

STAG .

NO11

A MEMBER OF THE ABSTC.

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Hi there, Everyone!

My name is Marian Kennedy, your STAG vice president. First of all, let me say how pleased I am to be able to write this letter. I joined STAG around July 1973 and have since been involved in all the club's activities. As a member, I'm fortunate to receive letters and meet so many lovely people. The year 1974 was an interesting and exciting one. Remember the minicon at St Thomas's Church hall? That was the place we met our freinds for the first time and helped to pay for the stars to come over. After months of planning, with the great help and support of STAG members, the 1st British Star Trek Convention finally took place. I shall always remember going with Jenny to London and meeting Jim Doohan and George Takei. Then the fantastic con that followed. The committee needed a lot of energy to look after Jim and George, but we would do the same thing over again.

I would like to welcome all new members to STAG and hope you will enjoy our club and be active in it. I am always pleased to answer letters and to answer general queries.

All the very best in the new year. May it bring peace, happiness and prosperity to you all.

Marian.

*30, Lancaster Road,
Leicester.*

THE GUARDIAN OF FOREVER. BY SHEILA CLARK.

Margaret Austin and I have been having a correspondence about what we consider to be the discrepancies in the functioning of the Time Portal between "City on the Edge of Forever" and "Yesteryear."

For example, Margaret is perturbed by the fact that in "City" the guardian stated that it had been constructed to offer the past in ONE fashion...a straight run-through...and could not alter that; in addition it could only offer the past of one's own planet. Yet in "Yesteryear" they were able to state when and where they wanted to go. This did not bother me particularly; I would assume that Federation scientists would examine the portal closely, knowing what it could do, and possibly work out how to change the programming, even though they were unable to duplicate the portal itself.

What bothered me, but not Margaret, was that McCoy, in the landing party, forgot Spock as completely as the rest of the crew. (They, remember, were still on the "Enterprise." In "City" the landing party retained their knowledge of the past, although the Enterprise and everyone aboard her had vanished. To be consistent, McCoy, in Yesteryear, should have remembered Spock. Margaret suggested that in Yesteryear, the change had been made in McCoy's present, so he forgot, but in Kirk's future, so he remembered, and on the operators side of the portal, setting up a different situation from the one in City where the change was made on the traveller's side. I'm not so sure that a different situation would have made that much difference.

A time portal could be dangerous to its builders.

In any society, no matter how utopian, there are malcontents. Either their grievance is real or imaginary, or they are greedy, either for material possessions or, more likely, for power; or they are simply agitators who enjoy making trouble. In any of these reasons, there may be insanity. A time portal would make an excellent way of causing the changes they desire. There is even the type of mind which takes things to bits to see how they work, in itself a harmless trait, even a desirable one, but very dangerous if given a time machine to work with. Such a person could make changes, small at first, to see what would happen; then, as he failed to see any difference because his memory was itself affected by his actions, bigger and bigger changes as he became desperate to see some effect.

If I were designing a time portal, I would include a safety device. The simplest way of doing this would be to provide an area centered on the machine where time was "fixed" in some way; an area which would remain unaffected no matter what alterations were made, where a specially selected guard group lived. Their duties would be to monitor the users of the portal, so that only well adjusted scientists could get near it; also, the guards would be ready at all times to go into the past to correct inadvertent changes that might be made.

I realise, of course, that such a safety device could be rendered ineffective by any re-programming such as I earlier suggested; But skilled scientists

putting in a safety device would also presumably put in a "cut out" which they could operate automatically if the safety factor was accidentally cancelled.

Personally, I think that time travel is one of the impossibilities. Which is just as well. The paradoxes would drive us all mad!

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS OR ANY STAG ARTICLE, SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO JENNY HARDING, 221, WIGSTON LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER.

Do YOU think you are alone in your part of the woods when it comes to STAR TREK? It really is surprising that very few of you are! In the next street, the next village, the next city, there is someone else, just dying to get together with another fan, to have an occasional natter, and to exchange goodies, news, letters and information.

STAG are now helping you to find those pen pals you never realised were so close to you. So, if you would like someone in your area to whom you could communicate, write to JANET QUARTON, LODGE COTTAGE, BURY FARM, PEDNORROAD CHESHAM, BUCKS. State the general area in which you live, and PLEASE enclose a Stamped addressed envelope, or we won't be able to reply! (Envelope being a Vulcan word, of course!)

Thanks for all your letters about the Star Trek Library...all enthusiastic ones! Now all that remains to do is to work it all out, so as soon as we have done just that, we'll let you know. Kepp in touch, folks!

And now, a leetle grumble from Ann Wigmore!

"Does everyone dislike Spock so much? Or do I have a persecution complex on his behalf? Everything Trekkie I read these days seems to be saying; "Don't send us anything to do with Spock!" Has he got Vulcanian measles? It's not the Spock who are inundating clubs with him, it's the people who think that's what Spock fans want! It's not true! ANY COMMENTS? SEND 'EM TO JENNY(H.)

AND A COMMENT FROM PHILIP PEARCE: ...Nearly all the major ST characters seem to be loners. Kirk in the loneliness of command; McCoy and Chapel victims of broken relationships; Spock, the half breed, and Scotty, who only loves his engines. Is this a healthy thing for a starship?

ANNE COCKITT OF 9, GONVILLE AVE, SUTTON LANE ENDS. MACCLESFIELD CHESHIRE would like to trade or sell S.T. prints. She also has items on most pop stars to trade or sell, including Smith & Jones and UFO. Contact Anne.

(Information supplied by Star Trek Welcommittee.)

PHASERS AND COMMUNICATORS! "They look like the real thing! Available soon from Lincoln Enterprises.

A NEW STAR TREK BOOK By Jaqueline Lichenberg and Sandra Marshak and Joan Winston. As yet untitled, it has been purchased by BANTAM books and will be in their spring list of publications. This is the first book on various aspects of the Star Trek Phenomena...More info as we get it.

THE BOOKLET OF GENERAL PLANS...for a constitution class Starship will be published by BALLENTINE books, and should be available from February onwards. It is a detailed set of 12 accurately scaled drawings showing the complete interior and exterior of a heavy cruiser, Enterprise type. (And it DOES have loos!) Colours are carefully co-ordinated and all details are scientifically and technically accurate. By Franz Joseph Designs.

A NEW PARAMOUNT PRESIDENT. Mr Barry Diller is the new president of Paramount, replacing Frank Yablans. To date there is no indication of his attitude towards Star Trek, and he is unaware of the intense interest in the show, since it was Mr Yablans who received the thousands of letters. Therefore, we must impress him with a large amount of mail! Negotiations between Mr Roddenberry and Paramount were progressing but not finalised when Mr Diller took office, and Mr Roddenberry states that it is now vital that Paramount receives letters regarding the movie, the more the better. So write NOW to Mr Barry Diller, President, Paramount Studios inc., 5451, Marathon Street, Los Angeles, CA90038, USA . Be polite, sincere and legible...and remember to plug the original Star Trek cast, all of whom have indicated an interest in doing their original roles again.

AND NEWS ON THAT ELUSIVE MOVIE. Plans are coming along, and Paramount is talking of spending at least 1½ million dollars on it, and they have also come round to the decision to use the original actors. Gene Roddenberry is writing the screenplay now, but STILL no contract, so it is very important to keep those letters rolling!

A LETTER CAMPAIGN TO THE BBC. Although the BBC did show ST episodes over the Christmas period, (And what a ridiculous time, not everyone has long school holidays,) it would be great if we could get them back regularly again, in the evening. So write as often as you can! Get your friends to write...and your family. Write as an individual...be yourself...to Miss Sheelagh Mullins, BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

A NEW OFFICIAL FAN CLUB FOR NICHELLE NICHOLS. Write to Virginia Walker, PO Box 1701, Bedford, Mass 01730, USA for information.

A DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET. By JANICE PITKETHLEY.

In July 1973, I left Scotland to spend a three week holiday with my pen-friend, Pam Smith of Bellingham, Massachusetts. Pam and her two sisters, Wendy and Sharon are all Star Trek Fans, and when Pam mentioned that Leonard Nimoy's parents live in Milton, Massachusetts, an idea was born. Pam found their address in the book, and I wrote from Scotland, explaining I was a Trekkie and about my coming holiday. Imagine my delight when the Nimoy's replied, inviting us to visit them!

The great day arrived; Thursday 5th July, and Pam, Wendy and I set from Bellingham, arriving at Milton after an hour. Knees shaking, we rang the bell and Mr Nimoy Senior opened the door. Smiling, he said; "Come in!" Mrs Nimoy was waiting for us, and we introduced ourselves. We couldn't help noticing the photos of Leonard and his family, which were everywhere. Mrs Nimoy gave us a beautiful lunch, and afterwards, we got down to talking.

His parents were very nice indeed, and Mrs Nimoy tried to put us at our ease...we were very nervous and it showed!... She kept saying; "Don't be bashful girls. Come on, have another cup of coffee!" They answered all our questions about Leonard and Star Trek. In turn, I was asked about Scotland. Mrs Nimoy was delighted with the little gift I'd brought. It was a Scottish Piper doll which turned round as it played the bagpipes.

Pam mentioned that we had tickets for "Camelot", a show which Leonard was appearing in, and she said she would tell him to look out for us. We took some photos, gave them a scrapbook, and as we were saying goodbye, Mrs Nimoy hugged me!

Our tickets for Camelot were on the opening night, July 16th, and we arrived far too early. Pam, Wendy, Sharon and I were in the car park when a dark blue car arrived, which stopped only feet away from ours. Leonard Nimoy himself was in the front seat. As he stepped out, I rushed over to him and threw my arms around him, almost choking him. I said something like "I hope you don't mind!" and he said; "No, not at all!" When I told him who we were, he said he'd heard about us from his parents, and that I must be the girl from Scotland. Pam took a photo of him, then one with my arms around his neck. Wow!

We loved every minute of the show, but our minds were on the second meeting backstage. Afterwards, the doorman let us in. Leonard came out of his dressing room, signed our programmes, then asked me about Scotland. Then he said; "Thanks for coming such a long way to see the show!" We chatted for almost half an hour after that. He understood my Scots accent perfectly. By this time it was after midnight, and we reluctantly said goodbye.

July 16th 1973 was a date I'll never forget! ...The day I met Leonard Nimoy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Postage is becoming very expensive! Regretfully, but inevitably, STAG must insist that all members send stamped addressed envelopes or IRC's when writing to committee members. Otherwise, their letters WILL NOT BE ANSWERED.

HOSATO. The official fan club for GEORGE TAKEI! It's VOLUPTUOUS, so join us NOW. GEORGE is very active and interested in his club and takes an active part in it's running and the newsletters. All members questions are answered by him in his own handwriting. DUES £1.50. (\$4 USA) Write Jenny Elson, (STAG HQ) or Johanna Butler, 46, Drayton Rd, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks. 6 newsletters and a yearbook.

THE 2ND BRITISH STAR TREK CONVENTION is progressing well. Lots of new features, THE BLOOPERS, (again!) Vulcan fashion show, Japanese art exhibition, Dr WHO exhibits, and of course, SPECIAL GUEST STARS FROM THE STAR TREK CAST! This year, three stars have been invited, and as soon as they have confirmed their booking with us, we will let you know. ALL THIS AND MORE. So don't delay in registering AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Don't forget that outside interest will be even more intense this year, and although we have a bigger hotel, we will have more people to accommodate! ALL PROFIT BEING DONATED TO THE GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATION.

THE HALKAN COUNCIL. A very interesting and well written newsletter which includes news and fan-opinions, discussions and fiction. Dues £1 for four issues. Write Ms Shirley Huang, 74, Berwick Rd, Delmar, NY 12054, USA.

FOR WILLIAM SHATNER FANS; A great fan club! WILLIAM SHATNER ENTERPRISES. Write Chris PS Jones, 222, Manchester Road, Heaton Norris, Stockport, Cheshire.

AND FOR HUMOUR, WIT, and STAR TREK join BEYOND ANTARES. WRITE Miss Sheila Hull, 35, Merley Ways, Merley, Wimbourne, Dorset.

TYPED COPIES OF LN'S "YOU AND I" ALSO ANY OF HIS LP'S ON CASSETTE. for information write HELEN SNEDDON, NEWTON MEARNES, GLASGOW G77 5NN with SAE.

THE JAMES DOOHAN INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB... ONE OF THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS. HUGE JOURNALS AND A YEARBOOK. PLENTY OF JIM AND STAR TREK. For info write Jenny Elson, STAG HQ.

Oh Poor Jenny Harding, so lonely and low,
Unwanted, unhappy and sad.

BY ENA GLOGOWSKA.

Let us send her our writing; inspired let it flow
Whether brilliant or middling or bad.
For when she has plenty she'll sort it all through,
(And some will end up in the bin.)
Keep the post office busy, Contribute...yes, YOU...
there's not a damn thing coming through!

ILLUSTRATING STAR TREK. By Helen McCarthy.

(Helen is our Art Secretary. Address: 56, Tuffnel Park Road, London.)

In the last N/L we heard the lament of the publication secretary. Now it's the art secretaries turn. We love you all so much that we can't get enough of your work, and my morning isn't complete unless the postman brings a nice fat envelope for me to enjoy with my breakfast. (Delicious buttered.)

Alas, many of you have not been sending in your work lately, and some of the best drawings I've received are impossible to reproduce. The litho process we now use doesn't take kindly to smudged, faint pencil lines or wavy ball-point.

The first thing to consider about any artwork is not what you draw, but what you draw it with. For litho printing the best results are obtained by a strong contrast of dark and light areas. That's not to say the process can't deal with subtle shading, but the placing of the main areas of light and shade must be carefully considered.

Make sure you have a firm working surface and a good light. Paper is important. A good matt, even-surfaced paper will give excellent reproduction. Most stationers will sell you a big sheet of cartridge paper for about 10p, and you'll get 10 good sized drawings from that. Typing paper may also suit your needs. If you plan to work in ink or felt tip, NEVER use a cheap absorbant paper unless you want your lines to go all fuzzy.

Now decide what you want to draw with. Pencil needs to be carefully handled. But with the different grades, you can get subtle shadings and textured effects. HB, the middle grade is useful for all-purposes; 6B, the softest, gives a rich, heavy black tone; 6H, the hardest, is light in tone but tends to be brittle.

As pencil does smudge, you might like to invest 40p in a can of fixative spray to preserve your drawings. This can also be used on charcoals. Felt tipped pens are excellent for drawing, and fairly cheap. As they cannot be rubbed out, it's best to make a rough sketch first. My personal favourite is black ink. You can produce heavy, solid planes of black and white, delicate linear tracteries and carefully graded contrasts. It can be used with pen or brush, and you can use ordinary ink or special drawing ink. Use drawing pens... for fine lines, a mapping pen, and a broad pen will fill large spaces quickly. If working with a brush, for most work get a fine point, and a medium soft brush for filling in.

You're finally ready to begin, so choose your subject carefully. I'm fond of Spock's head as the rest of you, but a zine full of Spock's head may get slightly monotonous. Try originality. Copy your favourite clip; draw your favourite character indulging in a hobby, off duty or perhaps dressed in national costume. Create a new alien; draw the inside of the Enterprise... rec-rooms, labs, cabins. It doesn't have to be a scene or object either. An abstract is just as interesting. So don't hang back any longer... Get drawing!

MY FAVOURITE STAR TREK EPISODE...ERRAND OF MERCY.

BY JANE SAYLE.

Errand of Mercy is undoubtedly my favourite episode. As someone with a keen interest in military history, I find the story particularly intriguing, especially the character of Kor, the Klingon Commander, placed as Governor over the planet of Organia. For a Klingon, whose main interest in life is fighting, the task of ruling a civilian population must have been an unwelcome one. In the case of the Organians, Kor finds himself confronted with a people seemingly at the peasant stage of evolution, whose whole passive outlook to life could not be further removed from the Klingon life.

In sheer exasperation, Kor exclaims; "Bad enough to be a military governor, But to govern a population of sheep...." The dialogue in Errand is very good, with all the characters saying exactly what one would expect in the circumstances. e.g. The concern of Kirk and Spock for the fate of the Organians; the arrogance of the Klingons; Kirk, believing he is dealing with a simple people, and trying to convince the council of the affect of the Klingon occupancy in planets such as Organia...that they are organised into vast slave labour camps, that hostages are killed, and the leaders confined. Surely, there are parallels on Earth today?

Yet despite all endeavours, the Organians remain infuriatingly calm, and convinced that they are "in absolutely no danger." How true this turns out to be. And this is what makes "Errand of Mercy" such a marvellous episode.

I have always believed that not only does life exist on other planets, but that it is of a far higher order than ours. In Errand, for example, two different orders confront one another over a third. The first two are convinced that they are right, even to the point of disregarding the People's wishes. Kor even has the effrontery to claim that by intervening to prevent a clash between Federation and Klingon fleets, the Organians were "Meddling" in things that were not of their business.

The Organians finally reveal themselves as a race which has evolved from being life-forms into pure energy, and pure thought...totally incorporeal. And the sheer irony of the situation is that once the Organians show themselves as more powerful, Kirk and Kor become so angry at the interference that they actually end up by siding with each other against the very people they were fighting over.

So many other points about this episode could be mentioned, such as the gentle character of Ayelbourne; the gems of dialogue; the entire action. It's a story which fires the imagination, yet is so true and practical in terms of human behaviour and attitudes expressed. "Errand of Mercy", for me, sums up what the experience of Star Trek is all about.

FOR STAR TREK HUMOUR IN THE STYLE OF "MONTY PYTHON" AND "THE GOODIES"
JOIN S.T.E.R.B. NOW! WRITE TO H.Q.14 BINGHAM ROAD RADCLIFFE ON TRENT NOTTS.
A MEMBER CLUB OF ABSTC.