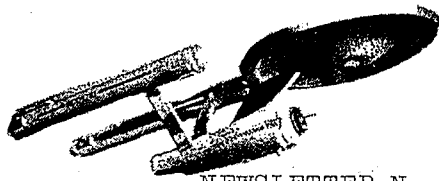


Star Trek Action Group



NEWSLETTER No. 15

COMMITTEE

President; Janet Quanton, c/o Mr. Woodhouse, Sutton Hill Farm, Blandford, Dorset.

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

Editor; Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee.

Art Editor; Helen McCarthy, 96A, Fonthill Rd, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HT

Honorary members; Gene Roddenberry, Jim Doohan, George Takei.

Hello there; my name's Beth Hallam, I'm the 'fat' one that played the 'male', that's right, the male Tellarite in the fashion show. As Janet told you in the last newsletter, I entered S.T.A.G. committee as 'general dogsbody'. And haven't I lived up to that title! If anyone wants anything done, particularly anything unpleasant or messy - they say 'phone Beth, she'll do it!' It's all a foul plot of Sheila Clark's!

Well; I suppose that's what I'm for! Who ran off 100 zines in a fortnight? I'll give you one guess; (I was turning that handle in my sleep, and black ink seems to get everywhere. Anyone with a method of removing it from inside a Swiss watch, please send in a plain envelope to....!) Who took on 'sales'? Right again! Who is writing this letter?

"Why." you ask, "is writing a letter to all you nice people an unpleasant task?" Well, of course, it isn't, except that I have to write about a difficult subject - money!

S.T.A.G. is a non-profit-making organisation, but we must have an income. This makes sense, because just running the club takes money, a fair amount of money. For example, at present prices it costs £50 to send out one newsletter. A newsletter is sent to you every two months. This means that to keep the club ticking over we must have an income of £50 every two months. That is £300 per annum. Doing that we raise nothing towards publishing zines or organising cons or minicons.

Owing to several factors, the present economic situation, the fact that the excellent 1975 con had to be subsidised from S.T.A.G. funds, the financial position of the club is giving room for concern. One of the greatest drains on our funds is the maintenance of Life membership.

Life members are unprofitable - we have to pay out for them, and get no regular income in return. Of course, when the Life membership was instituted it was never visualised that costs would rise so high, nor that S.T.A.G. would acquire such a large Life membership.

Now, the question arises, how can we deal with the problem? Firstly, no more Life memberships will be offered. The simplest way to settle the problem of existing Life members would be if those

of us who took out life membership and who have been members for a reasonable length of time, were to transfer our membership to annual subscription. To do this you should write to Janet, i.e.

Miss Janet Quarton,
c/o Mr. Woodhouse,
Sutton Hill Farm,
Blandford,
Dorset.

Enclose the amount for a year's subscription (£1.50) and tell Janet the date from which you wish your new membership to run. If enough Life members do this, S.T.A.G. will be able to continue as a viable proposition.

I am making this appeal on behalf of you and for you, that S.T.A.G. may survive to offer its members the services they want and need.

Yours sincerely,
Live long and prosper,
Beth.

One or two Life members have actually written in making this suggestion as well, and a couple have even transferred to annual membership already.

Hi, everyone. I won't bore you all with a long letter this time as Beth has covered most of what has to be said. I would just like to add that since 75% of our members have life membership as the moment, you can understand our difficulties.

Anyway, enough of the bad news. I've now got some good news for you all. A few weeks ago I wrote to Gene Roddenberry on your behalf and invited him to be an honorary member of S.T.A.G. I had a very nice letter back from his secretary, Susan Sackett, saying that Gene is involved with several deadlines at the moment but that he asked her to answer and say 'yes, of course. I'd be delighted.' So I'm sure you'll all want me to wish Gene Roddenberry a very warm welcome as an honorary member of S.T.A.G. I also sent Mr. Roddenberry a copy of our last newsletter and it seems that both he and Susan loved Robin Hill's satire on the film. So come on, Robin, let's have some more.

If your subscription runs out with this newsletter your renewal date will be on the front near your address. We will try to bring out the newsletters regularly every two months - end of December, February, April, June and October, so please renew by the middle of these months if you want to be sure of getting the next newsletter.

That's it for now, folks. I hope you all had a nice time over Christmas and let's hope we get plenty of "STAR TREK" in 1976.

Live long and prosper,
Janet.

Quote from Mr. Spock, viewing stars through viewer:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Aww shucks, it's just a satellite!

B. Wright.

Dear friends and Fellow Trekkies,

As you know, we have decided to hand over the running of S.T.A.G. into the capable care of Janet, Sheila, Beth and Helen. It was not a decision we made lightly, but after careful consideration, we made it for several reasons. The main one - and most important one - was that, after running S.T.A.G. for well over two years, it was time for a change. For without it, things become stale, and we did not want this to happen.

S.T.A.G. has come a long way since the early days when, along with the other thirty known STAR TREK fans in Great Britain we shared a dream; that dream came true twice in the shape of two Conventions, and we hope we started something which will continue and prove conclusively that STAR TREK still lives! Now, S.T.A.G. has 400 members, and we are very pleased that, through the club, we were able to share our enthusiasm with so many of you.

We are not deserting STAR TREK entirely! It is now a part of our lives which is very close to us. And we are continuing to be involved, because, along with Johanna Butler, the retiring Vice President of S.T.A.G., we do run "Hosato", the European and Commonwealth Fan Club of George Takei, and we are following up some very exciting ideas for this club.

In conclusion, we would like to thank, most sincerely, all the retiring members of S.T.A.G.; Johanna Butler, Marian Kennedy, Jennifer Harding and Karen Gilmurray, who have worked hard, long hours for the club. We would also like to thank Janet Quarton and Helen McCarty for their hard work as club officials whilst we were in office - and we wish them luck in their continuance with S.T.A.G. as we do the newcomers - Sheila and Beth. And of course, to all of S.T.A.G.'s members, without whom the club would not have been possible.

This is a new era of S.T.A.G. and we know that She will most certainly Live long and prosper.

Peace!

Jenny and Terry.

And the B.B.C. have done it again! They are now threatening to put STAR TREK on over the Christmas period. (By the time you read this, you'll know if they have, in fact, done that horrible thing to us.) Because for every one of us who can manage to watch STAR TREK halfway through the morning, there are fifty who can't.

So why don't we write them. Point out to them that STAR TREK is a sensible adult programme for sensible adult viewers, and why don't they put it on when most of us can see it.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WRITING

DO NOT:

1. Use letters with prepared wording, or petitions. One letter is worth a hundred signatures.
2. Threaten.
3. Identify yourself as a member of any STAR TREK organisation.
5. Write 'cute' letters. This is a business letter. Anonymous letters also present a very bad image.

Do:

1. Type or write a neat intelligent letter with a firm voicing of opinion.
2. Use letter-headed paper if it representative of you personally. It is ideal for pointing out that the writer is a responsible individual.

3. Be brief.
4. Be spontaneous, intelligent, mature, sincere, polite and courteous.

Write to
The B.B.C.,
Television Centre,
LONDON W.1.

And why not drop Paramount a note at the same time, plugging the film? One further 'don't' when writing to Paramount -

Don't mention STAR TREK on the outside of the letter, as this would then be forwarded automatically to Mr. Roddenberry. And we certainly don't need to convert him!

Write to
Mr. Diller,
Paramount,
5451 Marathon St.,
Hollywood,
CA 90038
U.S.A.

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT...

It's pleasanter, and perhaps more obvious, to consider our favourite STAR TREK episodes, but I've been wondering lately if we all have our unfavourite episodes as well? Supposing the B.B.C. agreed to rerun all the episodes except one? Which one would you nominate to be left out?

My choice has really been made for me, and it's not a very logical one!

The first time that 'Turnabout Intruder' was shown, it so happened that I was in hospital recovering from a minor operation. Luckily, I was well enough to get out of bed and make it to the T.V. room, and since I had an enormous colour photo of Mr. Spock by my bedside, the other patients were in no doubt as to which channel was going to be on that day!

Nearly two years later, I was waiting to go into hospital again. The 'Radio Times' arrived, announcing that 'Turnabout Intruder' was showing next week - and with it came a note from the hospital asking me to come in. This time, I just wasn't well enough after the operation to get to a television set - and for a Trekkie, that has to be serious! So I think you can see by now why I'm not too keen on 'Turnabout Intruder' being shown again.

I'm not a superstitious person, but if it was on next week, I might decide to simply stay at home in bed until it's all over - just in case!

Linda Williams.

Well, which episode would you choose to miss out? There are one or two episodes I would call instantly forgettable, like 'The Children Shall Lead', but my personal choice would go to an episode that I know a lot of people like - 'Who Mourns for Adonais'. I've seen it three times, and I still can't see any point in it! To me, it is the love story of Carolyn and Apollo, straight out of 'Love, American Style', not a STAR TREK episode at all, with all of the main

characters, but especially Scotty, badly out of character. To those of you who count it a favourite, I apologise, but...!

Let's have your comments, and many thanks to Linda for giving us a start! And I'll throw this one at you, too -

Is there any episode that you think the B.B.C. actually improved by cutting? And before you scream "No!", think hard. I know Janet doesn't agree with me, but I think they improved 'The Deadly Years' - by cutting out as much as they could of Dr. Wallace, I think they speeded up the action.

Any comments?

And there are no prizes for concluding that I don't like love scenes!

Latest film news, with thanks to S.T. Welcommittee.
Revival news as of November.

Paramount is still considering several script ideas before making a final decision. Actors cannot be offered a contract until a production date is set, so any speculation about cast is premature.

(It also seems that certain media jumped the gun in saying that Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy have signed contracts. This has been denied by the actors, who say that under Actors' Guild rules, they cannot sign anything until all the preliminary arrangements have been made, script decided on, budget fixed, etc.)

General information from STW

William Shatner stars in a T.V. film called 'The Tenth Level.'

Leonard Nimoy was doing a lecture tour in America during October. On November 24th he was to open in Pittsburg in Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'. He has written a book called 'I am not Spock', which should be published shortly. It deals with Mr. Spock - how the character has affected him and his acting. (We hear from Andromeda Book Co. Ltd that it will be a hard cover book which will probably cost £5-£6. It is provisionally set for release early in 1976.)

George Takei stars in an episode of Hawaii Five-0 called 'Death's Name is S.A.M.'. He plays two characters - one the hero, the other the villain. He has also filmed a segment of 'Chico and the Man' (We know all about that - don't we!)

Dorothy Fontana has written a script called 'The Black Sheep' for the T.V. series 'Movin on'. She will also be doing a script for 'Police Woman'.

A new publication, 'Star Fleet Technical Manual' was due to be published last November by Ballantine Books. It should be out now, but we've heard nothing definite on it. It is advertised at \$6.95 by Nova Enterprises, PO Box 149, Brooklyn, NY 11204, USA. Before sending any money you might be better to write to them enclosing an International Reply Coupon (Obtainable at most Post Offices) to ask for their rates for abroad.

According to Andromeda, 'The Saving of Star Trek' by Stephen Whitfield should be out fairly soon..

Susan Sackett, secretary to Mr. Roddenberry, is preparing a book for publication by Ballantine which will center around letters received in the STAR TREK mail, both humorous and serious.

Diane Marchant has sent me a cutting from the Australian TV Times for November 22 about Leonard Nimoy's recent trip there to host the series 'Coral Jungle', filmed by Ben Cropp. Mr. Cropp is quoted as saying, "He (Leonard) was a natural diver. He took to it straight away. My wife Eva gave him an hour's lesson on the sea bottom, and we started filming...He was one of the most professional people I've worked with, even in conditions that were strange to him...We filmed him underwater doing something in relation to each programme, and then he came above water to talk about it."

I came across a publication called Rainbow Giant at the weekend. It features pop posters, but there, on the front cover, was a picture of Mr. Spock - so I looked closer and saw the headline, "Can Space 1999 Top STAR TREK?"

Their conclusion was that Space 1999 had a long way to go before it would come anywhere near STAR TREK's popularity - but then they went on to list the magazines, books, construction kits, chocolate bars, dolls, etc., the inference apparently being that while all these things were being sold, Space 1999 hadn't a chance.

Seriously, though, there is a comparison of the main characters and actors, which says very little other than that the STAR TREK ones are better. Which we knew already.

Margaret Austin tells me that Bill Shatner's series 'Barbary Coast' has been cancelled.

There are two shops in Britain that we know of where the ST books from America can usually be bought.

1) Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed, 10 Berwick St., London W1V 3RG, Tel. 01-734-4260.

This firm don't usually deal by post but they are well worth visiting if you are in London. They are often the first firm in this country to receive new books from America.

2) Andromeda Book Co. Ltd, 57 Summer Row, Birmingham, B3 1JJ.

This firm do deal by post and they are very reliable. If you write to them for details, it might help to enclose a SAE. They have quite a lot of ST material in stock at the moment. With the latest rise in postal charges, however, the minimum order they accept is now £2.

Dark They Were did have in copies of the STAR TREK calendar at £2.80 each. Published by Ballantine, they have a large colour picture blown up from a clip for each month and a poster in the centre. (They may be sold out by now, though.)

FAME AT LAST?

Quote from 'Radio Times', 22-28 November.

"Next to STAR TREK, the 'Robin Hood' TV series has been one of the longest running, most repeated and most syndicated TV weekly actionpics that ever topped the TV ratings."

Interesting!

THE 'BEST' ALL COME DOWN TO IT IN THE END.

For those of you who didn't see it, there was a skit on STAR TREK in the 'Generation Game' on Saturday Nov.22nd. Bruce Forsyth took the mickey out of it like he does with everything. The scene was on the bridge, with everything in reverse. The nav/helm console was facing front with the main screen behind it and Uhura was at a console on the right of the set. The badges on the uniforms were upside down and on the wrong side.

The skit started with a title similar to the animation one, a snatch of the normal theme music and Bruce quoting 'Space, the Final Frontier' - I think. (I missed that bit on tape - Janet. & I missed seeing that bit at all, by the time my father had called through to me, it was over - Sheila)

Kirk (Bruce), Sulu and Uhura were on the bridge and Kirk told Sulu to send Spock in. Spock entered from the turbo lift doors on the left. He reported that they were being drawn to the planet Bellamy, where the women seemed stronger than the men. Kirk told him to beam up a female, and Spock said he would use his communicator and grabbed Uhura. He regained his composure, saying 'No emotion, no emotion'. They beamed up a female, who turned out to be called Georgina. Kirk asked if she was from the 'Galaxy Upstars or the Galaxy Downstars' (What a pun!) She then touched hands with Kirk, which had a remarkable effect (see Barbarella) and it also affected Spock when he touched Kirk. She tried her lib-stick (oh, dear!) out on Sulu who left the bridge (to boldly go where no man had gone before?) Kirk asked if the lib-stick would affect Spock, so Georgina aimed it at him. Spock went through various emotions, tears, anger, and then left the bridge laughing. Kirk asked her if she could break his will and she threw the lib-stick away, saying, "Not with this, but just by being a woman." She then chased Kirk behind the console where he stopped long enough to punch the control buttons for a bed. (I wonder why?) He ran round to the front again and jumped onto the stretcher-trolley which had been wheeled in. He lay on it, fending off Georgina's advances and yelling for Spock.

Spock entered, pointed something (Bruce's version of a phaser?) at her, and she froze and said that she must go to the man she truly loved. The doors opened and Frederick the footman entered.

Well, that was the original skit; if you think that was bad, you should have seen what the competitors did to it. Enough to say that both Spocks had ears as big as their heads, and the two men at the end turned out to be a Cyberman from Dr. Who and Mr. Humphries from Are You Being Served!

Janet Quarton.

Talking of skits, Margaret Austin and Brian Longstaff have both told me about a skit on STAR TREK, called Intracom, by Ursula le Guin, published in a book called Stopwatch, edited by Geogre Hay and published by New English Library. I've been searching, but none of the Dundee shops seem to have it.

The poem in last newsletter was written by Kathleen Glancy, who has since sent me some more. Many thanks Kathleen.

Translations from the German. Cuttings sent in by Kim Wells.

a) "Spaceship Enterprise".

As Mr. Spock with the pointed ears Leonard brought excitement to the world space serial. Nimoy is 1.83m (6ft) tall, has dark brown hair, brown eyes, and was born on the 26.3.1931 in Boston. His address for autographs is : NBC-TV, 3000 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif, USA (We don't guarantee that this is still correct!)

b) Captain James Kirk (William Shatner, left) and Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy, right) are the most popular people of the futuristic serial "Spaceship Enterprise". It takes place in the year 2200. Mr. Spock is the centre of interest. He is a Vulcan, his mother is from Earth, he has pointed ears, green blood and a computer brain. He does not experience human feelings and solves all problems with his super-mind.

c) This is the crew of the Spaceship Enterprise. Captain Kirk (3rd from left), Mr. Spock (2nd from right) Dr. McCoy (on the extreme right) and their crew. As an example, in the new episode Kirk is enchanted by a girl from the planet Elas; furthermore, the Enterprise has to fight a fierce battle with a war spaceship from the Klingon Empire.

Note: The Germans call the Enterprise a "Raumschiff", which, literally translated, means "Spaceship".

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: ARTICLES on LEONARD NIMOY; photos, programmes, etc, or swop for anything on Edward Woodward. SEA for list. Mrs. Rosemary Chivers, Lawn Cottage, Curload, Stoke-St-Gregory, TAUNTON, Somerset, TA3 6JE.

FOR SALE: Large quantity material, mainly photos, of all ST characters and Leonard Nimoy. Must clear surplus stocks. Hundreds of film clip prints 5p-16p, also large photos, zines, newsletters, TV photos, bits and pieces. SAE for lists. Mrs. Helen Sneddon, 12 Broomvale Drive, Newton Mearns, GLASGOW, G77 5NN.

WANTED; ANY articles on STAR TREK, its concept, characters or actors published IN BRITAIN only. I would like articles, photocopies or types articles, but they must include publication's name and date. I will buy or swop, or if you don't want to part with your article I will photocopy and return at once. I am trying to form a collection of all British-published ST material, so everything, however small, is welcome. Helen McCarthy. (Address on front page).

LONDON PLUS GROUP STAR TREK AND SCIENCE FICTION.

Next meeting Sunday 11th January, 3p.m. at
60 Sheen Court, RICHMOND, Surrey.
COME ALONE OR BRING YOUR FIENDS.
Ring Marion Dougall, 01-878-2060 for further information.

And she does mean fiends - not friends.

OTHER CLUBS

HOSATO is the only voluptuous fan club for George Takei in the world! For £1.50 per year you receive newsletters, a photo-membership card, a letter from George, a welcome book and a voluptuous Year Book! George is very interested in his club and its members. We also have many goodies planned - a convention with George as guest of honour (for HOSATO members only), fanzines, STAR TREK goodies and lots more! So why delay? Join today and get yourself a piece of the action now! Write Jenny Elson, 16 Stafford Drive, Wigston, Leicester, LE8 2YA.
Beyond Antares; contact Sheila Hull, 49 Southampton Road, Far Cotton, Northampton.
Empathy. Contact Cath Owens, 30 Ovenden Way, Halifax, West Yorks.
STCC; Contact Jackie Dunham, 105 Somerleyton Gdns, Norwich, Norfolk. STCC puts out a zine, Fizzbin, which is extremely good - issue 5 due out shortly. SAE to Jackie for details.
STERB; Contact John Hind, 14 Bingham Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham.
WSE; Contact Chris Jones, 222 Manchester Rd, Heaton Norris, Stockport.
JDIFC; An American club for Jim Doohan. £2 surface, £4 Airmail. Anna Hreha, 1519 NW 204th Street, Washington 98177, USA.
STARBASE 13; dues 80p a year, six newsletters contents including a serial, "The Hellfire Club". There will also be "Legal File Z.E.R.O. 5794 Blindman". (I've read the first two episodes of this, and am looking forward to the third) Brian Longstaff, 13 Woodfarm Dr. Sheffield S6 5LW, Yorks.
STAC; An Australian club, issues a zine called 'Beyond Antares', 75c a copy. They are willing to trade or sell. Contact Sue Clarke, Ark Royale, 6 Bellvue Rd., Faulconbridge, New South Wales 2776, Australia. (I'm already writing to Sue, but I'm sure she will put you in touch with other members to whom you can write and trade things.)

Several people have asked us if we are planning a con for 1976. Well, I'm afraid the short answer to that is, no, we're not. There are several reasons for this, the economic situation, the difficulty of finding a venue when we are spaced so widely that would be reasonably central for us all, and the simple fact that just taking over STAG has taken all our time - con plans have to be started well in advance of the date!

However, Empathy is planning a minicon for February 14th, in Leeds, with a main con hoped for in the autumn, and we do intend to be represented there. In addition, if there is any way that we can help Empathy, we will.

Competition

There were only two entries for last month's competition, "Disturbance" by C. Hall and "The Vulcan Experience" by Elizabeth Sharp. Both were very good, and after discussion with Janet that gained the GPO fully £1, we decided that "Disturbance" fitted the subject slightly better, and therefore wins the prize. The story will be published in Log Entries 2, which we hope to have out in February, and I hope to publish "The Vulcan Experience" as well at some future date.

This month - a story again, this time with a title rather than a beginning. "The Yeti's Footprint". No limit on length, closing date, January 31st, again a photo, own choice of character, for the winner. Please, you budding writers, have a try!

You may be wondering why, after I said last newsletter that we were having trouble financing the output of zines, we have managed to get several out after all. Well, Beth and I are doing all the duplicating, that's how we've managed.

And that seems to be it again for another month. I hope you all had a very happy Christmas, and wish you all the very best for the coming year. Peace and prosperity to you all. Sheila.

STAR TREK ACTION GROUP
If undelivered, return to;
Janet Quarton,
c/o Mr. Woodhouse,
Sutton Hill Farm,
Blandford,
Dorset.