazy cop-out. Pathetic.

Money isn't everything. Space 1999 proves that. Your scripts, actors, writers, producers, special effects men, your whole team is what makes a programme. Star Trek has a good team and Space 1999 a bad team. IN COMPARISON. If Star Trek had never happened, Space 1999 would have looked better since it would have had nothing to be compared with. But it has. And it's called Star Trek. And that's just too bad because Star Trek shows what can be done, and what ISN'T being done on Space 1999. All that money, all that potential is being wasted by rotten scriptwriters, mishandling of characters and possibilities, a total lack of appreciation of what could be done. It's tragic.

End of comparison, and no doubt there are those who would disagree with me.

Brian Lynch.

I've read several comparisons of the two programmes recently (professionally published ones) but thought that Brian's article was probably more embracing than any quotations I could have given. Does anyone have any comments to make about Brian's views, either for or against? Personally, I fully agree with him that Space 1999 had a great deal of unattained potential. I also felt that there was a great deal lacking in the way of any inter-relationship between the characters; and as for the minor characters, I worked out who was who in Star Trek inside three weeks (and one of those weeks was 'What are Little Girls Made of') but I'd barely managed to reach the stage when I could identify the lesser characters in Space 1999 when the series went off the air.

Kim Wells, 1 Banbury Close, Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, has Star Trek annuals 1971 to 1976 inclusive for sale, 75p each including postage, condition as new.

- 1) Mixed slides for sale. Unmounted, 60p for 10 plus SAE.
- 2) Slide copies made from your slides. 10p each (excellent quality)
- 3) HELP. I need slides etc to recreate the 'City' episode as a tape/slide show. I will buy or trade for spare slides or prints or borrow your slides on agreed trade terms for me to copy. Send descriptions and price or trade terms you require to Bill Everton, 40 Flora Grove, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 5ET

AMUCK TIME - a Journey to the Minicon.(1975)

Every one of us brings something unique, something very special to Star Trek fandom. With some people, it's poetry. Others can draw. But me - I bring a Curse.

Take the minicon, for instance. You'd think this time nothing could go wrong. No chance of gear-box collapse, flat tyre, flat battery (and all of these I have had happen). No, this time I was sharing transport. Didn't even have to navigate. So when I crawled out of bed at 6.15 a.m., all eager to Boldly Go Where Quite a Few People Had Gone Before, I thought I had it made. Even allowed myself an hour for the half-hour journey to Beth's for my lift. And for once all went right.

Into Beth's gleaming white car we piled, clutching our monies and goodies in our little hot hands. Nothing was going to stop us this time. We were ready to go through fire and water to get there.

But this we hadn't expected to go through. I don't know about Infinite Diversity, but the road seemed to have been frequented by Infinite Cows without any Infinite Combinations at all. It looked like a film of water on the surface. But...that car was khaki by the other side. All over, folks. About half an inch thick...and of course no carwash for miles.

And have you ever tried to clean a car of - er - using only a leaking watering can and a farmyard tap? Inside the bonnet, yet? The Curse of the Drapers had done us proud.

Ann couldn't understand why we all leapt out so quickly at her house - nor why we had to lean on the fence to recover our breath. Mass insanity? But she soon got wind of the truth...and produced a Cologne spray to combat the aroma. But all the perfumes of Arabia couldn't have helped, and by the time she'd finished, we smelt like the only mobile Argelian brothel in the quadrant. Rude jokes and songs all the way up the M-1: 'Diarrhoea, I've just hit a patch of Diarrhoea' was my favourite. Sky signs with tall cows for a warning? But the funniest part of that loony journey was when we passed through towns. Pedestrians' faces: "Snnff. Snnff? SNNFFFFF!!! Gorblimey-I've-never-been-so-insulted-in-my-life!" expressions from a starchy couple at a traffic island. And the lorry driver who nearly fell out of his cab...of course, we were all trying to pretend it had nothing to do with us. Wide-eyed innocence - Mudd's Women in person. But when we finally staggered in, giggling and late, you couldn't have mistaken us: the ponkiest Trekkers in Leicester! Keep on trekkin'!

Margaret Draper.

Several people have asked us about the books from the last con, wondering what had happened to delay them. It was originally intended to include in these some photos taken at the con; but the photos were taken in colour, and the printing process is in black and white, and there have been difficulties created by this, Jenny tells us. They're still trying to get these photos printed, but unless they are successful soon, they may just have to abandon the idea of including the photos.

It seems that most folk don't have 'unfavourite' episodes - at least, only one or two wrote in to say which one they'd choose to miss out.

Elizabeth Sharp says, "The episode I liked the least must be 'The Paradise Syndrome'. In my opinion, you would be hard pressed to find a bigger load of 'professional' rubbish anywhere. But perhaps that's because I'm a Spock fan. If Kirk had been my favourite character, then I would probably have loved that particular episode."

Barrie Wright says, "...I would like to send in my opinion about which S.T. episode we would leave out, if it was shown on TV again. It is hard to choose because each episode has one little piece in it that's good, the odd funny comment, etc. (e.g., Corbomite Manoeuvre, as Kirk stamped out from McCoy's lab, McCoy on his own says, 'If I jumped every time a light came on around here, I'd end up talking to myself!' Seriously, the least interesting were Mudd's Women, Omega Glory and Children Shall Lead, and that's about all."

There was a joint letter from Sharon Scrase and Jeannette Taylor, saying, "Sharon's chosen 'Let That Be Your Last Battlefield'. The only thing she does like are the special effects, the rest bores her to tears. Mine's 'The Corbomite Manoeuvre'. I can't stand it. Out of all the episodes, this one I really hate. I haven't even got a particular reason."

Now a question. Sharon and I are pretty sure we have seen an episode called 'The Last Gunfight'. It was shown quite some time ago. When we next saw it, the title was changed to 'Spectre of the Gun', and some of the story outline changed with it. Has anybody else seen it or did we both imagine it? It is in Star Trek 3 as 'The Last Gunfight.'

I think you imagined it, girls. I know I get mixed up with Blish's version occasionally - there's a scene in Journey to Babel I have a very vivid mental picture of, and as far as I've been able to ascertain, it hasn't appeared anywhere except in Blish's adaptation. It certainly isn't in the final draft script. I know I read Star Trek 3 before I saw Spectre of the Gun, and when I saw the title, my first reaction was, 'Oh. Changes.'

There was also one letter about an episode the writer thought improved by the BBC's cuts. Kathleen Glancy writes,

"There's one episode I feel was much improved by cutting, and that's 'Bread and Circuses', with the removal of the Kirk/Drusilla scene. I happen to think that Kirk's behaviour here is disgusting. He's lent a slave for the night, and with little hesitation and that all connected with the thought that it's a trick, he uses her without any attempt to find out how she feels about the whole thing. Certainly she's acting willing - but she's a well-trained slave, and for all she knows he's a dear friend of Claudius' and she could be whipped if she doesn't please him. Then he more or less thanks Claudius for his kind thought in the morning. Kirk in this episode is morally no better than Claudius - in fact he is worse, because Claudius doesn't know any better. It makes him a hypocrite, too - his attitude when he's the one enslaved, as in Gamemasters of Triskelion and Plato's Stepchildren, is very different. Maybe he's only opposed to slavery for men. Now if it had been one of the others in his place - Spock, of course, would have dismissed her at once, and McCoy, I think, would have thought of her, have pitied the life she must lead - after all, not all the guests she's lent out to would be as attractive as Kirk - would have talked to her instead of just making a grab. McCoy's male chauvanism is the nicer kind

called chivalry - Kirk's is the 'sex object' variety. No wonder he brushed off their questions about what happened - he was, one hopes, ashamed of himself. Or maybe he's so conceited he simply assumed that of course she'd be willing. Yes, well, anyway - cutting out that scene can only be an improvement. Whenever I see it I wish Kirk would meet a girl, fall really in love with her, want to marry her and she'd find out somehow about Drusilla and refuse to have anything to do with him because of it."

Any comments, anyone?

IN SUPPORT OF THE ANIMATED ALIENS

A number of people do not like the alien creatures which appear in the animations.

Personally, I find the aliens one of the favourable features of the animated shows. I think it extremely parochial that we should assume that only our type of physiology can give rise to intelligence. Granted, to us, ours seems the obvious physical type. But is it the only one possible?

Given the right conditions, any creature could develop intelligence. Some have more incentive than others, some have more opportunity. Herbivores have a poor chance, if only because grass is so poor a diet that they must spend most of their lives just eating in order to stay alive. Yet even there - what is intelligence? Deer can survive in winter conditions that would kill a man in a few hours; is it clever to be able to read and write and count, yet not know how to find shelter in a storm? But I feel that herbivores do have the dice weighted against them.

Predators, on the other hand, have a more nutritious diet. They have time between meals, time to think - to use their brains. And they must think, plan to some extent, in order to be successful hunters. With use, their minds become more active, and there we have the beginning of intelligence.

However, again we strike a drawback. How to use this intelligence? Man is not the only tool-user on Earth; certain birds have learned the minimal use of tools, stones to break open eggs, pointed thorns to impale insects and grubs. Some form of manipulative limb must be present to allow tools to be used effectively, however. These could be hands; they could just as easily be tentacles or a trunk. Many creatures use their front paws as hands; several sea creatures have useful tentacles; the elephant has a most efficient trunk. What is to prevent one of these other species from developing as a rival to man? Cats are intelligent - in a feline sort of way. Only the fact that they still go on all fours handicaps them. I find it easy to believe that somewhere there is a planet where cats - or dogs - learned to walk on two legs and developed a civilised culture. Or squirrels. Or octopi.

Whales are generally considered intelligent, dolphins particularly so. While their lack of manipulative digits handicaps them, a race of whales could develop a culture based on ESP. It would probably never become a technological culture, but think of how much pollution they would be saved!

As for plants - well, why not? Plants are living things. They breathe, take in nourishment and water, reproduce, sleep. They react to external stimuli, light and dark, heat and cold. They move - not by picking up their roots and walking, but by the use of runners or suckers, and some even have very mobile leaves or petals.

Scientific experiments have indicated that they react to pain and to simple emotions like love or fear. And while there is no positive proof that they do think, neither is there proof that they do not.

Intelligent insects - or at least, insect colonies - also seem possible. I think probably the colony, working together, is a better bet for intelligence than a single creature which, after all, tends to have a rather short life span. Yet, given intelligence, how much could be accomplished in that life span? To another species, our lives might last only a few days.

Having said all that, however, I must admit that I am doubtful about Arex as a viable life form. Six limbs I can accept, but three arms and three legs is symmetrically wrong; it should be four and two. Either four legs for stability on a heavy gravity planet, or four arms for dexterity on a light gravity planet.

And who knows? Somewhere, other beings may be reading something similar to this; some article that says -

"Why should cats be the only creatures to develop intelligence? Somewhere, there may be a race of intelligent primates..."

Sheila Clark.

The last competition got a much better response, with ten entries from nine members; Sue Bradley, Alison Glover, Robin Hill, Chris Jones, Valerie McLean, Rosa Moore, Elizabeth Sharp, Gail Smith and Helen Sneddon. Judging proved rather difficult; the over-all standard was high. Eventually I passed the final decision over to a wholly impartial judge - my mother, who, while she does watch, is in no way a fan. As it happened, her choice for first and second places coincided with mine.

The winner is Elizabeth Sharp - and I just wish I could write half as well as she does. Running Elizabeth a very close second is Helen Sneddon, with Robin Hill and Valerie McLean tying for third place. I hope to print all four of these stories eventually.

To the unlucky ones - especially to those who said it was their first effort at writing - I'd like to say, don't give up. Your stories were all good - and maybe next time...

The competition for this newsletter is simply to compose a slogan for an envelope sticker, of not more than a dozen words. Two categories, humorous and serious, the winning slogans to be printed, and the prize, fifty stickers, either of your own slogan or a mixed bag, state your choice.

Entries to Sheila, please. It helps us if you do send your letters to the right address; queries, memberships, etc, to Janet, orders for things to Beth, anything for printing (including artwork, line drawings please) and competitions to me (Sheila). Otherwise there might be a delay. (It would also speed things up if the secretary would bother to open letters she gets from other committee members...are you listening, Beth? instead of putting them in her bag and forgetting about them...)

Wanted: by Susan Moore, 69 Charnwood Rd., South Norwood, SE25 6NT
Has anyone any photos of me at the con's fancy dress in Ape costume to sell. Also any of tribble and handler and contestants group photo.

Report on the Empathy minicon, 14 February, 1976 - by our roving reporter.

Hello, fans!!...?(ed.)

Those of you who managed the perilous winter-time journey to that metropolis of the North of England - Leeds - (second only to Leicester for confusing one-way systems) - will know that a marvellous time was had by all at the Empathy minicon. All, that is, except the unfortunate secretary of S.T.A.G. who, due to circumstances beyond her control, was forced to spend the weekend with our "beloved" editor (God! does she snore!) ((She means the unfortunate editor, who was unable to sleep due to the squeaking of the bed of a certain restless secretary...))

The con was not 'a con' at all, but a pleasant, informal day out. It was a pity that more 'trekkers' were unable to attend. Although the facilities were not ideal, they were adequate when the loos were located (just behind the bridge screen - check your blue-prints). The programme of events was simple, but decidedly enjoyable. They started off with a general chat at about 9.00am, while the sales tables were set up; and this chatter continued during a brisk sales session. At 11.00 am the President of Empathy - the De-lightful Cath Owens - made her maiden 'Con-tribble-ution', a speech. This was admirable in that it was short and to the point, sandwiches would be available in one hour, after which films would be shown, and that the bar was open. Then came the 'piece de resistance' - Robin Hill's slide show, featuring the main con.

In contrast to the usual 'run of the Vicarage' slide shows, this was a cultural feast not to be missed. It started with a 'Board of Tribbles' film sensors X certificate. Somehow Captain Kirk and Dr. McCoy became inextricably involved in 'A Piece of the Action'. Captain Kirk was particularly struck by the excellence of Helen McCarthy's dress designs as modelled by Chris Jones. He thought the design of Chris Jones wasn't too bad either!!! He was not impressed, however, by the 'transvestite' Tellarite (Beth Hallam in drag) ((.....and I shared a room with her!!***&@+α*! Ed.))

I am told that the coffee and sandwiches were good, but I myself, accompanied by two friends and the editor, went for a 'fascinating, De-licious' (sorry, Jim!) Chinese meal. The afternoon's entertainment was of the kind best liked by 'Star Trek' fans, of the same ilk as 'Dracula's Wedding'. After 2½ hours of this, the auction was held. This didn't prove as lucrative to the club as other similar events have previously done - many people having to leave early in order to catch trains, coaches, etc..

S.T.A.G. sales were excellent, making a fun-day into a profitable one as well. We made a total of £62; in gratitude to Cath and her helpers for providing the opportunity to boost our funds and, as due to a small though select attendance, Empathy's profits were not as high as they had wished; we decided to make a donation, on your behalf, of £5 to their funds. The editorial committee of 'Alnitah' donated 10% of their takings to the con organisers to aid Empathy also.

If this minicon was a fair example of the relaxed atmosphere Empathy will provide at their main con, in the autumn, then book us in now!

The Secretary and Editor of S.T.A.G.

Secretary 40 Editor 30 - game set and match to Beth Hallam - this time round! (I demand a recount - Editor)

STOP PRESS. July 15th has been announced as the date on which the film will start production

IT'S TIME FOR SOME ACTION - Janet.

If we want to see the banned episodes - EMPATH, PLATO'S STEP-CHILDREN, WHOM GODS DESTROY and now MIRI, we're all going to have to take some action. We would like all members to write to the BBC within one week of receiving this newsletter to ask them to show the banned episodes, even if they put them on late at night. You could point out that they put far worse things on after the nine o'clock news, including X-rated horror films, than anything Star Trek ever produced. There is nothing in these episodes that could be harmful to anyone. (For anyone who doesn't know the scripts, Blish's versions are very accurate for EMPATH and PLATO'S STEPCHILDREN - rather less so for WHOM GODS DESTROY). You could point out that since the BBC are the only ones with the rights to show these episodes it's unfair - heartbreaking - of them not to show them. Don't be abusive, though - that won't help!

IMPORTANT - Some of you were fortunate enough to see a film called "Dracula's Wedding" at the last S.T. con. DO NOT mention this in your letter to the BBC as it was an unofficial showing.

There are 400 of you receiving this newsletter. Think of the impact if the BBC received 400 letters within a week, all with the same appeal! Try to persuade your family and friends to write in too - the more letters the better.

Write to -

Bryan Cowgill, BBC Channel 1 Controller, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

Use plain envelopes with no slogans or stickers. We want them to look official so that they get opened and not just redirected to the Programme Correspondence section. Don't mention S.T.A.G. or any other club; we don't want to make it look like a conspiracy!

OTHER CLUBS:

BEYOND ANTARES: Sheila Hull, 49 Southampton Rd., Far Cotton, Northampton.

EMPATHY: 30 Ovenden Way, Halifax, West Yorks. Empathy have several zines available - why not write and ask about them?

HOSATO: Now an international fan club for George Takei. Jenny Elson, 16 Stafford Drive, Wigston, Leicester.

JDIFC: An American-based club for Jim Doohan, £2 surface, £4 airmail. Anna Hreha, 1519 NW 204th Street, Washington 98177 USA.

STARBASE 13: A new club, dues 80p a year. Newsletters include a serial, 'The Hellfire Club'. Brian Longstaff, 13 Woodfarm Dr., Sheffield S6 5LW Yorks.

STCC: Jackie Dunham, 105 Somerlayton Gardens, Norwich. Issue 5 of Jackie's zine, Fizzbin, 25p due out soon if it isn't already available. STCC's newsletters always include a story.

STERB: John Hind, 14 Bingham Rd., Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham.

WSE: Chris Jones, 222 Manchester Rd., Heaton Norris, Stockport.

STAC: an Australian club. I've now read the first issue of their zine, 'Beyond Antares' and can recommend it. It includes a fair amount of poetry and some excellent artwork, articles and stories. They are willing to trade or sell. Contact Susan Clarke, Ark Royale, 6 Bellvue Rd., Faulconbridge, New South Wales 2776, Australia.

Log 4, published by Corgi, should be in the shops within the next few weeks.

PENPALS:

The following people would like penpals -

Patricia Ann Parish, 10707 New Haven Street No 30, Sun Valley,
CA91352 USA

Carol Rode, 836 Cragmont Ave., Berkley, CA94708 USA

Sue Fiorella, 11305 Hatteras St No. 5, N. Hollywood, CA91601 USA

We didn't get any details about what age groups they would like to write to, or their other interests, if any. I've written all three to ask for this information, but to date haven't had a reply, though I would expect to hear from them by the time you get this newsletter. If you're interested and would like this information, send me (Sheila) a SAE and I'll pass it on.

ORIGINS OF THE VULCAN RACE -

(A humorous look at their evolution)

Why are Vulcans like they are,
this fact has puzzled peoples near and far.
The secret has been hidden deep in time
but I'm about to reveal it in this rhyme!

Once long ago Vulcans were much like you and I,
and used to journey across the sky
To visit our planet Earth,
for recreation and a little mirth.
Among their favourite Terran shores
was one just across from this Island of ours
And package trips used to descend
for a fun-packed holiday in Ireland.

On one such tour ne'er to be forgot,
the group happened to find the spot
That proved to be the secret place
of the island's 'little people' race,
And spying them the Vulcans jeered,
and laughed and said "Will you look at those ears
On the wee men all dressed in funny green,
it's quite the most hilarious image we've seen!"

The leprechauns leapt up with rage,
and said, "Hence from this age,
You'll rue the day you visited this shore,
for the Vulcan that you know shall be no more!"
And sure enough from that day hance,
everyone of their descents
Has ears with points and blood that's green,
the two things they found, so amusing!

And now the Vulcans are a people without emotion,
they da'en't let the mask slip even for a moment
Never wanting to risk again,
the wrath of some other, powerful little men!

Sheila Cornall.

KLINGON LAMENT - Lt. Klong, Starship Destruction.

We've heard about bold Captain Kirk,
His minions beside him,
His great capacity for work,
The women who've adored him.

We've heard about his great starship
And all his glorious missions,
There's just one thing we want to ask. It's...
What about the Klingons?

We know that Koloth isn't quite
What you might call a Captain.
He isn't handsome, good or nice,
But that's the way we like him.

We don't like Vulcans, Gorns or Tribbles,
We don't like Earthers either,
We don't like anybody else,
It makes our triumph sweeter.

We tried the good way long ago,
It didn't get us far on,
And so we changed our ways to be
Your nasty neighbourhood Klingons.

And so we want to ask you this -
It really does surprise us -
With all the qualities we have
Why does nobody like us?

Translated by Ann Wigmore.

And so we reach the end of another newsletter. Peace and prosperity
to you all. Sheila. *****

STAR TREK ACTION GROUP.

If undelivered, please return to:
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