



ISSUE 29

STARFLEET COMMUNIQUE

OCT./NOV.

OUR 14th YEAR

EDITOR'S LOG

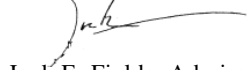
It was a sunny, balmy San Luis Obispo afternoon. I had spent a tough day at the beach and was readying myself for an even harder dinner engagement at a local English-style pub. It was then, just as I was cinching my bolo tie, that the phone rang. I picked the receiver up, "Hello?" I questioned, awaiting an answer. "Hello," the voice said. It was Fleet Admiral Steven Smith. "Jack," he said, "I want you to start work on the October issue of *Communique*', A.S.A.P. . And I need it by the fifteenth of August." But, deadlines could not steal the moment... After nearly nine years of being a Starfleet member, I had achieved my goal... a goal to become Starfleet's Chief of Communications!

I am Jack Fields. I joined Starfleet some eight and a half years ago. In that time I have served as science specialist with the USS Yorktown, as Commanding Officer of the USS Eagle, as Regional Coordinator of Region 15, an editor/producer of a couple of Fleet publication's and most recently as Director of Starfleet Academy's Post Graduate School - West. As Starfleet's newest Chief of Communications I promise to continue making the *Communique*' one of the finest fan-produced publication's. I have my work cut out for me, and Bill Krause's boot's will be hard to fill.

And now, to business I recently received from Admiral Krause a listing of all fleet publications. I would like to ask at this time that if your chapter has not registered its publication(s) with this office to please do so. Also, if you have registered, please re-register so that I may verify and up date my current files. Also, please read the page about the *Starfleet Newsletter Contest*.

In closing this log I would like to say that I am looking forward to serving a long term as Starfleet's Chief of Communications, and would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the following members for their help with this issue: Admiral William Krause; for his extensive help and advice, and for making *Communique*' what it is today; Flt. Admiral Steve Smith; for having faith; Cdr. Carrie Dover for an excellent job of typesetting; and finally V. Adm. Tim "Wereadmiral" Dover and V. Adm. Rob Lerman - both of whom know why...

Peace!!!



Jack E. Fields, Admiral
Starfleet Chief of Communications

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COMMUNIQUE

HEADQUARTERS NEWS



Flt. Admiral Steven L. Smith

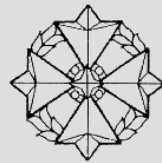
Chief of Staff

Well, October is upon us again, Cool weather, Halloween, costumes, and all that fun stuff. Giving me goose bumps already!

Thought everyone might find this interesting: and, this is true - no rumors. The Excelsior class ships being seen on the "Next Generation" are really Ambassador class starships. The Excelsior class never really worked well for Starfleet, so a whole fleet of these ships were built. So Starfleet made the Ambassador class which worked with better results. (seeing transwarp does not work). I believe they probably had trouble with incorporating linear drive into the design of the transwarp nacelles. If you have noticed, they have never filmed one up close. Always a distance shot.

We will be seeing new costumes in Star Trek V. Bob Fletcher will not be costume designer on the new movie. Paramount wanted a " **HIGH TECH** " look. So costumers beware. Well that's all the tidbits and news I have for this time. So in closing... Happy Halloween and "Bob" them apples!

Fleet Admiral Steven L. Smith
Chief of Staff



COMMUNIQUE' STAFF

Admiral Jack Fields.....	Chief of Communications, Editor
Rear Admiral Tim Gillespie	Vice Chief of Communications
Commander Carrie Dover	Typesetting
Commander Karen Mason	Distribution
Admiral William Krause	Senior Advisor



14

YEARS

COMMUNIQUE

STARFLEET



Election '88

A Letter from the President

Dear fellow *Starfleet* member,

It has been some time since I last addressed you concerning the office of the presidency. Three years ago I entered this office with many expectations. In that three years, more has happened that even I had hoped for!

When I took over the center seat of this great organization, there was still much work to do to repair the damage by the Stillwell Administration that was dumped in the lap of Fran Booth in 1984 when her term as president began. The Booth Administration left office nearly a year early, thus I have been fortunate enough to have been able to serve an extra year in this term. With the help of many fine officers, this administration has been able to take a semi-stable, stagnant *Star Trek* fan club and transform it into the vibrant and active group of fans around the globe that it is today!

Let's take a look at some of the facts behind the last three years. When my administration began on January 1st, 1986, this organization consisted of only 30 or more chapters and a little less than 1200 members. Working together, my Executive Committee, as well as many others in the Fleet, have built *Starfleet* up to more than 70 chapters and well over 3000 members!

In addition, this administration has helped develop and/or supported the development of many new offices and programs to serve the membership as well as benefit the organization as a whole. Many of these new additions to the Fleet have grown to become major assets via their popularity,

Most importantly, we have worked hard to stabilize the previously wobbly *Starfleet* treasury. Even more, myself and the other Executive Committee members have regulated our economy by doing a lot of footwork to save costs while miraculously improving the quality of many of our materials by quantum leaps (ex: the newsletter)! These efforts have also helped keep *Starfleet* operating comfortably in the black.

Many of you may ask what has made this organization work and what has contributed to its continual major growth? Although there are so many facets to this organization, one of our primary focuses here at Headquarters has always been the return on your specific eight to twelve dollars

If anything has contributed to *Starfleet's* problems in the past, it was the lack of materials promised to the paid member! For the past three years, this administration has kept an incredible record for distributing membership materials as well as our organizations newsletter, the

"*Starfleet Communique*". We have also broken down to a science the method by which lost materials (postal blunders) are replaced.

In the past, there was recurring problems with "*Communique*" distribution, NOT production. Whenever man and machine come together, there is bound to be trouble. Presently, the "*Starfleet Communique*" has grown into one of the best quality fan publications around! The Communications Staff has produced and distributed more issues in just three years, than the past three administrations put together!!!

Let me point out that "*Communique*" distribution is not the only problem being worked out or that has been worked out. In the past, we have solved many of the bumps in the organization. We are also aware of continuing problems and are taking steps to correct them. I would like to thank many members for bringing problems to our attention. It is my hope that you continue to do so.

This election marks the first time in *Starfleet* history that a president has sought reelection. Why you may ask? The answer is simply this. When I took office, what seems like ages ago, I was committed to the idea that a socially active, international organization of *Star Trek* fans can work and work well! **I am still committed to that idea.** I believe that my administration has for the first time been able to really make this idea function the way it was intended. *Starfleet* has grown from the status of "just a *Star Trek* fan club" to the level of Kiwanis or a Lions club in many communities.

It is the dedication of thousands of *Starfleet* members across the world to the ideas represented in *Star Trek*, and the idea of what *Starfleet* represents, that inspires myself and the rest of the Executive Committee. It is my hope that you will choose to again have me lead you and together we will nurture our great organization as well as many a friendship! Thank you for your support.



Fleet Admiral Steven L. Smith
President, *Starfleet*

A Letter from Jeannette Maddox

To all members of *Starfleet* :

Deciding to run for the position of President of *Starfleet* is a decision I have come to only after many long hours of thought and consideration and upon the urging of many of my *Starfleet* friends and associates. Feel compelled to run because I honestly think I can guide *Starfleet* into better management.

Steve Smith and his administration have helped to consolidate *Starfleet*, and for that we are all grateful. But, there are still many adjustments that need to be made in order for our group and its many

members to become a smoothly running organization. I have managed my own business for many years, and I understand the extreme importance of setting and meeting deadlines as well as the importance of getting news of the Fleet to the Fleet. I also firmly believe that the problems should be resolved quickly and diplomatically before they escalate into hot spots within the Fleet. I realize the goals I have listed here are sometimes difficult to attain, but I feel that by using my past experiences in *Starfleet* and in the mundane world... and with the help of hardworking *Starfleet* members... that the goals can be reached without delay,

If elected, I will not compromise the Fleet by making major changes in its basic structure. The basic structure of *Starfleet*, like that of *Star Trek*, is sound and solid. All current programs and personnel will be left in place as long as they live up to their commitment to the Fleet... and I will do my best to help them in any respect. But, positions of responsibility demand people of responsibility.

Campaign promises are easily made and easily forgotten, so I won't insult your intelligence by making them. I do, however, give my personal word that changes for the better will be made quickly and that all my experience and knowledge will be dedicated to continually improving your Fleet, and trying to make it even more enjoyable.

Qualifications of Commodore Jeannette Maddox

- A member of *Starfleet* for six years
- First Officer of the USS Alaric NCC-503 for two years
- Captain of the USS Alaric NCC-503 for three years, during which time the Alaric won *Starfleet's* 1986 Chapter of the Year Award and during which time the Alaric's newsletter, the Carolina Communicator, won *Starfleet's* 1986 Bimonthly Newsletter Award and during which time the Alaric launched four shuttle to starship status
- Is currently Vice Regional Coordinator of Region One

STARFLEET Newsletter Contest

It's October again and time once again to enter your chapters publication(s) in the **STARFLEET Newsletter Contest**. This is your chapter's chance to show its mettle, to strut its stuff and compete against other chapters! Four categories will will be judged:

- Best Monthly Publication
- Best Bimonthly Publication
- Best Quarterly Publication
- Best Special Publication (special issues, directories, manuals, etc.)

A committee of four non-members and the Chief of Communications will make up the judging panel. Entries will be judged on overall quality based upon content and format. Only *Starfleet* members may enter, no

other entries will be accepted. Entries become property of Starfleet Communications unless otherwise stated and returned postage is included. Winners will be notified in the February 1989 issue of *Communique*. To enter send your publication by November 15, 1988 to:

STARFLEET Communications
Newsletter Contest
 4516 Holliday Hills Court
 Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Please include the following information with your entry: Name of Publication; Frequency of Publication; and Category publication is to be judged under.

Good luck, and Happy Halloween!

Kirk Faces Death

By Commander Betty Dain, U.S.S. *Potemkin*

When Jim Kirk's son David said, "He had never faced death...", David was wrong. Perhaps David worded it wrong, but I felt he had faced death many times. Kirk was not allowed to *react* to death. The only time we do see him react at all is to the unreal death of Chekov in "Spectre of the Gun". Otherwise, Kirk was not allowed to show grief at all. Not even when his brother Sam and his sister-in-law Aurleen were killed in "Operation Annihilate", Aurleen, in fact, died in Kirk's arms. The problem was that Kirk was never permitted to release his grief.

During the five-year mission of the *Enterprise*, Kirk has had to watch several of his crew die, including family and friends, such as Matt Decker and his former professor, John Gill. If all personnel that were lost were totaled, it would no doubt total over 100. All of who, having lost their lives facing the unknown, while in the service of Starfleet. One of the first and most notable was Jim Kirk's best friend of many years, Gary Mitchell. What made matters worse is that Kirk had to kill Mitchell himself! He must have felt awful having to do that!

My research has noted fifty-three *Enterprise* crew members lost (a complete list appears at the end of this article), but here I shall site only a few.

Besides Mitchell, Dr. Elizabeth Dehner and Lee Kelso were lost due to the energy field at the galactic edge. Darnell, Sturgeon, Green and Bernhardt were lost to the M-113 salt monster, while security men Matthews and Rayburn met their deaths at the hands of Ruk during the search for Dr. Roger Korby. Latimer, Gaetano and O'Niell were all lost to the giant ape creatures on Murasaki 312, while Kirk watched yet another group of his security men (Henford, Kaplan, Mallory and Marple) lose their lives to Val in "The Apple".

Additionally, several unnamed crew members (mostly security officer's) were lost to the unknown: four were lost to Nomad and six to the blood sucking, gaseous creature in "Obsession".

More, many more, could be sited, but I believe I have proven my point. Kirk did indeed face death many times over. David was in error, but perhaps it was different when Kirk had to face the death of Spock. His grief was real, Spock had given his life to save the ship and all aboard, but that did not change the fact that Kirk had lost a friend. Then when Kruge killed David, the son Kirk had so recently found, he let his bottled up grief explode. Kirk can be somewhat consoled by the fact that David had given his life to save Spock and Saavik, and that Kirk was able to get Spock back, but as Sarek said, "At what price"? Your ship, your son."

Enterprise Crew Lost

Barnhardt, Darnell, Sturgeon, Green - "Man Trap"

Compton - "Wink of An Eye"

D'Amato, Watkins, Wyatt - "That Which Survives"

Dehner, Kelso, Mitchell - "Where No Man Has Gone Before"

Gaetano, Latimer, O'Neil - "Galileo Seven"

Galloway - "Omega Glory"

Galway - "The Deadly Years"

Grant- "Friday's Child"

Harper - "The Ultimate Computer"

Hendorf, Kaplan, Mallory, Marple - "The Apple"

Kelly - "Devil in the Dark"

Lang, O'Herlihy - "Arena"

Thompson - "By Any Other Name"

Jackson - "Catspaw"

Rizzo - "Obsession"

Tomlinson - "Balance of Terror"

Thompson - "Elan of Troyius"

Tormolen - "The Naked Time"

Mattews, Rayburn — "What Are Little Girls Made of?"

Unknown Crewman

Seven in "Where No Man Has Gone Before"

Four in "The Changeling"

Six in "Obsession"

Four in "And the Children Shall Lead"

ACADEMY NEWS

Senior Captain Network

Academy Outline

8808.09

The Senior Captain Network (SCN) is not a college in itself, but a service department of *Starfleet* operated by *Starfleet Academy*. The SCN consists of a number of seasoned chapter chairpersons whose job is to advise and aid new chapter chairpersons in any way possible. Each member of the SCN is a "Senior Captain" — a chapter chairperson who has displayed exemplary command performance in leading their chapters. When a new commanding officer begins forming his or her chapter, the Senior Captain will advise them on how to organize and utilize proper command procedures. The new chairperson's will benefit from the knowledge and experience gained by the Senior Captain and may become better commanding officer's in turn. The services rendered by the SCN need not be severed once the new commanding officer becomes experienced. All chapter chairpersons are encouraged to contact the SCN if they are in need of advice or assistance.

The Director of the Senior Captain Network is appointed by the Director of *Starfleet Academy*. The Director of the SCN may appoint anyone as Senior Captain in their region as necessary, or may remove anyone from the network. The Director may promote anyone with the rank of Captain to the rank of Fleet Captain, but may not promote anyone below the rank of Commander to Captain without the approval of the Executive Committee. The Director may not promote anyone below the rank of Captain to any other rank, unless that person is a member of the Directors chapter. Only officer of Captain and above may be appointed to the network. The SCN Director, on approval from the Director of *Starfleet Academy*, may appoint an aid or Assistant Director to assist in the duties of the network.

A new Commanding Officer will be assigned to a Senior Captain for a minimum of nine (9) months. At the end of that period, the Senior Captain will review the new Commanding Officer and make a recommendation to the Director to either keep the CO on Network reporting or to be allowed to go on their own. The final decision is with the Director.

Any Network members not currently assigned to a new chairperson is required to send a note every odd month to update any information and to keep the Director informed that they are still interested in the Network. The Network Director will condense the Senior Captains' reports into a network report to be filed with the Academy Director by the first of the month. The Director will also send copies to the report to all network members for review and comments.

The Senior Captain in each region will be the training officer for the region and will be in charge of the training of all new Chapters (Starships) and all older chapters where there has been a change of command. This will allow the Regional Coordinator, if different than the Senior Captain, to

focus more on regional activities and problems. This will not stop the Regional Coordinator from helping in any way they might be able to. The Senior Captain may also ask for assistance from the the Regional Coordinator as well, but if there is any problem that the Senior Captain cannot solve, he/she must ask the Director of the Network for assistance.

Here is a list of the Senior Captains for each region:

Vice Admiral Rob Lerman
Director, Senior Captain Network
PO. Box 554
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-0554

Rear Admiral Susan Bolick
Special Advisor to the SCN
35 College Street
Weaverville, NC 28787

Region One—
Rear Admiral Linda Neighbors
300 Winesap Road
Madison Hts., VA 24572

Region Two
Fleet captain David Smith
1721 NW 45th. Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Region Four
Fleet captain Janis Moore
P.O. Box 8993
Sacramento, CA 95818

Region Five
Fleet Captain Robert Hilton
469 N. 36th. (Apt. B)
Seattle, WA 98103-8630

Region Seven
Rear Admiral Faye Esswein
3200 Juniper Lane
Falls Church, VA

Region Twelve
No Current Member,
but looking!



Fleet Captain Marylee Holzheimer
3545 Radcliffe Road
Cleveland Hts., OH 44121

Region Three
No Current Member, but looking!

Vice Admiral Timothy Dover
P.O. Box 6556
Oceanside, CA 92056

Region Six
No Current Member, but looking!

Region Ten
Commodore Terry Wyatt
1724 Cedar Hill X Road
Victoria, B.C. V8P 2R1
Canada

Region Seventeen
Rear Admiral Karen Emerson
136 Smithridge Park
Reno, NV 89512

Is *Star Trek: The Next Generation* Better Than The Original *Star Trek*?

By Jason Platt

The aforementioned question has raised many eyebrows in the Trek community. Posing such a question would cause a writer to look for Denebian Slime Devils under his bed at night.

The first season of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* has been aired. We have come to know the erudite command abilities of Captain Jean-luc Picard and his "Number One", Commander William T. Riker. We have seen the diligent duties performed by Lt. Commander Data, Lt.J.G. Geordi LaForge, Security Chief Tasha Yar and Lt. Worf. Chief medico Beverly Crusher has brought a sense of universal understanding and medical competence to the new *Enterprise*. Her son, acting Ensign Wesley Crusher, has saved the ship from more than one disaster and proved to be an invaluable member of the crew.

To answer the question of which series is better, the new or the old, the variables will have to be stated and proven.

The first variable in the mixture of success is the characterization. It is apparent that there is no comparison between *ST* and *ST:TNG* in this area. What *Star Trek*, the old series established, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* has improved upon. The interplay between the characters is extraordinary. The best example of this is between Picard and Riker. Picard commands the *Enterprise*, but Riker controls the ship. Picard has absolute faith in his First Officer; a refreshing change in a world where we can not always trust those we are charged with. Picard and Riker are first and foremost officers and second, the best of friends.

The next component in the formula is acting. Doubtless, Shatner, Nimoy and Kelly were the masters of their art. Stewart, Frakes and Spiner have paved a path of substantial acting into each of their respective characters. They have brought a dynamic countenance to the series. They are superb in their roles.

The question of plot has always been a major concern to fans. The plot is what makes the episode click. A bad story is a wasted hour. Many regard the third season of *Star Trek* to be its worst. The stories degenerated from good, viable and interesting to absurd, grab-it-and-run plots. Because *Star Trek* came first, the stories were, of course, original. The only criticism of *ST:TNG* in this area is that most of the writers have taken small ideas from the original and revamped them into a buried, new storyline. This is okay... to a point. It becomes annoying while watching an episode of *ST:TNG* and being reminded throughout the hour of classic Trek. There is more humor in the new series than in the old. Issues of importance are culled from the pen of the writers in a predominantly strong fashion.

Technical expertise plagued the old series. *Industrial Light & Magic*, the *Lucasfilm Ltd.* F/X machine has given the series a sleek look. The bridge is the focal point of the show. It befits a "Galaxy Class" starship. The other mainstay comment is that the effect are worth cinematic praise, let alone television kudos.

The best part of the series is the feeling that the viewer gets after watching an episode. *Star Trek's* original handling of issue and its hope for the peace and comfort of the future are prevalent in the new series. We felt the jubilation of Wesley becoming an acting Ensign and the despair of Riker trying to contend with the god-like power offered by "Q".

The death of Lt. Yar in the line of duty will be felt by all. She will be truly missed. *ST:TNG* has provided the impetus to the present and a great longing for the future.

The answer to the initial question would have to be yes. *Star Trek: The Next Generation* is better than *Star Trek*. It is better because it is different; a difference that manifests itself each week. No one wants a rehash of the old series, that would defeat the purpose of the creation of *Star Trek*. *ST:TNG* has opened up a new lease on the creative aptitude of Gene Roddenberry. We have come to love Kirk, Spock and McCoy, and will find new feelings for Picard, Riker and Data. *Star Trek* has returned and we can all take comfort in knowing that the Great Bird of the galaxy has taken flight again.

Star Trek: The Next Generation A Few Comments

By V Adm. Timothy J. Dover

While watching the premier of, was constantly going over in my mind similarities I was discovering as the scenes went by and the plot thickened. Once it was over, I watched my VCR copy another three times just to see if there was anything I had missed. My first thoughts were that this series would be filled with old plots and complications as seen in the original series. This fear was just about confirmed when I saw the next episode, "The Naked Now". I give them credit though for not trying to cover it up. Let me start this discussion with a brief listen to the opening music. Sounds familiar doesn't it? It should, it's practically taken directly off the *ST:TMP* sound track! Not to sound ungrateful, but couldn't they use original material for the opening overture? I would have preferred to hear music more like that of *Wrath of Khan* or *Search for Spock*. I felt that was very soothing and pleasant music. I agree that the music for *ST:TMP* was very good, and I am glad they decided to use good music, but I thought they might at least change it a bit.

Speaking of the Motion picture, oh those uniforms! Ok, so it's not exactly like the pajama type (*ST:TMP*) but they do bother me. It is more a combination of the enlisted jumpsuits of the later movies and the pajama style of *ST:TMP*. They added the twist of color from the series, the old red, blue and gold to round off the list of alterations. That was not as hard to swallow, as it will be a big boost for the series lovers. They did change divisional colors, which in my opinion was a saving grace. Command is red this time, Support Services is gold, but sciences still gets the blue. The pattern of the design looks simple enough, so long as you don't plan to make one for yourself. This goes for the Admiral's jacket that appeared in the later episodes as well. At least the red color of Command remained consistent. As I studied the uniforms throughout the first episode, I

immediately noticed the rank markings. After careful consideration, and a few questions, I discovered that the ranking follows that of the present day U.S. Navy. I know that rank is not all that important, but it would have been nice if they would have made it a bit more obvious. I liked the rank pin idea from the movies and I wish they had done it that way, but I realize that money is a big consideration and these props are much less expensive.

Gene "The Great Bird" Roddenberry must be trying to get back to the basics with this *Star Trek* in several aspects. The magic of the series was based on many things and no one person can list them all. It is obvious, though, that magic is 'earmarked' by all things we know and love as belonging strictly to the world of *Star Trek*. Think of the series for a moment. Remember the sound of the photon torpedoes being launched? The way the shields were raised? The sound of alert klaxons? What it looked like when someone transported somewhere? And what the hand phaser looked like? Well, the Next Generation incorporates all these sights and sounds into its realm. Naturally each one is changed slightly to reflect the 78 year difference from the time of the original series, but it does give a "home-sweet-home" feeling to see these things.

Speaking of things from the past, we are graced in the first episode by, of all people, Admiral Leonard McCoy! He is 137 years old by this time and, unfortunately, they made him look every bit of it. But, it was heart warming to see one of our beloved characters interacting with this new and at that time untested series. It made me feel much better about the series in general. I feel we may be seeing more of the original cast in future episodes (it is rumored that Spock will be seen in one of the first episodes of the second season).

Of course, there are new things that are completely different. The communicators are not as obvious anymore. As we've all seen by now, their insignia's are their communicators I really thought that was going a bit far at first. Those little trademarks of *Star Trek* include flipping open a communicator at least 10 times per episode. Oh well, that's progress. At least it makes something they wear all the time a little more useful.

As for the ship itself, the new design is appealing, but it does look a bit top heavy. The head is too big for the body! Other than that, the design is esthetically pleasing. I was glad to see that AMT/ERTL was relatively quick with getting out the model for us model enthusiasts. It is a very good model at that! Getting back to new things, we finally get to see the primary and secondary hulls separate, and it is quite interesting. The original design of the Enterprise had this ability also, but we never saw it used. It is nice to see something new about the ship for a change. Throughout the first season we got a few first hand looks at various parts of the ship. We have had a chance to see Engineering, Sick Bay and other major areas of the ship, but the best one of all is the Holo Deck. The Holo Deck has been the arena for several episodes, not the least of which is "The Big Good-bye". I feel this may be the gateway to many such adventures. I do hope they use it much more.

As for the plot, it has tendency to be on again, off again. Sometimes it is there in full force, very entertaining and rewarding. Other times we are left seeking a place to hide, not wanting to admit that this was a *Star Trek* episode. For the most part, the first seasons' episodes were good. As we

know, the main idea is the same. The Enterprise and her crew are again out to explore the galaxy and aid any being that can be aided, among other things. The subplots, including the personal histories of the main cast members, are new and unique, making them very new characters for us to get involved with. In this area, I feel the writers have almost completely removed this series from the original.

As for crew, let us begin with Captain Picard. He does not do well with children and must rely on his Exec, Number One (sound familiar?) to nursemaid him through the adjustment period. Much like Kirk needing help on the newly refitted Enterprise in *ST:TMP*. Though Patrick Stewart is an excellent actor, his character leaves little to be desired. Should the time come when Patrick can add a little spice to his character, he will do a fine job. But, until then, the writers will keep us guessing. Next is Commander and Executive Officer William Riker. This character, played by Jonathan Frakes, follows closely in the footsteps of one Commander and Executive Officer Willard Decker, nursemaid for Admiral Kirk in *ST:TMP*. Remember how Decker had a past history with Ilia, the navigator, well... Riker has had one with the ship's counselor Deanna Troi. This time it's a Betazoid instead of a Deltan. This relationship has not developed much over the course of the first season and may simply drop out of existence. The character Deanna Troi, played very well by Manna Sirtis, is rapidly becoming a well liked character. The dialogue of this character is not what it should be but we will have to see what the second season brings. I hear it will include a new wardrobe. The ship's Chief Medical Officer, Doctor Beverly Crusher, and her son, Wesley, have a similar set up to that of Carol and David Marcus, except in this new version the son is younger and takes well to Starfleet. For those of us who do not yet know, Gates McFadden has left the show and her character has been transferred elsewhere in the Fleet. Wesley will stay behind to save the ship a few more times however. I don't know about you, but I was left rather cold after scenes with Beverly Crusher. As the episodes went on, I could see her attitude change and her acting get stiffer. I am rather happy to see her move on to what she would rather be doing. As for Worf, I feel it goes without saying that anyone who can withstand that much makeup for that long a period of time gets my vote for best actor. It was nice to see that the Klingons finally got it together and stopped fighting the federation. The name of the character however, makes whoever says his name sound like they are having an attack of space sickness or calling their dog! Speaking of dog jokes, never make one in Michael Dorn's presence. He has gotten a bit tired of them already and made that quite clear at the *Starfleet* West Coast Conference (which by the way was the best convention I have ever been to)! All in all, now that Tasha Yar is gone, Worf will have the opportunity to really shine. Michael's character has not really had the chance to present itself in a well rounded way, and this will hopefully happen time goes on. Speaking of Tasha, I would like to make it clear that Denise Crosby played her part very well. It is somewhat of a loss that she left the show, but I do see her point. Besides, her character never really got to do much anyway. Lt.J.G. Geordi LaForge, the blind helmsman, looks like an alien, but it is only that strange thing he must wear to see. Looking closely at it, it reminded me of a modified banana clip women use in their hair! But, that is where they got the idea! Ok, I'll look beyond that right now... it didn't

really bother me anyway. It is also rumored that Geordi will have his eyesight back due to a revolutionary operation. This means no more funny glasses! Let us turn to Data for a moment. Replacing Spock with an android was not too far fetched and it even seemed a bit...logical! Data's past is interesting and I feel one of my favorite episodes so far was "Datalore". Data trying to be more human, but in doing so has become one of the more humorous characters on the show. Even the bloopers with him in it are incredibly funny! Brent Spiner does a great Jimmy Stewart. I hope that he will be able to show more of this in his character. Not many people get to see these bloopers and it is a shame letting that talent go to waste. This character has received, up to this point, more fan mail than any of the other main characters. It has also been said that Brent has received marriage proposals in his fan mail. This may be due to the fact that Data is one of the most mysterious and innocent characters on the show. Data is friendly, personable and screaming "let's be friends!"

As we know, the main cast is not the only crew we get to see. We do see a Vulcan standing about here and there throughout the first season. There were no close ups, which is a shame because Vulcan's are one of those races we have come to know and love. The Vulcan cadet we see in the episode "Coming of Age" is the only major contact we had. It would have made me feel even more at home if they would have given her more dialogue than they did. Most of the rest of the crew is human or humanoid. We see very few other alien races on board the Enterprise. The aliens we have seen in the various episodes have been different than those in the original series. This is very refreshing. It would definitely be boring if the aliens were the same and the dialogue followed suit.

Speaking of dialogue, I was not impressed with a few of the first episodes of the first season. There were, on several occasions, missing links in consistency and terrible needs for more explanation. This got better as the season went on. I hope it will continue to get better as the next seasons' scripts are written. I am sure that the next season will be filled with more experimentation and more parallels, but the saving grace for anything that might be labeled a failure is that this is Trek and will always be Trek so long as the Trek fans feel it is worthy of that esteem.

I feel *Star Trek: The Next Generation* will continue to be a worthwhile series, even if it does have its problems. If you can continue to suspend your desire to look for the inconsistencies, identify the parallels and analyze the dialogue you might actually fall in love with the new series. The best is yet to come. It may look like *Star Trek*, but like Romulan Ale, it will probably get better with age. May the wind be at their backs.

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To: All Personnel in Western Regions
 From: VAdm. Rob Lerman

There is a computer bulletin board now in operation just for Starfleet members to communicate with each other. This board will soon be hooked up with a national Echo Mail network in the near future.

The board, USS Defiance/*Starfleet* OPUS is running at 300, 1200 and 2400 baud, The SysOp (System Operator) is Vice Admiral Rob Lerman, Deputy Director of *Starfleet* Academy.

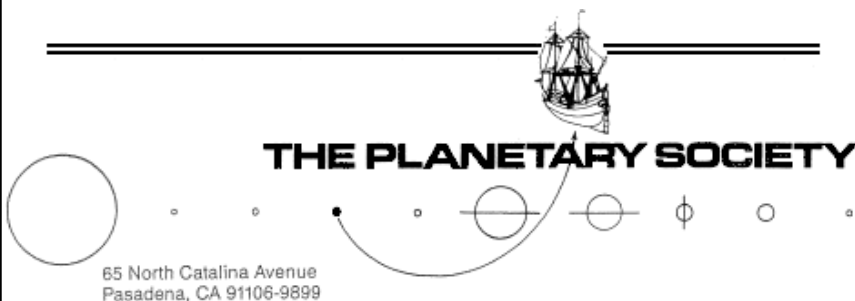
To log on the system, call (916) 985-4041. You will have limited access until you have completed the questionnaire, and the answers have been reviewed by me. I review all questionnaires usually in the late evening. To check who else is registered in the system, press "U" for User Search, then press enter to see all users.

When access is allowed, you will find a variety of message bases including:

- New user message only
- USS Defiance message area
- USS Defiance Storyline (a persona story on the USS Defiance, no personal Messages)
- *Starfleet* Communications
- Meet the Crew (About different people who are on this board, write something about yourself in this section)
- Officers Lounge (Private board for Officers of Captain grade and above only)
- Several Echo Mail areas, including:
 - Fleet Echo Mail
 - Fleet Echo Role Playing

There can be more message areas in this board too (for example Region 4 and Region 5 message areas). Please let me know any ideas you might have as well.

To see if you have any messages, go to any of these message areas and press "S" for Scan, this will scan all of the message areas for your messages and tell you what number and which message area your message is in. A later utility that will be added to this system is a personal message checker.



Starfleet Echo Mail Service

Bulletin Board Service (BBS) currently carrying the Fleet Echo:

<u>Name</u>	<u>FIDONet #</u>	<u>Location</u>
PC-Atalanta	133/307	Atlanta, GA
Centurion Opus	133/307	Atlanta, GA
Death Valley BC	19/19	Fort Smith, AR
Project: Opus!	147/4	Oklahoma City, OK
Columbus Multi	226/70	Columbus, OH
Critter/Region 1	151/110	Bluefield, VA
Enterprise - A	129/56	Indiana, PA

Ships and Shuttles Represented:

Shuttle Nautilus
 USS Ingram
 USS Independence
 USS McCauliffe
 USS Avenger
 USS Yeager
 Shuttle Sinope
 USS Valiant
 USS LaGrange

All inquiries for connections to the Fleet Echo BBS should be forwarded to LCdr. Bart Alcorn c/o Peach Tree Pkwy., suite 340-177, Norcross, GA 30092, or by FIDONet address 133/307. Or, call PC-Atalanta (data only) at (404) 381-6975.

To: All *Starfleet* personnel
 From: LCdr. Elizabeth Ann Osborne
 Re: Chaplain Corps

Starfleet now has a Chaplain Corps. Just over a year old, the Corps is an organization to "promote peace and creative learning with the various faiths of the the mundane world and *Star Trek* Universe." The Chaplaincy is open to any *Starfleet* member of any religion or philosophy. Their job is to serve to the best of their abilities the religious, charitable and moral needs of *Starfleet* members in any capacity. The motto of the Chaplain Corps is to "give service in time of need." The Corps has a newsletter, *The Chaplain's Desk*, available to all *Starfleet* members for a S.A.S.E. and \$0.30 an issue. There are no membership dues and the Corps welcomes any member of any religious group. The Corps is also planning a Chaplain's Handbook. This handbook is to carry all the materials a shipboard chaplain would need, including services, prayers, songs, art work, suggestions, etc, All members are urged to send in submissions for this or the newsletter. If anyone has any questions or wishes to send in something, they can send it with an S.A.S.E, (always send a S.A.S.E.) to: Lt.S.G. Janet Shaw, Region 1, Chief of Chaplains, 5432 S. Anthony Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IA 46816.

The Code of Starfleet Command

By Captain Thomas Oakes, Ret.

He walked onto the bridge,
Standing two meters high.
Some ladies swooned
When he winked his eye.
His chin was firm.
His face was tan.
His hair was dyed,
This Starfleet man.

"Dynamic and Charming"
He was called by his dates.
"A Leader of Men, and
Master of his own Fate."
He walked with a swagger.
His eyes were ablaze.
He was built like a stallion,
and set in his ways.

He surveyed the crew, with
his Bette Davis eyes.
He sat tall and erect:
A Warrior of the skies!
He gave his first order:
"Ahead Warp Factor Six."
Command was his passion—
He did it for kicks.

His mission was simple,
"To Protect and Explore"
Preserve our Republic,
Which he did so adore.
They gave him a Starship;
A medal on his chest,
The rank of Captain—
The Academy's Best.

Two Romulan cruisers
Did suddenly appear.
On an attack course,
Their motives were clear.
His voice was staccato:
"Fire Phasers!" He croaked.
Our hero was brilliant,
While the aggressors choked.

Our photon torpedoes
Had the enemy reeling.
Proud and Elated,
The whole crew was feeling.
"Pursue and Engage!"
Were the Captain's next orders.
He taught them to stay
well inside their own borders.

The Romulans foundered
At the Neutral Zone's door.
Their shields had collapsed;
They were goners for sure.
There were two explosions.
The chase was now finished
A self-destruct order
Killed the Romulan menace.

And When it was over,
To his cabin he walked.
Never batted an eye,
Never even talked.
Just another star date
That the odds he did beat;
Upholding the honor
and Code of Starfleet.

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