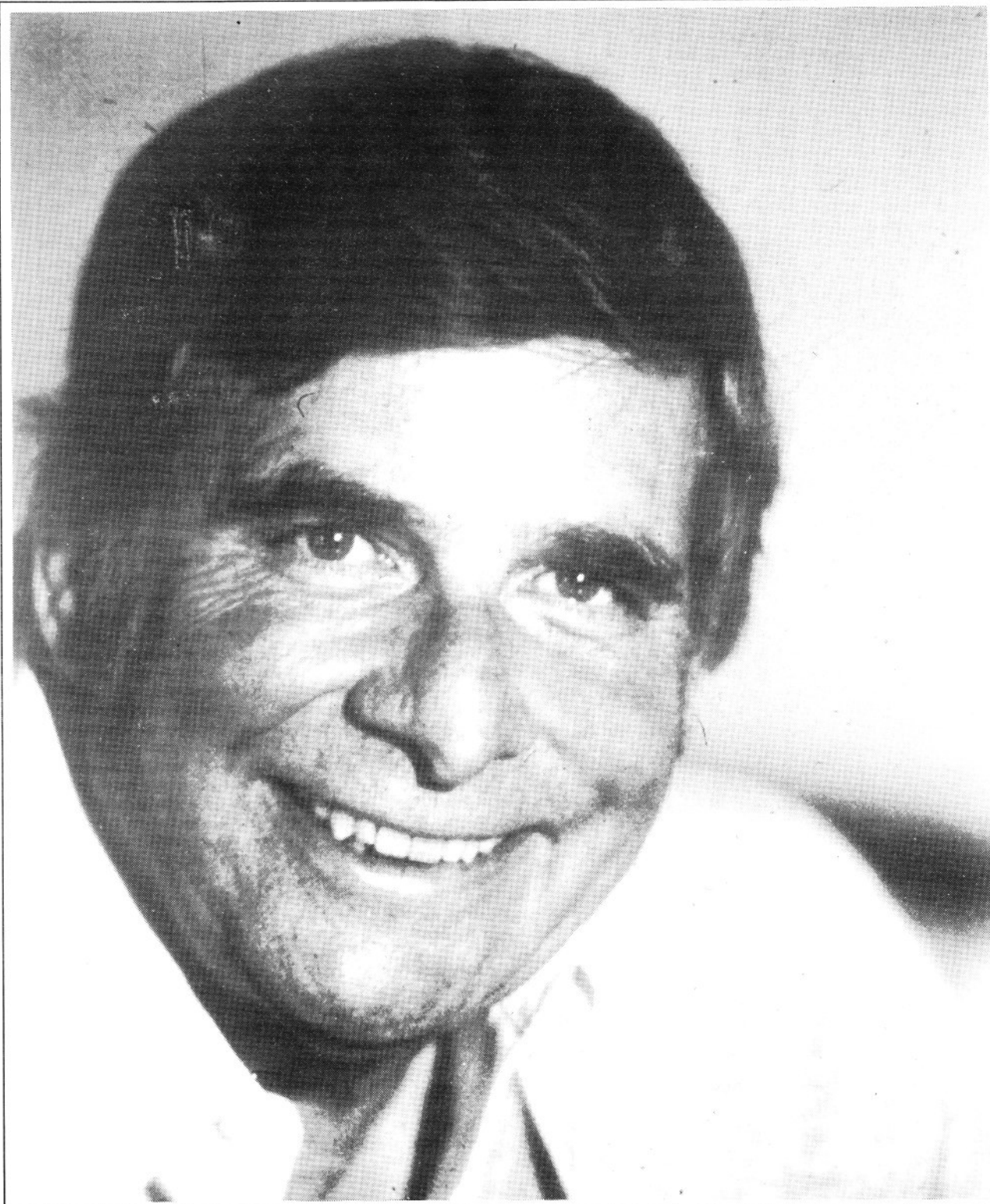
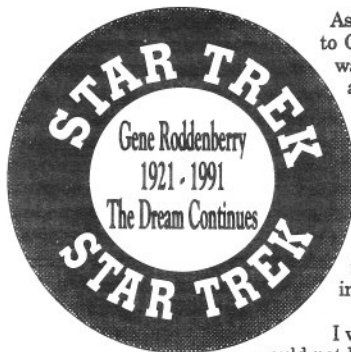


STARFLEET COMMUNiqué

*A Special Issue Dedicated
to Gene Roddenberry*

Issue 48 • December/January 1992





As you've probably guessed by now, this is a special issue dedicated to Gene Roddenberry who passed away on October 24, 1991. We wanted to do something slightly different than a retrospective look at Gene Roddenberry. We wanted a perspective from the point of view of fans, authors, friends, people who knew him and those who only knew him through his work. We have talked, corresponded, modemed and E-mailed everyone who would listen and come up with the best that we could provide in commentary on such short notice. In a way, it was saying "farewell", but in reading some of the comments and thoughts, it is impossible to feel that Gene Roddenberry has gone too far; he continues to live in the hearts of everyone we spoke to, and his dream will live on in the minds of his fans and friends.

If you're not into thanks, skip this part...

I want to thank a number of people who, without their help, this would not have been possible. First and foremost, Flt. Admiral Jeannette Maddox, who called and confirmed what I had hoped — that this issue would be dedicated to Gene Roddenberry and that we could postpone reports in order to put together a tribute to a great man. She said, "Go for it." I don't think she realized what kind whirlwind she let loose when she said that. Up there in the running, is my loyal CQ crew, led by Deb "Lightening Fingers" Galeone who has lived up to her name this week. She has been steadfast, supportive and sane when I wasn't. (She was insane when I was sane, but that's a different story). With mumblings about, "I'm a software engineer, not a writer," she's proven that she can write a lot more than just software applications.

The Communiqué Crew did their usual outstanding job, working overtime to get this to the Flt. Admiral on time.

I did, however, want to extend a special heartfelt thanks to Roseann "Shelby" Caputo, who has been invaluable and is considered a long distance member of "The CQ Crew." In the middle of helping to put on a convention for charity, she called everyone and anyone who would listen to get interviews and responses. She, like Deb, has been there by telephone and by fax, with jokes and "lighten-ups" and "It's going to be fine." types of mumbling, when I thought I'd blown it totally.

Gary Scott Decker also deserves special mention. He wrote a 15 page report on the Gene Roddenberry Memorial Service on extremely short notice (a few days), and produced much more than I ever hoped for.

While I can only mention a few by name, there have been many, many folks who have talked, written and faxed, sharing recollections and feelings about Gene Roddenberry and why Star Trek has endured in their hearts and souls for so long. I want to thank you, as well. This wouldn't have been possible if you hadn't lived the Star Trek philosophy and opened up and shared with everyone.

WE DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS OUT: Kenneth (Ken) W. DeWeese passed away on October 26, 1991. We would like to extend our sympathies to his family and also to the crew of the USS Pathfinder. Ken was promoted to the rank of Captain post humorously by FAdm. Maddox as requested by Captain Janice Rhodes. His family request that any memorial you would like to do, please do so towards the scholarship fund. If you would like to send a card to his family the address is: Mrs. Marjorie DeWeese Crider, 3703 Kirk Court, PO Box 537, Shawsville, VA, 24162.

WRITERS' & ARTISTS' CONTEST WINNERS: Yes, we have them. The judging was tough as there were so many good entries to choose from. There will be a letter going out shortly to all of the winners as we would like to publish the "bios" sent with submissions in the next Communiqué.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: January 5, 1991. Did you get your new Communiqué form?

Special thanks to Crystal Shiner & Jacqueline Gilkey for photographs.

FOR GENE by Jacqueline Gilkey

Awake is the dreamer.
Reaching across the chaos of now and years to come,
Seeing hope in the future,
The dreamer believes.

Reaching across the chaos of now and years to come,
The arena of space is dark prologue.
The dreamer believes.
Staunch is the quest for peace and freedom.

The arena of space is dark prologue.
On the rim of humanity, the stars shine undimmed.
Staunch is the quest for peace and freedom.
The dawn of a new day coming.

On the rim of humanity, the stars shine undimmed.
Ensuring the promise of a brighter tomorrow,
The dawn of a new day coming.
Awake is the dreamer.

THE COMMUNIQUE STAFF: Deciphering, Keying & General Lunacy provided by Deb Galeone, Jacqueline Gilkey, Tara James, and Ray Greenberg. Supervision & occasional whip cracking provided by Fritz, the Pit Tribble. (grrr) Patience and good humor in spite of long hours at the job provided by Vashti Brandy.

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Issue 48 • December/January 1992

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STARFLEET

P. O. Box 430
Burnsville, N.C. 28714

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AN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION FROM STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS

Jeannette Maddox Commander, STARFLEET



This issue of the STARFLEET COMMUNIQUE is dedicated to the memory of Gene Roddenberry, who passed away on October 24, 1991. His death has diminished all of us. It was his driving force and inspiration that created the Star Trek universe; that universe which in turn has inspired so many of us. Gene never

let us forget that we humans had a bright and shining future waiting for us, but only if we were willing to work hard for it today. Our ongoing mission now is to insure that his vision preceeds us into the 24th century and beyond.

Judith Brandy and the COMMUNIQUE staff deserve special accolades for their work on this issue of the STARFLEET magazine. When they received the sad news about Gene Roddenberry's death, much of the COMMUNIQUE had already been done. But they immediately set aside most of that and began collecting material for this special issue. They spent many long hours on the telephone collecting interviews and reminiscences. They have done a beautiful job with STARFLEET's farewell to Gene.

On Friday, October 25th, flowers were sent to Paramount in STARFLEET's name. Also, Bjo Trimble contacted Paramount and got permission for STARFLEET to initiate a Gene Roddenberry Memorial Scholarship. We have already had several contributions to this memorial scholarship and several donations of materials to use to help raise

funds. The scholarship will be awarded each year to a writer. We will be contacting Majel Barrett Roddenberry to see if there should be any special guidelines for the scholarship.

I had the privilege of seeing Gene Roddenberry in person in November of 1985. He had been booked by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for an appearance. Along with a dozen STARFLEET members and about a hundred other people, I sat entranced as Gene related his personal philosophy and vignettes about Star Trek and life in general. The sincerity and genuine enthusiasm of his words gave us a brief look into the reasons why the Star Trek universe has become an unquenchable beacon of hope for the future.

Gene was a dynamic speaker and would stride around the floor as he spoke. A few minutes into his lecture, he decided that he was hot and removed his suit jacket. He looked around the room and walked over to me. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "You look like a trustworthy person." Then he handed me his jacket. I had never met Mr. Roddenberry before and the look he gave me only lasted a moment, yet he made me feel as if I were a friend who was doing him a great favor by holding his coat. The memory of that direct look and friendly warmth has stayed with me through the years and helped me understand just a little about what made Gene Roddenberry such a very special person.

Sue Hampton Vice Cmdr., STARFLEET



While I never met or saw Gene Roddenberry in person, his vision for a brighter future touched many lives. His passing will be felt by many in Star Trek fandom. This issue has been dedicated to Gene Roddenberry.

I would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and hope that you are looking forward to celebrating with joy your special holidays of December and January. It just doesn't have the right "ring" to it as I sit here, typing on Halloween! The minor problems of deadlines. I'm going to a Halloween party this evening, dressed, of course, in my ST:TNG Admiral's uniform. It looks sharp and is **much** more comfortable for dancing than a "monster maroon."

When my yeoman put away the soapbox after the last Communique report, she inadvertently misplaced it. So this issue's report will be short.

Scholarships: Read about them in that section of the newsletter. I have already received 10 requests for applications for Scholarships for next year. C.O.'s please encourage all of your members who are Seniors in high school or who are currently going to college to think about our scholarship program.

Memberships: David Forvendel and I seem to have good weeks and bad weeks for processing. Unfortunately it seems that the bad weeks often come at the same time making TERRIBLE weeks and the good weeks never seem to coincide. Please be patient. If a member doesn't have a package after 6 weeks, please write me with details. This past year, we have been putting a blue STARFLEET magnet and a silver mylar STARFLEET sticker in every renewal package. These have been well received. So what do you want for next year? I will not be able to give magnets and stickers to members for their first renewals and something different for subsequent renewals. Actually, I could do it as your SCC numbers are sequential and I could figure it out but, as this is often a one-woman operation in the wee hours of the morning or during a rushed lunch hour, it could be quite **fascinating** what members might get in their packages. If you have some neat ideas or suggestions...stop reading now and send me a postcard!

I really would like to find registration tickets to February's Vulkan and a plane ticket in my stocking for Christmas BUT...I guess that is what dreams are for, dreaming.

1990 Runner-up Chapter of the Year

USS SALLY RIDE • NCC-643

Robin Lynch, Commanding

Widen the doors, here comes the USS SALLY RIDE! After having been named last year's Rookie Chapter of the Year and now Runner-up Chapter of the Year for this year, the crew needs wider doors to get their heads through. In all seriousness, the chapter is pleased and proud to see their efforts again rewarded in this manner.

The SALLY RIDE was and is very involved with the Red Cross. Chapter members made up three-fourths of the classes and the present volunteer list for Disaster Services in our county. (A major earthquake along the New Madrid fault which also runs under Cape Girardeau was predicted in Dec. 1990. The earthquake came earlier than expected and was not as severe as had been feared although it was still a 4.6 (!), but there were a lot of scared people waiting for "the big one".) We also had our own Red Cross First Aid and CPR class and four of the crew went on to get their Instructors' Certification. Proceeds of the annual Crazy Bowl went into equipment purchases for Red Cross

Disaster Services.

Other charities we supported were St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with participation in the local annual Radiothon and the charity auction at CON-tinum, the MDA with a VIP panel on the Labor Day Telethon, and FISH (a local food pantry for the needy operated by area churches) with donations of money and canned and non-perishable foods.

We passed several annual milestones. We held the Challenger Memorial Service, took our yearly "pilgrimage" to the St. Louis Science Center, attended the Region 12 Summit, marched in Southeast Missouri State's Homecoming Parade, held a SALLY RIDE Anniversary Dinner and sent a delegation to the USS HEXUM's anniversary bash. Of course, we attended cons: Delacon and Trekfest (a "pro" con held in St. Louis) as a group and several others individually, and prepared for CON-tinum '91. We had a recruiting table at Waldenbooks and got a good response. And we also managed to put out a 'zine, "Flights of

Fantasy."

We cleaned our adopted highway as contracted and once as part of Earth Day and then planted gardens and trees attempting to do what we could for the environment.

Just like a "real" service club, we adopted by-laws and dues. We had three shuttles, one of which achieved full-chapter status early in the year. Shuttle RAINBOW WARRIOR just left the hangar bay for its first mission, and a sixth shuttle is under final preparation for its long-awaited launch.

After all that, did we still have fun? You bet we did! We went hiking and rock collecting, held two baby showers (well, maybe the fun part was before that!), held a Mexican dinner party, swimming parties all summer, and then Halloween, Christmas and Hanukkah, and New Year's Parties.

We certainly had a great year in 1990, but 1991 isn't resting on those laurels. You're gonna hear from the SALLY RIDE!



FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE THIS STATEMENT

10/18/91

9,840.84

STARFLEET Scholarship Program



What is/are the STARFLEET Scholarships Program? Scholarships are available to active STARFLEET members. Each scholarship is valued at \$500 and is generally awarded in late June of

each year towards courses the following fall semester or quarter. Scholarship money is paid to the school and is used towards tuition or books for the student. The money to fund these scholarships comes from donations from STARFLEET members and their chapters as well as raffles and fund raiser programs by the chapters.

What Scholarships are available? There are seven available at this time.

1) **Space Explorer's Memorial Scholarships.** There are two of these scholarships. One is available for a student in a four year college program. The other is for a student in a two year junior college or technical college program.

2) **James Doohan/Montgomery Scott**

Aeronautical Engineering Scholarship. As the name implies, this scholarship honors Mr. Doohan and the character he plays, Scotty. It is for those students studying in the engineering fields.

3) **DeForest Kelley/Leonard McCoy Medical Scholarship.** This one honors De Kelley and assists those studying in any of the various medical fields.

4) **Patrick Stewart Scholarship for the Performing Arts.** The name says it all. This scholarship, authorized by Mr. Stewart, is to assist those working and studying in the areas of the Performing Arts.

5) **George Takei Scholarship for International Studies.** It was organized in late summer of this year and is already funded for \$500 due to the efforts of many members, especially in Regions 12 and 7. As the name implies, this scholarship is for those pursuing studies connected with International programs or subjects.

6) **Gene Roddenberry Memorial Scholarship for Writers.** This is our newest scholarship and is in honor of Gene Roddenberry. The morning after the announcement of Gene's death, Bjo Trimble

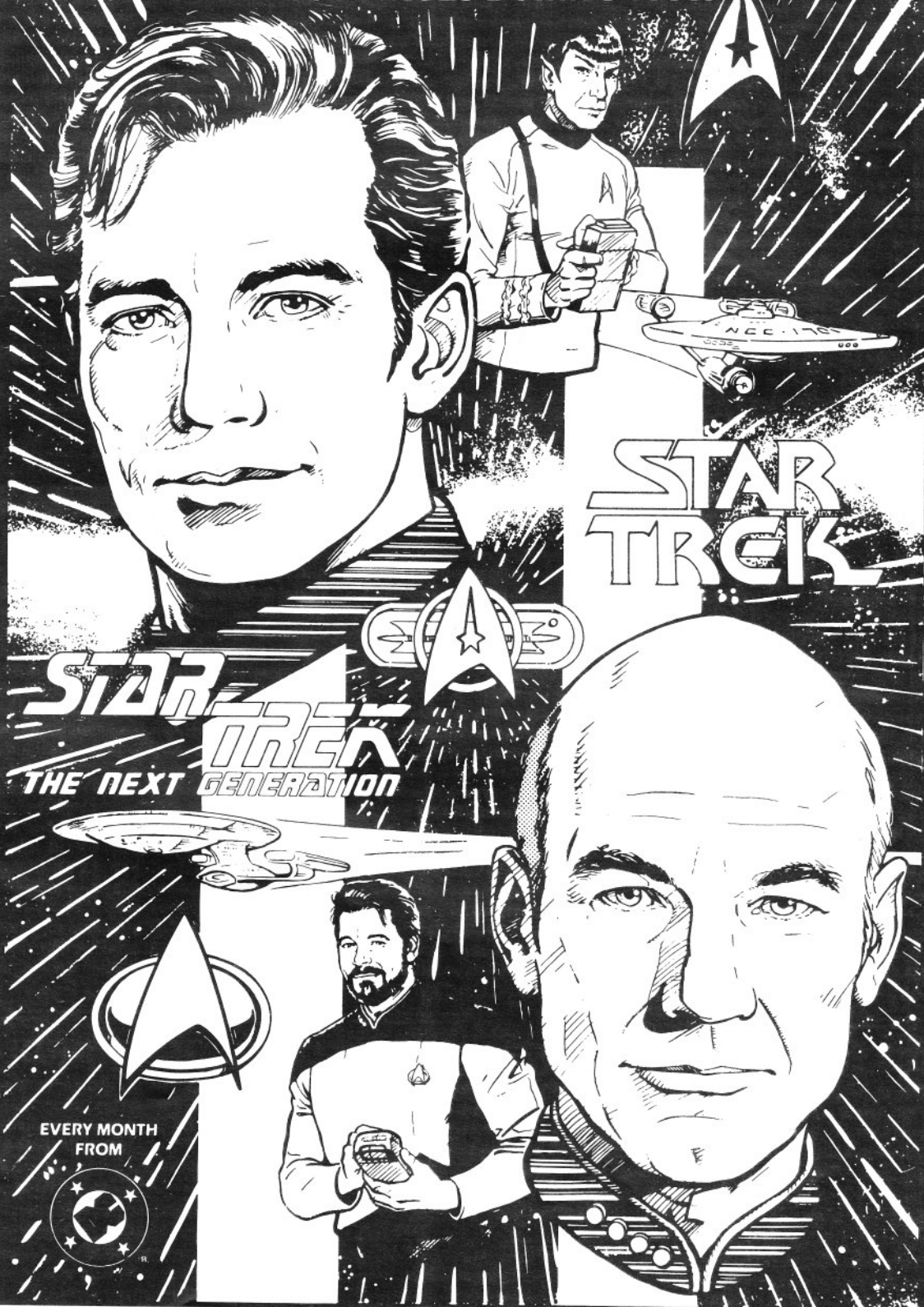
(probably the best known Star Trek Fan in the world and a member of STARFLEET) called Headquarters. Bjo had previously contacted Paramount about the possibility of a scholarship to honor Mr. Roddenberry and it was met with approval at that time. It is designated for those in the writing careers.

How can I apply for a scholarship? Any active STARFLEET member who will be attending a college in fall 1992 can apply. Send a business length SASE to Sue Hampton, 3401 Argyle Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406. The same application form is used for all the scholarships. Requests for applications can be sent at any time. Deadline for all paperwork for 1992 Scholarships is June 1, 1992. Winners will be notified by July 1, 1992. The STARFLEET Scholarships are multiplying at a rate to alarm even tribble breeders.

Received from Cecelia Theil, recipient of the Space Explorer's Memorial Scholarships:

I'm sorry I haven't been able to send this report out to you sooner, but my classes have been keeping me quite busy. Here is my course load for this quarter: Music 100, Intro to Rock and Roll, English 231, Intro to Shakespeare and Humanities 101, Western Thought and Culture. Right now, I'm looking into some foreign exchange programs to see if I can study abroad next year. I am hoping to go to Germany or England, but most importantly, I just want to go. I want to thank you again for all the help STARFLEET is giving me. I can't think of any words that I could use to thank you enough.

THE HUMAN ADVENTURE BEGAN 25 YEARS AGO...
...AND CONTINUES DURING 1991!



EVERY MONTH
FROM



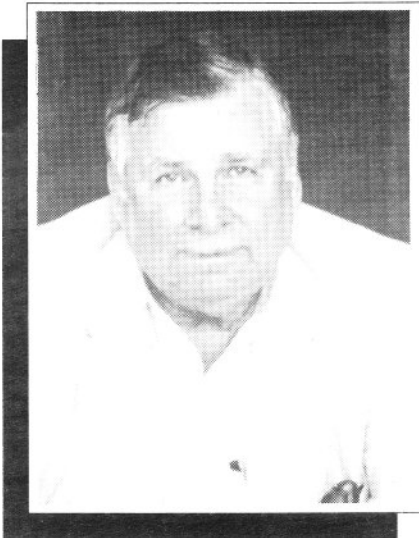
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Gene Roddenberry

• 1921 - 1991 •

"If man survives till the 23rd century, he will have learned to take delight in the essential differences between cultures. He will learn that differences in ideals and attitudes are a delight, part of life's exciting variety, not something to fear. It's a manifestation of the greatness that God, or whatever it is gave us. This infinite variation and delight, this is part of the optimism of Star Trek."

"Our approach expresses the message basic to the series: We must learn to live together or most certainly we will soon all die together."

— Gene Roddenberry

The news reached STARFLEET HQ Friday morning, soon after Dr. Jeannette Maddox arrived at her clinic.

Gene Roddenberry, the Great Bird of the Galaxy is dead. No one said a great deal. What can one say? We each knew how the other felt without a word. Someone said, "STARFLEET should send flowers." Next thing I knew, the Fleet Admiral (Jeannette Maddox) was on the phone with a local florist. She ordered a wreath in the design of the Next Generation communicator pin, and a card which read:

**GENE
RODDENBERRY**
"The Great Bird of the Galaxy"
August 19, 1921 - October 24, 1991

*Thanks for giving us the future.
We will escort your Dream into
The twenty-fourth century & beyond.
In Loving Appreciation
Of the Greatest Human Adventure,*

The members & friends of STARFLEET,
The International STAR TREK Fan
Association.

Calls came in all day on the Fleet phone. At lunch time, by way of Bjo Trimble news came of approval for STARFLEET's "Gene Roddenberry Memorial Scholarship For Writers."

Soon after, a reporter for the L.A. Times interviewed Jeannette over the phone. One of his questions was "Well, what will your group do now that Roddenberry is gone?" To which Jeannette replied, "We are now the keepers of the dream."

Captain Cindy Krell
U.S.S. Star League - 9110.31
☺☺☺

*...What a piece of work is a man!
how noble in reason! how infinite
in faculties! in form and moving
how express and admirable! in
action how like an angel! in ap-
prehension how like a god! the
beauty of the world...*

Hamlet
Act II, Scene II

This issue of the Communiqué is probably one of the hardest things I have ever tried to put together. It's very evident that Gene Roddenberry's death has had a major impact on the entire Communiqué staff. Tempers are short; tears are at the periphery of our reality, and we are fighting a perfectionist obsession to get it right to the point of exhaustion. Proof printouts have reached staggering proportions, and we have just started trying to layout this issue.

Everyone is working, from my daughter, Vashti, to Tara James who's doggedly transcribing from tape, to Jacqui and Debbie trying to make sense out of the playouts. I can say, this is the toughest project any of us have attempted in STARFLEET to date.

I actually put much of the tribute portion off until Sunday, preferring instead to wander around the press and camera area trying not to think about a tribute to a legend who so greatly affected my life that words could never express the depth to which that influence runs.

I remain a writer because of a speech Gene Roddenberry made in 1976, when I was still a child and hesitantly testing my options in life. My sister, Harriett, and I were fledgling writers and Star Trek fans. Harriett was more than a sibling; she was my best friend. Our family called us a "matched set", so close to twins that we were inseparable. We dressed alike, acted alike and shared a similar dream — to write the "All American Best-seller" in science fiction, of course.

One Saturday, we went to a college campus on public transportation and many hours later, we stood amongst a small group of students listening to a soft-spoken man talking

about dreams, inspiration and writing. He said anyone could make it. It just took hard work and the sincere desire to make a dream come true. *Hang on to your hopes*, he had said.

We watched the original movie "The Cage" which we'd never seen and left inspired and determined.

We never forgot that speech. We were going to work towards that dream. We were young and knew that we would live forever. And when my sister slipped into death, after a long, horrible battle with Lupus, Star Trek and Gene Roddenberry's vision of a brighter tomorrow was one of the influences that kept me plugging away for the next ten years trying to regain a writing talent that I'd thought died with her.

Roddenberry had inspired us to grow beyond our limitations and overcome obstacles. In the midst of a despair that I thought would never end, I found hope in a most unlikely place.

Today, I am relatively successful in my job and life, blending both business with writing and design.

Through my daughter, I have seen the next generation continuing. She wants to be a writer and a lawyer. (I think the aspiration to be a "lawyer" is because in my family you must do something PRACTICAL along with all "the writing nonsense").

I was deeply saddened to hear the news of Gene Roddenberry's passing. He gave me a great gift that has stood me in good stead over the years. He touched my life and thousands of others he never knew.

I will miss Gene Roddenberry, but I will always remember him.

Judith Allison Brandy, Editor
STARFLEET Communiqué
3 November 1991



*He's not really dead as
long as we remember him.*

Dr. McCoy, Star Trek II:
The Wrath of Khan

Closeup: Gene Roddenberry

by Jacqueline Gilkey

Wesley Eugene Roddenberry was born in El Paso, Texas in 1921. He studied aeronautical engineering in college and volunteered for service in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. Mr. Roddenberry flew 89 combat missions and sorties and won both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. It was during this time that he began his freelance writing career. His first sales were to flying magazines.

After the war, he became a pilot for Pan American World Airways from 1941 to 1945. On a flight from Calcutta, his plane's engines caught fire and he crashed in Syria. He bargained with nomads and sent two members of his crew to investigate a light he had seen shortly before his plane crashed. The crew members found a Syrian military outpost, which sent for help.

In 1949, Mr. Roddenberry moved to Los Angeles where he decided television — still a fairly new industry — would need writers. With a family to support, he worked for the Los Angeles Police Department from 1949 to 1954, going from patrolman to police sergeant all the while sending scripts to the television industry. He wrote his first script for television in 1951, under an assumed name, since moonlighting was frowned upon. The following year he wrote a science fiction script called *The Secret Defense of 117* which was later aired on *Chevron Theater*. Throughout the years, Mr. Roddenberry's interest in science fiction continued, as he toyed around with the idea of doing a science fiction series someday.

Meanwhile, he had begun selling scripts for such t.v. shows as *Goodyear Theater*, *Four Star Theater*, *Dragnet*, *The Jane Wyman Theater*, *West Point* and *Have Gun, Will Travel*. In 1954 Mr. Roddenberry resigned from the police department to pursue his successful writing career. He eventually became the head writer for the acclaimed Western series, *Have Gun, Will Travel*. One of his episodes titled, *Helen of Abajinian* won the Writer's Guild Award for Best Western. Regarded as one of

the outstanding writers in television, Mr. Roddenberry wrote scripts for such shows as *Kaiser Aluminum Hour*, *Four Star Theater*, *Naked City*, *Dr. Kildare* and just about every other show that was going on, at one time or another.

By 1963, he had created and was producing his first television series, *The Lieutenant*. It was also in 1963 that MGM asked him to come up with an idea for a new series, thus *Star Trek* was born. MGM's reaction to the format was hardly that of enthusiasm. After three or four months, it became obvious that nothing would happen. The format would be presented to several other studios who thought *Star Trek* an interesting idea however too different and impossible to do as a weekly television series. Mr. Roddenberry's agent suggested he submit the format to Desilu Studios. In April 1964, on the basis of the *Star Trek* format, plus several other series ideas he outlined verbally, Desilu signed him to a three-year contract to make television pilots for them.

The original *Star Trek* series debut was September 8, 1966. Set in the 23rd century, it featured the *Starship Enterprise* and a cast of heroes who cared deeply for one another and who solved their problems through teamwork. Their mission: "To seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no man has gone before." And that they did. By imagining an optimistic future for all mankind, Mr. Roddenberry addressed such progressive themes as discrimination, racism, sexism, pollution, overpopulation and war.

However, with a television rating of no higher than 52, reached during the first season, *Star Trek* was canceled in 1969 — the same year man first set foot upon the moon. The 79 episodes gained real fame when they reappeared on television in worldwide syndication in the early 70's, spawning the cultural phenomenon of *Trek* conventions, fan clubs and collectibles. Currently the series runs on 200 stations in this country alone and has been translated into 47 languages.

Since the original *Star Trek* series run, Mr. Roddenberry wrote and produced the feature film

Pretty Maids All in a Row, and the television movies *Genesis II*, *The Questor Tapes*, *Planet Earth*, and *Spectre*.

In 1979, the classic *Trek* crew took to the big screen. Followed by a succession of films that have become legend, a sixth feature is due out this December. As always, Mr. Roddenberry was thoroughly involved with all six of the *Star Trek* movies as producer of the first and executive consultant for the other five.

A new series was reborn in the enormously popular syndicated series, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. The show, viewed each week by 17 million viewers, has won three Emmy Awards as well as the 1987 Peabody Award for "best of the best."

On September 4, 1985, Mr. Roddenberry received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The American Humanist Association presented him with its Humanist Arts Award, on May 10, 1991, in recognition of his distinguished contribution to humanism and humanist thought.

An astounding story? Perhaps not for this son of an army brat who suffered from asthma as a child and spent his time reading science fiction magazines such as *Astounding Stories*.

He was the third recipient of the American Freedom Award at the National Space Club's Annual Goddard Memorial Dinner. He was a Muhlmann Fund lecturer at the University of Hawaii's School of Astronomy, served as a member of the Writer's Guild Executive Council, governor of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds three honorary Doctorate degrees.

Wesley Eugene Roddenberry was a man with a dream. A unique vision that inspired optimism and hope, of tolerance for others, be they of this planet or outworlders, and of the personal growth that comes with facing the unknown. He was a mentor with a gift for expression that will continue to inspire the passions of his fans for years to come.

From little seeds grow mighty oaks, and Star Trek was certainly a mighty oak. Gene Roddenberry was the sower of the seed. That's why I say, celebrate his life. I mean, he has touched many lives. Every human being should have so decent a life. Especially one filled with such achievements. The only person I really feel badly for is Majel, because she must carry on. There must be a giant hole in her life now that Gene is gone. It's hard to hug a memory. But it is time to move on. As they would say on Vulcan, 'parted but never parted.' Certainly gone, but not forgotten. I think if you were to take a poll on the street and ask people who X is and who Gene Roddenberry is, a large number of people might know who X is, but everybody would know Gene Roddenberry.

In my opinion, Mr. Roddenberry will be remembered right up there with Cecil B. DeMille and Alfred Hitchcock. After all, he

created a phenomenon. The only other person in the world who might have that said about them is the person who created Dr. Who. You know, these are two giant phenomena. In the realm of science fiction, nothing has lasted as long as both *Star Trek* and Dr. Who. During the years that classic *Star Trek* was in syndication along with the animated series, the movies hit the big screen and *The Next Generation* aired on television, *Trek* fandom grew tremendously. It was very hard to take the show with total seriousness. You know, you love it dearly, but you can laugh at it, too.

It's all part of the fabric of *Trek*. People of all walks of life have been touched by it. I mean, it's like one snowflake turning into an avalanche. It only takes that one snowflake. And Gene managed to hit that perfect combination. He stood up for it, in fact. In the early days, he was willing to let a project die rather than letting it get off course from his original vision.

Gene Roddenberry made it quite clear, on a

number of occasions that the fans were a force that could not be shoved out of the way. He was touched by the fans' reactions to him. He brought people together who wouldn't have found each other otherwise. He's given people hope when otherwise they might have had none. *He just happened to come along with an idea that was right for it's time, ahead of it's time, but one that would last for all time.* I think that his vision will still be around for the many years to come. Why? Because you can't kill a vision of the future. I think a hundred years from now, people will probably look at *Star Trek* and marvel at the fact that science fiction has always been good at predicting the future.

It can be summed up by saying...rejoice in the man's life. It was not a matter of quantity, but a matter of quality and Gene certainly had that. He gave us all a tremendous gift.

Larry Stewart
November 5, 1991



A few words from . . . **John de Lancie**



I wasn't much of a Star Trek fan, not because I had watched it and decided not to be a fan, but because I never ever watched TV back then and I still don't. So I didn't know that much about it, but I think I realized right off the bat that I was with somebody who was certainly different in a very positive way when Gene Roddenberry spoke to me after my audition. I could tell at that point that this was an awfully nice guy, and it looked like it was going to be an interesting project. Gene was very generous in his compliments to me, and he was also very accessible and seemed to be genuinely concerned...not only with the project, which of course would be his primary concern, but with all the myriad of different elements including the actors.

In *Encounter at Farpoint*, Gene was on stage quite a bit, and we would talk occasionally. I think it was the second or third show that I really went to him to ask for advice. If he could help me out of a particular dilemma that I thought the script had failed to address, and so he did and the whole concept that there might be a world of Qs out there was born simply out of a wink and a nod on my part. It was only after the show was aired that we kind of realized what we had wrought.

He was very open to suggestions and charming to be with. My experience of him is nothing but positive and I'm really sad to hear...

to know he has passed away.

I think that probably his achievements or the way he viewed his achievements was not unlike an olympic athlete who worked very, very hard and the little icing on the cake that you spend just a few moments tasting might be the award or the fact that it's been translated into 40 languages. It all becomes very diminished in light of the years and years of struggle to get there. You know how we all are, we want something and then when we get it, it breaks the illusion of what was going to happen when we were going to get it. We realize in a funny way that we're no different than we were before. He probably had a lot more money and stuff like that, but I didn't have a sense that he thought he was a legend in his own time.

Becoming aware of the scope of Star Trek has changed my perspective. Not so much about the show, which I still don't watch very often, but on what the show means to people. I have become much more respectful for what it means to other people. It doesn't mean that to me...it's hard for me to be affected by this media because I'm in it. There's not as much magic involved in Star Trek for me, but I am respectful of the magic that other people derive from it. And I can understand it more than I used to.

If I hadn't experienced conventions, this would be simply a job that lasts eight days once a year. I'm doing a show right now. I prepared the same way, I technically do the same thing and that's it. What's fascinating to me is Star Trek does not do that for other people...it has a kind of a life of its own and it's far above and beyond, I think, anything that Gene ever imagined.

I was, at first, surprised by the fan response. Reporters who are looking to dredge up a story are always very interested in asking questions about how weird it is. What I discovered is it's not weird, that in our country, maybe more or less than other countries, the way somebody looks and dresses has a great deal to do with their success in life. One of the things about clubs, and it's true of every one that I'm aware of, is that a club by its definition is exclusionary. Star Trek is a club that is inclusionary, and it includes so many people who are disenfranchised by our society. And for that, if only that, it holds a special place. I don't think that when Gene put it together — you know, cowboys in outerspace — he had any of those thoughts. I just think he was trying to put together a good show where he had a very simple theme, that the future will be better...it won't be worse, it will be better and that was the end of it.

As an acting teacher, what I tell my students to do is to work in such a way as to allow the audience to do at least 50 percent of the work. And I think Gene worked in such a way as to allow the audience to do, if not 50, then maybe 75 percent of the work, or maybe even say 90 percent of the work. All he did was introduce the idea and this has just become a phenomenon.

At the end of my audition, when I auditioned for Gene the first time and only time, he put his arm around me and said, "You make my words sound better than they are." That's a generosity that's just not afforded. It's a generosity that you don't see in our business very often, and certainly not one that's afforded me very often, or most actors. I realized, at that moment, that I was dealing with somebody special.

5 November 1991

Star Trek is the only science fiction or look at the future that we've ever had in American literature that says, "Hey, we made it!" — an optimistic look at the future.

Gene Roddenberry in a 1983 *Communique* interview conducted by Eric Stillwell and Syn Ferguson

FARE WELL, GENE

The body that housed Gene Roddenberry may be gone from this world, but his spirit is not. I'm not talking about reincarnation, heavenly regards, or any other religious concept. To do so would be to go against one of Gene's strongest beliefs, which became the basis for the Prime Directive; that no one group has all the answers, and that being different doesn't mean one is wrong.

I suppose that I should call him Mr. Roddenberry, since I never had the honor of meeting him, but that seems too formal an address for someone who has invited me — and all of us — to share his ideas and visions for the past twenty-five years. Gene became a part of my life before I ever heard his name or knew who he was. I was seven, and one evening I walked through the living room as my father was watching television. I looked to see what he was watching, and saw a man with pointed ears and one eyebrow raised. This so intrigued me that I sat down with him and I've been watching ever since.

As I am writing this story after hearing the news this morning, a particularly appropriate song has come onto the radio: "Teach Your Children Well," by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. The message might have been written by Gene himself: *You who are on the road / must have a code / that you can live by . . . Teach your children well . . . and feed them on your dreams . . . and know they love you.* Is there a message here? Gene has certainly fed us all on his dreams, and made us hunger for more. We are truly all his children, and we love him.

Gene has been called "The Great Bird of the Galaxy" since the very early days of Star Trek. No name has ever been more fitting, for he truly flew above us all; but what kind of bird? It would have to be one with a large wingspan and a wide range, for his vision has touched thousands all over the world. The shadow of his passing has inspired others to follow, to strive to achieve his dream. As for the galaxy, Gene has opened that for all of us, as science fiction went from a genre that was looked down upon and read only furtively, to a respected literary form which often dominates the best-seller lists. Science fiction has become part of our daily experience, allowing us to look outward to other worlds in the belief that someday we really will go there — on the wings of a great bird.

I have been asked many times why I was so attracted by Star Trek. My response has always been that Star Trek shows us hope for ourselves, what the human race can become. What a goal Gene has set for us! From the comfortable future, the crew of the Enterprise talks of the madness of nuclear proliferation and the threat of global self-destruction; but also speaks of how we were able to overcome our mutual paranoia and look beyond our differences to find our similarities. We can see, perhaps, the beginnings of this understanding in *glasnost*, but we still have a long way to go.

Gene's dreams have sparked similar hopes

in others. Just look at the thousands of people in Star Trek groups around the world. They don't just sit around and say, "Live long and prosper," they DO things to bring the dream closer; raise money for charity, perform community service, visit hospitals — the list goes on. Last year, on Earth Day, members of STARFLEET planted over 200 trees, in addition to other ecological activities.

If you want to see equality in action, attend any science fiction convention. Some of the people there are educated and trained in highly technical jobs, others are not. Some fit in with "normal" society, while others may linger on the edges, or perhaps don't fit at all. Looking around, however, you see that these people do not judge one another. Chris-

others that the light can never be extinguished. I feel sorry for us, who must go on without Gene, but I do not mourn for him. I'm sure he's secure in the knowledge that we will not let his dream die, but will pass it along until it finally comes true.

One week ago today, I watched an airshow which included the U.S. Navy's top flight team, the Blue Angels. Towards the end of the show, they demonstrated the "missing man" formation used to commemorate fallen pilots. An imperfect "V" of five planes flies past, with the glaringly empty space where the "missing man" completes the V. This particular formation always choked me up; but the Blue Angels do it one better. Their formation starts out complete; then the "missing man" pulls up to climb vertically into the sky, spiralling upward until lost in the distance, while the others continue. That's Gene, going into space just a little ahead of us.

Elaine Y. Fisher
25 October 1991



I find it interesting that Gene Roddenberry produced exactly one memorable television series—plus an update of that series—and yet was far more influential over the course of 25 years than any dozen TV producers who produced dozens more programs. If that doesn't prove quality over quantity, I don't know what will.

Peter A. David
Author, Star Trek Novels
28 October 1991



We will finally grow up, war and bigotry will be things of the past as we work together for the common good, having learned to cherish, not fear, the beautiful diversity of the human race.

That was one man's courageously optimistic vision of us. For a quarter of a century, he expressed that vision clearly and strongly through the media, that are more often cynical and opportunistic than idealistic. Because of him, untold numbers of people have found the hope they needed to follow their own dreams and to reach out the hand of friendship to others. His vision lives on in the hearts of so very many of us; we are saddened by his death, but we celebrate a life so very well spent. We will miss you, Mr. Roddenberry. Bon voyage.

Mrs. Lynnette Knox
USS Alioth, STARFLEET
25 October 1991



...People are hungry for images to emulate and the Star Trek people are almost old fashioned heroes you can trust. If they say something, its true. They do not lie, they do not steal, they believe there are some things in life worth a great deal of pain and effort...

Gene Roddenberry in a 1983 Communiqué interview conducted by Eric Stillwell and Syn Ferguson



tian or non-Christian, programmer or technophobe, Republican or Democrat, straight or gay; it doesn't matter what your choice of life-style may be, you are accepted as you are, and granted the right to exist in your chosen way. What is equality, if not that?

Gene's dream will certainly not end with him, for it has gained a momentum of its own. The "Next Generation" of shows is well-named, for it has inspired a new generation of converts. The new series has surpassed the original in length. If the original series was enough to inspire twenty-five years of loyalty (twenty years on its own!), who knows how far Star Trek will go now? It can't possibly end here. Gene may have passed on to whatever awaits us all, but the torch he lit has been passed to so many

The Dreamer Is Gone From Us, ... But Not The Dream

by Gary Scott Decker

On October 24, 1991, in the midst of a World Series for the ages, a visionary for our age passed from this mortal Earth.

Little did I know, fighting the early evening commuter traffic in order to watch Bobby Thomson and Ralph Branca throw out the ceremonial first pitch in Game Five in Atlanta, that Jan Mitigawa of local KXTV-Channel 10 was trying to reach me at my office to participate in an interview to document local Trekkers' reaction to the Great Bird's final worldly flight.

At a newsbreak during the game I received my first word that Gene Roddenberry had died in Santa Monica, just about the time that I got my office's message that Channel 10 was trying to reach me. Still stunned from Gene's demise, I called Channel 10 back, and Jan Mitigawa spoke with me at length. The interview had already been taped, he said. About a half dozen Defiance members had gathered in Capt. Helen Slaughter's home to share their grief and sense of loss, and the filming went well. Jan understood that Defiance's annual Halloween party was scheduled for the following night, which was now going to be a memorial for Gene Roddenberry. "Perhaps you'll convert it to a wake," Jan quipped. "Gene would like that," I answered. "As a humanist he is [it was impossible to say "was"] a man of all cultures. Did you realize his wedding to Majel Barrett was a Shinto ceremony?"

Majel. Rod. The family. My God, how were they taking all of this? The next day, I telephoned RAdm. Janis Moore, Defiance's commanding officer, to find out what we could do. No flowers, please, was the official word; but donations to the American Diabetes Society in Gene's name would be welcome. Lt. Jacqueline Langworthy would get Majel's home address so we could at least lend a personal touch to the outpouring of condolences by sending a card to Majel at home in Defiance's name.

Influences in one's youth last a lifetime, and along with Robert A. Heinlein stands Gene Roddenberry. When Heinlein died in May of 1988, his passage gave me pause for reflection, but word of his death came indirectly and late, and there was no time for mourning. But when Heinlein died, I resolved to myself that there would be mourning for Gene Roddenberry. And, when the time came, there was. Black arm band to the office on Friday the 25th. Most people in my office did not even have to ask; many simply came up to me and said, "Oh, Gary, I'm so sorry."

That night, I attended an ethnic bar association "Unity" dinner and wore, in addition to the arm band, my Star Trek 25th Anniversary commemo-

rative pin on my suit lapel. Superior Court and Appellate Court justices knew instantly the significance, and they shared with me their remembrances of Star Trek and the message of peace and harmony among the peoples of the Earth which the series embodied. One judge, a devout baseball fan, had even seen the Defiance interview after the World Series. "It was magnificent," he commented to me. "I know they had virtually no time to prepare themselves for questions, and yet the answers they gave to the interviewer, about hope for the future and the senselessness of war, about how people can live together in peace, were so profound, and so true to the philosophy of the show. They just did a magnificent job." I smiled, with no small amount of pride. "I know those people, Judge. They're local Trekkers."

The black arm band came off Friday night after the Unity dinner, but the grief did not. "What's wrong?" my wife asked. "You're so sad and depressed." "This one hurts, kid," I responded. "This one strikes close to home. The paper said that the memorial services would be open to the public. I think I need to go. I need to say good-bye." My wife, who is extraordinarily understanding in such matters, did not hesitate. "I think you should."

By Tuesday, I had my airline tickets, and by Wednesday I had told RAdm. Moore that I was going to be attending the memorial services. Was there something I should say to, or give, Majel at the services? Janis would call other members of the ship and let me know through Capt. Debra Roberts. On Thursday, Debra and I spoke over the telephone. No special messages. Just do what you think is appropriate under the circumstances, she told me. We'll leave that to your discretion. No "mission" from Defiance, then, but that meant that my trip to Forest Lawn Memorial Park was even more personal. I would have to confront my own feelings about the death of Gene Roddenberry, and find my own definitions and meanings in the experience.

The route by air from Sacramento to the Hollywood/Burbank airport is down the great Central Valley, and I knew to ride on the port side of the aircraft in order to view the Sierra Nevada. Some sixth sense, at the opportune moment, pulled me from the paperback I had brought and focused my attention out the window next to my seat. Then I saw it: Yosemite. Half-Dome. El Capitan. And the image of a solitary climber moving with majestic precision in a scene three hundred years hence gripped my imagination. How many times did Gene Roddenberry make this identical approach to the same airport? How many times was he impressed with the magic that is Yosemite? It was his creation, one James Tiberius Kirk, that has forever put Star

Trek's footprint on the Yosemite Valley.

Flying past Yosemite and Fresno, and just before the start of the smog that marks Bakersfield and the beginning of all that is L.A., another Trek-like phenomenon manifested itself: sunlight reflecting off corrugated roofs, typical in the vast agricultural tracts which dominate the southern San Joaquin Valley. But what came to mind was the report given to Capt. Christopher Pike by his navigator on the Enterprise's achieving standard orbit around Talos IV for the first time: "They polarize out as bits of metal, Captain. Shall we investigate?" Surely Gene Roddenberry, the bomber pilot and later airline captain, had seen similar glints of metal below from his position of command in the air, and as a survivor of a crash in the Syrian desert, Roddenberry knew full well what it was like to endure such a calamity "with grace and dignity, full of the human spirit," as Dr. Boyce recalled the Talosian image of crash survivors from the S.S. Columbia. "The Cage," as all writing does ultimately, must certainly have sprung from the experiences of its author, and, that being so, the spirit of Star Trek was palpably present aboard Southwest Airlines flight no. 1704 from Sacramento that November 1st morning.

Forest Lawn is, with traffic, only about a 20 minute drive from the Hollywood/Burbank airport, and the route is surprisingly placid for those used to combat conditions on the public highways in L.A. and the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area. Driving south on Hollywood Way from the airport, I was impressed with the names of certain cross-streets which struck a responsive chord. "Valhalla." Gene Roddenberry, the humanist warrior, must be making a grand entrance there, striking at ignorance and prejudice with enlightened examples of tolerance and compassion of his own device and design. "Jeffries." So much like Walter M. Jeffries, who added concreteness and form to make tangible the "stuff" of which Gene dreamed. And then, "Victory." The earthly success which Star Trek has enjoyed, and the promise held out by Gene's vision which, if seized upon, could propel humankind beyond the planetary confines of Sol III and face-to-face with its destiny in the Universe. Victory. May Gene Roddenberry's memorial be our victory over ourselves to take the fullest advantage of the opportunities held by the future.

The memorial services were scheduled to start at 2:00 p.m., so I had planned a 10:40 a.m. arrival at the airport to give me enough time to beat the crowds. Amazingly, there were only two groups ahead of me in line by my arrival at Forest Lawn, and they totaled only a dozen in number. Forest

Lawn had erected external speakers along each side of the Birth of Freedom Mosaic which covered the northern wall of the Hall of Liberty in which the services were to be held, obviously to accommodate those Trekkers who could not find seats in the Hall. Invited guests were allowed to wait in the lower gallery, but fans were asked to line up outside on the lower forecourt until all the invited guests had been seated. Then, individuals would be selected from a certain quadrant of the courtyard to occupy the 400 seats in the visitor's gallery. Given our arrival hours in advance of the services, we all felt comfortable that we would be selected to view the services personally.

The two groups ahead of me in line were from the U.S.S. Roddenberry, the Los Angeles chapter of the International Federation of Trekkers, under the command of Fleet Captain Catherine Christy and her First Officer, Captain Bev Shihara, and an independent Star Trek club from Phoenix headed by David Bluestein. The Arizonans had driven the night before, and had tantalized themselves with only a few hours' sleep in a hotel in nearby Covina before making their appearance for the memorial service.

As we waited in line, one common concern kept being expressed over and over again: How is Majel? How is Rod? How is the family? If our sense of loss is bad, how much more grievous is it for them?

Yet there was an equally strong sentiment: Thank God that Gene could attend the 25th Anniversary celebration in June and see firsthand what he had wrought. At least Gene knew in his lifetime the impact his ideas and his work were having on the world, and that he was adored and loved by millions and millions of people. Too often, the acknowledgment of great genius comes after the individual can no longer appreciate the accolades personally. Gene Roddenberry, thankfully, received the recognition he so richly earned while he was alive, and while we were here to revel in his triumphs with him. We know what assessment Gene will be given when he meets his Maker, "Well done, Mr. Roddenberry."

Another theme which manifested itself amongst the Trekkers assembled to pay their respects was how Star Trek illuminated troubled childhoods with a beacon of hope and reassurance. I myself consider Gene Roddenberry to be the man who saved me as a teenager by showing me that humankind will progress beyond stereotype, ignorance, intolerance and fear, and will unite in the common purpose of exploring the wonderful diversity that is creation. But the angst I felt as a teenager paled in comparison to the stories I heard of child abuse, alcoholic parents, divorce and poverty. Yet the individuals standing in line to pay a final tribute to Gene Roddenberry, clad in business suits and black mourning dresses, were teachers, lawyers, engineers, technicians, artists, truck drivers, airline reservation clerks, proud parents and starving students, all touched by Gene's vision and all vibrant, productive members of society.

It may be agreed that what Gene Roddenberry had to say through his works, such as Star Trek, was not unique in the human experience (and thank God for that!). But what Roddenberry did accomplish that was so extraordinary was to forge a vision of the future in popular culture that could reach, and be understood by, millions of people, so that the import of his ideas could touch segments of the population beyond the reach of science fiction or even literature as a whole. And in so doing, Roddenberry made concrete in the minds of, now, two generations how we all truly can live and work together without tearing each other apart. If, as Marshall McLuhan says, "the medium is the

message," then Gene Roddenberry's special contribution to humanity is having communicated a medium whereby humankind can set differences aside and take joy in the infinite diversities which make us all special while at the same time improving the human condition.

The magnetism of Star Trek is what binds Trekkers together generally, and that certainly was the impelling force that saw 200 or so individuals stand contemplative in the autumn sun awaiting a memorial service none of them wished was necessary. A light plane with a pusher propeller and ailerons forward of the cockpit, its wings swept back, circled over the group, and jokes were made that it was a prototype Romulan Bird of Prey or perhaps a Klingon D-1. The faces of the Forest Lawn security attendants reflected their amazement at how orderly the crowd's behavior was. Commented someone in line, "Hey, we're used to conventions. We know the drill." Trek pins adorned the business suits and mourning dresses, and newsletters were exchanged.

But the occasion was a somber one. "Why are you here?" asked the radio reporter for KFMB, All News Radio 98. "What does Star Trek mean to you, and

space." I mentioned Space Station Freedom, and all he did was give me a sardonic smile and shake his head. What can we do? What can Trekkers do? I had an idea: Let's start a campaign for Space Station Roddenberry. If the latest television market surveys are accurate, then 53% of all American viewing households have seen or are fans of Star Trek. Such numbers, properly organized, should provide some political clout. "Yes," my engineering friend replied, "but can you convince the politicians?" I detect a challenge to be overcome, there.

In the midst of conversation, a familiar musical theme emerged from the public address system. First the Classic Trek theme, then the first season Next Generation, then the current Next Generation. These motifs repeated themselves for several cycles, then the house lights went down to, surprisingly, empty seats both on the main floor and in the visitors gallery. Apparently, "Entertainment Tonight" had announced that the memorial services were to be private, so only those Trekkers who actually called Forest Lawn to inquire about the services, or those whose out-of-town newspapers

...I prefer to believe that what we are goes beyond Euclidian and other practical measuring systems in ways we cannot yet fathom. Our existence is part of a reality beyond what we understand now."

Written by Gene Roddenberry
Captain Picard in the episode, *Where Silence Has Lease*

will the show continue now that Gene Roddenberry is dead?" "The Sixties have passed; does Star Trek have any relevance today?" A newspaper reporter, after her third interview with Trekkers in line, marveled in awe, "I keep getting this thing about abusive childhoods. What is it about Star Trek that helped you through this?"

Why are we here? Because we have to be, because this is the only way we can really say good-bye. Will the show go on? Absolutely, no doubt about it. Sure, the Sixties have passed, but Star Trek speaks to the human condition, not to passing political fads. What is "it" about Star Trek? The "it" is humanity, and the message is that no matter how bad things may seem, we will survive, and survive "with dignity and grace," to coin a phrase.

A word here about the Forest Lawn personnel: They were fabulous. When it became apparent that the Trekkers were not going to comport themselves in accordance with the Lunatic Fringe stereotype that sometimes mundanely follows in their footsteps, the security people let us in and seated us in the visitors gallery well in advance of the memorial services. As we found ourselves seated next to new people we had not met in line, conversation was rekindled. Next to me sat a woman from L.A., and over my right shoulder seated in the row behind me were three women from Germany who happened to be in southern California when the news of Gene's death broke. "Welkommen. Are you great fans of Star Trek?" "Ach, ja!" And then proceeded a discussion in impeccable English which spoke well for the philosophy of IDIC.

A sobering conversation, though, transpired with an engineer from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena. His work is in spacecraft navigation, and when I asked him, "How goes the space program?" his reply was, "What space program? There is no space program." JPL is surviving on old research grants, "and there just isn't any money for

carried only the original obituary notice which indicated that the services would be open to the public, made the journey to Forest Lawn. For those of us whose lives were transformed by one Gene Roddenberry and who were able to attend the memorial service, the ceremony which followed touched our very souls.

To the orchestral strains of "Greensleeves" and "Unchained Melody" a slideshow of Gene's life was presented. One image which will always endure in my mind showed Gene with his right arm across the shoulders of Isaac Asimov. What vistas and universes those two minds have molded! To this day, Isaac Asimov pays tribute to Star Trek. The other image which endures is a composite of all the slides, really, because almost every one showed Gene apple-cheeked in laughter, the warmth of his beaming smile sizzling from the screen. From the testimonials spoken in Gene's memory, I came away with the understanding that this was how Gene Roddenberry lived life, in huge gulps, like a little boy in the proverbial candy store celebrating the thrill of picking out the choicest, sweetest delicacies, although Gene's solution, when confronted with a choice, was to scoop them all up in his arms.

Next followed Nichelle Nichols, accompanied by pianist Nathan Wong, who performed a song "co-written and performed by an old, old friend of Gene's, Mr. Paul McCartney." The song was "Yesterday." "I'm not half the soul I used to be. There's a shadow hanging over me. Oh, yesterday came suddenly." "Why he had to go, he couldn't say." Nichelle, her voice breaking with emotion, then sang a song she co-wrote in Gene's honor. "It expresses my deepest regard, and love, for Gene." "Gene, oh future visionary Gene, ... you shine a starlight on our dreams. ... Your universe was meant to be.... Gene, Great Bird of our Galaxy, you gave us wings and set us free. You dreamed our


spatial family....You dreamed our Star Trek family. Gene, you showed us galaxies afar. You tied our hopes to every star. We're lucky you're who you are. Our loving Gene. Gene."

Roddenberry's literary importance to the field of science fiction was lauded by no less a personage than Ray Bradbury, who joked how, "for at least the last ten years," admirers have confused him with Gene Roddenberry. Bradbury has learned to simply say, "Thank you. I'm glad you like my work." [Apparently, Gene and Ray Bradbury frequently traded each other's fan mail, Gene for *The Martian Chronicles* and Bradbury for *Trek*.] Bradbury had mentioned to his friends about speaking at the memorial services "and two of them said, 'What an honor. What an honor.' And when they said that twice I realized, yes, what an honor." Bradbury expressed his optimism that Roddenberry's "extended family" will expand "well beyond the end of the century," and that is the beauty of his work. "And Gene symbolized to me what Schweitzer said years ago, if you do excellent work somebody is bound to imitate it. ... In dealing with the morality that [Gene] taught, he did it in a very quiet way. He didn't pontificate with his stories but he showed by example. And in the midst of so much violence and so many shows we don't care about, ... Star Trek stands out as a nice, quiet, moral example at a time when we needed it."

Bradbury also eulogized Roddenberry's "gift of the eye," the eye being the instrument "by which man discovered the stars, and he's been wanting them for tens of thousands of years now. ... Once you've seen the stars you want the stars ... and Gene has been doing that for years now. Gene took it that extra step, with all of his compatriots, out into the universe, where we want to live." "We must be celebrants of life. Belonging to no one particular religion, but glad to have been here once. And we're glad to have been here once, with Gene." Bradbury concluded his testimonial with an excerpt from one of his short stories about the death of his 82-year-old great-grandmother, about her returning to a dream she had dreamed "when someone wakened me, and that was the day I was born." "I write that for Gene and I say it for him, and I end as I began. Maybe in the years ahead, strangers will come up to me who have lost track of time and they will look at me and say, 'Mr. Roddenberry! I thought you were dead.' You know what my answer will be? 'Not as long as I'm alive.'"

Whoopi Goldberg followed Ray Bradbury to the podium. "What to say about a man that I didn't know well for twenty-five years, but I knew him well spiritually. Because this was a man able to reach out through my television and explain to me that I had a place in the world in the future, through this woman right here [pointing to Nichelle Nichols]." "To me Gene Roddenberry is a Thoreau, a visionary. ... When I explained to him that his was the only vision with black people in the future, he thought that was very bizarre. I guess he didn't realize that nobody else saw us there. ... I'm not going to mourn. I was lucky, as Mr. Bradbury mentioned, I was able to celebrate his life, that has in fact changed the entire face of the world. Everywhere you go, no matter what country, they all know Star Trek. They all know that, somehow, the world can actually be better because of this one man's vision. What an honor to have been able to meet someone like that, who was able to change the world without screaming, yelling and cursing out the President like some of us do. He just said, 'No, this is my vision.' And for once, people who are in charge listened, and twenty-five years later a kid from the projects and kids from all over the world, all over the country, have come here to celebrate Gene Roddenberry."

Christopher Knopf spoke next, and he began by relating how he heard perhaps Gene's first articulation of the Star Trek concept while sitting behind home plate at Dodger Stadium, Mr. Knopf having persuaded Gene to play hooky from MGM. The idea, of course, came during a crucial part of the game, as most absorbing distractions do to baseball fans intent upon watching a game. Specifically, Johnny Roseboro, the baserunner, was inching toward home plate from third base. Roddenberry told Mr. Knopf that he envisioned a series built around a dirigible in the late 19th Century. "Multi-racial crew of men and women travelling the skies to still uncharted, unknown places, encompassing our own failings, yearnings, lusts, confusions, aspirations, fears and furies, yet with it all trying to bring decency and equality to a world grown hostile through ignorance and suspicion. Was it the beginning of something that a few short years later was to capture everyone's imagination?" Mr. Knopf pondered the concept, and in the second he took his attention off


*Gene, oh future visionary, Gene, ...
you shine a starlight on our dreams.
... Your universe was meant to
be....Gene, Great Bird of our Galaxy,
you gave us wings and set us free. You
dreamed our spatial family..... You
dreamed our Star Trek family. Gene,
you showed us galaxies afar. You tied
our hopes to every star. We're lucky
you're who you are. Our loving Gene.
Gene....*

— Nichelle Nichols —

the baseball game, 50,000 people "stood as one and seemed to roar their approval. But too soon. Johnny Roseboro had just stolen home, and neither one of us saw it."

Mr. Knopf met Gene Roddenberry through Sam Roth, the creator and producer of "Have Gun Will Travel," Mr. Roth describing Gene as "one helluva writer," rare praise which Mr. Knopf greeted with a mixture of excitement and envy. Gene "loved adventure, and you'd better be willing to go along for the ride," observed Mr. Knopf, relating the time when Gene coaxed him onto a motorcycle in the middle of a rainstorm. As Gene and his reluctant passenger roared down Gene's Beverly Glen driveway, "in our blue suits, shirts and ties, rain beating us to death" and turned onto Glenbrook with "leaning, lots of leaning, way over leaning, the traction suddenly history, bike on its side, spinning on the asphalt, we picked ourselves off the pavement, our suits torn to shreds, blood pouring out of our knees, the bike, what was left of it, plowing through a hedge, and we sat on the curb trying to decide whether the wiser course was the emergency hospital or a hot shower, Gene turned to me with that sudden marvelous laugh of his, 'Do you realize,' he said, 'we may never do anything like this again?'"

"And then there was Star Trek." Mr. Knopf lauded Gene's compassion and vision, and the way Gene could blend his own self-examination into the exploration of good and evil which was one of the principles of *Trek*. "Somewhere there is a great squealing and grinding. The wheel of humanity has lost a bearing."

Mr. E. Jack Neuman, of whom Mr. Knopf spoke in his eulogy, also addressed those assembled to pay their respects to "Eugene Wesley Roddenberry," and

Mr. Neuman commenced his oration by acknowledging not only Gene's assembled family, friends and professional colleagues, but also the fans. Mr. Neuman observed that Gene Roddenberry was the first writer to be "cemented" in the Hollywood Walk of Stars with a star of his own. "And in a way, this is the first time the film industry has openly admitted that someone has to put that stuff down on paper before it gets up on the screen."

While Gene was an avid golfer, Mr. Neuman recalls that Gene's true "expertise was in the little-known, very obscure track-and-field event called self-effacement. In Hollywood it's practically extinct. Gene was the hands-down champion of self-effacement, unequalled, unrivalled, unchallenged. Gene owned the gold, the silver and the bronze without even competing." For example, Mr. Neuman related the following story: "In 1956, the flight was from New York to Los Angeles. A big man in a big black overcoat wearing a bow tie sat in the seat next to mine. We grunted at each other, and once we were airborne we ordered drinks. No in-flight movies and no jet engines in those days, so there was no reason not to have a second drink, or a third one. And then a fourth. Now, I don't remember what big black overcoat and I were talking about, but I do know that round number five was en route, when I said to him, 'Why are we doing all this drinking?' 'Cause I'm scared,' he said. By that time I had enough brave-maker in me to say something comforting like, 'Hey, what's to be scared about?' He lowered his eyes and sort of mumbled, 'I used to fly one of these things.'"

Noting that Gene "flew for the Army Air Corps before it was the Air Force, he flew for Pan American Airways before it went broke, and he was an officer for the Los Angeles Police Department before Rodney King," Mr. Neuman said he was glad that Gene "discarded all those other frivolous, irresponsible pursuits" and became a writer. "A writer is a guy who gets up in the morning, puts on his or her pants, sits down at his or her desk, looks chaos squarely in the eye and gets busy putting it in some kind of order. When he or she fails, a writer is a guy who tells himself or herself that the audiences are becoming less and less talented."

Gene Roddenberry's "respect and consideration for his audience was always uppermost in his mind," said Mr. Neuman. Example: Gene, Majel and Rod were on vacation in London, just having checked in, when Gene realized the date. "I don't know how to tell you this," he said to Majel, "but I have to be in Austin, Texas tomorrow morning." "Something he couldn't sidestep," explained Mr. Neuman, "a little speech for some Texas Trekkers. He promised them he'd be there." "All his lifetime, Gene Roddenberry did rather more than his best. That's the man I know. I'm going to miss him and his big black overcoat," Neuman concluded, fighting back tears. "There's just a chance, maybe it wasn't chance so much, when, surely Prince Albert had him in mind when he spoke of his father the king, 'He was a man. Take him for all and all. I shall not look upon his likes again.'"

Patrick Stewart, in his grand eulogy, noted a contrasting duality to Gene Roddenberry, physical size coupled with a gentleness of voice, "a surprisingly light tenor voice with a rising inflection which gave a lilt, an airiness, an almost whimsical tone to his statements." Stewart wished he had learned other than from the obituaries and appreciations published after Gene's death that Gene was born in El Paso, Texas, because for a short period of time Patrick Stewart lived in neighboring Juarez, across the Rio Grande. "I stood under those [same] skies, and felt the searing heat, and looked on those hard, bare mountains, and considering the impact that Gene Roddenberry was to

have on our culture and the culture of the world, what a perfect location El Paso was for him to draw his first breath. Straddling the old world and the new, a meeting point of peoples and cultures, Aztec, Olmec, Tigua, European, Oriental, African, on the banks of a great continental river, this place of diversity, mixing, flow, challenge ... and space."

Patrick Stewart wistfully spoke of the times he and Gene promised each other to get together "for quiet times away from the set" to exchange ideas and thoughts, but somehow they had only two lunches together. "And it seemed to me that I sensed why. Gene had launched The Next Generation, and now he expected us to get on with it." As for dying, Stewart read "The Death Speech," written by Roddenberry early in the second season of TNG and spoken by Capt. Picard in response to Data's question, "Captain, what is death?" The speech concludes: "I prefer to believe that what we are goes beyond Euclidian and other practical measuring systems in ways we cannot yet fathom. Our existence is part of a reality beyond what we understand now."

The literary allusions which inform many of Star Trek's metaphors did not go unmentioned upon by Mr. Stewart either. "The Old Testament. Atheism. Euclid. A few weeks ago, a fifth season episode described the legend of Gilgamesh and spoke of the Homeric hymns, and in a letter to Rick Berman, a fan thrilled and amazed by these references, reflected that in the one week of that show's transmission more people were probably made curious about that literature than at any time since their creation. Even at its most frivolous, which sometimes The Next Generation is, it at least concerns itself with ideas and issues, and that is Gene's gift to us ... which we strive to sustain. Now, Gene's gift to me was this job. And that endowment will last a lifetime. Sometimes it's a curse, but much, much, much more, as an unexpected, life-transforming, life-bestowing blessing. Five years ago, first in his home and twice in his office, he looked at and he listened to a middle-aged, bald, opinionated, working class Shakespearean actor and said, 'He will be captain.' Inexplicable. And Gene at the beginning was challenged on all these counts. 'Our American icon played by this ... this ... how to describe him?' And even my hairline was subject to keen questioning. And when a journalist remarked that surely in the 24th Century they would have a cure for male pattern baldness, Gene responded, 'But why? In the 24th Century no one will care.' And with that remark, millions of men stood taller. Even without hair."

"Well, that is what Gene did. He readjusted our view. He corrected our vision. ... And the view wasn't always consistent, especially where it concerned women. It infuriated him that Star Trek remained, simultaneously, liberated and sexist. And maybe in that Gene remained, sadly, a visionary. We discussed this particularly contentious issue, Gene and I, and he reminded me that, before we began shooting the pilot, he had said to me that, 'If you have something important to say about this show, say it to me.' And Gene always made it easy to be honest and frank with him. He never intimidated, though he could impress, and I was reminded of that this week when A. C. Lyles spoke of an incident when President Reagan visited the set in the Spring. He and Gene stood side-by-side and somehow Gene's stick got knocked to the ground. And at once the President bent on one knee to pick it up. And when this was referred to later, Mr. Reagan said, 'You know, in that moment I felt I was being knighted.'"

"Well, in one way or another, Gene graced all of us when he was alive. And he will go on doing so. Almost a year ago I was here taking my farewell of another friend who died too soon. And I'm going to repeat some words of a British doctor on the subject of dying: 'To walk, we have to lean forward, lose our balance, and begin to fall. We let go, constantly, of the previous stability, falling all the time, trusting that we will find the succession of new stabilities we need to step. The fullest living is a constant dying of the past, enjoying the present fully, but holding it lightly, letting it go without clinging and moving freely to the new experiences. Our experience of the past and of those dear to us is not lost at all, but remains richly in us.' Gene, I have something important to say about the show: 'Thank you.'"

Following Patrick Stewart were recorded excerpts from Gene's last interview for The Humanist magazine. "I want to say that I have great patience, great affection for the human race. ... What we are is really a remarkable thing, and how can you doubt it will work out. That we can survive. ... I think mine [my philosophy] is based on a great affection I have

...In unison, they filled their bagpipes with air, and in two choruses of "Amazing Grace," as only the pipes can do, reached every soul of every person present. . .

for the human creature."

Then came the moment of truth. Several times during the eulogies tears welled up, because heartfelt memories of a great man recounted by friends and colleagues who are in grief evoke tears. But composure remained. I knew, though, as I had told my wife before I ever purchased an airplane ticket, that I would break down in the presence of pipers. "That's okay, Gary; it's okay to cry."

The memorial service program read simply, "Scottish Pipers. Mr. Eric Rigler - Mr. Scott Ruscoe." As Patrick Stewart took his chair, Messrs. Rigler and Ruscoe ascended the stage in full Highland regalia. In unison, they filled their bagpipes with air, and in two choruses of "Amazing Grace," as only the pipes can do, reached into the soul of every person present, clutched them fiercely about the heart, and wrenched racking, choking, sobbing tears of grief until the stage, the hall, the mourners sitting next to you were blurs singed by sorrow into mere clumps of color. "It's okay to cry," my wife had said. Suddenly, terribly, there was nothing else left to do.

After an eternity, came the announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, we will conclude this memorial service for Mr. Roddenberry in front of the Birth of Liberty Mosaic in the forecourt. There will be a fly-by at 3:20 p.m. I'll ask that you please remain seated until the family has been conducted from the hall. Thank you all."

Exiting the hall, I got an appreciation of how the Trek universe, for at least this afternoon, had collapsed on itself. Neither Ray Bradbury nor Whoopi Goldberg could stay after they delivered their eulogies, and William Shatner, somebody said, left at the same time Whoopi did. But as the fans and the invited guests mingled on the way out of the Hall of Liberty and walked to the forecourt, we found ourselves often shoulder-to-shoulder with almost every "regular" cast member of both shows, in addition to a good many of the writers and producers. Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, James Doohan, George Takei, Walter Koenig, Nichelle Nichols, Grace Lee

Whitney, Tasha (Arlene) Martel, Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, LeVar Burton, Gates McFadden, Denise Crosby, Marina Sirtis, Wil Wheaton, John de Lancie, Brent Spiner, Michael Dorn, Eric Stillwell, Robert Justman and at least dozens of others who through ignorance I failed to recognize. Even Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley was in attendance (Patrick Stewart was most gracious in going out of his way to greet the mayor). Majel and Rod were spared the crush (the media had a field day, and bereavement and the media do not mix). The poignancy was tangible. James Doohan and Nichelle Nichols embracing, with Nichelle ever so lightly touching Jimmy's cheek, "Oh, you dear thing." Walter Koenig and George Takei embracing, with pain crinkling George's face. "Where's De?" "Over there." "Let's go say hi to him." Wil Wheaton almost unable to walk because of the emotion of the moment. George Takei praising Christopher Knopf's eloquence, and Patrick Stewart's delivery. For the most part, the fans stood by silently, not really needing to say anything to these people who are like family and to whom a look of sympathy at such a time of sorrow says all that needs to be said.

Finally, the fly-by. This time, four of the Klingon D-1's came from the east, and as the flight passed over the assembled mourners a single plane climbed up and away, The Missing Man. I turned to movement out of the corner of my right eye, and found myself standing next to Jimmy Doohan and George Takei, each of them transfixed at the sight of The Missing Man.

For a moment there was a connection between Gene Roddenberry of the Army Air Corps and James Doohan of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and then the full impact of the moment hit me. My personal odyssey to pay my last respects to the Great Bird of the Galaxy, which from the outset found itself steeped in Star Trek symbolism, from Capt. Kirk's knowledge that he would not die in Yosemite because he was not alone to Capt. Pike's decision to mount a rescue operation to Talos IV, came to an end with me standing on the same "deck" as Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott and Helmsman Hikaru Sulu of the Starship Enterprise as we watched the embodiment of Gene Roddenberry pull away, solitary, soaring ever higher into the afternoon sky, toward an ever-more-distant horizon, to a point, to the infinity of space. The word is given, Great Bird. Warp speed. Definitely not good-bye. Until we meet again.

In the time-honored tradition of fandom, those who could meet for dinner after the memorial service concluded. I joined the IFT and Phoenix groups at the Copper Penny in Burbank, along with a fan from Minneapolis, she being the airlines reservation clerk whose job stood her in good stead for ease (and economy) of travel arrangements. The journey back to the airport from the restaurant closed the circle.

Victory.

Jeffries.

Valhalla.

Gene, we got the message. Is there no doubt that the space program must be funded? As we strive together for common goals, and the exploration of space is surely vital to our very survival as a species, the process — that wonderful example that you gave us — will bear witness to the strength that lies in unity and to the folly — the utter waste — that attends upon prejudice and hate. WE are your legacy. We shall be true to it.

USS Defiance NCC-1717
Region 4 Counsellor/JAG Officer
November 6, 1991

I think that one of the things that helped to shape Mr. Roddenberry's mind while he was creating Star Trek was that he had seen so many things in this country that had disturbed him. If you remember, at the time what was going on in this country. We were at war in Viet Nam, and then there was the Civil Rights movement. Gene was a witness to those events. He witnessed people being hosed down and attacked by dogs. He lived through the Cuban Missile Crisis and saw us ready to go to war with the Soviet Union. It was because of things like that, and perhaps for that specific reason alone, that he created an interracial crew. It was a direct response to the events that were taking place at the time. I believe he did it intentionally.

He was insightful, and he wanted to counter those problems almost item for item. We were at odds with the Soviet Union, therefore he added a Russian to the crew. They were calling China the ugly empire, and so we had an Asian crewmember. They were calling out the dogs and hosing down black people, hanging and lynching them. Gene added a character to Star Trek who was from Africa. She was there as an equal working side by side with a white American who was, from all places, the south. That was a smack in the face for many, and I think it took a lot of courage on Mr. Roddenberry's part to do what he did.

Captain Anita Davis
USS Renegade, STARFLEET
26 October 1991

As with most fans, I never had the opportunity to meet Gene Roddenberry in person. Nonetheless, he gave me something I'll cherish for the rest of my life. Hope.

Gene's positive envisionment of the future gave me that. Mr. Roddenberry's dreams have become mine... Dreams that humanity will strive towards a future where man is finally at peace with himself; no more wars, no suffering, no famine, and lastly, that man is not so arrogant to believe he's the only lifeform in the vast expanse known as space. Perhaps not Vulcans, Romulans, or Klingons, but beings just as fascinating.

In the clear of night, I look up to the stars and see peace and tranquility...

What a legacy to pass on to future generations.

The candle may have been extinguished, but the light will shine brightly for a long, long, time. Thank you, Gene.

Elizabeth Abell
31 October 1991



If it wasn't for Star Trek, I'd never have met my wife. I remember some Star Trek stuff in grade school, but I didn't really get involved with fandom until 1972 when I was a member of a local fan club. I've always liked space exploration and all of that. Star Trek served to enhance it more. It made it easier to envision what it might be like in the future.

I've seen Mr. Roddenberry twice. The first time was at the Concord Pavilion in California. It was the very first time I had ever seen The Cage and the Blooper Reel.

Mr. Roddenberry was wonderful! He had a vision, and I believe his vision has come true.

A lot of the hardware the characters used in the original series is a reality today. The medical scanners, the hand-held electronic equipment and the like. I also like to think that Mr. Roddenberry had a lot to say through Star Trek. The series was not only entertaining, but there was always a statement to be made. You might not get it the first time, but as you continue to watch Star Trek more and more, you begin to catch on to things. I believe Mr. Roddenberry's vision has certainly opened up a whole new world for people.

Admiral Rob Lerman
Director, STARFLEET Academy
26 October 1991

We will miss its creator and continue to thank him, for his vision of the future will continue to guide us. Roddenberry's Star Trek is eternal.

Cmdr. Spence Hill
Shuttle Nokib'ral, STARFLEET
28 October 1991

Gene Roddenberry was just wonderful. I'm devastated about his loss. You know, this man has had such an influence on my life for the last 25 years, in a fannish sort of way, I mean. Understand, when you think of what he's done for us for all these years, you miss someone....I've been the head of the Star Trek Welcomittee since 1977, and I worked in it a couple of years before that. The Welcomittee takes up all my spare time and, since I am retired, I have even more time so I'm busier than ever.

I got active in fandom between the first two seasons. That would make it the summer of 1967. Leonard Nimoy came to an amusement park in our area of Massachusetts. He sang and things like that and told us he had just finished filming the episode,

'The Deadly Years.' He told us that Spock was going to get married, and everyone went "Awww." In January of 1972, I attended the first Star Trek convention in New York City. Mr. Roddenberry was there. He brought the blooper reel. That was the first time anyone had ever seen the bloopers that I know of. Of course, the place went crazy! Nobody had heard a word of the bloopers, everyone was just screaming with laughter.

Then there was the time I was staying with Susan Sackett in California when they were filming Star Trek: The Motion Picture. One day, while at the studio, Susan told me that Gene wanted to talk with me. And, you know, that was quite a thought, and so I went into his office and we talked over half to three quarters of an hour. He was exhausted, since he'd been working awfully hard. But he actually stayed after hours to talk with me.

I was so grateful. He had a very soft, gentle voice and that impressed me so. And what really impressed me was another occasion when I spoke with him. There were a lot of people around, and he would just come and talk to you. You know, when you talk to many celebrities, when they're talking to you, they are looking around to see who else is there. Not Gene Roddenberry - he would talk to you, and you were the only two people there. He was a real person.

I was so thrilled with his vision of the future. A good future, the kind you don't always see on the six-o'clock news. It was a vision that showed us how people could work together, no matter who they were. Black or white, young or old, alien or whatever. I don't know of any other show like Star Trek. Plus the fact that Star Trek always said, and still does to this day, that just because something is different doesn't always mean it's evil. Most science fiction shows, if there is an alien, someone ends up killing it. Star Trek rarely did that. And if it did, the act was regretted, like the Salt Creature.

Just this past weekend, there was a small convention at the University of Massachusetts. I was talking to this lovely lady who, it turned out, happened to be from Wales. She said that her love of Star Trek led her to the stars and was responsible for her becoming an astronomy teacher at the University. I was so pleased, because it was another example of what Star

Trek has done - all because of this dear man that we've lost.

Mrs. Shirley Maiewski
Chairman, Star Trek Welcommittee
26 October 1991



EULOGY FOR A HERO

What is a hero? A hero is a person who makes a difference in someone's life. Someone who shows you that there is more to life than what it appears to be. Someone who gives the world a bright and shiny future. Someone like Gene Roddenberry.

Yes, Gene Roddenberry was a hero. Millions throughout the world listened to what he said. Through Star Trek and Star Trek: The Next Generation, he showed us that there is hope for the world and humankind. He inspired many a person to write, learn the sciences, or just listen to other people.

Many of us have heard the stories about him and his battles with Hollywood. We know the adventure that was his life, but only a few truly knew the man. In January of 1987, I had the honor to hear him speak. It was amazing the way this large and soft spoken man completely enraptured his audience. There was an electricity about him that made you want to hear more and more. It was like watching a prophet and his followers, and in some ways it was just that.

But now the prophet has left us and we, his followers, must endure and continue on with our lives. We must go forth and carry on his vision, his dream, for Gene Roddenberry was a practical man. This was obvious in the shows and movies. Many died, but life continued and so must we all.

Yet we cannot forget this man who so changed our lives in many unknown ways. I think Patrick Stewart spoke for us all when he said: "There is a great hole inside of me that will never be completely filled." I fear he is correct, yet the dream lives on in us all. The Great Bird of the Galaxy has begun yet another adventure. We wish him well and a safe journey. We know that wherever he goes, he will touch them like he has touched us all.

Ensign Jerome Conner
Shuttle Terranova, STARFLEET
28 October 1991



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

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

In the 1960s, Roddenberry's original 'Star Trek' television series gave viewers a thoughtful, optimistic look into our future. 'Star Trek' provided a refreshing contrast to the mundane world, a world filled with international and domestic tensions and the ghastly threat of global thermonuclear war. Roddenberry was a pioneer in portraying a united

THE LEGEND OF STAR TREK

by R. William Davis

Dedicated to the creator and producer of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry, who had the vision of a better future, and to the cast and crew who worked long hours to give it reality for millions of people all over the world.

Alas, dear Star Trek
Where have you gone?
Your galaxy beckons,
It's been empty too long.

We miss the stars
In the heavens above
And the things you taught us
Of mercy and love.

Ahead of your time,
So few understood,
That you showed us a path
To follow if we would.

To go where none have gone,
And see new wonders to behold
Is man's great challenge now
Let all the world be told.

Unite every country
Towards one common goal,
And reach for the stars
As all knowledge unfolds.

Man came from the stars,
One day he'll return,
but till that day come,
We all have much to learn.

The Final Frontier
Of infinite space
Is waiting to welcome
The seeds of our race.

A million star systems
Through which we can roam,
And the thousands of planets
For us to call home.

We stand at the crossroads,
The time soon draws near,
It's up to our leaders
Which course we will steer.

We'll never forget you
Nor all that you've done,
To show us the future
If we all live as one.

The course of our history
Is one of great change,
Man's childhood is ending,
We now turn the page.

Your spirit lives on,
We will follow your signs,
And nourish the vision
With our hearts and our minds.

Shuttle Maverick

Earth, free of war and racial intolerance, where humans carry their ideals to the stars. But his vision was branded as being too cerebral for TV audiences, and 'Star Trek' was canceled after less than three full seasons.

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

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

just getting better.

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

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

David W. Vosper
Pres., USS Republic, STARFLEET
31 October 1991



I think that any Star Trek anything that starts — movie, film or whatever — before it does, they should have a dedication to Gene Roddenberry. I mean, they should throw the man a few seconds on T.V. for anything in Trek. Just a little something, because he started it all.

Kalif Kasaba
9 November 1991

STARFLEET Command informs us of the death of Gene Roddenberry. The contribution of Mr. Roddenberry to The United Federation of Planets has been one of Galactic Importance. Mr. Roddenberry was a visionary with no limitations. His ability to discern the critical needs of Peace and Universal Amity was legendary. Across the Star Trek Universe, the loss of Gene Roddenberry will be keenly felt. Still, his voice and hope for the future will not remain silent. All across the Federation, within the Americas, in Europe, the Orient, and at remote and isolated locations, Starships, Shuttles and STARFLEET memberships flourish. Those of Star Trek and Star Trek: The Next Generation hold forth as living proof that one man can help make a difference for the betterment of humanity and dream to boldly go where none have gone before.

We of STARFLEET take a few moments to pause in our duties and our lives to render Honor and Thanks to the memory of Gene Roddenberry. We also express our profound Friendship and Love to his beloved wife, Majel Barrett Roddenberry. Thank you, Gene Roddenberry, for helping all of us to Live Long and Prosper. Gone from us, but not gone for we shall always remember you. Peace dear friend.

Hailing Frequencies closed -

William J. Herrmann,
Shuttle Charleston. STARFLEET
28 October 1991



I grew up in the most sustained period of paranoia this nation has ever endured. As a child of the 60's, I and other schoolchildren were instructed on how to "duck and cover" in case of nuclear explosion. "Yea, right." Suburbanites were stocking basements with provisions for a post-apocalyptic world of radiation fallout. No one told us then that living in Columbus was a virtual death warrant. As a major corporate center with a heavy industrial system and a nearby SAC base, we were

a top priority target for those Soviet ICBMs. There would have been no survival. The world was full of fear, and very little hope. Star Trek managed to provide us with a glimmer of hope, the idea that there was a chance that I would grow up. As a kid, I was enthralled by Star Trek, clearly responding to the rigorous formality of STARFLEET's military-type regulations. The Enterprise didn't contain just a bunch of folks out for an intergalactic good time; these were soldiers. On a mission!

As I grew older, I realized that Star Trek was one of the most optimistic visions ever to masquerade as a TV series. But Star Trek wasn't just a TV show, it was an adventure in hope. It suggested, in story after story, adventure after adventure, that quests are good, risk is fun, morality matters and the future EXISTS!

Now that Star Trek has been around 25 years, I can appreciate it even more. Star Trek shows that there can be a future, without war, without bigotry. A future that our current time line shows us is possible. Even though most people consider us "Trekkies" strange (we are, but don't tell anyone), I think we possess the ability to maybe make that vision come true. That's why I am a Star Trek fan. Yeah, it's crazy, but it's this little bit of insanity that keeps me sane. Thanks, Gene.

Robb Jackson
STARFLEET Marines
26 October 1991



I was talking to a friend of mine last night, and she said it felt to her like we had all lost a favorite uncle. It does seem like that to me, too. I didn't know him personally however, I met him on the last SeaTrek Cruise. He struck me as being a very warm, and gentle type of person. Someone who, if you had the pleasure of knowing him personally, it would have been a great honor. When I met him in May, he was obviously ill. I think the cruise took a lot of

drive out of him, but it impressed me that he was still capable of being so open with people. One might think that since he started this whole Star Trek thing, that he might conceivably have reason to be a bit aloof. I didn't get that from him at all.

At one point during the cruise, there was time set aside for the passengers to have their picture taken with all the stars. When I first sat down, the photographer was busy changing film, so I had to sit there for a minute or so. Mr. Roddenberry was sitting right next to me, and he leaned over and started talking with me. He really put me at ease, and I was really rather impressed with him. So I think that whether you knew him or not, he's touched all our lives. It's a terrible loss.

Carol Davis
Writer, Interned on Star Trek: TNG
26 October 1991



I met Mr. Roddenberry in Cleveland, Ohio in 1964 at a science fiction convention. He was talking about this great television show that he was contemplating doing. He referred to it as a 'wagon train to the stars.' Back then, Wagon Train with Ward Bond was real big. Some people thought his ideas sounded pretty good while others said they thought it would never work. Through the years, we found out that it did work. As far as touching lives, Mr. Roddenberry had a vision far beyond our own imagination back in the sixties. He made us think about things. I really feel badly about him. I'm glad he managed to live long enough to see the twenty-fifth anniversary. To see the number of people, from all walks of life, who quote Star Trek. Fandom has made friends around the world. We all owe him. It's sad to think he's gone. But I think he's up there somewhere, still doing his thing. I'll miss him, but it's time to move on.

Marlene Miller
Director, Vulcan Academy of Science
STARFLEET
26 October 1991



I never saw Mr. Roddenberry in person. I think his work, the dream that he had, and the hope he expressed for the future and his ideas, they will always be with us.

Florence Butler
President, Friends of Nichelle Nichols
26 October 1991



I can think of no product of mass media more dedicated to the concepts of peace and tolerance than Star Trek is. With every episode and film, Star Trek tried to show us that the human race is capable of learning how to be a positive force in this universe of ours, that beings that are different from us are not necessarily to be feared, that the ability to communicate is more powerful than the ability to destroy. They are not new concepts, and Gene Roddenberry is not the only person to have presented them; but he did create a magnificent and irresistible theater in which to dramatize them. Star Trek is his gift to us, and for it I'm filled with gratitude.

Marilyn Wilkerson
Editor, The Picardian
31 October 1991



THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

by Sherry Hopper

In memory of Gene Roddenberry
The Great Bird of the Galaxy is a Phoenix.
He has risen many times.

I met him 25 years ago.
I was just a child, and he smiled
and told me a marvelous story of life
as he knew it. "Strange," to me.
"Could be," he said. "Watch."
He reached out, pushed aside the clouds
so I could see more clearly that tomorrow
could be vastly different from today.

The Great Bird of the Galaxy is a Phoenix.
He has risen many times.

He returned 10 years ago.
I was older in many ways, and younger.
I had forgotten wonder, forgotten joy,
forgotten anticipation.
He reminded me that life is what I make it.
That there are other choices, other worlds
to explore behind the clouds, among the stars.
He smiled, and he took me there.

The Great Bird of the Galaxy is a Phoenix.
He has risen many times.

Four years ago, he began to tell me
a new story, of new adventures, new journeys.
He took me with him, out into the stars,
in pictures and in words.
"Go boldly," he laughed, and pointed the way.
The map was there, illuminated in starlight.
"Yes," I laughed with him.
"I'll try to understand."

The Great Bird of the Galaxy is a Phoenix.
He has risen many times.

On October 24, 1991, with the full moon
as companion, he said farewell to me.
With wings widespread, he launched himself,
stirring the stars with the wind of his passing.
The heavens opened to him, welcomed him.
He did not leave me alone.
I have his stories to stir my mind, his visions
to touch my heart, his starmap to guide me.

The Great Bird of the Galaxy is a Phoenix.
He has risen many times.

His life was a journey of discovery,
a journey he invited us to share.
From the cockpit of a 20th Century plane
to the bridge of a 24th Century starship,
his feet always seemed to be planted
on a road that moved forever upward,
into the stars, into the hearts
of those who cherished him.

The Great Bird of the Galaxy is a Phoenix.
He has risen many times.

When next he rises, what world awaits him?
Whose dreams and visions will his tales ignite?
Or perhaps he'll find that the
hailing frequencies are, indeed, open.
Perhaps the transporter will beam
him aboard for an even greater mission
than the one he found here.
May he continue to "boldly go...."

25 October 1991

I remember first reading Gene Roddenberry's
concept of IDIC.

Infinite diversity in infinite combinations.
To rejoice in the differences between others. This
was something new to me since I grew up in a
society where fads and conformity were the rule.
Gene's philosophy opened up for me a whole new
world of ideas. I began to see the beauty in other
cultures, and other people, and most important, I
began to see the beauty within myself. I was
always "different" and never really fit in any-
where and was rejected for it. Star Trek, and Gene
Roddenberry taught me to rejoice in my own
differences. They were something to be valued.
Since learning about IDIC, I've gone beyond Star
Trek and to apply the philosophy elsewhere I've
begun studying many other cultures, as well as
my own. I will always be grateful for Gene's
insights, and for his creation and for the way he
has touched my life.

Tara James
USS Thagard, STARFLEET
26 October 1991

I think Mr. Roddenberry was a great human
being. I always made it a point to watch whatever
he did. There was never a poor showing. I am
feeling a lot of sorrow, now that he's gone. Actu-
ally, I am still kind of numb from it all, still trying
to get over the news. I broke down and cried when
I heard.

Michael Clayton
USS Discovery, STARFLEET
26 October 1991

Gene Roddenberry gave a lot. He got a lot of
people together in Star Trek fandom. I've been
fortunate enough to have made a lot of friends
because of him. I think it's hard for those outside
of fandom to understand just how his passing
affected those who care so much about Star Trek.
They see us all like the fans parodied in the
'Saturday Night Live' skit. They don't realize that
Trekkers are normal people who get involved, and
practice the philosophy of IDIC. A lot of religions
preach the same thing, it's just worded a little
different. After all, Gene Roddenberry was just a
television and movie writer. But like I said before,
Mr. Roddenberry was someone who brought a lot
of people together, people who possibly would
never have met one another. Friends now, be-
cause of his vision. I personally try to follow the
philosophy of IDIC, you know, being nice to people
and what not.

What I like most is that Mr. Roddenberry
presented the future in a more positive way, as
opposed to movies like 'The Escape From New
York' and the 'Mad Max' type movies where the
future is commonly presented as being so bleak.
Gene never painted the picture that way. He
showed us that there is a choice in life. He turned

Continued on Page 19

... Star Trek says we solved our
problems on earth and can now
give our tattention and courage
to challenging the unknown. . .

Gene Roddenberry in a 1983
Communiqué interview conducted
by Eric Stillwell and Syn Ferguson

Memories Of Gene

by Captain Jon Lane, U.S.S. Avenger

"He was very spiritual—did you know that? So I don't think of Gene Roddenberry as having passed away; I prefer the words "passed on". His life essence hasn't ended, it's simply continued—a form of energy going from one state of being to another."

Alan Alpert, Design Instructor

"His star trek will go on forever..."

It was about 9:30 p.m. and I was finishing up a phone conversation with Julie when a beep told me that I had someone on call-waiting. Saying good-bye to my fiancé, I clicked the switch-hook to discover Tim Lynch, my college apartment-mate and very good friend, calling me from California. I don't remember quite how he told me, something about "I wasn't sure if you'd heard the news yet..." or some such, but I hadn't heard, and Tim was the first to tell me.

Gene Roddenberry had died.

I can't recall what it was that I said just then, but I do remember my first vague feelings. I wasn't surprised. Gene had been sick for several months, suffering at least one stroke that I knew of and being in and out of the hospital quite a bit recently. But it hadn't hit me yet—his death—and my first thought was, oddly enough, "Who else should know?" Not incredibly profound, I admit, but that was the first thing that went through my mind. I wanted to share this time with other people to whom Gene Roddenberry had meant so much.

"Does Peter know yet?" I asked. (Tim and I are both friends of writer and novelist Peter David.) Tim wasn't sure, but said that the news was fairly recent and Peter may not have heard yet. So I suggested a three-way conference call, and we discovered that Peter had found out about ten minutes before. As we spoke, it was obvious that the loss was finally beginning to sink in for us. After talking with Peter for about five minutes, I could feel a lump starting in my throat that was quickly becoming the size of a baseball, and my eyes were getting very wet.

We didn't stay on with Peter too much longer (Peter was getting over bronchitis), and Tim and I then decided to say good-bye ourselves, as Tim needed to make some posts to the computer nets and to call some more people. (I guess Tim had that need to share this time with friends, too. I wonder if everyone did?)

I called Julie back; she was one of the people I knew I wanted to talk to when this happened (Alex Rosenzweig was another). I was actually surprised at how deeply I was hurting by this point, that I was being so emotional (Spock wouldn't have approved). I was crying. People who didn't understand would probably call me silly. After all, I had never even met the man. I had heard him speak in person a few times and noticed that he had a tendency to go off on about twenty tangents per minute and couldn't keep to a single subject if he tried! I'll admit I was one of the many fans who blamed Gene for the weaknesses of the first season of "STAR TREK: The Next Generation" with his "preaching" approach (the famous "Gene Scenes" telling us, "We're Star Fleet—we don't lie!" and "Don't use drugs, Wesley...") and his need to

rewrite most of the first season scripts, an attitude which tended to alienate many fine writers from working further on the show.

But then again, that was Gene Roddenberry. The fighter. The man who sneakily sold the network a "Wagon Train to the Stars" program, and then, not missing a beat, confidently proceeded to do things his way, fighting the networks at every turn. "Lose the guy with the ears!" they said. "He's too silly. People will never accept him." "You can't have a woman on the bridge, especially not one who's a negro!" "The American public doesn't want intellectual messages; they want action, monsters, shoot-'em-up!"

Gene listened to every word...and then ignored them. Censorship? Sometimes, but not without a lot of hollering! And of course there were ways around the censors. Low ratings? Cancellation? Not with these fans!!

To say that Gene Roddenberry made television history is to grossly belittle his accomplishments. Gene created a legend. Think about that for a second, about what it means to have created a legend. And it's a legend which has woven itself into not just American culture, but into the world culture, as well. Star Trek is not just a phenomenon anymore—it is a part of us, a part of who we are and who we want to be. One man's dream of the future, as he saw it, and which he was nice enough to share with a world that both wanted it and needed it...and which still needs it.

Yes, I went through times when I was frustrated with Gene, even angry with Gene, but all that time I loved him, and I still love him. He gave me a gift that has become one of the three most important things in my life. He gave me his dream, the Great Bird's Dream, and that dream has given me good friends and many adventures, laughter and sadness, love and pain, despair and hope. It gave me endless nights on the phone and precious memories of friends gathered around the dormitory television set, countless books and manuals on my shelf and models on display, uniforms in my closet and a phaser by my desk. That dream gave me seven heroes and a beautiful starship, and a whole universe of beings and places to imagine and explore. And then he did it all over again, giving me new heroes and a new starship, and even more of that wonderful universe that has grown so far beyond what anyone—even Gene—could have ever imagined.

This newsletter is dedicated to Gene Roddenberry—not just this one issue, but every issue. I wear my captain's pin with pride, because I am satisfied that I have done what I could to share his dream, live with it, grow with it, bring it to others. Maybe I haven't helped build the sandbox, or even helped add any real sand to it, but I dug a little bit deeper in the sandbox and came up with a few grains that no one had seen before—grains that I cleaned off a little, polished up, and put on the top of a small pile in the corner of the sandbox, where a few

people who were in the right place at the right time could see and admire them.

"But tell him while he wanders his starry sea..."

I shared my grief with Julie, and she understood. She's not a big fan, but she enjoys the episodes and movies, and she respects my extensive participation in fandom. I cried and she understood. Alex commented later that night that, in fact, Gene was the first fundamental Star Trek "player" to die, and it would be a powerful blow to every fan. And now, a day later, as I watch and record the numerous news items about Gene's passing on, I still hurt...I still feel the loss. But the pain is fading. I don't think it will ever be completely gone, and that's all right. George "Sulu" Takei said about Gene in an interview I watched earlier tonight: "He's given us so much, and he's left so much with us. And yet, you can't help but feel the void."

I've written this to honor Eugene Wesley Roddenberry, but I've also written it to help myself through a time of grief. So please forgive the overly personal tone of this piece. But I wanted to share my thoughts with you—my friends. (That feeling of wanting to talk to people when I first heard the tragic news has not completely disappeared.)

I'd like to end this...eulogy...by sharing with you one of those little coincidences that tend to occur when things like this happen. Earlier yesterday, when I came home from school, I discovered in the mail a package from Paramount that contained the Star Trek VI "teaser" poster that I had ordered from their promotion department. I put it up on my wall—the first Star Trek poster I've had on my wall since I was in college. Later on, I would hear the news, and I would look at that poster on the wall—the same way I'm looking at it now.

I see the U.S.S. Enterprise, streaking into the distance, toward "The Undiscovered Country" (if only Gene had lived to see its release, but at least he saw the 25th anniversary). "The Undiscovered Country," as most of you probably know by now, is from Shakespeare's "Hamlet", in a speech wherein Hamlet contemplates his death (suicide), and his fear of "The Undiscovered Country" (referring either to the mysterious realm of death or perhaps to the always-uncertain future). As I look at the Enterprise, going boldly into the great unknown, the undiscovered country, I can't help but see Gene Roddenberry proudly on his own starship...somewhere out there...probably sitting in the command chair (or at least telling the captain which course to set.)

Thank you, Gene, for sharing your dream, for giving the world a future, for giving us Star Trek. I love you, and I will miss you.

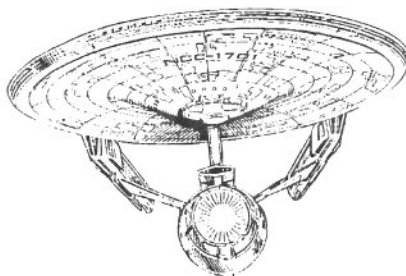
You will never be forgotten.

"Remember, remember me..."

Stardate: 9110.25

GENE RODDENBERRY'S SANDBOX

It was Mr. Roddenberry's sandbox,
In which we played and learned,
And all of us who played there,
Felt welcome and returned.
We played by Roddenberry's rules,
And always tried to keep it fair,
Sometimes we won; sometimes we lost,
But Gene did always care.
It truly was his starship,
And his imaginary friends,
Who longed for peace and brotherhood,
His most noble ends.
It will always be his sandbox,
Whoever takes the helm,
And forever he shall be there,
When we enter his realm.
For though they destroyed the ENTERPRISE,
It's spirit never died,
Forever shall he still be there,
Forever as our guide.



In light of the death of Mr. Gene Roddenberry, I felt that I should make some small attempt at a tribute to a person for whom no words can express our feelings. He gave us hope for the future, and a hope for the present that we wouldn't kill ourselves over a few acres of land, or over the hundreds and thousands of things that make us a race capable of so much good...and so much evil. We are human, we make mistakes and that is not going to change, but hopefully we will get better at being what we truly want to be...human.

He has journeyed to the undiscovered country from which no traveller returns. We all wish him a pleasant voyage in what truly is, the final frontier.

Patrick Corcoran
1 November 1991



Like addressing the issue of prejudice, for example. We seem to have overcome some of that now in this century. I like the fact that the crew is comprised of various races and species. The fact that the communications officer was a African female, the helmsman an Asian, the navigator Russian. Then you've got a farm boy from Iowa in command with a science officer whose home planet is a couple of light years away. Yes, the mixed cast was a terrific idea. And I am glad that Mr. Roddenberry fought so hard to keep Mr. Spock and Lt. Uhura.

Lt. Cmdr. Chris Moody
Director of Region 12 Youth Services
USS Invicta
26 October 1991

things around and made them right. Like Nichelle Nichols is fond of saying, her role as Uhura wasn't strictly that of a black female. Mr. Roddenberry simply managed to pull the wool over our eyes and show that all people can get along.

Captain Saul Abraham
USS Thagard, STARFLEET
26 October 1991

DEATH OF THE GREAT BIRD

On Thursday, October 24, at approx. 7:40 p.m., I was driving home from a visit to my parents in Allentown, Pennsylvania. My radio was tuned to KYW Newsradio. As I came south on Route 73, just north of Washington Lane, I heard the bombshell: "THIS JUST IN...GENE RODDENBERRY, WHO CREATED THE TELEVISION SERIES 'STAR TREK' AND SPAWNED A PHENOMENON THAT GREW INTO 5 MOVIES AND A CULT FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD KNOWN AS 'TREKKIES' HAS DIED IN A LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL. RODDENBERRY WAS 69 (an error there; he was actually 70)".

The first thing that went through my head was "Well, it finally happened."

I had been expecting this ever since I had seen Gene at the L.A. Creation Convention this past June, where he came out in a wheelchair and barely managed to stand up to acknowledge the crowd's thunderous ovation. However, it still came as a shock—I didn't expect it to happen so soon.

The second thing that occurred to me was "There will be a meltdown of the telephone system tonight".

I had seen Gene in person only twice. The second time was in L.A. in June, but the first time was 16 years earlier—in early 1975, when I was attending college. He gave a talk at Lehigh University's Drown Hall, and brought along the

bloopers—reels—the first time I had seen them. He struck me as being very intelligent, humble, almost scholarly. I don't recall clearly the topic of the evening, but the discussion ranged from Eric Von Danigen's theories of aliens long ago visiting earth (Chariots of the Gods) to whatever happened to the "tribbles" as one questioner asked—Gene took a while to realize that the person meant "tribbles" and then said "Oh, I suppose their still multiplying somewhere..." He also talked of producing the series, and the frustration of making the 1973 cartoon series, when one of the less-versed writers had a young crewman say "Aw, gee whiz, Captain Kirk..." Gene quickly corrected THAT charlatan!!

Finally, the discussion turned to a revival of Star Trek, and it was then that Gene confirmed the rumors—there definitely would be a Star Trek movie.

What are my thoughts on his passing? Well, mainly that he achieved what is perhaps a person's greatest aspiration—HE CREATED SOMETHING THAT WILL LIVE AFTER HIM. Not just a work of art, such as a painting or a sculpture, but a living, breathing thing. It must have made him very happy to realize that, though his time was short, this concept that he pursued—a series that would expand the horizons of science fiction and comment on the human condition—would go on entertaining people after he was gone. He made an impact on our society and culture, and his death will not erase that impact.

Cmdr. Ray Greenberg
USS Thagard, STARFLEET
2 November 1991

I first got involved in Star Trek the beginning of my senior year in high school in 1988. The reason I liked Star Trek, and I know everybody says this, is that it gave an optimistic view of the future. I also liked it for the science fiction. Star Trek dealt with many different issues from a historical standpoint.

I would say I see a double-sided thing to Mr. Roddenberry's creation. First of all, his vision was based not solely on just Star Trek - it started way back in the Twilight Zone period. He was writing little half hour scripts for a variety of different programs. He once said in a lecture that he became very aware of a darkness that was present in science fiction, and that bothered him. He always wondered why there wasn't a brighter outlook. Mr. Roddenberry was influenced by Forbidden Planet and, as you know, Star Trek is based on Shakesphere. I think that's what made it great. The series had such a wonderful foundation to it. Mr. Roddenberry probably did more than anyone in this century when it came to advancing science fiction into a respectable realm. He has undoubtedly influenced an increased interest in science, and I think that's quite a commentary. Whether that was by chance or design is really unimportant.

In a letter I once received, he made a comment that his biggest regret was the Hollywood social scene. Mr. Roddenberry said that if he had to do it again, he'd live somewhere in New England. That's the other side of the coin... the sadness. We've lost someone with brilliance and creativity to the secondary world of Hollywood.

I was teaching high school when the original series first came on. I remember the effect it had on my students. I didn't see the first couple of original series episodes, because I watched the previews and decided it looked hokey. Eventually I watched an entire episode and since then, I've been hooked. The episodes seemed to touch upon subjects that were not allowed on television at the time. I remember the tremendous social impact the series had on the newspapers when Kirk kissed Uhura. In fact, my fellow teachers came

into school the next morning talking about how awful it was, and they were hoping that the kids weren't watching such a terrible display. 'City on the Edge of Forever' raised quite a commotion, too. People thought it implied you could change the future. That didn't set well with fundamentalists. I don't think Mr. Roddenberry purposely set out to confront these groups. No, I don't think that was his intention at all. He simply dealt with ideas. The interesting thing was that he conceptualized them visually, and that was unique. You hear people talk about Ron Howard, Steven Spielberg and George Lucas that way. But Mr. Roddenberry was all that in his own right. Visual conceptions instead of words. That's what made a lot of the things he wrote extremely effective.

I suppose I no longer fit into the Trekker mold. Probably ten years ago I did, but I've long since lost the fascination. Don't get me wrong. I love conventions, when I can afford to go to them. However, what I really enjoy more now is the people I meet. I do enjoy Star Trek fandom, only I'm in a different mode now. I don't think of Mr. Roddenberry in terms of "Oh gee, he gave us Star Trek." I see him in a much broader sense in that he gave us a whole new way to look at things. A whole new way of thinking.

I was the vice president of a group called United Planets which was a fan club based on *Forbidden Planet*. With time, the club began to wane. All the sudden, here comes this thing called *Star Trek*. Later, I received something in the mail about a Trek fan club, and ended up joining. It was a year after the first episode aired that I became involved in *Star Trek* fandom, and I've been there ever since. I think it's the enthusiasm of a brighter future that continues to attract me to *Star Trek*. I know that sounds, by historic reason alone, a somewhat off-the-cuff statement, since everyone these days seems to say that's the reason they enjoy *Star Trek*. But at one time, that wasn't such a popular point of view in science fiction. A bright future as opposed to the *Mad Max* post holocaust type of thing.

Gene Roddenberry made a comment once that there would never be a reference to a World War in *Star Trek*. They would talk about the genetics war which took place primarily on a Martian colony and then spread to Earth, but they would never infer that there was a nuclear holocaust, because he didn't believe there ever would be one.

Admiral Tom Davis
Chief of Operations, STARFLEET
26 October 1991

A TRIBUTE TO GENE RODDENBERRY

A man who saw the world as it should be has passed from our midst.

Gene Roddenberry was such a man.

He believed that one day the world would be better.

No illness, no racism, no suffering and above all no differences

between men and women in their roles in the world.

He was a cross between Don Quixote and the Velveteen Rabbit.

He saw the world from a "madman's" point of view and believed that, once real, it could never be unreal no matter who told him otherwise.

Gene was a force for bringing out what was best in all of us, and his

legacy will live on into the next millennium.

God rest you Gene, you'll be missed!

The "Great Bird of the Galaxy" has left us, but what he has left behind will rise like a phoenix from the ashes of his passing and show the world LIFE AS IT SHOULD BE.

Mary Battle
USS Thagard, STARFLEET
26 October 1991



I've never met Mr. Roddenberry. I wish I had, because I truly believe in his dream. I wish the world could be a better place. Perhaps the 24th Century will arrive without a lot of the problems that we seem to be faced with today. On a more personal note, it is because of Mr. Roddenberry's vision that I have found myself participating in a great deal of community service. Helping the environment, other's futures. Things I never really put into action before becoming involved in *Star Trek* and STARFLEET. Maybe if everyone worked together, we could solve some of this planet's problems. I don't know if we'll see it in our time, but maybe some day. Hopefully, we can take care of the problems in our generation.

Karen Gowler
Dir. of Region 12 Community Services
USS Discovery, STARFLEET
26 October 1991

He's waving back at me."

So it is with Gene. He's somewhere "out there", on the bridge of his beloved *Enterprise*, that broad grin on his face, waving back at us...all of us who believe in his dream.

And the dream lives on!

Helen Kelly
24 October 1991



It was Thursday night, October 24, 1991 and I, unlike most Americans, was not watching the World Series between the Braves and the Twins. I was watching a special on the funny women of television. My mom was in the back of the house on the phone with a friend, my dad was at work, and nothing unusual was going on. Until my mom called me to where she was. "Mandi," she began, "Gene Roddenberry died. It was just on the news." I was flabbergasted. Just the other

The candle may have been extinguished, but the light will shine brightly for a long, long, time.

I was not a fan from the beginning. I actually got into fandom about a year after the original series first aired. I was attracted by the idea of looking into the future, that and the advanced technology. Of course, I've always been a fan of science fiction.

I've never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Roddenberry. Like everyone else, I am saddened by his death. But I know that everybody will pull together and continue on with the *Star Trek* tradition. It may not be quite the same, but it will never come to an end.

Lt. Cmdr. Rick Gale
USS Hexum, STARFLEET
26 October 1991



Space, the final frontier.....

As Jimmy Buffett sang in his ode to his seaman grandfather:

"He's somewhere on the ocean now,
The place he longed to be,
His hand on the starboard rail,

night, my mom and I had been talking about his poor health as of late, and I had just written about him in my journal for school. It was kind of shocking.

What do you say about Gene Roddenberry? I had never even met the man, but yet I felt that I knew him. My dad met him once while he was in New York, and he says that he was kind, soft-spoken and very humble. The Great Bird may be dead, but his legacy will live on thanks to his dream, *Star Trek*. At least Gene got to see his dream was still alive after 25 years. He never thought it would have lasted that long, but yet it did. Gene Roddenberry was a great man that had a vision of hope, and that vision will last to the 24th Century and beyond. Gene's death was a loss to everyone, but we still will have a part of him each time we turn on the television and watch reruns of *Classic Trek* or new episodes of *The Next Generation* or go to see the latest movie in the theaters. Gene will live on everyday in our thoughts and in our hearts. Hailing Frequencies closed, Mr. Roddenberry.

Mandi Herrmann
27 October 1991



He's given us all something to work towards. He's showed with *Star Trek* that instead of using our differences against us, we can share in them and work together. He's given us a positive outlook for our future, and if it wasn't for him, how many of us would know each other.

Roseann Caputo
USS Konkordium, STARFLEET
2 November 1991



I just couldn't believe the news right away, and when it finally did hit, it hit hard. But I take comfort in a line from *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn*, "He isn't dead as long as we remember him. He's with us still, and he always will be because of his contribution to our lives.

VAdm. Densie Peterson,
USS Invicta, STARFLEET
11 November 1991

☺☺☺
It was really sad to hear about Gene Roddenberry. It was really a shock. I went into medicine because of Star Trek. When I was a kid, my dad and I watched the original show. We helped write to bring it back for a third and unfortunately, last season in 1969. It's been Mr. Roddenberry's characters especially, and his ability with all different races that was one of my earliest inputs to go into medicine. DeForest Kelley was also one of the earliest influences for me to go into medicine. I'm about to complete my residency and it's really kind of funny that Gene Roddenberry and Star Trek walked in at the beginning of my life and now as I am about to get finished up and take off and be an attending physician, he dies, so it's kind of a circle.

I am really glad that Mr. Roddenberry got a chance to see a successful new series start, and also the 25th Anniversary of Star Trek. I mean, you can imagine what this world would have been like if he died a couple of years ago. It's a sad thing that he died anyway but at least he was able to see some of the things progressing. Seeing the new show take off and being so well received. It got ten Emmy nominations this year.

Cmdr. David Miller, MD
Shuttle Valsalva, STARFLEET
October 26, 1991

☺☺☺
I am one of the senior citizens around here in that I started watching Star Trek when it first came out. I had been reading science fiction on and off but Star Trek was the first thing that gave me an idea of the positive side that could be in our future. Of course, there were all the problems that were going on in the sixties. Sometimes you wondered if we were going to make it to the 23rd Century. Star Trek gave me real hope. If we could just get through the troubled times, things would be much better. And the show gave me some hope that we could work things out and we could learn to live together. I think Mr. Roddenberry's vision had quite a profound effect on me as a fourteen year old.

Jean Tabor
October 26, 1991

☺☺☺
I watched Star Trek since it first came on. My step dad didn't like it, it was to fantastic, but I watched it anyway because ever since I was a small kid, my real dad used to send me these science fiction movies, of all kinds. When I saw Star Trek, I liked it and I've been watching it ever since. It would come on TV and I'd watch it when my parents would be out. Even if I missed twenty or thirty minutes of it I'd still watch it and have been fascinated by it ever since. I'd always dream that one day there would be a world like Star Trek's where everybody would come together and be friends instead of hating blacks, whites or Asians. People are currently getting to be a little more friendly than they were fifteen or twenty years ago. And I think that wars are starting to cease. There's still too much violence out there though.

Bill Smith
USS Discovery, STARFLEET
October 26, 1991

☺☺☺
Although I am only fifteen, I am a fan of both the classic Star Trek series and The Next Generation. When I was little my dad got me to watch the classic serie and ever since I've been into Star Trek and now the Next Generation, too. Star Trek has affected my interest in the space program. I might try to be an aerospace engineer and I want to go to Space Camp. Gene Roddenberry was a brilliant man. I saw a documentary once and he said he wanted the world to be a better place and I really

agree with that.

Steve Beskorvany
October 26, 1991

☺☺☺
I grew up on Star Trek. Being only 18 years old, I watched Star Trek in reruns. I am personally saddened by the loss of Gene Roddenberry. His vision is what matters, because it is a vision that should be filled in time. A peaceful, racial integration where there is no difference. I am also hit by the racial thing, because I am a second generation immigrant. My grandparents came here from Greece. My mom is German. People don't understand either the Greeks or the Germans. They have misconceptions, so the idea of racial harmony agrees with me. The idea of the Klingons resembles current Russia. It's an understandable comparison, and I think it's genuinely good that there is this resemblance. It forces you to think about what's going on now.

Star Trek is basically an educational program. It's meant to bring out your emotions. My personal feelings are that if it continues the same way, it will remain very good. If it continues under the same direction, it will continue to be a genuine part of many peoples lives. In a hundred years from now, people may still think that Mr. Roddenberry's vision was a good one. They will still believe that the Star Trek universe would be a better place to live.

I was in love with Star Trek when it first came out. I'm not saying that it's taken over my life, but it's meant something to me as far as meeting people, making friends and having fun. Mr. Roddenberry started this thing. He lit a flame inside my heart.

John Tischy (Kyvan)
renegade Klingon ship the Bon'teh

☺☺☺
As far as the dream living on, I think that is something that is really certain because I feel it's a dream of every human being. I think it's something that he was upholding and carrying forward, but it's something I think that's in the heart of every person. I think that's why it caught on to the degree that it did.

Mr. Roddenberry was a focal point. It's sort of like people carry that as a flame and somewhere along the line, someone picks it up and helps them move that dream forward that much more. But I think it's always there. For me, it's kind of like a burning desire. The aspect of a vision of a future where people can live together harmoniously and where people accept each other for who they are. That is something that is a very, very important thing to me, and I know it's not just me so that particular aspect, I think, is something that will always be a part of us. It's funny to me because,

The requirement to be open to people, and flexible in our dealings with them in order to make the most of their talents and abilities, is probably the first rule for entry into the Star Trek universe.

Michele Kelley
Klingon

☺☺☺
How has Gene Roddenberry affected my life? Well, basically most of what I do now is because of him. Compared to my job as a computer consultant, which takes up very little of my time, putting zines together on the other hand, is a full time job. I actually got into Star Trek fandom over ten years ago through a science fiction class at the university I was attending at the time. A class project turned into my first fanzine. I am not old enough to have watched Star Trek when it first ran but, living in LA, I was able to pick it up during the 70's after it went into syndication. I've also had the opportunity to see Mr. Roddenberry at a number of conventions and actually met him briefly. He was the guest speaker at my brother-in-law's graduation from engineering school. Mr. Roddenberry greeted everybody as they left. That's as close as I've ever come to meeting him. As for his passing, all I can think of is that I hope his dream continues to live on.

Bill Hupe
Publishing Agent

☺☺☺
What Star Trek means to me is everything that the world should be. I don't think that anybody on the face of the planet has done more for the understanding of cultures coming together. For something that has lasted for twenty-five years that was supposedly a busted program after three years, Star Trek suddenly spawned over two hundred episodes, twenty-two cartoons and six movies. It's worldwide and, it's going to continue. It's universal. Mr. Roddenberry wrote the book on humanity all over again. And he wrote it with a bright, positive future. That's what Star Trek means to me. The reason I'm here right now? Gene Roddenberry. Period.

in my mind, it was like friends were there that I wanted to spend some time with. And that's what the characters in Star Trek had become to me in a very short period of time.

I guess it's sort of affected my life in that I sit and wonder what in the world would I be doing now, this moment in fact, if I had not become involved in Star Trek. Where would I be now? What would I be doing, instead of this? Because a large portion of my social life revolves around Trek and Trek people. It's like this whole culture that is reflected in what I do and if I had not done that, what would I have done in its place? It's a curious question for me. So in that sense, it really has affected my life because I have a totally different life. I can't imagine what I'd be doing in its' place, hanging around with teachers.

The thing that draws me is the feeling of having a place to be comfortable together with people and not feel judged. There's more to it than that, but it's hard for me to zero in on it because it's so much a part of the fabric.

Mr. Roddenberry's dream is a part of every human being. He was able to externalize it and objectify that dream in such a way that people could relate to it. I think it is a universal thing and it speaks a universal need to be accepted and to be in an atmosphere where you are free to explore your potential to its fullest. You're going to be recognized and appreciated for what you're capable of and you can be confident in what you're capable of and that's okay too. It's okay to appreciate your own value and capabilities and know that you have a place in the world as opposed to feeling like you're not supposed to exploit your own talent. You're not supposed to feel that you're good at things.

As a teacher, I have yet to bring Star Trek into

my classroom, but I am waiting to do it. I was thinking of giving the kids rank and things like that. I've already started putting up astronomy stuff as my interest in astronomy stems from Star Trek. I put up a stargazing poster and I have a mobile with the solar system. There's more of that kind of stuff that will start going up and then I'll start putting Star Trek stuff up too.

Star Trek is set up in such a way that it makes you aware of a lot of different things. I know that after Star Trek: The Voyage Home was released, I not only had a deeper interest in science but, in general, I became more focused on the Earth as a planet. And yes, I adopted a whale after Star Trek IV! And this is a trivial point but, because of Star Trek, I read 'A Tale of Two Cities.' Things like that. There are references to things you can't help but become interested in because of Star Trek. 'Hamlet' is another example I can think of.

If I had the opportunity, as a fan and a human being, to speak to Gene Roddenberry now I would want to tell him that I feel a real kinship and warmth with him because of what he has done. I feel like he was somebody I've known my whole life and I would just hug him. There wouldn't be much said because there would be this understanding. I would tell him to relax a little bit though. That he doesn't have to worry so much about people trying to destroy the dream. I felt, in a way, that he was worried that people were trying to get him to distort his own vision for the sake of ratings. I would have wanted to tell him 'just relax.' That people are really upholding his vision, and that we're here to support him. He's done so much for us.

Pam Rogers
Teacher



I am at the SeaTrek Cruise '91 Gala party, in Miami. Gene is announced, but where is he? I can't see him. Ah, there he is, standing with the rest of the guests of honor. He looks so majestic. So that's the Great Bird of the Galaxy!

The next day I sit on the edge of a lounge chair, pool side, upper deck as the ship begins to pull away from shore. Three seats away from me sits Gene Roddenberry, in a wheelchair. I catch him looking my way from the corner of my eye while I play with my camera. I'm too shy to say hello. A woman comes up to him and shakes his hand. He smiles. Oh, what a smile! His face lights up! He's handsome! I snap a few pictures.

That night, dining reservations are a total mess. Gene watches as a bunch of us gather around the Maitre D' and blow steam for switching our reservations three times. As I catch his eyes, I smile, shrug my shoulders, and roll my eyes. He gets the message and smiles. He continues to watch as he eats.

The stars are again announced one by one in the Ball Room. Nichelle sings a song she co-wrote with a friend for Gene, to Gene. They hug and kiss.

Monday, I am in line for the photo session. My turn comes. I'm a bit nervous. I run in and sit down when it's my turn, between these two people. The cameramen pause to play with the camera, just as an arm reaches from the left side around my back, and another arm from the same direction grabs my left arm. I turn my head to see where these arms are coming from, or should I say who? It's him!! It's really him!! And before I could blink an eye, he kisses me!! I'll never forget Gene's eyes as they wheeled him out of the room. When he looked at me, I just wanted to jump up and go over there and hug and squeeze him!

That night at dinner, I called the waiter over, gave him a note, and told him to give it to the man two tables over in the wheelchair. I also told the

waiter to offer the gentleman and his wife a drink on me. (The note said 'Thank you for twenty-five years of wonderful entertainment Table 51') I watched as Gene put on his glasses, read the note, and had the waiter point out who had sent the note. The waiter pointed to me. I will never forget Gene's reaction! I held up my arm to wave, and he not only waved once, but yelled "thank you" several times across the noisy room. I went over to him after dinner to make sure they got their drinks. You should have seen Gene's reaction then! He said "I can't believe all this! I just can't believe it!" As he said these words, just slightly choppy with such sincerity and appreciation, he looked down at the table and just shook his head in amazement. That moment said it all about his appreciation for his fans! This man was genuinely thankful, almost to the point of tears! I put my hand on his shoulder and said, "You deserve it."

The next day the fans are anxiously waiting in the hot sun on the upperdeck, pool side, for Gene to come out for a talk session. Finally he arrives. He is presented a get-well card that has been signed by all the fans aboard. He looks like a cute little kid with that straw hat on. Another smile lights up his face as he opens the card and reads it. A fan asks Gene if he would ever consider appearing in an episode of Star Trek and he responds "Why, I'm in every one." That night at dinner, our table goes over to Gene's afterwards to say farewell and thank you. We take pictures and talk a little. They are so kind. Later, at the Gala Farewell Show, Gene rises from his wheelchair to stand with Majel for their standing ovation. He looks so happy.

Looking back, I am disappointed that Gene will never place his hands and feet in cement in front of Mann's Chinese Theater. I had even hoped to meet him again, someday. I'll think about him always, considering myself lucky to have met him at least once. It seems that planet Earth will never be the same without him. God love you, Gene. Thank you again, for twenty-five wonderful years. I will miss you very much. Sleep tight, my buddy.

Ellen Metzger
October 29, 1991

favorite friends, developed some of the interests I have, or gotten involved with many of the organizations I belong to. (I also would probably have a lot more free time, but you can't have everything!)

When I was growing up, Star Trek was the only program on TV I was allowed to stay up late (on a school night, no less) to watch. In fact, it was probably the only show that my entire family wanted to watch, together.

Star Trek gave birth to a concept that, for me, speaks volumes about the way people should be treated - IDIC, Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combination. The acceptance of all people, as they are, and as people with something useful to contribute, is a concept I (and every one from STARFLEET I've met) hold dear.

This can be seen in shows from both the original and the new series: Miranda holds her position with the Medusan **because** of her blindness, not despite of it. Reva is such an effective negotiator/ambassador for the Federation **because** of his deafness, not despite of it. In fact, Reva is almost proudly deaf. The loss of his chorus (an assistive device) becomes an opportunity to display both the dangers inherent in becoming dependent on one way of solving problems and the ability to look on **all** aspects of a person as a potential asset - Reva's deafness and lack of a chorus will force the two warring sides to work even closer together by forming an alliance to each learn signing together. (I wonder if Bush and Baker have thought of this for the Middle East?)

The requirement to be open about people, and flexible in our dealings with them in order to make the most of their talents and abilities, is probably the first rule for entry into the Star Trek Universe. As the man who developed, implemented, and acted as overseer for this Universe, Gene Roddenberry is to be commended, mourned, but most of all, remembered.

Cmdr. Greg Phillips
Dir, Disabled Consultant Program,
STARFLEET



Dear Communique

Crew, It is with sadness that I write this letter. I received your message on the answering machine asking for memories of Gene Roddenberry and what he meant to me. The passing of Gene Roddenberry was unexpected. Fortunately his creative genius will continue to live on through the Star Trek sagas. The philosophies and ideals that Gene expounded in Star Trek have become a part of the lives of many people around the world. Gene's hope for a better future for all humanity is one of the main driving forces behind our organization. Gene's dream of a better tomorrow has

touched something deep inside many STARFLEET members. That's why so many of our members are working each and every day in their own way to make the dream a reality.

I didn't know Gene Roddenberry well; in fact, I first met him this summer at the SeaTrek Gala. During our brief conversation, I attempted to explain in a few sentences what *Star Trek* had meant to me for the past twenty-five years.

An impossible task, as all of you know, so I won't try to do the same again here. But I will suggest an alternative to mourning: SMIPLE.

SMIPLE is an acronym coined by Timothy Leary, who claimed that the "Aim of Life" is to SMIPLE:

S.M. = Space Migration

I.² = Intelligence Increase

L.E. = Life Extension

In other words, it is the human race's destiny to grow more intelligent (which theoretically, will lead to a peaceful world), to extend its lifespan, to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life, and new civilizations...

Star Trek touched so many of us because we know, deep down, that Gene Roddenberry was right: this is the future we were meant for, not the horrors of nuclear Armageddon. Roddenberry's vision will come to pass if enough of us share it and are willing to work for it — to promote peace instead of war, education instead of ignorance, exploration instead of domination.

Rather than feel sad about Gene's passing, feel glad that he lived on this planet and shared his dream of the future with us. Feel glad, and work to SMIPLE...

J. M. Dillard

11 November 1991



While I never had the privilege of meeting "The Great Bird", I have met many of his offspring. Without Star Trek, I would not have met some of my

Gene is gone, but now we each carry a piece of his katra within ourselves. Please use that special gift to make a difference in the future of this world. Each of us can make a difference.

VADM David Forvendel
Chief of Computer Operations, STARFLEET
9110.31

P.S. Enclosed is a photocopy of an article from December of 1975. This was the first time that I heard Gene Roddenberry speak. I was 13 at the time and I was just beginning to understand that Star Trek was much, much more than just a great adventure series. Star Trek embodied philosophies that made a lot of sense to me at the time and have become more a part of my life as I have grown. It is funny that you could learn so much about life from a television show!



Well, it certainly has affected my life. Most of the friends I have now are in some way related to Star Trek. Actually, when he passed away I really felt as though I lost a friend. I never met the man, and only saw him speak once at a convention and he was terrific. This was 1975, that's how long ago it was. It's a sense of loss because I guess I feel so grateful to him for doing what he did. And unknowingly opening up all these avenues for a lot of writers and artists and people just looking for friends and getting together. Actually, I've been really upset since last Thursday. I never had the pleasure of meeting him one on one.

Janet D'Ario
Artist
October 30, 1991



If it hadn't been for his creation of Star Trek and to boldly go where no one has gone before kind of attitude, and the ideas of IDIC, I probably would never have ventured to go to Medical School. It actually got me through Medical School and allowed me to remain human in the process. Because of my involvement with fans and fanzines, I survived the trial by fire method. I never saw him in person. The only time I would have had a chance to meet him, my father "scalped" the tickets and said I couldn't go. Now he's a "Closet Trekker" and doesn't like to talk about those times. My mom converted him.

Ann Hupe
Publisher



I would just like to say what Gene Roddenberry gave to me, and all other STARFLEET members, that we will never be able to repay. By giving us Star Trek, a show with high moral values and vision, he gave us hope for the future by showing us a future that wasn't so bleak. Star Trek brought us together under the banner of STARFLEET, an organization that believes in the ideals that are a part of Star Trek and the vision of a better world.

If it wasn't for Gene Roddenberry, there would not be a STARFLEET; without which I would not be involved in the charity work that I am in now. Gene Roddenberry and STARFLEET have given me an outlet to do just that, to serve and respect my fellow man without prejudice.

Peace and prosperity,

Vice Admiral Kenny Proehl
Director, Shuttle Operations, STARFLEET



The one thing which Gene Roddenberry did that was most impressive, I think, is that he inspired other creative people to do their best. This is no small feat in TV, movies, books and the usual mass media where hackwork and a take-

the-money-and-run attitude is the norm. I have been privileged to write three Star Trek novels, and I can truthfully say that I never worked harder or more diligently on anything in my life. I knew I had a tradition to uphold, and I didn't want to let anyone down, especially the fans.

This story has been repeated by virtually every person who ever worked in Gene's extraordinary universe, in any capacity. In this normally selfish world, it is a pleasure to serve a truly shared universe like Star Trek, and I think that is mostly due to Gene's inspiration.

John Vornholt
Author, Star Trek Novels
3 November 1991



Gene Roddenberry is no long with us. He has, however, left us with a great gift. He has left us with his legacy. We owe it to his memory to continue telling the stories of the Starship Enterprise. To those who would limit the universe, who would say this has never been established on film and therefore can never be told, my answer is always, 'then you, sir, are dishonoring Gene Roddenberry's memory.' We will honor him by continuing to keep his vision, and his stories alive. When we would fail to do that, we would not honor it.

Adm. Alex Rosensweig
Regional Coordinator, Region 7 STARFLEET



Personally, I felt saddened by his passing away. I know his legacy is going to live forever. His spirit is going to live forever through us. When you think about it, the Great Bird of the Galaxy meant a lot to all of us. I am going to miss him. Terribly. I was talking to the guys at work and my eyes filled up with tears and emotion. I really didn't realize how much he affected my life. You know, until I started talking about his passing. But he will live forever, in our memories. I hope that his vision will come true. That people will unite and come together. Little by little. I have one regret. That I won't live to the 23rd Century. I never saw Gene Roddenberry in person. However, I bought The Cage and I did like him talking at the beginning of the film. The introduction about how he put it together, The Menagerie and The Cage. Black and white and color. He'll be missed.

Jim Clevenstein
3 November 1991



I think Gene Roddenberry was a special person. I think he was amazing in that he had an idea about what he thought the future could be like. And he made it real, real enough that other people could buy into it. To me, that's what Star Trek is. A viable future that we can all kind of play in. He had a dream, and along the way. He's made it such that the future is not possibly, Armagedon. I mean, Terminator is one view of the future. The Aliens series is another. I think I'd rather live in Star Trek's future. They talk about the failures, and the fact that we were able to learn from them. We all have failures and that also teaches us that we can learn from them, too. I think the other thing that kind of amazes me is that he allowed other people to play in his universe. For example, the authors that have come up with wonderful books. He always kept a tight control on it; he didn't let it get crazed and too far out there. Star Trek has always kept that core of a positive future.

I've never met Mr. Roddenberry in person. I wish I had. But he moved in so many other places that I know part of what he created lives in me. That he will never truly be gone. I can't see how his vision can be stopped. It is a part of our consciousness. After twenty-five years, you find Star Trek everywhere. It amazes me, everyday. People are stunned

by Trek fans' involvement in charity organizations. It's the image, the ideals. I think, we also remember that as much as Star Trek is important for an ideal and a philosophy, it also reminds us that we can still be kids that have dreams and believe in the future. Reality is for people that don't believe in fantasy.

The people that I find that are willing to get involved in Star Trek fan clubs are sort of like old friends that just meet. There's a bond that you don't find in other areas of life. I have other social organizations that I am involved with and there's not that underlying bond. If Star Trek disappeared next week, the fans would continue to exist. That core of friendship would still be there. Look at some of the stuff the fans are writing. You can see that the love is still there. People want these stories. They want to be part of Trek. The writers have created such a clear image of the future, and there's room for everybody in it. That's very special, very unique.

Maureen Studley
shuttle Blackheart, STARFLEET



I had about the same admiration for Gene as I had for Walt Disney. That is, Gene had a peculiar talent, he could get a whole bunch of very diverse people together to work for a common goal, and this is not an easy trick. Yet he was able to do it. In fact, so well that many of them came back, with movies, and came back to work with Star Trek: The Next Generation, and his ability to this was one of the things I most admired. I'm an organizer myself, and I recognize and respect him for his talent. We never became really close friends in the sense that a lot of fans seem to think we did. Our friendship was always based around Star Trek, and you can't just base something around Star Trek or around one thing and have an in depth friend. Circumstances being what they were, it just never really happened. I had a retarded daughter to raise and our heads to keep above water and all the usual things that people have and he was very involved in the movie role and keeping that afloat kept him very busy. We would occasionally pass at certain times, and of course I worked with him a brief time.

What is genuinely interesting, and not known to many people, is that he was a goldsmith. For many years he worked at that hobby making very, very delicate pieces of jewelry. It was a way to bury himself away from outside pressures. He once showed me a gorgeous pair of earrings he had made for Majel. They were little opals, quite beautiful. I told him he could make me a pair of those anytime.

He was a very introspective man who ended up in the public eye, I suspect more than he really enjoyed. His first love was really writing. He liked television because it gave him the chance to reach so many hundreds of people, more than a book would. Gene was quite aware of the severity of his illness. He had set up Rick Berman some time ago as a major decision maker. And, of course, with Gene's death, Rick stepped right into his position. And Gene did not stand in the way of most of his decisions. He encouraged, as he did with everybody, Rick to make his own decisions. Sometimes Gene did not agree with it. This was not frequent, I might add. He certainly respected Rick's decisions. Naturally, if you have created something you are not totally ever going to agree.

Gene was a great big teddy bear of a man. He had his own beliefs and his own feelings, but he respected your feelings and beliefs, too. I think that's really important to realize, because it's real easy to scream sexism and say this and that or the other thing about Star Trek and the little short

skits and the sixties and so on. But you know, you do what you can do. There was never a hall scene that he didn't introduce a woman if he could. If you called a bunch of people together, there was always a very good representation of women. If they had to show a little leg and ankle to do it, to get it past the network of the period, okay. That Gene felt was totally irrelevant to the problem compared to getting the women out there and showing that they were part of it. He was successful in doing that. He said a lot. In fact, he said enough to make it last for twenty-five years.

He said once that every person wishes they could leave a lasting memorial to the world. At the time, he had no idea that would be Star Trek. But, you know, he also was aware, and very, very pleased about the fact that he got a second chance because, who gets a second chance? And he did. That was super! Choosing some fairly unusual characters, like the one played by Whoopi Goldberg (Guinan), for example. This was a character that had been in the back of Gene's head for years. Whoopi Goldberg, didn't have a terribly happy childhood, and she hung on to Star Trek, in the belief that if blacks could make it to space three hundred years from now, she had a chance to make it in this world. What inspiration...and the healthy thing about this is that Gene did not become an evangelist, or did not become one of these plastic heads. His place was entertainment, and saying a few cogent things in that entertainment.

Gene got all these people together and put them to work toward a project which produced something. Gene will never go down in history as one of our great all time writers, but he knew who to get. He knew to go out and talk to the Harlan Ellison's and Ted Sturgeon's, and David Gerrold's and so on and get them to produce work for him that will be remembered forever. And, I think that's really utilizing other people's talent, in some cases, talent that they not only didn't realize they had, but probably would have never put to good use without this kind of encouragement.

Bjo Trimble
Author, Fan Extraordinaire
7 November 1991



Star Trek was really his vision, I had never even really thought about how his vision has affected my life and how close my vision really was to his in terms of what the future would look like. Especially in terms of being able to look at the future and see that I, as a black woman, am in the future and that really made me feel good. It made me feel as though, yea we were not being ignored as a race and that was very important. The characters that he put together were really astounding in terms of lessons. Lessons that I have used. It may sound stupid, but there were many times when things were really rotten and I thought, okay, what would Spock do in this situation and sometimes those things really helped me through, as silly as it may seem.

I was introduced to Gene once and that was in Florida on the second Sea Trek Cruise. Gene, Majel and Nichelle and a couple of other people were sitting around in the hotel, and Florence Butler introduced me to him. I was just sitting there in awe. He was conversing with the other people, and I was just feeling honored to have been invited. We were just feeling this awe sort of flow over us.

I think that Star Trek has affected the future in terms of making people more aware of space travel and the need to continue with the space program. I think, however, that Star Trek will have an even greater impact on the future as we do go forward with the space program. Space travel has become more real to us. I think Star Trek has not really

found the fame, that it will in the future, as we begin to venture more and more into space travel. I think that even then people will look more and more at Star Trek and start thinking about what is it really going to be like when we venture out into space further.

Carrie Washington
7 November 1991



Gene Roddenberry, when I started watching Star Trek in 1966, was no more than a name on the screen. It was not until after that I began to admire him, not for the things that he did, but because he touched something in me. His vision of the future was a vision that said to me that not only can we reach for the stars but when we get there we can find a place there, and if you look with me and you hold on with me, I'll take you there now. And he did. And so his vision has changed my life, I guess besides making me poorer and other things like that. I guess he just touched the very soul of me, because I always believed, but never had any words, in the same things he did. He gave us the words and so what I have from him, and the legacy that he has given to me is the legacy of vision.

If you've ever seen the movie Close Encounters, it the same feeling. I get the feeling that he's the alien that sings this crazy song, and not everybody understands and not everybody is affected but there are people who are and we just can't get away from it. It goes through us always; it's part of who we are. His affect on me has only come later on in my life, but I guess it touches me to the core and because of what he was, I'm different. And I can't thank him enough for that. If anybody else other than Trek people listen to that, they would say you need to be locked up somewhere, but that's the way it is.

I never really had a great desire to meet him. I know a lot of people do. I guess a part of me felt like I didn't have to meet him because he was so much a part of me by the way I felt about him and his vision. Maybe I felt that I didn't need that, that we were kindred spirits anyhow and that was enough.

I think that Star Trek has affected the future dramatically. The fact that the first space shuttle was named Enterprise says in great detail exactly how important this one thing was. The fact that no one knew what a phaser was and no one had any idea what androids really were and all that type of thing, you know that all came out of Star Trek. Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock have become legendary heroes, and the fact that the Enterprise is in the Smithsonian Institute says that for all time, when people go and see the Lindberg plane and others, there is going to be an Enterprise there and it says that we will never forget. Gene Roddenberry is part of our space routes as much as Kennedy was, as much as those first shots up in space. That's all part of it.

Judy Fabina
USS Potemkin, STARFLEET
7 November 1991



The day Gene Roddenberry died, the original episode that ran in our area was "Charlie X." Who knows how many times we've seen it in the last quarter century, but we stayed up that night to watch it again.

It was the first episode that Gar had seen, back

when it was first broadcast. Like so many others who tuned in that first season, he didn't miss a single one after that.

We found it fitting, and somehow satisfying, that the night in which such a seemingly final ending had come to pass, that that first episode, for us, should run again, as if to say that there will never be an ending to Gene Roddenberry's work, as if to say that the adventure will always be just beginning.

If all of us look to the future as Gene did, with hope, then perhaps we can make it so.

Judy & Gar Reeves-Stevens
Authors, Star Trek Novels
2 November 1991



One of the biggest regrets of my life is I never had a chance to meet Gene, and I always thought well, someday I will, but of course now it will never happen. I think that a lot of people with his same vision were attracted to Star Trek. That was true in my case. What he was doing, I agreed with. When I got into fandom, it was a way to meet people with similar interests and goals.

I've been in fandom about 15 years, maybe a little longer. And, of course, when I started running this club, (DeForest Kelley Fan Club), which is about 8 years ago, it completely changed my life. It's hard to define how something as large and encompassing has changed your life or what direction you would taken without it. My job wouldn't change. I have the same job as before I was in Trek fandom, and I've still got it. But I don't know what I would be doing with my spare time. I got into writing fan fiction, which is something I never dreamed I would ever be doing, and of course your circle of friends completely change. The topics that you're interested in may not change, but you look at it perhaps with a fresher view. I don't know, it's so hard to define.

The vision will always continue simply, because we shared Gene's vision. He gave it direction and made us focus on things that we should be doing, directions we should be going, and that won't change. Once you're focused, you're focused, the series will probably still be playing in the 23rd century. Who knows how many generations of cast we'll be going through. It's always there, it's there in the fans, and the fans will pass on to their children and the people they meet and the things that they do. Even had he made the series and retired and moved to Bora Bora, the fact of the series still remains a fact. It's not like he started fandom, he nurtured it, but he didn't start it, and the fans will continue.

I haven't talked to DeForest Kelley yet. I know he was at the memorial. I tried to go, but there was no way I could. I know it hit him very hard. What most people don't realize is De knew Gene the longest, and they were very good friends. I sent Majel a card and I think what I said was, "Never has one man affected as many lives in such a positive way," and I think that's true. People have done it in negative ways, but not in a purely positive way and he'll always be there.

Sue Keenan
President, DeForest Kelley Fan Club
7 November 1991



"Death is that state in which one exists only in the memories of others...which is why it is not an end. No goodbyes, just good memories."

Denise Crosby as the character, Tasha Yar
1st season, Star Trek: The Next Generation
episode, "Skin of Evil"

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