

# STAG NO 12

A MEMBER OF ABSTC.

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Hallo everyone!

I'm Terry Elson, treasurer of STAG and, (Not surprisingly) Jenny's husband. And I'm not going to answer the obvious question, "was it a case of if you can't beat 'em join 'em" cos it was me, heaven help me, who drew Jenny's attention to a programme called Star Trek in the first place.

Plans for the 2nd British Star Trek Convention are going well, and we've had a good initial response for membership registrations. But don't forget, it's important to book early, as there is already a lot of outside interest. We had to turn away a lot of people last year because they were late in booking... and more people know about us this time!

There will be far more of interest at the '75 con, as the committee now have the prototype behind them and have learned much from it. It's true that one cannot run before one can walk, but this year, I'm pleased to say, we can safely progress to the jogging stage. Already, much thought and planning has been put into the programme details, the guests and the activities in which you can share. All the other ABSTC clubs have been contacted and ideas given to them regarding exhibitions in which they...and you can take part in, so if you don't see such activities mentioned, just give them a little reminder. After all, it is up to all Star Trek fans to make the convention a success.

As the majority of you know, Jenny, Johanna Butler, Chris "PS" Jones and myself will be off to Sunny California in May, primarily for a holiday, although one of our "Diversions" will be the Equicon Star Trek Convention in San Diego, which I hope to turn into a buying trip for STAG, to bring back some of the more unusual Star Trek items, which will be on sale at the STAG table at the convention. As we are sure you will all want to hear about the Equicon Convention... reputed to be the best Star Trek Convention in the USA, we are deferring the next newsletter until June, so that you will be able to read of our first-hand experiences in San Diego as soon as possible.

Finally, on behalf of STAG committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, without which there would not have been a 1st British Star Trek Convention, let alone a second one. I will look forward to meeting you all in September.

Live long and prosper,

Terry Elson.

COMING SOON FROM STAG!

1. WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! Now being printed. BN1&2 were so popular that we sold out long ago, so we are reserving an option to re-print on BN3. Don't miss out on this fantastic zine, packed with all the best in Star Trek fiction! Sequels to "SNOWFLOWER" "NEVERENDING HATE" and "THE GENESIS EQUATION." FURTHER ADVENTURES OF CATHY KING, and lots more! RELEASE DATE IS JUNE, PRICE IS 50p + postage. FOR ADVANCE ORDERS WRITE ENCLOSING SAE TO KAREN GIMURRAY, 105, Wigston Lane, Leicester.

2. BY POPULAR REQUEST! ANGRY SUNSET is due to be re-printed in lytho, with artwork by Helen McCarthy. This is a full length novel by Jenny Elson concerning McCoy's marriage and divorce. A story of deceit, mental agony and destruction. This is an ADULT story, and is available to members over the age of 15 ONLY. Price will be 60p + p&p.

3. A fantastic booklet of TRIBBLE CARTOONS by Robin Hill, which will be published in conjunction with EMPATHY, the newest of the ABSTC members. You'll laugh until your sides ache at the zany antics of these loveable creatures. WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS.

GOOD NEWS FOR MODELLERS. Detailed plans of the "Enterprise", deck by deck. Price \$6.50. If you are interested, send £3.00 (Includes P&p) to STAG HQ. But be patient. These plans come from the USA surface mail, which is VERY slow. ORDERS BY 1st April please.

Also, 8" high, jointed models of Spock, Kirk, Scotty, McCoy and a Klingon, by PALITTOY will be available shortly. There's a national ad. campaign planned, and STAG hope to have their own supply shortly.

AND FOR LEONARD NIMOY FANS. "YOU AND I" & "WILL I THINK OF YOU" are now being published in the UK. PRICE £1.80 + P&P. Order from STAG HQ by APRIL 1st. Remember to give plenty of time for delivery from the publishers.

L.N. DOES HAVE A FAN CLUB IN USA. for details write to Johanne Butler 46, Drayton Road, Milton Keynes, Bletchly Bucks. Enclose SAE if you want an answer!

BeeB STRIKES AGAIN! After informing everyone that Star Trek would be repeated from March 18th, they have now changed their minds...AGAIN???!...and the new date is now Monday, May 19th. Dare we rely on that? Don't give up on the letters. We must persuade the BeeB to renew the contract with Paramount.

There will be no saleslist this month. You will be able to purchase all items at the minicon, plus much more.

FOR A SUPER-FANTASTIC FAN CLUB JOIN JAMES DOOHAN INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB. Dues £2 surface £4 airmail. Write to British Rep. Jenny Elson STAG HQ. Enc. SAE.

A NEW SERIES BY ROBIN HILL.

THE THEORY BEHIND STAR TREK.

THIS MONTH.....

## PHASERS

THE PHASER is the basic weapon of the Federation of Planets, ranging from the tiny hand weapon to the heavy duty ship banks, used to deal with anything up to and beyond the size of a small planet. Most of the hardware associated with the phaser actually exists today in it's counterpart, the laser.

LASER stands for Light Amplification by stimulated emission of Radiation. There are two main types: the ruby and gas models. Though apparently different, both work in more or less the same way. The heart of either device is a capsule of material with interesting properties. The ruby laser has a rod of synthetic ruby, accurately machined, both ends being optically flat and parallel to each other. The gas model contains a mixture, principally helium and trace elements, in an optically perfect cylinder. The rest of the hardware is fairly common to both types.

Placed at either end is a mirror. One is as near as possible 100% reflective, the other, at the "Business end" is 90% reflective. Around this is wrapped the exciter tube. Add a case and a few simple electronic circuits and there is the laser.

Now, how does it operate? The exciter light is turned on. Light energy is reflected into the molecules of ruby or gas. For the next bit a basic knowledge of physical chemistry is needed. All materials exist as atoms, or combinations of atoms called molecules. The atom consists of a nucleus of protons and neutrons, surrounded by a cloud of electrons. These electrons are normally confined to a very precise orbit around the nucleus, each individual electron in it's own orbit with it's own direction of spin and orientation. If enough energy can be pushed into the atom the electron shifts out of it's orbit to one of a higher energy. It can then drop back to its original level, releasing a tiny burst termed a quanta of energy. The point of this absorption and release of energy is that where any type of energy can be absorbed to raise the orbit of the electron, when it falls again only one type of energy, at a particular frequency, is released. Thus, any input energy generates a great number of equal bursts of energy from every molecule in the laser tube. The secret of this energy is that it is of precise frequency, that is, coherent light. The molecules have been stimulated to emit only one type of light energy. This light is bounced back and forth inside the laser, reflected by the walls and the mirrors at either end. This energy excites more molecules until virtually all are emitting the same single frequency light which streams out the partially silvered mirror... the laser beam. This beam has virtually no spread or divergence. It is these properties that gives the laser the ability to burn through hard alloy, or shine onto the surface of the moon over a distance of a quarter of a million miles.

This is the laser. By modifying the materials used, the laser (Light) can be converted to a maser (Microwave) or a Xaser (X-ray). By adding pulsing circuitry it can be set up to deliver packets of energy (Photons) thus creating a phaser. The laser's destructive power is due to the fact that the light energy hitting

an object causes it to vibrate in sympathy with the radiation. The individual atoms and molecules absorb the energy, vibrating with it until they heat up.

The laser is a useful technological tool, with applications in many fields. They are used to ensure that, by lining up a beam on a supertanker, it can be built with its keel straight to a millimeter. By reflecting a beam back from a mirror placed on the moon by astronauts and measuring the time taken for a round trip, the earth-moon distance can be measured to within six inches. This method is now used to check how fast the continental shelves are drifting apart. In the field of surgery, detached retinas can be spot welded to the lining of the eye without costly and dangerous surgery. Hundreds of telephone messages can be beamed along a laser...cheaper and more efficient than a cable. They can be used in battle situations too, in conjunction with computers.

One of the more dramatic aspects of laser technology is the Hologram. Photographed under laser light an image can be produced on a photographic plate that, when lit by a laser of the same frequency, the illusion of a three-dimensional image is created. And closer to the idea of Star Trek is the hologram storage crystal. The hologram is stored inside the crystal lattice of a compound of lithium oxide and a few secret trace elements. This acts as a photographic plate. Tilt the crystal a few degrees and another image can be added without erasing the first. Thus, thousands of images can be stored in one crystal. This is similar to the cassettes used to store information in the Enterprise...the small, flat rectangular pieces of plastic used in conjunction with the computer terminals. Star Trek is fiction; these crystals are fact, and they DO work.

As for the phaser hand weapon, such devices do exist. The biggest barriers to making them as compact and as effective as those used on Star Trek is the fact that a suitable power source has yet to be developed, and that once generated, the beam is difficult to focus and control. But over the years stranger things have happened.....

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FLASHES. BY HELEN SNEDDON.

McCoy. Deep breathing, Mr Spock, destroys microbes.

Spock. Fastinating. Tell me, doctor, how do I get them to breathe deeply?

McCoy. What's the matter with your feet, Scotty?

Scotty. Corns.

McCoy. Why don't you do something for them?

Scotty. Why? What have they ever done for me?

McCoy. She sure gave you a dirty look!

Spock. Who?

McCoy. Mother nature!

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SHEILA CLARK: Philip Pearce comments that all the major characters seem to be loners. Loners are introverts; I suspect that to be efficient, a starship crew would have to be composed of introverts, or at least people with a tendency towards introversion. Well adjusted introverts can and do enjoy working and mixing socially with others; poorly adjusted ones prefer things to other people, for which reason I think Scotty is probably the most introverted person aboard. (With Sulu the least.) This, however makes him a more efficient worker, as there is nothing to draw his attention from his work. Introverts are not afraid of being alone..in fact, occasional solitude is probably a psychological necessity for them...and they can work quite happily in a restricted environment.

Extroverts, on the other hand, would probably find the confines of a starship ...even one as spacious as the Enterprise...very claustrophobic, and in addition, would possibly be more difficult to live with than introverts, who tend to have more regard for the sensibilities and need for the privacy of others. Does anyone know whether submarines are crewed by introverts or extroverts?

MARIAN DOUGALL: I was very interested in the relationships between crew members, but I was disappointed because Uhura was not mentioned. In fact, no-one ever seems to mention her at all. She is the only girl on the bridge full time, and apparently the only one to recognise the others as human beings. She will talk back to Kirk on occasion when she thinks he is being unfair, as in "Naked Time" and she is the only one who Spock will fraternise with on occasions, with his harp for instance

They seem to be like two shipmates, partly, I think, because Spock is aware that she loves her home in the same way that he loves his and partly because she is not obviously persuing him. She is also the most beautiful girl on the Enterprise, and Spock definitely notices such things, even if he doesn't comment. She seems to be the only girl he seems to be at ease with. I particularly enjoy their conversation at the start of "Man Trap" and I would like to know why they can't get together.

JUDITH FARROW. Regarding the discussion on time travel: Now I don't think it's possible at all, but if it were it would still be impossible to alter the future of your own people, because if one did alter the past to a noticable degree one could wipe out oneself or the circumstances under which one was to be transported back. Of course, there is always the possibility of someone else interfering with past or present for their own ends and to manipulate it. But anyone so highly advanced would be likely to be beyond such sins, or completely disinterested in the inferior beings.

And now to poor persecuted Spock! Assuming that artistic and literary talent is evenly distributed then it would be logic to assume that the character with the largest following has the most said and done about him. Therefore, in all fairness work should be published in strict proportion to subjects submitted, although artistic merit should be the final judge. I, a Spock fan, would rather see a zine full of good Kirk/McCoy pics and stories than a zine full of insults to Spock.

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DAVID SYMES: I feel I must reply to Philip Pearce's comments about Star Trek's main characters. One only has to observe the parallel of the wartime navy ships to realise that these sort of people do exist and are competent operatives, despite what Philip says are unhealthy attitudes.

The problem here is, that by taking the stand-point of a psychologist, we try to, and expect the human being to conform to an ideal, and anyone who does not conform has unhealthy attitudes. (1984, George Orwell.) The point we must remember though: It is the diversity of thoughts, opinions and attitudes that makes a human being what he or she is. It is this unpredictability, diversity and originality of thought that has given impetus to the advancement of the human animal.

So, from this we should assume that the unhealthy attitude is not that of a captain who loves his ship or an engineer who loves his engines. And that humans, being human, often do end up with broken relationships. No, the unhealthy attitude is to try and impose unhuman attitudes upon humans.

And concerning the article about time travel by Sheila Clarke: I don't think we should say dogmatically that time travel is an impossibility, when we consider that 100 years ago it was thought impossible to travel to the moon. In our universe space and time are intertwined, so in an abstract way we do travel in time with every passing second, hour, day. Everytime we look into the sky and observe a star, we are looking at not what the star is now, but what it was many years ago in our past. It takes light 4.2 light years to reach us from our nearest galactic neighbour, Proxima Centauri, 26 years from Vega, and 1,500 years from Denab. So today, when we look at Vega, we are looking at it 26 years in the past, and we will not see what happened on Vega today for another 26.4 years, by which time, we will again be observing the past.

Many people have different ideas of what time is, so here are some points to conjecture with: People seem to be concerned about detrimental changes made by some critical element in the past, so we'll use this as our premise. The past has gone before: the present is what is occurring now, based upon the foundation of the past: the future is what is to come, built upon the past and the present. You cannot change the present by altering the past, for the simple reason, the present couldn't be the present as it is if the past were not past it was. (i.e. the present is what it is because of what happened in the past.) Therefore, if Mr A went back in time to make an adjustment he would come from the past's future, but as the future is built upon what happened in the past it would have already happened and the future (His future) would be what it was, because of his adjustment in the past which has already happened by his present.

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Barbie Marczak, 5906, Cecil Street, Detroit Mich 48210 USA will trade US ST convention in person pics of Doohan/Doohan-Takei for ANY shots of Doohan from the british con, 1974.

"STAR TREK LIVES!"...BUT HOW OLD FASHIONED IS IT?

By Avriil Lansdell.

My teenaged daughter is a dedicated "Trekker." She thinks she is living in the future, but I have just read "Visions of Yesterday" by Jeffery Richards and I am convinced that some of the moral attitudes of the Star Trek stories have their roots in the Victorian British imperialism to which USA has become the 20th cent successor. In reality, Kirk, McCoy, Spock, Scotty and the crew of the Enterprise are only those eternal adventurers "Stalky and Co" brought up to date. The Enterprise officers even have their own version of the "Old School", referring reverently to "The Space Academy" from which they all graduated. As far as modern British literature goes, they are the complete antithesis of 'pinky' in "Brighton Rock" or "The Likely Lads" of London's swinging sixties.

In the 19th cent, Great Britain took upon herself the burden of Imperial Paternalism; Kipling's books are full of it and at its best it was exemplified by self-sacrifice and nobility, together with the twin ideals of responsibility and duty. In the 20th cent the Americans have become the world's father figure, doling out dollars and manpower in a never ending stream of "Lend-Lease" and international aid. It is America who sends out her young men to die in jungle and swamp warfare in Eastern Asia, defending a vision of 'freedom' that sometimes seems to have more in common with the 'Pax Britannica' than the Gettysburg address. Therefore, it is not surprising that a modern American writer should portray in Star Trek a party of idealistic and enlightened crusaders carrying, not the 'white man's burden' but the human burden, to a variety of natives presented as aliens. Fun though it is, it has all been done before in both British and American books.

In England, one can compare Captain Kirk at his wisest with Sanders of the River, at his most adventurous with Sir Henry Curtiss in "Allan Quatermain". In America the literary inclined have no doubt already recognised Kirk as the descendant of the clean living heroes of the early Western writers such as Fenimore Cooper, Longfellow and Zane Grey, whose heroes roam without ties of family or estate to bring justice and honour to the lawlessness of the frontier. Indeed, space itself has been referred to as 'The Last Frontier' and there is even the classic half-breed figure in Mr Spock, playing Tonto to the captain's Lone Ranger. But then, Gene Roddenberry had to describe the series as "Wagon-Train" to get it accepted by his sponsors.

Yes, it's all been done before, and doubtless will be done again with new names, new technology and new settings whenever an author tries to convey the ideals of chivalry, comradeship, love of adventure, justice, courage. True, this can be done by assuming that 'our side' is more enlightened, responsible and wise than 'their side,' but the need for self-identification is very basic to human psychology. We need to cheer the crew and boo the Klingons.

All the above seems as though I am belittling "Star Trek," but that is far from the case. In my opinion, Star Trek stories will become classics; not only are they good adventure stories, but they are thoughtful and original too. There is also a deeper reason. Unlike earlier authors, Gene Roddenberry is proclaiming the necessity of tolerance and the universality of true intelligence. He is saying what more

and more people are coming to believe...that there may be a million more inhabited worlds in our galaxy; that these worlds may have different customs, their inhabitants different shapes, but...just as history has shown,...there are the same needs and ideals amongst all human-kind and no one race is superior to another as men. So all intelligent life will probably have much in common and will one day be able to live together in friendship and goodwill. If, when men leave this planet to explore other worlds he goes in humble eagerness to learn, and not with a sense of his own mistaken superiority, then he will owe much to people like Gene Roddenberry and the actors in "Star Trek" who have laboured to spread that message. Love and comradeship are universal; time and space make no difference.

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#### STAG FREINDSHIP LIST.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: If you would like a penfriend, write to JANET QUARTON, Lodge Cottage, Bury Farm, Pednor Road, Chesham Bucks, OR HELEN MCCARTHY, 56, Tuffnell Park Road, London, N7. Give your name and address, ST favourites and other interests, and enclose a SAE. We are compiling a list of addresses and will send you a copy as soon as it is ready. If you would like a friend in an area other than your own please specify, and to simplify our work, write to JANET if you live in Southern England, E. Anglia, the Southwest and Cornwall, HELEN if you live in the North, The Midlands, Scotland or Wales. Please also enclose two 3½p stamps to cover administrative costs.

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HELP! I'm doing a lifesized nude of Spock for the con, and I desperately want as many pics of Spock/LN in various stages of undress as I can get my grubby little hands on. If you've anything you could sell, swap or lend, write to me, PERLEASSSE! HELEN MCCARTHY. (Address above.)

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In conjunction with all other ABSTC clubs, STAG have increased the price of membership/renewal to the following rates: Yearly membership £1.00, life membership £2.00. Members due for renewal will be informed, and please remember that JANET QUARTON is our membership secretary, and if you write to any other committee member, your renewal will be delayed.

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BARBIE BOWERMAN, 78, Laird House, Redcar Street, London SE5 OLT is selling part of her collection. These include cuttings, pics, clips etc, most of them Spock Orientated. If you are interested, write to Barbie, and enclose an SAE.

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WRITE TO JENNY ELSON AT STAG HQ OR..... **HOSATO** Mrs JOHANNA BUTLER, 46, DRAYTON ROAD, BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES.

FOR FUN, FREINDSHIP, and LAUGHTER join **HOSATO** **NW** GEORGE TAKEI's official fan club. You receive a welcome book, a yearbook, newsletters and invites to parties, plus lots of voluptuous George! Learn what life is like in the 23rd century, Question George and get an answer from him in his own handwriting. He is keenly interested in his club, and contributes much himself. Dues £1.50