

And to the REPUBLIC

VOLUME IV, ISSUE ONE

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The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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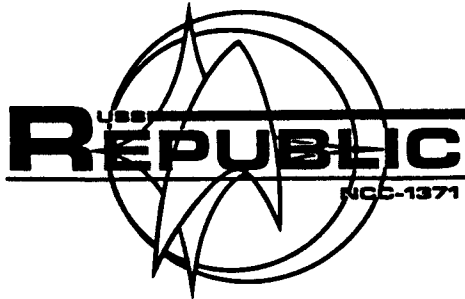
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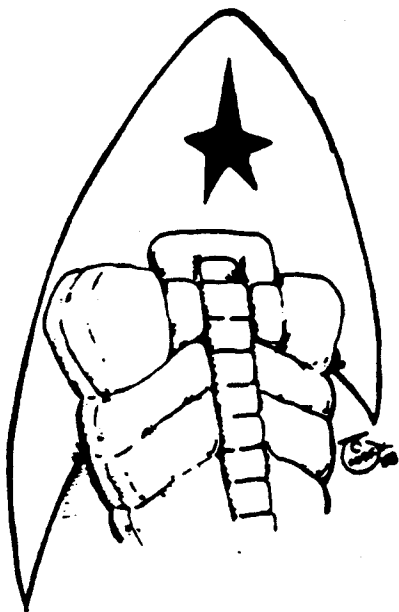
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FROM THE CENTER SEAT



It has been another busy but turbulent month for the USS REPUBLIC. We attended the premiere of *Star Trek VI: the Undiscovered Country*, appeared on Dekalb channel 12 public access TV, held two general meetings and a Christmas party.

The movie premiere at the Tower Place 6 cinema was attended by about 15 club members, all of which received complementary ST VI movie poster, courtesy of theatre General Manager Chuck Erb. The film was discussed at our December 7th general meeting at Fernbank and the general response was that people liked the movie.

After the December 7th meeting, three members attended Tony Cade's cable TV "Sci-Fi Atlanta: A Salute to Star Trek". Karen Estes got to appear manning the controls on the bridge set, while her husband Jon-Paul and I were interviewed by moderator/producer Tony Cade. Tony also showed my entire Universal Studios Star Trek "screen test" tape on the air. I did not tape the show myself, but I was told by the studio control room staff that they did not show our club's address and phone number as promised - very disappointing.

I received a letter from Admiral Tom Davis in Seattle this week, confirming my promotion to STARFLEET Captain, effective October 1st, 1991. With this positive commitment from SFHQ, I am finally ready to commit myself to this club, and to formally promote individuals that have helped plan and execute club activities these past five months.

Attendance at meetings and the Christmas party seems to be down due to the other things going on during the holiday season.

The club has received many resignations this month. I do not pretend to understand all of the issues involved, but they seem to stem from two events:

- 1) My joint decision with Karen Estes to eliminate the position of ship's Counselor/Chaplain, and the controversy over my accompanying explanation of that fact in the December newsletter.
- 2) James Corley's attempt to start a STARFLEET shuttle on the South side of Atlanta.

Regarding James Corley's attempt to start a South side shuttle, I can only say that, after consulting with the staff, I decided against it, and have left the decision up to STARFLEET.

Region 2. Since I said "No" things have gotten ugly. I will not print the details here, for fear of fueling the fire of a divisive controversy. If you want to hear the full story from my perspective, I will be glad to discuss it in private, and to show anyone the documentation and written correspondence.

As of today (December 22th) I have not gotten official word of Region 2's decision. Neil Fuller reported to me that he is to be the shuttle's XO, and that the word had been given to form a shuttle in Sunny Side, GA (North of Griffin), off the USS Excalibur in Jacksonville, FL. Shuttle certification is a long, complicated process. Our acting Chief Security Officer (Neil) and acting Medical Officer (Mrs. Fuller) and their two children, have resigned and have indicated that they intend to join the shuttle. That is all that I know about this matter.

Currently the USS REPUBLIC has 49

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STARFLEET members. Several others will probably resign before things settle out. My immediate obligation as Captain is to keep the REPUBLIC's commitments to STARFLEET Region 2, in sponsoring STARFLEET activities at the Vulkan Convention February 21st, 1992. To that end, I am currently phoning club members who have impressed me in the past with their level-headedness and commitment to STARFLEET's goals (please see the accompanying article on STARFLEET's goals), but who have not had the opportunity to participate on the REPUBLIC staff.

Ensign Kathleen Kennedy has agreed to serve as our Chief Medical Officer. Club Secretary Janet Green is also helping out, phoning members of the Science department. The positions of Science Officer, Security Officer and Engineering Officer and their assistants are currently open and I will consider volunteers for these positions. Volunteers should first read the accompanying newsletter article on REPUBLIC Staff Officers.

I would like to appeal to all club members that the REPUBLIC needs your active support to pull off our commitment to Region 2 and to Convention promotor Joe Motes at Vulkan. I have tried to lead by example for the past five months, by putting in 400 hours of my time (not counting meetings) and about \$1000 out of my own pocket. I have also turned down numerous lucrative job offers out of state, on the grounds that I have a important obligation here in Atlanta that I cannot walk away from.

So far, two people have thanked me, both after the ST VI movie this month. Others have criticized me, complaining that they are not having enough fun (see the related article on the club's 1991 activities). I would like to point out that I am not personally responsible for assuring that 60 members have fun. I share that responsibility with the Command staff, and it is members of that staff who have complained the loudest.

In September the staff voted to set a recruiting goal of 100 members for the REPUBLIC. It seems that since then, certain staff members have made the startling discovery that the staff work of building a big club is mostly work - not fun. It is also the responsibility of staff officers to motivate the crew members in their respective departments. All crew members should suggest fun activities to the staff and attend these activities. They should also contribute to the newsletter. I have never vetoed any suggested fun activities. Staff officers are suppose to be the motivating force behind the club, as well as being the most active members. So far, many have just been the most active members.

I am not resigning, because I have so many people depending on me. Over sixty people have paid their dues to the REPUBLIC and to her Captain. The club has started a shuttle in Memphis, a computer bulletin board, a newsletter, a treasury and has obligated itself to sponsoring STARFLEET at Vulkan. STARFLEET has charged us with helping to make this a better, brighter world through community service activities. Someone needs to continue this work, and despite my best efforts to encourage others to help lead this club, there is no successor in sight.

I intend to continue club "business as usual", with the hope of attracting more dedicated volunteers who want to help us build and lead a big, prosperous club full of

Trekkers. If the "South side" shuttle is not certified, or if it fails, those members who have not hurt the REPUBLIC will be welcomed back. If it succeeds, perhaps we can work together.

It is my pleasure to announce that LCdr. Kelly Hilliard has agreed to become the REPUBLIC's Executive Officer. Kelly is OCC qualified and is hereby promoted to the rank of Commander.

Kelly has rendered excellent service to this club even before I took over in August. As club Treasurer, Kelly has been largely responsible for the club's financial success, due to his excellent management of the club's funds, and by printing the club newsletter free of charge. Kelly is however working several real-life jobs, and his free time is limited.

I am proud to announce that the club has raised \$106 for the Atlanta food bank this month. Fifty dollars came from the club treasury and fifty six from private donations. I have bought 278 lbs. of bulk food and have delivered it to the Atlanta Food Bank.

(Captain, we have struck a worm-hole! The controls do not answer.)

Slow to 3/4 Impulse power,

Set course for Vulkan.

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

NOTES FROM NUMBER ONE

Hello! I hope one and all had a very Merry Christmas this year. Since my last report, I've been promoted once again. In addition to my old duties as treasurer, I am now the Executive Officer of this grand ship. I hope that you feel free to call me if you have ANY problems and I'll try to resolve them as best I can.

Things are looking up and we are about to enter the Con season again. I hope to see all of you at the table and at the meetings!

---LCdr. Kelly Hilliard

Ens. Dan H. Carson COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

I would like to take this opportunity to announce the appointment of two officers to key department positions. First of all, I want to congratulate Ens. Edmund Trafford on being assigned Press Officer. Edmund, who has made several submissions to the AND TO THE REPUBLIC, will be responsible for the sending out of USS REPUBLIC press releases to the various media in our community.

Next, I would like to announce that CPO Eddie Ferguson has been appointed the Systems Operator (SysOp) for the USS REPUBLIC BBS. Eddie had been maintaining the system under the name ST CONVENTION, but since he joined the ship, he graciously allowed the REPUBLIC to use it as their own.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the ATTR. This newsletter is YOUR publication; it is not intended for the enjoyment of a select few individuals. If you want to get more out of it, you make yourself known and heard. Any suggestions or submissions will be greatly appreciated, whether it be quizzes, reviews (books, movies, TV), commentary, or artwork. One suggestion might be to have someone out there write a monthly column on STAR TREK happenings, both on-screen or off. So you see, anything is possible with the AND TO THE REPUBLIC, but ONLY YOU can make it happen!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kelly Hilliard reports that the club treasury contains about \$625, before expenses.

This month's expenses included \$29 for postage, a \$50 donation to the Atlanta Food Bank and one \$75 payment to Hoyt Jordan on the club laminator. This leaves us a balance in excess of \$400.



THE GOALS OF STARFLEET

The following is a quote from the STARFLEET Constitution, regarding the purpose of STARFLEET:

"We, the members of STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association in order to provide a forum for persons with an interest in the Star Trek universe, to provide a social organization in which people of diverse backgrounds with similar interests can interact, to promote an optimistic future as envisioned in the Star Trek universe and to support that optimistic future through community service, social activities and creative endeavors, do hereby establish this constitution for the organization, STARFLEET."

The themes here are clear - a Starship should:

- 1) provide a ST forum
- 2) provide a social organization
- 3) promote an optimistic future
- 4) perform community service
- 5) sponsor social activities
- 6) sponsor creative endeavors

STARFLEET is currently drafting a set of by-laws to supplement the STARFLEET Constitution. According to Captain J.R. Fisher of the USS Kitty Hawk, in Raleigh, NC, who is a member of the by-laws committee, the by-laws project is awaiting resolution of STARFLEET's non-profit status with the IRS.

The following is a quote from another source of STARFLEET goals - the Officer's Command College (OCC) Manual:

"STARFLEET ships exist on the premise of Public Interest, Convenience or Necessity (PICON).

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Public Interest is satisfied by providing a constructive outlet for fandom and an exercise of the principals the creative genius of Gene Roddenberry provided of a bright and hopeful future.

Public Convenience is satisfied by establishing ships in locations where they are of reasonable access to the membership.

Public Necessity is satisfied by giving to the community. Giving may be in the form of money donations to charity, time as volunteers, participating in events or creating awareness of social needs within a community."

Having fun is certainly covered in there somewhere, probably under the "to provide a social organization" clause of the Constitution, or the "providing a constructive outlet" part of PICON. Yet I must point out that "having fun" is not specifically listed as a goal of STARFLEET.

Having fun is one of my goals for the club, if for no other reason than that if people do not have fun, they will not volunteer for the club's community service activities, activities which are emphasized very strongly by STARFLEET. In order to maximize the fun for the general membership, I have segregated the staff business from the general meetings altogether, so as not to bore the general membership with club business matters. Anyone who reads the accompanying article, listing 15 activities that the club has sponsored since August, would be forced to agree that our club has fun - a lot of fun.

Yet there has been a great outcry from dissident members that "I am not having fun", "the purpose of STARFLEET is to have fun" and "STARFLEET is starting to seem like a business". I can promise more of the

same kind of fun to the general membership. All that I can promise to the Command staff is staff WORK in a business-like framework, with the opportunity to plan, execute and participate in fun activities for the general membership. I can also promise Officers the reward of building a thriving community service organization that Gene Roddenberry would be proud of.

One other quote from the Constitution: "Chapter chairpersons (Starship Captains or commanding officers) shall be appointed by the Chief of Operations (Admiral Tom Davis) and the Commander, STARFLEET (Fleet Admiral Jeannette Maddox) after that commanding officer is decided upon by the individual chapter and upon confirmation of qualifications. THEY SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THEIR CREW."

I was elected Captain of the USS REPUBLIC at a staff meeting at Mighty Casey's restaurant in Roswell on July 31st, 1991. The Command staff had recently announced to STARFLEET Region 2 that the club was disbanding. To my best recollection, I was presented to the membership on August 3rd at the general meeting at Fernbank by XO Hoyt Jordan. There were about eight members there, only several of which were not at the previous staff meeting. No notes are taken at general meetings. I was certified as the C.O. of the REPUBLIC and promoted to STARFLEET Captain in a letter from Admiral Tom Davis effective October 1st, 1991, after submitting the staff meeting minutes and my OCC certificate. These documents, like all club documents, are available for inspection to any club member.

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I have been accused of personally abolishing the club by-laws without a vote of the membership, so that I could not be voted out of office. All staff members present (seven persons) voted to abolish the old REPUBLIC's by-laws at the staff meeting held on September 4th. The minutes read: "All voted to abolish the present by-laws." These minutes were also printed on page 8 of the October newsletter.

Since "They (C.O.s) serve at the pleasure of their crew.", it follows that the crew can call an election to replace their Captain. I agree wholeheartedly with the goals of STARFLEET as listed above, and am proud of this club's activities and accomplishments under my command in the past five months. However, if the crew wants a different type of club, PLEASE use parliamentary procedure at a staff or general meeting, call for an election and elect someone more to your liking.

If you personally prefer a small intimate club, consisting of a few friends, that only gather to watch ST:TNG Sunday nights, perhaps you need to find another club. This club's goals are big and ambitious.



USS REPUBLIC STAFF OFFICERS

Persons who volunteer as REPUBLIC staff officers should be aware of the club's goals (see the accompanying article on "The Goals of STARFLEET") as well as what is expected of them in their staff duties. Although staff officers enjoy the club's activities with the general membership, as much as their duties allow them, staff work is mostly, well - work.

Staff officers are expected to plan and lead the following activities:

- 1) fun *Star Trek* activities at general meetings
- 2) fun club special activities (picnics, parties, etc.)
- 3) community service activities
- 4) publication of the club newsletter
- 5) STARFLEET recruiting activities
- 6) STARFLEET and REPUBLIC public relations activities

Staff officers are expected to perform the following duties:

- 1) submit monthly written reports
- 2) attend two staff meetings per month
- 3) attend two general club meetings per month
- 4) telephone, organize and motivate the crew members assigned to them
- 5) complete STARFLEET leadership courses such as Officer's Training School and Officer's Command College.
- 6) keep members informed of STARFLEET activities
- 7) assist members with administrative details, like applying to STARFLEET Academy
- 8) fill in for there officers to fulfill club obligations
- 9) encourage the use of the chain-of-command for club communication
- 10) diplomatically resolve conflicts that arise

Planning and leading activities, attending staff meetings, ploughing through agenda items, solving ship's problems, writing reports and phoning crew members during one's free time is not always fun. For people who are enthused about leading people, it is fun, educational and broadening. More often it is just work. Staff members are expected to volunteer selflessly, to work together under the direction of their Captain, to build something

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significant, something of value: a STARFLEET Starship. Starships are STARFLEET's way of helping to accomplish Gene Roddenberry's vision of a bright future for humankind.

STARFLEET officers must balance their duties against their friendships. Officers often have the painful duty of saying "No" to crew members and sometimes to friends. Hopefully, an Officer will aid another Officer who has trouble accomplishing duties. However, a staff Officer's duty is to the crew and Officers who fail to consistently do their duty must have their duties and authority reduced, even if these Officers are friends. This is the ST principal of "For the good of the many, not the one."

Officers are rewarded with the special prestige accorded to STARFLEET Officers - awards of honorary titles denoting their accomplishments of service to ship and community, the respect of their crew members, and special respect from fellow STARFLEET members at intership STARFLEET events such as conventions. The real reward comes from the warm feeling that comes from knowing that something worthwhile and noble has been accomplished.

YOU WANT ACTIVITIES?

Since August, 1991, the USS REPUBLIC has had the following activities:

- 1) Group readings of an original ST screenplay.
- 2) Picnic at Stone Mountain.
- 3) A theatrical makeup workshop.
- 4) A field trip to the Warner-Robbins Aerospace museum.
- 5) An over-night star party with the region's astronomical society.
- 6) A tribble making workshop.
- 7) A starship Engineering systems workshop.
- 8) Channel 46 TV coverage of our meeting and an interview with our Captain.
- 9) A visit and tribble give-away to Egleston Children's hospital.
- 10) A recruiting display at the ST 25th anniversary movie marathon.
- 11) A Halloween party.
- 12) Set up a computer BBS.
- 13) A recruiting display at Trekfest.
- 14) A "reserved" showing of ST VI, with complimentary movie posters.
- 15) An appearance on public access Cable

TV channel 12.

- 16) A Christmas party.
- 17) Role playing games.
- 18) Group viewing of ST:TNG

For your \$12.50, you get all of this, *plus* "And to the Republic". Does this club have fun or what?

DUES INCREASE

Effective January 1st, 1992, dues for the USS REPUBLIC will increase from \$12.50 to \$13.00. Persons who submit membership applications with the old price will get that price. This was done to simplify making change at conventions.

We are currently discussing a plan to raise dues even further. The working idea is to have a two-tiered price structure: a subscription fee of \$12.50 or \$13.00 for the newsletter only and a \$25.00 full membership fee which would include the newsletter subscription. Current members would only pay the additional amount when their membership expired.

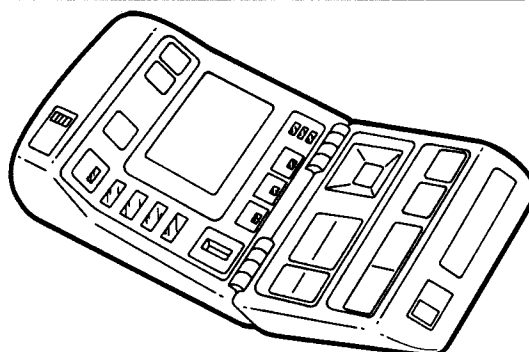
The purpose is also two-fold: to encourage people to participate more by requiring that they invest more. Secondly, the additional funds could be used to rent rooms at conventions, for postage, for long-distance telephone fees on our computer bulletin board, the startup fees for hats, monogrammed shirts and T-shirts, and reduce the need to conduct merchandising campaigns.

Your opinions on this matter are welcome.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We need newsletter submissions of art, short stories, articles, book reviews, complaints, observations, speeches - anything Trek, Sci-Fi or science related.

(Ed.'s notes: Please read Communications Officer's report for further information on the newsletter.)



PROMOTIONS

Commander David W. Vosper - promoted to Captain by Admiral Tom Davis.

LCdr. Kelly Hilliard promoted to Commander and REPUBLIC Executive Officer by Captain Vosper.

PO3 Carol Carnell, promoted to Ensign by SFHQ, for completing Officer's Training School. Congratulations Carol!

Also, congratulations to Ensign Deborah Leafey for completing the Officer's Command College. This training always gives officers a new, clearer view of their responsibility to their ships and to STARFLEET.

All crewmembers - please refer to the promotion guidelines in last month's newsletter, and turn in your request forms for promotion if appropriate. For those who need the forms, they are available at all club meetings.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Jose Fernandez, manager of the Camelot Music and Video at Lennox Square shopping mall in Atlanta, attended the studio premiere of ST VI in Los Angeles, CA, with the help of the USS REPUBLIC. The REPUBLIC provided tribbles and other props for Camelot's display window in October, during Paramount's Star Trek CD and VCR sales campaign. Jose himself fashioned a perfect copy of the "Wrath of Kahn" "ear creature" in a terrarium. Due to our combined efforts, Jose's window display as picked as best in the region, and Jose was awarded an all-expenses paid trip to LA. The REPUBLIC inherited the six foot Spock cutout and other props when the display was disassembled.

ANOTHER TREK MEMORIAL

The foot and hand prints of the classic Star Trek movie cast are now enshrined in concrete in front of the famous (now Mann's) Chinese theatre on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles. The entire original cast participated in a ceremony marking the release of the latest movie - "Star Trek VI : The Undiscovered Country". Leonard Nimoy imbedded the Vulcan salute into the goeey surface. A bronze honorary placard also adorns the cement display.

Whither Vulcan?

by ENS Edmund Trafford

(the third in a three part feature)

J. M. Dillard (in her novel *The Lost Years* and the novelization of STV) established that by the time of Surak, the Kolinahru had mastered the preservation of the katra outside the physical body; katra of deceased High Masters and other prominent Vulcans were enshrined in the Hall of Ancient Thought. With the katra able to exist independently of the body (though confined to the vrekatra), Vulcan was obviously well on its way to becoming a society of the mind rather than of the body. The next step in the ladder of evolution would have been, of course, mental existence without confinement in the vrekatra at all. However, with the Reformation, mental progress along the path to pure intellect came to a halt, together with social and technological progress. Indeed, in STIII, the high priestess T'Lar admits that some techniques (the fal-tor-pan specifically and others probably) have been nearly lost, not having been practiced "since ages past"; such techniques obviously fell into disuse following the Reformation.

(With the mention of fal-tor-pan, a short digression must consider why Spock in STIII required the rarely used "refusion" when on at least one earlier occasion--the classic episode "Return to Tomorrow"--he did not. The answer is that on the earlier occasion, his original physical consciousness, as distinct from the katra which was entrusted to Christine Chapel, was still housed in his body; retrieval of the katra from Christine's safekeeping was a relatively simple matter. "Mind" can obviously exist on a nonphysical, spiritual plane of its own; "memory," as any neurologist knows, is a chemical process in the brain. Thus, even though the "mind"--or soul, or katra--may leave the body, "the body remembers." In STIII, Spock's regenerated body is, in effect, on "autopilot"; the body's autonomic systems are functioning normally--the involuntary heart beat, respiration, etc., including the onset of pon farr--but there is no conscious memory. The brain is a tabula rasa. Had Spock's body not died after saving the Enterprise at the conclusion of STII, the retrieval of his katra from his archnemesis and comrade-in-arms Leonard McCoy would have been as easy as retrieving it from Christine.)

This digression illustrates the fact that, despite the great facility with which Spock is able to assign his katra to others when the dire need arises, the significance of this ability seems lost on him as, indeed, it is lost on all modern Vulcans. Though the techniques for preserving the katra are certainly important in and of themselves, they constitute but one step along the way to the development of a true noncorporeal mentality, a goal seemingly unrecognized and unappreciated by the Vulcans themselves.

In times before Surak, Vulcans understood the intrinsic value of the various mental attributes and

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promoted advantageous marriages to propagate and strengthen specific inherited mental skills (*Spock's World*). This method of culling the gene pool to create the strongest combination of inherited characteristics ended with the Reformation, since such culling was usually intended for personal gain or military advantage; Vulcans specially united to genetic lines with the ability to kill through the power of the mind, for example, would certainly have been a practice abhorred by Surak and his followers. Unfortunately, the end of such practices—unnecessary in the new society guided by logic—also meant the end of deliberate efforts to develop and exploit all possible mental abilities, efforts which would, I think, have ultimately produced the "Organian" Vulcans.

(A final digression is in order here. If all Vulcans up to the time of Surak possessed various mental powers—and modern Vulcans still do—why are not the Romulans similarly adept? The answer seems to be that, like most warlike cultures, they have very little respect for "pursuits of the mind," and they do not value those activities which do not immediately and directly result in gain—measured by power, influence, riches, battle glory, etc. It is therefore probable that the Romulans abandoned the use of the various inherited mental techniques soon after leaving Vulcan, and the abilities themselves eventually atrophied in subsequent generations. Modern Romulans are consequently born without any particular mental attributes.)

Contemporary Vulcan is by no means an unsuccessful civilization, but it is an immobile one, locked into a rigidly "logical" way of life, one which has failed to realize its own enormous mental potential. Instead of forming a vital part of everyday Vulcan life, many of the techniques associated with the katra attributes have either been lost outright or have become enshrouded in ancient ritual.

Sarek observes in *Spock's World* that Vulcan is an insular society; even given its much longer history of space travel, a far smaller proportion of Vulcans has ever bothered to travel off-planet than the exuberant Terrans, for example. The association with illogical and irrational humans may yet introduce a "wild card" into Vulcan society, providing the stimulus which may provoke increased investigation of the Vulcans' barely tapped mental resources. Contact with Terrans will not directly result in a higher development of Vulcan mental powers, but it may be the force which jolts Vulcans out of their complacency, a complacency which is certainly "illogical" by most standards. (There are many centuries of inertia behind TPau's simple statement "It is our way," in the classic episode "Amok Time.") As Amanda comments to Spock in *Strangers From the Sky*, "There was a 67.6% probability that Vulcans would have logicked themselves to death within a millennium" without the influence of humans. Humans, with their attendant virtues (or vices, depending on one's point of view) of rabid emotionalism, enthusiasm, and sheer joy for life may be the ultimate determining factor in the future development of Vulcan society.

SCIENCE CORNER

by Dave Vosper

(Ed: The views expressed in this article are the author's alone.)

SPACE EXPLORATION

Space - the final frontier. It has been one and one half decades since either NASA or the Soviets have put a person into space. I know - the shuttle crews go up all of the time in the "Orbiter", but in my opinion, being in low Earth orbit is not really in space - they haven't even cleared all of Earth's atmosphere. To me, going into space means leaving Earth's atmosphere and escaping its gravity. Even the manned Moon missions of the seventies barely meet that criteria.

I saw an interesting quote in the December STARFLEET Communique. On page 11, column 2, bottom paragraph, author Gary Scott Decker quoted a Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) engineer. When Gary asked him "How goes the space program?" the engineer answered "There is no space program.", that JPL was surviving on old research grants.

So it appears as though the "final frontier" will continue to be explored not by humans, but by their machines. Keep in mind that many of these systems (including the Space Shuttle) were designed using 1960's technology, were built in the seventies, and were launched after very long delays, in the late eighties or early nineties's.

My point is that the space program has been winding down ever since the seventies. We are not on the upward curve to human exploration of space, we are not on the path to leaving our solar system and "exploring strange new worlds and seeking out new civilizations". Instead we are seeing the programs of past decades come to fruition, with no current new ambitious space programs of our own to build on the past accomplishments. Manned lunar landings should have been followed by manned lunar bases in the 1980's. The Space Shuttle program should have been followed by the Space Tug, followed by the Space Station, followed by the Mars Mission.

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Here is the current run-down on these aging deep-space probes and other international space programs:

Galileo Space Probe - On course to Jupiter. Was "slingshot" around Venus where it conducted an extensive survey of that planet early this year. It returned on a close flyby of Earth, before again being slingshot towards its ultimate destination - Jupiter. In early December, Galileo was 286 million miles from Earth, and 647 million miles from Jupiter. Two-way radio communications have a time delay of 51 minutes, due to the extreme distance. Galileo is scheduled to reach Jupiter in 1995.

On October 29th, it encountered and photographed the asteroid Gaspia at a distance of only 1000 miles. This is the only photograph ever taken of the surface of an asteroid. The photos had to be transmitted via the craft's secondary antenna - Galileo's primary high-gain antenna has failed to deploy, and this may seriously jeopardize its mission into the atmosphere of Jupiter. On December 13th, controllers will again attempt to cool the antenna mast by shading it from the sun, in order to free the stuck mechanism.

Giotto - European Space Agency deep-space probe first launched to study Halley's Comet, where it actually flew through the coma of the comet. Half of its instruments and its camera were destroyed in the encounter. Was dispatched to study Comet Grigg-Skjellerup in July, 1991.

Voyager I and II probes - Both very successful and both still in contact with ground controllers, but headed out of our solar system.

Magellan - Is currently mapping the surface of Venus. On December 16th, the condition of the orbiting probe was listed as "excellent". On that date, the spacecraft had completed 3741 orbits of Venus, and had completed 88% of its second mapping cycle of the planet.

Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) - is currently measuring the microwave remnant of the "Big Bang" that may have created our universe. Has measured a perfect background spectrum with a temperature of 2.735 degrees Kelvin, exactly what the "Big Bang" theory predicts.

Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO) - launched in April 1991, currently in Earth orbit. The second of NASA's four "Great Observatories". Contains the largest and most sensitive gamma-ray detectors ever launched. It is

conducting a 15-month gamma-ray sky survey which will focus on such objects as the Crab Nebula pulsar, Supernova 1987A in the Large Magellanic Cloud and the center of our Milky Way Galaxy.

Rosat - X-ray and ultra-violet probe now out of control due a failed gyroscope.

Ulysses - This probe is also headed for Jupiter, although I seem to remember that its ultimate target was the the polar regions of the sun. On December 6th the probe was 722 million miles from Earth and 48 million miles from Jupiter. It is scheduled to reach Jupiter in early February of 1992.

Hubble Space Telescope (HST) - The first of NASA's four "Great Observatories". Designed for high Earth orbit, it was instead launched into low earth orbit, due the the limitations of the Orbiter (Space Shuttle) launch vehicle. Its primary mirror was improperly tested on the ground, so the telescope is now seriously flawed optically. Despite these optical flaws, astronomers are managing to do some excellent science with the HST. But their job is getting harder as the engineers implement more "work-arounds" to compensate for the growing number of hardware breakdowns.

The HST repair mission is scheduled for February 1994, two years from now. Hubble may not last that long - it is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Two of its six gyros have failed, and a third is misbehaving.

The communications power supply to HST's Goddard high-resolution spectrograph has weakened intermittently. The spectrograph may have to be turned off.

Hubble's solar arrays flap gently each time the spacecraft crosses the Earth's day-night terminator, often causing the telescope to wander off target. The strain of compensating for this annoying motion may be threatening the structural integrity of the spacecraft. Replacing these arrays is now NASA's first priority. *(continued)*

On the same 1994 mission, the shuttle crew is to fit the telescope with a device called COSTAR - "glasses" or corrective lenses to compensate for the defective optics of the Hubble's misshapen primary mirror. The crew may not have sufficient time to complete all of the necessary repairs.

(Ed.'s notes: Future space probes will be discussed next month.)

VULKON 1992

VULKON will take place February 22-23, 1992, at the Castlegate Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, GA, exit #105 off I-75, 1750 Commerce Drive, at Howell Mill Road. This is a NEW date, and was FORMERLY February 15-16th.

Tickets may be mail ordered (no discount) before February 1st from:

Vulkon
c/o Joe Motes
PO Box 786
Hollywood, Fl 33022-0786

Make check or money order payable to Devlin Associates, inclose a S.A.S.E., and write "Stewartcon" on the check.

Tickets are now: TWO DAYS \$30, SATURDAY ONLY \$20, SUNDAY ONLY \$15.

Reserved seating (in the auditorium) for the entire con is available by mail for an additional \$5, for two day attendees ONLY. Again, the mail deadline is February 1st.

Room rates: \$55 PER NIGHT (I think) for Friday and Saturday nights.

This is a TWO day convention, however Friday 7-10 PM fans may register and attend free Friday night programming. Friday night STARFLEET Region 2

Coordinator Commodore Deborah Nelson will hold a Star Trek Cadet Survival board game.

Although this is NOT the STARFLEET Region 2 Conference, there will be STARFLEET programming throughout the Con as follows:

SATURDAY -

Captain's Call. Various Department calls (Engineering, Science, Security, etc.). Starfleet general public meeting, with Fleet Admiral Jeannette Maddox.

SUNDAY -

Morning hangover party with coffee and donuts. Various Department calls (Engineering, Science, Security, etc.). Raffle of Patrick Stewart glass etching. Starfleet general public meeting, with Fleet Admiral Jeannette Maddox.

More exact days and times will be forthcoming.

(Ed: For the full 1992 REPUBLIC schedule, see the inside cover of this newsletter)

HOLIDAY FOOD BANK DONATION

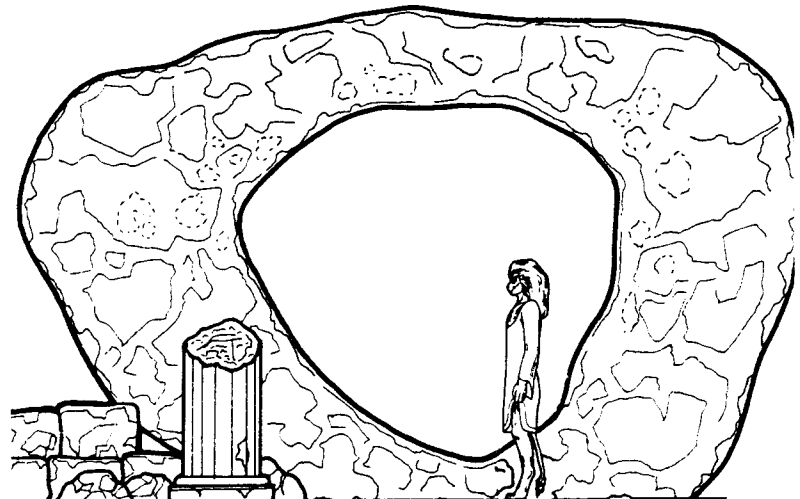
Your dues and donations allowed the USS REPUBLIC to donate \$106.32 worth of food to the Atlanta Food Bank. This food, purchased and delivered by the CO included the following:

21 lbs. of canned pinto beans
20 lbs. of canned green beans
94 lbs of flour
50 lbs. of corn meal mix
50 lbs. of brown rice
22 lbs. of canned pink salmon
10 6 1/8 oz. cans of tuna

a total of 278 lbs of nourishment for Atlanta's poor. WELL DONE REPUBLIC.

REPUBLIC HISTORY

The STARFLEET Shuttle Nautilus was commissioned the USS REPUBLIC NCC-1371 on 8805.14 at Dixie Trek '88. Her first Captain was Captain Christopher F. Ernst.



1992 USS REPUBLIC ROSTER

Ens.	Janet	Green	CMD	(404)	368-9011	Secretary
LCdr.	Kelly	Hilliard	CMD	(404)	587-4669	Executive Officer
Captain	David W.	Vosper	CMD	(404)	814-1308	Commanding Officer
Ensign	Dan	Carson	COM	(404)	633-1561	Communications Officer
Ensign	Edmund	Trafford	COM	(404)	498-6859	Press Officer
CPO	Eddie	Ferguson	COM	(404)	487-9282	Computer BBS SysOp
CPO	Leon	Lord	ENG	(404)	473-4431	
PO3	April	Masters	ENG	(404)	432-1988	
Ensign	Caesar	Munoz	ENG	(404)	436-6117	
PO3	Roger	Nichols	ENG	(404)	887-2059	
PO1	Marek	Puzio	ENG	(404)	641-8253	
Ensign	Adam	Willson	ENG	(404)	565-3528	
PO3	Stephen	Gold	ENG	(404)	936-8339	
Ensign	Kathleen	Kennedy	MED	(404)	987-0297	Chief Medical Officer
PO3	Jason	Easterman	SCI	(404)	662-5126	
CPO	Jon-Paul	Estes	SCI	(404)	292-3855	
LCdr.	Zach	Jordan	SCI	(404)	442-1589	
PO3	Tome	Lawhorn	SCI	(404)	944-8356	
PO2	Scott	Shores	SCI	(404)	934-9799	
PO3	Lori	Spitzer	SCI	(404)	434-3487	
CM	Mary	McCutchen	SCI	(404)	371-9955	
Captain	Joy	Gilbert	SCI	(404)	381-1169	
CM	Patrick	Krummel	SCI	(404)	923-7003	
CM	Mark	Hewitt	SCI	(404)	642-6587	
CM	Kathy	Hewitt	SCI	(404)	642-6587	
CM	Jonathon	Hewitt	SCI	(404)	642-6587	
CM	Arthur	Hewitt	SCI	(404)	642-6587	
CM	Samantha	Hewitt	SCI	(404)	642-6587	
CM	Christopher	Johnson	SCI	(404)	368-9754	
CM	Kathy	Webster	SCI	(404)	474-3757	
CM	Jeremiah	Mitchell	SCI	(404)	424-0961	
Lt. (j.g.)	Karen	Estes	SCI	(404)	292-3855	
PO3	Bennie	Hoskins	SEC	(404)	760-1940	
PO3	Willie Mae	Loyd	SEC	(404)	761-2373	
CM	Carol	Roland	SEC	(404)	889-9558	
CM	Charles	Martin	SEC	(404)	861-9368	
CM	Carol	Millard	SEC	(404)	974-5143	
CM	Valerie	Booth	SEC			
CM	Chuck	Belcher	SEC	(404)	921-3670	
CM	Kim	Belcher	SEC	(404)	921-3670	
CM	Peggy	Belcher	SEC	(404)	921-3670	
CM	Daniel	Gray	SEC	(404)	591-4343	
CM	I. Jefferson	Kirkland	SEC	(404)	253-6474	

SHUTTLE ALACRITY - MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

Ensign	Deborah	Leafey	CMD	(901)	372-1135	Shuttle Commander
PO3	Laura	Arnoult	SEC	(901)	753-8695	
PO3	Theresa	Bradley	COM	(901)	726-1674	
Ensign	Carol	Carnell	CMD	(901)	327-7180	Shuttle XO
PO3	Jay	Leafey	OPS	(901)	372-1135	
PO3	Kathleen	Marsh	SCI	(901)	332-2275	
CM	Leola	Minor	MED			

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ms.	Marilyn	Teague	(404)	938-7143
Cdr.	Hoyt	Jordan	(404)	442-1589
PO3	Alan C.	Farthing	(912)	232-7917
PO2	Jeannine	Dooley	(404)	929-0805