

And to the REPUBLIC

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JULY, 1992

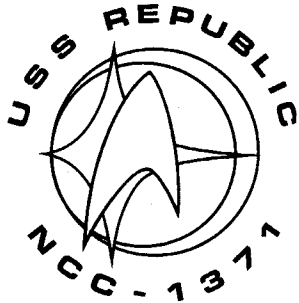
The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371
A Chapter of STARFLEET, the international Star Trek Fan Association--Atlanta, Georgia



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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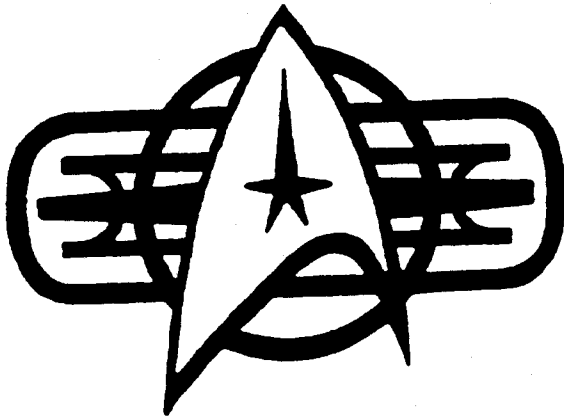
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FROM THE CENTER SEAT



by *Captain Kelly Hilliard*

Another month has passed us by like a bat out of hell. This has definitely been a busy summer! We're three major cons down as of this writing (Vulkon, Dixie Trek, and Atlanta Fantasy Fair), and by the time the paper comes out, Dragon Con will have come and gone. The con season has been rather low-key, in my opinion. The only reason I can gather is the economy, but who knows? Dragon Con is the last major con at which the Republic made a showing unless Joe Motes comes through with his Vulkon in September, as he said. According to Joe, he has a star bigger than Patrick Stewart lined up for it. This con should be held at the Atlanta Hyatt Airport like the Atlanta Fantasy Fair, so y'all should know where it is this time. The AFF was a decent con with some really good guests this year. Colm Meany was a refreshing new face on the ST:TNG circuit of guest stars. Let's hope he makes more appearances. The Trek Atlanta party was a success. Lots of people came and enjoyed themselves--some more than others! (They know who they are . . .) I'd also like to thank all the members who generously gave their time at the con to help out at the Starfleet table and help set up the party. Without you, it wouldn't have happened.

I'd like to put out a call to all members to try to make more meetings. You really don't know what you're missing. Remember, this is your club, and the only way you'll get anything out of it is to participate. So come on down, you're the next crewman to have fun!

The by-laws will be voted on August 1. All members who wish to vote must either be present or send in their proxy votes to me. We really need to get some by-laws in effect, and it has been three months since I put them out for discussion. Be sure to make that meeting--it's important.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August 4, 1992, the U.S.S Republic has a bank balance of \$170.71.

Notes From Number One

by

Cmdr Dawn Williams

Nuqneh!

Atlanta Fantasy Fair was a great success, especially the Romulan Ale Capt. Hilliard procured for the Republic party. Well, the Klingons partied again when the Republic hosted the opening of the Klingon Embassy here on Earth during Dragon Con. Capt. Hilliard has been appointed as the Federation liaison to the Embassy. Lt. Cmdr. Trafford is going to be the official communications link between the Embassy and the Republic. I have been placed as the Ambassador of the Embassy.

In the first weekend in August (August 1 and 2), a great con is taking place in Deland, Florida. It is the infamous "Tacky Con." It is hosted by a Region 2 Starfleet vessel. This con has the reputation of being one of the best cons around because it is lots of fun and fairly CHEAP! I am planning on going down there. If anyone needs information or would like to attend, please contact me.

Qapla and honor!
Ambassador Be Ghargh

Second Officer/ Tactical-Security

by

Cmdr Keith B. Rodgers

I would like to open by congratulating Shane Shadrix and Jesse Feldberg for their outstanding performance at the Shuttle Indestructible's (Macon) first convention. They represented the Republic with honor and did a great job helping with security. Both have been

given promotions for their service. Well done, Shane and Jesse!

The turnout for Star Trek VI at the Fox Theatre was great! There didn't seem to be an empty seat in the house. Many flyers were handed out and the evening was fun for all who attended.

Starfleet as well as the Republic, MacLeod, and Perth were all highly visible at AFF'92, and Trek Atlanta seems to be well on course. I would also like to congratulate Dawn Williams and all involved with the development of the Klingon Embassy which opened at Dragon Con'92. This has been a great con season, but it would not have been successful without everyone's support. Well done all!

Hailing frequencies closed.

Communications

by

Lt. Cmdr. Edmund Trafford

As Capt. Hilliard noted in his operations update, the Communications Department was able to arrange for an official Starfleet presence at the recent showing of STVI at the Fox Theatre. Actually, I would have been happy if they had allowed us to merely place a stack of brochures at the ticket booth or concession counter, but they offered us a table to distribute our membership materials.

They went like hotcakes (er, popcorn, this being the Fox!). I hope many of those who took brochures will be interested enough to join the fleet. It was great seeing so many Republic members there.

I now have several submissions for the writer's project, but there is always more room. I have heard from several more crew members who have expressed an interest in the project--please submit something soon!

I want to take the opportunity to encourage all crew members to take advantage of the Starfleet Academy offerings. Having completed OTS, OCC, and College of

Communications courses myself (with a Vulcan Academy of Science final exam still pending), I can personally vouch for value of this great Starfleet program. It's a wonderful way to get involved.

This month's cover was provided by Shane Shadrix.

From the Editor

by Lt. Dan Carson

Whew, boy! What a summer it has been for the Republic! In addition to all the terrific conventions that several of us have attended, many of the Republic staff have been going on personal leaves of one form or another. There was one point, for example, when there was not AT LEAST one staff member "on duty". This is probably the main reason why this edition of the ATTR was so late. Sorry for the delay.

Speaking of conventions, since several of us members (both staff and non-staff) did go on vacations this summer, I am sure that there is someone who would gladly share with their fellow crewmates tales of anarchy and ribaldry at these dens of anachronisms. So if anyone would like to submit an article recounting his/her experiences at a con, please feel free to do so. It will appear in a future issue.

Since we are on the topic of article submissions, convention capers are not the only things to write about. There are probably hundreds of Trek-related ideas just swimming around in those imaginative minds of yours. I am sure you have noticed the articles written by our own Edmund Trafford that have shown up in recent issues of ATTR, including this one. While Edmund's columns are interesting and thought-provoking, I welcome any ideas or stories you may have that will make this newsletter an award-winning publication at future regional conventions. **BY THE WAY:** if any of you would like to write a comment regarding this past season of ST:TNG or the up-coming season, please feel free to call me.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

by Capt. Kelly Hilliard

Attention to Orders:

The following promotions were announced at Dragon Con effective 9207.18:

Dan Carson from Lt(j.g.) to Lt.
Thomas Eplin from Ensign to Lt. Cmdr.
Jesse Feldberg from Ensign to Lt.(j.g.)
Janet Green from Ensign to Lt.(j.g.)
Robert Ray from Lt. Cmdr. to Cmdr.
Keith Rodgers from Chief of Security to Second Officer
Shane Shadrix from Crewman to PO1
Edmund Trafford from Lt. to Lt. Cmdr.
Dawn Williams from Lt. Cmdr. to Cmdr.

STVI at the Fox Theatre:

The Fox Theatre presented Star Trek VI on July 13, and Starfleet was there! Many showed up in uniform or costume; unfortunately, not everyone had the time to change. Starfleet Atlanta flyers were passed out to anyone who wanted one, and we were given a table by Fox Theatre management to promote the club, more than we imagined we'd be able to do. The Fox people were very understanding and supportive of us after they'd seen our flyer. If anyone hasn't seen the wonderful flyer Edmund Trafford has made for us, let me know and I'll

send you one. The movie was awesome on the huge screen of the Fox. This definitely improved the movie for me. The Fox is the place to see anything! Patrick Stewart agrees--he was VERY impressed with it when he was here last February. What a blast!

Away Team to MDA Camp:

On July 7, Starfleet Atlanta loaded up our cars and headed for Winder, Georgia, for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp Dance. The theme was (what else?) "Star Trek." All the members of Starfleet came in uniform or costume and were well-received by the kids. The member to stand out, though,

was Neil Fuller. In his traditional Klingon uniform, he stood out more than anyone. The kids loved him. I hope he has his eyesight back from all those pictures! All ships were represented, and Starfleet Command was on hand as well. The MDA people were very happy with our presentation, and we will be hearing from them again in the near future. "Well done" to all!

Spend an evening at Six Flags:

On August 15, the Republic is planning a night of fun and fireworks as our group, along with the Perth and MacLeod, goes on an exploratory mission to Six Flags over Georgia. All crewmembers are to meet at Fernbank Science Center at 1630 hrs. (4:30 p.m.) to share transportation or rendezvous at the inside front gate at 1745 hrs. (5:45 p.m.). If you need further information, please contact your department head.

STARDATES

*Saturday, August 1--General meeting, 12 PM noon, Fernbank

*Saturday, August 1--Tachy4Con, Deland, Florida; see Neil Fuller on the MacLeod or Executive Officer Dawn Williams for details.

*Saturday, August 15--A night at Six Flags. See above article for information.

*September 1-6--World Con, Orlando; see Kelly for details.

*September 25-27--Vulkon Atlanta, Leonard Nimoy at the Atlanta Hyatt Hilton.

*October 10--Highland Games, Stone Mountain; meet at Fernbank at 9 AM.

BRINGING YOU
THE 23RD CENTURY
TODAY



TOP SECRET CODED COMMUNICATION-- EYES ONLY

The top ten favorite activities of Capt. Jean-Luc Picard are:

10. Ordering Earl Grey tea from the computer, then smacking himself on the forehead and saying, "I could have had a V-8!"
9. Yelling "Punchbuggy!" and hitting Riker's arm whenever he sees a shuttlecraft.
8. Screwing around in the holodeck when he ought to be on the bridge.
7. Spotlighting unsuspecting crew members with the glare from his forehead.
6. Lecturing everybody on why it's rude to fire the phasers at other life-forms.
5. Sending crank subspace messages to Starfleet Command asking if Dick Hertz is there.
4. Asking Beverly Crusher to come to his quarters so he can show her "a REAL Picard maneuver."
3. Ticking off Romulan commanders during tense confrontations in the Neutral Zone by asking "Are those Bugle Boy jeans you're wearing?"
2. Telling crew members in a menacing, Dirty Harry voice, "Go ahead, make it so."
1. Putting banana peels on the transporter pads just before an away team beams back up.

REPUBLIC ROUNDTABLE

Vulcan is a hot and dry planet. It seems curious that, as precious as water must be on Vulcan, no ritual has grown up around it. For example, the "water brother" bond of the Martians in Robert Heinlein's Stranger in A Strange Land emphasizes the supreme importance of water, and the extreme efforts at conservation in Frank Herbert's Dune (bodsuits which recycle moisture, an extensive network of underground cisterns to reclaim water, etc.) are not evident on Vulcan. On some planets, water is so valuable that it is even used as a medium of exchange. But for a world as arid as Vulcan, there doesn't seem to be any special recognition of water as a rare and priceless commodity that has pervaded society in the form of ritual or traditional practice. Why not?

(Responses to this question will be published in a future ATTR "Roundtable" column.)

HOLIDAY ALERT

Hallmark has announced that the Shuttlecraft Galileo Christmas ornament will be beamed to its stores on August 29. The lighted ornament contains a chip which produces the following message: "Spock to Enterprise. Spock to Enterprise. Spock here. Happy Holidays. Live long and prosper." List price is \$24. The ornament is a companion to last season's lighted Enterprise, which has since become a collectors' item.



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE UNIVERSE

Newton, Einstein, and Everything

by Lt. Edmund Trafford

(Ed.'s note: This is the conclusion of an article that appeared in last month's issue.)

II.

Einstein's "theory of general relativity" deals with the effects of gravity. In gross equations (i.e., equations involving large quantities not requiring a high degree of accuracy), the mathematics of Newton and Einstein produce similar results. In equations requiring a high degree of precision, however, discrepancies creep into the results, discrepancies which can only be resolved in favor of the accuracy of Einsteinian principles. Even so, Einstein's insistence on "invariance" is still valid. Take as an example the dynamics of a satellite orbiting the Earth. In Newtonian physics, the attractive force of gravity acts somewhat like a long tether to the satellite; the satellite is pursuing a perfectly straight trajectory but still "falls around" the Earth. (The customary example is to imagine whirling an object at the end of a long string around your head with the string representing the force of Newtonian gravity.) In Einstein's universe, the force of gravity itself distorts space in the vicinity of a sufficiently massive body, forcing any other less massive object to follow a curved path of least resistance around the more massive body. (Imagine a golf putt which almost drops into the cup but instead rolls around the rim of the cup and continues off in another direction; its straight path has been deflected by moving too close to the "curved space" of the golf cup. Fortunately--for the ball, not the hapless golfer--its momentum was sufficient to carry it in a hyperbola through the area of distortion and into "free space." If the golf ball had less momentum and if the effects of friction could be negated, the ball would have been captured by the cup and would have continued to "orbit" the curved rim of the cup indefinitely.) Thus, the fact remains "invariable" that the satellite will continue to orbit the Earth. The end result

is only how its path is interpreted in terms of Newtonian attractive force or of Einsteinian curved space.

Using the golf cup analogy above, the next step in understanding Einstein's general theory of gravity is to understand that, like the ball skirting the rim of the cup and rolling off in another direction, the gravity of a massive body can distort a beam of light. When we receive light from a source whose straight-line trajectory carries it close to the Sun, we perceive that light as coming from a direction which does not represent the true location of the source, because the light rays have encountered an area of curved space in the vicinity of the massive Sun and have been deflected. In extreme cases, when light encounters a gravitational distortion so powerful that it curves space entirely around itself, the light will continue to "orbit" that closed curve forever; even light cannot escape a black hole, a spatial phenomenon predicted by Einstein's theory of gravity.

III.

As a consequence of both of the above theories (special relativity as it relates to light and general relativity as it relates to gravity--specifically, the ability of gravity to affect the passage of light), it follows that light, generally considered a manifestation of electromagnetic radiation, sometimes acts like particulate matter (i.e., photons). At this point, Einstein's claim that his ideas merely change the perception or interpretation of universal invariables breaks down, just as Newtonian physics breaks down when faced with discrepancies which can only be solved by Einsteinian physics. How can light be considered both a particle and a waveform? The answer, according to the great Danish physicist Niels Bohr, is that "it depends on the circumstances." Bohr's contribution to the advancement of physics was the formulation of quantum theory, which deals with probabilities, not certainties. A number of experiments have confirmed that, depending on how the experiment is set up, a beam of light will behave either with the characteristics of a wave or with the characteristics of a stream of particles. Thus, it is not inaccurate to speak of "gravity waves," for example, a force which

seems to manifest itself in the form of particulate "gravitons." The force of gravity is transmitted through the interaction of these particles with other particles, producing an attraction (or a repulsion, if the polarity is identical)

Einstein, ever the advocate of an invariable universe--on his terms if not on Newton's--and horrified by the implications of quantum theory, asserted "God does not play dice with the universe." Bohr is supposed to have retorted "Stop telling God what to do!"

Conclusion

So there you have it--Newton's mechanistic universe, Einstein's "relative but invariable" universe, and Bohr's universe full of variables and uncertainties. You might be tempted to take your pick depending upon your own philosophical approach, though actually, all three universes coexist happily and neither one cancels out or replaces the others. It is more of a hierarchy of universes. Newton's rules still very much apply for a significant portion of all physical calculations. More precise calculations (observations at the atomic level) require Einstein's mathematics to eliminate the inconsistencies that normally would not have an effect on Newton's laws. And finer calculations still (observations at the subatomic level) require Bohr's quantum theories to yield usable results.



ENCOUNTER AT FAR-OUT POINT

by Lt. Cmdr. Edmund Trafford (with assistance from Her Excellency, the Klingon Ambassador to Earth)

As we all know by now, following the historical events of Dragon Con, the Klingon High Command has taken the unprecedented action of naming Gharwi Be Ghargh Ral as their ambassador to the United Federation of Planets. The Klingon embassy will be based here in Atlanta. The ambassador's duties will include acting as coordinator for the various Klingon factions in the sector (the Klingon Legion of Assault Warriors and the Klingon Assault Group). Because the ambassador-designate currently serves as Executive Officer on the USS Republic, our ship has been assigned duty as the official liaison between Starfleet and the newly-appointed ambassador.

Madame Be Ghargh Ral was in seclusion pending the confirmation ceremonies here on Earth at Dragon Con. As Chief of Communications for the Republic, it was my responsibility to see to it that a comm channel was established with the Klingons and that all personnel are kept informed of events. Accordingly, I spoke with Her Excellency's aide to arrange to interview her at her hide-out--I mean, headquarters--for our ATTR readers. I knew that my request for an interview had been granted when several of the ambassador's diplomatic advisors burst into my quarters late one sleep cycle, stunned me, and beamed me to an unknown destination.

"I'm so glad you could come," she said when I regained consciousness. After removing my gag, my first question to Her Excellency was why her bodyguards--I mean, advisors--were so heavily armed. She laughed. "All Klingons carry weapons at all times, but of course, these are only ceremonial weapons," she assured me. "Allow me to demonstrate . . ." At her signal, one of her assistants suddenly pointed his disruptor in my direction and fired. The bulkhead directly behind me disintegrated. As I brushed the singed material from my jacket, the ambassador said, "You see? If this had

been a fully charged weapon, nothing--including you--would have remained." Of course, at this point, I was completely persuaded of her peaceful intentions. She paused and then glared directly at me. "Now, what would you like to know?"

"Please describe your mission to the Federation," I asked very politely (very politely). "My presence on your planet is to educate the Federation and its people in the ways of the Klingon culture. We have accepted your invitation to establish this embassy on your Terran soil to also further promote certain negotiations between the Empire and the Federation. I believe this contact will be beneficial."

"What do you expect to achieve during your term as ambassador, Your Excellency?" She replied, "To gain as much information as possible regarding the Federation and its structure and to add to our understanding of the strange behavior exhibited by your human race."

"What are your qualifications for this sensitive post?" I asked. "I have had contact with the Federation and Earthers since I was a young one. I have been educated in your Terran ways and I speak your 'Anglish' quite fluently. I also have certain understanding regarding the differences in diplomatic techniques between our two cultures. I have always operated in the full Klingon tradition regarding all new cultures: 'If you cannot negotiate with it--then kill it.' However, we will attempt to appease your need for the less direct and less effective means of diplomacy."

I'm sure many of our ATTR readers attended the installation of Madame Be Ghargh at Dragon Con, so I won't describe the full pageantry of the ceremony; it was an unforgettable experience. I tried to contact Her Excellency after the party--I mean, ceremony--for a follow-up interview, but her aide informed me that she was still hung over--I mean, already engaged in high-level diplomatic negotiations. But a good time was had by all, and we hope the ambassador "lives long and prospers" in her difficult dual role as the Republic's Exec and as the Empire's accredited representative.

ATLANTA IN '95

The Shape of Things To Come Back To

Experience.

We are: Don Cook (Chair), Penny Frierson, Charlotte Proctor, Kurt Cagle, Avery Davis, Terry Fowler, Bill Francis, Ken Garrison, Tom Hanlon, Samantha Jeudé, Alex Lucyshyn, Teri Lucyshyn, Sue Phillips, Ken Spivey, Daniel Taylor, Eric Watta, and Caran Wilbanks. Between us we have over 150 years of convention experience. We are the same group who showed you a good time in 1986 (with a few fresh faces for flavor), and we are ready to make a Worldcon in 1995 that you'll never forget.

Southern Hospitality.

That's more than just a buzzword in Atlanta. It's an attitude that permeates everything we do. A ready smile and a friendly "How y'all doin'?" are only the beginning. (Yes, we really do talk like that. Well, some of us do.) It means we care what you think, because it's our job to make you happy. It means we run a Worldcon on time, within budget, and behind the scenes out of your way—but we're still close by if you need us. It means we have a reputation to live up to—the one we built ourselves. And we're ready to demonstrate it again.

Tradition—and Innovation.

This seeming paradox is the key to a true World Science Fiction Convention: firmly anchored in the past, yet not confined to it. We embrace and celebrate the traditions of science fiction and fandom, and we recognize that they have evolved in the last half century. In addition to honoring these traditions, we are ready to expand into "new traditions"—the foundation, if you will—of the 21st century Worldcon. That means you'll find everything you expect to find at a Worldcon, and more.

Hotels from the Future.

Atlanta's convention facilities are unsurpassed anywhere in the world, and we have reserved the best of the best for the 1995 Worldcon. Once again, our anchor is the striking, Gigeresque Atlanta Marriott Marquis, flanked by the Atlanta Hilton and Towers, and the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. With over 300,000 square feet of function space, nearly 4300 sleeping rooms (over 200 handicap accessible), and twenty restaurants and lounges...not to mention the covered pedestrian walkway to Peachtree Center's shops and food court...you'll find literally thousands of people ready to cater to your every need before you even set foot outside!

A World-Class City.

But what a waste it would be if you never left the hotels. That isn't Mayberry RFD out there, but Peachtree Street, the pulse of Atlanta. The MARTA rapid rail system, one of the cleanest and most efficient in the country, transports you from Hartsfield International Airport to our downtown hotels in climate-controlled comfort—no shuttle buses or taxis required! MARTA also takes you to everything that the area has to offer—Underground Atlanta, the original city center, now refurbished as our newest shopping and dining area; The World of Coca-Cola pavilion, adjacent to Underground, a museum dedicated to Atlanta's premier corporate citizen; SciTrek.

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