

# And to the REPUBLIC

VOLUME VI, ISSUE THREE

JUNE/JULY 1995

The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371

A Chapter of STARFLEET, the International Star Trek Fan Association—Atlanta, Georgia

AvB  
291

## ENTERPRISE

The Ladies of Air and Space

2364 Starship (NCC-1701D) / UFP

2367 Starship (NCC-1701C) / UFP

2308 Starship (NCC-1701B) / UFP

2188 Starship (NCC-1701) / UFP

2125 Starliner / UFP

2222 Starship (NCC-1701A) / UFP

2003 Aerospace Plane / NASA

— = 200 feet



1980 Goodyear Blimp



1976 Shuttle / NASA

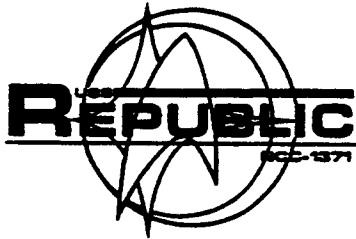
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## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Edmund Trafford  
*Chief of Communications*

Dan Carson  
*Editor*



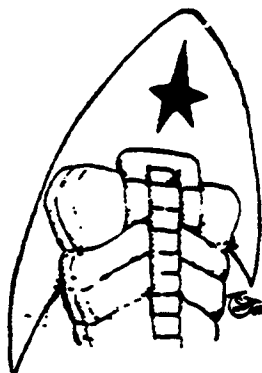
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Please direct all inquiries to:

And to the REPUBLIC  
USS REPUBLIC  
844 Parkstone Drive  
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## FROM THE CENTER SEAT



*by Commodore Kelly Hilliard*

Summertime is here, and as usual, we are running like mad. Con season seems to start earlier each year and our participation in the cons increases. Our bigger this year is Dragon Con, with the Starfleet International Conference. I am proud of all the work each of you have done so far to make this the best IC Starfleet has ever had. So, to thank you, there will be a Dead Dog Party on Sunday at 8PM in my room at the Ramada. If you are not attending or participating with the IC on Sunday, try to make yourself available to attend.

Our meeting space has moved again. Though I have yet to make it to the Atlanta International Golf Club, enough members have expressed dissatisfaction with the facilities that I am moving it. We are currently looking into having our meetings at a hobby shop not too far from where we used to meet. Keep your ears on and you will be contacted about the location shortly before the next meeting.

An early warning here, people: Elections are coming up in a month or so. Nominations must be in by Labor Day. As I stated last year, in order for me to remain as your CO, I must be nominated by at least four people. If anyone wants to run as CO, please let Mike Henigan know as soon as possible so he can begin collecting nominations.

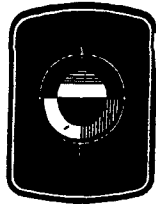
I guess that's it. We have a lot planned this summer, so keep an eye on the calendar and an ear on the phone for any updates. We are currently working on our annual picnic and White Water for August during our meeting weekends, so try to keep those open. Till next time! ☐



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## SECURITY OFFICER

"Security Log"



by Chief of Security Tonya Spanks

Boy, have we had a few busy weeks—with more to come!

*Stardate 9507.5 through 9507.7*—Voyages Trekon. All of the guests—and for those who missed them, they were Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, John DeLancie, Siddig El Faddil, and Andrew Robinson—were wonderful, especially Siddig and Andrew, who were a laugh riot. This last con has inspired me to make a few rules and regulations about hotel rooms and conventions to help curb any future disasters:

1. Respect those you share a room with—i.e., a DO NOT DISTURB sign on the door for anything other than a nap is an inconvenience to your roommates.
2. No last-minute parties. If the persons in question wish to throw a party, they must provide their own accommodations. Springing a party on someone at the last minute is an inconvenience to them and those sharing a room.
3. If you are asked to work at a con and you don't actually work, you won't be asked again.
4. Only one person under the age of 21 will be allowed to share a room with others.
5. PLEASE! Try to keep any and all bickering to a minimum. We all get upset over things, but no one wants to

hear arguing first thing in the morning or as they are attempting to sleep at night.

Overall, the message here is to show your crewmates a little courtesy, and no one's feelings should get hurt.

*Stardate 9507.13*—Commander Kirkland celebrates a birthday! Hip, hip, hooray!

*Stardate 9507.14*—Such a busy day. At 1300 hours, a large team of crewmembers gathered at Wildfire for a few games of paintballing (which we consistently lost!). Those little balls hurt, and we have our Commodore Kelly to thank for this. It was all his idea! At 1700 hours, crew members descended upon the home of our Chief of Engineering for our anniversary party. The USS *Republic* has been in commission for seven years! A good time was had by all with much thanks to our wonderful hostesses Dee Troutman and Holly Evans. The highlight of the party (in my opinion) was at 2000 hours when a surprise baby shower was thrown for the Duncans. I'm sure David and Margaret (mostly David) will get lots of use from all of the items within the basket.

*Stardate 9507.15*—Crewman Matt Ebling graduated from high school. Look out world, here comes the future. Let's all join hands and pray. (Just kidding, Matt . . . <snicker>). Congratulations!

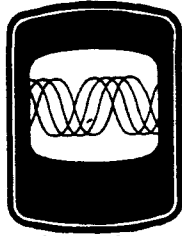
*Stardate 9507.16*—Chief of Engineering Dee Troutman celebrates a birthday! Breakout the Romulan ale and part!

*Stardate 9507.17*—Crewman Maria Bona celebrates a birthday. Guess how old she is?

The IC is fast approaching, and we need to confirm our volunteers. All *Republic* members who are planning to volunteer, please speak up so we will have a definite count. We'll only need a couple of hours of your time each day. You will have plenty of time to have fun at the con. □

## COMMUNICATIONS

### "Hailing Frequencies"



by Lt. Commander Edmund Trafford

There is not a great deal to report this time around. With the International Conference fast approaching, our various pieces of "Starfleet Atlanta" literature and recruiting flyers are being updated for use at the con.

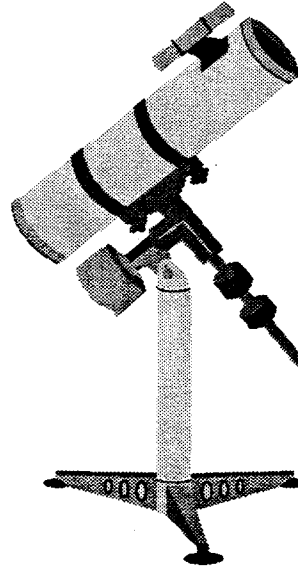
Tonya and I are at work trying to compile a listing of Fleet members for volunteer duties at the con. We are not expecting that members will come and be able to devote 24 hours per day to volunteering, but if enough people can donate just an hour or two at a time, well, you know that "many hands make light work." □

### *In Memoriam*

Elisha Cook, Jr., died recently in Los Angeles at the age of 91. He is familiar to fans of such classic films as "The Maltese Falcon" (starring Humphrey Bogart) in which he played the baby-faced villain Wilmer. Cook appeared in the original ST episode "Court Martial," playing the part of an eccentric lawyer who refuses to trust computers, and successfully defends Capt. Kirk against charges that he deliberately abandoned Ben Finney to die in space. Finney, of course, is very much alive and hiding in the Enterprise, having programmed the computer to lie about

Kirk's command actions. Cook also appeared in the classic Western film "Shane," with Alan Ladd and Jack Palance.

## SPACE TELESCOPE SCORES

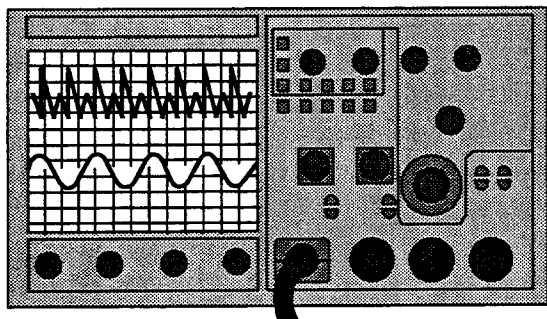


A long feature article in the May 21, 1995 *Atlanta Constitution* spotlighted the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope. After getting off to a shaky start with a faulty mirror, the telescope has been performing flawlessly following a space

shuttle repair mission in 1993. Some of the provocative results include the following:

- Aggregations of matter create the gravity necessary to hold themselves together; the greater the mass, the more powerful the gravity. One of the cosmological mysteries as yet unsolved is "where is everything?" Scientists have calculated that all of the visible matter contained in our galaxy (and other galaxies) is less than 10% of the amount of matter necessary to create the gravity required to hold the galaxy together. The question is, "where is the rest of the matter" that creates the gravity which so obviously *does* hold the galaxy together? Astrophysicists theorize the existence of vast amounts of unseen "dark matter" consisting of gas, dust, clouds of subatomic particles ("free" neutrinos, etc.) which could comprise the missing mass of the galaxy. The Hubble Telescope has unfortunately failed so far to discover evidence of "dark matter."

- On the question of the possibility of extraterrestrial life, the article states that ET might have “many places to call home.” The Hubble Telescope examined stars in the Orion nebula and discovered “56 fuzzy stars and 54 others that were sharp points of light.” The conclusion was that the hazy rings surrounding the first group of stars were clouds of orbiting gas and dust, the same as the ancient disk of matter that gave birth to the Earth and other planets in our own solar system. Probabilities are looking better and better for the existence of other solar systems. French astronomer Jean-Pierre Caillault wrote of the findings that “One needs only a tiny fraction of the planets that presumably exist throughout the cosmos to meet the right conditions for huge numbers of inhabited planets.” □

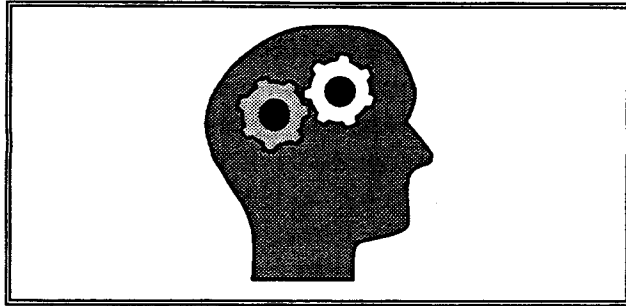


### TOMORROW'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY—TODAY!

“Dr. Dan” Carson (of “Carson Hope,” our current Chief Medical Officer) and I were talking recently about medical technology and how a great deal of what we accept as 23rd/24th-century technology in ST is in reality no more than a small improvement on what we already have. As just one obvious item, “hyposprays” (air-charged syringes) are a common item in most hospitals these days. In the second season of STTNG, Picard receives a replacement

mechanical heart transplant from Dr. Pulaski. While today’s technology still has to deal with the problems of patient rejection and mechanical failure, it’s obvious that even in the future of STTNG, such things still happen. In terms of miniaturization, it’s just a matter of time until the cumbersome CAT scanner/X-ray machine of today is reduced to a hand-held “medical tricorder.” After all, early computers of the 1940s and 1950s required the same space as a double garage to store and process information; now we perform the same computing functions in the palm of our hand. And genetic engineering is a thing of the present (at least as far as tomatoes are concerned), not the distant future; remember “Unnatural Selection” of STTNG’s second season? (The plot dealt with the idea that the antibodies produced by an improved race of children were attacking and killing their weaker parents/creators.) Of course, our space-faring heroes always manage to bump into rare diseases and alien syndromes, but they somehow manage to come up with a vaccine or antidote by the time the show comes to an end. Unfortunately, that’s wishful thinking, at least in terms of today’s medical technology. Research can still take years. We beat polio and chicken pox, but we’re still working on cancer and AIDS. □





## COGITO ERGO SUM

I was recently reading the new DS9 novel "Valhalla," by someone named Nathan Archer. (Don't waste your time on this one, by the way—where in the world is Pocket Books finding all these deservedly unknown writers?) Anyway, part of the plot of "Valhalla" deals with an alien spaceship from the Gamma Quadrant whose "neural net" computer has "woken up" and achieved sentience. Both the Cardassians and the Bajorans claim the crewless ship as a derelict in order to salvage the self-aware computer technology, but Sisko treats the ship as a conscious entity, and the Federation expressly forbids treating individuals as property that anyone can just arbitrarily "salvage." This is an interesting idea but not a new one—it was used in STTNG's "Measure of A Man," which confirmed Data's status as a genuine artificial intelligence and not just a machine. But the book triggered the mental cross-reference to the STTNG episode and got me to thinking about intelligence in general.

What is intelligence? Intelligence is not synonymous with knowledge or with information or data. The mere collection or accumulation of facts is the function of a computer, and that is what sets computers apart from humans (or other self-aware species). We can evaluate and act on information, not just sort it and store it and categorize it. True, computers can solve complex problems based on a given body of

information faster and more efficiently than we can, but to evaluate those solutions, making value judgments or relative comparisons to other information, requires a conscious intelligence.

With the development of artificial intelligence ("AI"), the problem of defining "intelligence" becomes harder. Any system that merely warehouses data—whether that system is an organic brain or an inorganic storage facility of some sort—is not intelligence. Intelligence is being able to see cross-relationships between data, associating one seemingly unrelated fact or series of facts with another and reach a conclusion. In an organic storage facility—a brain—these associations are made biologically by neurons traveling between the synapses of the brain cells. An expanded definition of AI now comes into consideration: does the nature of these associative links matter? Is it important whether these connections are made by organic matter (synapse brain paths) or through inorganic matter (nanospeed computer relays)? Fans of the novels of the late Robert A. Heinlein will recall his book "The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress" in which a computer exceeded a certain critical number of "brain paths" (associative relays) and became self-aware. The author suggests that the material of the relays—biological or mechanical/electrical—is not important. What is important is that the critical threshold of conscious intelligence, defined as the capacity to cross-associate and evaluate data rather than merely store and process it—has been reached.

The earliest appearances of self-aware AI in Star Trek are in the Classic episode "Nomad" and V'ger in the first ST movie. But I want to look at a couple of STTNG episodes that I think are extremely provocative. First is the outstanding episode "The Big Goodbye" (and why, by

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the way, didn't this episode make it into the "all-time top STTNG episodes"??). In this episode, Picard's penchant for detective thrillers of the 1940s is revealed. There is a holodeck malfunction, which of course is resolved by the close of the episode, but what is interesting is that one of the holodeck characters develops a sense of self. At the end, he is not just a "prop" created by the holodeck computer; he wonders sadly what will happen to him when Picard and company exit the holodeck. How tragic—a constructed character facing the philosophical implications of death. In effect, the holodeck malfunction has resulted in a momentary capacity to exceed its programming parameters; it has created life (or self-aware AI).

The STTNG episodes "Elementary, Dear Data" and its sequel "Ship in A Bottle" feature the Holmesian character of Moriarty, the evil professor who tries to outwit Picard and escape the confines of the holodeck. He has achieved sufficient consciousness to realize that he is a person, not just a player in someone else's computerized fantasy.

I confess that I have been pleased to see that the holographic "Doctor" of the new "Voyager" series is being used sensitively in the scripts and not just relegated to various Sick Bay emergencies. What could have been a grouchy "Bones"-type character played only for gruff humor ("Doesn't anyone ever remember to turn me off?") is now becoming a "real" person with depth. (The episode in which the nameless doctor adopts the name "Schweitzer"—after famed humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer—is a wonderful one.) However, my concern is one of continuity. STVoyager is contemporaneous with DS9 and STTNG, and in all previous STTNG situations, the creation of self-aware AI resulted specifically from holodeck malfunctions.

Now, with STVoyager, I guess we are just supposed to accept the "Doctor" as part of the show. In "Eye of The Needle," Kes actually refers to the Doctor as a "self-aware program." This is fine, taken all by itself, but it seems to make no sense in the context of the larger Star Trek universe where AI exists but is extremely rare and sometimes occurs only by accident. Why have we never seen this kind of AI on STTNG or DS9 before it just suddenly pops up, seemingly out of nowhere, in STVoyager? □

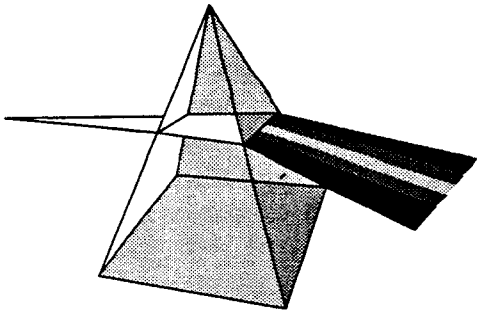
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#### TOP TEN EXCUSES WHY YOUR HOMEWORK OR OFFICE PROJECT IS LATE

1. The Borg assimilated my PC.
2. I was captured by Romulans; lucky it was Sela, which made escape easier.
3. An energy being possessed my body and made me drive it to the beach.
4. I've been caught in a causality loop since Tuesday.
5. An alien probe made me live someone else's life all day.
6. I had to stay at the state inspection site until my car passed its dechyon, tachyon, and positron emissions test.
7. I've been out of phase; whenever I tried to type, my fingers went through the keyboard.
8. I was driving home when I got hit by the USS *Bozeman*.
9. I've been sick with the Cardassian flu.
10. I forgot (honest!). □



## STAR TREK SCIENCE IN THE NEWS



An article in a recent "Parade" magazine section in the Sunday paper spotlighted television's generally dismal treatment of science issues ("What TV Could Do For America."). It applauded shows like "Nova" for featuring hard science topics and lambasted "pseudoscience" shows like "X-Files" and the cartoonish stereotypes of the "mad scientist." The article, by noted astronomer/science popularizer Carl Sagan, stated "Television is potentially the most effective means of raising interest in science. Yet, apart from PBS, the medium is doing close to nothing to convey the joys and methods of science." The article mentioned ST, unfortunately in a not very complimentary manner: "*Star Trek*, despite its charm and strong international and interspecies perspective, often ignores the most elementary scientific facts. The idea that Mr. Spock could be a cross between a human being and a life form independently evolved on a the plant Vulcan is genetically far less probable than a successful cross of a man and an artichoke. There must be dozens of alien types on the various *Star Trek* TV series and movies. Almost all we spend any time with are minor variants of humans. This may be driven by economic necessity, costing only an actor and a latex mask, but it flies in the face of the random nature of the evolutionary process. If there are aliens, almost all of them, I think, will look devastatingly less human than Klingons and Romulans. *Star Trek* doesn't come to grips with evolution." □





## USS Republic Crew Roster as of 6/19/95

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>City/St/Zip</u>	<u>Home</u>
Michael	Allgood	3960 Woodridge Way	Tucker, GA 30084	404-270-1316
Brian	Anderson	814 Santa Fe Trail	Woodstock, GA 30188	924-6248
Kim	Anderson	814 Santa Fe Trail	Woodstock, GA 30188	924-6248
Robin	Basset	380 Thornwood Dr	Atlanta, GA 30328	404-394-7417
Maria	Bona	1839 D'Youville Ln	Atlanta, GA 30341	404-451-8070
Steve	Byrd	319 Roxbury Dr.	Riverdale, GA 30274	404-603-7765
Dan	Carson	2165 LeBaron Dr	Atlanta, GA 30345	404-633-1561
Kathleen	Caste	265 Norcross St, #E-4	Roswell, GA 30075-3856	
Jeannine S.	Dooley	3727 Hwy 20, N.E.	Conyers, GA 30207-1705	404-929-0805
David	Duncan	8081 Sonja Dr	Jonesboro, GA 30236	404-471-1903
Margret	Duncan	8081 Sonja Dr	Jonesboro, GA 30236	404-471-1903
Matt	Ebling	1278 Old Countryside	Stn Mtn, GA 30083	404-297-0388
Holly	Evans	6104 Labama Rd	Mableton, GA 30059	404-819-1274
Michael W.	Henigan	6104 Labama Rd	Mableton, GA 30059	404-819-1274
Kelly	Hilliard	2071 Walden Park Pl	Snellville, GA 30278-3479	404-978-1290
Jeff	Kirkland	510 Haynie Rd	Moreland, GA 30259	404-253-6474
Roddran	Marble	706 The Oakes	Clarkston, GA 30021	404-292-0734
Rebecca C.	Martin	992 James St.	Marietta, GA 30060	427-4952
Howell	McKinnon	109-7 Westchester Cir	Athens, GA 30606-2048	706-548-6052
Ricky	Nunnally	2565 Ball Park Dr	Tucker GA 30084	404-939-8826
Jason	Roberts	1540 Welcome Rd.	Newnan, GA 30034	
Keith	Rodgers	PO BOX 29062	Atlanta, GA 30359	404-321-6064
Shane	Shadrix	P.O. Box 323	Temple, GA 30179	
Tonya	Spanks	4253 Harvest Hill Ct	Decatur, GA 30034	404-808-5910
Marilyn	Teague	3926 Wolcott Cir	Atlanta, GA 30340-4243	404-938-7143
Laura	Thomas	4044 Cumberland Dr.	Rex, GA 30273	404-474-6810
Edmund	Trafford	844 Parkstone Dr	Stn Mtn, GA 30083	404-498-6859
Dee	Troutman	6104 Labama Rd	Mableton, GA 30059	
Cindy	Weaver	1343 Fairway Dr	Elberton, GA 30635	706-283-8054
Delton	Wilson	1439 Venetian Dr, SW	Atlanta, GA 30311	404-753-6949
Kevin B.	Wood	3006 Park Lake Ln.	Norcross, GA 30092	404-441-7815

# July 1995

Sun            Mon            Tue            Wed            Thu            Fri            Sat

**1 \*\***  
 12:00 PM  
 Meeting at  
 Fulton Co.  
 Library  
 Dominion Day  
 (Canada)

<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Dragon*Con/IC	<b>14</b> Dragon*Con/IC	<b>15</b> Dragon*Con/IC No Meeting
<b>16</b> Dragon*Con/IC	<b>17</b> Happy Birthday Holly Evans James Cagney's Birthday	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**30**

**31**

June 1995

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August 1995

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# August 1995

Sun

Mon

Tue

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Thu

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Sat

		1	2	3	4	5 8:00 AM White Water Meeting held there
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 11:00 AM Picnic at Stn Mtn Meeting held there
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

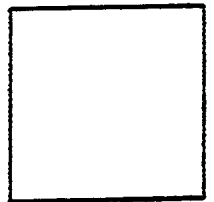
July 1995

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September 1995

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

USS REPUBLIC NCC-1371  
2071 Walden Park Place  
Snellville, GA 30278



**TIME DATED MATERIAL  
ADDRESS CORRECTION AND FORWARDING REQUESTED**