

STAR TREK ACTION GROUP.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 84.

Hi there, everyone!

Well, we made it! One glorious week at the New York Convention, and in Philadelphia...and we wouldn't have missed one single moment of it! I make no apology that this newsletter is largely devoted to the convention. We wanted you all to share in it...along with the 18,000 people who were there in person.

And now we can all concentrate on our own conventions. Terry, Pooh Dog and I are really looking forward to meeting all those of you who are attending the Mini-Con this month. Pooh is even contemplating a bath in Pooh-oil for the occasion! With over £300 worth of Star Trek material on sale, I'm certain that there will be plenty left for the vast majority of you who could not come. To those of you who ARE coming...YIPPEE!

Arrangements for the 1st British Star Trek Convention are now well in hand, and, as you will see, your registration form and a progress report are included with this newsletter. I must advise you all to register as EARLY AS POSSIBLE. There will be NO registration at the door. Places ARE limited to the amount of people the hotel can hold without breaching fire regulations, and there are many more people not members of STAG who want to come. STAG members will be given two weeks priority. After that, we will be sending out registration forms to non-members. So, it is up to you. BOOK EARLY! When the places are full, we cannot admit no-one else, and cannot make any exceptions. If you wish to enter for any of the Nova awards, please write to the appropriate people listed in the progress report, they will forward you the appropriate forms. DO NOT WRITE TO ME. Sorry about all these rules and regulations, but they have been designed for the smooth running of the convention.

STAG, as most of you know, has had a lot of publicity recently, and there have been newspaper articles in many local papers...also in the Australian TV times, would you believe? A Philadelphia paper has also agreed to put something in, and KBS, one of the American TV networks have agreed to report on the Convention, via a special tape from Jim Doohan, (Which he is willing to do.) All this has resulted in many new members, and I'd like to take this opportunity of welcoming them into the club.

Well, that's about it for now. Enjoy the newsletter, and look forward to the con, both Mini and Maxi!

From this house of Star Trek Madness, Pooh dog salutes you!

Peace,

Jenny.

THE 1984 INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK CONVENTION! For over 15,000 people it represented one helluva weekend, and at the end of it, 15,000 people went home with their own personal memories of it, and with personal highlights which they will talk of for many a day to come. This is my own account.

I will remember it for many things; for the friends I knew and met for the first time, and the ones I was newly introduced to; for tasting "Bourbon" and "Bagels" for the very first time; for being able to sit in DeForest Kelley's room and talk to him, and for standing at a window on the 49th floor with George Takei saying to me; "Look, Jenny! New York!" It was an exciting adventure, and there is not one moment of it I would have missed.

This newsletter is the story of our visit to the convention, and through it, I hope you can share in the sights, sounds and atmosphere.

FROM DAY TO DAY.

FRIDAY: Margaret, Terry and I arrived in New York 4pm local time, after an excellent flight, made shorter by a very funny STERB newsletter. A hair-raising taxi drive took us to our hotel, just one block away from the Americana and the convention.

At 7pm, spurred on by a hastily scrawled telephone message from Floss Del Vecchio, we decided to go look for her room in the Americana. The vast hotel was overflowing with people! Everyone seemed to be queuing for something...except us. Well, you know the old saying, ad dogs and Englishmen. Despite the warnings from the hotel staff that there was no such room number, we trundled up to the sixth floor, took a wild, mad guess...and presto! There was Floss and her daughter Diane, complete with peanut butter, crackers, cheese, coffee tea and coke, which we were soon munching our way through, and trying to stop talking whilst we did so. Then the phone began to ring. Everyone in the world, it seemed, wanted to know if we'd arrived safely, and during that evening we must have visited two dozen people before we crawled off to our hotel and bed.

SATURDAY. The day began with a rumour that Leonard Nimoy would be coming. It didn't bother me too much, but Margaret was thrilled at the thought of seeing her hero in person. But it was only a rumour. Leonard did not appear, although the rumour persisted.

I had two most immediate aims; to buy as much as could for STAG, and to spread the word about the 1st British Star Trek Convention. 1000 leaflets were distributed, thanks to STWelcommittee and Space Time Continuum, and over £50 worth of material was purchased from the overcrowded but heavenly dealers room...a Trekkies paradise. If you didn't mind being trod on, lifted off your feet, fried in excessive temperatures and generally mauled, it was worth every moment in that crazy place! From time to time we were also rewarded by the appearances of George Takei, Michelle Nichols or Walter Koenig, who all emerged occasionally to sign autographs. Michelle's new record was being well promoted, and there were some lovely posters from George's political campaign. I wanted to, but never got as far as the art and fanzine exhibition.

We had brought several gifts with us for various guest stars, which we were anxious to give them in person. Finally, after pestering them all morning, the hotel staff took a note to pass on to DeForest Kelley. Our patience was at last rewarded! 4pm saw us sitting in his room; for

me, it was a dream come true. If nothing else happened, the trip would have been worth it for that $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour alone.

That night, after an exhausting day... well, how often does one listen to speeches by DC Fontana and De Kelley, sit on De Kelley's bed, buy £50 worth of ST stuff, watch 'Trouble with Tribbles and the Bloopers all in one day?... we were invited to a party. Wow, some party! Sunday had well and truly dawned before we climbed into our cosy beds.

SUNDAY. And what more could happen? My cup was already running over, but I still hadn't seen everyone I wanted to. It was while we were waiting for George Takei to come on stage that Sarah Paul suggested I go into the question line and ask George myself when we could meet. So that's how I came to be in a long, snaking queue whilst George delivered a rousing political speech concerning the impeachment of Nixon. Amazin'! As Question time came round and I drew nearer to the stage, I began to realise what I'd let myself in for. There must have been $2\frac{1}{2}$ thousand people in that ballroom, and little ol' me... too late! The microphone was jabbed in front of me. George beamed, and told me to make arrangements with the committee. Afterwards, I spent 30 minutes with him and discovered a warm, generous man whom I am honoured to count as a friend.

The costume ball! Sitting on a hard floor for three hours isn't easy, but boy, was it worth it! The Horta I could've taken home and cuddled, the Sehlat was almost a rival for Pooh Dog, and the transporter malfunction, breathing smoke, was a sight to behold. The costumes were highly imaginative, and I was pleased there were not too many kirks and Spocks.

MONDAY. The last day! It should have been sad, but somehow it wasn't, and was the climax to a marvellous weekend. We all trooped into the ballroom to get good seats for the panel discussion. It was late starting, and finally a committee member came onto the stage. Leonard Nimoy was in New York! Leonard Nimoy could be coming to the convention... and finally, 10 minutes later... Leonard Nimoy was in the Americana!

The panel discussion got underway, the audience rising to it's feet when Walter Koenig, who looked very tired, tipped back his chair and fell off. I enjoyed the panel, and felt it could have gone on for much longer, but then, I'm not a Nimoy-type person, and the others were becoming restless.

When Leonard appeared on the stage, he received the longest and loudest standing ovation of the entire convention. The audience were excellent. No-one attempted to rush forward, to crowd him or to spoil things for others. Everyone in every part of that vast ballroom were on their feet, giving the Vulcan Peace sign, and roaring approval. And even those who had eyes only for Leonard Nimoy could ^{not} have missed the marvellous and completely spontaneous tableaux that was being enacted on the stage. For after he had greeted each one of the panel, they stood together in a group, their own happiness evident, looking out across that mass of people who, by their skill and dedication, they had joined together in friendship.

After that, who says Star Trek is only a TV programme?

No! It is a movement we can all be proud of.

Personal glimpses.

DeForest Kelley. 4p.m., 16th February 1974, and five people hovering in front of room number 4936 on the 49th floor of the Americana Hotel. We had been invited by DeForest Kelley to meet him in his room. This was the witching hour.

When the door finally opened, six press-men filed out. Then suddenly, there I was, face to face with the man I'd only ever dreamed of meeting. DeForest Kelley! He looked tired, but gave us all a welcoming smile and invited us into his room. A press photographer insisted on his photograph, and DeForest called to Floss and I; "Come on girls!" So we had our photos taken with him, although we never did find the name of the newspaper.

The next invitation was a friendly one to make ourselves comfortable. His room was no different to any of the other double rooms.. (Mrs Kelley was with him, but we didn't see her.)...and three chairs into six people didn't go, so we perched onto his bed. (Well, I suppose it could've been Carolyn's!) When we'd finished making a good job of getting his room to look untidy, Floss asked if she could smoke. De said "Sure, I'll join you!" so in the end we all lit up, De included. ("Kent" if you're interested.)

I first explained why we were there, and told him about our convention in England. He was genuinely interested both in that, and the Star Trek Movement in England and Germany..he subsequently mentioned it three times on stage... He told us he would be willing, schedule allowing, to attend the 1st British Star Trek Convention, but as we had already guessed, he made the condition that his wife must come too. Realising that we couldn't afford an extra airfare of \$200 or so, Floss asked him if he could send a taped message, and he said sure he could do that, and gave me his address, for me to communicate. (Sorry, the first person to ask for it will be phasered!)

Buisness over, we got to ~~talking~~ talking of other things. DeForest Kelley is such a relaxed, friendly man that this was certainly no effort. Floss explained to him that she was my "interpreter", and De laughed and said jokingly; "I haven't heard nor understood a word she's said yet. We touched on subjects as widely varied as the fuel-crisis, De's movies...he says he's quite used to being the bad guy now...and "warm English beer" which he's keen to sample, never having been to England before.

At his suggestion, we were able to get autographs, and to take his photograph...I had mine taken with his arm around me. How can I ever wash that spot again? Floss asked him to say "Cheese," and he laughed. "I'll do nothing of the kind!" he told her, but gave a lovely grin.

Before we left, I gave him the many presents you had sent to him, and he could barely believe his eyes. "You carried all these from England?" he asked, and I explained that he had many friends in England and Germany who wished him well. He thanked us all, and asked me to convey his appreciation to everyone in England. He was really genuinely surprised and pleased with them.

DeForest Kelley is a wonderful man; relaxed, warm and very friendly. When he speaks to you, he looks at you directly with those incredibly blue eyes (which are even better behind his specs) and when he smiles, it is because of genuine pleasure. So many "Stars" are disappointing in real life, but not DeForest Kelley. He is certainly one of the most pleasant men I have ever met. I am deeply sorry that we cannot afford the extra airfare for

Mrs Kelley, but all being well, 1975 will be the year we invite both Mr and Mrs Kelley to England and the Star Trek Convention.

George Takei.

Backstage in the ballroom, I waited for George Takei's speech to end. A little nervously, I must admit. Well, after being glared at by the committee, and being told; "You can talk to him THERE!" (Indicating a narrow, draughty corridor,) wouldn't you be?

George's exit from the stage was heralded by a deafening roar of approval as he gave the audience the Vulcan Peace Sign. He fair bounded down the steps, very slim and agile, and dressed in a lovely brown leather suit. He gave me a huge grin.

"Hi!" he greeted me, and immediately invited me up the committee room with him. Ever tried ascending 49 floors of a hotel via back-alley stairs, through kitchens, and up double fast lifts? George looked as fresh as a daisy after this marathon, but I was puffed. Oh the shame of it! He's four years older than me!

Before we sat down, George took me to the window, which, not surprisingly at 49 floors up, afforded a magnificent view across New York towards Central Park. Putting his arm round me, he pointed into the distance. "Look, Jenny! New York! There's the Hudson River...and over there, many miles away, is California."

We sat down on the settee, and I was just about to get down to business when a member of the committee came in. George greeted her with a huge kiss, then turned round and grinned at me. "Sorry Jenny!" came the remark. "Must recharge the batteries every few hours."

By now, I was word perfect on explaining about our convention. George's grin was becoming wider, and when I asked him if he would be willing to come over, he was genuinely delighted, especially when I explained that the profits would be going to the World Wild Life Fund, and the "Two Will Do" FPA education scheme. His answer, of course, was "Yes!" He is really looking forward to the event, and we talked for several minutes about this and the Star Trek concepts, which he firmly believes in. We then went on to natter about a variety of subjects, from Roman Ruins to English accents... he mimiced my Leicester dialect perfectly. George studied in England for a time, and loved the country. He said; "My parents are Japanese, I'm American, but when I came to England, I thought; 'I'm home!'" We chatted on for ages, and ended by exchanging addresses..on his suggestion, so we can communicate. (Again, sorry. No dice.)

For those of you who know little about George Takei, he is a great person. His smile is like the sun coming out, he's very warm and friendly, and he has an excellent sense of humour. In short, George Takei is the most disarming, affectionate man in all the nicest possible ways, and I know we will be as delighted to welcome ~~to~~ him to England as he was in his acceptance.

James Doohan.

The most disapointing thing to me personally was the fact that Jim Doohan was not at the convention. (He was in a play in San Fransisco.) We have been writing to each other for a few months now, and he'd even phoned me a few weeks before the convention. Fortunately, I had his San Fransisco

telephone number, which he'd told me I could use. He was delighted that George was coming too, and his immediate reaction was; "Oh good, we can travel together!" I asked him if he could send something personal for us to auction off, and he said he'd be very pleased to do this, and that he'll send something over when he's home again. (Hasn't any spare sporks for reasons JDIFC members will know!)

Jim is a really friendly man, and has been interested in both STAG and the convention for a long, long time; in fact, it was Jim who encouraged us and gave the most hope for a Star Trek Convention in Britain, even when the cynics were saying that it could not be done. We've now proved it can be, and in September we will at last have the opportunity of thanking Jim Doohan in person for all his kindly help and most friendly encouragement.

SPEECHES AT THE CONVENTION.

George Takei.

George began his speech by saying how touched he was to see so many sharing in Star Trek, and the possibility of revival. Star Trek, he said, was a show with a great deal of substance, and will continue to be so. It exhibited the fact of being able to overcome the things of the twentieth century, and of races working together.

He continued; "Unless we work towards the reality of Star Trek it will all be a web of lies, for Star Trek deals with the things that are attainable."

Nichelle Nichols.

Nichelle told the audience that she had never been given to joining cults and organisations, as they are usually bogged down in dogma; but she added that there was no dogma in Star Trek, but a cohesive law about something very important. Individuality is important to any movement, she continued, and in order to change, we must understand what we are changing. Questions to Nichelle;

Q. What was the public reaction to you kissing Shatner?

A. It was the first inter-racial TV kiss. The only adverse reaction was when someone yelled "Cut!" just before it was about to be filmed. Someone had got cold feet and decided to cut the kiss out. NBC wouldn't allow it. But there must have been a physical feeling between Kirk and Uhura.

Q. What have you done recently?

A. A movie called "Thick Turner," and a mini-album called "Dark Side of the Moon."

Q. Would Uhura be afraid..and show it?

A. Yes, under crisis, but she would be strong enough to stand up to that crisis. When my son was 18 months old he drank cleaning fluid, and I had to assist at the stomach washout. It was only afterwards when I knew he'd be alright that I fainted. Yes, Uhura would be afraid, but she trusts Kirk enough to tell him of her fear.

Q. Do you think Star Trek will come back?

A. Sincerely, NBC would have to be retarded if they didn't bring it back!

Q. Did you like working with Bill Shatner?

A. Bill Shatner is one of the greatest actors alive. He was good to work with and for.

Nichelle ended; "When the convention is over and we go our separate ways, don't ever lose the beautiful spirit of faith and hope which you have instilled into me. Peace and long life."

DeForest Kelley.

Mr Kelley began by saying that when he was recently working on the movie called "Cowboy," the producer asked him why Star Trek wasn't being made. As De couldn't apparently give a satisfactory answer, the producer phoned Frank Yablans of Paramount and asked him. Yablans replied; "If De thinks he's getting a lot of mail, he should come over and see mine!" Mr Kelley gave this story to illustrate the thousands of people who have written to Paramount asking them to return Star Trek.

Questions and answers;

Q. Do you hate Leonard Nimoy as you hate Spock?

A. I think he's a dear guy.

Q. I think McCoy was the best character, don't you?

A. It was guys like you who got me my raise! (A pun on the credits.)

Q. Like McCoy, I'm an emotional person too. Could you raise your eyebrow? (De raised his eyebrow, and everyone applauded with great enthusiasm.)

A. That's one of ^{hell} an emotional eyebrow, baby!

Q. What's your favourite insult to Spock?

A. Dunno, can't remember. I just know I wouldn't be a Vulcan!

Q. How did you get into acting?

A. I did a navy training film for Paramount...AND I was in the army! When I was discharged from service, there were already two studios interested in me, but before then, I'd been acting to involve myself with young people.

De Kelley ended; "I love yer! I think yer a helluva group!...and who knows, we may be back up there again someday!"

The Panel.

Q. What are some of the jokes you played which are not in "The Making?"

A. (De.) They are not repeatable.

Q. Were the team good friends?

A. (George.) Yes, we ARE good friends.

At this point, Walter Koenig, who looked very tired, tipped back his chair and fell off...receiving a noisy and good humoured ovation in the process. Fortunately, even he saw the funny side of it. George Takei helped him to his feet, and De, amid cheers of approval, went up to him and played the doctor by taking his pulse and feeling his forehead. Finally, the discussion resumed.

Q. How much time is spent on the animation?

A. (De.) Depends on the time available.

-(Michelle.) And I finally got a chance to take over the "Enterprise."

-(De.) That's why we all left it and beamed down to the planet!

Q. Can I have a kiss from the male members of the team?

A. -The girl went up onto the stage and received a bear-hug from both De and George. Walter took her off behind the stage curtains. When they finally emerged again, De stood up. "Excuse me," he said, "While I make another examination, then he too took the girl off! Lucky girl! It broke the audience up!"

Q. What was the panel's favourite episode?

A. (De.) I enjoyed the show in entirety. "City" was beautiful drama, "Tribbles" was fun, and from an acting viewpoint I liked "The Deadly Years."

-(Michelle.) Trouble with Tribbles, Naked Time and Tholian Webb.

-(George.) City, Trouble with Tribbles, Naked time.

-(Walter.) City was compassionate and brilliantly executed. Who mourns Adonias had the same quality.

~~over~~

Q. If Star Trek comes back again, how would the panel improve their roles?
A. (De.) The decision would have to come from Roddenberry, so it's difficult to tell. You might find me in a rest home by then.

-(Michelle.) I'd like there to be more involvement and integration, and a better development outside of Uhura.

-(George.) I'd like Sulu to have a first name. He should also be given more things to do and say. He is the germ of an interesting character.

-(Walter.) More reaction and more insight into the way Chekov thinks.

Q. Mr Kelley, why hasn't the animated McCoy got blue eyes?

A. Well, maybe the artist was colour blind... or maybe blue paint is too expensive.

Q. Walter, are you willing to write more scripts for Star Trek?

A. (De, interrupting.) We'd like him to write another script. He's a helluva writer!

-(Walter.) It is a challenging opportunity, and very gratifying. I'm happy the "Infinite Vulcan" turned out as it did. It was a labour of love.

Q. Walter, what does it feel like to be a sex symbol?

(The cheering was so loud, ~~Mr~~ Walter never answered.)

Q. Mr Kelley, you've been in the O.K. Corral from both sides. What does it feel like?

A. I've been in many versions on both sides. The Star Trek one was unique. Now, the only version I haven't done and hope to do is a musical.

Q. Why do the panel think the ST phenomena has continued as it has?

A. (De.) This is difficult to analyse, but it seems to have struck a responsive chord in the youth of today. All too often, people are raised in negative attitudes. My father was a Baptist minister, and I was raised with hell-fire and damnation. Whilst a struggling actor in New York, I attended a church where the man spoke of philosophy and theology. He talked me round to a love of God, not a fear of him. People are still reaching out for the positive viewpoint, and Star Trek gives this.

-(Michelle.) Star Trek is the beginning of positive, constructive life. It insisted upon a better world, to love one another and for a future to fly to. The imagination of today is the beginning of tomorrow, and this is what is happening. Usually, cults are so negative, but not Star Trek. It is a love which is being repeated thousands of times.

-(De, interrupting.) And the same thing is reaching out into Europe, too!

-(Walter.) The reasons go beyond a cult, and they are self-perpetuating. It no longer needs a TV series, for there is something we all have in common.--Brotherhood!

-(Michelle.) Star Trek represents the greatness of mankind, not its baseness.

The speeches made by Leonard Nimoy, Dorothy Fontana and Isaac Asimov will be included in the next issue of the STAG newsletter.

BIRTHS. STAG would like to congratulate Gene and Majel Roddenberry on the birth of their son, February 5th, 1974. The Great Bird has done it again!

GOOD NEWS! STAG DOES IT AGAIN! In co-operation with, and with the full backing of Page and Moy, Holiday Consultants for such clients as TV times, Womens Own, Woman etc, STAG are now able to offer a holiday to the USA for next years convention! This would include bed and breakfast, and possibly a sightseeing trip round New York. The price will be somewhere in the region of £90...you will never get it cheaper elsewhere! If you are interested, write to Mrs Marion Kennedy, 30, Lancaster Road, Leicester. Please mark envelope "Holiday."

HOORAY! We've at last broken the barrier of the Great Paper Shortage! At last, we've gleaned enough paper from various sources to print BETA NIOBE 2, so it will be ready very soon now. So, send your orders in! There's still plenty left, and it is a really good zine.

MORE GOOD NEWS!..For USA members this time. STAG now has an official USA representative, to whom you can send your money in dollars, and iron out any other problems on your own doorstep. The address; Mrs Floss Del Vecchio, 3526, Decatur Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19136. You may also purchase your non-attending memberships from Floss too.

SORRY if you are waiting for photos of Star Trek. With the ending of the three day week, however, I hope they'll be coming through very shortly. (Did someone say "Up for Harold?") Whilst on the subject of pics, we have recently acquired many more, and a new list will be published in due course.

SORRY to have steered away from our more usual newsletter this month, but I thought you'd all like to know about the convention. Next issue we'll be back to "What You Say" and all the other old familiars, together with some new, exciting features.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT:

PASTALLAN VESLA-an all Star Trek Zine, including fiction, articles, poetry, cartoons, artwork etc. \$1.50 per issue. Michelle Malkin, 1869, Cottman Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111, USA.

QUADRANT. A Star Trek zine of humour, fiction, art, poetry dedicated to the proposition that love means never having to say; "He's dead, Jim!" \$1.50 per copy. Rhubarb Publications, PO Box 487, Crugers Branch, Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10521. Issue 2 available now, 3 in progress.

STAG MEMBERS, we have a group for investigation of UFO's. If you are interested write to; British Youth UFO Investigation Group, Alan Walsh, 27, Tennyson St, Bootle 20, Liverpool. (Include SAE please.)

BEYOND ALTARES. A Star Trek Fan club. Write Sheila Hull, 35, Herley Ways, Wilbourne, Dorset.

STARB. Write for information to John Hind, 14, Bingham Road, Radcliffe On Trent, Notts.

WILLIAM SHATTNER ENTERPRISES. The greatest for Bill-Nuts, run by the greatest of Bill-Nuts! Chris Jones, 222, Manchester Road, Neaton Morris, Cheshire.

JAMES DOOHAN INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB. Join the best there is in fan clubs! Support Jin, and get yourself a piece of the liveliest action around. Write Mrs Anna Hreha, 1519, N.W. 204th St, Seattle, Washington 98177, USA. Mention STAG...Oi, and Pooh-dog if you have to! Tara now. See yer all soon!