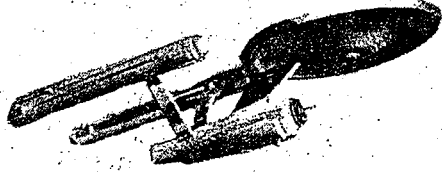


Star Trek Action Group



NEWSLETTER No. 18

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George Takei, Susan Sackett.

DUES

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Your membership expires on.....

Hello, everyone! First of all, we want to thank all those life members who have transferred to annual, and also all those who wished to retain life membership but sent donations. Our financial situation is now a great deal healthier than it was.

I also want to thank all the people who have sent in items for publication. I received far more than I can possibly use in one newsletter. Don't stop sending in your contributions, though! I need material for zines, too - stories, poems, line drawings. I would like, eventually, to print every member's name as having contributed something for publication, even if it's only on a two-line comment.

As you will see above, we've added a space on the newsletter for when your membership expires. If the space is left blank, your membership still has some time to run. It will be filled in when you receive the sixth and final newsletter of your year's membership, when we hope you will want to rejoin for another year.

Finally, a welcome to all those who have recently joined S.T.A.G. and who are receiving a newsletter for the first time. We hope you enjoy your stay with us, and if there is anything you want to know, don't hesitate to ask.

Sheila.

I expect most of you received the following letter from the B.B.C. in answer to our appeal for a showing of the banned episodes. We're printing it for the benefit of new members and for any other poor member who, like me, didn't get it but only one of those horrible printed cards saying 'Thank you for your views'!

"I am sorry that this is a printed reply to your enquiry concerning Star Trek but the BBC has received so many following its decision not to show certain episodes that it is the quickest way to provide you with the reasons why. This does not, however, lessen our appreciation of the trouble you have taken in writing to express your views.

After very careful consideration a top level decision was made not to screen the episodes entitled "Empath", "Whon Gods Destroy", "Plato's Stepchildren" and "Miri", because they all dealt most unpleasantly with the already unpleasant subjects of madness, torture, sadism and disease.

You will appreciate that account must be taken that out of Star Trek's large and enthusiastic following, many are juveniles, no matter what time of day the series is put into the programme schedules.

A further look has been taken following recent correspondence, but I am afraid it has been impossible to revise the opinion not to show these episodes.

Yours sincerely,
Sheila Cundy,
Programme Correspondence Section."

The following letter has since been sent in by one of our members:

Dear Friendly Trekkers,

I am very ashamed to admit that during my membership of S.T.A.G. I have not been very active (although I have always been with the group 100% in spirit). Apart from the odd ten thousand letters to the B.B.C. I have been very idle.

However, I now wish to write to you all to remedy this. I suppose most of you have written many times to many different people at the B.B.C., not only asking for the shows to be repeated but also in earnest, desperate to see the four banned shows. You probably have got a little fed up of the standard typed reply and I expect you were as down-trodden as I was if you received the latest reply that the B.B.C. Board have come to a firm and irreversable decision that these shows will not be shown at any time of day or year.

Listen, my dearest friends. Don't be disheartened. I have a brilliant idea that I think may work. Write to the B.B.C. asking for a special showing of these four programmes in one session at the Television Theatre in London. The Beeb would set the films up, even charge admission (club members only) and that way we would all win. The Beeb would receive extra revenue and we at last would see the shows we so desperately want to see. After all, they have done it quite recently with a lot of big movie stars and in the last month they even invited team players and guests along to the Theatre to see a vital football championship decider. Now we know we are in the same league and STAR TREK (God bless its large heart) is a Superstar of mammoth proportions.

If we get the same support behind this as we have done in the past, I just know we can get our way. The B.B.C. cannot refuse a financial profit. So please fellow Trekkers, lift up your tired pens and post haste this message to our square-box dictators. I am going to write now and hope that I'll be joined by all you beautiful people.

All my love to you all.

Live long and prosper peacefully,
Richard Bracewell.

It might be worth trying... although I think it would be better to suggest a private showing for members of clubs rather than any one... and also to specify a Saturday for the sake of the many fans who live outside commuting distance of London. Personally, I suspect that the B.B.C. will use "the possibility of juveniles attending such a showing" as a reason for refusing.... Let's try it.

However, our letters do seem to have some effect. The following passage appeared in the Sun on April 3rd.-

THE LITTLE BAND OF TREKKERS MAKE THE BBC TOE THEIR LINE

One of the oddest little pressure groups in the country has succeeded in getting the mighty B.B.C. to change its mind.

On Monday on BBC 1, Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock of the pointed ears, and the crew of USS Enterprise go boldly, sailing through space once more. For the umpteenth time.

And it's all thanks to a handful of fanatical Star Trek fans who have bombarded the BBC with letters asking for the famous science-fiction series to be repeated.

The last series was made more than five years ago. Since then, the programmes have been repeated over and over. And each time, the BBC have said 'Never again'.

And each time they have changed their minds. Why? Public demand, they say.

So what constitutes public demand? How many letters does it take to persuade the BBC to repeat your favourite programme?

In the case of Star Trek, about 1,300 letters over the past five years. That's a BBC estimate. But the fans reckon it is a very low one.

There are half a dozen 'official' Star Trek clubs in Britain, all with different names.

But their members, who regularly correspond and get together for annual conventions, total about 500.

They estimate that the BBC has received about 3,000 or 4,000 letters since 1971.

The trekkers do not just call for the show to be repeated.

They also ask for four banned episodes - which the BBC refuses to show because they are 'unsuitable for children' - to be reprinted.

And they ask the BBC to stop treating Star Trek as a children's programme, by showing it later at night.

Twelve episodes of Star Trek were shown over Christmas. But they were screened at lunch-time, and a lot of adult fans missed them.

That's only one of several newspaper reports STAR TREK has had recently; although most of the others have been in local papers only.

After he read the above article in the Sun, member Jack Clayton wrote a letter to the paper. It was a little long to quote in full, but I give a summary of it here.

Dear Sir,

I wish to comment on an article that appeared in your paper last April 3rd. The column was headed,

"The Little Band of Trekkers Made the BBC Toe Their Line".

Some of these Star Trek fans are people I write to. They are far from 'odd', as your reporter stated. They are the best friends I've ever had. I've had the pleasure of meeting some of them and they are as nice 'in the flesh' so to speak, as they are in their letters.

As for Star Trek having been shown for the 'umpteenth' time, this is wrong; most of the 79 episodes have been shown a third time. If the full repeat pattern circle is to be completed, then

there are another 14 to be shown for the third time - and even this would not be a full 'repeat pattern' because of the banned episodes.

What gives Star Trek the 'Made for Children' label is undoubtedly the idea of Mr. Spock's ears... since this gives the 'elf' image. But an episode which deals in brainwashing is hardly for children, is it? Yet this is the theme of an episode shown for the third time recently - 'Dagger of the Mind'.

I - and I'm sure thousands of other people - have seen far worse things of television news film than they might ever see on Star Trek. You see, Star Trek has a message - it's this. Peace and brotherhood amongst men. It sounds sort of Christmassy, doesn't it? - why cannot this particular Christmas message then be practised the whole year round? Is it because of the truth of the piece of soundtrack from one episode which says, 'You are still half savage'?

As for repeating the programmes - surely there is a lot to be said for this. A series can be shown more times than you have fingers on your hands, yet still someone, somewhere, has not seen it... irrespective of what it is. The number of people who miss even a third showing are no minority; what about people on nightshift or those bedridden in hospital? A workfriend of mine said to me the other week, "I saw Star Trek last night - I'd never seen it before. Is it on again next week?" The episode had had its third screening that night, to her it was a brand new series. And life would be very dull indeed if there were no chance of seeing or hearing again something which we really liked.

I was always told to ask if I wanted to know anything, so I'm asking - Why must films be cut just because they are repeats? Star Trek is one such series which has been mutilated repeatedly. This is depriving the first time viewer of the programme in its fuller detail. (Editor's note - most of the third series was cut the first time round)

On behalf of all Star Trekkers, I would like to wish all readers peace and happiness. Today! - not in some distant future time. If man wanted to restore peace and love today, he could - it isn't as difficult as it is made to appear.

Live long and prosper,
A Star Trekker.

What have the 'cast' been doing since STAR TREK?

William Shatner: Six Million Dollar Man - Burning Bright.
Pray for the Wildcars - T.V. film.
Police Surgeon - Ten Kibos to Nowhere.

(This last is a correction to a mistake in the last N/L)

Leonard Nimoy: Three Faces of Love - Part 2, Kiss me Again,
Stranger - T.V. film..

Deforest Kelley: Black Spurs (1965 film) Note De is on the screen
less than ten minutes before being shot dead.

George Takei: Hawaii Five-0 - Death's Name is S.A.M (confirmed)
Six Million Dollar Man - The Coward.

Additional information to last newsletter supplied by Stephen
Holbrooke.

Has anyone any 'Men From U.N.C.L.E.', 'The Avengers' or 'The Persuaders' books, or annuals with any of these in, that they would be willing to sell? If so, please contact Donna Nixon, 9, Templegate Rise, Templenewsam, Leeds; LS15 0HG, Yorkshire. Donna will pay anything within reason, including postage.

Leonard Nimoy is to be star and narrator on a new television series, 'In Search Of...'. The programme scheduled to be shown by NBC in America starting in September is a dramatic exploration into mysteries which have baffled mankind for centuries. The programme will probe the subject of ancient civilisations, Atlantis, ESP and many more. I did read somewhere that the Loch Ness Monster would be included, but I've no positive information that it will be. It certainly sounds interesting - let's hope it finds its way over here!

American member Jerry Savoie sends the following:

CBS has withdrawn William Shatner's 'Tenth Level' from programming. The film is rather controversial and some way it may tell us more about ourselves than we really care to know. This rather grim drama may never be seen on commercial television. (Info coming from TV Guide)

George Takei is making a pilot called 'MR.T. AND TINA'. It's about a wealthy Japanese businessman with two children, who moves to Chicago to head the international branch of the company. He hires a nursemaid (Tina) and the resulting chaos is what the series is about. If successful it will be in the fall schedule. (Info. coming from George Takei.)

Also from America, from member Dorothy Bradley.

"Ask Them Yourself" is a column in the Sunday supplement of a newspaper which recently printed the following questions:

For Isaac Asimov, author.

As a leading science fiction writer, did you envy Neil Armstrong and all those after him who walked on the moon?

Answer - No way! Would you believe I don't even like the thought of flying? I'm a coward. I'm scared to be all the way up there. I'd rather be all the way down here. The only time I was airborne was during the war when I was under orders.

For Leonard Nimoy of 'Star Trek':

I recently saw you on the \$10,000 Pyramid, and I wonder what makes dramatic actors appear on game shows.

Answer - I can't answer for others, unless it's to keep themselves in the public eye. As for me, it happens to be one of the few games that I play well. I always watch it when I'm home, too. I knew it would be fun, and fun isn't that easy to find these days. Some game shows (and I won't mention any names) are an embarrassment, and I often wonder why people get in them.

Wanted: Newsletters and journals from any STAR TREK club so I could Xerox and return copy to you. Send to Miss Susan Barbara Bagdon, 8837 Calvert Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19152 U.S.A.

Adrian Mason tells me that 'Barbary Coast' was taken off the Irish Television Station Radio Telefis Eirean after only about nine or so episodes. On the other hand, Nikki White tells me that it is still being shown in Canberra even though it's been taken off in other parts of Australia.

THE ANIMATIONS

In newsletter No. 16 Sheila Clark touched on the subject of the animated aliens and said that she personally liked them. I myself do not find them one of the high spots of the animated shows, but I can see some reason behind having them. The Federation is a Federation of Planets but we see its Starships run by a lot of humanoids. Surely the other planets can send some of their own people to the Space Academy.

She said she thought herbivores stood a bad chance of developing a reasonable intelligence. - the Vulcan race became vegetarians eons ago and who says Spock's not intelligent? All right, plant food on Earth is not particularly nourishing, but who knows, on another planet there may be an extra nutritious plant which intelligent herbivores feed on.

It is true what she says about some animals having useful tentacles, paws or whatever, but these animals are at a disadvantage in other parts of their structure. The elephant's size and weight are certainly no asset for building a great civilisation. And would not octopi have to become land creatures before developing a civilised culture? Otherwise space travel would be in large aquariums.

Humanoid forms seem to be the most successful because

- a) Their hands are good at grasping things
- b) They have stereoscopic vision and can judge distances
- c) They have large brains
- d) They can move on two legs leaving both hands free
- e) Maybe the most important, they can make sounds which lead to talking and communication between members of the species
- f) If you're a Vulcan, mind melding

Apart from the last, if you are missing one of these then your race's chances of becoming highly intelligent are small.

Plants, I'm afraid, will never make a very intelligent race in my opinion, they depend too much on external conditions and features; although they can produce their own food, it means they are dependent on two gases where animals need only one. Most plants also rely on the wind or on flying insects for reproduction.

I hope that's given some new light on the matter of intelligent aliens other than the humanoid form.

Concerning the live action episodes, I would like to add my opinion to episodes liked least of all. Mine are 'Mudd's Women' and 'I, Mudd'. I can see no good reason why such a person is allowed to exist or carry on his exploits in the Federation. Can anybody give a good reason to defend H. Mudd?

Michael Wood.

In sheer self defence I feel I must answer Michael. My original article was much shorter than it could have been, because it was written with the newsletter in mind. In certain places, I took certain things for granted, e.g. Michael's points b, c, and e, in order to keep it short.

Although Vulcans are vegetarians now (or are they? Spock is; but is this personal or racial?) they were undoubtedly meat-eaters in their primitive past when their intelligence was developing. Spock's teeth clearly indicate an ancestry that was omnivorous at least. Granting Michael's point about a particularly nutritious plant food somewhere, still, on Earth, races that are predominantly vegetarian tend to suffer considerably from deficiency diseases - and the one vegetarian I personally know seems to have no resistance to any epidemic that is going. Chance? Is he particularly susceptible, or

does his body not have the stamina to shake off infection because of a basically deficient diet? With food processing machines, Spock presumably gets the deficiencies made up automatically.

Although I gave elephants and octopi as examples, I was not necessarily meaning beasts exactly the same as Terran ones. A small, slim agile creature could have a trunk; land creatures with a mass of tentacles could exist somewhere, using some for locomotion and some for hands. Have you ever read any of James White's 'Sector General' books? He has intelligent octopi, caterpillars, dragonflies, elephant-like beasts, teddy bears, crabs, all among his main characters, with references to all sorts of others. And in his universe, space travel - and advanced medical care - are perfectly possible to the water breathing species. He has intelligent plants too, at least referred to.

Eyesight... stereoscopic vision is certainly an asset, but insects have a vastly more complex system that I suspect is much better than ours.

I still say there is no proof that plants don't think. They are, perhaps, a lazy group of species, preferring to let wind and/or insects work for them. And if finding the easiest way to do something is a sign of intelligence, then plants most definitely are!

Anyway, thanks to Michael for expressing his views. Although he hasn't changed my opinions, I appreciate the thought that went into his article.

Sheila Clark.

Another word on the aliens in the animations, this time from Marian Kennedy.

I agree with Margaret Bertram about alien animals aboard the Enterprise in the animations. I do like them. My favourite is Lt. M'ress, the lovely feline communications officer. In Alan Dean Foster's Log Five, "The Ambergris Element" we read something about her early life and family, learning at the Academy, and of the adventure on the cruiser Hood. The voice on the animation shows is husky, almost sexy. The drawings of this cat creature portray a being of intelligence and charm. I shall write a story about her in the future. Arex is different, but one would expect alien sights on a Starship. Loom Aleek-om I'd think extremely startling to meet. I am hopeful that the STAR TREK movie will have a few crew members from different planets.

Editor's note: Lincoln Enterprise's publication, Star Trektennial News, No. 14, edited by honorary member Susan Sackett; Susan says in answer to a question, "Probably nothing will be used from the animated version. It's difficult to find three-armed, three-legged actors."

Susan also tells us that the end of October now seems a more likely date for the beginning of filming. Thanks, Susan.

SOUNDS GREAT TWO DISCO. Any function catered for. Reasonable rates. Phone Hitchin 51206 or write 7, Roundwood Close, Hitchin, Herts.

Michael wasn't the only person to bring up the subject of vegetarianism since last newsletter. Ingrid Emerton writes:

As I'm fairly new to this club I don't know whether this question has been asked before - are there any vegetarians out there in Star Trek land? After all, Mr. Spock is a vegetarian, isn't he! I ask because I am a 'semi-veggie', I don't eat meat but occasionally eat fish.

Has anyone ever considered becoming a veggie or even sympathised with the idea? I think that perhaps in the not too distant future most of mankind will give up eating meat, for practical reasons as well as moral ones. For example, did you know that for every 100 lbs of dry food eaten by cattle only 10 lbs of flesh food comes back. We import millions of pounds worth of grain and crops to feed our livestock; why not give this food direct to human beings instead. In this age of food shortages this wouldn't be such a bad idea.

However, apart from that side of the story, is there anyone who can really accept the idea of slaughterhouses? How many people would eat meat if they had to slaughter their own animals? As followers of Star Trek I think most of us would say that all forms of life should be treated with respect, so shouldn't this apply to the lower life forms that share this planet with us?

Perhaps by the year 2000 we will have become a meatless planet by choice and not by force. It would be nice to think that 23rd century history students could look back at our century and find something good to say about it.

P.S. I've been a vegetarian for nearly three years but a Star Trek fan for seven years. I often think that Star Trek had a lot to do with helping me make that decision. Star Trek has a habit of making people think, doesn't it.

I keep thinking about deficiency diseases.... It wouldn't bother me in the slightest if I never saw steak again, because I don't happen to like the stuff very much; but morally... As I've already stated, I'm convinced that plants could easily be intelligent; so if I was to start worrying about the morality of exploiting animals for food, I would also have to worry about the morality of exploiting plants. I really do mean that - I'm not making a cheap joke. What would I eat? Does anyone else have any comments on the subject?

PENPALS

Violet Neff, P.O. Box 5903, Texarkana, Texas 75501, U.S.A., would like a penpal, preferably Scottish. Violet is 19, brown hair, hazel eyes, height 5ft 8in., and likes SF, reading, writing prose and poetry, painting, sketching, hiking, music, travel and movies, and STAR TREK.

James Quarton, 15 Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig, Argyll, Scotland, would like a penpal. James is 11. He is interested in football as well as STAR TREK.

Mark Porter, 1a Belmont Ave, Central Drive, Blackpool, Lancashire would like a penpal. Mark is sixteen and is interested in SF (not ST in particular), unexplained phenomena, and possibility of interstellar travel and time travel.

Kim Knight has just written me to ask if I've had any comments on her article - the only ones she's had have been from people she corresponds with anyway. I can sympathise with her, because so often the only response I get to items in the newsletter come from people I write to anyway. I'm extremely grateful to my friends for supporting me - but there's over three hundred of you out there who must have something to say!

There have been one or two comments.

Lynda Chambers writes:

First thing is to clear up a misunderstanding. I misled you, I'm not actually coloured, but I am multi-racial. (Editor's note - I jumped to the wrong conclusion there - sorry, Lynda!)

I read Kim's article with the deepest of interest, particularly in pointing out the symbolism of the triangle, but surely in that she had answered the very question of the Spock charisma. Just about everyone agrees that life is sacrosanct, and quite a lot of people think that the eating of dead flesh is repulsive. There's even a lot who, like me, go the whole way in believing in the total preservation of self identity, while trying to mix with those who hold you to be 'different'. In Spock we find that these things not only hold true and appear to work, but are actually glorified. The difference isn't ignored it's there all the time and it gets a reaction. O.K., it's not always as friendly as it might be, but there comes a time when it's possible to get acceptance without the need to compromise the real ideals. Now we all know that when we leave the T.V. set for another week the real world is waiting for us, and there's a lot in that world that has to be changed yet, but if we can believe in the cast of S.T. working together that closely, as mixed as they were, then we can believe that there will be a time when a person who is different in one way or another can be accepted; and we can also look forward to a time when ideals can be striven for without aggravation from the rest of society, and it's nice to be reminded by watching the Vulcan attempting identification with the Terrans without compromising his standards - hey, how about a time when there is no such thing as 'different' peoples, just a world of individuals?

Valerie McLean writes:

I have just read Kim Knight's sensitively written and clearly expressed article about Mr. Spock and one point that she has raised is one that has occurred to me many times. She asked at the end whether we are attracted to the character or to the actor portraying him.

There are two things that attracted me. First there was the idea of an extremely clever, intelligent, perceptive person who used all his abilities in the pursuit of the achievement of an ideal society. He was made out to be superior to Humans in many ways, but he was always ready to help those same weaker Humans and thus make them stronger. He seemed to have no weaknesses, at first, in the question of mental and academic abilities, and many people today are in search of a superior being who will be kind to them and tolerate their emotional weaknesses, helping them when they need help and approving of them when things go right.

I myself was attracted to the idea of an intelligence such as this for many reasons, not the least of which was envy, remembering how often at school I was told I could have done better if I had tried, and having the sneaking suspicion that this was true. How wonderful it would have been to have had a Vulcan mental discipline over wandering attention, and to have sailed through every task, not only at school but afterwards, with the apparent ease of our Vulcan Mr. Spock.

The second thing that attracted me was quite simply the physical appearance of Leonard Nimoy in that role. Another man might have made the Vulcan as cold and logical and unfeeling as he was originally meant to be. The actor chosen was sensitively aware of the subtlest shades of emotion, and certainly we see and hear faint shades of emotion in the face and voice of Leonard Nimoy where a less sensitive actor would have failed. He has admitted that he had to tone down his normal emotional acting for the part, perhaps this is what shows through in the half Human Spock.

One point I would like to raise - a lot has been made of the idea that women are attracted to Spock simply because of the idea of a sexual challenge. Could it not be something less physically and more emotionally based? Many women need to feel secure, protected, approved of. Would it not give them the greatest security in the world to feel protected by the most competent, intelligent man they knew? Would they not be prepared to give everything in their power to gain his approval?

Judy Bailey writes:

The article on Spock's sexual attraction - I'm one of those who are mad on Spock but not on Len, as an actor it's Bill for me. Yet I think Spock is the best character produced in English literature - book, film, T.V. etc, and also extremely attractive.

Keith Stevenson writes:

Like Kim, I, and nearly everybody, agree that Spock is a 'tragic hero'. Behind that shield of clear-cut logic and strict discipline of mind is a soft mass of pulp. A man fighting his emotions and suppressing all desires. M

McCoy does put Spock down quite a lot, but if he did not do this, Spock would never shut up! To quote McCoy in 'Spock's Brain' - "I should never have connected up his mouth!"

I thoroughly agree with Kim's analysis of Kirk's decision making. It must be based on logic, or it would be of no use. However, it has that certain Human factor; the factor that tells Kirk if there is a chance, no matter how slim, that the plan just might work.

Kim's article was most enjoyable and made good reading, and I agreed with most of her views.

Lastly, myself. I'm not sure that I agree with this definition of a 'tragic hero'. To me, Spock is not a tragic hero. He is a man condemned by his heritage and upbringing to spend most of his life acting a part, to spend most of his life hiding open display of an integral part of his nature, but he has had a lifetime of learning to adapt; and such suppression can become so habitual that the person concerned doesn't want to change, if only because this would mean learning a whole new set of responses, and also because of the uncertainty these new responses may cause in his emotional life. It is possible to be perfectly happy without emotional involvement and desperately unhappy when one overcomes one's inhibitions towards becoming involved. I know - I've been there. But all this does not, in my opinion, make Spock a tragic figure. I would call a tragic hero one who, whatever decision he makes, will inevitably lose something as a result of it - like Aragorn in "The Lord of the Rings". Whatever he decides, some person or institution that he likes/values/respects will suffer, or be lost.

With regard to McCoy's attitude, I don't think he is 'putting Spock down'. There is the friendship of apparent enmity, which can be very close. In some ways, I suspect that McCoy, despite his claims to the contrary, understands Spock and his emotional needs better than Kirk does. And Spock must be more Human than he claims, to understand this relationship. Sarek clearly doesn't, or he wouldn't think the episode of the sehlat embarrassing to Spock. McCoy provides Spock with a situation he can respond to openly, without shame. Kirk doesn't. I think there is no doubt that Spock loves Kirk more than he does McCoy, although perhaps not much more. There is, however, no real way open to him to express his... let's say, friendship for Kirk. With McCoy, he does have a way clear. And I am certain he appreciates it.

Note that I say 'love', not 'in love'. There's a big difference. To me, love is a thing of the mind, with no physical relationship involved; and I think the English language is tragically lacking a word to indicate an affectionate physical relationship.

A perfect example for this is provided by the way that some readers have criticised two of the stories in Log Entries 2, 'And The Greatest of These' and 'Perchance to Dream', as having homosexual implications. This was not the intention of either of the writers. In fact, however, the criticism served to prove a point that Margaret Bertram was making in 'And The Greatest...', that many people would misinterpret love and think - erroneously - that it meant sex.

This question of love and the meaning of the word arises elsewhere, too. Nancy Kippax, who along with her sister edits a zine in America, writes:

As editors of a zine claiming to explore the Kirk/Spock relationship from all angles, we've been the recipients of a score of these scenario things, some graphic and some more metaphysical, but all very obvious. It is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore, and for some reason it makes us very uncomfortable and upset to see our heroes treated in this manner. I mean, Bev and I aren't prudes, or Victorians, and bi-sexual activities might be fine... for some people. But not for Kirk and Spock! The relationship they had wasn't like that, and I agree with Sheila when she says there ought to be different words for 'love' and 'sex'. There are, but most people can't seem to separate the two. They hear that Kirk and Spock love each other (and they do, no question about it) and they automatically assume that they would be sleeping together, to consummate that love. They claim that sex would be a natural extension of such a profound love. Bull! To me, this kind of thinking is doing more harm than good. It's saying that two men cannot have a 'love' relationship, that they cannot be free to feel and express their emotions, without it being tied up in conjugal rights. And that is not what ST intended to show. Just the opposite. I think its purpose was to demonstrate that two men of opposing races and cultures could form a unity and a bond which transcended those differences and made them one, in philosophy, emotional makeup and empathy.

The following poem appeared in the first issue of Nancy's zine, Contact. It is copyrighted to Nancy Kippax and Beverly Volker and appears by kind permission of them.

THE TRUTH

The bullets will not kill you, they are spectres and not real.
 Let me reach your mind, Jim, and show you what I feel.
 Face them squarely, do not fear, for what I say is so.
 They are just illusions, Jim, my mind will help you know.
 BELIEVE!

You are Captain James T. Kirk, a starship you command.
 This paradise you've found here, Jim, is not your native land.
 You're not Kirk! You're not a God; my mind will help you see.
 Your home is in the stars above; now listen, Jim, to me.
 REMEMBER!

The agony you feel now, the pain that you must know.
 She died because she couldn't bear, to let either of you go.
 But I can ease your suffering, Jim, and touch you with my mind.
 So while you sleep, I'll help you leave these memories behind.
 FORGET!

I couldn't ever say it, Jim, I couldn't let it show
 For I am bound by logic, it's a thing which you must know.
 I do not show emotions, Jim, I can't afford to care,
 For I am Vulcan, you can see, we have no feelings there.
 LOVE!

Beverly Volker.

If you would like to inquire about Contact, write enclosing IRC
 to Beverly Volker, 5657 Utrecht Rd., Baltimore, Maryland 21206 U.S.A.

Alnitah - an excellent zine put out by an independant group.
 They have also recently put out an adult zine, Grope. Inquiries to
 Ann Looker, The Forge, 41 Main Street, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks.

OTHER CLUBS

BEYOND ANTARES: Sheila Hull, 49 Southampton Rd., Far Cotton, Northampton.
 EMPATHY: Cathy Owens, 30 Ovenden way, Halifax, West Yorks. They have
 a good selection of zines.
 JDIFC: An American-based club for Jim Doohan. Anna Hreha, 1519 NW 204 St,
 Seattle, Washington 98177 U.S.A.
 STARBASE 13: Brian Longstaff, 13 Woodfarm Dr., Sheffield S6 5LW Yorks.
 Newsletters include a serial.
 STCC: Jackie Dunham, 105 Somerleyton Gdns, Norwich. Newsletters
 normally include a story. Fizzbin 5 available, 50p inc. postage.
 STERB: John Hind, 14 Bingham Tce., Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts.
 STAC: An Australian club. Susan Clarko, Ark Royale, 6 Bellvue Rd.,
 Faulconbridge, New South Wales 2776 Australia.

WANTED: Pictures, preferably in colour, of James Caan as 'Jonathan E'
 from Rollerball, (or of 'Moonpie' in Rollerball uniform). Will buy.
 Donna Lauchlan, 16 Tonbridge Rd., West Molesey, Surrey.

EMPATHY - MAIN CON

This will be held in the Dragonara Hotel, Neville St, Leeds, on Saturday and Sunday October 9th and 10th.

Room prices - bed only. Single.....£7.50 a night
Twin or double.....£9.50 "

Registrations:

Until June 30th.....£4
July 1st till August 31st.....£4.50
September 1st to 30th.....£5
Non-attending registrations.....£1

Any inquiries after September 30th will only be accepted IF there are still vacancies.

There will be awards for FICTION, POETRY, ART, MODELS and CRAFT. Entrance fee of 25p for each category covers as many entries as you wish. Closing date is August 31st. Will entrants for FICTION and POETRY please leave their work unsigned but put their names on a slip of paper inside a sealed envelope with the title of the story only on the outside. The envelope will be opened when the awards are made, and until then even the judges will not know who the winner is.

The 1975 con books are now being sent out. If you haven't got yours yet, it shouldn't be long. (So far, I've had mine, but Janet hasn't. Bless the G.P.O.'s snail express!)

Mark Porter, 1a Belmont Ave, Central Drive, Blackpool, would like any information where the following ST articles might be obtained; Phasers types I and II, communicators, earphones, spray applicator, medical scanner, anabolic protoplasers (Both types) and surgical scalpels, also universal translator.

(I would suspect that the only way to get these is to make them yourself...apart from the 'exploration kit' available in America)

David Hall, 17 Attlee Crescent, Bilston, West Midlands, would like to contact girl members living in his area. He says, "The girls I know don't seem to be interested in Star Trek and it would be nice to talk to girls who have this same interest". David is 25, single, medium build and says he would make a good starship captain. He would also like to know if anyone has worked out the interior details of the Klingon battle cruiser.

(There is something available in America, but I can't find the details - or if it's not available yet, it soon will be. I'll try to find out and let you know).

A NEW STAR TREK COOKBOOK

How would you make a Finagle's Folly?

Captain Kirk's dietary salad?

Plomik soup?

Got any ideas for there-gin derivatives?

A new STAR TREK Cookbook - written by fans, for fans. Write down your favourite recipes (preferably with a STAR TREK slant) and send them to:

Johanna Cantor, 5442 Valles Avenue, Bronx, New York 10471 U.S.A.

A NICHELLE NICHOLS FAN CLUB FUND RAISING PROJECT.

IMPORTANT

Due to the approaching holiday period, answers to correspondence may be delayed for the next few weeks. The periods involved are:

Janet, July 1st - 18th

Sheila, July 1st - August 16th.

Beth, mid-July - August 31st.

Competition entries may be sent to me c/o Janet - the closing date for the competition (see pl6) is July 31st.

Dorothy Bradley was at Equicon in April. She writes:

Most of the day Friday and Saturday was spent attending panels where from two to six speakers talked and answered questions. The panels were arranged by topics - i.e. actors, writers, producers, special effects, etc. Unfortunately we missed two panels Saturday afternoon when we went to see the play (Leonard Nimoy in Sherlock Holmes). It was very well done.

Friday night there was a costume parade. Anyone who had made a costume could model it. Some were very good and others, well, ah, left something to be desired. Many were of course ST orientated but quite a few were not. The event went on till nearly 11pm, and it was rather interesting to see it featured on the 11pm news that same night.

Saturday night there was a fashion show; the costumes were designed by professionals but modelled by volunteers. In general they were very good. After it there was a short performance by Grace Lee Whitney. She's O.K. if you like the hard rock style music. I wish, however, they'd turn the volume down on those electronic speakers.

Sunday there was a Horta egg hunt for the younger generation. Also an unscheduled appearance by Leonard Nimoy. It was mostly a question and answer type session, but interesting. Security was very tight - in a way I feel sorry for him because he has no privacy at all.

There were six of us sharing a room designed for four - two slept on the floor in sleeping bags. I think this was against hotel policy but most groups did it because of the cost - even with six the cost was about \$8 a night so you can see the prices of the rooms. (\$48 a night... that almost makes the Dragonara prices look cheap, doesn't it? Ed.)

It was very interesting seeing LN on stage. The play was done as a satire, patterned somewhat along the line of the British company's production. I was surprised they were very open about Holmese's opium addiction. The manner of Holmes was rather stilted - sudden, jerky movements. There was one scene where Holmes wears a disguise and rips it off a la Mission Impossible - beautifully done. LN was very good - all the cast was. I really enjoyed it.

Thanks, Dorothy. I keep trying to persuade myself that the green tint in my skin that I notice when I look in a mirror is just my Vulcan blood...

Dorothy also tells me that Barbary Coast bit the dust in her area as well after about eight episodes.

Not one person has written in to say they like 'The Children Shall Lead. Patricia Lucas writes: Try looking up 'Star Trek Lives', pl64. "...maybe one of our worst ever... I thought it was terrible - terrible" - Leonard Nimoy. We're all in good company...

Patricia has also sent me a short comment on the Spock-McCoy relationship (see pl1):

Maybe Spock and McCoy are just good friends that like to argue. I have a friend like that - we had a row the first day we met (we were five) and it's still going on. And we do like one another - honest!

Quotes from STAR TREKTENNIAL NEWS no. 14, dated March:

William Shatner has just completed a trek to Iran with wife Marcie, where he filmed an episode of "American Sportsman" for ABC, hunting (with camera) the elusive white leopard. Programme should be broadcast (in America) in April or May. Then, according to a friend, he "Plans on taking things easy for a while".

At that time, Walter Koenig was still teaching a class in Theatre Arts at UCLA.

Majel Barrett will appear in the forthcoming film "Drum". This film will be given the rating 'R' (which probably corresponds to our AA, if not X. Ed.)

Gene Roddenberry, Jr., flunked his first audition for a part in a T.V. commercial, according to his mother. He took one look at the waiting room full of children and ran out crying "No doctor! No doctor!"

The satire 'The New Film; Will it be Just Another STAR Trek?' that appeared in our newsletter no. 14 was reprinted in STAR TREK-TENNIAL no 13, and seems to have been much enjoyed. Two out of four letters in issue 14 mentioned it - that's 50%! Robin also has one of his marvellous little tribble cartoons in issue 14.

Nikki White sent me her comments on New Voyages. She rated Intersection Point as one of the best stories in the collection, but she agreed with my comments on the other stories. I'll quote her more fully next time - when with luck more of you will have had a chance to get New Voyages

Of 'The Hunting', she says: I did not like it because it reminded me of a number of werewolf stories I had read, particularly one about a wolf who is changed into a human on the night of the full moon. I just didn't find it convincing that a civilised race would want to take on the mental attitudes of an animal no matter for what purpose or how briefly. I rather got the impression Vulcans would find such a mind contact distasteful (all those raw, primitive emotions and not one spark of real intellect) and since, basically, or at least originally, they were creatures of violent emotions themselves, surely they would want to suppress those emotions, not encourage their re-emergence with such a bizarre rite.

Only one person has said to me that she liked 'The Hunting', and that's Beth. Did you really like it, Beth, or are you just saying you did because I didn't?

I am very rapidly running out of space... the section on favourite episodes, scenes, etc., will be resumed in the next newsletter. Keep sending these in.

The slogan competition in N/L 16, winner in the serious category was Ivy Wilkins, and in the humorous, Daryll Hunt (age 13) Congratulations to them, and thanks to the others who sent in entries.

The story competition in N/L 17 was not a popular subject. There were only two entries, from Sue Bradley and Janet Ellicott. Sue was the winner, and her story 'Ear Today - Gone Tomorrow' will be printed in the near future. Thanks for trying, Janet, better luck next time.

This month's competition: we're actually having two, a photo, your choice of character, for prize. First a story, featuring an attack. It can be any kind of attack, on the ship, a landing party or even an attack made by the Enterprise.

Second. As any discerning viewer must have realised, the Enterprise is getting rather short of security staff. Kirk must be getting rather desperate for replacements but everyone has heard about the fatality rate among Enterprise security men. Word an ad. for Kirk to put in the Starfleet Journal asking for volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Also I would like stories and artwork, line drawings, for zines.

FOR SALE: T-shirts with black pic of SPOCK, KIRK, McCOY, CHEKOV, SULU or the U.S.S. Enterprise on the front. Colours - various, state 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. Sizes are small (34" to 36" chest), medium (38" chest) and large (40" to 42" chest). Prices are £1.95 inc. p+p for one only. For two or more, price is £1.90 inc. P+p each. Allow 21 days for delivery. Cheques, P/Os payable to Miss Christine Chrzan 27 larches Rd., Foley Park, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY11 7AB

Dinky toys have put out a model Enterprise. It fires yellow plastic photon torpedoes and the lower hull opens to accommodate a shuttlecraft, the flaps doubling as a stand. Price varies from £3-£4.

WANTED: Does anyone have uncut tapes of 'Errand of Mercy', 'Balance of Terror' 'Enemy Within' or in fact any of the early first series episodes that they could copy onto reel or cassette. Contact Sheila.

Arena by Frederic Brown is in a book called "The Science Fiction Hall of Fame", published by Sphere. (Edited by Robert Silverberg). Info. supplied by Paul Andrews.

Marvel Comics Group did an adaptation of Frederic Brown's 'Arena' in comic form. The creature is nothing like the Star Trek form, but the story is familiar in parts.

Info. supplied by Tim Dollin.

And that seems to be it again. If you sent in something that hasn't been printed this time, look out for it next time. And keep those contributions coming, too, please!

Peace and prosperity to you all. Sheila.

SALES LIST

Please make cheques, postal orders, payable to S.T.A.G. and send your order to

Beth Hallam,
Flat 3,
36 Clapham Rd.,
Bedford.

Please include a self-addressed sticky label with your order.

All prices include postage and packing within the U.K.

<u>Zines</u>	Angry Sunset	60p
	Beta Niobe 3	40p
	Poetry of Star Trek	40p
	Log Entries 2	50p
	Log Entries 3	55p
	Enterprise Incidents	65p
	Tribbles	60p
	The Yeti's Footprint	50p
	Something Hidden (Due to certain subject matter, this story is only available to those over sixteen)	80p

'74 Con book	60p
Warp Speeds	15p
Packets of assorted stickers	25 for 20p or 3x6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps.

- Slogans
- 1) Live long and prosper.
 - 2) Happiness is a sterile tribble.
 - 3) "We reach, Mr. Spock," Capt James T. Kirk.
 - 4) Star Trek lives.
 - 5) I'm sticking to Star Trek.
 - 6) Warning from STAR TREK Action Group - Watching Space 1999 can damage your health.
 - 7) Be Enterprise-ing - Join the happy band of Star Trek fans.

Orders from outwith the U.K.

All zines	surface	2 dollars.
All zines except Something Hidden	airmail	3 dollars
Some thing Hidden	airmail	3 dollars 50.

This supercedes all other previous sales lists.
June 1976.

addition to sales list.
Coloured photos from film clips, En-print size. 25p each
clips (mounted) 12p each.
Send SAE to Beth for details; also SAE for your order, please.

STOP PRESS - LATE INFORMATION:

The Alnitah minicon seems to have been a great success. STAG and Empathy had tables as well as the Alnitah group itself. (STAG sales came to over £70). Films and video tapes were shown during the day, and according to our informant one of these disrupted the auction completely as everyone flooded out of the main hall into the film room to see the tape. The Daily Mail sent a reporter and a photographer to cover the event, and SF author E. Tubb was among those attending.

Log 7 is now out in America. It contains only one story - Counter Clock Incident.

Above information supplied by Margaret Austin.

Anne Cockitt wishes to advise her customers that any orders for photos sent to her during July and August will be held over until she returns from holiday.
