

Star Trek Action Group



NEWSLETTER No. 20

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If there is a tick in this space, your subscription is due for renewal. Renewals should be sent to Janet at the above address.

DUES

U.K. £1.50 per year.
U.S.A. \$6 airmail, \$4 surface.
Australia £3 airmail, £2 surface.
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Hello, everyone! It's now a year since Janet, Beth and I, along with Helen McCarthy, took over the running of STAG. It doesn't seem that long. It's been a year that has seen a number of changes, and given us hope for a revival of STAR TREK at long last.

ST fandom has had a lot of publicity during the year; isn't it odd that the media should suddenly get interested just about the time when ST has gone off our screens again - and this time we reckon it's going to be rather more difficult to persuade the BBC that it's worth repeating, if only because of the complaints the general public has been making about repeats in general. All we can do is keep pushing the fact that even with three runs, many of us have not seen all the episodes - even those of us who have been watching since 1969 may not have seen all the episodes that were screened.

STAG itself has gained a lot of new members during the year.

Financially, we're rather healthier than we were a year ago (see statement later) and a great deal of this is due to those of you who transferred from life to annual membership or who sent us donations. The last word on this subject comes from Robin Hill, later in the N/L...

Let us hope that next year sees a full revival of ST... and BBC relenting and showing us the banned episodes... LL&P, Sheila.

LATEST ON THE FILM

William Shatner announced at the Bi-centennial 10 con in New York that he has signed his contract for the movie, but that Leonard Nimoy is holding out for more money. He added that he is supporting Leonard, who he feels is justified.

Info from Nancy Kippax.

We would like to apologise for the printing quality of the last newsletter being a little below standard. There were a number of reasons for this, one of them being that the duplicator was trembling so much at the workload we were expecting of it that it kept creasing the tops of the stencils. (It hasn't recovered from the shock yet either; it still visibly pales at sight of anyone coming near with stencils...) We have our fingers crossed that duplication goes O.K. this time - the first time that we've used our new second hand machine.

Alan Laing wants to thank Mrs. Ann Looker for 'opening his eyes' to STAR TREK, as it was through Ann that he first got in touch with STAR TREK fendom.

Jill Cressey would like to know if anyone has any suggestions for identifying film clips, as she has a lot she can't put into episodes. We know exactly what she means - Janet and I have had a few joint sessions with unidentified clips, and one or two clip-identifying slide shows with other people, and even so we've a lot we can't place. Can anyone help?

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Period 1.10.75 - 30.9.76.

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Opening balance				
Bank	£97-57			
	£ 97-57	Printing/postage		
Membership	£509-47	stationery	£862-68 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Publications	£521-74	Publications	£104-85 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Sales	£397-85	Miscellaneous	£140-95	
		Sales	£292-33	
		Balance I/H	£125-81	
	£1526-63		£1526-63	

Miscellaneous includes the purchase of a second hand fully electric automatic duplicator.

The above does not, of course, include money taken in at the convention in Leeds. For income from Terracon, see the con report later in the newsletter.

INFO. ON THE STARS.

Jim and Wende Doohan's first child, Eric Montgomery, was born on August 22nd. Congratulations!

* * *

Info. from Star Trektennial News No. 17.

William Shatner and Walter Koenig both appear in a recently filmed episode of Columbo, which will be shown (in the States) sometime in the autumn. Walter has also finished a screenplay called 'Me And Frenk', about World War II. He is teaching a new course at UCLA, and has been asked to write several 'forewords' for Laser Books.

Gene Roddenberry's record, 'Inside STAR TREK' is now available in America.

* * *

Info. from Piece of the Action, October 1976. (STW)

Gene Roddenberry has signed a contract with Bantam books to do a STAR TREK novel himself.

STAR TREK ITEMS AVAILABLE IN U.K.

Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed have the following ST items available. U.S. denotes American import; please give alternative choice where possible, as it takes 4 - 6 weeks to get books from the U.S. if they should be out of stock.

STAR TREK (James Blish)

Nos. 1-8, No.11 (U.S.) 90p each.

No.9 90p

No.10 60p

No.6 (U.K.) 40p

STAR TREK LOGS (A.D.Foster)

No.1, 50p, 2 (U.S.) 70p 3 (U.S.) 90p 4 65p

5 - 7 (U.S.) £1 each.

STAR TREK - NEW VOYAGES 75p

World of STAR TREK (U.S.) £1.30

Trouble With Tribbles (U.S.) £1.30

The Making of STAR TREK 90p

STAR TREK Lives (U.S.) £1.30

Spock Must Die (U.S.) 90p

STAR TREK Calendar 1976 (U.S.) £2.25 (reduced from £3;25; only a few left)

TREK 3 (U.S. STfan Mag) £1.00

Starfleet Technical Manual £3.75

Enterprise Blueprints £2.85

You and I

Will I Think of You } Poetry by Leonard Nimoy (U.S.) £2 each.

STAR TREK Annual 1977 £1.60

Coming Soon

U.S. Poster Mag written by ST fans in New York, folds out into large poster 75p

STAR TREK Concordance)

ST Calendar 1977) Price not yet known

ST Log 8)

All prices include postage and packing. Dark They Were And Golden-Eyed, 10 Berwick St, London, W1V 3RG

SPACE SHUTTLE - ENTERPRISE

America's first space shuttle orbiter was rolled out of its assembly building for public viewing on September 17th. It was named the Enterprise, in part after the Spaceship featured in the popular U.S. television programme STAR TREK. The 37.19 meter long (122 foot) airplane/spaceship is the next generation space vehicle for manned flight and near-earth research in the 1980's.

Model 101 of the Enterprise will begin tests in January 1977 at the NASA Hugh Dryden flight research centre in California. The orbiter will be placed on the back of a Boeing 747. The first tests will consist of the 747 flying round and landing, carrying the unmanned Enterprise. After several such flights, the Enterprise will be manned, and finally the Enterprise will be separated from the 747 at 28000 feet, about eight miles from the runway, and land independently.

The second model of the Enterprise will be launched into orbit, manned, in March 1979, and after six orbiter test flights, the shuttle will be ready for operations in 1980.

The first pilots will be chosen from among Apollo astronauts. Twenty eight men are still assigned to the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. NASA has now begun recruitment for 15 additional pilots and 15 'mission specialists'.

Info. from U.S. Information Service, American Embassy, sent in by Robin Hill.

* * *

The original name for the orbiter was the 'Constitution', but after a heavy letter-writing campaign from STAR TREK fans, President Ford supported dubbing the craft 'Enterprise'.

Info. from Palo Alto Times, sent in by Dorothy Bradley.

* * *

Using the music from John Denver's hit 'Country Roads', Marthe Bonds, a junior high school teacher has composed lyrics for the TV's U.S.S. Enterprise:

Almost heaven, silver starship,
lovely lady, never-ending star-trip.
Life is out there on a distant star,
man's final frontier, never go too far.

Enterprise, you are my home,
on your bridge I belong.
Lovely lady, silver starship,
you are my home, Enterprise.

Info. from The Evening Sun, sent in by Nancy Kippax.

* * *

Thanks to the other people who let us know that the shuttle had been called 'Enterprise'. All info. came from the States; the British news media acted as if it was all top secret, and if we'd been depending on home sources, we'd be waiting yet!

Anyone living in or planning to visit London: the BBC have a stock of B/W STAR TREK stills, 50p each. They have no list, so you have to visit their office, and there's a search fee of £3.50. The address is: BBC Photo Library, Room 104, 10 Cavendish Place, London W 1.

Info. from Marc Epstein.

PENPALS

Liz Newton, 'Dellian', Halton Station Rd., Sutton Weaver, Runcorn, Cheshire, would like to contact other fans living in her area.

Janice Boyle, 35 Almondell Rd., Broxburn, West Lothian, Scotland, would like a penpal, preferably in her area. She would prefer a boy, 15 - 17, but a girl would do. Her favourite character is Spock. Other interests include badminton, table-tennis, Starsky and Hutch, and John Denver.

Ken Mardle, 3 Chester St., Swindon, Wilts, SN1 5DX would like a penpal. Ken is 24, interested in modelmaking, painting, SF, astronomy, photography (still and movie), military modelling, horror movies, entomology and STAR TREK.

Robin Nelson, 46 Round Riding Rd., Dumbarton, would like a penpal. His hobbies are art, science, literature, philosophy, rugby, athletics and swimming. Robin is a pacifist.

Alan Laing, 4 Milton Rd, Wingyates, Fife, Scotland, would like a penpal, preferably an American girl in her mid-teens. As well as STAR TREK, Alan is interested in general SF, astronomy, rocketry, and swimming.

WANTED

Wanted: Beta Niobe 1 and 2, 70 Ophicus, Log Entries 1 and any non-STAG fanzines so I can photocopy and return to owner. Contact Kathleen Orton, 158 Wellfield Rd., London SW16 2BU

PLEASE CAN ANYONE HELP ME? Does anyone have any good recordings of the STARSKY & HUTCH series that they would be willing to re-record onto cassettes (or I can do the re-recording)? Also pictures, articles on STARSKY & HUTCH wanted. Donna Leuchlan, 16 Tonbridge Rd., West Molesey, Surrey

Paul Andrews, 60 Slades Drive, Chislehurst, Kent, has recordings of ST episodes on standard C120 cassettes, 67 episodes in pairs (counting Menagerie as two). Write to him (enclosing SAE) for details.

Wanted Urgently: Lenny Bruce material, or Dustin Hoffman as 'Lenny'. Also cuttings on M.A.S.H. Rhoda, Alan Arkin, Clint Walker, Dale Robertson, and T. Savalas. Will buy or exchange. Keith Povall, 32 Castleview Rd., Moxley, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 8LP.

Robin Nelson, 46 Round Riding Rd., Dumbarton, and Christine Houston, 15 Greenhead Ave, Dumbarton, Scotland, are planning to start up a new zine. Anyone interested in helping, or contributions for publication, please contact either of them.

Magpie Records, Hopmarket, Worcester, England WR1 1UR, have Leonard Nimoy's two latest records in stock. These are readings from Ray Bradbury's works.

Catalogue No. 90a Martian Chronicles
91a The Illustrated Man

The records cost £4.25 each, plus postage, 35p for one, 50p for both.

VEGETARIANISM

Amanda Thomas writes,

There are many ways to get a good, healthy, well balanced diet without eating meat. For example, I get all the protein I need from dairy produce (I am a lacto vegetarian; I do not eat meat, fish or poultry, but I do eat dairy produce) and beans, especially Soya protein extract, which can be made to look and taste like meat, if you are all that dependent on it. I get all my vitamins from fruit and vegetables, I do not take vitamin tablets or any other supplements - I do not need them. I enjoy perfect health and am as strong as an ox.

As for the moral side. My conscience feels a whole lot better for not eating my fellow animals. Sheila Clark did point out that one could stretch this even further by including plants. She feels that plants could be intelligent. I agree with her, but one has to compromise in order to survive. If I were starving, I would readily eat meat, but I am not starving and that need has now been removed. She also points out that Vulcans were once meat eaters. It is natural to eat meat. That is true, but there are also many other natural things which we have done in the past, but which we now consider unfit for a civilised society. Since animals are closer to our own kind, it would be natural (there's that word again) to abstain from eating them. Now plants are a different matter. I need plants in order to survive. Therefore, I must eat them. Hopefully, sometime in the future, science will enable us to live without eating plants, and my conscience will feel even better, but until that time, I will abstain from eating meat, and live on vegetables.

* * *

John Hind writes,

I was extremely shocked and disgraced when you said, 'I'm convinced that plants could easily be intelligent'.

I don't know anyone else who thinks lettuce or soya beans or whatever can feel pain, or terror, like when cattle are huddled into slaughter-houses, shot and killed slowly, and then hooked up on the ceiling.

Why don't you speak to a biologist or something, I'm sure he/she would reassure you.

* * *

Editor's comment. Sorry, John, but it's because I do know something about biology that I hold this view. In addition, I have recently read a book called 'The Secret Life of Plants' which describes experiments that indicate clearly that plants do feel emotions, including terror, and can even respond telepathically to their owners' mental state even over a distance. In fact, this book was almost enough to turn me into a complete carnivore. What bothered me most is that there's no way a plant can make us hear its screams of terror and agony. One experiment also indicated that metal can show responses similar to those of animals... I'm trying not to worry about that.

* * *

Joyce Deeming writes,

On the question of vegetarianism. I find myself in agreement with you on this point, re deficiency diseases, and the fact that plants could be intelligent, etc. It was always impressed upon me that in order to remain healthy we Humans need a certain number of amino acids, and some of these are only available to us through eating meat. Also, with regard to intelligent plant life, did no-one ever

hear or see a programme some while back now that dealt with the 'death scream of a tomato'? This programme showed us the attempts of a group of scientists to measure the feelings in certain forms of plant life, and the most memorable thing about their experiments, for me at least, was when they cut a tomato and measured its feelings at that time. They maintained that the tomato could actually feel the incision and that, in its own way, it screamed out in pain. Never again, after seeing that programme, have I had any qualms about eating meat. After all, if plants are intelligent and have feelings then surely the pain we inflict upon them in eating them can be no less than the pain inflicted upon an animal, the only difference being that we can actually hear the death scream of an animal, and that, since it is composed of flesh and blood, we can relate to its sufferings more easily. We have to eat to survive, and if, as I for one believe, plants suffer as well as animals, then I can see no good reason why Humans should not be omniverous with a clear conscience, especially since meat provides many of the nutrients that we need for healthy bodies - nutrients that cannot be obtained elsewhere.

* * *

Editor's comment. There were a lot of letters came in on this subject, both for and against. The three I've printed give a good representative view.

HARRY MUDD

Paula Greener writes,

I would like to give my views on H. Mudd. Of course he is a galactic nuisance and constant worry, often raising awkward problems or poking his nose in at the wrong time, but without Hu. Mudd and tribbles, who would have known the one weapon to throw at the Klingons!

* * *

Cheryl Turnbull writes,

Re Michael Wood's comments on H. Mudd - surely the Federation believes in the rights of the individual as long as it isn't detrimental to the common good. He's a rogue - very well, but he does have the right to an existence of his own, doesn't he? Would Michael have us all uniformly law-abiding - there's even a touch of the rogue in the Captain of the Enterprise! Surely the whole point of STAR TREK is that you can be different - even if you turn out to be the Harry Mudd of this Federation.

* * *

See also the poem in the fiction section. Most people who wrote in wanted the fiction section to continue - but if we are to continue it, I need more poetry and stories of not more than 2000 words.

Tim Dollin writes,

Speaking about 'Assignment Earth', I think that a series about Garry Seven would have been interesting. The danger to Earth could have led to many exciting stories. He and his cat were fascinating creatures.

In fact, Tim, 'Assignment Earth' was a pilot for a series about Garry Seven as well as being a ST episode. None of the networks was interested, and the idea was dropped.

THE KIRK/SPOCK RELATIONSHIP

This was another subject that brought in a lot of letters, every one saying, in effect, this is a love relationship in its purest form. Stephen Green writes,

The Kirk/Spock relationship tends to turn up in most ST fanzines. I think of Spock's love for Kirk as that of a close brother, but a love that he cannot show. The problem with the English language is that the word 'love' is associated with sex. Spock's love for Kirk is not homosexual, in the same way that a man's love for his brother is not...

It's the Human part of Spock that forms the basis of the Kirk/Spock relationship. Without Kirk, most of Spock's character would remain submerged. Instead of being one of the most - if not the most - intriguing personalities in STAR TREK, Spock would be merely a flesh and blood extension of the ship's computers. We owe it all to Kirk.

...STAR TREK is LOVE. Spock's love for Kirk... Kirk's love for Spock, McCoy's deep affection for BOTH Spock and Kirk, Kirk's love for his ship... Love. It's what the world needs now. And tomorrow.

* * *

Valmai Rogers writes,

I haven't read any of the fans' stories yet (but that's something I plan to remedy soon), so it was with true amazement that I saw in Nancy Kippax's letter, what some people are making of the Kirk/Spock relationship. (It's almost like defamation of character, isn't it?)

I hope we can discourage these sort of stories, because the resulting lack of integrity would end up with characters and format nothing like the original Star Trek, and the mystique that attracted us all in the first place would cease to exist - as under the label of 'adult', they would weave into the relationship that which was not there, nor ever intended.

I feel the love they meant between Star Trek's Kirk and Spock was more like respect and affection, with a deep rapport and concern between two unlike beings. Men and women can be friends without being Gay. But unfortunately there seem to be some who have difficulty in being able to imagine such an alliance.

Another facet of love is that which exists between Spock and McCoy. I agree that the apparent enmity is just a cover up for affection and concern. (It's an Australian trait for men to call their best (male) friend(s) names, and 'sling off' at each other. But it is done with love - let anyone else try and he'd get a black eye.)

* * *

Enid Byrom writes,

With regard to... the ability of love to be an emotional and mental uplifting of the spirit without any sexual connections, I agree.

I have one very dear close friend (female and married) with whom this is true.

It is a rare and very special experience to have this type of link with a person of either sex, and is not to be besmirched by lesser intellects who are incapable of understanding such a bond. I love to see the close interaction between a small group of men, such as Kirk, Spock and McCoy, with whom this link functions at its best.

Too many people today try to cheapen anything good; perhaps because insecurity seems to disappear when the sufferer destroys someone else's peace of mind. I guess it's an indictment on the state of our world, which has so many unhappy people, and a great incentive to groups like ours to try and build on our common beliefs.

FAVOURITE EPISODES, ETC.

Liz Newton writes,

No-one has ever mentioned 'This Side of Paradise' by Nathan Butler and D.C. Fontana. I, personally, like the episode. I think it is very sad at the end when Leila finds she's lost Spock. Another episode I like is 'The Empath', and although I have never seen it, I have read it many times in James Blish's STAR TREK 10.

An episode which I don't like is 'Friday's Child'. I cannot see why it is called this; even if the child was born on a Friday, because Friday's Child is supposed to be 'loving and giving', not 'full of woe'. I really suppose it's the title I don't like, not the episode.

Ivy Wilkins writes,

I love many of the episodes which are general favourites and I dislike 'The Children Shall Lead' and even more, 'The Corbomite Manoeuvre'. I too was embarrassed by 'Spock's Brain' in front of a cynical family! Difficult to know what to say - whether to admit its absurdity; try to defend the meaning behind the action; admit to it not being up to standard or keep a stiff upper lip whilst the sly grins and 'funny' remarks circulate. Fortunately, no matter how many 'not so good' episodes appear, one's love and admiration for series and characters doesn't seem to waver - it seems actually more life like with many scenes showing up many differing aspects and actions. Life isn't entirely made up of perfect situations.

Ingrid Emerson writes,

My favourite titles are 'Is There in Truth no Beauty' and 'City on the Edge of Forever'. The latter I like because it gives me a strange feeling whenever I think of it - eternity, something the outer mind can't really understand yet the inner mind can. My least favourite title is 'Corbomite Manoeuvre' because I always get tongue-tied when I try to say it!!

Ken Mardle writes,

In Newsletter No. 16, Jeanette Taylor said that her unfavourite episode is 'The Corbomite Manoeuvre', which happens to be one of my favourite ones. As she does not justify her dislike with a reason, I don't accept her opinion. Can she tell us why she doesn't like this episode?

I don't like 'The Way to Eden', mainly because Adam's singing is painful to the ears. It's a wonder the Enterprise crew did not pass out from this let alone ultrasonics!

Ruth Turner writes,

My all-time favourite scene is the one mentioned, with Scotty and Kirk after the barroom brawl in 'Tribbles'. It's so beautiful! Mind you, I rather like the later scene where tribbles keep trickling through the hatch onto Kirk's head.

Another scene that appeals to me is in 'Errand of Mercy' where Kor talks about not liking men who smile. It always reminds me of the line in Hamlet that says, 'A man may smile and smile and be a villain'.

Other classics are Spock and McCoy in jail in 'Breed and Circuses', the secretary being astounded by the computer in 'Assignment Earth', Kirk's driving in 'Piece of the Action' and the scene in 'Galileo 7' where they're all expecting to burn up. However, I think that it'd take a genius to beat that 'Tribbles' scene.

TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO FANZINE
EDITOR HAS EVER GONE BEFORE.....

Semi-autobiography by Steven J. Green.

Science Fiction is a way of life.

I first discovered SF over a decade ago and I've been an avid reader ever since. Over the last few years, I've even taken to writing long SF stories of my own. But apart from that, reading every piece of SF I could lay my hands on was the only way in which I could get involved. And it was a very private, personal involvement.

Sure, there were 'space' shows on TV - programmes such as LOST IN SPACE, VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA and the like - but that wasn't true SF, just juvenile entertainment that tended to give Science Fiction a bad name.

Then, in 1969, STAR TREK happened.

I write 'happened' rather than 'was televised' because of the deep and profound effect STAR TREK was to have on my life.

I was a disciple from the beginning. The second I saw the U.S.S. Enterprise glide across its velvet backdrop, I was hooked. Maybe that's why so many fans of STAR TREK regard it as THE Science Fiction series. STAR TREK was like a drug, and it's hard to break that kind of addiction.

There was another facet to the debut of STAR TREK. No longer was I in a minority of one, afraid to admit my love for SF in case I was ridiculed. My personality as it today was directly influenced by Science Fiction and STAR TREK.

Gone were Irwin Allen's pathetic plastic aliens and stereotyped BEMs. Gone were shows where the underlying theme was 'Blast first, clear up the mess later.' Gene Roddenberry had brought maturity to TV Science Fiction.

Of course, STAR TREK wasn't the only influence on my life at the time. Since the mid-1960s, I'd been a fan of American comic books - and I still am. But that was still part of my basic need for fantasy fiction of any kind.

And now I stand perched on the crossroads, about to change my role from simple consumer to actual producer.

ASTRON is my baby, just as STAR TREK was Gene Roddenberry's. For many years, one region of fandom has been sadly neglected - Science Fiction (as opposed to STAR TREK and comics, which both are the subject of many zines). With ASTRON, I hope to rectify that situation.

A variety of subjects will be taken under its wings, ranging from SF to Rock. Lead articles for the first issue should be an exclusive interview with author Bob Shaw, reviews and the latest SF/Comic news, along with features on STAR TREK and the rock band Hawkwind. Future issues will include more of STAR TREK, along with a new SF series entitled THE STAR BORN. And, if the printing difficulties can be sorted out, maybe the debut of the 'Adam Skywolf' strip.

And after that? Who can really tell. Certainly not I...

PEACE.

Another SF bookshop that deals with mail order is the Andromeda Book Co. Ltd., 57 Summer Row, Birmingham. Send SAE for a catalogue. Andromeda also carries a good stock of SF books.

Starfleet Chronicles: a new independent zine, well worth getting. 65p including postage and packing. Contact Janet Blowers, 24 Beccles Rd., Bungay, Suffolk.

WHY I BELIEVE IN UFOs

by William Shatner.

(reprinted from an American newspaper article sent in by Jeraldine Franz)

I believe in UFOs.

The time is long past when the Air Force or the scientists or the government can say that what people are seeing in the sky are nothing but hot-air balloons of the planet Venus.

That kind of double-talk won't wash any longer.

There has been too much evidence over the years that UFOs exist.

They have been seen by too many people in too many places for anyone to doubt that they are out there.

Although I believe in UFOs, I must admit that I fail completely to understand what their purpose is.

I just can't find the answers to the intriguing questions that they raise.

For example, if these vehicles are piloted by intelligent beings from outer space, than why have they made no effort to contact heads of government of other responsible agencies?

They have kidnapped farmers in a Georgia swamp and a couple driving a car, but have made no effort to contact the people of earth on a large scale.

Perhaps soon, they'll make their purpose known. Until then I've got to leave it up to ENQUIRER readers to speculate just where these objects come from and what they are doing here.

During the making of the 'Star Trek' series, I spoke to many science fiction writers and technical advisers to the show.

Almost to a man they were absolutely convinced that UFOs existed.

These were all well-informed and highly intelligent people.

They were of the opinion that UFOs originated in outer space and carried intelligent life forms.

One writer claimed he had seen a UFO.

He said it was a huge, cigar-shaped object very high in the sky.

I had no reason to disbelieve him.

Too many trustworthy, well-qualified people have seen similar objects for them all to be lying.

I have never seen a UFO personally, but the evidence in their favour is so overwhelming that there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that they exist.

Thanks to Dorothy Bradley, I have a copy of Bantam's latest ST release, 'Spock Messiah'. While the book is much better than the title would indicate, it will be a great disappointment to hard-core Spock fans, as Spock is hardly in it at all. In the book, Spock is linked telepathically to a madman who believes it is his mission in life to convert his planet to his own particular religious belief. By himself he is harmless, but with his paranoia linked to Spock's intelligence, a dangerous 'Messiah' is created. The story deals with Kirk's attempts to stop the Messiah (helped by McCoy, Scotty, Chekov and an Ensign Sara George). I wouldn't call it the best STAR TREK story I've ever read, but it is better than 'Spock Must Die' and - in my opinion - Alan Dean Foster's Log books.

The American zine Contact that we advertised last N/L is now out of print. Issue 3 is currently being compiled.

BI-CENTENNIAL 10 CON

Member Margaret Austin attended the bi-centennial 10 con in New York on 3 - 6 September, and sent me this report.

There were around 6000 people in attendance, most of whom were of high school age. A always wondered why Americans referred to STAR TREK fans as 'kids' - now I know. I felt old at 24.

Leonard Nimoy wasn't able to make it because of his play schedule but De and Bill were there. De Kelley is a real Southern gentleman and very quiet, rather afraid of the crowds. And with good reason too. The 'kids' have to be held back by con officials forming human chains when the guests appear. William Shatner was brave though - he ventured to come down from the stage and mingle with the audience (his body guards were never far behind however). He was nervous at first being in such an exposed position but relaxed after a while only to be grabbed from behind by Grace Lee Whitney who had sneaked up on him. He thought he was being attacked by an over-zealous fan and started twisting her thumb. He was about ready to floor her when he realised who she was.

Walter Koenig was lively and interesting and very keen to re-create the role of Chekov for the film. He's not been signed up yet. So far only William Shatner actually has a contract. Leonard Nimoy is still negotiating his. De Kelley said he didn't know what Leonard was after but whatever it was he wanted it too. De also told us two writers from England have been brought over to write the script. Shooting should start in the new year.

Nichelle Nichols sang 'Beyond Antares' for us. She's really very beautiful. She doesn't look old enough to have a grown son but he was there too.

STAR TREK episodes were shown for about 18 hours each day. I managed to catch both 'Plato's Stepchildren' and 'Whom Gods Destroy', the latter of which is averagely mundane, but 'Plato's Stepchildren' is awful. I'd be so embarrassed to have a non-fan watch it on TV at home. In a way I'm glad the BBC haven't screened it although it's a shame that fans at home haven't had a chance to judge it for themselves. I'm surprised the actors could keep straight faces when they were filming it, yet nothing from it shows up in the blooper reels.

'Planet Earth' was among the films shown. As it's the sequel to 'Genesis II' which I've not seen I couldn't follow the plot 100%, but what I could follow didn't impress me particularly. The idea behind the story was good, the sets, costumes, etc, excellent, but I thought the basic concept of the female dominated society was handled poorly. It could have been good but they took it to a point where it was no longer plausible.

The dealers room was a disappointment. Now that I've seen a U.S. con for myself at last, I think I prefer outs. Of course I'm in no position to judge all U.S. cons but if this one was typical (which a couple of natives told me it was) then 'Long Live British Cons'!

Ena Glogowska suggests that we write to the BBC asking to see other shows that feature the ST actors. Apart from Mission Impossible and Barbary Coast, they haven't really shown anything that any of the ST cast have appeared in, although ITV have. We could even ask to see some of the talk and game shows they've appeared in (Nancy Kippax told Janet about one game show Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy both appeared in, and she said it was great - editor's comment)

Ken Mardle suggests that Paramount hires Rolf Harris, alias Jake the Peg, to play Arex...

ADVERT

A NEW FILMCLIPS SERVICE FOR OVERSEAS FANS:

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IMPORTANT

BANNED EPISODES

It seems that the person responsible for putting STAR TREK on the air has not been receiving our letters requesting the showing of EMPATH, PLATO'S STEPCHILDREN, WHOM GODS DESTROY and MIRI. Anne Page of PEBBLE MILL has suggested that we all write to the BBC again and she will deliver the letters personally to the person responsible. She has already had a talk with him and although she can promise nothing, she says he is wavering - this just might do the trick.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Write a short, polite letter to the BBC asking them to reconsider their decision not to show these episodes.

Send this letter to: Mrs Dorothy Owens
30, Ovenden Way
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX3 5PF

Dorothy will see that the letters get to Anne Page.

It is important that you all write a letter, and write it as soon as possible. Get your friends and family to write as well - EVERY letter counts. The more letters we can get to Anne Page, the more chance we have to see those episodes and hopefully to get a repeat of all the episodes.

Don't delay - WRITE TODAY

THE EMPATHY CON

The weekend of the 9th and 10th October was one of pure enjoyment for everyone - with the possible exception of the overworked Empathy committee. Just on 400 fans converged on the unsuspecting Dragonara Hotel between Friday night and Saturday morning, but even the hotel staff seem to have enjoyed our presence. The hotel itself was well organised (the only exception being the lift system which proved wholly inadequate to the task of transporting all 400 of us up and down the ten levels. Some of us took to using the stairs - once we found them!)

Friday night was spent getting settled in and the various sales tables laid out. Zines were the high spot of the club tables, with no fewer than fifteen new zines on sale. There were also assorted tribbles, photos, clips, and various other goodies. Eight clubs or groups had tables, and Dinky, the Andromeda Bookshop and the Edinburgh Sci-fi Bookshop had tables as well. Rob King of the Edinburgh shop had the 1977 Ballentine calendar and a beautiful U.S. magazine called Starlog airfreighted in. They arrived on Saturday morning, and were sold out within ten minutes of the sales room opening. (Rob has more on order)

Guests were Nick Tate (Alan Carter of Space 1999) and Matt Irvine, who makes the models for Dr. Who and for programmes like 'The Sky at Night'. Both brought along something interesting for us to see; Nick brought along an episode from the second series of Space 1999, and Matt a collection of his models. (The new series of Space 1999 shows a marked improvement; the characters have come alive and are now personalities instead of appearing as mere puppets; there seems to be an interrelationship that was missing before, and friendship as opposed to the 'working relationship' of the first series.)

The fancy dress parade showed a wide range of ingenuity, with Susan Moore repeating her win of last year as the best alien and Robin Hill with the most original costume another worthy winner. Linda Lloyd won the prize for the prettiest dressed girl, and Veronica Wallace won the prize for the best dress (a four-breasted alien...)

The fashion show was almost another fancy dress parade, with a wide variety of designs. Avril Landsell won the prize for the best collection of dresses, Cath Owens was the best model and Marilyn and Dawn Parry had the best costumes.

Other winners of competitions were Robin Hill for fiction (with several STAG members getting an honourable mention), Brian January for models, and Carol Keogh for sewing. There were also prizes for poetry and painting - apologies to the winners, but neither Dorothy Owens nor I could remember who they were by the end of the evening.

The auction was a great success; Mrs. Blish sent in 50 scripts that her husband had used for his adaptations, and these were auctioned. There wasn't time to auction them all during Sunday afternoon, so most were put in a 'paper' auction where we wrote down our bids. Other items auctioned were records, photos, posters, paintings and zines. Rob King donated a calendar and a copy of Starlog as well as a set of stills from Logan's Run, the entire proceeds to go to charity, and these fetched £14.

Assorted SF films were shown over the weekend, going on well into Sunday evening when only a handful of fans were left. The most popular films were undoubtedly Dracula's Wedding, Dracula's Banquet, and Lost With Frankenstein.

Dorothy Owens was unable to tell me just how much of a donation will go to charity (this year, Cancer Research) as not all the expenses have been paid yet. However, she did tell me that Nick Tate gave his fee (£100) back to her to be included in the donation.

The STAG table took in £340. This gives our funds for 1976-77 a tremendous boost and should enable us to provide an even better service for members.

We would like to apologise to anyone who wanted to speak to us but didn't get the chance to do so. Believe me, we had a hectic weekend -

I don't know about Beth, but Janet and I got about three hours sleep in the entire weekend... We'd have liked to speak to every STAG member attending, but it just wasn't possible.

I'd like to say a very big 'thank you' to the Empathy committee for organising the con. We had a marvellous time.

Sheila Clark.

COMPETITION

The quotes competition in our last N/L proved to be much harder than I had thought. There were very few entries, and only one was correct - congratulations to George Kerridge, who really knows his STAR TREK!

Answers were:

- 1) I have killed my Captain - and my friend. Spock, Amok Time.
- 2) We are to kill the strangers. Akuta, The Apple.
- 3) We're not going to kill today. Kirk, A Taste of Armageddon.
- 4) No kill I. Horta, Devil in the Dark.
- 5) You can't kill me. You can't. 'Good' Kirk, Enemy Within.
- 6) It could kill you. McCoy, Journey to Babel.
- 7) You're killing me. Kirk, Corbomite Manoeuvre.
- 8) In time?! They kill your people. Nona, Private Little War.
- 9) To kill is a breaking of civil and moral laws. Daystrom, Ultimate Computer.

The story competition brought in seven entries, from Angela Carthy, Lesley Coles, Valerie Harrison, Gloria Mitchell, Robin Nelson, T.G.Z.C. (who wishes to remain anonymous) and Sylvia Ward. As usual, it was difficult to choose a winner, but after careful consideration, Janet and I decided that Valerie's story had the edge. Her story will appear in Log Entries 7, and I hope to print some of the others later.

This month's competition is to write a story from the following paragraph. The paragraph itself may be beginning, middle or end of the story. Closing date, November 30th, entries to come to Sheila at the usual address.

"Isn't there any word from Jim yet, Spock?"

"Doctor, impatience serves no useful purpose. Neither the Captain nor any member of the landing party answers the contact signal, and I have his order that no-one else is to beam down without his direct permission. Nor is it possible to detect any member of the landing party by sensor, as this race resembles Terrans so closely as to be indistinguishable."

"Then what do we do, Spock? Jim's already seven hours late reporting in."

"We wait, Doctor. In accordance with the Captain's last order."

Angela Carthy, 25 Northfield Drive, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, would like to get in touch with any other STAG members living in her area. Contact her at the above address.

Tal Shaye - Manchester area zine. First issue, 50p inc. postage and packing, from Dolores Whitbread, 80 Grey St., Stalybridge, Cheshire, or Mike Wild, 98 Toxteth St, Higher Openshaw, Manchester.

City 2 - zine of the London Plus Group, available from Helen McCarthy, 96a Fonthill Rd., Finsbury Park, London, N4 3HT.

BOOKS FROM ANDROMEDA

Andromeda Book Co. Ltd., 57 Summer Row, Birmingham, have the following items in stock:

STAR TREK: The New Voyages.	U.S. £1.05, U.K. 65p
World of STAR TREK	90p
Trouble With Tribbles	75p
Making of STAR TREK	75p
STAR TREK Blueprints	£2.50
Star Fleet Technical Manual	£2.95
STAR TREK Annual 1976	£1.50
1977	£1.25
STAR TREK Lives	U.S. £1.20 U.K. 60p
World of Horror Issues 4,5 & 6 with 3-part ST article	£1.50 the set.
Quasimodo's Monster Mag, issue 6, William Shatner article	50p
7, Leonard Nimoy article	50p
TV Sci-fi Monthly Issues 4,5,6,7	35p each
Vulcan Reflections (reprinted from zine Spockanalia)	£1.50
I am Not Spock (Nimoy)	£2.75
You and I (Nimoy)	£1.80
Will I Think of You (Nimoy)	£1.80
Gold Key Comic Issues 36, 37 & 39	12p each.
STAR TREK 2	U.K. 25p
1, 3,4,5,6,7,	U.K. 30p
10	U.K. 35p
11	U.K. 40p
4,6,10	U.S. 45p
7	U.S. 60p
2,3,5,8	U.S. 75p
STAR TREK Log 1,2	U.K. 40p
3	U.K. 45p
4	U.K. 50p
3,4	U.S. 75p
1,2,6,7	U.S. 90p
STAR TREK Portfolio by S.Fantoni	Signed by artist £3.75
	Unsigned £3.00

This portfolio consists of eight B/W illustrations that appeared in Germany in the German equivalent of Radio Times. The illustrations come from 'Naked Time', 'Errand of Mercy', 'Taste of Armageddon' 'Spectre of the Gun' 'Devil in the Dark' and 'Mark of Gideon'. These are beautiful illustrations and well worth getting. (Editor's comment - I think my favourite of them is the one from 'Spectre of the Gun'). The outside cover of the portfolio is a colour reproduction of the illustration used for the German edition of STAR TREK 1. This artist is currently working on a new set of covers for the Bantam editions of ST. This is a limited edition of 200 copies, only 50 of which are signed (I believe most of the signed ones were sold at the con) which will not be obtainable anywhere else as they are printed by Andromeda.

Andromeda accepts a minimum order of £2 + 75p postage. Actual post is charged at cost, and the extra is credited to your account.

CBS are putting out 2 ST records; a single, the STAR TREK Theme (number S-CBS-4692) on October 15th, and an LP, Gene Roddenberry's Inside STAR TREK on November 5th.

Copies of Inside STAR TREK will be available for £2.99 + 20p post and packing (total £3.19) instead of the recommended price of £3.39 from Starbase 13 - see next page for address.

BOOKS FROM SCI-FI BOOKSHOP

Science Fiction Bookshop, 40 West Crosscauseway, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Mailing rates, 25p for first book, 7p per book thereafter. For large items over £1.50 the charge is 10% All prices are exclusive of mailing charges and there is no packing charge.

Star fleet Manual	£2.95
Enterprise Blueprints	£2.50
STAR TREK Log 1,2	U.K. 40p
3	U.K. 45p
4	U.K. 50p
6	U.S. 87½p
7	U.S. 90p
8	U.S. £1
I am Not Spock (Nimoy)	£2.25
STAR TREK: The New Voyages	65p
ST Annual 1977	£1.25
Enterprise Logs (reprints from Gold Key)	£1.45(U.S.)
1977 Ballentine Calendar	£3.50
STARLOG (U.S. Magazine)	£1.20

The calendars and STARLOG were sold out at the con, but new supplies are expected in.

OTHER CLUBS

BEYOND ANTARES; Sheila Hull, 49 Southampton Rd., Far Cotton, Northampton. Fanzine, Telemetry.

EMPATHY; Cath Owens, 30 Ovenden Way, Halifax, West Yorks. They have six new fanzines available.

STERB; John Hind, 14 Bingham Rd., Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts. Zine, Muresaki Journal.

STARBASE 13; Brian Longstaff, 13 Woodfarm Dr., Sheffield S6 5LW. Selling Inside STAR TREK, 20p off rec. price.

OMICORN: A new club, dues £1 yearly. Tracy Cooke, 67 Eden Grove, Horfield, Bristol B57 0PQ.

JDIFC: Anna Hreha, 1519 NW 204th St, Seattle, Washington 98177 USA.

Other US clubs will be listed again next time.

CALLING ALL STAR TREK FANS IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND!

Anyone who wishes to contact other fans in the same area please write, enclosing SAE, to either:-

FRAN BALL, 33 HARVEY RD, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, HANTS

or SUE TOHER, 56 SPRING LANE, BISHOPSTOKE, EASTLEIGH, HANTS.

AUCTION - Donated by Ken Barnes

Good quality tape for auction (Martian Chronicles). Send bids to Sheila at the usual address, bids to be in by 30th November.

Another original STAR TREK novel is being written by Joe Haldeman for Bantam. From my information, the book is still in the early stages of being written, but Mr. Haldeman is working with a Bantam editor.

IN DEFENCE OF MUDD
 (INTERGALACTIC PIRATE)
 by Jill Cressey

A man loquacious
 Of dimensions spacious
 Reputation Muddy
 With complexion bruddy,

A man expansive
 Of pretensions expensive
 A con-man supreme
 A wide boy's dream.

A man with a speil
 For the price of a meal
 And a sad tale of woe -
 He's after your dough.

A man to engage you
 A man to enrage you,
 Elixirs and love potions
 He'll sell you his notions.

A man to sell stars
 But PUT behind BARS??
 A crook full of charm
 But he never means harm!

ATTACK!!! by Helen Sneddon

"Klingon cruiser on the port side, Captain."
 "Fire all phasers!"
 "Phasers fired. Klingon damaged, veering out of range."
 "What a shot! That's how to handle them!"
 "Three Romulans coming in from starboard."
 "Come about, Mr. Sulu..."
 "You don't have Mr. Sulu."
 "Well, Chekov then! Get him moving!"
 "Aye, aye, sir."
 "Fire phasers! A hit!"
 "One Romulan destroyed, other two re-positioning."
 "A tight situation, that's what I like, the thrill of the chase, kill or be killed, eh, Spock?"
 "If that's what appeals to you. Meanwhile I think I should point out we are surrounded."
 "Surrounded? Lieutenant, call Starfleet for reinforcements."
 "All communications out, the last attack damaged the whole section, estimated dead..."
 "Oh, don't bother me with those silly details, Spock!"
 "As you wish."
 "Full spread photon torpedoes... "
 "Romulans firing..."
 "Duck! I mean... counter attack! Fire photons!"
 "Photons fired... Romulan has damaged us extensively."
 "Mr. Chekov, come sixty degrees to port! Mr Chekov... ? Spock, why isn't Chekov moving?"
 "He's dead, sir, your last manoeuver left him in direct line."
 "Damn! Well, can't you get him out of there? He's right in my line of vision!"
 "Jim, there's a new attack coming up from the left!"

"Well, don't just stand there, McCoy! If you've got to be on the Bridge at a time like this, do something! Hard a-port!"

"Port? Which way's port?"

"Left, Doctor."

"Thank you, Spock, I'm glad somebody's keeping calm around here."

"Helm, full phaser fire! A hit! A hit! Right on the lead Klingon! How about that?"

"Jim, we seem to have extreme casualties on the lower decks, two hundred dead at least..."

"Expendable. How much longer do we have?"

"Oh, about a minute and a half."

"Glum minut und shlurpy five segonds to be precishe."

"Pardon?"

"Glum minut und..."

"Spock, what are you doing?"

"Endleavourig to eat thish... tloffee aggle."

"Oh, really, Bones, it's too much. A moment of extreme crisis and he's eating a toffee apple!"

"Disgusting, I agree, no sense of priority."

"Hagrump."

"You're relieved of duty! Take over, Bones."

"A pleasure. Ugh! The controls are all sticky!"

"Never mind that, we've only twenty seconds left!"

"Flifteen segonds..."

"Ah-hah! They're all in my sights now, one final blast should do it. Ready?"

"Ready, Jim."

"Fire! Fire! I said fire! What's the matter with you? FIRE!"

"I am firing! It's stuck!"

"It's nut shtuk, shtopped."

"Stopped? Stopped? Greet jumping galazies, the time's up! Gimme my dime, quick! We can maybe keep it going! Gimme my dime!"

"Whal dime?"

"The dime change I gave you in case we ran out of time! You have got it, haven't you?"

"Nog."

"No?"

"I shpent it on thish tloggle affle."

"You spent it...! Do you realise what you've done? You've jeopardised the safety of the galaxy by greed, pure unadulterated greed!"

"Ag ogly wanted to try a toffle aggle."

"I hope your teeth rot!"

"Ah, come on, Jim, don't be too hard on him..."

"Too hard? I try to do him a favour, improve his education, introduce him to the greatest invention since the juke box, and what does he do? Pays me back by running off when the going gets tough!"

"Well, think of it this way, toffee apples are just as much a part of Earth history as 'Attack' is."

"Sugh a shilly glame..."

"It is not silly... Ah, you make me sick! Come on, Bones, let's try the Ghost Train, I see a couple of yeomen just waiting for escorts."

"Stick with it, Spock old son."

"Looksh like ag've nog alternugive."

Come all ye young lasses and listen to me,
Shun all engineers and their company.
He'll tell ye he loves ye and all kinds of lies
But his only true love is his b..... Warp Drive!

(Will the writer of the above please contact me so that I can acknowledge him/her by name? It was in the files unnamed.)

JUSTIFICATION DEBATABLE by R.H.

McCoy glared at the Vulcan.

"It's blackmail, that's what it is," he said, pacing the length of his office. He paused, turned and jabbed an accusing finger at the dignified recipient of his tirade. "No, it's more than that. It's downright extortion..."

Spock sighed. "Nevertheless, Doctor..."

"Nevertheless nothing, Spock. I went into this thoroughly at the outset. This about-turn is downright..." he fought for the word.

"Downright unethical, that's it."

"But Doctor..."

"Yes, I know. You can't eat ethics, but dammit, man, I do have my principles..."

Spock's eyes hooded. "You cannot eat principles either, Doctor..."

"That's beside the point."

A pair of satanic eyebrows arched in pantomimed amazement. "Is it, Doctor?"

"Well, I for one think it certainly is. At any rate, it should be."

Spock folded his arms. "Your opinions, Dr. McCoy, are fraught with an abyss of illogic such that I could fly a shuttlecraft through them. Consider..."

"Consider nothing, you hard-hearted Vulcan, you. It's only one little thing now, but these kind of things can escalate. Next you won't know what they'll do..."

Spock's mouth opened, a "really, Doctor," forming on his lips. McCoy's reflexes were faster.

"Shut up a minute, Spock, and let me finish. This is the toe in the door. The first beachhead. The crack for the tip of the lever..."

"Am I to assume that this convoluted display of rhetoric is indicative of your inability to formulate a valid and concise argument in your favour?"

McCoy scowled.

"I see. The solution is, as I see it, most simple..."

"It's not the simplicity of the solution I'm bothered about, Spock. It's the whole damn' idea in the first place."

"However, you see that there is no alternative but to comply?"

With some reluctance, he nodded. "Yes, of course I do."

"In other words, this display was merely a form of releasing the pent-up emotional pressures created by your interpretation of the events."

McCoy dropped into the chair behind his desk and reached for the thin book and the stylus before him. He frowned, but did not reply. Spock nodded.

"As you see, it is merely a manifestation of your incapacity in controlling..."

"When I want a lecture on the psychology of the Vulcan race I'll ask for it," he growled, the stylus scratching across the topmost leaf in the book. "Until then," he said, blowing on the ink to dry it, "I'll thank you to keep your observations to yourself."

Spock nodded. "As you say, Doctor." There was a high-pitched tearing sound as he removed the page, handing it to Spock. The Vulcan studied it and nodded. Looking up, he saw the other officer's face, black with thunder. He folded the piece of paper and placed it with several others in a small, rectangular packet.

"There, Doctor. Transferral from life- to yearly membership, and you are now a member of STAG for another twelve months..."

And so we come to the end of another newsletter. The next N/L won't be out until just after Christmas, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy Christmas... even though it is two months early. Peace and prosperity to you all. Sheila.

SALES LIST

Cheques and postal orders should be made out to STAG and orders sent to

Beth Hallam
Flat 3
36 Clapham Rd.
Bedford
England.

It would help Beth greatly if a self-addressed sticky label were included with each order.

ZINES (prices include postage and packing inside the U.K.)

Log Entries 4 60p
Log Entries 5 55p
Log Entries 6 60p
Vulcan Odyssey 50p
(stories by Beth Hallam)
Something Hidden 80p
(an alternative universe story by Sheila Clark, in which Spock goes to the Vulcan Science Academy instead of joining Starfleet.)
Yeti's Footprint 50p
Tribbles 65p
(strip cartoons by Robin Hill)

Photos. We have an assortment of photos printed from ST clips, 25p. Send SAE to Beth for details.

Clips. We have a large assortment of clips, 12p. Send SAE to Beth for details.

Stickers. We have a few stickers left, assorted slogans. 25 for 20p

B/W photos of Jim Doohan, 25p each.

Notepaper

The notepaper is the same size as this saleslist. There are six designs:-
Vulcan IDIC, Enterprise, Tricorder & Communicator, Three insignia
Vulcan harp and STAG with small Enterprise flying across paper.

Price 2p per sheet including postage & packing.
Minimum order 10 sheets.

B/W poster of Scotty 40p including postage & packing

Foreign rates.

All zines	Surface	\$2 each
All zines except Something Hidden	Airmail	\$3 each
Some thing Hidden	Airmail	\$3.50
