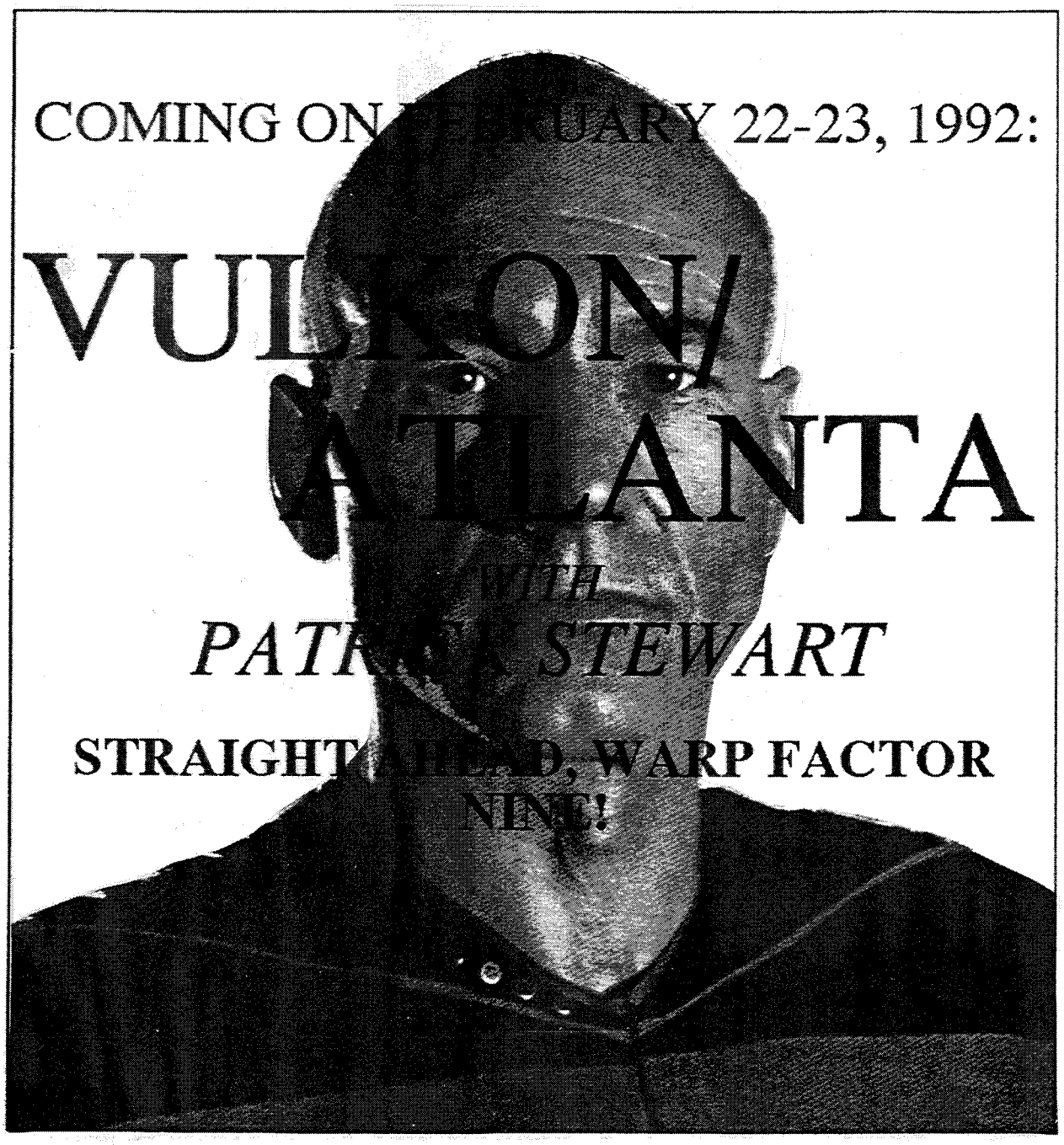
And to the REPUBLIC

VOLUME IV, ISSUE TWO FEBRUARY, 1992

The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371



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AND TO THE REPUBLIC welcomes submissions of written material and artwork; however, no responsibility for such submissions can be assumed by the publisher.

USS REPUBLIC ELECTIONS

The REPUBLIC will hold an election on March 17th, 1992 for the position of President/Captain. The elections will be held at Shoney's Resturant at Lindburg Square at 8:00 PM.

Candidates may be nominated by other STARFLEET members, or they may nominate themselves. Nominations must be received in writing and must be signed by the nominator. Candidates need not be current members of the USS REPUBLIC, but must be current, verifiable STARFLEET members. Winners must of course join the USS REPUBLIC.

The March edition of "And to the REPUBLIC" will contain a list of candidates. The publication deadline for the March edition is February 23rd (Vulkon). Persons nominated after that date will not be considered.

Absentee ballots/votes will not be accepted after March 16th. To cast an absentee vote, simply mail your vote to:

USS REPUBLIC
1503 Brookhaven Circle
Atantla, GA 30319

Mail written nominations to the same address, before February 23rd.

Absentee votes must contain the name and STARFLEET SCC number of the voter, and the names and positions of the candidates voted for. All absentee ballots must also be signed.

All voters must be current members of the USS REPUBLIC. Current REPUBLIC members are those STARFLEET members who have submitted their yellow or blue STARFLEET "Request for Ship Assignment" cards to Captain Vosper, and who's cards are in Captain Vosper's custody prior to March 17th, 1992. Captain Vosper currently holds twenty of these cards, eight of which belong to the shuttle ALACRITY in Memphis. There are approximately twenty-five STARFLEET members on the roster who have not yet submitted cards. For those members who have not yet received these cards in their STARFLEET membership kit, proof of recent STARFLEET membership application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(continued)

Persons voting in person at the March 17th meeting will be required to furnish their STARFLEET SCC number, or proof of a recent STARFLEET membership application, such as their canceled check.

STARFLEET qualifications for Starship Captain are:

1) must be 21 years of age or older
2) Officer's Training School (OTS) completion.
3) Officer's Command College (OCC) completion.
4) be a paid-up member of STARFLEET

The requirements 2) and 3) may be met AFTER the election, but if you intend to run, it would be VERY advisable to get started on one or both IMMEDIATELY. Both schools require a $3 voucher, available from the REPUBLIC. It is uncertain how much leeway STARFLEET Region 02 will give the REPUBLIC in this matter.

STARFLEET regulations require each club to have a qualified Captain and XO. . If no candidates run for election, STARFLEET Region 02 is sure to re-classify the USS REPUBLIC as "inactive", reduce it to shuttle status, or disband it altogether.

Captain Vosper will remain a REPUBLIC member and will remain available to support and advise his successor if necessary.

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.

The cutoff date for mail ordered tickets was February 1st. It is too late to mail order tickets, or to get reserved seats.

Tickets prices at the door are: TWO DAYS $30, SATURDAY ONLY $20, SUNDAY ONLY $15.

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

For further information about VULKON, call 1-800-FUN-TREK.

This is a TWO day convention, however Friday 7-10 PM fans may register and attend free Friday night programming. Friday night STARFLEET Region 02 Coordinator Commodore Deborah Nelson will hold a Star Trek Cadet Survival role playing game.

For a detailed listing of STARFLEET Region 02 events, see the following VULKON SCHEDULE article.

VULKON SCHEDULE

The exact times for the following events will be announced at the convention.

FRIDAY (evening) -

Set up Region 02 display table.

Region 02 sign in for attendance count and door prizes. Registerees receive a numbered STARFLEET ID badge.

STARFLEET Cadet Survival seminar (role playing game).

Region 02 welcomes STARFLEET Commander Fleet Admiral Jeanette Maddox and Vice-Commander Admiral Sue Hampton.

SATURDAY -

Region 02 sign in continues.

Glass Etching Raffel ticket sales begin (etched plaque of Patrick Stewart).

Captain's call and Departmental Calls.

Shuttle workshop and seminar hosted by Captain Ed Danley.

Fund Raising seminar hosted by Captain Betsy Mateis.

Recruiting Seminar hosted by Commander Diane Malkowski.

Region 02 RDCP Slave/Talent Auction.

STARFLEET and KLAW (Klingon club) "Jail and Bail". Ft. Admiral Maddox is taken prisoner and held for ransomby the Klingons.

Admiralty dinner (by invitiation only).

USS REPUBLIC room party (evening).

STARFLEET Region 02 dance. Admission $20. Profits benefit the Brent Spiner Con. "All-You-Can Drink for three hours." Cariocci (lip-synch) contest with prizes. Midnight till 3 a.m. This is a "dress-up" occasion. Uniforms and party clothes are fine. Formal dress is not required, but is OK too.

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SUNDAY -

Complementry hangover social and First Contact Party. Drawing for door prizes will be held at the social. You must have signed in at the R02 table.

Drawing for Patrick Stewart Etched Glass plaque.

Recruiting and Chapter fundraising continues through the end of the convention.

VULKON VOLUNTEERS

STARFLEET Region 02 needs volunteers to man the STARFLEET display/recruiting tables at VULKON, February 22-23. The REPUBLIC will not have a seperate display table. Members who wish to volunteer for this duty will please give me a call at 814-1308. Please specify the days (Saturday or Sunday) and times when you will be available.

Region 02 will also need help Friday evening to set up the STARFLEET display.

Region 02 needs coffee makers (Mr. Coffee, etc.), and thermoses for the Sunday morning social/hangover party. Please bring these to VULKON Sunday morning if you play to participate on that day. Donations of donuts, creamer, sugar or other breakfast food are welcome.

There has been some confusion regarding the status of STARFLEET/REPUBLIC volunteers at VULKON. Volunteering as a STARFLEET helper at VULKON does not qualify one for free admission to the Con. A STARFLEET volunteer is not necessarily a VULKON volunteer. Unless they have private arrangements with the VULKON staff, REPUBLIC members must expect to pay the full admission price at VULKON.

Those wishing to act as VULKON volunteers should contact:

Marge Robels
4712 NW 48th
Tamarac. FL. 33319
(305)-486-7965

Convention promoter Joe Motes offers "perks" to helpers. It is unclear to us what these perks consist of. For more information on VULKON, call 1-800-FAN-TREK.

*********PO BOX EXPIRES*********

The club's post office box expired January 31st. Mail addressed to the old PO box will be forwarded to Captain Vosper's home address.

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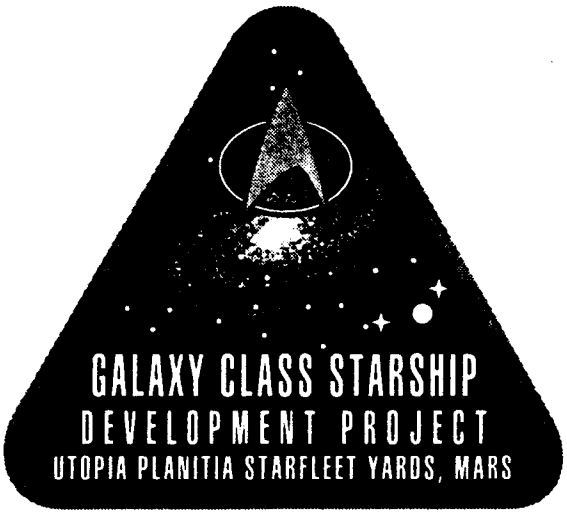
PROMOTIONS

We are proud to announce the promotion of Ensign Deborah Leafey, Commander of the Shuttle ALACRITY, to the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade). Deborah is the first REPUBLIC crew member to submit a completed promotion request to REPUBLIC Command - and it was very impressive.

To earn her 100 promotion points, Deborah completed the Vulcan Academy of Science's biology curriculum with a score of 99%, earning her their Doctorate in Biology, with Distinction. This earned her fifteen points for STARFLEET service. Her community service work included a $60 donation to WKNO - Public TV and Jury duty. She received ten REPUBLIC service points for assisting in the prepartaion of the ALACRITY's newsletter. Her REPUBLIC leadership accomplishments include completion of the OCC leadership course, planning and leading club activities and recruiting new members.

Deborah is clearly deserving of this recognition, due to her outstanding performance in organizing the new shuttle. WELL DONE Deborah.



GET WELL NEIL!!

The REPUBLIC's former Chief of Security Neil Fuller has been hospitalized with a serious respiratory illness. Neil is now recovering at home. We are sure that he would appreciate receiving your cards and good wishes for his recovery. You can write to Neil and his wife Gail at:

363 Upper River Rd.
Apt. B-43
Riverdale, GA 30274

DONATIONS

We wish to recognize the generous contributions of several persons this month.

A hearty THANK YOU to Ensign Edmund Trafford for his contribution of $25 and a quantity of postage stamps to the REPUBLIC. Edmund continues his excellent work as the club's public relations officer. Thanks for the moral support too Edmund. We look forward to reading your next newsletter article.

Another THANK YOU for the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty contribution of ANOTHER $25 and MORE stamps (unused ones), from Lieutenant Deborah Leafey and the ALACRITY. The ALACRITY also donated $3.28 from recycling aluminium cans. ANOTHER WELL DONE to the ALACRITY.

NEW MEMBERS

We are proud to welcome aboard the following new members:

Leola Minor Memphis (901) 785-1931	Shuttle ALACRITY,
Dawn Williams (404) 396-4742	Doraville, GA
J. Scott Yakoubian (404) 325-7079	Atlanta, GA
Jesse Calandin-Feldberg (404) 587-4378	Dunwoody, GA

Welcome aboard all!

STAMPEDE IN MEMPHIS!

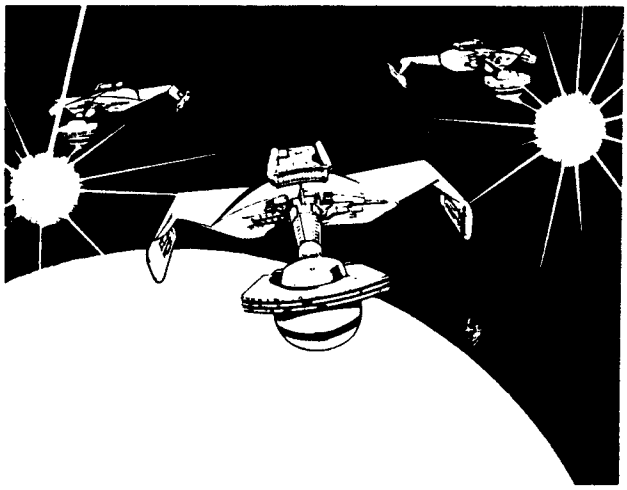
The shuttle ALACRITY has been collecting and trimming used postage stamps for STARFLEET's Stampede like crazy. In their second stamp shipment in January, Lieutenant Deborah Leafey and her club sent 330 neatly trimmed stamps to Captain Clayton Melanson in Arlington. TX. Captain Melanson and the USS LANCELOT, in turn, sell the stamps (by the pound) to professional stamp dealers, in order to raise funds for STARFLEET's public service activities.

Deborah requests the participation of other REPUBLIC members in the Stampede. Please clip the used, canceled stamps from your mail and send them to Deborah at the following address:

Lieutenant Deborah Leafey
Shuttle ALACRITY
6429 Ashton Road
Memphis, TN 38134

The paper border abound the stamps "should not exceed 1/4 inch around the stamp". Deborah and the ALACRITY staff will trim the stamp/paper to the proper size. Torn or damaged stamps, or ones covered with tape are not acceptable.

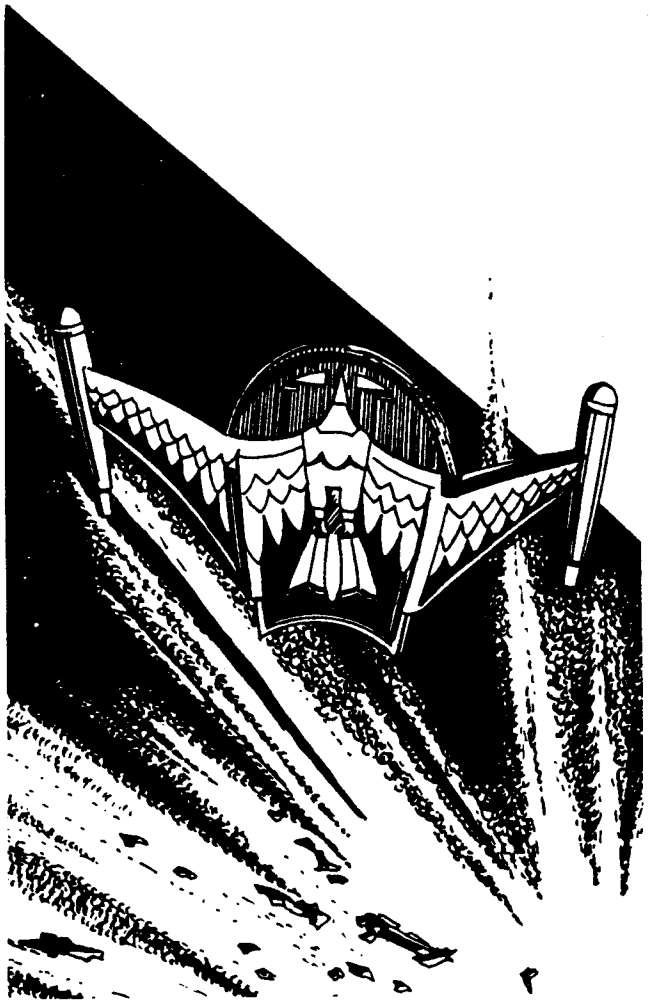
WELL DONE ALACRITY!



WOMEN'S SHELTER

The shuttle ALACRITY has "adopted" the YMCA Abused Women's Shelter in Memphis. In January the ALACRITY donated over 120 items to this shelter, including toiletries, bedding, toys and household items.

This impressive contribution is an excellent example of how STARFLEET can help to create a bright future for mankind. For furthering the goals of the REPUBLIC and of STARFLEET, another well deserved WELL DONE for the crew of the ALACRITY.



SCIENCE CORNER

SPACE EXPLORATION

by Dave Vosper
(continued from January)

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

Future space launches:

Space Station Freedom - Has constantly been downgraded and redesigned for the past decade, to such an extent that our international partners have given up trying to design their part. This project consistantly diverts funds from NASA's scientific and exploratory missions. Millions of dollars have been spent by all parties and have been largely wasted. The enormous cost of the Space Station ($30 billion), combined with current budgetary deficits make it unlikely that the Station will be launched in this century.

Manned mission to Mars - in your dreams. An outragously expensive undertaking that was only seriously considered when we had a potential partner to help shoulder the financial burden - the Soviet Union and their advanced space program. Now there are no "Soviets" and their caretaker government is selling off their space program. Our government is badly strapped for cash and multi-billion dollar hardware programs such as the B-2 bomber and the "Star Wars" Space defense system are being canceled.

This target of President Bush's Space Exploration Initiative, was projected for the year 2019, but is not funded past the 1992 launch of the unmanned Mars Observer probe. The Mars mission is also predicated on the existence of the

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Space Station and a "Space Tug" system that would carry cargo to the Station's high Earth orbit. There is no Space Station or a Space Tug to stage a Mars mission. There will continue to be talk about a manned Mars mission, but I would not take it seriously.

Mars Observer - an unmanned Mars probe, scheduled for launch from a Titan 4 booster in autumn, 1992.

Soviet Mars Mission (unmanned) - 1996. Will carry a robotic Mars Rover vehicle and a balloon carried probe to the surface of Mars. Rover vehicle tests will be carried out in the Mojave Desert in the spring of 1992. Seems unlikely to happen in light of the current political turmoil in what was once the Soviet Union.

Advanced X-Ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF) to be launched 1998. The third of NASA's four "Great Observatories". Its matched set of mirrors have recently been successfully tested (really).

Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF) - to be launched in early in the next century. The last of NASA's four "Great Observatories".

Infrared Space Observatory (ISO) - European Space Agency's observatory, scheduled for launch in 1993.

Cassini - Saturn probe. Funding is still being negotiated with Congress.

Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer (EUVE) - Scheduled for launch May 28th, 1992. Designed to measure the entire sky to determine the existence, direction, brightness and temperature of thousands of objects that are sources of extreme ultraviolet radiation.

Pegasus is a new Air Force launch system that is launched from the wing of a B-52 bomber. The Pegasus missile then delivers its payload into space. This is much more efficient than launching a complicated, non-reuseable multi-stage booster rocket from the Earth's surface. Pegasus has been successfully tested several times and has already delivered at least one payload into space. In September it was suppose to deliver ALEXIS - Array of Low-Energy X-ray Imaging Sensors, into orbit to survey the sky for white dwarf and neutron stars.

The Air Force was forced to find such alternative launch vehicles once it was discovered how unreliable the Shuttle system was. They have also revived the Delta II, Titan II and Atlas II missile programs, all of which are currently launching payloads.

NOTES FROM NUMBER ONE
by Commander Kelly Hilliard

"Hailing frequencies open."

Well another month has passed us by and things are changing on the REPUBLIC. Captain Vosper has put a lot of time and effort into this club, but has recently decided to reduce his level of participation for reasons of his own. I'd like to thank Dave for all the time, money and effort he's put into this club. Without it this club would have folded last summer.

Unfortunately, I can't increase my participation at this time. I have two jobs and a kid to take care of, and just don't have the time to run a ship as large as this one, alone. I hope that someone will pick up the reins and not let this club faulter.

Later this month I will be attending Vulkon here in Atlanta for the very first time. I hope to see all of you there. There have been many Vulkon conventions in Florida, and their promoter Joe Motes has been very

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active there. His firm Devlin Associates also put on SeaTrek cruises and I know from personal experience that they are great. I am reserving a room at Vulkon for a mega party and all REPUBLIC members are welcome. COme and start off the Con season with a bang!

Until then, "Hailing frequencies closed."

ENGINEERING REPORT

by Ensign Adam Willson

I have been appointed Chief Engineer by Captain Vosper, effective January, 1992. I would like to greet the members of the REPUBLIC's Engineering department and urge them to stay in contact with me.

I am planning a "Creative Engineering" publication and an "Engineering Corner" for the newsletter.

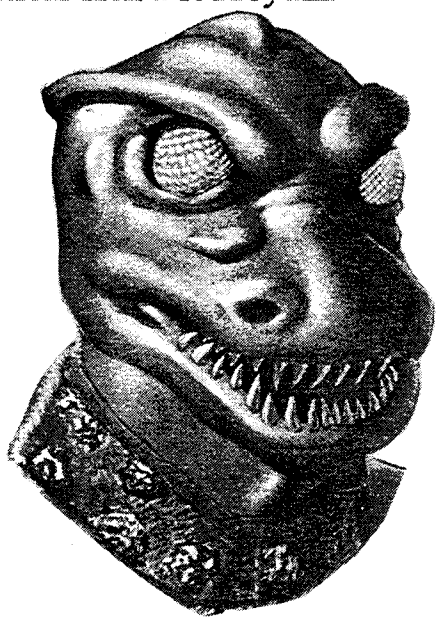
Green Orion Slave Women

By PO3 Jesse C. Feldberg

Green Orion slave women are referred to as "lodubyaln" by male Orions. Lodubyalns are said to be mystical, senuous, and cannot be resisted.

At the age of five they are placed in the care of senior or retired lodubyaln for training. In this training, which takes nine years, they learn to sing, dance, be charismatic, and many other skills. At the end of their training they take out contracts with their master's household. They serve in that household for 21 years. At the age of 35 they may buy out their contract with the money they have been saving from their tips. Retired lodubyalns have three options; marry the Orion of their dreams, freelance as a lodubyal, or make a career shift totally. Lodubyal live to the age of about 60.

Green slave women can be seen on classical episodes of Star Trek. One such appearance was in the episode "The Cage", where you saw Captain Pike watching one dance. Remember that there is nothing more irresistible and mystical then a lodubyaln.



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE UNIVERSE

by Ensign Edmund Trafford

This is the second in a series of occasional columns dealing with how we perceive the universe around us. The first appeared in the September 1990 REPUBLICation and discussed the results of the ten-year Voyager tour and how space looks from "out there." In this article, I want to bring to your attention a book which I've been recently reading, Timothy Ferris' Coming of Age in the Milky Way; it is frankly (to coin a word) "fascinating." It is generally a history of astronomy, and the framework involves defining just exactly where the "sky" was in various eras of history. Early astronomers believed the earth to be immobile, of course, encased at the center of a series of transparent shells with the sun, moon, and stars fixed to the shells. The sky hung so low above early men's heads that the mere act of observing the stars from a ziggurat or a high tower actually brought the stars closer. Each successive astronomical discovery, while enlarging men's minds, also enlarged the sky, until we now gaze not at nearby hollow shells but into infinity.

One of Ferris' most intriguing discussions is the parallel between astronomers and physicists. Astronomers are peering further and further outward (i.e., back into time) seeking evidence of the creation event (Genesis or the "big bang," whichever you prefer). Physicists peer further and further inward, seeking evidence of a "primary particle," a kind of generic or elemental matter created at the beginning of time which makes up all other particles. These particles include particles of force (a photon is really a particle of the electromagnetic wave function) and of matter (the quarks and neutrinos which in turn make up the protons and neutrons which in turn make up . . . you get the idea). In other words, astronomers investigating the macrocosmos and physicists investigating the microcosmos end up investigating the same event. Astronomers and physicists thus have more in common than they realize.

In an odd kind of Newtonian trade-off, the success of the astronomers' efforts to investigate the nature of the creation event by peering deeper and deeper into space depends on the capture of greater and greater amounts of energy (through optical or dish telescopes), while at the other end of the process, the success of the physicists' efforts to investigate the nature of the creation event by seeking the existence of smaller and smaller "fundamental" particles depends on the expenditure of greater and greater amounts of energy (through massive cyclotrons and other particle-smashing equipment).

(The curious duality of the investigation of the macrocosmos/microcosmos is thus mirrored in the capture/expenditure of energy necessary to carry out that investigation. Readers of a philosophical turn of mind will note that many Eastern cultures insist on the essential unity of such seeming opposites: "Behold, here is a paradox. The deep and the high are nearer to one another than the middle is to either.")

At the time this article was being written, I happened to come across a hard-cover National Geographic book titled Frontiers of Science. Guess what

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the chapter on "The Universe: Quasars to Quarks" had to say? The title tells it all, of course; astronomy and particle physics are but aspects of a single subject of study. What I had thought was an exciting and original concept in the Ferris book turned out to be a truism in the scientific community. My personal philosophy tends toward the "there is nothing new under the sun" approach, and I am always happy when I think that I have discovered a new or unique idea or concept that makes me think about the universe in a different way. Then to find the identical idea expressed in another book somehow spoils the pleasure of having discovered it.

At any rate, the prospect of pursuing the study of the origins of our universe from within and without, so to speak, and arriving at identical or similar findings is (here's that word again!) "fascinating."

The following is a tentitive schedule of upcoming Star Trek: The Next Generation episodes:

ATLANTA AIRDATE	TITLE
FEBRUARY 2	HERO WORSHIP
FEBRUARY 9	VIOLATIONS
FEBRUARY 16	THE MASTEREPIECE SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 23	CONUNDRUM
FEBRUARY 30	POWER PLAY
MARCH 8	ETHICS
MARCH 15	A MATTER OF TIME
MARCH 22	THE OUTCAST
MARCH 29	(UNKNOWN TITLE)
?	DUELING Q'S
?	I. BORG

Future Morality

by Kathy Marsh

As a minister's wife, and a lay-ministry student, I am often more "tuned-in" to things of a religious nature than the average person. It is very gratifying, therefore, for me to note that the writers of Star Trek: The Next Generation have envisioned a society in which humans have evolved in such a manner as to be more mature, more compassionate, and generally morally superior to our present condition. Most of the movies, novels and stories which take place in a future time period seem to emphasize the digression of human society while technology progresses. As one who believes in a Creator of the universe, I am relieved at the prospect of a future in which humans are acting in a responsible manner toward their fellow created beings, even if they are Romulans.

I believe that God, or the Creator, or whatever you choose to call the Supreme Being, has given the peoples of his universe the wonderful gift of free will - that is, as created beings we can choose our own behavior. But that gift carries with it an awful responsibility. Alas, we humans sometimes choose bad behavior that causes harm to ourselves and others and to our planet. Except for things that occur naturally, almost all harmful effects can be traced to irresponsible human behavior. (Theologians call it "sin," while politicians call it "error in judgment.")

Several years ago, I became interested in the "abduction by aliens" phenomenon and read several books on the subject. Whether or not this phenomenon is actually occurring or is just a case of collective hysteria, I really do not know. But one thing seems sure to me, and that is that these beings, if they exist, are not behaving in a responsible manner toward their fellow created beings! One only has to read the interviews of the abductees to realize how badly these people have been scarred by the experience. Some people who have studied this phenomenon speculate that these beings are a much more intelligent species than humans and that we are, to them, no more than laboratory rats. Apparently their evolutionary process has not included the development of a sense of compassion.

I am sure that I will not live to see the day that we send humans to visit another peopled planet. I hope, however, that when that time comes we will have reached a state of maturity in which there is absolutely no danger of a repetition of what happened to the Native Americans in the development of the United States, or the Jews in World War II.