

Star Trek Action Group



October 1980

NEWSLETTER No. 43

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James Doohan, George Takei, Susan Sackett, Grace Lee Whitney,
Rupert Evans, Sonni Cooper, Anne McCaffrey, Anne Page, Bjov Trimble.

DUES

U.K. & Eire - £2.50 U.K. currency Europe - £4.50 airmail, £3.50 surface
U.S.A. - \$13.00 or £5.50 airmail, £8.50 or £3.50 surface.
Australia & Japan - £6.00 airmail, £3.50 surface.
The U.S. dollar rate includes a one dollar bank clearing charge. Surface mail outside Europe can take a minimum of 2 - 3 months.

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Hi, folks,

We hope that all of you who went to Terracon had a great time. We certainly did and a number of you mentioned to us at the con how nice it was to be back at the Dragonara. We felt that the staff went out of their way most of the time to make us feel welcome, in fact the staff in the coffee shop even made up a special menu for us - how do you fancy a Dr. McCoy topped with cheese and onion, or a Sulu with beansprouts? A couple of people did complain to us about the odd member of staff but it did just seem to be the 'odd' member. It is a very hectic weekend for the staff and it isn't really surprising that occasionally one of them may feel tired and be a bit short.

I know some people feel we are probably biased towards the Dragonara because we are holding our convention there but this is not so. We even admit the hotel is a bit on the small side and could do with another big con room. We are willing to put up with this as we enjoy going to the hotel so much and because we have found that most members like the Dragonara best. They may give us reduced room rates but they have never given us a reduced service. The con itself seemed to be a big success and the fancy dress and fashion show entries were some of the best we've seen. It is a pity that Anne McCaffrey wasn't there to see the dragon entry in the fashion show and the fire lizard in the fancy dress. She would have loved them. Thanks, Dot for giving us such a good con. We hope some of you will send us con reports for the next newsletter.

Sheila has been telling me for the last few months that the newsletter would probably get smaller and limit itself under 32 pages now that there isn't the news coming in on the movie or so many articles. Ha, ha. What she didn't allow for was for you members getting so prolific and sending us so many submissions in. To avoid going into the 16½p postage rate with this newsletter we have had to pull 6 pages, - these included the trivia page and a review of ERRAND OF MERCY by David Coote. These will go in the next newsletter even if it has to be a longer one.

This brings me to the unfortunate subject of money again. The cost of paper, ink etc. has recently increased by 10% and postage is due to go up again before the end of the the year which will add 3p or 4p to the postage cost of each newsletter, probably more. We've decided that, rather than put membership dues up again so soon after the last time, we will limit the newsletter (plus flyers etc.) to 16 sheets of paper (i.e. a 32 page newsletter) which will keep us in the second rate of postage. Unfortunately this will mean that we will have to be more selective about what we print and may mean only putting the Technical

Section and Trivia page out every two newsletters, although it will of course depend on how much we have for each newsletter. Don't stop sending us in submissions for the newsletter as the more items we have to choose from the more interesting a newsletter we can put out. We rely on you all for information on every aspect of ST and welcome comments and reaction to anything we print.

If printing costs go up again next year, which they probably will, we may have to think again about putting dues up but we don't want to do this if there is any way we can avoid it.

For those of you who asked about the budgies, Kirk is still doing fine but unfortunately the first Spock died. We managed to get another Spock the same day so that Kirk wouldn't feel lonely. He's a grey-green and he's only about 3 months old. The two of them get on fine. Shona is still as mischievous but she is a pet and I wouldn't part with her. She has already jumped on one of the stencils for the fiction section but it should print okay. Sheila doesn't exactly feel like retyping it.

Sheila has phoned me to say that there was one con report from Teresa Hewitt waiting for her when she got home. We have decided that we want to print it in this newsletter while the news is fresh so I'm afraid we've had to pull the Technical Section. Sorry about that, Colin. We'll put it in next time. It is beginning to look like the next newsletter is going to be a bumper issue as we hope to have some more con reports for it as well. One point about the Technical Section - in the last one 'Picric' acid was mentioned. It should have been 'Picric' acid. Sheila misread Colin's writing.

Sheila has asked me to mention that if you order photos don't worry about them not arriving until after the next newsletter is out. There can be delays at the processors, like there is this time, so Sheila always says on the photo page whether the photos have been posted out, and if so, the date they were posted.

In her con report Teresa mentions the heat in the hotel. We asked Sue Beck the Assistant Banqueting Manager about this and she said there was a fault in the chilling system. Because of this the air conditioning in the public rooms couldn't cope with removing the heat generated by over 500 Trekkers. Hopefully there should be no problem with excess heat at STAG CON since the system should be repaired long before April.

Some of you have been asking again why we don't have Leonard Nimoy as an Honorary Member. We have written to him a number of times but so far we haven't been able to get a reply. We would like to send out congratulations to Elaine Wood (formerly Elaine Cole) who has recently got married. Also to Bruno and Vivien Martin whose daughter, Alice, was born on August 19th. Alice was the youngest Trekker at Terracon.

The end of September marks the end of the club year (this is because we took over the club in October 1975) so we are printing the year's accounts at the foot of the page. We have managed to end the financial year with quite a lot in the bank this time. This is due to two reasons: a) We've just had Terracon and made quite a bit off the table; b) We are still waiting for quite a few bills to come in. When the bills are paid and the newsletter sent out we should still have about £300 in the bank so we are holding our own. So far we haven't had to use the £400 overdraft we asked for when we bought the photo-copier.

The accounts for STAG CON are being kept separately and these will be printed after the con has been held and all the bills paid.

I would like to say thank you to those who sent stories to me for my competition. There were eight entries and the winner was Elizabeth Butler. Elizabeth can let me know whether she wants me to risk the photo to the post (there is only one of it) or whether she wants to collect it at STAG CON or get a friend to collect it for her. All entrants will get the photo they asked for but there will be a delay as the photos will have to go in again to be printed. I'll pass the entries on to Sheila as she may wish to print some of them.

The way things have worked out I've been left to write the letter myself this time so Sheila disclaims any responsibility for the typos, spelling and grammar mistakes.

+++++ L.I. & P Janet

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Period 1.10.79 - 30.9.80

RECEIPTS

Opening balance £376.93
 Membership £2407.14
 Sales £10697.94

£13482.01

PAYMENTS

Postage, carriage etc. £3890.18
 Printing, stationary, equipment £3988.09
 Sales Purchases £3987.06
 Misc. £ 279.52
 Cash in hand £1337.16

£13482.01

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ADVERTISING VIDEO TAPES

Most of you will have seen what we said in the last newsletter about advertising video tapes. We said we couldn't advertise them by title as a recent programme on BBC had made it clear that this was illegal. We did say we would accept adverts for videos which said SAE for lists and we were of course thinking of those of you trying to get copies of STAR TREK episodes. Well, as from now we can accept no adverts for video or audio tapes, not even 'wanted' and 'to swap' adverts, and this is why:

Janet received a letter from the BBC just the day before the last newsletter went out. It was too late to alter anything in the newsletter but we did delete one advert which we were doubtful about. Enclosed with the letter was a photo-copy of a saleslist from an earlier newsletter. This is what the letter said:-

"I have received the enclosed list of advertisements which appear to be issued by you. If this is correct, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that video cassettes of BBC programmes may not be offered for sale, as such cassettes infringe the BBC's copyright. Therefore the advertisement by mentioning programmes such as "FAULTY TOWERS" and "THE FALL AND RISE OF REGINALD PERRIN" contravenes the rights of the BBC.

I am writing separately to but I should like to have your confirmation that in future you will not accept advertisements for video cassettes of BBC programmes.

Yours sincerely, Stephen Edwards,
Senior Legal Assistant, Copyright Department. "

Janet wrote back to Mr. Edwards assuring him that we would no longer accept adverts for the sale of video tapes and asking the situation concerning adverts from people wanting video tapes. She also asked what the situation was regarding STAR TREK since 8mm films are readily available. This was his reply:-

"Thank you for your letter of 4th August. I am grateful to you for confirming that you will no longer accept advertisements for the sale of videocassettes of television programmes.

Until such time as legitimate videocassettes of television programmes are released by the copyright owners it would clearly be preferable if your magazine did not carry advertisements which contain offers to purchase videocassettes of such programmes. The demand for such cassettes can at present only be met from illegal sources as neither the BBC nor the ITV companies have yet put such programmes on the market.

As regards Star Trek, I cannot comment on the points you raise and suggest therefore that you should raise your queries directly with Paramount.

Yours sincerely, Stephen Edwards etc. "

So far we haven't contacted Paramount about STAR TREK. Someone pointed out that it would probably still be covered by the BBC's ~~copyright~~. Taking audio tapes off TV and then selling copies is also illegal so we will not accept adverts for these either. We just wish that Paramount would make audio and video tapes of STAR TREK officially available and then there would be no problem.

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STAR TREK - THE MOTION PICTURE

We thought the following update by Susan Sackett, which was printed in STW's A PIECE OF THE ACTION, August 1980 would fill you in on the current situation regarding the sequel. We did of course give you the main facts in the last newsletter but we felt that this gave more detail.

"We are leaving the Paramount lot on July 31. The studio has decided to postpone the sequel to the STAR TREK movie for at least a year, citing the economy as the main reason. They told Gene that they loved the sequel story ("it is 20 times better than the movie, and is real STAR TREK"), but the cost would be well over \$25 million and their summer films have not been doing as well as they expected. STAR TREK may return in the form of a motion picture, or a television series and the sets, props and costumes will continue to be stored on the lot. Gene has had several enticing offers from other studios and independent production companies, but has declined in order to do what he wants most -- to write his own novel (not TREK) and make some statements on things he feels strongly about. Such a novel is sure to be successful (the STAR TREK novel sold over 1,000,000 copies) and would most likely then be sold as a motion picture. We are both looking forward to a refreshing change of pace and the opportunity to move on to other things. I may continue to handle the fan information and mail if Paramount agrees that this is a service they would like to

continue. Any mail campaigns by fans will probably have a greater impact (if fans are still interested in further STAR TREK adventures) if such mail is received several months from now, rather than at the present. Since we do not have our new offices yet, any mail which must reach us will be forwarded by the studio, and I will most likely be checking back with Paramount occasionally. There will be a telephone referral number at the Paramount switchboard for one month only, as is their policy." Susan Sackett

A number of you have asked whether the movie will now be re-edited as originally planned. We haven't managed to find out anything about this yet but since Gene is no longer at Paramount we think it safe to assume that the film will not be re-edited - not for a while anyway, if at all.

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NEWS OF THE STARS

DE FOREST KELLEY had a leading part in NIGHT OF THE LEPUS which was shown on BBC2 on Sept 9th. The film was about man-eating rabbits if you can believe such a thing. Most who wrote were split as to whether they like the film or De's moustache but you all thought De was very good. (info Gill Drinkwater, Derek Gray, Geraldine Andrew-Reid, Linda Hepden Margaret Richardson, Barry Willmott, Anne Preece, Christine Miles & Susan West.)

GENE RODDENBERRY's films GENESIS II and PLANET EARTH are being shown on various ITV stations around the country. They are both excellent and definitely Gene's creations. (info Barry Willmott, Linda Hepden, Malita Edwards) Majel Barrett was in both films and there were also quite a few other recognisable faces from STAR TREK episodes.

GEORGE TAKEI had a small part in the film NEVER SO FEW which starred Frank Sinatra. He played a Chinese guerilla who was one of the patients in the hospital. (info Linda Hepden, & Sandra Ferriday. George also had a small role as a police officer in a Gary Grant film called WALK DON'T RUN. The film was made in 1964 and was shown recently on HTV. (info Ann Preece & Peter McGuire)

MAJEL BARRETT was in I LOVE LUCY which was shown on BBC 1 in August. (info G. Andrew-Reid)

GRACE LEE WHITNEY was in the OUTER LIMITS episode 'Controlled Experiment' in which she played the part of a woman who killed a man. Then, with Martians controlling her actions, she shot him over and over again at ordinary speed and in slow motion so that the Martians could find out why humans kill each other and whether they could become a threat to Mars by exploding atomic bombs all over the world and destroying the solar system with radiation. (info Gwenda Rosser & Derek Gray)

WILLIAM SHATNER appeared in the POLICE SURGEON episode 'Bad Apple' which was shown on HTV Wales on Aug 24th. He played a policeman called Barney Davies who has been ordered to kill a man by the mob in order to keep his brother's family safe. His brother gets killed in the gun fight and Barney goes to prison. This episode may still be going round the ITV stations but we've found it hard to catch as POLICE SURGEON is often on very late at night and the TV TIMES Doesn't always say which episode is going to be shown. (info Gwenda Rosser & Geraldine Andrew-Reid)

PERSIS KHAMBATTA There is a picture of Persis in U.S. Gossip Magazine Sept '80. (Susan West)

WILLIAM SHATNER A three page interview entitled 'William Shatner, The Cosmic Connection' recently appeared in a new American tabloid magazine called TOMMORROW No. 1. The interview discusses STAR TREK, UFOs and an experience he had in the desert. (info Chris Brettell)

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WILLIAM SHATNER

We don't have a William Shatner as such in this newsletter as Sylvia has been busy doing the auction etc. for Terracon and now she is snowed under by registrations for STAG CON. We won't complain about that will we. She has asked me to let you know that, further to what she mentioned in the last newsletter, she has sent a donation of \$15.00 for the WISH charities. This was money accumulated due to the fluctuating dollar rate.

We are reprinting the following from STW's APOTA August, 1980. We think it is by Shirley Maiowski. Bill was appearing in DEATHTRAP, which has been touring America's summer stock theaters, and which was at the Elitch Theater in Denver, Colorado in mid-July.

"WILLIAM SHATNER made a somewhat unusual appearance at the Elitch Gardens on Wednesday July 16th.

Elitches sponsored a costume contest that was attended by several hundred enthusiastic Trekkers. The winner of the costume contest was Joy Ashenfelder (WISH gives the winner as Jo Swenson) who had the most realistic Shanna- Drill thrall outfit on I think I have ever seen. Mr. Shatner seemed to agree and commanded her to "go thru her drills", to the delight of the entire audience. He also related the story of how he received the part of Captain Kirk after Jeffery Hunter had done the original plot.

Elitches also sponsored a dance that was unfortunately rain and hailed out by an unexpected summer storm. For those of us who braved the bad weather, however, we had a good time and appreciated what Elitches did for all of Denver's Star Trek fans!"

(STW's APOTA Aug, '80)

In the last newsletter we mentioned in our letter how horrified we were to read about the German girl who lied her way into William Shatner's house - it seems from your letters that most of you feel the same way. Unfortunately we also printed an advert in the last newsletter from a German fan who was selling photos of Bill's house and a lot of you jumped straight to the conclusion that this was the same girl, and it seems you were right. We did have our suspicions when we received the advert but didn't have a chance to check in out and Janet and Sheila did have a rather hectic July, mainly due to a small dog named Shona. The advert was put onto stencil and forgotten and of course we did our letter last as usual. It was only after the newsletter went out and we received letters from members that we realised exactly what we had done and we were distressed as the last thing we ever wanted to do was hurt Bill or cause him any problems. Janet asked Sylvia to phone Sonni, explain exactly what had happened and apologise. Unfortunately Janet can't dial direct and operator calls in the past have caused too many problems. Sonni was very understanding and sent this letter:

"Dear Janet, Sheila, and all STAG Members,; An open letter!

Your phone call via our Regional Assistant, Sylvia Billings was indeed distressing.

When we received our copy of the newsletter and saw the advert from the German fan, it didn't surprise us at all. She had written to say that she was going to sell off her collection. The fact that she chose STAG as the place to sell her goodies only shows a lack of common sense. In an issue in which you referred to her behavior as sadly lacking, her ad appeared making it obvious to all who she really is. Since the Fellowship was very careful not to divulge the name of this particular fan, it was certainly not intentional that you published her ad or wished in any way to assist her.

We of the Fellowship want to assure you that we in no way condemn you for printing her ad. The fact that you, too, were used as were Bjo and myself only reinforces our position. It is unfortunate that we must deal with some people who take advantage of our generosity and good will, however, in all of my dealing with Bill's fans, this has been the only occasion which has proved so bad. I find fandom a marvelous group, full of life, sharing, and warm and generous.

I am sorry you were hurt because you, like so many other fans, are good-natured and trusting. Please accept our words of support for your efforts. STAG does a phenomenal job and should only be praised for its fine performance. I am proud to be an honorary member of your association and look forward to many years of friendship.

Sincerely,

Sonni Cooper
Mr. Shatner's Fan Liaison

We want to thank Sonni for being so forgiving for what was in fact carelessness on our part. The girl actually got a friend to send in her advert but since her membership was only just up for renewal we accepted it. She has of course not tried to renew and if she did we would not accept it.

While on this subject, at least three of you in the last few months have sent us William Shatner's address which you got from a friend or from an agency in the States, and two of you have asked us to print it. Under no circumstances would we print the address of any actor, if we knew it, that really would be unforgivable. Actors don't want to receive loads of fan mail at their home address as it would cause them difficulties in sorting out their personal mail and business mail. If you want to write to an actor don't try to find out his home address, be polite and send your letter via his agent on his club address. In Bill's case send his mail to P.O. Box 245, Hayward, CA 94543, USA.

LEONARD NIMOY

AS I have nothing new to report, the column for this newsletter has been written by one of our American members, Liz Bowling, who has given us her personal impressions of the Leonard Nimoy production of Vincent. I'm sure you will all be interested in this review by a fan who has actually seen the show. Valerie

"VINCENT", an Overview

VINCENT, The Story of a Hero, is a play about Vincent Van Gogh adapted by Leonard Nimoy from the play VAN GOGH, by Phillip Stephens. This is a one person play that stars Mr. Nimoy as Vincent's brother Theo, through whose eyes we get a look at what Vincent was all about. The play VAN GOGH was sent to Mr. Nimoy around 1976 to read. This Mr. Nimoy did and he says "I laughed and I cried. I knew I wanted to do it." He bought the rights to the play, researched Vincent and Theo Van Gogh for two years and then rewrote and restructured the play, incorporating his ideas. His original idea was to replace his popular lecture series in colleges and universities with VINCENT, hoping to work out of a suitcase. He planned to use furniture and such, available where he was performing. He took it on a trial run of four cities in 1978, the play having its premiere in Sacramento, California, May 18, 1978. The other cities on the tour that year were Minneapolis, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Portland, Oregon. The play was very well received by audiences and received good reviews.

The props that were required in each site were a desk and chair, easel, bench and table, a rug and a straw mat. Also required were a slide projector, a large screen, and an audio system, the projector providing a rear screen projection of slides of Vincent's art, while the audio system and track amplified certain parts of the play, in Nimoy's voice, but giving a different effect. Also, a song by Don McLean, "Vincent", better known as "Starry, Starry Night", opening the second act would require the audio system. Nimoy wanted to bring his slides, the audio track, his suit and a few hand props. It didn't work out that way, however.

The stage was set up in halves, one half being representative of Theo's world, (the desk, chair and rug) and the other half, Vincent's world, (the rustic bench and table, straw mat and easel) the huge screen to be behind both areas to project the slides. This would give the stage the right atmosphere to enhance the words of the play. This system seemed to work well in Sacramento, Portland, and Milwaukee, but the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis is a three-quarter round set up and the single screen did not work, so dual screens were set up for simultaneous projection of the slides.

The people at the Guthrie Theater were most impressed by VINCENT and by Mr. Nimoy, and shortly thereafter, the theater decided it would like to sponsor the play for a national tour. A new set incorporating the two sides was designed by Guthrie's Michael Beery, additional props were added, and the dual screens were retained. Nimoy's "suitcase play" is now made up of over 11 crates weighing 2,000 pounds.

At the same time, Nimoy was working to tighten up the play's structure and add additional facts and anecdotes about Vincent's life. As a perfectionist, Nimoy is always working to give VINCENT more feeling so that in each performance, we in the audience will better understand this tortured genius. Although the basic story and message of the play has not changed between the first performance in Sacramento, to its future performances in the 1980 Fall Tour, Nimoy has listened to the suggestions and criticisms of the work and his performances in it. The comments have come from a wide spectrum, encompassing directors, critics and other professionals, and even including opinions from his fans.

When the play went on its Spring Tour in 1979, it was obvious in Mr. Nimoy's performance that he was pleased with the new set and the changes that he had made. Again, when VINCENT was performed in the fall of 1979, there were additional changes, but more important it marked the first time that Leonard Nimoy had performed on a stage in his home town since he left to go to California when he was 18 years old. There was an additional change in the play during its run there. The Don McLean song that had been used to open the second act was deleted. Critics had centered comments around the song, rather than the play. When a device such as this song, used to enhance a piece of work (whether cinema or stage) attracts more attention than the piece itself, the device loses its effectiveness. Mr. Nimoy decided to substitute the L'Arlesienne Suite by Bizet for the introduction to the second act. Van Gogh had spent time in Arles and the music was written about Arles. Nimoy knew of the piece and wanted to see if it might be suitable. When he went to purchase the record, and there was a Vincent print on the cover, there was little doubt in his mind that the Bizet Suite would be used.

VINCENT went on its second tour under the sponsorship of the Guthrie Theater the spring of 1980 and will tour again this fall. VINCENT has toured some 25 cities since its premiere

in May of 1978. In many locations, it has been performed as a benefit for those particular theater centers. With few exceptions, VINCENT and Mr. Nimoy both have received good reviews and excellent audience response.

VINCENT is rich with information about the two Van Gogh brothers, Vincent wanting to do something noble for mankind, and Theo's financial support and belief in his brother, despite the fact that everyone else believed Vincent to be insane. As Theo, Nimoy gives us a view of Vincent that could never be seen if he were to portray Vincent. "And besides," Mr. Nimoy is fond of saying, "everyone knows that Kirk Douglas is Vincent!" We find out that Vincent was not mad... rather that he was epileptic, and many of his problems were related to this. Also, we find out that Vincent was born twice. A baby was born on March 30, 1852, was named Vincent, and died. Exactly one year later, to the day, another baby was born, this child was also named Vincent. Young Vincent Van Gogh had to walk past a tombstone that bore his own name every Sunday morning. Vincent is best revealed in the many letters that he wrote to his brother, which Theo kept, over 600 in all. Nimoy makes good use of parts of these letters, and they add another dimension to the play. We see Vincent's art, many drawings and paintings, slides from Nimoy's own collection, all shown by rear projection on the huge screens. These slides are said to present the most accurate portrayal of the brilliant colors that Vincent's paintings are best known. It is a visual feast.

Although Nimoy portrays Theo, the entire production belongs to Vincent. You are caught up in his plight, problems, and eccentricities, and also his intense love of beauty and nature, and his drive to share it with us. Nimoy's portrayal of Theo never casts a shadow in Vincent's spotlight.

Mr. Nimoy is a professional in the truest sense. The consistency of his performances is remarkable, regardless of the audience size and response, the acoustics of the theater, or whether or not he is physically well. It appears that Nimoy is as driven to share Vincent with us, as Vincent was to share beauty with others. It is most obvious that Nimoy loves doing the play.

VINCENT is the perfect vehicle to demonstrate Nimoy's many talents. It gives him the room to share with his audiences his marvellous sense of humor, his caring and concern, and his great love. The play is a place where he can turn his intensity loose; where it conveys rather than scares. In VINCENT, we see yet another of Nimoy's many talents, his ability to preach and teach. This is a man who can inspire, and most leave the theater in awe, not only of Vincent Van Gogh's genius, but of Leonard Nimoy's as well. One critic said it all...

"VINCENT is a Nimoy triumph!"

Liz Bowling

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DE FOREST KELLEY

Regarding De's recent activities I can report that De was indeed a guest at STAR TREKON in Kansas City at the end of July. Various comments I've received about this event include, "WOW! WOW! THROB! SIGH! HE TOUCHED ME!", "De looked fantastic... he told some really funny stories about his westerns and about the movie. I got a booklet by De - it's the poem entitled 'The Big Bird's Dream'.", "A friend gave De a copy of her zine and included a little gift of a necklace in the envelope. Did she ever get a delightful surprise when she saw him wearing it the next day."

For those of you who've seen or heard 'The Big Bird's Dream' I'm sure you'll agree that it is a masterpiece. Has anyone ever seen or heard about the poem 'The Yellow Balloon' which is by De? I understand that it too is a wonderful piece of creative work by De. Perhaps someone might be able to lend me a copy or tell me where I could obtain one from.

Returning to STAR TREKON for a moment, De said he's taking the rest of the year off, but..... he may do some summer stock or dinner theater so I hope people will look out for this and let me know if you see anything.

I wonder how many people realise that De and Carolyn celebrated their 35th Wedding anniversary on September 7th. In America a request was played for them on the American Top 40 programme by Casey Kasem - it was a number by Gladys Knight and the Pips entitled, "You're the best thing that ever happened to me!"

That's it for this time folks except to say thank you to Janet Wicks, Susan Jones and Marilyn Johansen for their contributions.

De Forest Kelley Is The REAL McCoy!

Lynn Champion, 6 Bramble Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 7EB, England

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STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

Sunday Post September 21st. SPOCK'S A BIG HIT IN LOCHGILPHEAD (info Janette Stainton)
 "Cairnbaan, near Lochgilphead, may seem an unlikely place for a Star Trek fan club.

But for six years Janet Quarton, a forestry worker in Knapdale Forest, has run one of the world's biggest fan clubs for the American space serial, with over 1000 members in Scotland, England, U.S.A., Japan, Turkey, Finland, Greece and Canada!

From her home in Lochgilphead Janet produces six newsletters a year, and countless fan magazines which are sent all over the world.

The walls of her house are covered with posters of Captain Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the Enterprise.

Even her two budgies are called Kirk and Spock!

Janet organises "Star Trek" conventions in Britain where fans can meet to discuss the series, and see re-runs of old TV shows.

She hopes to hold one in Glasgow in 1982.

Janet says 75% of members are female, and members range from doctors, artists, air stewardesses and security guards to biologists and even ministers."

On the whole it is a fairly accurate article but I wish they hadn't made the mistake over the conventions as they make it look like I'm organising them all single handedly. As most of you know I have only been involved in organising one convention jointly with Dot Owens and Empathy. They don't even mention the convention I am organising, along with the rest of the STAG committee, next April and I even sent them a registration form for it. It is Dot Owens and Jenny Elson who deserve the credit for organising most of the ST conventions so far.

The convention in Glasgow in 1982 is being run by a Scottish local group (as I told the reporter). The group is called SGIAN DUBH and we will be keeping you informed as to the progress of this local convention in the newsletters.

I also wish the rest of the STAG Committee had had a mention as they deserve as much credit for STAG's success as I do. I'm particularly surprised that they didn't mention Sheila and Valerie since they live in Scotland and the Sunday Post is a Scottish paper. I did sent them full details of the club, the committee and some of the results of the survey we held on the movie. Still, they were probably limited for space.

Still, even with the points mentioned above I suppose we shouldn't really complain as the reporter, Norman Sylvester, has done his best to give the club a fairly good write-up with the space available to him. We have to thank Rob King of the SF Bookshop in Edinburgh for telling Norman about STAG and giving him my phone number. - Janet

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STARBURST 24 had a poster in the center with pictures from various films including a rather unpleasant-looking Kling from ST-TMP. Info Malita Edwards.

ROADSHOW April '80 Japanese magazine. Has some nice colour pictures from ST-TMP. You can get a copy for £3.95 plus £1.00 p&p from S.I.P. 28 Woodstock Road, Finsbury Park, London N4 3EX. (info Susan West).

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF Magazine August 1980 had a couple of very interesting articles on Star Trek. 'On Star Trek as Liturgy' by Andrew M. Greeley 7 pages and 'It's Okay To Like the Star Trek Movie' by Bill Warren 14 pages. Both articles are well worth reading.

MAD September '80 (we think) had a skit on ST-TMP. (info Sheila Cornall)

Thanks to everyone who has send in articles. We are always looking for more - Janet.

DAILY MIRROR Aug 16th there was a short article about MARTIAN CHRONICLES. In it it said, "Billed as a thinking man's Star Trek it turned out to have no special effects at all. Just a few cardboard spacecraft and some bleak rocky scenery from Malta and the Canary Islands, which couldn't have helped their tourist trade one bit."

You'll have gathered that the reviewer didn't like it. He finished by saying, "Meanwhile the first of a new series of Star Trek (BBC 1) on Monday was rather good. It had ray guns which turned the starship Enterprise crew into cubes of chalk. Now that's what I call good space hokum."

Star Trek was also refered to on the letters page of the Radio Times when they were talking about MARTIAN CHRONICLES. Info Susan West & Victor Bristoll.

CINEFEX No. 1 £3.50 Half this magazine is devoted to ST-TMP with some excellent photos. The other half is on ALIEN. Philip Skinner tells us that No. 2 also has half devoted to ST-TMP with excellent stills and the other half on EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. You'll be able to get this mag from the British SF Bookshops.

NEWS OF THE WORLD September 21st. There was an article about the cost of making SF films. The article mentions 'Star Trek' as, "still the most popular space show." It later goes on to say, "But for millions the one journey into the beyond, which is still light years ahead of its rivals, is Dr Who." The article give UFO and SPACE 1999 a thumbs down saying that Gerry Anderson caught 'a space-aged cold when he turned to live action in the Seventies with UFO and Space 1999.' Blakes Seven doesn't even get a mention for some reason but ITV's new 13 part Dan Dare series does. 'A spokesman for ATV said: "We hope it will be the biggest worldwide killing since The Muppets." (info Ann Preece)

STAR LOG 38 has an excellent interview with DE FOREST KELLEY in which he gives his opinion of ST-TMP and also his feelings about Star Trek. 4 pages - has some nice pictures. Bjo Trimble's Fan Scene mentions the visit of STAG members Linda Hughes and Doreen Twivey to the ST-TMP film set. I wonder if Linda has come down to Earth yet.

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STAG CON '81

Plans are coming along well for STAG CON and registrations are coming in fast. We have decided to limit the number attending to 500 as that is as many as the Dragonara can comfortably hold.

We have booked all the con rooms for the Friday night so that there will be no problem in getting the sales room and art room etc set up. Also, since we have the main Brigantes Suite on the Friday night we will be able to show a couple of ST episodes. Also, there should be no problems with the rehearsal of the Fashion Show which will make life easier for Anne Page and those taking part.

We're afraid we are going to have to drop the video programme. Partly because we really need the Neville Suite for the Sales Room as we have so many tables booked, and partly because we are just not sure what the legal situation is now that we have had that letter from the BBC. There will be no problem about showing ST episodes on film as those are openly available and we have at least 16 episodes to choose from. We will see if we can get an SF film as well.

There will be a DISCO on the Saturday night as a main part of the 'social evening' that Beth is organising. Quite a lot of you did ask if we could have a disco so it is obviously a popular event. Those of you who can't stand the noise, like Janet Sheila and Valerie, can always adjourn to the bar or a room party.

Janet is doing her best to make sure there will be an all day bar at the con. The hotel is agreeable so we'll just have to hope that we can get an extended license okay. Needless to say Janet has partly selfish reasons for wanting the bar open as she gets very thirsty at cons. Rog admits that he has the same problem.

As the Tribble Shows were so popular at previous cons we have decided to have an Interstellar Pet Exotica Competition. There will be classes for Best Tribble, Schlat, "Dressed" Pet, Exotic pet, Humourous Pet and Pedigree. Dave Cluett is organising the pet show for us and the money collected from entry fees will be all donated to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'. There will be a prize for Best pet in each class and Best in Show. Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on how you look at it) because of hotel regulations we cannot accept Terran pets era 1981 as entries - in other words, please don't bring any live animals!

We will give you more information about the pet show in the next newsletter and we hope you will all join in the fun.

We have heard that the rumour is going round that STAG CON will be purely STAR TREK with no SF and media SF being included. This is not so, although the con will be mainly STAR TREK. We know that many members are interested in SF and media SF and we welcome entries in these categories for everything except the Fiction/Poetry competition. The reason for this competition being limited to Star Trek is that we plan to put out a zine at the con which contains the best of the competition entries and as a ST club we only print ST stories. In addition we can promise you that BLAKES SEVEN fans will be catered for as Pat Thomas has already booked a table in the salesroom.

All the proceeds obtained from the sale of any books or other items donated to be auctioned for charity will go to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'. The convention will take no commission on these items. Send a SAE to Sylvia for auction details.

We have now fixed the room rates with the Dragonara and they will be the same as they were for Terracon. £15 per night for a single room, £18 per room, per night for a twin room or a double. Prices are inclusive of VAT but exclusive of breakfast. The Dragonara does have tea-making facilities in every room.

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MERCHANDISESTAR TREK MAKE-A-GAME BOOK Wanderer \$6.95

On reading the rules for this game recently Valerie discovered that it was impossible to play. The instructions tell you to move your token up the corridor to the bridge but there isn't a corridor. Valerie wrote to Wanderer who passed her letter on to the author, Bruce Nash. He wrote a nice letter saying that Wanderer had inadvertently left out the corridor to the bridge. He enclosed a correction sheet and a pressure sensitive 'ladder' which can be stuck on the gaming board. He says, "If you know of anyone who has purchased a book that does not have this correction inserted inside, simply write to Wanderer Books and they will send it along." The address for Wanderer books is on the cover, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, U.S.A.

For those of you who want to make your own ladder rather than send for one they give some suggestions;

1) A light-coloured crayon, grease pencil, or permanent magic marker can be used to draw a ladder from the top corners of the TURBO-ELEVATOR up to the bridge (the turbo-elevator is below Kirk's feet). A more permanent ladder can be made using a light-coloured typing correction fluid. The ladder should have two cross bars, making three rectangles.

2) Another solution is to use four pieces of thin masking tape. Two pieces should be approximately 2½" in length, enough to reach from the top corners of the TURBO-ELEVATOR to the Bridge. The other two should be approx. 2" in length, to connect the two sides of the ladder, forming (3) equal rectangles.

Bruce Nash finished his letter by saying, "My best wishes to you and the members of the Star Trek Action Group. I'd love to hear from you and your fellow members now that you have all the material needed to play THE STAR TREK MAKE-A-GAME BOOK."

CITADEL MINIATURES have now also brought out some 54mm STAR TREK figures.

ST5401 Captain Kirk Seated at Helm £2.95; ST5402 Mr. Spock £2.00;

ST5403 Ilia, in Deltan Leisure Dress £2.00; ST5404 Klingon Raider w. Laser Pistol £2.00 (info Mark French & Pauline Andrews)

There is an LP by MECO entitled 'Music from Star Trek and The Black Hole' on the Casablanca label No. NBLP 7196. The first side of the record is devoted to STAR TREK, the tracks being 'Star Trek Medley' (of the film), 'Love Theme from Star Trek' and 'Theme from Star Trek' (TV series). The album cover is illustrated by Shushei Nagaoka (who also does album cover for ELO & Earth, Wind & Fire) and is of a starship of a similar design to the 'Enterprise'.

The album is an American import and may not have been released over here yet. (info Mark French). If anyone finds copies of the album can you please let Janet and Sheila know as we want copies.

STAR TREK MAPS Bantam \$8.95

'The navigational charts of the five-year voyage of the Starship Enterprise.' The pack consists of two double-sided maps, one of which shows the Enterprise's patrol area and the other the extent of Federation territory. The stars/planets shown are those which appeared in STAR TREK, and several solar systems, etc, are shown in detail in boxes around the maps. There is also a navigation manual (which states 'the best way to find your position in space is to ask your navigation computer.'). However, this does give some detail about the different planets mentioned in STAR TREK. At first sight this is a somewhat overpriced item; on closer examination, there is far more in it than is immediately apparent. Sheila.

STAR TREK POSTERS Tomorrow Enterprises, 303 Fifth Avenue Suite 1306, New York, NY 10016 USA. \$4.50 each or three for \$12.00. Blacklight posters with rich velvet texture accents, one featuring Kirk, one Spock, and one the Enterprise. Foreign orders send \$1.00 extra for handling. The posters are 20" x 28" and are rather nice. Sheila.

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ANDROMEDA no longer have in stock THE MAKING OF STAR TREK, Whitfield & Roddenberry, and THE WORLD OF STAR TREK, Gerrold. The ST-TMP greetings cards are almost sold out (there are no Kirk cards left) and the publishers are also out of the cards.

Andromeda expects to have stocks of the 1981 STAR TREK CALENDAR in shortly. As the calendar is subject to import duty the price cannot be set until the calendars are actually in, but Rog expects the price to be in the £5.50 - £6 range. He also expects the ST Maps in soon.

+++++ (Continued on page 15.)

SMALL ADS

Charge 5p per line (approx 12 words). Send to Janet. British stamps are acceptable. Please try and limit your advert to 5 lines. We cannot print adverts for video and audio tapes.

- FOR SALE:** 400ft 8mm colour sound STAR TREK episode, "Is the In Truth No Beauty". Very good condition. £20 plus post and packing. Also, has anyone any pics, articles, photos, just anything on actor Robert Conrad from "A Man Called Sloane" TV series? Will buy or swap pics, photos etc. on stars of your choice. I will help if I can and I will answer all letters. Mogsie Medhurst, 43 Manor Road, Swanscombe, Kent, DA10 0ML.
- WANTED:** Any photos from UFP Con of: The Corellians; The White Dress and the House of Nova. Fashion Collection; The Sea People from the Drama and from the Disco - Girl in Fishnets and Blue fringed Shawl. Thanks. Donna Lauchlan, 16 Tonbridge Road, West Molesey, Surrey.
- WANTED:** Any of the following: A.M.T. model kit of the U.S.S. Enterprise Exploration Set (includes phaser, communicator and tricorder); "The Making of Star Trek" by Stephen Whitfield and Gene Roddenberry; "The Star Trek Postcard Book"; "The Star Trek Concordance" by Bjo Trimble; "Mudd's Women" by J.A. Lawrence. Must be in very good condition - will pay good prices. Write to David Burton, 37 Greenway, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England.
- FOR SALE:** Star Trek zines. Send SAE for list to Mark Pearce, 42 Bracknell Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE2 0BS.
- WANTED:** A copy of the zine 'The Interstellar Babysitters', author unknown. Good condition if possible. Will pay any reasonable price plus postage. Anne Chalmers, 20 Clyde Drive, Almond East, Livingston, W. Lothian, EH54 5LF
- WANTED:** Any issues of TV-SCI-FI MONTHLY. Will pay good prices. Does anyone know where I can get an AMT Enterprise or Klingon Model? Also any photos/info on SPACE 1999. Martin Delaney, 37 Bankhead Road, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 2NR.
- FOR SALE/SWAP:** Large collection of: Ape, Perry Rhodan, Tomorrow People paperbacks; TV annuals and other TV SF material. Also Brooke Bond card sets. All offers considered. Send SAE for large, detailed lists. **WANTED:** ST poster 'zines, , comics, pre - '74, '77, '78 ST annuals; ST fanzines and any other ST materil. Also ST 8" or 12" & Doctor Who ranges of figures (esp. 8" aliens). Send **SAE** to: David Hawley, 10 Fitzjames Ave., East Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5DH.
- WANTED:** Photographs of The Ilford Group collection at Terracon Fashion Show (Dragon Impression). Please contact Lee Owers, 23 Maiden Road, Stratford, London E15
- FOR SALE:** Good quality colour photos from TV of Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner from various TV shows and movies. For complete list send self-addressed envelope and 2 IRCs to Evallou Richardson, 1213 Lorraine Parkway, Florence, AL 35630, USA.
- WANTED:** ST 'zines, especially American and K/S zines. Will pay good prices. Katy Deery, 14 Whitchurch Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, England.
- FOR SALE:** One copy of 'By Any Other Name'. 8mm colour sound. £50. G. Caddy, 142 Furlong Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.
- FOR SALE:** Battlestar Galactica photostory from the German magazine Gong, 45 pages. Offers;. Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind, also from Gong. Offers; 7 Star Wars miniature figures (Walrus man, Death Star droid, Snaggletooth, R5-D5 droid; Power droid, Greedo and Hammerhead.) Price approx £0.70 each.; A poster of Mickey Mouse 0.52 m x 0.395m, offers; A poster of Towering Inferno on one side and David Cassidy on the other. 0.5m x 0.77m, offers. Annette Bannasch, Schutzenwaldweg 14, 7850 Lorrach, West Germany.
- WANTED:** Photos of Bill Shatner/Leonard Nimoy from MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. Please contact Christine Miles, 101 Mayplace Rd West, Bexleyheath, Kent.

FOR SALE: Just in: The Star Trek-The Motion Picture calendar 1981 for only £4.99 as well as many other new items.

Also available are the following William Shatner films on video cassette: "Whale of a Tale" and "The Devil's Rain" duplicated by the film companies themselves: £39.95. Orders to "Home T.V. Services", Colin Hunter, 7, Caimillar Park, Edinburgh.

WANTED: Following zines in good condition: a) UK Log Entries 1; Emanon 3; Zap 2; Fortune Teller; Fizzbin 1; Captain's Log 1-3,6-11. b)USA Berengaria 1-7; Sahaj Collected 1, 4; Delta Triad 1,2; Nexus 1,2; R&R 4,5,6/7; Masiform D 1,3; Southern Star 1,2; Rigel 1-3; Menagerie 1-11,14,16,17; The Other Side of Paradise 1-3 (adult & gen); Alternative 1; Saurian Brandy Digest 4; Tal Shaya 1; Guardian 1; IDIC 1-4; Human Factor 1-5; Sehlat's Roar 3; Australia; SPOCK. 1-10.

Send offers to: Davis, c/o Ann Flegg, 5 Ganner's Grove, Leeds 13, Yorkshire.

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ZINE ADS

CAPTAIN'S LOG 13 & 14. The usual mixture of general STAR TREK stories by various authors. Price £1.25 each (£8.00 USA Airmail). When ordering please make Cheques/POs payable to S. Billings, and order from Mrs S. Billings, 49 Southampton Road, Far-Cotton, Northampton, NN4 9EA, England

British zines A flyer containing information of currently available British zines is available from Sylvia Billings, 49 Southampton Road, Far-Cotton, Northampton, NN4 9EA. Please enclose a SASE. Foreign members please enclose a SAE + 2 IRCs for airmail reply.

STARCLUSTER All profits to be donated to the official AUCON 81 charity, the British Diabetic Association. Price £1.35 inc P&F from either Sylvia Billings, (address above) or Jenny Elson, 11 Woburn Close, Wigston Magna, Leicester.

COMPUTER PLAYBACK 4 - includes The Gathering by Michele Arvizu, Family Affair by Devra Langsam and The Healing Time, Nancy Kippax & Bev Volker, all reprinted from US zines. Also K/S RELAY - three stories by Leslie Fish; Shelter, Cooling One's Heels, Poses, reprinted from US zines. K/S Relay contains sexually explicit material involving same sex relationships; read it at your own discretion. For this reason an age statement should accompany your order; this zine will not knowingly be sold to anyone under 18. A self-addressed sticky label would be greatly appreciated. Computer Playback 4 and K/S Relay are available for £1.50 each. The 'adult' Relay is still available, 120 pages, £2.75; send for details. Please order from Janet Hunt, 54 Foxhunter Drive, Oadby, Leicester.

GALACTIC DISCOURSE 3 from Laurie Huff, 208 W. Crow, Eureka, IL 61530, USA, \$12.00 first class, \$13.71 airmail. This is an excellent zine containing general ST stories. We have bulk ordered this (flyers went to everyone who had an envelope with Sheila) already, so anyone else wanting it should contact Laurie direct. The first two issues of Galactic Discourse are out of print but Laurie is considering reprinting both zines if enough interest is shown; if you would be interested in getting these zines (recommended by Janet & Sheila) send Laurie a SAE with 2 International Reply Coupons for airmail postage.

ANTITHESIS - a zine with emphasis on the Klingons and an interest in printing SF. Enquiries to Cathie Whitehead, 4020 Woolslayer Way, Pittsburgh, Pa 15224, U.S.A.

PRECESSIONAL - a novel from Laurie Huff (address as for Galactic Discourse). It is a story of loss, struggle and character growth. Due autumn 1980. Addressed envelope and IRCs for info. We will probably bulk order this one - leave SAE with Sheila for info.

COMPANION 3 - a novel by Pamela Rose. This is the story which was 'introduced' in Companion 2, in which Kirk and Spock were rescued at the moment of death by the Preservers. They must come to terms with many things, not the least their personal relationship, in their new life. The zine includes same-sex relationships, and will not knowingly be sold to anyone under 18. Addressed envelopes and 2 IRCs to Ellen Kobrin, 3 Jetmore Place, Massapequa, NY 11758, USA.

SUN & SHADOW - a Kirk/Spock relationship zine with story emphasis on hurt/comfort, due late autumn/early winter 1980. SAE with 2 IRCs for info. We will probably be bulk ordering this one when it is ready - leave a stamped addressed envelope with Sheila for info. For anyone ordering direct, send to Carol Frisbie, 518 South Abingdon St, Arlington, Virginia 22204, USA.

For your STAR TREK requirements at competitive prices send SAE for list to: T & J Elson, 11 Woburn Close, Wigston Magna, Leicester LE8 1XB.

THE STRIPED TOMATO is now sold out. We gather that all foreign orders were sent surface. S & H fans interested in knowing more about the banned S & H episodes please contact Shirley Ann Cowden, 71 Cathcart Street, Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

ATTENTION - can anyone help?

Sandra Ferriday, 104 Stockton Rd, Hartlepool, Cleveland, advertised badges for sale in the February N/L. She received an order from Fiona Godfrey, 40 Grant Street, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, for three badges. Fiona sent £1.80 to pay for these, but omitted to say which badges she wanted. Sandra contacted her to ask what she wanted, and despite writing twice has had no reply. She doesn't know whether to send the money back to the address given or not. Would Fiona, or anyone who knows her, please get in touch with Sandra about this.

BULK ORDERS FOR U.S. FANZINES. We 'bulk order' several U.S. fanzines each year as a service to members; once we know the zine is actually available and the price, we take paid orders from members and send these off to the appropriate editor, paying the lot on one cheque. This saves members some money as the price of a draft is being split between a lot of people instead of each person paying his/her own. Frequency of these orders varies depending on which zines come out; sometimes months pass without anything new coming out, and at other times we get info on two or even three zines all at once.

If you want info on bulk orders for zines, leave a self-addressed stamped envelope with Sheila, who will send a form giving prices and details of the zine(s) in question when she has it. It would be better if you were to stamp your letters 12p at the moment, as postage costs will be going up at the end of the year to 12p second class and we don't know if any zines will be available before then, although we hope that Precessional and Sun & Shadow, and possibly Stellar Gas 2, will all be ready before the New Year.

At the same time, it might be better to leave at least 2 envelopes with Sheila in case info comes on a zine just after she has sent out the envelopes with details for ordering another one. This can happen - info on Nexus and Spin Dizzy had just gone out when she got info that Galactic Discourse 3 was ready.

We try to make sure that we only order in this fashion zines that we think are good. That doesn't mean, of course, that zines we don't bulk order aren't good. We don't, for example, bulk order K/S zines. This is a purely arbitrary division between what we order and what we don't, forced on us by the need to keep our turnover below the level where we would have to pay VAT. (By 'good', of course, we mean zines that are well-written and that we think our members will enjoy. If you get a zine that you think is very good and that we have not advertised, please do let us know about it, as we can't keep track of all the zines that are being put out. We also try to make sure that we advertise only zines that are well-written and well-edited.)

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TOPPS, LYONS MAID AND WEETABIX

The Lyons Maid Kirk card (No. 1) seems in short supply, and I am holding several orders. Can anyone help with spare duplicates?

Complete sets of the Topps cards are almost finished (£2.50 inc. postage) but single cards are available at 3p each + SAE. Nos. 1, 2, 11, 65 & 68 are out of stock at the moment, but if you wish, orders can be held until more are available.

Weetabix card stocks are low - I have no Kirk, Spock or McCoy strips in hand.

All enquiries to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, with SAE please.

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PHOTOCOPIES

Now that we have a photocopier Janet is willing to do photocopies of almost anything for members. The price is 5p per page + and a SAE, allowing 10p postage per 10 pages. If there is anything you would like a copy of just write to ask Janet if she has it and how many pages it is. It is impossible for us to make lists as Janet has hundreds of articles, books, zines, biographies, credit lists for the actors, episode lists - in fact lots of material on every aspect of STAR TREK. If you ever send too much money for what you want copied the excess will be refunded - probably in stamps.

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CONVENTIONSSTAR TREK' CONVENTIONSSTAG CON '81 11th/12th April 1981

Guests - Susan Sackett & Rupert Evans

Room rates £15 for a single room, per night, £18 per room per night for a twin or double. Prices are inclusive of VAT but exclusive of breakfast. There are tea making facilities in each room.

Info and registrations: Sylvia Billings, 49 Southampton Rd, Far-Cotton, Northampton, NN4 9EA

Dragonara Hotel, Leeds

Registration £8 per person

AUCON '81 28/29/30/31st August 1981. De Vere Hotel, CoventryConfirmed Guests Mark Lenard, Nichelle Nichols, George Takei, Grace Lee WhitneyAll profits to be donated to the British Diabetic Association.

S.A.E. to Janet Hunt, 54 Foxhunter Drive, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5FE

WANTED FOR AUCON '81 Six brave souls to take part in the "Mastermind Competition" - This will be run on similar lines to the TV Mastermind. All questions will be Star Trek orientated in 2 rounds:- A specialised subject/episode + a general knowledge round. Please write to: Lynne Hartshorn, 33 Brettall Rd, Leicester, enclosing a SAE.OTHER CONVENTIONSSTARCON - 19/20th Sept 1981

ST & Media SF

Dragonara Hotel, Leeds

Large SAE to Starcon, Mike Wild, 98 Toxteth St., Higher Openshaw, Manchester M11 1EZ

FANDERSON CON '81 (Gerry Anderson) 28/29th March, 1981

Dragonara Hotel, Leeds

Contact: Pamela Barnes, 88 Thornton Ave., Chiswick, London, W4 1QQ

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CLUB UPDATE

Make sure you have the correct addresses for the following:

EMPATHY Dot Owens, 30 Ovenden Way, Lee Mount, Halifax, W. Yorks.STCC Judy Mortimore, 92 Thurlow Park Road, West Dulwich, London SE21 8HYSTARSHIP EXCALIBUR Shirley Lambard, 119 St. Nazaire Rd., Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2EGOther ClubsGATHERING A club for Paul Darrow. Miss A Wigmore, 224 Harnall Lane East, Coventry, CV1 5AJZZ9 PLURAL Z ALPHA: The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy Appreciation Society, is now being formed to help the human race recover from the devastating effects of being demolished. We plan newsletters, four to be taken per year for maximum effect; a badge to avoid being double-dosed; meetings where you can gain moral support in the company of other folk and and once again wave your towel with pride at passing Vogons! If you've lost your towel, join us and we'll help you find it! For further details send an SAE to: Robotics Correspondent, ZZ9 Plural Z Alpha, 23 Northbrook Rd., Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3HE

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THE GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ASSOCIATION

Some members have recently mentioned to us that they weren't very happy with CANCER RESEARCH being the club charity as they experiment on animals. This was something which never occurred us and we don't really like the idea of that ourselves. We originally adopted that charity because Sheila was giving the used stamps to a friend of her Aunt's and that is where she sent them.

Beth has always preferred 'The Guide Dogs For The Blind Association' and we decided to see if they would accept used stamps as it is a charity which will satisfy all us animal lovers and those of you who prefer charities which help people. Sheila wrote to the Training Centre at Forfar and they replied saying that they would gratefully accept the stamps and any donations we send. Their letter concluded with, "I have not heard of your organisation before, and I was intrigued to learn that you have approximately 1,000 members in the world. In view of your name, perhaps, I ought to have said 'on this planet'." "It was good of you to contact us with your offer of help, and your interest and support in the work of our Association is greatly appreciated." Yours Sin. R.C. Forrester, Administrator

We hope you agree with our choice a club charity. Please send your used stamps to Janet as her mother has offered to trim them and sort them for us.

If anyone has ideas about how we can raise funds for the charity in other ways, let us know. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Whitehead for doing the stamps for us this last few months.

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FRIENDSHIP CORNER

It seems only a few weeks since I last sat down to write this column, however I have travelled a long way in the last month. Across the U.S.A. and back. I met a number of American Trekkers, some of whom I knew before and some entirely new friends. Again I learnt that being a 'fan' gives you friends everywhere.

Anyway, enough from me, down to the information;

BEDFORD & DISTRICT S.T. GROUP will be holding their next meeting on Sunday 12th October at Flat 3, 36 Clapham Road, Bedford at 3 pm. Anybody wishing to attend this 'crazy' assembly should contact Ray Dowsett, Top Flat, 177 Victoria Road, Cambridge, CB4 3BU.

Ray and the group are also considering extending their Christmas/Fancy Dress party on Sunday 21st December, into a Mini-Con. Anyone not at the group meeting on August 10th and who is interested in attending such a gathering please contact Ray. Non--group members are very welcome.

We would like to encourage existing local groups and groups just being formed to use this column to contact fans.

Now, da dum, what you've all been waiting for; PEN-PALS.

Phyllis Gregory, 35 North Close, Lymington, Hants SO4 9BW is 24 years old and a glutton for punishment (or so she says), Phyllis likes reading (S.F. & fantasy); music and writing letters. She already has 4 pen-pals found through this column.

Tracey Saunders is easy to please, her interests are very wide and she just wants someone to write to. She lives at 33 White Road, Stratford, London E15

John Patterson is a new member of the Bedford group and is particularly interested in contacting anyone living in his local area. John is 19 and enjoys ST, S.F. he is also a fan of Lee Majors and Lindsay Wagner. The address to write to is 102 Mullway, Letchworth, Herts SG64 BH

Susan Heath is a 32 year old McCoy fan, she lives in Florida U.S.A. and would like to correspond about Star Trek, Star Wars and aerospace. Susan is a nurse and crazy about flying. Unfortunately I don't have an address for Susan, but I do have a phone number 1-904-734-0468. So if anyone out there has always wanted to make a trans-Atlantic phone call but didn't know who to ring, well here's your chance!

Jennifer Walker would like to get in touch with any Walter Koenig/Chekov fans. Write: 24 Common St., Ravenstone, Olney, Bucks.

Elizabeth Baker would like a pen-friend anywhere over seas, America or Europe. Her hobbies are; animals, sport, Astronomy and walks in the country. She is 21 and enjoys meeting people and travelling and would prefer to write to someone about her own age. 25 Courtil Bris, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Linda Merryweather would like to say 'hello' to Carol who she met recently at Dark They Were and Golden Eyed. Linda lives at 22 Rossett Walk, Berwick Hills, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

KENT ST GROUP are holding their next Group meeting on 26th October at 96b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7DE. The group meets monthly and watches ST episodes, there is an attendance charge of 50p to cover electricity, etc. and attendees should take a packed lunch, if they want to eat. Write to Wendy if you would like to attend this or any of their meetings.

That's all on the pen-pal front this N/L, but I would like to that Dale Scott for her nice thank-you letter (I just love these old fashioned people with manners) and Tracey Saunders for her contribution towards N/L printing costs.

Live Long & Prosper, be happy Beth

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MERCHANDISE (con't from page 10)

PEDIGREE TOYS, Wellingborough, has brought out three model ships from ST-TMP price £2.25 each. There is the Enterprise, the Klingon Cruiser and the Vulcan Shuttle & Sled. These models are really meant as toys and are made of a fairly strong plastic. They look good enough just to have on display, especially the Enterprise which gives the best value for the money.

+++++ (info Jean Donkin)

COMMENTS

Personal views expressed here are those of various members and are not necessarily representative of those of the STAG Committee.

Barbara Yates - I would like to extend my thanks to the following:- Andromeda Bookshop, for efficient and helpful service; Magpie Records, ditto; Sandra Ferriday, for prompt and friendly delivery of photos and badges of very good quality; LNAF (through which I heard about the rest); April Publications, N.Y. (I was going barmy wondering where I could get a Vulcan language book); and last, but certainly not least, yourselves for the great photos you offer - the ones I've bought have been really good quality.

Garry Petty, B.Sc. - I think it would be a good idea for everybody who writes a technical article for the N/L to include his relevant qualifications (if any). This would then enable the reader to determine if the whole is somebody's ideas of what sounds nice or whether it contains and is based on scientific verity. As an example, in N/L 42 there is an article about photon torpedoes. I have a degree in physics and am presently researching for my masters degree and my doctorate, and my initial reaction to the article was that it was purely something that sounded good and in my mind it didn't seem correct. I then started to look at the problem and claims more scientifically with some of my colleagues, and based on our present knowledge of basic physics, we came to the conclusion that either it's a load of rubbish or we don't know enough advanced physics to really analyse the problem, whereas a professor might. My point is, if the author of the article is a trained, experienced physicist, what he said is probably all correct; however, if he isn't, it is just what he thinks sounds good, which might, by chance, contain scientific verities.

(We think that Garry's best plan would be to get directly in touch with Colin Hunter, who writes the Technical Spot; Colin does want to contact other members interested in the technicalities of STAR TREK. Personally, we think that any article on the technical aspects of STAR TREK is pure speculation based on what seems reasonable, as we do not know enough advanced physics as yet for the level of technology assumed in the series.)

Nicholas Luxton - Could we have a competition to design a badge for the club, as there doesn't seem to be a club badge?

(On the face of it this seems a good idea, but we've priced getting badges, etc, done, and it would cost too much, at least at the moment. We are still looking into getting button badges made and hope to have some more information soon.)

Wendy Downes - At the end of the movie there was a swop of jackets between Spock and McCoy - presumably this was intentional, to catch us out? I had seen the film several times before I noticed it.

Ian Slade - In the final scene of ST-TMP McCoy and Spock appeared to have changed jackets suddenly - was there any reason for this?

(I'm sure I read somewhere that Leonard Nimoy was asked about this and denied that it was deliberate. It may simply have been a mistake by the props department or wardrobe putting the wrong shoulder flashes on clean jackets.)

Ian Slade - In Peter Nicholl's hardback book 'The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction', under Mack Reynolds other works section the sixth entry reads - 'Star Trek - Mission to Horatius (1969)'. I have never heard of this - have you any ideas about it?

(Mission to Horatius was a book written for the - oh - possibly 10 - 12 year old age group. The 'guest character' is a boy, somewhere in his early teens, just at the stage where he is trying to prove himself a man according to the customs of his planet. There has been a distress signal picked up; the Enterprise, investigating, finds a solar system with several inhabited planets. They pick up the boy on the first one they visit then go on, and he helps them in their eventual discovery of who is responsible for the signal. Then on the way back to base, the crew is affected by 'space madness', and McCoy has considerable difficulty keeping everyone's minds occupied. Circumstances, however, appear to be assisting him. Considering the age level for which it is intended, it is a reasonable story; looking at it from an adult level, there are several bits that are inadequately dealt with and could be better developed. To the best of my knowledge, this book has been out of print for at least ten years. Sheila.)

Norman Young - How about more information on the 'non-STAR TREK' honorary members (eg Susan Sackett, Anne McCaffrey), some of whom we have heard nothing about for months.

(Short biographies on many of the honorary members can be found in their books, of course, and everyone who goes to the cons knows Anne Page. What would you like to know?)

Delwyn Shorley - While I'm writing, I thought I'd tell you that Omicorn's photos are 10p cheaper than STAG's; perhaps it would be worth finding out where they get them done. Also on the subject of photos, would it be possible to do a couple of lists on characters instead of episodes - I'm always hunting for pictures of Uhura, but usually find she's in b/g or back to camera, and I'm sure other fans find this true about their favourite characters.

(Regarding the price of photos, we could get them cheaper if we sent them to one of the discount processors. However, this means risking the clips to the post and also risking to the post upwards of £300 worth of photos every two months, although the firm should be responsible for photos they send that don't arrive. The clips involved come from - mostly - Sheila's personal collection, with some coming from Janet's and occasionally Valerie's, and they are irreplaceable should they be lost; and we select for the N/L the best and most representative clips that we have. (When we order clips we just have to take what comes, within certain limits - we can order scenes, characters, but not specific scenes or episodes.) We are quite frankly not prepared to risk losing them in the post. In addition, the processor we currently use now knows about printing the clips right way round - film clips come with the emulsion on the wrong side, and everyone who has put clips into a shop for printing knows that they invariably print them according to normal procedure regardless of instructions, resulting in prints done in reverse. We insist on getting them right way round, which would mean the clips being sent back again - and risked twice more to the post - should we try a discount processor. Not much goes missing in the post, but enough vanishes for us to be slightly wary.

Regarding offering clips of Uhura, etc - as minor characters, they do tend to appear in the background much of the time (we do try to make sure that all the characters are listed somewhere per episode, but we don't always have clips of them) and most of the close-ups we have of them are unidentified and, in fact, virtually unidentifiable; one closeup of Uhura - or Spock - or Sulu - at station looks very like another and some of these may even be stock shots, used in more than one episode to show a silent reaction. However, we will include one or two clips from the unidentified box for each of the minor characters in the next few N/Ls, starting with this on.)

Marion Staveley - I am now going to commit sacrilege. I am glad the ST TV series is back, but since seeing the film it isn't the same. I may be a bit peculiar but I like Bill Shatner as he is now, If he had looked like he does now ten years ago, he would have been a better Kirk. Does that make sense? I don't know how to describe it really. His acting has improved over the years, his Kirk now seems more real (at least to me) and has a dignity that was lacking before. What do other fans think?

(Well, what do other fans think?)

Malita Edwards - Some time ago, I ordered and received a full set of the Topps cards. One in particular puzzles me - No. 54 is titled 'Transporter Malfunction' and it clearly shows Decker and the Ilia thing on the rec deck! Illogical...

Pauline Andrews - I only recently began to collect the Lyons Maid ST cards and have reached the grand total of 8 (out of 25). I think I've found a mistake. Being a Dr. McCoy fan, I was delighted to receive on my eighth card a picture (a nice one, too!) of my hero, card No. 3, in fact. Then I was disappointed to find out that the details on the back stated that Leonard McCoy was Senior Ship's Surgeon (true) and a Lieutenant Commander (can't be?!). The picture shows McCoy in white medical tunic, so no gold braid ranking on sleeves is worn, but my few pictures of McCoy in grey service dress clearly show him wearing the two unbroken parallel gold rings as worn by Scotty and Spock, who were Commanders. I think Lyons Maid has slipped up a little - in ST-TMP, Leonard McCoy was a Commander!

(Most firms putting out things like the bubblegum cards/ice lolly cards have some mistakes, either in their general blurb or in the printing of the pictures. Some of the Lyons Maid cards are in reverse, and has anyone noticed the mistake in the Topps card No.87?)

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ORDERING PHOTOGRAPHS

Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope when you order photos and the correct postage. Some of you have been forgetting lately. We don't want to add a penny on each photo to cover postage as those ordering a lot of photos would be paying too much, and those ordering less than ten wouldn't be paying enough. It might average out but it would be unfair to those sending in large orders.

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HARLAN ELLISON'S REVIEW OF ST-TMP

The comments on Harlan Ellison's review of ST-TMP have brought in several additional comments, both in favour of Ellison's attitude and against it. From these there does seem to be a sexist element involved, with the men mostly agreeing with Ellison and the women mostly feeling that Ellison was too personal in his statements (although we know of several men who disagree with Ellison's attitude, too.)

James Pauley - Regarding the letter from David Coote (N/L 42) I am glad to see someone writing to defend Harlan Ellison's comments in his Starlog article.

I too felt that the remarks 'his jealousy shows' and 'the review was inexcusable and disgusting' were ill-considered emotional outbursts on behalf of the ladies in question. What seems to have aroused this tide of indignation is the so-called personal nature of the review, ie the comments on Bill Shatner and Gene Roddenberry.

In Roddenberry's case his credentials as a writer were under scrutiny, and as the movie was his brainchild the examination of his writing ability was perfectly justified and cannot be described as a personal attack by any stretch of the imagination - after all, how can one criticise writing without criticising the writer? Certainly the criticism of Shatner was a far more personal piece, but if as Ellison stated Shatner's ego problems and domineering attitude affected the movie in any way (eg he had script approval and called for frequent conferences between himself, the director and the writer) then it is only to be expected that his personality should come under scrutiny, hence inviting personal criticism.

Perhaps someone would kindly explain to me what Ellison has to be jealous about? Certainly not the fact that he was not involved with a movie that was almost universally panned by the movie and science fiction communities. (In fact he did submit a script which was rejected - Editor) And certainly not over the writing in the movie. As far as his literary abilities are concerned Harlan Ellison needs answer to no man. In my opinion (and that of his peers) the man is one of the greatest writers ever to put pen to paper and to accuse him of jealousy in connection with ST-TMP is ludicrous. Let us not forget that Ellison is judging the movie from a professional viewpoint as well as that of a Star Trek enthusiast - yes, you read it right; contrary to popular opinion Ellison is squarely behind ST. How many fans are aware that he almost single-handedly organised a letter campaign which saved ST after NBC planned to drop it after the first season?

This is also a good opportunity to clarify the situation regarding the 'rancor' between Roddenberry and Ellison over 'City'. Ellison has stated in print that he was a bit loud-mouthed at the time and that perhaps he was and still is too close to the material to have an objective opinion and to know when it has been bettered by other hands.

Sheila's statement that she would not like to see any ST stories written by Ellison is ridiculous as he has written the 'City' script which, despite changes, is still 90% Ellison. There was only one major change, the rest were merely cosmetic owing to budgetary restrictions. For the benefit of anyone who hasn't read the original, Ellison's main beef was over the ending in which he had Kirk prepared to sacrifice everything to save Edith. She really should consider what she has read before making such statements. I have read nearly everything Ellison has written, fantasy and non-fantasy, fiction and non-fiction, and never has he shown pessimism in his views, only realism in his acknowledgement that man can be brutal, cruel, greedy, savage and corrupt. But just as strong is his optimistic belief in the fundamental capacity for greatness and good and the eventual triumph of the human spirit, and this is reflected in the bulk of his work, underlying even his rawest most savage stories. Harlan Ellison is a true artist and Star Trek would be even greater than it is today if it had benefitted from more of his work - after all, he gave us the best episode, didn't he? So, as David Coote says, let us all look again and judge a bit more objectively and calmly what is after all just one man's honest opinion.

(Without wishing to claim editorial privilege, I would like to answer a couple of the points Jim brought up. First of all, I don't think that 'City' is still 90% Ellison, and we intend to print a comparison of the two scripts in the next N/L to see what members who have not had the opportunity to read the original think. Although most of the members who answered our questionnaire listed City in their top three favourites, it is not, even in Roddenberry's version, one of my favourite episodes, coming, indeed, well down the list; I don't dislike it, but I don't like it either, and I very much dislike Ellison's original version. I don't have a high opinion of a man who would 'give up the entire universe for the woman he loves' - I would call that attitude extremely selfish, and not characteristic of the Kirk I know. I agree that I have not read much of Ellison's work - what I have read left a nasty taste in my mouth. I can

see 'his acknowledgement that man can be brutal, cruel, savage and corrupt' but I have completely failed to see any 'optimistic belief in the fundamental capacity for greatness and good and the eventual triumph of the human spirit', to quote Jim. This may be a fault in myself; on the other hand, I remember reading somewhere - I can't remember where - someone, I think another SF writer, who was comparing Ted Sturgeon and Harlan Ellison. He said 'Sturgeon doesn't know how to hate; Ellison doesn't know how to love.' Sheila.)

Pat Jenkins - I'd very much like to express my disgust at the review of ST-TMP by Harlan Ellison

Though I strongly disagree with many of his opinions my main complaint does not relate to them. What I found absolutely revolting was the hatred which spread through his review, like a sickness.

Whether or not you like a film, whatever you think or don't think of the standard of acting, directing etc, there is no excuse at all for such warped hatred to be directed at the film. Ellison is a little, little man, a pathetic creature and Starlog a foolish magazine to print such an outburst of quite unnatural hatred.

Lee Owers & Lin Green - "A Private Little War" - Trekkers review Ellison.

...In the Beginning there was Ellison's "City on the Edge of Forever". And the script was without form and void. And Roddenberry said, Let there be changes; and there were changes. Roddenberry divided what was Trek from what was not Trek. And the Episode was praised and brought forth a Hugo Award. And Ellison was very wroth and his countenance fell. And it came to pass, after the Movie, that Ellison rose up against Roddenberry his peer, and poured scorn upon him...

We've all seen Harlan Ellison's article in Starlog 33 and heard one fan's arguments in defence of it. The initial sense of outrage, which prevented any response, is past and it is time to present an alternative view of what was said.

Ellison states that the movie has given the fans 'precisely and exactly' what they asked for. It is blatantly obvious from this that he has no idea of what represents Trek to the fans. Ellison himself admits that characterisation was sacrificed to special effects - surely he cannot believe that this is what the fans would want? We agree that more risks should have been taken with the production; Paramount, in an attempt to please the SFX enthusiasts and the more established Trek following, chose a central path which ultimately satisfied neither. We are not blind to the film's faults. Many criticisms raised by Ellison in his article hold true. It is the manner in which they are expressed and the reasons to which he attributes its failings that are objectionable.

Mr. Ellison is a professional writer. We would have expected a professional and objective viewpoint. However, it is clear from his comments concerning Gene Roddenberry, that personal considerations colour his attitude. Ellison contests that "Gene Roddenberry is not a very good writer". When we look at his achievements - the movie novel, several episodes of Trek, 'Genesis 2', 'Questor Tapes', 'The Lieutenant' - this point becomes invalid. As Mr. Ellison is so fond of saying in his article, "it is well established" that he did not take kindly to the changes made to his original concept of "City". He fails to recognise that they are both skilled in their own fields. Gene Roddenberry would not attempt to write the sort of material which Harlan Ellison produces - is it so difficult for the latter to see that the reverse might also be wise? To quote Mr. Ellison again, he should have accepted that knowledge and left Gene Roddenberry alone.

In his article, Ellison makes a vicious and unqualified attack on William Shatner. At one point, he generalises about "the posturing of second-rate actors", and yet, in the midst of his all-too-personal remarks on Shatner, we are faced with the revelation that he considers the actor's performance in 'The Andersonville Trial' to be "no less than staggeringly brilliant". It is true that, at times, Shatner's performance in the movie lacked warmth. However, could this not have been due to a fault in Direction, rather than lack of acting ability? Consider that, when given the right script and freedom of interpretation, Shatner produced such memorable moments as the approach to Drydock (and, at this point, who could fault James Doohan's performance either?) and the classic Sickbay scene. Ellison refers to the latter when he accords Spock's acceptance of his own humanity solely to Leonard Nimoy's performance. While we do not belittle Nimoy's talent, we do feel that, without Shatner's Kirk, and the reaffirmation of the relationship, the growth in Spock's character could not have been so clearly expressed.

Ellison asserts that Shatner was pushy and domineering during the making of the series and was reduced to such petty actions as line-counting. We hope that this seems as uncharacteristic to most as it does to us. But, whether or not it is true, if, as ELLISON says, he

has no evidence that such was the case with the movie, what is the relevance of this remark in the article? It amounts to no more than back-biting. As to his comments on acting technique, Ellison seems to find it strange that Shatner plays Kirk "as if he actually thinks he is Kirk" - what better method is there? Are we to interpret this as meaning that Mr. Ellison merely pretends to be a Science Fiction author when he sits down at his typewriter?

Much emphasis is placed on the lack of attention to detail in the movie. We respectfully suggest that Ellison employ some of the same to his own sources of information. The article is full of such phrases as "I have been told that..." and "It is common knowledge that...", whereby reducing so-called facts to unsubstantiated hearsay. Witness the comment on Shatner's exit from the bridge, which Ellison quotes with such glee - any fan could have told him that Bill doesn't wear a toupee!

We are somewhat incredulous that Ellison considers De Kelley's performance so notable. For us, it was his character which suffered most in the movie, losing its incisiveness and the great depth which made McCoy an essential character in the series. His cynicism was reduced to sarcasm and the script had him making a joke at every available opportunity. He frequently appeared on the bridge, only to cast a knowing glance in the Captain's direction and then swiftly depart.

We can only attribute this to Robert Wise's somewhat superficial knowledge of the essence of the Trek characters. He seemed to suspect that McCoy should be present at moments of crisis, but not to know what to do with him once he was there. He was aware of Spock's outward composure and detachment, but created few opportunities where his underlying vulnerability and need were illustrated. He knew Kirk to be the authoritative Starship Captain, but the compelling emotionality of the man was often missing. We must, therefore, agree with Ellison that it is possible Mr. Wise did not consider the direction of the movie to be 'important work'. Why, then, does Ellison persist in attributing its major defects to the co-author and cast?

The general tone of the article seems to imply that Ellison went into the movie theatre wanting to find fault. If one wants anything that badly, one will, of course, succeed. We do join him in hoping that, if a sequel is made, it will place more emphasis on the characters, rather than the SFX. However, contrary to Mr. Ellison's opinion, we believe that this will only be achieved if Gene Roddenberry and the cast are given the freedom to recapture the quality of the series, and to build upon it to create a new and brighter dream.

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As I already stated, we will be printing a comparison of the two 'City' scripts next N/L. Apart from that, however, we feel that everything that can profitably be said on this subject has now been covered, and that there is little point in reiterating the arguments on either side. The subject of Harlan Ellison's review in Starlog is now, therefore, closed.

Because we had so much on this subject this time, we decided to leave until next time the comments we have had on the subject of STAG's editorial policy. We do have one thing to say on that subject, however. One of the letters we received, which disagreed with our viewpoint, was sent in anonymously. We therefore have no option but to ignore it. This is not STAG policy but the policy of any professional magazine or newspaper. A letter will be printed anonymously (eg for reasons of professional occupation) but the paper's editorial staff must know, for copyright reasons, the name and address of the writer. Apart from that, however, we feel that the writer of the letter should have the courage of his/her convictions and not hide behind a curtain of anonymity.

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LATE ZINE AD.

NOME 3 - Till Human Voices Wake Us by Barbara Storey. The Enterprise is on her way to Vulcan where Spock is to give an appraisal of whether or not he thinks Vulcan should accept a seat on the Federation Council when there is an unexpected diversion which forces Spock to rethink his original attitude. Although there are no graphic descriptions of violence or explicit sexual scenes, it does deal with a crime of violence, and an age statement (over 18) will be required with each order. Due late summer from Victoria Clark, 445 E. 86th Street, New York, NY 10028, USA. \$2.00 will reserve a copy; SAE and IRCs for final price notification.

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TERRACON REVISITED by Teresa Hewitt

It feels like coming home. I sink into a comfortable settee with a sigh of pleasure. There are friends everywhere! I am smitten with euphoria as all the familiar faces appear. I feel instinctively that the Dragonara is fond of us - Reception smile! The barman laughs!! There is a kettle in the room!!! I pick up our con books and face my badge with grim foreboding. I am jinxed on those badges, as various con committees well know. They are tolerant and resigned when, three hours after arrival, I turn up confessing its loss. Not so the stewards who, by jove, are Going to Do Their Job, and accost me every five yards.

I get into the lift. Phillip is there. Three seconds later I get out, for the first time cursing the person who got me roomed on the first floor. My badge is found. I nearly get to actually put it on. However, the pin falls off.

We eat in the Pot Pourri. I genuinely appreciate the thought, but I cannot face asking for either a Trækki (sic) Burger, nor a Spock Special. I note that the latter is a meat dish, which goes some way towards dispelling the notion that the gentleman himself was consulted. Eric Sykes is in the shop. Later Lou Macari appears and we stare at each other. No, I am not going to explain to a footballer what my badge means. I get Frank Greenhoff's auto-graph, telling him I support Ipswich really. This is meant to be a merry quip, but I can see he is not amused. I see Doreen and May and Theo and Cory and cuddly Sheila - "yes I'mgoingtowritesoonhonestly" - and Sammy Smith who is new and nice, and all the Watsons plus Jonathan who has a superb Darth Vader outfit. My Campari comes with a cute swizzle stick. I swizzle enthusiastically. Helen's orange juice comes without the requested ice, but with a slice instead. Well, it was noisy in the bar.

It's the next day. It's too hot. The dealers' room is spacious and I buy Log Entries. The new buffet is very good, and we get talking to a heavy rock fan who says there will be plenty of it at the disco. Silently, I hope he's wrong. I admire a gorgeous creature's long booted legs, and fervently hope their owner is male; I am assured that he is. A friend whose anonymity I will preserve (send 1 million credits by next Friday, X) is wild for him and I kindly offer to take a photo. This involves me skulking round trying to get all of him in my viewfinder, without his noticing. It proves impossible. I consider babbling "It's for a friend" but I can see from the disdain in his kohled eyes that he's heard that one before. We order coffee in the lounge. We wait. And wait. Roger is struck by the aptness of the term '24-hour service'.

The fancy dress is good. Everyone falls over on a slippery patch. There is a big Dalek, and a little Dalek. I try to explain the significance of towels to people who haven't read the book. Richard is a very good Mugato. And, I imagine, a very hot one. I save one photo for anyone extra special, but it goes unused - where were you, Phillip?

The music begins. There is a big blue balloon being batted around. Starship Trooper, YMCA and In Starfleet are played to death. We all admire two perfect Village people (I'll have the construction worker, please.) We all row vigorously to 'Oops upside your head'. Twice. It is so hot that Ladbroke's directors will get a good laugh out of the bar profits. The heavy rock fan is proved right and there is quite a large exodus. Anne Page looks gorgeous and I take her photo. People are wilting and melting all over the settees. Every so often a nervous 'straight' guest scuttles through looking neither to right nor left. At 1.45 we give up and go to bed. ('Patches' in Coventry did it better.) As we pass the Brigantes door I hear the Martian Hop, look in and see everyone energetically hopping. Shall we...? No. There isn't a hop left in me.

The coffee helps, next morning. Keith and Sue have got engaged. Having recently spent several fraught moments with a bored and hyperactive child, I wouldn't currently recommend this marriage lark to anyone; however, I restrain the urge to commiserate and wish them good luck instead. (We join Teresa in wishing them luck - Janet & Sheila) The fashion show is the best ever. It is colourful, evocative, amusing (I mean you, Orgasma) imaginative, eye-catching and sensationally sensual, with acres of nude flesh; and now I know for sure the gender of our friend with the high boots. Sorry the Pern sequence didn't get a prize. The afternoon comes, and with it, a tinge of gloom - can it really be nearly over? And somehow I have managed to miss most of the episodes, the auction and D.C. Fontana, alas. She gives an interview in the lounge to someone with a tape recorder. Roger, blissfully ignorant, bursts in on this looking for something he left where D.C. is sitting. It turns up under her left thigh. At the closing ceremony I am glad when Dot gets all her surprises,

but half-sympathetic too - it must be killingly embarrassing.

We can't get into the Pot Pourri. So we walk around Leeds in the dark looking for fish and chips. I peer nervously about for the Ripper, but all we meet are other familiar badge-bearers; evidently the Leeds inhabitants rushed inside and bolted the doors when we were unleashed upon the streets. We don't find anything edible, but when we return there is room in the Pot Pourri. Ah well, we had a nice cool walk. Then we dutifully drink in the Neville Suite, having been told that if no-one does the bar will close. Happy to oblige. There are two Kirk look-alikes, one in a blue movie uniform, the other in a yellow. I spend a lot of time wondering how they managed to blend the trousers in with the shoes as skilfully as the professionals did it. I am tired and emotional * enough to get down on the floor and search unsuccessfully for the join.

By 11 it is quite busy. I am mad to hear I am missing City on the Edge of Forever, but somewhat consoled by listening to the quarrels over the Klingon hunt - "There's one - I'm not mentioning any NAMES - but I've shot him three times and he won't admit he's dead." "No you didn't, he got you first, and you pretended NOT TO NOTICE." I fall for Lee's T-shirt and cringe when Roger, puzzled and innocent, reads it aloud. Little Ian tries to mime 'The Martian Chronicles', pounding the carpet (it's green) and scooping up handfuls of imaginary bog to convey 'marsh' to his perplexed audience. Chris Chivers sings. There is a new reason why he doesn't want to join the Enterprise. Something to do with organs pickled in brine. The bar is shutting. It seems like a good time to retire.

Sad sad morning. A Mr. Prefect gets paged, which somewhat enlightens the gloom. I sit among the suitcases with a charming child on my lap (little Robin) while my jealous Helen bashes him with her teddy. It's time to go. As we load the car, I imagine, with longing, a con lasting a week. However, five minutes out of Leeds and I am fast asleep. No, I couldn't stand the pace. The car rushes on, leaving Leeds and all the wonderful people behind, and I dream that - no, perhaps I'd better scrap that bit.

See you all in April!

* ('Private Eye' jargon for 'inebriated'.)

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BIRTH OF A TREKKER...

It all began back in October '79 when I started watching the reruns of STAR TREK. I had always liked ST since it came on, and I enjoyed it as a child, and even used to play ST at school, acting the parts etc!!

Finally I started watching it again more recently last year. I always had liked the interplay between Kirk, Spock and McCoy.

One night I watched it and something clicked inside me. I think it was 'Charlie X' at the time. I just realised how attractive Bill Shatner really was; it was strange how it happened.

Then the movie was released in December. I tried desperately hard to get tickets to go down to London (in hope of seeing Bill) but to no avail! It was then that I found out about STAG in a newspaper article. (I already had a couple of Photonovels by then). I was amazed when I joined STAG how friendly people were, so willing to answer any questions I had. I enjoyed reading the newsletters.

But I still felt alone as a Trekker - I needed a friend.

I heard about a convention in Coventry and went to that - and bang! I finally felt I belonged now. It was beautiful. I started drawing and attempting the odd story and I bought books galore and zines. But I was still alone. Oh, I had a couple of penfriends whom I met at the con; what I wanted was a girl like me who loved ST and Shatner. So I put my name in the Friendship Corner and a girl named Karen Humphries wrote to me. It was bang! from the word 'Go'. We had so much in common, and began to write regularly and phone... Then I went to see her in Leicester and we went to a party together; we really hit it off. Now we are the best of friends and we meet regularly and phone and write - it's what I really wanted. I would like to take this opportunity to thank STAG for bringing people like us together and knowing what fandom really means. May you go on for many years yet, as I will as your member.

Peace. Live long and prosper.
Dale Scott.

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DEVIL WORLD by Gordon Eklund

Review by Peter McGuire

The story concerns Gilla Dupre as the dying daughter of Federation traitor Jacob Kell. Kell now resides on the planet Heartland beside some rather evil-looking creatures called danons.

Kirk falls in love with Gilla, ignorant of her health problem. The Danons apparently sent every Human mad except two; Kell was one and the mysterious hermit called Reni Bates with his pet Lola was the other.

The story is very close to a previous TV episode concerning a simple people serving a mad machine - Vaal in the Apple.

Not the best STAR TREK I've read, but not the worst.

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ZINE REVIEW by Lorraine Goodison

After reading Log Entries 34 & 35, my humble opinion is that they are two of the best zines STAG has lately published. I found them impossible to put down, and both are already well-thumbed! It's a wee bit difficult to comment properly on 21 different stories and poems, so I'll just concentrate on the ones which stick in my memory.

Four come immediately to mind: 'In Love We Trust' by Verna Mae Long, 'The Decision' by Patricia Keen, 'Another Day' by Judy Miller and 'Communications Blackout' by Jane Tietjen. Both hers and Patricia Keen's deal with the reasons for Spock's return to Vulcan after the five-year mission, and both had me screaming "Why didn't I think of that?!" 'Communications Blackout' adds an interesting side to Spock which never occurred to me before and which I doubt many fans have ever considered. Thank goodness Jane did, because it makes for a superb short story.

'Another Day' leads on from City and neatly conveys Kirk's pain and grief without wallowing in it. A diplomatic visit to a planet goes badly wrong in 'In Love We Trust', and the treatment of the characters removes any 'sameness' of yet another life and death situation for Kirk. This story contains a revealing insight into the leading characters' personalities, and makes one wonder just where the boundaries of friendship and command should meet.

I am not usually one for enthusing at length over zines, but after reading these two I felt I had to tell someone. Log Entries 34 & 35 are two no fan will wish to read only once, and that isn't just a plug for STAG!

Oops! I almost forgot to mention that each and every one of the poems are terrific and complement the stories beautifully. I have only one more thing to say... Why the +/&@'? can't I write like that?!

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SUBMITTING STORIES

Several people have asked me recently how they go about submitting stories and/or poems to zines, and it seems a good idea to print a short section on this for the benefit of anyone else who would like to submit something but aren't sure of the best way to go about it.

First of all, it is best if a story or poem is typed, although we do not automatically reject handwritten manuscripts as I have heard some zine editors do. The reason for preferring stories typed is simple - it is much easier to read, and also much easier to copy onto stencil if it is accepted. Earlier in this N/L Colin Hunter refers to a mistake I made in last N/L's Technical Spot - this mistake was made, as Colin realised, because the word was unfamiliar to me and I couldn't make out what it was.

Keep a copy of the story. Even a handwritten story can be done with a carbon copy. This is essential in case the original fails to negotiate the obstacle course of the postal service successfully - I know of two manuscripts that have gone missing in transit in the last couple of months and in neither case is there an exact copy in existence.

Send the story to the editor of your choice. Enclose at least an addressed label and sufficient return postage in case the story is rejected or returned for additional work to be done on it. We're all working to minimal profits, and it can cost quite a bit to return unsuccessful submissions - or even to let the writers of successful ones know that their story has been accepted.

If the story is accepted, there is no problem. It will be printed in due course - there may be a delay of up to two years before it is printed, depending on the theme of the story - we do try to have some sort of balance between types of story, and if we have several on much

the same theme, obviously there will be a delay in printing them all. Poems are assigned to zines on the basis of length as well as subject, and I have a permanent need for poems that are 20 - 30 lines long.

If the story is returned for further development - and this can happen to the best of us; a writer can be so close to the story that a hole in development can slip past without his/her being aware of it - I try to make some positive suggestions as to what is required - in my opinion. You are free to accept or reject these suggestions as you see fit; if you think you have a better idea, I'm delighted if you use it, but I don't think it fair just to say 'This needs to be developed further' without making some suggestions as to where or how. Even if it is rejected completely, don't despair. It could simply mean that the story is outwith our editorial guidelines (in which case I say so and suggest some other editor whose policy I know to be different) or that I personally don't care for the story. This does not mean it is bad, just that I don't like it - another editor might think it is just what she has been looking for. This happens frequently with professional writing - one editor rejects a story, the writer submits it someplace else.

Artwork submissions are more difficult. Because we duplicate our zines, we are limited in what we can print, art-wise. Pencil drawings must be of exceptionally high quality and full A4 page because these have to be printed professionally. Too much solid black doesn't duplicate either, but again we can get a full-page very dark illo photocopied. Smaller drawings should be ink outlines without too much shading. If you send in artwork, please don't fold it; get an envelope big enough to take the drawing flat, or roll it round (or inside) a cardboard tube. Folds can be picked up in the duplicating process and leave a nasty mark across the drawing.

I think that about covers everything. We are always looking out for new writers and we don't bite! We try to answer on submissions within a couple of weeks, but round about N/L time it will take longer as the N/L takes precedence over everything, and just after the N/L goes out there are a lot of zine orders coming in - filling one day's orders can take up to three hours, which is a hefty chunk out of any evening! If you would like confirmation that your submission has been received and will be considered as soon as possible, send an ordinary SAE as well. Happy writing! Sheila.

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FICTION COMPETITION

There were 7 entries for the last competition, for a story dealing with what McCoy was doing prior to being drafted. These came from Pauline Andrews, Amanda Bedford, Elizabeth Butler, Anne Connstares, Rhian Gibbs, Patricia Keen & Kelly Mitchell. As always it proved very difficult to judge, but we decided that Pauline's story just had the edge, so are declaring it the winner. It will be appearing in the December Log Entries, and we hope to print most of the others over the next year or so.

For next time, the subject is slightly more frivolous. I've always wondered just what Cyrano Jones did with all the tribbles he had to pick up on the Space Station over the next 17.whatever years - and also what the Klingons did with the tribbles in their engine-room. So - for next time we want a story (or poem) on the subject - What Happened to the Tribbles? We have only one proviso - the Klingons must not beam them into space (that would be inhuman) or use their disruptors or whatever on them (that would be inhuman too). Quite apart from anything else, there would be no story worth the telling in that!

Entries should reach Valerie by Nov 15th.

If you want an entry returned, please include a self-addressed label (at least) and stamps to the appropriate amount. And as I said in the article about submitting stories above, please type entries if possible (we do know that not everyone has access to a typewriter) and keep a copy yourself. We would prefer, too, if you could type (or write) your manuscript on one side of the page only. We know this takes more pages, but it does make for easier reading to judge the stories and also for much, much easier copying of the story onto stencil.

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LATE ADS

WANTED: Blue Peter Books No's 1,2,3,4,5 and 6. Will pay good price. Nicholas Luxton, "The Platt", St. John's Rd., Millbrook, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL10 1EE

U.F.P. 2! You've seen the ad! Now read the Zine! Packed with fascinating stories, heart-rending poetry, and extremely horrible jokes. And from the same lot that printed the last one! Prices U.K. £1.50 inc. postage. U.S.A. \$7.00 inc. airmail. Europe £2.30 inc. postage. Australia £3.30 inc. airmail. For details, S.A.E. to Sandie Cowden, 13 Glen Ave., Port Glasgow, PA14 5AA, Scotland. Make cheques etc. payable to U.F.P.

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THE ENTERPRISE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

After coming across the name 'HMS Enterprise' in a book, I 'dug' through other books in the local library to see what other ships in history I could find. The list is probably by no means complete, and I have ignored Merchant Vessels.

- HMS ENTERPRISE - 1747 - 28 gun, 6th Rate Frigate, built in the USA for Royal Navy before American Independence.
- USS ENTERPRISE - 1812 - 16 gun Schooner, converted to gun-brig, fought against British in war of 1812.
- HMS ENTERPRISE - 1850 - Civilian Whaler taken over by Admiralty for Arctic Exploration voyage.
- HMS ENTERPRISE - 1874 - Ironclad Battleship, one of the first mastless ships relying solely upon steam propulsion.
- HMS ENTERPRISE - 1919 - Light Cruiser, 7200 tons, 7 x 6" guns, fought in WW2, scrapped in 1946.
- USS ENTERPRISE - 1937 - Aircraft Carrier, 27000 tons (approx), fought in WW2 in most major battles in Pacific where she was extensively damaged by Japanese aircraft.
- USS ENTERPRISE - 1960 - Nuclear Powered Aircraft Carrier, at time was largest and most powerful Aircraft Carrier ever built - now superseded by even larger John F. Kennedy and Nimitz.

Ray Dowsett.

(Ray put a question mark after Nimitz - can anyone verify that he's right about this one being bigger than the 1960 USS Enterprise. Editor.)

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ORIGIN OF NAMES USED FOR "CONSTITUTION CLASS"

Whilst numerous ships throughout history have been called by these names, the following are the most probable vessels Starfleet had in mind when naming the Constitution Class Heavy Cruisers.

It is interesting to note that of this class, only USS Exeter got her name from an actual Heavy Cruiser in history - all the others were of a different type of vessel.

It can be argued that the original USS CONSTITUTION and USS CONSTELLATION, being Frigates of the sailing navy days, were the Heavy Cruiser of their era. However, whilst these two ships were both classified as '44-gun Frigates', which would indeed classify them as Heavy Cruisers, in actual fact they carried upwards of 54 guns, which made them the fore-runner of the Battle Cruiser or Pocket Battleship, being vastly superior in size and firepower to a conventional '44'.

USS CONSTITUTION	American 44 gun frigate - built 1797
USS CONSTELLATION	As above
USS EXETER	British heavy cruiser - built 1930
USS HOOD	British battle cruiser - built 1920
USS KONGO	Japanese battleship - built 1931
USS FARRAGUT	American destroyer - built 1932
USS POTEPMKIN	Russian battleship - built 1900
USS INTREPID	British assault ship - built 1960s
USS ENTERPRISE	American nuclear aircraft carrier - built 1962
USS LEXINGTON	American aircraft carrier - built 1927
USS YORKTOWN	American aircraft carrier - built 1937
USS VALIANT	British battleship - built 1915, or British nuclear submarine - built 1960s

Ray Dowsett

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BOOK REVIEWPERRY'S PLANET by Jack Haldeman II

I was a bit dubious to say the least when I first settled down to read 'Perry's Planet'. Joe Haldeman is a well-known science fiction author who has won the coveted Hugo and Nebula awards. I myself am a big fan of his, although I do prefer to forget 'World Without End' - and as far as I am concerned, 'Planet of Judgement' remains the best pro-written Star Trek novel to date. True, it may have been low on relationships but as ST science fiction adventure it is an outstanding experience. But back to the point - the point being 'Perry's Planet'. Upon seeing it was written by Jack Haldeman II, I assumed it was a weak rip-off produced by a two-bit author basking in reflected glory from his famous brother. Boy, was I wrong! Jack and Joe are both fine authors, but Jack seems to understand Star Trek more than Joe ever did. 'Perry's Planet' is an absorbing adventure with never a dull moment; and for once the relationships and character interaction in a pro-written ST novel are handled excellently. Heck, this could almost be a zine! Spock is more logically Vulcan than ever. Kirk is a true Human being and not just a cardboard hero. Would you believe he even displays fear when Korol tells him of his oath of blood to kill him? And Chief Engineer Scott is more canny and Scottish than he has been in a long time. I got the impression from his book that Jack Haldeman is a Star Trek fan himself - he understands the characters so well. And if he isn't...well, he certainly did his homework before writing 'Perry's Planet'. If Joe had, 'Planet of Judgement' would have been even better!

Paul Malamed.

* * * *

STAR TREK - THE MOTION PICTURE PHOTOSTORY

I have just received a copy of the Movie Photonovel. A slogan comes to mind here. 'You've read the book and it is excellent; you've seen the film and it was great. Now read the fotostory which is absolute rubbish!'

I had a quick glance through it this morning, and the scenes they have missed out is criminal - Kirk arriving at Starfleet Command, transporter malfunction (the only scene with Janice Rand, so she never got a mention), Kirk asking where the turbolift is, Scotty's flight with him round the ship, the assembly of the crew and the destruction of Epsilon 9, Kirk's wink to Chekov, the part where Decker says 'As executive officer it is my duty to offer alternatives' and Kirk's reply... The amount left out is really terrible. There are no cast lists, nothing telling you what's happening, only a meaningless phrase like 'Meanwhile, on Vulcan...' written in large white lettering at the top of a page. Heaven help anyone reading it who known nothing about ST or hasn't seen the movie. I have only one statement to make - 'Come back Bantam, all is forgiven! What happened to the people who did the original fotonovels?

Anne Chalmers.

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STAR TREK BOOKS

When the Motion Picture was ready for release, we pondered over its merits. Would it be STAR TREK, and what were the chances of getting some new books on it?

Well, we have had the excellent debate on the Movie. Now I would like to hit at Futura over the books. I guess Pocket Books and Futura should share the blame over bad publicity and prices, but I do feel Futura have let their customers down by cancelling the latest publications.

Way back in January, we found out that STAR TREK Speaks was due for release on February 1st, price £1. This did eventually surface some time in May, price £1.75. Due at the end of February were the new Blueprints, Chekov's Enterprise, the Monsters book and some kiddies' titles.

Once again these arrived in May, apparently due to a ship getting lost somewhere between New York and London. The Futura rep. told my local bookshop this, which was a blessing as the two letters sent to them requesting publication dates were never answered. On a trip to London, we were unable to find any import copies of the Photostory or Making of ST-TMP and, ignoring ordering from Andromeda in Birmingham decided to wait for two months and order from Futura, via our local shop.

We had good faith (and money) invested with both these parties, and as the publication dates

came and went and all our Trekker chums proudly clutched their copies of the most exciting new STAR TREK books, we waited...and waited...and waited... Only when STAG and Andromeda told us at the same time that Futura had cancelled the April 30th releases, did we finally order by mail (at greatly increased cost) and these books have now finally arrived, some four months after we thought it was going to be so easy to get hold of them. The thing that really made us angry was that after the film, nothing was released by Futura to capitalise on the movie's success. They complain that the book trade has passed them by, but they were the ones delaying the release. No publicity, no merchandise to sell in the shops. No customer liason. They flood the market with expensive, silly books and wonder why the better material is not selling as they hoped. Fancy releasing the 'Motion Picture Blueprints' but not the Photostory. People are obviously going to be more interested in a book on how the movie was made than an expensive version of the mythical Spaceflight Chronology that came out much cheaper before. I am sorry, Futura. You have really botched up your venture into the STAR TREK field this time. As Trekkers, I feel we deserved much better service than you gave. Especially when you promise the release of some major new books - I feel you should honour those dates of publication, not leave us high and dry like you did. You have made enough money from your old catalogue of STAR TREK books to allow us the luxury of a decent release schedule at reasonable prices. I hope the Bantam/Corgi group get the rights to any subsequent books. I also wonder how Andromeda and the other Science Fiction shops are doing, importing these extra titles that Futura feels are 'not financially viable'.

Richard Bracewell.

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GENE RODDENBERRY VERSUS COMMUNISM

To start with, I intend to prove that I do not always use my Fotonovels in my episode analysis. This time I shall focus on the two episodes - both First Season - which made an attempt to show clearly what communism is about. Gene Roddenberry, in LETTERS TO STAR TREK, gave his views about the future. He told us that the monetarist, capitalist system would have to go, sooner or later. I agree - I don't see how a whole world can live together in peace and have a competitive monetary system. There must be some sort of socialism on Earth in ST's century, a perfect socialism which men have been looking for and still yet doesn't exist. Pessimists like playwright Dennis Potter believe that it will never be found, and although that is possible, it is wiser, if one is a STAR TREK fan, to believe that it will arrive before the twenty-third century. The two episodes which conducted analyses of communism are 'The Return of the Archons' by Boris Sobelman and 'Operation Annihilate' by Steven M. Carabatos. The Archons episode takes place on Beta III, a planet with a culture of peace and tranquillity, a society with no soul of self-awareness, where the conversation usually revolves around 'Joy to you, Peace and Tranquillity' and 'Peace in Landru'. Aha! Landru, a veritable Kruschev or Breshnev. On further analysis, I feel that the original Landru is a mixture of Marx and Lenin; Archons is another 'Animal Farm' type story, and the computer which Landru taught is Stalin; he has the original's knowledge without his compassion or soul. The whole argument against the present version of communism is its feeling towards individuality, the thing which I prize above all other in my life. The message in both episodes is about individuality. In a small piece from Archons, it is shown - LANDRU: You will be absorbed. Your individuality will merge with the Unity of God. In your submergence into the common being of the Body you will find contentment and fulfillment. Note how 'merging' becomes 'submerging'. In Operation Annihilate, the Enterprise comes across a colonising army of one-cell creatures which are one creature. This is shown in the following - KIRK: This may be one cell in a larger organism, an incredibly huge organism in fact. SPOCK: And although it is not physically connected to the other cells it is, nevertheless, part of the whole creature, guided by the whole, drawing its strength from the whole. In both episodes the use of the words 'whole' and 'Body' are synonymous with each other. In both cases they are saying the same thing, in totally different ways. There is one thing, however, that I find most frightening in this episode is its remarkable resemblance to the present crisis in Afghanistan, with the 'flying pancakes' as the Russian army and the 'Denevans' as the race under the power. Hey, Gene - why don't you tell Jimmy? Well, I hope that was thought-provoking. If so I would like to hear from you - David Roylance, 42 Bonaly Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0ET.

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STAR TREK - AN IDEAL

I would like to reply to Anne Walton's letter in N/L 38 when she says that Star Trek, like Communism, is merely an ideal and can never be fact. Well, I must be a supreme idealist, in being both a Trekker and a Communist!

Anne gives two reasons why these ideals will never come about.

Firstly, she says that human nature is against it. I agree some people are very greedy, but would say that some people are very unselfish - most of us, I would suggest, are somewhere in the middle. The fundamental problem is whether 'human nature' (as greedy, grasping, intolerant, etc.) is part of our very being or, as I believe, conditioned by the environment in which we live. There are numerous examples of daily self-sacrifice by ordinary people, despite the system, and many examples from history to show people responding to co-operation rather than competition. For example, intelligence tests on children are a relatively new idea and generally lead to 'showing off' etc, but they ran into trouble when they tried to test Hopi Indian children who refused to answer the questions - unless they answered together. To them, and other Indian tribes, it was 'human nature' that you didn't shame or humiliate some people in the group by proving yourself superior.

If the idea of a system is to make a fortune for a few, then the 'virtues' of that society will be competition, 'to hell with your neighbour', 'look after number one' etc. And I don't exclude so-called Communist countries like Russia from that - their terminology of 'success' may be different but the basics are the same.

So, all I'm suggesting in answer is that 'It is illogical to assume all conditions remain constant'. There is nothing fixed about human nature. It has changed in the past and, given the right conditions, can change again. It can not happen overnight but I believe that if a society based on caring and sharing - people, not profit - can be established, and can survive a probably very difficult first generation, then attitudes will slowly change.

Secondly, Anne says that we do not have the resources to reach such a goal. Yes, an eighth of the world's population can hardly move because of hunger - yet, if the arable land of our world was cultivated as efficiently as farms in Holland, the planet would feed 67 billion people, 17 times as many people as are now alive (US Agency for Industrial Development, 1974). Why does the Common Market pay farmers to sell their produce into storage (butter, beef, cheese mountains) or US farmers plough wheat back into the ground?

The 1971 census showed 675,880 empty houses in Britain, enough for all the homeless - 300,000 of these being the 2nd, 3rd, 4th or even 5th houses of the rich. Why was more money spent in the USA on the promotion of a new moist lavatory paper than is needed to provide every peasant in South America with the means to provide food for the hungry around him?

The short answer is profits. It is not that we are living beyond our means but that we're not making full use of those means.

In a final comment Anne says that without the bad to feed the good we would stagnate. Yes, mankind needs obstacles and they will be there in organising our world to fight together against hunger, homelessness, illiteracy, illness - enough to keep us occupied for a while! And that is without the hoped-for explosion in artistic appreciation, quests for scientific knowledge and, of course, that famous 'final frontier'.

Obviously, for me, there are connections between these two interests of mine. However, as a rule, I do not allow either interest to infringe on the other in my activities, and I hope STAG members will not think I am abusing my privilege as a STAG member by writing this sort of 'political' letter - only one in five years isn't too often, I hope!

David Coote

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I'd like to make one point on David's article. It seems to me that what he is talking about at the start is not human nature but human manners, which can and do alter greatly from place to place and throughout history. Children - very young children - are basically selfish, and have to be taught unselfishness; selfishness is, I believe, a survival characteristic in any animal species and we have not yet evolved past that stage.

Would anyone care to debate this? Sheila.

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FICTION SECTION

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY... by Margaret Richardson

The small boy walked through the garden of his home, his eyes alert as he searched. He was almost sure this was the spot his mother had told him about. That is, almost sure. Maybe the bush had died, or had been moved... Yet she had said "at the bottom of the garden." It should still be there. After an ineffective search, he was beginning to suspect that the tale had just been a ploy to get him out of the house. She was up to something. And at that moment, his desire to find out what was even greater than the desire to find the fictitious bush. His curiosity had been aroused, and when that happened, nothing could stop him...

He crept up to the back of the house and stood peering through the French windows. The room was dark and there was no movement within. Just then, a hand came down on his shoulder and he jumped slightly.

Amanda looked down at her son and shook her head. "Really, Spock, Vulcans are not supposed to peep through windows or keyholes. They respect other people's privacy. Is that understood?"

"Yes, Mother. But I do not peep through keyholes."

"Well, I should hope not." Amanda indicated that Spock should follow her. They entered the house and went through to the dining room. His eyes widened as he looked around. So this was what his mother had been up to. And why she had wanted him out of the way. It was just as well his father wasn't here. He would not have approved of her giving a birthday party with all the trimmings...

"Happy birthday, Spock."

"Thank you, Mother."

"Do you like it, Spock?"

"Like what?"

"Why, the room, of course. I went to a lot of trouble to get all the balloons, streamers, and even the icing for the cake. Do you like it?"

"Oh. Yes, Mother... Does Father know?"

"Well...no. But I'm sure he wouldn't mind, not really."

Spock wasn't so sure. He had never had a birthday party before. Well, not this kind of party, anyway. Of course, his birthday was an important event. And he received presents from family and friends. Gifts which signified his maturity, intelligence, grade of training...

He had not, as yet, received a gift from his mother. Was this to be it? If it was, it was something of a disappointment. He had rather hoped for a book on mathematical equations..

Amanda placed a paper hat on Spock's head, careful not to cover the two small delicately pointed ears. Then she led him to a chair. On the table in front of him was a small round cake with lighted candles on the top.

Spock looked at the flickering flames. And thought, not for the first time, how illogical Humans really were...

"Now, Spock, blow out the candles and make a wish."

"What is a wish, Mother?"

"A wish... Well, it's something you would like to do or to know or to have. Like... 'I wish it would snow', or - "

"What's snow, Mother?"

Amanda looked down at her son and sighed. "It doesn't matter, Spock. Just blow out the candles and wish. I'm sure you can do it if you try."

"Yes, Mother." He blew on the candles. "Now what?"

"Now, Spock, we eat the cake." She picked up a knife and began to cut. "By the way, what did you wish for?"

"Oh, I wished that I would find the gooseberry bush at the bottom of the garden, the one you said you found me under. I'm sure the experience would have been fascinating."

One small eyebrow was raised as his mother looked heavenwards and asked someone called God to give her strength. Yes, Humans were most illogical. Most illogical indeed...

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GENTLE PERSUASION? by Kelly Mitchell

REACTIVATION CLAUSE MY EYE!!

I've retired, dammit!

I'm through with all that beaming around - picking up the pieces - trying to stop my nerves climbing the walls when you get yourself hurt, and I couldn't be sure you'd pull through.

It's been a long time - so many changes. New techniques - equipment... Chapel's an M.D. now, I hear.

What's the delay?.....A problem with the Enterprise Transporters?..... Maybe things haven't changed that much after all!

The mission's hush hush, they tell me - some sort of Danger from Space.

Dammit! I'm too old for this sort of thing - everything looks different - changed...but no - not quite everything...

Suddenly you're there telling me you need me and smiling the unique smile that I've missed so much.

So - what am I doing here, Captain, Sir?

"THIS WAS YOUR IDEA - WASN'T IT??"

(The above was Kelly's entry for the last N/L competition)

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FEELINGS by Helen Baldwin

How dared they compare him to one of those...things? Not one word was spoken in his defense, but oh, yes, they were ready to act when a machine was slighted. If the word had not got back to him, he might never have known that it had been a Klingon that had uttered those hurtful words on Station K-7, the words which had struck him to the heart.

He thought of the creature to which he had been compared - its smooth, hairless body, its protruding digits, groping and grasping, those disgusting facial orifices. He shuddered as he sank further into the comforting ooze and slime that was his home on the world of Deneb IV, revolting at the thought of being associated with the creature Man. After all, didn't they know that Denebian Slime Devils have feelings too?

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A PART OF ME by Ann Flegg

I was alone before we met;
So much emptiness in my life -
Before you became
A part of me.

I was waiting for this moment.
No more alone shall I be;
You are here -
A part of me.

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And so we come to the end of another newsletter. Peace and prosperity to you all. Janet, Sheila, Beth, Sylvia, Valerie.

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PHOTOS

These cost 35p for a 3 x 5½ enprint or 36p for a duplicate slide. Postage rates - up to 20 prints or slides, 10p or 12p; 21 - 32, 13½p or 17p; over 33, 16½p or 22p. Europe - as U.K. + postage - up to 14, 25p, 15 - 30, 33p, over 30, 65p. USA, 95c each (inc. airmail postage). Australia, 35p each + postage, 17½p for first 3 and 11½p for each 3 thereafter. Please remember to enclose SAE to the appropriate value (foreign, addressed envelope and include postage with your cheque).

We only get enough photos printed to cover the order, which goes in after the closing date for orders to reach us. Late orders will be filled as copy prints. Orders should reach Sheila by October 31st. If you send your order second class, please allow at least two weeks for it to reach us to make sure it arrives in time.

The photos from Miri have not yet been sent out - so far only about half of them have been printed (we don't know the reason for the delay), two of these were printed in reverse and one was printed unacceptably smaller than enprint, while two were filled short - all these have had to go back for correction. We'll send them out as soon as possible. Next time we're offering Arena and shots of Scotty, Sulu and Chekov.

Patterns of Force

- 52/P1 Kirk, Spock, McCoy walking down corridor, Nazi uniform.
- 52/P2 SS officer questioning Kirk stripped to waist. Almost waist length.
- 52/P3 Spock, stripped, H/S.
- 52/P4 Spock lying in wait for guard, Kirk (back view) in cell calling 'I'll talk!'
- 52/P5 Spock almost waist length beside lamp adjusting the bent wire.
- 52/P6 Kirk, Spock waist length laughing in cell. Clapperboard in front.
- 52/P7 Spock at interrogation, guard behind. H/S.
- 52/9 McCoy, Kirk in nazi uniform while McCoy examines Gill (out of shot).
- 52/10 Kirk H/S, stripped to waist; Spock's knees showing resting on his back.
- 52/11 Spock in nazi uniform H/S.
- 52/17 General view while Spock melds with Gill.
- 52/23 Kirk digging transponder out of Spock's arm. Waist length.
- 52/28 Kirk H/S in nazi uniform in underground chamber.
- 52/32 Kirk standing at Spock's shoulder H/S just before Spock removes his helmet.
- 52/43 Kirk, Spock, McCoy, H/S, listening to Gill's speech.
- 52/46 Long shot, Kirk, Spock Izak at laboratory door, Nazi officer just moving out of shot.
- 52/52 Scene in broadcasting room, earlier than 17 - McCoy, Spock, Kirk looking at Gill.
- 52/55 Spock, McCoy standing at Spock's station, Kirk in well of bridge, Gill on screen.
- 52/57 General view of corridor as Kirk unlocks broadcasting room door. McCoy, Izak hauling nazi out of sight, Daras, Kirk, Spock.
- 52/61 Kirk, Spock in cell, stripped to waist. Both standing.
- 52/64 Spock standing beside Daras in underground chamber at end of 'test'.
- 52/65 As 61, Kirk sitting, Spock standing, Izak showing in b/g.
- 52/66 General shot in broadcasting room, Kirk holding Gill's shoulders, looking at Spock.
- 52/68 As 65, Kirk looking round at Izak.
- 52/69 Similar to 61, Kirk bending forward.
- 52/81 Spock, SS officer, Kirk looking round, during interrogation. Threequarter length.
- 52/82 Continuation of P5, ray of light showing. Pale shot.
- 52/83 As 81, Kirk now looking forward.
- 52/84 Shot between P5 and 82 - Spock holding wire to lamp but beam not showing.
- 52/85 Kirk, Spock crouched looking at each other after breaking out of cell. H/S.
- 52/89 McCoy, Kirk, nazi uniform, H/S.
- 52/90 As 32; Spock has removed his helmet.

Uhura, Chapel.

- 4558 Uhura, threequarter face, H/S at station.
- 4566 Uhura, H/S, almost full face.
- 4750 Uhura H/Sat station, McCoy standing behind.
- 5935 Uhura H/S at station, looking round (shoulders profile, face full.)
- 8231 Uhura standing beside Spock at his station, Kirk in b/g (now identified as Immunity Syndrome)
- 8232 Uhura sitting at station, Spock bending over it. Waist length. Syndrome)
- 9042 Uhura at station full length behind Kirk in command chair. Quite close shot.
- 9369 Uhura at station looking round. Waist length.
- 9446 Uhura standing at station, Spock behind her. (now identified as Immunity Syndrome)
- 9447 Uhura standing at station, McCoy standing beside her.
- 9475 Uhura sitting at station, full face, H/S.
- 9476 As above, Uhura now looking round.
- 6719 McCoy and Chapel, smiling.
- 8080 Spock, McCoy and Chapel in lab.+++++

SALES LIST

October 1980

This supercedes all previous sales lists.

Orders should be sent to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland. Cheques/POs should be made payable to STAG. It would help greatly if a self-addressed label, preferably sticky, were enclosed with each order. (On large orders, one label for every 2 - 3 zines). Please remember to print your full name and address on your order as well. This helps us to check if something goes missing in transit.

Foreign rates - Europe and surface to all countries, £1.50 (U.S. \$3.50) per zine. Airmail \$5.50 (£2.50) each unless otherwise stated; Australia, £2.75 per zine (Variations 1, £2.25) If you pay by dollar cheque or money order, please add \$1.00 per total order to cover bank charges. Anyone paying cash, paper money only, please - our bank does not accept coins. Airmail takes up to 2 weeks; surface takes 2 - 3 months. All prices include postage and packing.

- Log Entries 28, 29, 32, 33 £1 each
- Log Entries 34, 35 £1.10 each
- Log Entries 36 £1.10 each
- (Stories by Lesley Bryan, Meg Wright, Christine Leeson, Gladys Oliver, C.E. Hall; poems by Gladys Oliver, Gillian Catchpole, Susan Meek.)
- Log Entries 37 £1.10 each
- (Stories by Jenny Watson, Ian Pearse, Lesley Coles, Ann Preece, Susan Meek; poems by Susan Meek.)

Log Entries is a genzine; we print stories in an action-adventure setting, with a bias towards stories that show the friendship and understanding that exist between the characters.

Variations on a Theme 1 by Sheila Clark and Valerie Piacentini 80p \$4.00 air (£2) Reprint. An alternative universe story. A Spock whose Kirk has died \$2.50 surface(1.25) searches the other universes for a replacement Kirk. He finds one whose Spock is a sadistic bully who uses Kirk sexually as a target for his cruelty and sets out to rescue him.

Variations on a Theme 2 by Sheila Clark and Valerie Piacentini £1.15 each Reprint. The crew of the Enterprise has accepted Spock without question, but other problems arise when Spock has to go 'home' to visit his family.

Variations on a Theme 3 by Sheila Clark and Valerie Piacentini £1.15 each Reprint. The problems multiply. Spock must marry, but a wife will detect his imposture immediately.

Variations on a Theme 4 by Sheila Clark and Valerie Piacentini £1.25 \$6.00 air Reprint. When Spock disappears, the circumstances are such that only Kirk can go in search of his missing friend, even although he has been left in command of the Enterprise.

Variations 1 - 3 will only be available to those who state that they are over 18.

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Repeat Missions 1, 2 & 4 £1.00 each Stories reprinted from O/P Log Entries and one-off anthologies of ST stories.

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Prints of Barry Willmott's drawing of the Enterprise
Prints of Barry Willmott's drawing of Admiral Kirk (H/S) from LE 31 } 20p each/
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