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STAR TREK ACTION GROUP.

NEWSLETTER 13.
MEMBER OF ABSTC.

Welcome everyone!

Firstly, welcome to our new members! We hope you will enjoy being in STAG. The club was 2 years old at the beginning of June, and from a small nucleus of 40 dedicated members, has grown to 400...yet another example of the fact that Star Trek Lives! Thanks to you all for supporting us for so long.

It's been quite a hectic few months...hence this newsletter being late, for which we apologise. There was our annual mini-con in March, and since then we have been busy with the coming Convention. As this will be our last, we hope everyone will support us and make it into a great success, especially for our charity this year, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Even if you can't attend, please support us with a non-attending membership. It's all in a good cause! Wouldn't it be nice if we could raise enough money to buy a dog?

In May, five of us went to Sunny California...to beautiful Los Angeles, and San Diego (where Equicon was held.) A full report is in this newsletter. We had a marvellous time, and met so many friends, old and new. Alan White gave us the time of our lives, much to the disgust of his poor, hardworked little car! George Takei and Jimmy Doohan also helped to make our stay memorable. At this point, we'd like to congratulate Jim and his wife Wende on becoming prospective Mum and Dad. We'll be able to give our best wishes to them both in person at the Convention.

The Star Trek movie moves on apace, and shooting should begin about January/February next year. Gene Roddenberry has said that, with so much more room for scope, many hitherto unanswered questions (How the crew were picked, what life on Earth is like etc) will be answered. George also said that Sulu will at last be given a first name! There have been strange rumours that Robert Redford will play Spock...the rumours coming from people in a responsible position who should know better (or not print them at all.) Anyway, truth is that Robert Redford will NOT play Spock!

You may be interested in a letter received today concerning a record which was released on June 27th by PYE RECORDS called 'The Theme from STAR TREK' by Warp Nine, a 45 rpm electronically synthesised. So, request it on TV and radio shows, and ask for it in your record shops NOW.

Also on the subject of merchandise, STAG HQ have been worried for some months by the non-appearance of the models some of you ordered at last year's convention. This is not our fault, but failure of the supplier to deliver the goods. We hope you can help us retrieve these goods by writing to; Dave Lillard, STREK Enterprises, P.O. Box 68, Detroit, Michigan 48223, USA. Thank you.

Well, that's about it for now folks! Enjoy the newsletter, then look forward to the Convention. It isn't all that far off now!

Peace and Long Life!

Jenny.

STAR TREK NEWS.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM GENE RODDENBERRY:

Dear Friends,

The initial reaction of our friends and fans of STAR TREK to the movie have been overwhelming and sincerely heartwarming...All of us here appreciate this support and there are a few things about our planned production you may find interesting.

In May, we moved into our offices at Paramount Studios. Coincidentally, they offered us the same suite of offices we occupied during the making of the original Star Trek. While grander offices might have been obtained, sentiment and a bit of superstition made the old ones seem right. It is good to return here after so many years, and I must admit that it does feel that we're home.

The script is progressing, and is about half way through the first draft. I am hoping to complete this rough draft within a month or so. A beginning date depends, of course, on Paramount's attitude towards the script, the availability of the right director, and many other things. We plan to do a good deal more with our script than we were able to do for television. Some of you may find the theme of our story quite controversial. We also plan to show a bit of our conception of Earth, something never revealed on the TV series.

Some of you have probably heard rumours that Robert Redford is playing everything from Spock to Nurse Chapel! One local TV station even announced that he had been signed to play Spock! I would like to dispel all of these rumours. The script is being written to include EVERY member of the cast, AND WE PLAN TO USE AS MANY OF THE ORIGINAL TELEVISION CAST AND STAFF AS ARE AVAILABLE. Hopefully, this includes all of them. Although William Shatner will have his own TV series by then, it is fortunately a Paramount series, and Paramount can no doubt make him available. As regards Shatner's attitude towards the movie, when asked at a Convention in Michigan State University in May whether or not he would play Captain Kirk, he replied: "I AM the Captain!"

A number of members of the original Star Trek crew have already indicated their eagerness to be involved with the production. Matt Jeffries, Art Director; William Theiss, Costume designer; Jim Rugg, special effects, and Fred Phillips, make-up, all of whom plan to lend their talents to make this a film we hope you will find entertaining and thought provoking.

Again, thank you for your support in making STAR TREK live!
GENE RODDENBERRY.

CAN YOU HELP GEORGE? George Takei has done so much for STAR TREK. Now, we have a chance of helping him. The American best selling novel, "Fear of Flying" is being made into a movie, and George wants to play the part of Bennet Wing. Please write to Columbia, suggesting this to them. One letter from each of you will help influence their decision. The address: PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, JULIA PHILLIPS, COLUMBIA PICTURES, 300, SOUTH COLGEMS SQUARE, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.

SHATNER FANS! JOIN WILLIAM SHATNER ENTERPRISES. Write Chris Jones, 222, Manchester Road, Heaton Norris, Stockport Cheshire. Please enclose SAE.

YOUR CONVENTION QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Q. How can I register for the Convention? Can non-STAG members go too?

A. Send a SAE to STAG HQ, and they will send you a convention form. You don't have to be a STAG member to come to the Convention. It is open to everyone.

Q. How do I book the hotel? How much will it cost me?

A. On registration you will receive a hotel booking form. Fill it in and send it to the hotel. Prices are: Single room £4.75 + VAT. Double room (Not per person.) £6.75 + VAT.) Both prices include continental breakfast.

Q. Where can we eat?

A. There are restaurants, cafes and coffee shops within the hotel complex, and plenty of cheap places (Whimpy, Fish and Chips etc) nearby.

Q. What time does the convention start and finish?

A. The Convention begins at 10.30 am Saturday and ends 6.30 pm Sunday. (Appx.)

Q. Who are the confirmed Convention guests? Will I be able to speak to them?

A. Confirmed guests are: James Doohan, George Takei & Walter Koenig. You will have ample opportunity to speak to them all. There are scheduled autograph/photographic sessions, fan club meetings for members, (eg MOSATO's JDIFC) and Star Trek club meetings, which will include the presence of honorary members. Of course, there is also the Disco/Shore Leave party, to which everyone is invited too.

Q. I am only 14 years old. My mother says I can't go unless I have someone with me. Can you help?

A. Mrs Averil Lansdell of 30, Woodbines Avenue, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey has kindly offered to act as escort from London. Please write to her, enclosing SAE.

Q. I have an idea for an interesting fancy dress. Can I bring it?

A. When you register you will receive a form for the fancy dress. Please bring it, everything is of interest. This also applies to models, stories, artwork etc.

Q. What sort of films will you be showing?

A. We have a Science Fiction movie; Hopefully, we will be able to show "Baffled" starring Leonard Nimoy,, and we now seem to be having AT LAST co-operation from Paramount over the Star Trek episodes too, thanks to Mr Lou Mindling.

Q. Can I meet the stars at Heathrow?

A. We're sorry, but no. For one thing, they won't be arriving at the same airports at the same times. For another, they will have been travelling for 15 hours, and like you, actors get very tired too.

Q. We've heard that this will be the last Convention. Is this true?

A. This will be OUR last Convention, but hopefully not THE last one. We feel that it is now only fair to back down and enable other clubs to take on this task; So, if you do want another Star Trek Convention, write to them and show your interest.

HOLIDAY IN LOS ANGELES.

Five of us, (Johanna & Jimmy Butler, Chris Jones and Jenny & Terry Elson arrived at Los Angeles airport at 12.30 at night, to be met by Alan white (One of STAG's members), and his friend Rick, who took us to our motel in Beverley Boulevard. There, we dropped exhausted into bed, and it was morning before we woke, still suffering slightly from the effects of Jet Lag.

As he'd arranged, we telephoned George Takei that morning. He wasn't in, ... a very usual phenomenon with George, but he'd left a number where we could contact him at the Rapid Transit District, where he was in a board meeting. Soon, we were having a lovely old natter with him. It was really great to be talking to him again after eight months of having to correspond by letter and postcard. That night, he had to go to San Diego for a TV programme, but promised to be back next day, to show us the sights of Los Angeles.

We met George in China town, where he hugged and kissed Jo and I like we'd not met for years... then promptly demanded to do it all over again! Afterwards, when we'd all managed to catch our breath, we had lunch at General Lee's Chinese Restaurant, (And took ages over it because George insisted we eat with chopsticks.) When he introduced us to the management as "His English Friends" we soon were presented with a complimentary bowl of fruit. We then were taken on a George-type tour of downtown Los Angeles... at a trot, as he can't walk at a normal pace! At the old Mexican quarter, he tried to persuade us to tuck into Burritos and Taco's, but we'd had such a lot to eat for lunch we couldn't even manage half a burrito! ("Well, never mind," said the irrepressible George. "We'll have something later instead.") Amongst other things, we visited the Music Centre, where the Oscars are presented, the City Hall, which George is very proud of, and a charming little fire station, which is now a museum. Preserved in entirety upstairs there was also a bar and a bordello... unused now, I hasten to add! I won't tell you what George said when he saw the very small bedroom! Afterwards, exhausted by George's pace, we went into a restaurant called "Curtain Call" opposite the music centre for sherberts, and then we had to say goodbye to him, at least for the present.

Next day we travelled down by train to San Diego for Equicon. Boy, are American trains s-l-o-w! The Hotel Cortez, where the Con was being held said they hadn't got our reservations, (They had, we discovered later,) and rather than go to the overflow hotel, which was a bus ride away (The buses stopping at 9.20pm) we found our own, which turned out to be cheaper..and nicer..than the expensive El Cortez. (21 dollars a night, and that didn't include breakfast!) After we'd settled in our hotel, we went back to the El Cortez to register, and stood an hour in the queue before we got our badges and programmes, where we discovered that we'd been conned anyway. Far from being a Star Trek Convention, it was mostly Science Fiction, which interested none of us.

Coming out of the registration room, who should we happen to bump into but George, who somehow managed to whisk us up in the elevator to a party we shouldn't have been at. However, no-one seemed to mind. We were able to say hallo to Dorothy Fontana, (She'd come with us on our trip to Coombe Abbey after the Con last September, and it was nice meeting her again.) Jo pointed out Walter Koenig, and as soon as he was free, we went and made ourselves known to him, as he'd asked us too. He seemed a bit shy at first... probably mesmerised by our "funny" accents! He introduced his wife, Judy, who will be coming with him to England in September, and also pointed in the vague direction of his two small children too. We also managed to say Hi to William Campbell. Meanwhile, George was doing his own thing

with a bottle of beer and several ladies. As soon as he spied Jo and I, he invited us to join him, and insisted that we have our photos taken with him by a press woman who was there. We had meant to go right then, but everytime we tried, we were drawn into yet another Voluptuous conversation with George and his companions, so we were late going home that night..accompanied by Alan, as San Diego is not a place to go wandering about in at night!

There were only two reasons why we bothered to go to the Con next day...to see Jimmy Doohan and to listen to the Star Trek Panel. There were queues everywhere...people waiting for registration!Must have taken some of them literally hours.So, we decided to "Camp out" in the convention hall.There were six-thousand people at the convention;the main convention hall held just one sixth of those people!Despite the fact they had all paid 10-15 dollars each,many of them must have still been denied even standing room in that place! We got there 1½ hours early,and we were several rows back.

James Doohan,George Takei,Walter Koenig and Nichelle Nicholls were on the panel.People asked the same questions over and over again.One boy even insisted that George hadn't been at last year's Equicon,whilst George kept insisting that he had.People seemed to have little regard for the actors feelings too.Three times, Walter was asked "What movies have you been in since Star Trek?" when Walter had already made it clear that he had not been in any movie.We were all squirming in our seats,longing for the end of the "Interrogation."One piece of information:Chekov WILL be in the new movie;ENSIGN Chekov will not.(Work it out!)

After the panel came an autograph session,and this seemed to be the best time to make our presence known to Jimmy Doohan.(He'd been trying to locate us all morning!)A guard...and they were all armed...shouted a gruff "Stand back!" but Jim had already seen Terry and I,held out his hand,and hugged and kissed me in front of guard and all.He whispered his room number to Terry,and asked us all to meet him there in an hour.

We knew Jim's room...it was the one with Jim hanging out the window waving like mad to us.We spent a marvellous hour with him,over cokes and scotches, talking about everything under the sun,from his coming baby and his granddaughter to the fact that Wende had not understood my accent when I'd telephoned her!

That evening we had dinner with Jim and the daughter of a work-friend of his.(She couldn't understand us either!)We had a marvellous time,and afterwards went back to his room where he opened his presents from England.

We didn't bother to go to the con next day,preferring to sight-see in San Diego and have our first dip in the Pacific.We went to the ElCortez that evening, however, to say goodbye to Walter and Jim, and to make arrangements for George to phone us after his return from Europe.We had to wait outside the so-called "Banquet" until it had finished.From the grumbles of other people,we're glad we saved our ten dollars.Jim came out first, and we managed to get through the crush to give him a last hug before September.Then we saw Walter coming towards us.We gave him two books about Leicester,and we stood chatting for some time before he was whisked away.Then George's happy grin appeared,and we followed him onto the patio where he was signing autographs."Don't crowd him!" Came the inevitable cry, so George promptly gabbed Jo and I and gave us big kisses.We then sat back to wait for him, and had a lovely natter with our friends, old and new.Then,George drew us into yet another Voluptuous conversation before making arrangements to telephone us.

Next day we went to the dealers room to buy a few things for STAG.Most of the stuff for sale was neither original or particularly Star Trek....Monster Comics, Sci Fi material,even Wargame models!Only Star Trek Welcommittee had tables on the

club scene. Therefore, no decent zines or trivia. We did see David Gerrold, however, who we spoke briefly to. (He'd written us a letter a few days previously) and he autographed ten of his books for us.

Then it was back to wonderful Los Angeles again, where Alan gave us such a marvellous time. We visited Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Marineland, Movieland Wax Museum (Where the Enterprise Bridge is situated. Jo and I had our photos taken with Spock.) Museum of Living Art, Little Tokyo, China Town, Downtown LA and much more. On the Friday we went to someone's house to see Star Trek episodes, including "Empath," which is a lovely episode. Heavens knows why it's banned over here! And on the Monday, we were treated to a bonus. Wanting to fix licences, we drove over to Paramount, to speak to Mr Lou Mindling. They do not allow visitors at Paramount, and the guard refused to let us in, so we spoke to Mr Mindling on the telephone, and as soon as he realised who we were, he walked over to the gate, and told us he was taking us on a personal tour of the studios. That was great! We saw, amongst other things, the set of the Barbary Coast (Starring William Shatner,) the sound stages where Star Trek was made, and all the props for "Little House on the Prairie."

George was really tired when he telephoned, having been travelling for 15 hours, but George tired is almost normal pace for everyone else! He told us about his trip to Europe, and said how sorry he was to have missed everyone at Heathrow. He even invited us to a board meeting of the L.A. Rapid Transit District next day, (He's a director,) but unfortunately, we were due to fly home. So we told him where he could pick up a "Wanted for Streaking" Poster... and before anyone gets on their high horse about "the way we treat the actors," I would like to point out that George is a friend, and he enjoyed that private joke as much as we did. Bless his tootsies, he really was nearly dead on feet by this time, so we ordered him off to a shower and a well deserved rest. Roll on September!

Our holiday was at an end, and despite of Equicon, which we could have well done without except for the meeting with Jimmy, Walter and all our friends, we had a holiday of our lives.... And you know what? We loved L.A. so much that next year we'll be back, but in September, so there'll be no Equicon to mar our satisfaction.

*HELEN MCCARTHY OUR ART SECRETARY HAS CHANGED HER ADDRESS. It is now it is: 96a, Fonthill Road, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HT.

Helen writes about the recent poster competition: "Although the number of entries were small the standard was high and left me feeling proud to know so many talented people. The overall winner was JACKIE DUNHAM whose beautiful black and white poster incorporated almost everything that springs to mind when one says "Star Trek." Well done Jackie! Jackie wins a special nude poster of George Takei as Lt. Sulu."

JOIN HOSATO!

HOSATO is the official fan club of GEORGE TAKEI. (HOSATO is his Japanese name.) There is much of interest in the regular newsletters, the yearbook and the Welcome book. George is very interested in his club at a personal level. He answers all members questions, and he's shortly to publish some of his poems in the Newsletter. Dues £1.50 per year. Write Mrs Johanna Butler, 46, Drayton Road, Milton Keynes, Bletchly Bucks, or Jenny Elson, STAG HQ address! HOSATO is Voluptuous! Join NOW.

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS.

NIKKI WHITE:

Why doesn't some record company bring out a proper Star Trek L.P.? After all, there was quite a bit of music, most of it original..enough, I'm sure, for two sides of an LP. For best results, the music should come direct from the soundtrack, or else be re-created as near to the original as possible. Here are suggestions:

STAR TREK MAIN THEME.

CHARLIE IS OUR NEW DARLING. (Uhura's version.)

BEYOND ANTARES.

SONATA K.159 - DOMENICO SCARLATTI. (From Squire of Gothos.)

ROSES FROM THE SOUTH.

GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART.

TANIA'S DANCE MUSIC. (From Wolf in the Fold.)

PSEUDO BRAHMS WALTZ. (From Requiem for Methuzelah.)

MAIDEN WINE.

THREE SONGS FROM "Way to Eden."

Hasn't Kirk got the most rotten luck when it comes to girlfriends? On the one hand, out of the 21 or so he had, quite a number died on him (which might reflect on the man) or suffered some sort of trauma as a result of making his acquaintance. On the other hand, he keeps running into old flames all over the galaxy, sometimes with unfortunate results for him. How embarrassing! All that space, and he still can't get away from his past!

MARIAN DOUGALL ASKS... "HOW HUMAN ARE WE?"

I am getting a little tired by some of our attitudes lately..or am I imagining things? What kind of fans are we turning into? We believe in Peace & Brotherhood; some of us may have pillow-fantasies about the Star Trek characters, or the actors playing them, but do we play fair to the actors concerned?

When Leonard Nimoy takes off his ears and goes home, he is, as someone once put it, a different person...A human being with all our rights and privileges, including that of personal privacy. I do not feel that even the most devoted fan has a right to intrude on that, either physically, like hugging him in the street, or mentally, by allowing him to be persecuted by strangers.

If the actors share our dream, we are lucky..but we are still strangers to them, however well we know the parts they play. Isn't it possible for us to accept the fact that they are not our slaves, but part owners of the Human Race, and treat them as we would any other human being? Or are we turning back on men the old taunt of the sex-symbol and making them objects of affection rather than our equals and our partners?

If you have anything of interest to say, please put your thoughts on paper, and send them to MISS JENNY HARDING, 221, WIGSTON ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTER.

CLIPS WANTED! SPOCK PREFERRED BUT WILL TAKE ANY CHARACTER, SCENE OR EPISODE. Write with details of price etc to HELEN SNEDDON, 12, BROOMVALE DRIVE, NEWTON MEARNS, GLASGOW G77 5HN, SCOTLAND.

ROSEMARY CHIVERS of LAWN COTTAGE, CURLOAD, STOKE ST GREGORY, TAUNTON SOMERSET has photos of Leonard Nimoy, William Shatner, James Doohan & DeForest Kelley for sale. Write enclosing SAE. She also wants anything on Edward Woodward.

VULCAN JARGON EXPLAINED. BY ROBIN HILL.

Ever marvelled at Spock's use of the English language? Ever understood it? No? Well, you can't be brilliant all the time. For the benefit of those who don't possess a doctorate in linguistic comprehension, I propose to elucidate on the intricacies of the mode of vocal communication of the biochemical sapient life-form that is Spock the Vulcan. In other words, stick with me, folks, and you'll get all the gen on what Spock is ACTUALLY saying. So, to start with something easy;

Spock to Kirk: "Preliminary assessment of information retrieval systems indicates a distinct possibility that the mechanical integrity of the device is subject to an, as yet undetermined, malfunction...."

Means:

"I think something's busted."

Or: "My olfactory biosensory inputs are being efficaciously stimulated by what appears to be a concoctation of multiple organic amino acids conglomerates combined according to the dictates of culinary custom native to my paternal forbears planetary system of origin..."

Means:

"Yum, I smell Plomik soup!"

Or: "Typical post somnambulatory intake of basic comestibles consists of a beverage manufactured from the seed pod of a sub tropical species of flora, having been dessicated by the diurnal solar radiation, partially incinerated by the utilization of the ohmic law relating to the flow of electrical energy through a conductor, disassociation employing a crude electro-mechanical apparatus and finally hydration at elevated temperature in a suitable domestic appliance."

Means:

"People usually drink tea or coffee for breakfast. With milk and sugar."

See what I mean? Trouble is, Spock isn't the only one who uses such precise language. OK, it is long winded, but it is accurate. If you can follow it, there can be no misinterpretation of what it means. That's why legal documents are long winded, even if you have to have a lawyer to interpret.

The above is fiction (I hope.) It is correct in scientific terms, but the thing about that is it gets out of hand. The prime example is the instructions given to Appollo astronauts; "Assist deployment with Lunar Boot," which means, "If it won't go, give it a kick!"

So, when you find yourself stranded the next time Spock is speaking, give a thought to us scientists. Len Nimoy can switch off after he's played Spock. We have to live with it!

TELEPHONING STAG HQ. While Terry and Jenny are very pleased to talk to STAG members on the telephone, and enjoy a little natter with everyone, they would respectfully like to point out that, like most other mortals, they do both put in a full days work before coming home to look after STAG and HOSATO. Therefore, they request that telephone calls could be confined to a period after 7.30 pm, to enable them to eat, wash up, do the washing, feed the Pooh and have a little read of the evening paper. Thankyou.

BEYOND ANTARES. A CLUB FOR EVERY STAR TREK FAN. Write Sheila Hull, 35, Merley Way, Wimbourne Dorset. Please enclose SAE.

STERB. THE FUN CLUB FOR TREKKIES. John Hind, 14, Bingham Road, Radcliffe On trent, Notts. Please enclose SAE.