And to the REPUBLIC

VOLUME III, ISSUE ELEVEN NOVEMBER, 1991

The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371

GENE RODDENBERRY

1921 - 1991

WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE...

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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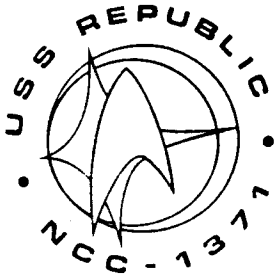

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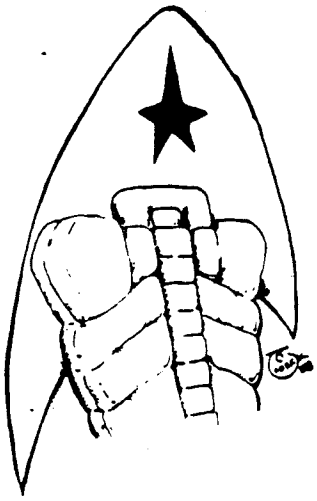
FROM THE CENTER SEAT



I am sure that we were all stunned and saddened at the sudden passing of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry. I have been extremely busy generating press releases, expressing the REPUBLIC's feelings to the public. Our sincere condolences go out to his widow Majel Barrett Roddenberry and to other members of his family. Really, Gene had the largest extended family of anyone I know. Fans, viewers, and Trekkers throughout the world were Gene's family, and to us, losing Gene was like losing a grandfather. Please see the reprint of the REPULBIC's press release in the pages of this newsletter for my feelings on this sad, tragic event.

Otherwise, it has been another busy, fun-filled month for the REPUBLIC. We held a Starship power systems workshop (workship?) at our October 5th meeting. Our Away team visited the weekend Star Party of the Astronomical Society of the Atlantic at Hard Labor Creek State Park/Observatory, as you will read in Kathleen Kennedy's report in this issue. The ST role playing gaming group (led by game-master Jon-Paul Estes and Captain Gail Fuller) is meeting regularly, and has been combating wayward Romulans and six foot mutant killer tribbles. At our October 19th meeting we held a theatrical makeup workshop where an unwary victim was transformed into an Andorian, complete with white wig, antennae and STARFLEET uniform.

The REPUBLIC now has its own computer bulletin board (BBS). See the BBS article elseware in the newsletter for more details.

We now have well over one thousand STARFLEET/REPUBLIC flyers in book stores, video stores, games stores and laundramats throughout the Atlanta area. We have also mailed forty-two press releases to newspapers and TV stations throughout Northern Georgia. I have personally distributed these flyers to areas of town previously untouched by STARFLEET publicicity, in an effort to increase the ethnic diversity our club.

Our recruiting efforts are finally starting to bear fruit - my phone is now starting to ring daily with people wanting to know about the REPUBLIC and how to join STARFLEET! We have signed up at least six new members,

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and renewals are also picking up. I counted twenty-four persons at our October 19th, general meeting - up about ten percent.

STARFLEET Computer operations (after a few attempts) finally sent us a computer database of all STARFLEET members in Northern Georgia. I have used this to contact ten unknown STARFLEET members, who have been added to our roster. I have sent them all REPUBLIC membership kits, and hope that they will send back their REPUBLIC membership applications so that we can send them our newsletter. This brings our membership roster up to 70 members, 56 of which are paid-up STARFLEET members.

I am so elated about this upturn in recruiting that I have initiated a new "get tough" policy with non-participating members: if you have not attended any of our meetings, or if you haven't called us expressing an interest in the REPUBLIC, then you will not be reading this newsletter (GRRRRRRRRRRRR!). Paid-up members who miss getting the newsletter will receive one on demand. But you have to at least call us! The club staff meetings are now held the Sunday before the general meetings, at the Post Brookhaven community center, at 7:00. The bimonthly viewings of the ST:TNG episode before the staff meeting is now open to the public and all club members, in hopes of generating more public interest in the club. Staff meetings are still for department heads only.

And there are now fewer department heads. Due to lower than anticipated participation, I have decided to temporarily make the Communications and Medical sections into divisions of the Science department. The Security section will now be a division of the Engineering department, under LCdr. Bill Knopes. Leadership of the Science department has not yet been determined.

My thanks to Dan Carson, Gail Fuller and Neil Fuller for their services as heads of these departments. All three are outstanding examples of active clubmembers. Unfortunetly, the majority of the "members" assigned to their departments declined to participate. Neil Fuller I might add, is undaunted, has applied to Officer Training School, and is well on his way to re-establishing his Security department with new, active members.

Due to personal problems and pressing job commitments, Keith Rodgers has decided to cease his participation on the REPUBLIC's Command staff. Keith will remain a member and will contribute as much to the club as he is able. The position of Executive Officer will remain vacant until such time as a qualified member appears who is able to make the sizeable commitment of time and work required for this important club position. Kudos to Keith for keeping the club alive through trying times, and for his assistance since August. For further explaination, please read my article on leadership in the following pages.

On the personal front, I am looking for another job. I am a Computer Consultant/Contractor and my current contract expires November 8th. I am trying my very best to avoid taking a job out of town. I thought that you should know that your Captain is making career sacrifices for you, as well as footing the bill for 95% of the club's expenses since August. I have contacted Regional Coordinator Commodore Deborah Nelson, who tells me that my promotion to Captain is presently on STARFLEET Chief of Operations Admiral Tom Davis' desk. With my luck, his desk will probably catch fire. Otherwise, I may be a full STARFLEET Captain soon. This will mean that the USS REPUBLIC is once again a fully certified, operational STARFLEET Starship.

Our Halloween party was a limited success. The International Federation of Trekkers club did not show up, nor did they bring the party supplies that they has promised. Eight people showed up for a party planned for thirty. What am I going to do with you people?

A common objection was "but Thursday is a work night." I did not write the calendar, and I will not apoligize for having a Halloween party on Halloween. I will say this - working is to earn a living, but festivals and parties ARE LIVING. To those of you who faded out on us without good reason - get a life.

Coming up are our two fun-filled general meetings, our visit to the Egleston Children's Hospital, and TWO Cons: Vulkon in St. Petersburg, FL, and TrekFest here in Atlanta. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for further details on our recruiting table at TrekFest. In December we will be appearing on a cable TV show, and will be working in front of the camera again at the Georgia Public TV Telethon.

Welcome aboard for more Trekkin' than you ever thought possible.

Change course to heading 127 Mark 5.

Ahead Full Impulse

Cmdr. David W. Vosper
Commanding Officer
USS REPUBLIC NCC-1371

DIVISION REPORTS

SCIENCES
JON-PAUL ESTES

(Ed: Lt. (j.g.) Karen Estes will be taking over as the Science Department 's head until a qualified replacement is found. Here is Department head Jon-Paul's report for October:)

Well, we have had quite a month. The new season is off to a very good start in terms of story quality. Everyone already wants one of Picard's jackets. As for the Science section this month . . . This is my last month. I will be handling computer support and the video exclusively now (that's more than enough for anyone).

*****TRIVIA CONTEST*****

There are 34 actors who have ever played multiple parts in the original *Star Trek* series. How many do you know? Whoever can correctly identify the most actors will win a Captain Kirk keychain and the knowledge that they beat everyone else. So start writing down as many as you can think of. At the November 16 meeting, bring your list. Before the meeting is over, the winner will be announced. I picked up a list of all 34 actors off of one of the computer bulletin boards this month, so the only people not eligible are myself and Karen, since we have already seen the list.

As for other news, gaming is going well. The crew has encountered 6 ft. person-eating tribbles with the mange. Not a pretty sight. Will they defeat them? Only time will tell.

Until we meet among the stars . .

CHAPLAIN/COUNSELOR
LCdr. KAREN ESTES

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new crew mates! We are very glad that you have joined us. Our away team to Egleston Children's Hospital is confirmed. May our bright and shiny faces (and tribbles) bring joy to the children. Which reminds me - many thanks to all who made donations to help us cover the cost of the sixty tribbles that we will distribute!

The Chaplain/Counselor Corps has been disbanded, at least temporarily. However, this will not effect us. I will still be here bringing you FUN, and comfort when necessary, and just being cheerful. I love ya'll and refuse to let this be a setback or to make me a less active crew member.

On a sadder note, I would like to comment on the passing of Gene Roddenberry. There is no way we can thank him enough for his vision of a future where we will overcome racism, classism, sexism, and wastefulness. Let us honor his memory by continuing to work for a brighter tomorrow. Let's work to accomplish Gene's vision for a better world and a better human race.

May the Great Bird of the Galaxy find a peaceful roost.

MEDICAL
CPO GAIL FULLER

Attention All Crew members:

We are going to do a lot this month. There is an Away Team planned for Egleston Children's Hospital. Come one, come all. We will be giving the children tribbles to brighten their day. Let's make those kids smile!

We are also checking on information on several charities. The Holidays are just around the corner and we need to get going. A lot of people will need our help.

Also - a reminder: I'm taking donations for

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walkie-talkies (communicators) and a first-aid kit. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Several of us are going on the Away Team to the Vulkon Convention in St. Petersburg, FL, November 22nd. I hope to talk with DeForest Kelley (Dr.McCoy) while we are there. I also hope to meet with my Regional Division Chief (RDC) Cmdr. Jackie Cumming.

Live long and be happy.

ENGINEERING
LCdr. WILLIAM KNOPES

As you have read in the Captain's reports, most of the ship's departments have been consolidated. Only two remain - the Engineering Department and the Science Department. All other departments have been absorbed into these two entities (John Carpenter's 'The Thing' don cha' know), and we have dropped many inactive members. We hope that this decision will help to increase participation in the departments. Engineering has adsorbed (...the quicker picker upper...) the Security Department.

I have asked Security Chief Neil Fuller to serve as Asst. Chief Engineer as well. This is in no way a punishment for Neil. I am proud to have a VERY capable guy at my right hand and I know that he will help to keep this department running at full steam.

Since XO Keith Rodgers has decided to withdraw from the Command staff, I have agreed to become the ship's First Officer too. The position of Executive Officer will remain vacant until a qualified person with a LOT of free time is found to fill it.

As a side note, before the reorganization, the Engineering Department was running at 80% participation. Well done, and a hearty toast to you all. With the new members, I hope that we can keep maintain this level of participation, or possibly go higher. Please get in touch with Neil (994-1833) or myself (424-5926) if you would like to help out. The projects are still the same.

SECURITY
CPO NEIL FULLER

(Ed:No report was submitted for Security)

TREASURER
LCdr. Kelly Hillard

(Ed:No report was submitted by the Treasurer, however the club Treasury has over $330.00 as of Stardate 9110.21)

A TRIBUTE TO GENE RODDENBERRY

(Ed:The following press release was distributed to the news media in Atlanta on October 25th, and excerpts were printed in the Atlanta Journal/Atlanta Constitution on October 26th)

The members of STARFLEET, the International Star Trek fan club, and its Atlanta chapter the USS REPUBLIC, are shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of 'Star Trek' creator Gene Roddenberry. Gene's vision of a brignt future for humankind has served as a guiding light for Star Trek fan organizations like STARFLEET, and for Star Trek fans throughout the world.

Mr. Roddenberry's Star Trek Universe rivials the fictional literary worlds created by writers such as J.R.R. Tolkien, H.G. Wells and Frank Herbert. Gene's persistent, consistant vision of his Trek Universe and his dogged determination to remain true to its aims, philosophies and characters earned him the affectionate name of the "Great Bird of the Galaxy".

In the 1960s, Roddenberry's original 'Star Trek' television series gave viewers a thoughtful, optimistic look into our future. 'Star Trek' provided a refreshing contrast to the mundane world, a world filled with international and domestic tensions and the gastly threat of global thermonuclear war. Roddenberry was a pioneer in portraying a united Earth, free of war and racial intolerance, where humans carry their ideals to the stars. But his vision was branded as being too cerebral for TV audiences, and 'Star Trek' was canceled after less than three full seasons.

Surprisingly, this proved to be the real start of the Star Trek phenomenon, not its demise. Once in syndication, Star Trek became a national favorite, even though the viewers had seen the episodes time and time again. An animated series and a second aborted live TV series followed. Soon Star Trek began to appear on the big screen in a record-breaking series of feature length films. Roddenberry's vision had become firmly entrenched in our country's culture and psyche.

In 1987 Paramount studios called Gene back out of retirement to recreate his vision on the nation's prime time TV screens. This time he was given an unprecedented one million dollar per episode production budget, and was encouraged to exercise his vision without outside creative control or censorship. Under Gene's creative influence, Paramount television recreated a newer, better Star Trek, truer to the vision, more realistic, more mature and more exciting. Initially fans missed their favorite characters of Kirk, Spock and McCoy from the original series, but *'Star Trek: the Next Generation'* soon equaled and then surpassed the old series in all respects. It became clear that the vision was alive, and that its creator was not getting older - he was just getting better.

Last year Gene was stricken with a minor stroke, and was often seen in a wheel chair at public appearances. His wife, former "Star Trek" actress Majel Barrett Roddenberry (Nurse Chapel) would regularly fill in for her husband when he tired.

Roddenberry's followers, who have in the past conducted startlingly successful letter writing campaigns to Hollywood studio heads, would gladly lobby the Great Producer himself to send Gene Roddenberry back to us. Instead, Star Trek fans can only grieve at the passing of Gene Roddenberry, and wonder who will carry on his bright vision now that the "Great Bird of the Galaxy" has departed for the stars.

David W. Vosper

David W. Vosper
Atlanta Chapter President,
STARFLEET
USS REPUBLIC NCC-1371

SCHEDULE CHANGES

November 9th - Saturday. Away Team to Creation Con, Charlotte, NC. **Nichelle Nicholes.** Call CO Dave at 814-1308 for information.

November 10th - Sunday. **ST:TNG** Episode viewing, Post Brookhaven Apartments Community Center, 6:00 P.M. Opened to the public. Call CO Dave at 814-1308 for directions.

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November 10th - Sunday. Staff meeting, Post Brookhaven Apartments Community Center, 7:00 P.M. Staff members only.
November 16th - Saturday. General Meeting, Fernbank Science Center, noon.
November 23rd-24th - Saturday, Sunday. Away Team to TrekFest Con, Northlake Holiday Inn, Atlanta. **James Doohan** and **Michael Dorn**. The REPUBLIC will have a recruiting table. Admission $22.00 PER DAY!. Call CO Dave at 814-1308 for information.
November 22rd-24th - Friday through Sunday. Away Team to **Vulkon**, St. Petersburg, Fl. **DeForest Kelley**. Call Chief of Security Neil Fuller at 994-1833.
December 1st - Sunday. **ST:TNG** Episode viewing, Post Brookhaven Apartments Community Center, 6:00 P.M. Opened to the public. Call CO Dave at 814-1308 for directions.
December 1st- Sunday. Staff meeting/newsletter mailing, Post Brookhaven Apartments Community Center, 7:00 P.M. **Staff members** only.
December 5th- Thursday. Sneek preview of **Star Trek VI.** No promises, but your Captain is working on it.
December 6th- Friday. Premiere - **Star Trek VI - the Undiscovered Country**. This is a change of one week from the previously publiched release date of December 13th. This change has been confirmed by the Atlanta representative of Parmount Pictures.
December 7th- Saturday. Dekalb Cable TV channel 12 "Sci-Fi Atlanta". The entire crew is invited to appear live on camera. Call Dave at 814-1308.
December 14th - Friday. Georgia Public TV Telethon. The REPUBLIC will volunteer to answer telephones live, on TV. Call Counselor Karen Estes at 292-3855.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Your ship needs your help in the next two months. We need volunteers for :
1. TrekFest Atlanta, November 23-24th. We need to man our free recruiting table - the rub is that volunteers must pay admission at the door - $22.00 PER DAY! HELP!
2. VULKON St. Petersburg, FL, November 22-24th. LCdr. **Bill Knopes** and CPOs **Neil and Gail Fuller** are leading an Away Team to Florida. Region 2 has a recruiting table, and needs volunteers to run it. We can sell REPUBLIC merchandise and hand out REPUBLIC applications, IF we provide volunteers. Volunteers must be paid-up STARFLEET members. I have received a three page set of guidelines for such participation in this event, from Region 2 Recruiting Officer **Diane Malkowski.** They need to know in advance and in writing who is going to be there and volunteer. This will be a dry run for when we host VULKON in Atlanta in February, 1992.
3. **Star Trek VI** is being released one week early, and we need to work the movie lines all over town, handing out our club recruiting flyers. You need free time and a car. A uniform would be cool, but is not required. We will work in teams and hit as many locals as possible.
4. The **Georgia Public TV Telethon** is in December and we are volunteering. The date is not yet set, but I am looking at Friday, December 14th. They may want us to work on another day with the **Dr. Who** fan club. If we can come up with 30 volunteers, we can steal the show and have our own session. Volunteers are given free food, refreshments, and dandy prizes are awarded to all at the end of the shift.

THANKS!

Give a big and a hearty "Thank you!" to **Bennie Hoskins** for donating five dollars to the USS Republic treasury. I am sure this money will be well-spent!

ROSTER CHANGES

Welcome the following new members:

Dawn Lewis	994-1833
Roy Lewis	994-1833
Jason Easterman	662-5126
Willie Mae Loyd	761-2373

New Phone number:
James Corley 946-7636
(work-Wed/Thurs. evenings)

New Address:
Vice Admiral David Forvendel
Chief of Computer Operations
1542 Dirkson Ct.
Cary, NC 2751

LEADERSHIP

by Captain David W. Vosper

Now that we seem to be growing again, I would like to expound a little on my vision for the future organization of our club and upon my favorite subject: leadership.

What is leadership? Leadership is the gentle art of persuading people to do a job. A successful leader is able to accomplish a goal through people. There are various leadership models: corporate, military, parlimentry, etc.

This chapter of STARFLEET uses the military leadership model because our club is based upon the STARFLEET of the Classic ST series. Our STARFLEET is not a paramilitary orgainzation. Its members are volunteers, who joined to have fun, not to obey orders. STARFLEET Headquarters (SFHQ) discourages this paramilitary image, and with good reason.

As a Navy veteran, the military leadership model is one that I am both familiar and comfortable with. I intend to continue to organize our club using the naval military model. As we all know, this model consists of a hierarchy with the Captian as the main leader (Commanding Officer or club President). The ship's crew is organized into departments, and departments into divisions. Each department is led by an officer - a department head, who appoints leading officers to lead the department's various divisions.

The Captain of a large ship usually holds the rank of navy Captain (equivalent to a full army Colonel). Smaller ship's Captains are full Commanders. In port, the Captain is often off of the ship attending meetings with the high command. The Captain will appear at official ceremonies, and in general represents his ship to the public and to the crew. It is the Captain who receives his command's orders, and who is ultimately responsible to higher command for carrying out those orders. The Captain also holds the ultimate responsibility for the safety his ship and the welfare of his crew. The Captain's decisions must balance these responsibilities against each other: mission vs. crew and material.

It may come as a surprise to those of who do not have first-hand experience of the military, but the Captain is generally not the person who actually runs the ship. The Captain nearly always delegates his authority to his Executive Officer, in matters relating to the day-to-day operation of the ship. The Executive Officer is also known as the XO or the Exec. In ST, the Executive Officer is called "Number One" or "the First Officer" (in the real Navy, the First Lieutenant is the division officer in charge of the Deck Division: Boatswain's Mates and deck seamen).

The XO actually runs the ship, and all of the ship's officers take their orders directly from him. The Captain and the XO form a two person command team, where the Captain handles most matters outside of the ship, and the XO handles those inside. The Captain orders the ship's mission, course and schedules, but it is the XO who is responsible for executing those orders and for keeping those commitments. In this respect, the XO is a Captain-in-training, and is always only one rank junior to the Captain himself. If the Captain is lost, the XO must be able to fill the Captain's role. So, the XO is a very important and very busy person.

So how does all of this relate to the USS REPUBLIC? As this club's Captain, I am responsible for organizing our club in keeping with STARFLEET's aims and its constitution. I am also responsible for executing STARFLEET's policies, as communicated to me by Regional Coordinator Commodore Deborah Nelson. Locally, the treasury, property and the continued growth and prosperity of the club is my responsibility.

Can I do all of this myself? Do I want to? Would it be wise to? The answer to all of these questions is NO. I am the club's primary leader, and I must always attempt to delegate my responsibilities. Why delegate? One reason is to involve others in the organizational and leadership affairs of the club. I believe that any successful leader or manager should attempt to make themselves dispensable. Despensible? Don't I mean indispensable?

Self-interest might suggest indespensable, but the continued prosperity of the club demands that I organize a staff that can continue to run the REPUBLIC, even when I can no longer act as Captain. The key officer in this staff is the Executive Officer, who must be a person with the time, knowledge, leadership skill, financial resources and most importantly, the desire to become Captain when the time comes.

Another reason for me to delegate my

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responsibilities is to lessen my workload, who's size will become staggering as we grow up to our goal of one hundred members. It may seem strange to be discussing work, in connection with a fan club that is suppose to be a fun activity. But any civic group organizer knows that what is fun for attendees is actually the work of a dedicated core of volunteers upon who the existence of the organization depends.

The XO must be able to share the command workload evenly with the Captain. I currently spend at least 20 hours per week (not counting weekend events) running the affairs of the REPUBLIC. Insecure leaders sometimes appoint an impotent figurehead (Dan who?) as their second-in-command, so as not to feel threatened. I cannot afford a figurehead as XO - with a newsletter to publish, meetings and events to plan, SFHQ reports to write, recruiting efforts, press releases, promotions to administrate and public correspondence and newsletter articles to write, we have too much work to do. And we will soon have too many people for just me to supervise.

What I envision for the organization of the REPUBLIC is a strong CO/XO team that delegates the club's work through a staff of dedicated department heads. Unfortunately, we do not currently have any senior officers with sufficient free time to invest, who are free to perform the level of work that is required from this type of Executive Officer.

The Captain will be responsible for for setting club policy, and will consult with the staff on policy matters. The will submit reports to the Regional Coordinator and correspond with SFHQ. The CO will handle the club's publicrelations and will send out information to prospective new members. The Captain will write checks and handle the club's finances, and in some cases, will personally finance club expenses. The Captain will plan and conduct staff and general club meetings and other club activities. The Captain will manage club records, approve promotions, communicate with other ships, and write newsletter articles.

The Executive Officer will be responsible for supervising the running of the club's day-to-day operations by managing the club's telephone net, keeping in close touch with the department heads, and delegating all of these tasks to these department heads. The XO will assure that members are contacted, newsletters get published on time, forms get printed, meeting places are reserved, dues are paid, press releases are send out and that merchandise is manufactured and shipped. The XO will approve all promotions. The XO will chair club meetings in the CO's absence. The XO will catch hell when the Captain is dissatisfied with the operation of the club. The XO should be a former department head and must be OCC qualified.

Department heads must be proven leaders in their own right, members who have proven their ability to recruit new members, to perform the club's work and who regularly participate in the club's activities. Department heads must be the role models and the are ones who will actually lead the crew in performingthe club's work. They will recommend promotions of members. They will catch hell from the XO when the assigned work is not done, or is not done on time.

Department heads must be Officer's Training School (OTS) qualified and must have an OTS qualified assistant to act in their absence. Each department head must also be Officer Command College (OCC) qualified, so that one of them can replace the XO if necessary. Each department must perform a legitimate organizational role in the club. Each department must have an OTS certified assistant department head and at least nine active members, including the DH and ADH. We will not create a department without a qualified leader, and we will not have a few persons impersonating a department.

Each department will contain specialized divisions who's leaders report to the department heads. These division officers and the members of their divisions will perform the "hands on" work of the club. A division officers will be responsible for contacting and mobilizing the members of their division. They will organize the transportation of their members to club events, and will personally supervise the activities of their division. Division officers must be OTS qualified. Division officers may organize their own departments provided that they are OTS certified, have the necessary nine active members and one OTS qualified assistant.

I apologize for being so long winded. I think that is important to publish the club's

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policies in detail and for the membership to

understand the form of and the reasons for the our recent staff reorganization. Since I am expecting my own promotion to the rank of STARFLEET Captain very soon, I will be writing you next month on the topic of our club's promotion policy.

AWAY TEAM REPORT
by Ensign Kathleen A. Kell y
Medical Department

On Stardate 9110.05, following the general meeting of the USS REPUBLIC at Fernbank, an Away Team left on a mission to the stars. The team consisted of: Commanding Officer Dave Vosper, Chief Security Officer Neil Fuller and Chief Medical Officer Gail Fuller, and Ensign Kathleen Kelly.

Every October the Astronomical Society of the Atlantic hosts the Georgia Star party at Hard Labor Creek State Park near Rutledge, GA. Captain Dave is himself an amateur astronomer and contacted the Society last month.

The Away Team arrived a little after 1500 hrs., in time to order dinner, and received our cabin assignment. The cabin was not quite primative camping (it did have an electrical outlet), but all and all it was quite spartan, furnished only with bunk beds and mattresses.

After unloading supplies and orienting ourselves, the team located the observation field where several telescopes were set up. A walking field briefing was conducted by Cmdr. Dave, who explained the different types of telescopes and their use. There was also a special type of camera that could be used to take time-lapse pictures of the stars. The astronomers were friendly and several expressed interest in the STARFLEET Fan Club. Everyone we met, however, expressed concern about the weather. It was a gray, overcast and cloudy day, and the weather reports did not sound encouraging.

After dinner there was an excellent talk by an astronomy professor about "the Red Shift Controversy", an ongoing academic debate over the nature of QUASARs and the validity of utilizing the red spectrum shift of the objects to
judge their speed and relative motion.

When the lecture was over it was quite dark. We were invited to tour the Hard Labor Creek Observatory - an offer we were eager to accept. At the observatory we were shown the large Schmidt reflector telescope and how it operates, an instrument once used at the famous Kitt Peak Observatory. Unfortunatly, the weather was still overcast, so no actual observing was done .

We then retired, some early some very late. I awoke at about 300 hrs. to attend to calls of nature. On my way back to our cabin, I looked up at the sky. It had cleared to the point that there was not a wisp of a cloud, and there were no city lights to dim the magnificence of the stars. They spread out overhead like a jewelled cap. I felt sad that there were many people who have never seen the stars so undimmed.

After only a few minutes of hesitation, I walked in the dark down to the observation field. I hoped that I wasn't the only one crazy enough to be up at 3:30. Luckily, I wasn't. Even in the dark the friendly astronomers offered me binoculars and directions on how to locate star clusters. I sat on the ground, wrapped in a blanket, and looked at the stars. Meanwhile the binocular's owner worked at setting his camera for timed pictures of the stars. He then directed me to a large telescope across the field.

By following an occasional red glimmer, I made my way over to three men who were looking through a reflecting telescope with a Dobsonian type mounting. They were happy to have another person join their observing group. They quickly taught me how to use the telescope, and then explained what I was seeing. For the first time in my life, I saw the Orion Nebula, the four major moons and the cloud bands of Jupiter. I observed the cresent of Venus and learned several stars by name. We focused on one cluster and I got a look at a star "nursery". By the time the sun came up and the clouds started moving back in, I was hooked on Astronomy. I knew that I would be doing this again and again.

Over the ages, it is this kind of experience that has led to the space programs and to our desire to explore the Universe. I felt that it was quite appropriate for someone interested in a fantasy like *Star Trek* to be at this kind of a gathering. I hope that the REPUBLIC offers this Away Team experience again soon, and that more of you will experience it with us.

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD

System Operator (SYSOP) Brian Flatley's TrekNet computer bulletin board (BBS) is now off the air permanently. BBSs serve as communication media for STARFLEET and other mundane computer users all over the nation.

Now, thanks to long-time STARFLEET member and SYSOP Eddie Furguson, I am proud to announce that the USS REPUBLIC now has its own BBS. The Star Trek Convention, phone number (404) 487-1376) ,will change its name to the USS REPUBLIC, just as soon as Chief Petty Officer Ferguson can make the necessary changes. This BBS is now the only source of the national STARFLEET TrekNet echo transmissions in the Atlanta area.

I believe that having its own BBS will significantly enhance to the stature of the REPUBLIC throughout STARFLEET.

The other major BBS in our Region 2 area is that of the USS Triumph in Miami (305 945-4945), SYSOP Ray Brown.

Whither Vulcan?

by Ensign Edmund Trafford

(Ed: This is the first of a two-part article. The second half will be printed next month)

Introduction

Vulcan is a stagnant society. This will come as a surprising assertion to many. I want to discuss the indications pointing to the fact that Vulcan is a nondynamic and rigid society, I want to suggest a probable explanation for the situation, and I want to explore the possible direction of Vulcan society had it not become stagnant.

I.

Listed below are a number of indications to support the premise that Vulcan is a stagnant society. Any single item, taken by itself, might be of general interest; considered together, however, a pattern emerges--a pattern of a society frozen both socially and technologically for between two and three thousand years.

At various times, there have been articles in Best of Trek arguing that Vulcan is a matriarchal or a patriarchal society. The merit of these arguments is not important; the point is that the necessity to raise the issue at all indicates a society likely to be hierarchical and conservative. In Diane Duane's novel *Spock's World*, even Sarek has occasion to speak of Vulcan "rigidity" and "lack of flexibility." In *Spock's World*, Sarek speaks of the House to which he belongs, a "House" given special emphasis with the initial capital letter, indicating not merely a family or extended clan but a multigenerational social unit of political and economic significance, devoted to affairs of business and government. Such Houses existed on Vulcan as long ago as Surak's time and serve to consolidate the wealth and influence of its members through advantageous marital, commercial, and civic ties. A society structured according to the interrelationships of the great Houses is likely to be bound by tradition and protocol and, therefore, unlikely to be innovative or to encourage individual initiative outside the wishes

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of the ruling head of the House.

The point is made in D.C. Fontana's novel *Vulcan's Glory* that Spock is the absentee holder of inherited estates, another indication of the degree of social position he holds. A society based on a system of inherited landholdings by prominent families (Sarek also has estates to manage) is likely to represent entrenched interests and to be resistant to change, even reactionary.

The labors of Surak to form a nonviolent Vulcan society based on the powers of mental discipline bore fruit perhaps 2,500-3,500 Terran solar years ago (depending on the ST source consulted); even at that time, Vulcan had the capability of space travel, for it was soon after the triumph of Surak's ideas that an unreconstructed Vulcan remnant left the planet, eventually to become the Vulcans' Romulan cousins (chronicled in Diane Duane's novel *The Romulan Way* and the classic episode "Balance of Terror"). The point is that, during this same 3,000-year span of time (to use a mean of the various sources), humankind progressed from building chariots to building spaceships; the Vulcans, so far as can be determined, barely developed at all. To put it another way, 3,000 years ago, Vulcan reached a stage in its development equivalent to the present levelof Terran development; why are not Vulcans consequently 3,000 years further ahead of us now? Why are they not as far ahead of us as we are ahead of a society of chariot-builders? Instead, both civilizations appear to exist on roughly comparable technological levels. Vulcan has stood still and we have "caught up." (For example, Zephram Cochrane's breakthrough in warp technology occurred in the mid-21st century, merely 100 years or so after Terrans began exploring space with primitive chemically-powered rockets. In Margaret Bonanno's novel *Strangers From the Sky*, we learn that Vulcans did not develop warp drive until much before Terrans did, a distressing fact considering that their own history of space exploration is far older than ours and includes previous contacts with other spacefaring cultures.)

These several items--the evidence of a heavily stratified society with no (or little) demonstrable technological progress in three millennia--all point to a civilization frozen in time.

(To be continued next issue.)

Trek Teasers
by Ensign Edmund Trafford

We know from the classic ST episode "Balance of Terror" that the Romulans have a cloaking device; we know further that the Federation went to considerable subterfuge to get its hands on that device ("The Enterprise Incident"). We know from STIII-V that the Klingons have their own cloaking device, and in ST:TNG , we know that both Romulans and Klingons are still using them. Why aren't Federation ships routinely equipped with cloaking devices 75 years after they were first encountered?

The transporter has been used on several occasions to undo potential physical damage. In the classic ST episode "The Enemy Within," the "good Kirk" and the "bad Kirk" are rejoined through the transporter. In the animated episode "The Terratin Incident," the shrinking Enterprise crew is restored to full size by cycling back through the transporter. In the ST:TNG episode "Unnatural Selection," a horribly aged Dr. Pulaski is transported back aboard the Enterprise by using her trace pattern to reverse the aging. What prevents young people from storing their trace patterns in a transporter and, every few years, cycling back through the pattern, thus remaining young forever?