

Hi there everyone!

Well, it's almost here at last! The First British Star Trek Convention will soon be underway, and the committee would like to thank all the members of STAG for their fantastic support over the months. Without you, we would have accomplished nothing. We have been told on numerous occasions that ours was an unorthodox way of financing a convention, but our methods have now been amply justified by the magnificent response. Thanks to you all, we have not been forced to resort to rampant commercialism; You have also shown that Star Trek well and truly lives in Great Britain... And isn't that what it's all about?

Sorry, if I and the other convention committee members have not been able to answer many letters recently, but things are really hotting up now, and until the con is over we won't be able to settle down and continue "Business as Usual." Hope you understand. Incidentally, if any Leicester members fancy getting up to their ears in Star Trek one evening, just phone. We can always put you to some good use!

Our congratulations to James Doohan and Wende Braunberger, who are getting married in October, right after the con. Fear thee not, Wende, with great reluctance we'll post Jim back to you on time! STAG hope they will both be very happy together.

If anyone is around Birmingham way on Monday, 30th September, don't forget to drop by at the Midland Educational Company, where Transworld Publishers have arranged for Jim, George, James Blish and other sci.fi. writers to autograph books. The con committee will be around somewhere too, so remember to say "Hi" to us too!

Thanks to everyone who remembered to include SAE when writing. It really does help with postage.

Well, that's about it. Enjoy the newsletter. Love from Pooh, Henry and Terry...
And SEE YOU ALL AT THE CON!

Jenny.

NEW STAG VICE PRESIDENT. STAG are very pleased to welcome Johanna Butler to the post of Vice President. Johanna will be working in conjunction with Marian Kennedy, and I am sure she will be a great asset to the club. Her address is: 46, Drayton Road, Bletchly, Milton Keynes.

NEW CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEMBER. Another welcome, this time to Jenny Harding, of 22I, Wigston Road Oadby, Leicester, who is doing a great job on the committee with the auction, amongst other duties. (Jenny is also our publications officer for STAG, and she's feeling unwanted! No-one has sent her material for STAG publications yet-so get cracking!)

CONVENTION TIMES.

Registration. (Abbey Motor Hotel Foyer.) FRI. 7.30 - 8.30pm.

SAT. 10.00 - 11.00 am.

Main events begin: SAT. 10.30am.

Main events end: SAT./SUN. 2am.

SUN. 10.00am.

SUN. 6.30pm.

EVERYONE MUST REGISTER BEFORE BEING ALLOWED ENTRY. BADGES TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. The Shore Leave Disco is price 60p admission, except to fancy dress entrants, who have paid for admission in their entry fee.

ART EXHIBITION. Will ALL exhibitors please note! All work which can possibly be mailed MUST be sent to Karen Gilmurray, 105, Wigston Lane, Leicester by not later than 20th September. It will be impossible to mount every item and decide where to place it on the day of the convention, and unless we receive most of it before hand, some of you may have to be disqualified. Those people wishing to place their work in the auction, please note that the catalogue is being prepared IN ADVANCE. No late entries can be accepted under any circumstances, so PLEASE write immediately to Karen, giving details, (Title of work etc) together with your completed entry form. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

STAG TABLE.HELP WANTED to run STAG table! This is a responsible job, selling a wide variety of Star Trek "Goodies", many of them exclusive to STAG. We PROMISE that you will not miss any of the events, and there are some definite advantages too. If you are over 18 and wish to apply, please write to Terry Elson C/O STAG HQ.

TO ALL JDIFC MEMBERS. We'd like to have a "Get together" with Our Lad? This will give all members of JDIFC, old and new, the opportunity of meeting Jim in a more informal way. Please contact Jenny Elson as soon as possible. The only condition is that you must be JDIFC members.

FORWARDED IS FORARMED! For those of us fortunate to attend the convention, let us pause and think: Our guests have travelled thousands of miles to be with us, and it is up to us to show them the same courtesy, respect and patience they have given to us over the months. We're sure every STAG member recognises this fact, and we are sure you will all set a good example to other attending members.

STAR TREK IN GERMANY. By Marianne Tieleesch.

In the German newspapers I found several articles about Spock and Star Trek, and I thought I would translate one of them for the newsletter. This is from an article in "TV Hearing and Watching," 1973.

Why do the children like Spock so much? Why, when he rarely ever shows emotion does he influence them and fastinate them so much?

Dr Marianne Oswald, the Child Psychologist thinks she knows the answer: "Every human being," she says, "Has an instinct to be the nicest, the best and the most perfect. Therefore, everyone identifies with the best. Children in general also identify with the "Enterprise" which corresponds in all points to physical life-laws. There is a team of men, and a communion which one can often see in everyday life. There is a leader, (Kirk) a genius, (Spock) and men with marked aptitudes for special skills. (McCoy and Scotty.) The Bridge is constructed like a classroom, and in spite of the seeming surrounding Utopia, the children are familiar with all this."

The psychologist Sonja Blankenburg appreciates that children admire Spock. He does rule over all emotion. He can, for example, conquer fear with his mind. Children have a lot of fears. Therefore, they are fastinated by a man who is never mistaken who solves all the problems with his intellect and does not capitulate in a dangerous situation. To the children, his appearance ranks only in second place. His immense knowledge is the important factor.

The series has become legendary in Germany as it has done in USA. This is the report of ZDF editor Dr Willi Kowalk. But why have less than half of the episodes been shown on German TV?

"Unfortunately, no more episodes were suitable for television," stated Dr Kowalk. "The others were too American."

WHAT YOU SAY...About STAG articles.

ANNE WIGMORE. That was a lovely piece by Dawn Del Vecchio. I also enjoyed "My Favourite Episode." I'd like to read one from someone who thinks "Omega Glory" is the best episode. They'd have a hard job explaining why!

SARA PAUL. I must differ with Jenny Harding. Bill Shatner is Canadian born, and has done most of his acting over there.

BARBARA CARTER. Re the comments on the actors accents; I assume that at the time of the "Enterprise" the whole world would speak a universal language. This would not have to mean that national languages were forgotten, though.

HELEN MCCARTHY. It struck me that we tend to emphasise the Kirk/Spock relationship to such an extent that we forget Spock's other relationships. Significantly, he has one with McCoy, who's development has been fastinating, from early antagonism, through to cautious respect into something verging on as close as Spock could ever get to liking. Spock's relationship with Kirk is the focus of the emotional intensity that Vulcan convention would make it impossible to release in a man/woman relationship, which Vulcans view as a combination of family duty and physical/social convenience. However, even in a human, while such a relationship is the centre of emotional life, one still needs other outlets, and Spock, with his huge intellect and terrible loneliness needs them more than most. McCoy is

(What you say.Cont.)

probably the most compassionate human being in the crew, even though he tries to cover it. He is also never guilty of trying to use Spock ; he makes no demands on him, except to try and open up his human side.Kirk uses him in the interests of the ship...which is not to say he doesn't care for Spock, merely that he is, first and foremost, a starship captain..I'd be intersted to know what others feel about this.

MARGARET BERTRAM. I think that becoming a fan of any series must begin with one particular favourite. So I'll always remain faithful to Spock, but I don't think my interest would have survived had it not been for the message of Star Trek. No other programme has moved so many people! And that message of Peace, Love and Brotherhood is what keeps Star Trek alive.

The Star Trek Animations. By Floss Del Vecchio.

Everyone has their own opinions of the animations, but a universal one seems to be that, while they have some things of merit, they will never equal the original Star Trek.

The space backdrops are great.The Enterprise looks fine, and the interior of the ship is even better. The Bridge is identical to the original except for a few noticable improvements.Familiar equipment has changed only slightly, and a few things have been added. Planet scenes are marvellous, made possible by the fact that it doesn't cost as much to draw strange new worlds as it does to build them on a soundstage.

The characters are another matter. Spock is recognisable only by the fact that he resembles a thin Vulcan. McCoy looks most like the original, and Kirk is the hardest to capture.The other regulars look like themselves for the most part. They act like their real counterparts, and dialogue, phrases, things distinctive to each one, the interplay between McCoy and Spock all remain intact, although often there isn't time for it in the story. There are a few new members of the crew, such as Lt Arrex, the red skinned navigator with his three arms and three legs, and Lt M'Ress, the cat like communications officer who occasionally relieves Uhura. The Starfleet uniforms are the same, except that the men's trousers are grey instead of black.

As far as the stories go, they are not entirely up to par with the original.A few resemble former episodes, and some take the crew to planets they have already visited. There is some kind of new monster every week. There are exceptions, however, and the 22 minutes of air time severely limits the story.

FOR SALE: "The Way I Feel." Record Album by Leonard Nimor. Price £3.25.

"Mr Spock's Music From Outer Space." Price £3.25.

Both record for £6.35, P & P included. Write Miss Margaret Austin, 44, Duke St., Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1SA.

TRANSPORT TO CONVENTION OFFERED, share expenses.Friday evening to Sunday Evening.

Contact: Miss Margaret Draper, The Lodge, Wantage Road, Rowstock, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0JT.

NEW SERIES! A SEQUEL TO THE POPULAR INTER-RELATIONSHIP SERIES.

CREW CHARACTERISATIONS. No I. . . Montgomery Scott.
By Jenny Elson.

Montgomery Scott, Chief Engineer aboard the USS Enterprise is a lonely man. He is also a proud man, so has kept his loneliness secret to everyone but his one real friend, Dr McCoy.

He and McCoy are old friends...not even the captain knows how old, for they are both tight-lipped about their past. But Scotty has known McCoy since the two of them were 18 years old.(See "Angry Sunset.")

The Joke aboard is that both Scotty and McCoy are eccentric. That this is not true does not matter particularly to the crew, and no-one pauses to consider this long established joke has on the two men, isolating them more than ever from the mainstream of shipboard life.

Scotty has been known in his time as a womaniser and a hellraiser. Born in what used to be Scotland, he still retains his Scottish burr, more in defiance than anything, because he has not been home for years. For generations, the Scott family have been somewhere close at hand during the most important expeditions, adventures and discoveries, and Scotty is no exception. He is the most travelled, most experienced man aboard, and has been "Knocking about space" for years. After attending the University of Astro Engineering and gaining an honours degree, he joined the Merchant fleet before gaining a place in Starfleet Command, first as a Shuttlecraft commander, then, by a series of quick promotions to Chief Engineer. He helped to build the "Enterprise." Hence his love for her.

Scotty has gained many high distinctions in his field, and is considered to be one of the greatest engineers of the era. His work on negative energy and transporter techniques are now part of the text book curriculum for engineering students, and there is a constant clamour for his technical papers to be published. The fact that he is still only a Lt. Commander is his own doing. He is highly capable of command, but has three times refused the command course, as he is not prepared to give up engineering.

Scotty is an extremely popular officer, for he has patience and skill with young people which is often envied by his colleagues. McCoy always says that there are fewer social problems in Engineering than any other department. By some, Scotty is considered the "Soft Touch." Young officers, reluctant to go to McCoy or the Captain with their problems will always find a sympathetic ear with the understanding Scotsman.

He is also very sure of his own capabilities, and he is not averse to telling the captain what he thinks of him. And the captain, knowing of Scotty's vast experience, is often willing to take advice from him.

Scotty has two vices. His drinking "Problem" and his liking for exotic females. He drinks scotch, and can match any man, bottle for bottle. On board, he "Breaks Out" only rarely...usually with McCoy or in the isolation of his own

quarters.- And Scotty can tuck quite a lot away before he is under the table. But it is on shoreleave where his drinking can be a real problem, and when there are any "rough houses" on the shore-leave bases the Enterprise visits, it's ten to one that Scotty is somewhere in the vicinity...usually in the centre.

His liking for exotict females is standard knowledge aboard the Enterprise. Never the sort to really get involved emotionally with a woman, (Except on the rare occasion) Scotty prefers the more surface relationship of the Shoreleave "Ladies.".... some of whom are genuinely fond of the reprobate Scotsman. The Captain frowns on his chief engineers activities, but unless he breaks the law or code of ethics, cannot do much about it; and in any case, Scotty isn't the only one by far. McCoy, purely from the health point of view, gives him occasional lectures, but Scotty goes his own merry way, unashamed, unabashed, and completely unrepentant.

And secretly, Scotty enjoys his slightly outrageous reputation. For that is what makes Scotty Scotty.

SAVE THE STAR TREK CAST.

As you all know, Paramount have entered into serious negotiations with Gene Roddenberry to make a feature film of Star Trek, then bring the show back to TV as a mini-series of ninety minutes each. Some executives of Paramount want a changed show. They want a new cast and crew. They seem to feel that people will no longer relate to the stars anymore, now they are five years older. Please help to convince them that they are wrong. Please write to S.T.S.T.C. with the following information;

1. Do you want the show back?
2. Do you want it back with the original cast?
3. Do you want it back with the original characters?
4. Who is your favourite character and actor?
5. Name, address etc.

Send to: STSTC, C/O A Piece of the Action, 2419, Chinook Trail, Maitland, FL 32751 USA. (Or send to STAG HQ and we will pass the letters on.)

Please also write to Paramount and Mr Roddenberry directly. (We will also pass these letters on too.)

We are afraid that if Paramount brings back the show without the original cast, the show will fail, and we will lose it forever. Help us to show them that Star Trek is not just an adventure about a spaceship, but that the crew of the Enterprise and the actors who made them live are an inseperable part of the magic that is Star Trek.

Thankyou. Mrs C. Brownell. Pres., STSTC.

LET'S HAVE A REALLY GOOD RESPONSE FROM ENGLAND! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO STAG HQ OR HAND THEM IN AT THE CONVENTION. EVERY SINGLE LETTER WILL BE SENT TO IT'S DESTINATION.

STAR TREK...GONE MAD.

By Margaret Bertram.

Charlie X stopped...He'd done it! He'd got out of the Tholian Web by a clever Corbomite Manoeuvre. It was no Errand of Mercy. He had intended to find Mudd's Women and ask them; "What are little girls made of?"

There was an alternative factor; he was supposed to meet the Squire of Gothos, but was afraid to be nothing more than a catspaw. As he well knew, there might even be a Taste of Armageddon!

Meanwhile, Spock's Brain had received mental images of some Pattern of Force, but the impressions were vague and he wasn't quite sure if they came from the City on the Edge of Forever, or were close enough to cause an Enterprise incident!

He used the scanner and saw, just by the Wink of an Eye, Charlie X going through a Metamorphosis. He had turned into a Wolf in the Fold and cried wildly; "The Children shall Lead!" But he forgot that There is, in truth, no beauty, and that this way led to those Whom God's Destroy.

Spock, the Empath, wanted to save Charlie X but the Spectre of the Gun defeated the Day of the Dove. The Gamesters of Triskelion had made a pact with the Klingons, who wanted a Piece of the Action. And as the galaxy were having Trouble with Tribbles, their activities remained undetected. for some time.

Just on time, Spock consulted his secret friend, Mirror Mirror. He said, drawing aside the savage curtain, "What is your advice?"

"Tell the Ultimate Computer after his next Assignment Earth to return from his Journey to Babel, and show The Mark of Gideon to the Klingons. Then you will be rid of these Turbabout Intruders."

It had, by now, become an Obsession with Charlie X to Return to Tomorrow, but All Our Yesterdays stopped his progress. He was desperately trying to find his Way To Eden, but The Devil in the Dark set him a Man Trap, and put him into The Cage. There, poor Charlie X, together with Miri, The Changeling, the Cloudminders and an enormous animated Apple, had to spend the rest of the days in the Menagerie, in a place Where No Man Has Gone Before.

FURTHER THOUGHTS FROM SPOCK'S BRAIN.

Compiled by Jane Sale.

SPACE SEED. (Taken from Star Trek No 2, adapted by James Blish.)

KAHN: How can a man be afraid of never being afraid? It is a contradiction in terms.

SPOCK. Not at all. It is a null class in the class of all classes, not numbers of the given class.

(Translation into simple English gratefully accepted...J.S.)

A LETTER FROM DOROTHY C. FONTANA TO STAG MEMBERS.

"Let me thank you very much for the book. It's lovely, and it will be a treasured part of my library now. Please convey my thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed towards it.

*Best Regards,
Dorothy Fontana."*

A LETTER FROM GENE RODDENBERRY CONCERNING THE BLOOPER REEL.

"I can understand the dilemma of fans in England who might otherwise never get a chance to see the Blooper reel, and therefore, I will make it available to you. I am delighted we are finally in touch. Good luck with the convention.

*Live long and prosper,
Gene Roddenberry.*

Dorothy Fontana cannot, unfortunately, attend the convention, but later that week will be going, with Jim, George and the committee to a Mediaeval Banquet at Coombe Abbey. The committee will be pleased to convey all of your best wishes to her.

Miss Fontana is currently working on scripts for Police Woman, (A new series) and The Streets of San Francisco.

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