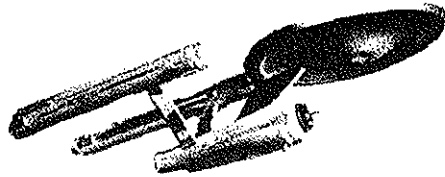


Star Trek Action Group



NEWSLETTER NO. 14

COMMITTEE

President: Janet Quarton c/o 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.
Art Editor: Helen McCarthy 96A, Fonthill Rd., Finsbury Park,
London N.4 3HT.

Hi, everyone. I'm your new President, Janet Quarton.

Quite a few of you will have already heard that the STAG committee has been changed. After running STAG for two years, and organising two conventions, Jenny, Terry and the rest of the committee have earned a well-deserved rest. If it hadn't been for Jenny and Terry, we wouldn't have had the last two conventions, so we owe them a lot of thanks. However, Jenny isn't giving up altogether; along with Jo Butler, she is continuing to run Hosato.

We apologise that this newsletter is so late coming out. This was due to the convention and to the fact that the committee was changed at the end of September. It has taken us a while to put the newsletter together and to arrange to get it duplicated. In future, we hope to get the newsletters out regularly every two months.

Because this newsletter is so late, we have extended yearly memberships by one month.

We have had to do away with life memberships because of the drastic increase in postal rates, so from now on membership will be on an annual basis only. We will honour life memberships for those of you who already have them, but beg to point out that three-quarters of our members have life membership and we have no further income from these members. Postage has increased so much that it costs more to post the newsletters than to print them - about £28, to be exact. (And we have this to pay six times a year.) It would help our finances greatly if life members would send in six second-class stamps every year. We have also had to increase membership dues to £1.50 a year (£2 or £3 overseas), and due to the fluctuating exchange rates we have to insist that overseas members pay by sterling cheques or money orders.

You will have seen from the above committee list that Helen McCarthy is still with us as Art Editor. We have been joined by Sheila Clark and Beth Hallam. Beth wanted to join the committee as General Dogsbody, but for the sake of the bank and other official bodies, she is the secretary. She'll handle all your orders. Sheila will look after the newsletters and zines, and anything for publication goes to her. I'll handle memberships, post the newsletters and try to answer any queries you may have. It will help if you send your letters to the right committee member, and we regret that we can't answer any letter unless it is accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. If there is a delay in your receiving a reply to your letters, please be patient; we all work for a living, and only get so much free time. We will do our best to reply as soon as possible.

As well as having a main committee, we will be having a sub-committee to help with the work. So far on the sub-committee we have Theo Krik as our translator, so if any of you have foreign articles which you think might be of interest to the club, send them in and Theo will translate them. Members in Europe are welcome to send in stories or articles in their own language and we'll get them translated.

If any members would like to help the club actively by doing small jobs, please let me know. I can then keep a list of people I can call on if we need help.

If anyone has any STAR TREK based articles which they would like to sell by auction please let me know as soon as possible, enclosing a S.A.E. If there is enough response, we will consider holding an auction in the next newsletter or the one after, 10% of the selling price to go to STAG funds.

We hope to keep a page of the newsletter for people requiring pen-friends or local groups looking for new members. Advertising for this will be free, but please keep the advert as short as possible. Send them direct to Sheila Clark. We can only spare the one page at the moment so first come, first served.

The latest news we have on the film came from James Doohan at the convention. Gene Roddenberry's script has been turned down and a number of other writers will now be submitting scripts to Paramount. Gene will be producing the film. Until the script is decided on they won't cast the film, but there is no reason to suppose that all the original cast won't agree to be in it.

Well, I think that's enough from me for this newsletter.

Live long and prosper.

Janet.

Receipts and Payments Account, Period 1/6 - 31/9/75.

| <u>Receipts</u> | | <u>Payments</u> | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| Opening balance | Bank £110.24 | Publications | £140.38 |
| | Cash £ 10.55 | Photos | £ 88.18 |
| | £120.79 | General Sales | £ 9.50 |
| Memberships | £ 78.50 | Printing/postage/ | |
| Publications | £ 76.55 | stationery | £102.25 |
| Photos | £168.85 | Miscellaneous | £173.95 |
| General sales | £167.14 | Balance I/H | £ 97.57 |
| | £611.83 | | £611.83 |

Miscellaneous includes transfer of £157 to convention funds.

Highlights of the Second Leicester Convention

Describe highlights of the con., they said.....Looking for a particular one is almost impossible. Meeting the guest stars qualifies, especially when you are likely to meet them in the lift, or the hotel foyer, as well as seeing them on the platform in the Rutland Room. This year's guests were Jim and Wende Doohan, and it was lovely to meet them. We are grateful to them for coming so far to be with us.

One disappointment of this year's convention was that George Takei and Walter Koenig were unable to come. We missed them, but hope that they will come some other time.

The JDIFC meeting was a friendly and informal hour with Jim and Wende, which certainly ranks among the highlights, especially as Wende very kindly helped with my cassette recording. Jim says she is handy with mending their T.V. set, too.

A selection of films was shown. The Star Trek episode was my personal favourite, with "Baffled" a close second. I would like to have seen them both through again. (There are two more I'd like to see as well, guess which?)

The Galactic Fashion Show was outstanding, teeming with ideas and imagination, and beautifully carried out. As a direct result of this, Joe glittered silver all evening..... He congratulated Barbie on her costume, and, in spite of her warnings, gave her an enthusiastic hug! Hence the silver. Did someone say "Highlights"?

There was more space in the club and display rooms, and people could move around in greater comfort than last year. There was also plenty of seating in the hotel foyer, which was encouraging. For when Star Trekkers get together they talk at length, and sufficient seating is appreciated. In fact, natter sessions are an established feature of cons and mini-cons, and through their medium many a friendship has been made, many a pen-friend met and many a story told (not necessarily a Star Trek story, either).

There were lots of things; the quiz, the auction, the disco and that excellent display of karate, the fancy dress parade, films, exhibitions, stalls, as well as the talk/question sessions with Jim and Wende on the platform, the photograph and autograph session, and finally the presentation of awards by Jim. They all contribute towards the best weekend of the year.

The two conventions we have had in Britain have been the highlights of 1974 and 1975 for some of us, and many thanks to Jenny Elson for being the driving force and making them possible. We wish her all the best and hope to see her again at the next con, whenever and where-ever it may be, although she has now decided to retire from the organising scene. May she live long and prosper greatly.

E.G.

Hosato won the quiz. (STAG was knocked out on the last question in the semi-final.)

The magnificent ape costume and the tribble well deserved their prizes in the fancy dress parade, as did Chris Jones for sheer courage! Those who saw it know what I mean!

Although both George and Walter were unfortunately unable to attend, both wrote apologising.

George wrote -

Dear Friends;

I can't tell you how heartsick I am that I can't be with you now at the Star Trek Con in Leicester. It was a weekend that I truly had been looking forward to for a very long time.

In many ways this con means more to me than the one we attended last year because this time I felt that I would be returning to old friends. Many of you have maintained lively correspondences with me during the past year. Some had even come out to Heathrow Airport last May to share a brief stopover I had on my way to France but unhappily, due to schedule delays and other general foul ups, we couldn't get together. Although disappointed, I was at the same time deeply touched by the affection for me that that effort represented.

And so, this convention was a very special one for me. In many ways, I had been preparing myself for something of a homecoming - merrie old England, happy spirits and, most of all, good friends - all make for what I can only call a "Voluptuous" weekend.

However, what made our friendship possible in the first place, my career as an actor, can also become a terrible and sometimes cruel obstacle to that friendship. It can make heartbreaking demands. And it has done so, on, of all weekends, this one.

As you are listening to these words read to you by my good friend Jimmy Doohan, I am taping a guest appearance on a highly rated show here called "Chico and the Man". It is a fun role and comedy is a delightful change of pace for me - but it is with mixed feelings that I accepted this assignment. Believe me, your disappointment of my absence at the con this year is multiplied many fold with me. I am here in Hollywood but my heart is with all of you in Leicester.

My heart is there because I know that you're going to have another fantastic convention. A gathering of Star Trek people, Jimmy Doohan and a little bit of Saurian brandy can't result in anything other than a "Voluptuous" experience.

With the only regret that I can't be there to join in the fun, my very best wishes to all of you for a great convention.

Most sincerely,
George Takei

Walter wrote -

Due to circumstances totally beyond my control I must withdraw my acceptance to attend the Star Trek Convention you are planning for Sept. 20th to 22nd. I deeply regret the unexpected turn of events and the inconvenience it will cause you all. Had I known a minute earlier I would have let you know, but much more quickly. However it is almost at precisely this moment that I have learned of my inability to be with you. Had the reason been any but a deeply personal one, I would have attempted to come to Leicester regardless of the consequences. I am truly sorry that my wife and I will not be with you in September, and send you our apologies and deep regrets. With best wishes for a marvellously successful conference.

On the Sunday night just as she was getting ready to leave the hotel after the Con, Donna Lauchlan lost a carrier bag full of her purchases. It appears that someone had accidentally picked it up - everyone had a bag the same - for it was later handed in at Reception. Our thanks go to Margaret Austin who collected it from Reception and saw that Donna got it back.

At the beginning of September, Janet was told by the BBC that Star Trek was to return on Sunday October 26th. Ten days later, BBC told me that Star Trek was to return on September 21st. Now we hear from two sources, one of them member Eddie Mooney, that BBC now says there are no plans to repeat Star Trek..... But then they said they didn't mean to repeat the animations - and guess what's on on Saturdays at 9.15? In other words, if you want to know what's happening, don't ask the BBC - because they don't know either.....

Bill Shatner's right ankle was broken during the summer while he was filming "Barbary Coast". A horse stood on it. I'm sure we all hope that he has fully recovered now.

Leonard Nimoy was in London on holiday during the summer. When he left, he went on to Australia where he is doing the narration for a film on the Great Barrier Reef, called "The Coral Jungle".

Talking of nature films, "Inner Space", narrated by Bill Shatner, is being shown in some parts of the country, on Saturday mornings. I haven't seen hide nor hair of it my way, though.

American Member Dorothy Bradley tells me that according to a TV show called "Creature Features" that she was watching, both Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy have signed up with Paramount for the S.T. film! Even though the latest we have on the script itself is that Gene Roddenberry's first draft was turned down and Paramount seems to be trying to get another writer for it.

Also thanks to Dorothy, I have a copy of 'Log 5', which contains one of the animations we haven't seen over here - "The Pirates of Orion". In it, Spock is seriously ill, and the ship carrying the drug that will save his life is attacked by Orion pirates and the entire cargo stolen.

As most of you probably know by now, author James Blish died during the summer. We offer our sincere, if belated, condolences to his widow.

H E L P

We need articles, stories, comments, poems, jokes - we can only function efficiently and well if you help us!

A small number of faithful members regularly send in items, but obviously they can't go on for ever. We would like to see more members contributing. If you have anything to say, why not get it down on paper and send it in? Even if it's only a comment on the sort of things you'd like to see in the newsletters. Janet, Beth, Helen and I don't believe we run the club - we're only a sort of clearing house through whom you - the members - can say things to other members, exchange ideas, find new friends. Theo Krik has already offered to help us by translating anything we may come across in foreign languages; is there anything anyone else can do? Remember, this is your club - not ours; and every one of our four hundred members has a responsibility to the other three hundred and ninety-nine. Don't imagine that just because you haven't tried, you can't write anything - two years ago, I thought that; and this year at the con, I won a Nova for a zine of short stories. If I can do it, so can you!

If you'd like to try writing a story but find it hard to think of a beginning, how about trying to write a story from this beginning;

The bridge crew tried, not wholly successfully, to avoid staring at Kirk as he stamped angrily into the elevator. Only Spock seemed to have not iced not hing wrong; as he moved easily to the command chair he looked as relaxed as he always did; as relaxed as if there had been no hysterical outburst from the Captain. Yet he had been its immediate target.

Nor did anyone know what had caused it.

There will be a prize of a photo, own choice of character, for the story we think best. (State your choice when you send in the story, as it takes time to get photos printed.) The only stipulation is that the situation is not caused by Kirk acting under sealed orders. The winning story will be printed - sometime. Printing costs are almost prohibitive. Stories can only be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope stamped with sufficient postage. Sorry about that, but postal costs being what they are...

Closing date for entries, 30th November, and the winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

What's that you're asking? No, there's no maximum length stipulated. One thousand words or ten thousand, it doesn't matter. I've done one on the theme that's about seven thousand, and I'd have hated to do it in less - even though Beth thinks it's about seven thousand words too long! Just get the story written, whatever its length, and send it in to me. It doesn't have to be typed, just as long as your writing is legible. Happy story-telling!

The WILLIAM SHATNER LETTER EXCHANGE is a club for fans who would like to write to others just as entrapped by the aura of Bill Shatner. Overseas membership, \$2, inc. membership card, seasonal newsletters. Write Luanne Carter, 1241 Beelar St., Aurora, Co 80010, USA.

You may be wondering about Janet mentioning that ads for pen-friends or local groups would be free. This is because we have reluctantly decided that ads buying or selling things must be subject to a charge of 5p a line. Sorry about that, but we do need the money! You might think that a balance of £97 looks good - but in fact it is only enough to let us put out two newsletters. We have material enough for three or four zines - two are already compiled, ready to be printed - but until we get some more money, we just can't afford to risk it. All we can afford is the one limited edition zine advertised on the sales list.

It is for the same reason that the membership rate has had to go up. The new rates are:

£1.50 Britain.
 £2.00 Europe and surface overseas.
 £3.00 Airmail overseas.

Overseas members please pay in sterling cheques or money orders. Apart from the fluctuating exchange rate, this will actually benefit you, as well. Dollar cheques, for example, have to be cleared through the bank before we can act on them, and this takes time; sterling cheques can be paid in immediately. This isn't our ruling, but the bank's. So it is quicker to pay sterling.

We have an address through which members can write to Jim Doohan. This is -

James Doohan, PO Box 1100, Burbank, CA 91507 USA.

Note - Jim loves to hear from all his fans, but apologises that he is unable to answer all his mail because of pressure of work (and pressure of mail!).

LOCAL TREKKIES GROUP - Gloucester/Wilts area.

Ken Mardle would like to form a group of local trekkies interested in acting out Star Trek stories to be recorded on Super 8 film to show at local meetings. There would also be an opportunity to look at transparencies, listen to tape cassettes, and discuss various aspects of Star Trek. For details write to Ken Mardle, 3 Chester Street, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 5DX.

Probably because I'm not used to this job yet, I keep forgetting to put in that our honorary members are Jim Doohan and George Takei. Sorry, lads. I haven't really forgotten you!

Other clubs:

Hosato; write to Jenny Elson, 16 Stafford Drive, Wigston, Leicester.
 Beyond Antares; Sheila Hull, 35 Merley ways, Wimborne, Dorset.
 Empathy; Cathy Owens, 30 Ovenden Way, Halifax, West Yorks.
 STCC; Jackie Dunham, 105 Somerleyton Gdns., Norwich, Norfolk.
 STERB; John Hind, 14 Bingham Rd., Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts.
 WSE; Chris Jones, 222 Manchester Rd., Heaton Norris, Stockport.
 JDIFC; An American club for Jim Doohan. Four journals annually.
 £2 surface, £4 air. Anna Hreha, 1519 NW 204th Street,
 Washington 98177 USA.

I haven't forgotten Jo Butler, Barbara Kitson or Michael Rossiter, I just didn't have enough space left to fit in their addresses.

The New Film; Will It Be Just Another STAR Trek?

So it's finally going to happen. Star Trek is coming back as a made-for-the-cinema full length feature film. I take it everybody has had time to get accustomed to the Powers That Be finally doing something right for a change.

Good.

One thing (among many others, but that's beside the point) has been puzzling me; according to Gene Roddenberry there will be ten or so big name stars in the film (to give it "box office appeal" as if it ever needed it!!!). Ever wondered what kind of characters are going to get written in for, say, Lee Marvin, or Roger Moore? "The Magnificent Seven" in a pressure suit doesn't exactly sound right somehow. Bond's already well into sci.fi., but how do you give a karate chop to something like Yarnek (or for that matter, a tribble!)?

Of course, you could always turn to the T.V. series for characters. Like having Telly Savalas stand in for a James T. (Theo) Kirk character, or Columbo for Chekov?

Picture the scene:- The Bridge of the U.S.S. Enterprise; Kirk enters, pulls a Starfleet issue lollipop from under his shirt, deftly peels off the wrapper, rams it into his mouth and slumps into the command chair.

"Okay, sweetheart, gimme a Command status report, and snap to it!"

"Duh...Ahh, yeah, Captain. Gee, that sure isa delicious looking lollipop. My wife says I oughta get a real cute gimmick like that, y'know? Oh, by the way..."

"So you made with the pleasantries already. Now where's the Status Report, and for cryin' out loud drop the phoney Bronx accent...Hey, pussycat. What's that you're wearing?"

"Oh, see this? The latest in space gear. My wife just loves this, see she..."

"Will you get the lead out...?"

"Uh, yeah, well, like I was saying, Captain, it's the latest. Just great. See, it was invented by a little old wabbit catcher from Vladivostok..."

The lift doors hiss open. Spock, played by Robert Redford, (alias the Great Gasbag, straight from his record-breaking appearance in "The Way We Warped" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Starship Captain") enters, followed by Uhura, played by Barbra Streisland (Funny Communications Officer).

"Interesting, Captain, and most illogical. Somebody just tried to sell me the Empire State Building."

"Nyehahaha. What happened?"

"Nothing, Captain. I already own the Empire State Building. I bought it off Paul Newman!"

"Terriffic (aside) Schmuck!" Drops remains of lollipop into a paper cup, lights a book match with one hand and tries to light a thin black cigar. An automatic fire extinguisher floods him with carbon dioxide. He surfaces, gasping,

"For crying out loud, I thought I told Scotty to get that thing fixed. Scotty, where the..."

Scotty, played by Steve (six million dollar man) Austin whirrs to his side.

"Can you do anything about these fire points?"

"Hmm. Can't jim. No spare parts..."

"Like h... there aren't any spares. Why'd you think we hired you. Any spare parts we need are on you. Spock, check the

inventory..." Spock advances on Scotty as Uhura, for some reason known only to herself and the writers, breaks into song. Kirk slaps his hands over his ears.

"...And do something about that racket. It's enough I should have to put up with a Bronx navigator, I have to have a communications officer as well."

Before Spock can comply, the lift doors hiss open and Kwai Chang Sulu leaps across the bridge, felling Uhura, Scotty and Spock under a hail of Kung Fu. Kirk pulls a lopsided smile.

"Okay, you guys. Get the ship's surgeon. With any luck he should have things put back together again before the writers out there think of something for us to do..."

"Waal, lookit hea'," Doctor Leonard McCloud tips his stetson onto the back of his head and surveys the damage. He takes out his spray hypo, presses it against Kirk's arm and twists it. There is a hiss, and Kirk gurgles into silence. He turns a knowing look to the audience. "There y'go!"

The U.S.S. Enterprise sails serenely out of San Fransisco harbour - straight into the Golden Gate Bridge...

See what I mean? Anyway, don't say I didn't warn you...

R. H.

A T T E N T I O N !

A L N I T A H

ALNITAH - a new independent zine, edited by Ann Looker and Margaret Draper. Issues 1 and 2 available from

Ann Looker,
The Forge,
41 Main Street,
Weston Turville,
Aylesbury.

Price per zine, 45p plus 15p postage and packing on each zine (or 25p p & p for both).

We, the STAG committee, recommend ALNITAH very highly. It is the brainchild of a local group and the stories in it are of a very high standard. Don't start reading it unless you have plenty of time - once you start, you won't be able to put it down!

I have an apology to make - or maybe I don't, I don't know for certain. Perhaps the people concerned wanted to remain anonymous; but there are quite a lot of items among the stories, articles and poems handed on to me by Jenny Harding that have no author's names on them - so if we print them, we'll be unable to give an acknowledgement of who wrote them. (I was a culprit myself - among these items were two poems I sent in - and until I saw them again, I didn't realise that I'd forgotten to put my name on them!) So if we print something you wrote, and your name's not on it - that's why. We don't have a record of it. If you let us know, though, once you see it printed, we'll acknowledge it in the next newsletter.

We finish with one of these anonymous poems. Please, whoever wrote this, let me know - and please, write some more!

There's a question, dear friends, that I'd like to ask now;
At the back of my mind it's oft harried.
What I'd like to know is - exactly just how
Did Spock's parents e'er come to be married?

How on Earth did they meet? (If it was on the Earth)
And, remembering his culture banned him
From illogical feelings like love, joy and mirth,
How, oh how did she manage to land him?

Just one clue do we have to this puzzle sublime,
Sarek said, on a Journey to Babel,
To be wed "Seemed the logical thing, at the time" -
To say why, though, he didn't seem able.

Well, perhaps in the future we'll find out - who knows?
They might yet put it in a new series.
In the meantime, still wondering, this question I pose;
Say, has anyone got any theories?

And that's all for this newsletter. Don't be too critical of the typing mistakes, please - I'm a teacher, not a typist! And if anyone in the Dundee area has a typewriter that doesn't jump, I'll be glad to hear from them! Peace and prosperity to you all.

If undelivered, please
return to:
J. Quarton,
c/o R. Woodhouse,
Sutton Hill Farm,
Blandford,
Dorset.