

And to the REPUBLIC

VOLUME VII, ISSUE FOUR

JULY/AUGUST 1996

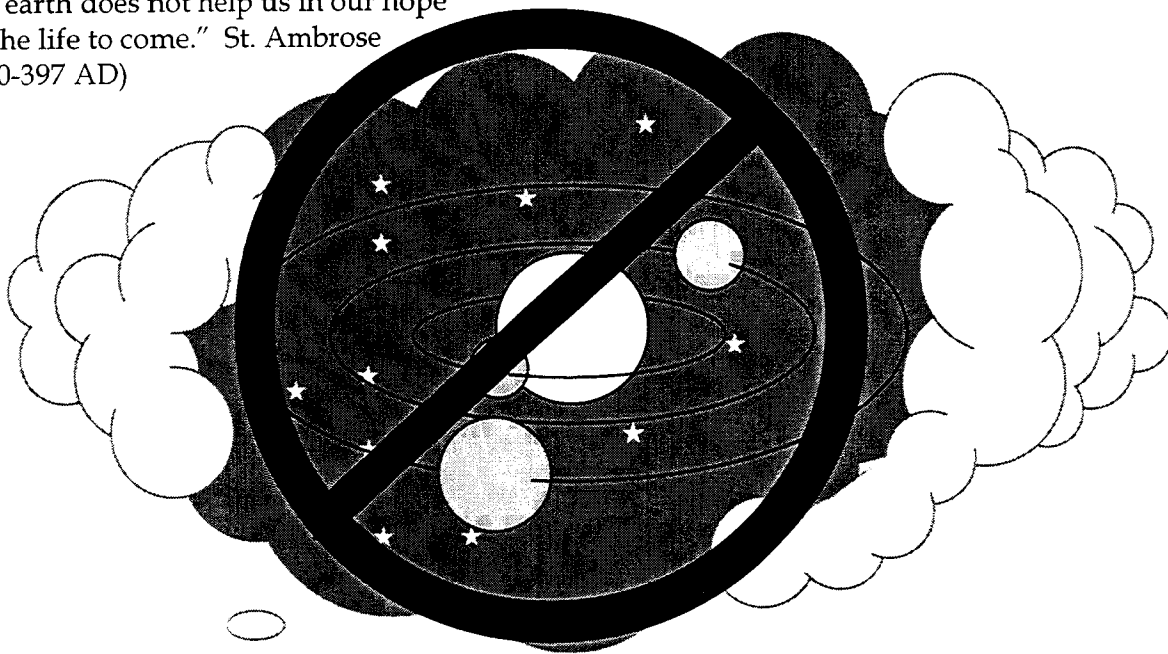
VOLUME VII, ISSUE FIVE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1996

The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371

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

"To discuss the nature and position of the earth does not help us in our hope of the life to come." St. Ambrose (340-397 AD)

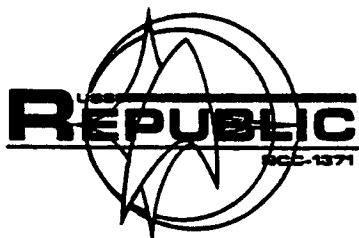


"There is another form of temptation, even more fraught with danger. This is the disease of curiosity. It is this which drives us on to try to discover the secrets of nature, those secrets which are beyond our understanding, which can avail us nothing and which men should not wish to learn. . . I have drawn myself back, and pulled myself away from these thorns. I am never surprised at any of them, and never captivated by my desire to study them . . . I no longer dream of the stars." St. Augustine (354-430 AD)

"For us, curiosity is no longer necessary." Tertullian (160-230 AD)

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Edmund Trafford
Chief of Communications



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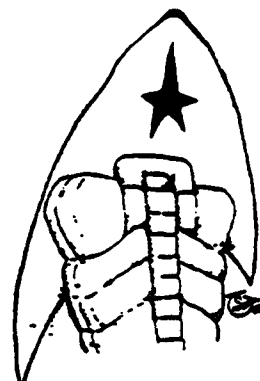
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FROM THE CENTER SEAT



by Captain Jeff Kirkland

Thanks for the confidence you have in me when you elected me as your new captain. I have asked Tonya Spanks to be my XO, and she has accepted this position.

Edmund Trafford is going to stay on as the editor of the *ATTR*, and Mike Henigan has agreed to stay on as Chief of Operations. I have created a new position of Publisher, and Rear Admiral Kelly Hilliard has accepted this position.

I have some ideas for ongoing Starfleet projects as well as local projects. Since Challenge of the Heart has become a permanent project, I would like all of the ship to help out. There will be more later in the report from the IOC.

Our dues have been changed for the better. You will no longer have to join Starfleet and the Republic. Your dues will cover your Starfleet dues and your Republic dues. If you want the *Starfleet Communique*, it will cost extra. The dues are going to be \$17, which includes Republic dues and Starfleet dues. The *Communique* will cost you \$10 more. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Hilliard or Mike Henigan.

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To all members: If you still have not filled out your medical form for the USS Republic, you may be turned down to do on an away team out of town. This is for your protection if you are out of town and cannot speak for yourself. There is another copy of the medical form reprinted at the back of this ATTR.

From the IC: Challenge of the Heart

If you were at the 1995 International Conference in Atlanta, you know that we started a six-month program to educate people about HIV/AIDS. This program has been made a permanent program with Starfleet. On Saturday morning at the opening ceremonies, Admiral Coyote, who works with the school system in Kansas City, stated that about one-third of her elementary students were HIV-positive.

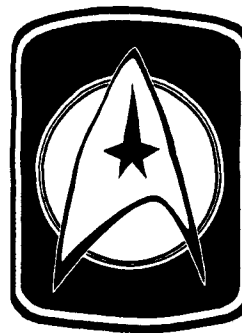
In the Challenge of the Heart seminar, we learned what the money we sent for this project went for and other ways we can help raise funds for the educational purpose.

One piece of educational material is an article that was given to us by Center One and Broward Community Foundation and Stephen J. Fallon. [This article, "Live Long and Prosper! – Important Facts You Need to Know to Stay Safe From HIV/AIDS" is reprinted at the back of this issue of ATTR.]

The Hershey's Company, Kodak, and Hefty have agreed to help also by sending in the UPC bar codes. [See "Starfleet Challenge of the Heart – Project Hershey" at the end of this ATTR issue.] I hope that you will help in this project also. □



REGIONAL COORDINATOR



by Rear Admiral Kelly Hilliard

It has been six wonderful years since I took the helm of the Republic. On October 5, I turned over the center seat to **Captain Kirk-land**, my XO for the past four years. We've accomplished a great deal since that day I hesitantly took command. We have grown to three times our size, we have co-hosted an International Conference, and have proudly served as flagship for Zone 2 and Region 2. I will miss the center seat, but my duties as Region 2 Coordinator demand too much of my time to do either job the justice they deserve. I would like each of you to welcome Captain Kirkland to his new duties and give the respect that you have given me all these years. He has some wonderful ideas and brings a new energy to the command staff.

I would also like you to welcome Lt. Cmdr. Tonya Spanks as your new XO. She brings a whole new attitude to the XO's position. Check it out. Finally, I would like to say thank you for all those wonderful times we have had together as your CO. I am truly indebted to you, for I feel that I am a better person for having known each of you. I will be stepping down, but not leaving. So expect to see me just as often as before. Hailing frequencies closed. □

OPERATIONS



by Rear Admiral Mike Henigan

Ops report, Earthdate 9610.9, Radm Mike Henigan reporting . . . The USS Republic has been in a status quo situation for the last few months due to the hectic schedule that the command staff seemed to have been on. The 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games kept both the CO and me rather involved.

The Games were an interesting and fun experience for both of us and one we are not going to forget anytime soon. We had the opportunity to meet athletes, trade pins, shirts, and collect memorabilia that will relive the memories and fun times we had. There was the Centennial Olympic Park and its great fountain and concerts. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center and the spectacle of men's diving finals and watching the actual awarding of medals, World of Coke Plaza and the Olympic Pin Trading Center where we spent MANY, MANY HOURS in the pursuit of a new famous and expensive habit called pin collecting. The Games are THE EVENT we were glad to have volunteered with and we'd do it again in a heartbeat, an experience everyone should have the chance to take part in.

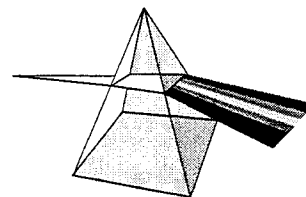
Once the Olympic Games were complete and our volunteer stints were over, we started to get back to normal and catch up on ship activities and get ready for Starfleet's

International Conference. However, we did have to attend the Opening Ceremonies for the Paralympic Games first, and what a show that was! There was paragliding, dancing, lots of music, and the most inspiring act . . . a paraplegic man scaling/hoisting himself up the caldron tower to light the torch for the start of the games! What a sight!

August ended with us getting all our information together and arrangements made, as four of us were off to the International Conference in Oklahoma City. The USS Ranger hosted this year's event, and it was a most productive and interesting weekend. A report was made at the September crew meeting, and we are sorry if you were not there to hear it in person, but contact Kelly, Jeff, or me for a personal report on the IC.

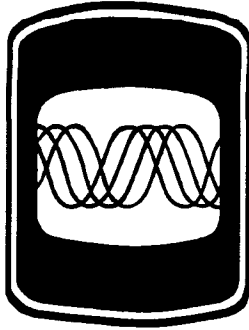
On September 8, the 30th Anniversary of Star Trek, we co-hosted a party at the Media Play in Buckhead. We had a small turnout, but had a good time anyhow, watching Trek episodes, enjoying good conversation, and of course TV munchies. That day was also a significant one as we held ship elections and for the first time in six years, we elected a brand-new CO! Congratulations go to the former XO, now the new CO, Captain Jeff Kirk-land.

We give thanks and praise to Radm Kelly Hilliard who served the Republic faithfully and without fault for over six years. We wish him well with his increased workload as the Region 2 Regional Coordinator, and we do hope to see him still involved in crew activities! □



COMMUNICATIONS

"Hailing Frequencies"



by Lt. Commander Edmund Trafford

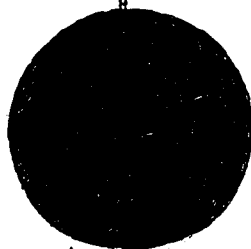
Due to the many interruptions and dislocations caused by this past summer-in-a-lifetime, this ATTR has turned out to be a "double issue" — a circumstance, I sincerely hope, which *remains* a once-in-a-lifetime event. I was not able to commit to supporting the Games through volunteer efforts, as did some of the ship's senior staff, but I was privileged to see several events and to see several Olympic records shattered — an awesome experience. During the Olympics period, my work hours were from 7AM-4PM, which meant

that I arose at about 4:30 every morn so as to be on my way to the MARTA station by 6AM to ensure snagging a precious parking space. (Actually, parking in the early morning was never a problem for the two-week run of the Games, but when I returned in the middle of the afternoon, the lot was full to capacity, with cars parked by the curbs.) At any rate, that hectic period is over, autumn has begun, and I hope that we can get back on track with our regularly scheduled issues.

PLEASEPLEASEPLEASE NOTE: All articles/submissions/reports for the November/December ATTR will be due by November 23!!

I'm not sure if this issue's cover is self-explanatory, but after reading my "Editorial — Part 2," I hope it makes sense. It's obviously a topic I feel strongly about, and I hope I have not pushed my editorial authority too far. (Jeff, do I have any editorial authority left . . . ?) I sincerely appreciate Cap'n Jeff's confidence in asking that I continue on as your beloved, esteemed, and honored editor, a labor that is truly one of love. □

Dad, do you think
there's life on other
planets?..



Mike Luckovich
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



trekbits

Kate Mulgrew was interviewed in the "Parade" section of the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* for Sunday, July 15, 1996. When asked if she thinks that one day people really will be zooming around from planet to planet, star to star, her response was "That's like asking, 'Do you believe in God?' My only answer is 'I don't know — or, I hope so.' When I got this role, I began to read a lot — Einstein and Star Trek paraphernalia. Gene Roddenberry made this thing so viable and such a sheer success that people of any erudition suspect that we are not alone."

The "Behind the Scenes" feature of the August 1996 *National Geographic Magazine* ran a picture of James Doohan meeting the National Geographic Society's Chairman of the Committee for Research and Exploration, George Stewart. Doohan, a 20-year member of the National Geographic Society, was at the Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C. to visit their Cartography Division. (Leonard Nimoy is also a part of the Society's activities: he narrates the "Geographica" exhibit in Explorers Hall.)

Stephen Collins (*STTMP*) and Catherine Hicks (*STIV*) are in a new dramatic series "Seventh Heaven" which premiered on Atlanta's Channel 36 on August 26. They portray a minister and his wife and the trials and tribulations of raising five children. The *Atlanta Constitution's* TV Editor, Bob Longino, gave the new series ★★★.

A front-page article in the September 7, 1996 issue of *Creative Loafing* featured an in-depth look at the ST world and the celebrations marking our 30th anniversary. The feature noted that ratings for both *DS9* and *Voyager* were slipping (possibly due only to the summer doldrums), and asked the provocative question "At 30 years, has 'Star Trek' reached its expiration date? Have the heirs of creator Gene Roddenberry gone to this well too often?" The writer notes further that "If you tally up all four series, you've got upwards of 400 one-hour episodes, which doesn't even count the eight films, the 1973 animated series, or the uncountable comic books, original novels, games, and other merchandise."

An article on the front page of the "Living" section of the *Atlanta Constitution* for Thursday, September 12, 1997, was entitled "Bald Domes Reflect Image of Brainpower." The feature read, in part: "Bald men take heart. Psychologists have found that while bald men are seen as less attractive than those with hair, being smooth on top may have an upside — both women and men associate it with high intelligence. Bald men also rated higher on a career index . . ." A picture of Patrick Stewart accompanied the article. The picture was captioned "To baldly go: Patrick Stewart plays the brainiest of 'Star Trek' captains."

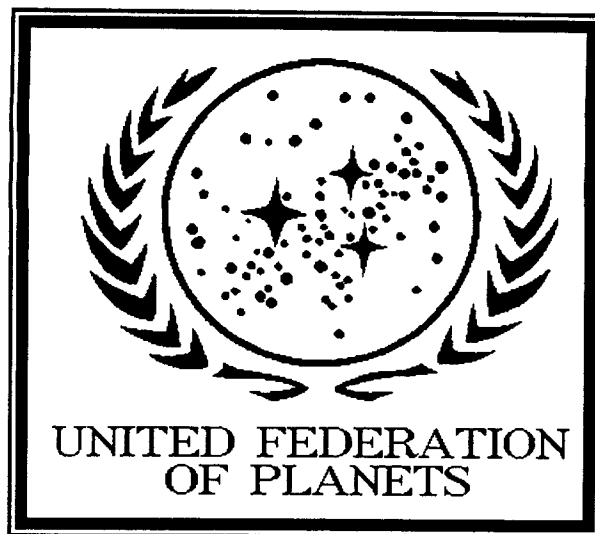
Jimmy Doohan provided a guest cameo appearance on the new UPN show "Homeboys in Outer Space" on September 18, 1996. A patron of the extraterrestrial bar where Doohan's character is seated asks him about his experience on "other starships." Doohan

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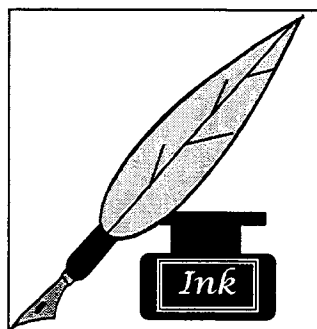


snapped back, "I spent years helpin' 'em out, and I never even got to wear a blue shirt!" (George Takei was also seen recently in the sitcom "Third Rock From the Sun," a show so good that it snagged its star, John Lithgow, an Emmy for leading actor in a comedy.)

The popular "Vent" feature in the *Atlanta Constitution* on Wednesday morning, September 25, 1996, carried the following item: "If Mr. Sulu was made captain of the Enterprise, would he be able to fire futon torpedoes?" □



Ravings From the Editor . . .



When $A \neq B$

The following opinion was expressed in a letter to the editor of *Newsweek* magazine printed in the issue of July 29, 1996. The

letter was in response to a previous article (issue of July 15, 1996, "Is Anyone Out There?") which discussed the possibility of life on other planets but also managed to tie in Nostradamus, ESP, New Age nonsense, contemporary witchcraft (the "Wiccans"), and so forth, in an effort to illustrate spiritually starved Americans' fervent desire to believe in something (or anything and everything, as the case may be).

"There's something terribly wrong when 29% of Americans think we've already made contact with aliens,

but less than half of them know that the Earth rotates around the Sun once a year . . ."

What's wrong with this sentence?

It's hard to refute the letter writer's statement since, on the surface, it appears perfectly correct: (A) a certain percentage of people do indeed accept the possibility of extraterrestrial life, and (B) a certain percentage of people still continue to demonstrate the most abysmal lack of comprehension of basic scientific concepts. However, the statement is constructed by linking the two facts as though they were equal: believers in extraterrestrial life (A) are ignorant of basic science (B). The assumption is that anyone who doesn't know enough about "real" science to know that the Earth goes around the Sun would almost certainly believe in life on other planets (that is, $A = B$).

In fact, the two parts of the sentence are mutually exclusive: it is those who know enough "real" science to know that the Earth circles the Sun who are most

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open-minded about the search for life in the universe — life in all of its myriad forms, not just little green men with ray guns who kidnap unsuspecting Earthlings (emphatically $A \neq B$). It is the “aliens have been visiting us for years and built the pyramids” wackos who are most likely to be incapable of understanding genuine science fact and who are therefore unable to separate fact from fiction and wishful thinking.

I have raved before about the UFO abduction conspiracy nuts, New Age fruitcakes, astrology devotees, and other occult fetishists, all of whom give serious science a bad name. I have said that a thoughtful consideration of life on other worlds or the incredible untapped potential of the human mind is more awesome and awe-inspiring than the mindless search for meaning in pseudoscientific delusions. But so many people today are so ignorant of the most basic scientific concepts and want so desperately to believe in something that they uncritically accept almost anything. □

And the Editor Raves On . . .

There has been a barrage of interesting, provocative, and mostly factual stories in the news media recently concerning space exploration, specifically about our good neighbor, Mars — including a brief paragraph reprinted in the regular ATTR “Keeping an Eye on the Universe” feature about the amazing and

shattering discovery that “life as we know it” exists (or, at least, used to exist) on the Red Planet, and a major front-cover story in *Newsweek* (September 23, 1996) which was obviously inspired by this discovery. I want to place my editorial pulpit firmly on the side of space exploration, and especially manned space travel. I can see it coming now — it’s only a matter of time until the good Samaritans and public charities weigh in with their disdain: “How can we possibly think about throwing away God knows how many tax dollars on such hare-brained schemes when millions of people don’t even have bread on the table?”

Let’s eavesdrop, shall we, on a very politically correct Queen Isabella some 500 years ago and see what might have happened: “Gee, Chris, I’d love to help you discover the New World, but see, I’ve got so much to do here this week, what with feeding everybody and all. Maybe next week. No, that’s no good — next week we’re building housing for everybody. How about the week after . . . ? Oh, I forgot; that week we’re curing every known disease. I guess the New World will just have to wait . . .” (At this rate, my guess is that we’d all still be living in Europe.) One of the greatest humanitarians in the history of the world said “The poor will always be with you.” This is not an open-ended and callous license to just ignore the very real needs of the disabled, the disadvantaged,

and the disenfranchised. But there is indeed something deep inside humankind that drives us onward, outward, ever further afield in our pursuit of the dream of



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"Editor Raves On," continued from page 7

"exploring new worlds." If we are persuaded to deny this compelling and age-old quest simply because some people whine that it's just too selfish or too wasteful or too unnecessary, we may eventually be able to provide materially for everybody on the planet—food, housing, health care—but at the expense of having something spiritually vital wither and die inside us. We'll all be totally complacent, and the driving inspiration which every explorer from Leif Ericsson to Christopher Columbus to Neil Armstrong had will be dead. Let me quote from the above-mentioned *Newsweek* article on future Martian exploration efforts: "Throughout the centuries, from the time that the first early humans ventured out of Africa to the great voyages of the Age of Discovery, humankind has found more than ample reasons to venture into unknown worlds. The impulse to explore is always out there. It is part of the human condition." □

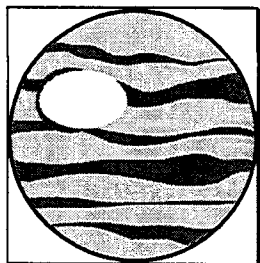
ZIGGY



TOP TEN SHOCKING PLOT TWISTS REVEALED IN NEXT GEN 2!

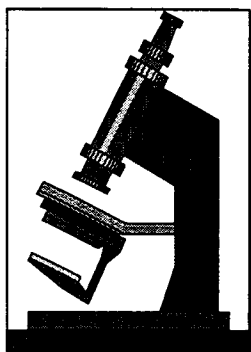
1. Due to a time travel accident, Wesley is actually Picard's father.
2. We find out why Data has been reading *2001: A Space Odyssey* over and over.
3. The voice in Picard's head telling him to throw Troi out the airlock becomes too insistent to ignore.
4. Geordi finally figures out why the new impulse engines have been making that funny noise.
5. Before joining Starfleet, Riker was a Chippendales dancer.
6. After a temporal-loop reprise of "The Naked Now," the entire Enterprise crew is hilariously revealed on Intergalactic Candid Camera. The Federation Assembly is not amused and starts court martial proceedings.
7. Guinan removes her hat, exposing her secret identity as a Conehead refugee from Saturday Night Live.
8. An unnamed crewman actually uses the restroom.
9. Q appears and apologizes for everything, explaining that it was all just one really big misunderstanding, and returns the Enterprise to Farpoint ten years ago. The future is changed, and STTNG starts over.
10. Data's cat, Spot, is revealed as a surgically altered Romulan spy planted by Sela. □

Keeping An Eye on the Universe



JUPITER'S LARGEST MOON Ganymede was aptly described as "an icy cue ball" following the startling photographs taken by the two Voyager space probes during their

"grand tour" of the solar system in the late 1980s. The Voyagers revealed a satellite with a frozen crust criss-crossed by ridges and cracks. The science feature in *Newsweek* magazine for July 22, 1996 reports on new photographs taken by the Galileo probe, which reached Jupiter in December 1995 and is now in orbit around the giant planet. Galileo's photographs show that Ganymede's surface "cracks" are actually 600-foot-deep fissures, which could indicate tectonic shifts like those along our own San Andreas Fault in California.



"METEORITE FROM MARS HINTS AT LIFE" blared the headline on the front page of *USA Today* for Wednesday, August 7, 1996. Scientists have found what they say is the first strong evidence that microscopic life

may have existed on Mars—"life" as in single-celled organisms and "existed" as in perhaps 4 billion years ago. A 4-pound meteorite found in Antarctica shows chemical traces of organic compounds that could only have come from biological activity, say three NASA scientists. The evidence is "compelling but not conclusive," said NASA chief administrator Daniel Goldin. "We are not talking about little green men," Goldin continued.

"These are extremely small structures resembling bacteria. There is no evidence that any higher form of life ever existed on Mars." The meteorite is believed to have been knocked from the Martian surface about 15 million years ago and then fallen on the Antarctic ice sheet about 13,000 years ago.



THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE WEB SITE is the place to go to see what this magnificent machine has

achieved and what's coming up next, including an ambitious project to map the universe. Tap into [HTTP://CLYDE.AS.UTEXAS.EDU/](http://CLYDE.AS.UTEXAS.EDU/) for a good time. □

I NEED HELP



Book Review:

Inside Star Trek: The Real Story by Herbert F. Solow and Robert H. Justman

In the past several years, various memoirs that purport to "tell all" about the ST world have been penned by William Shatner ("Star Trek Memories"), Leonard Nimoy ("I Am Spock"), and also by Nichelle Nichols and George Takei. All these intimate reminiscences and entertaining anecdotes are — of course — written from the actors' unique perspective. Now, the original Executive in Charge of Production and the Coproducer have written the definitive "inside story" from the production point of view, and a fascinating and insightful story it is.

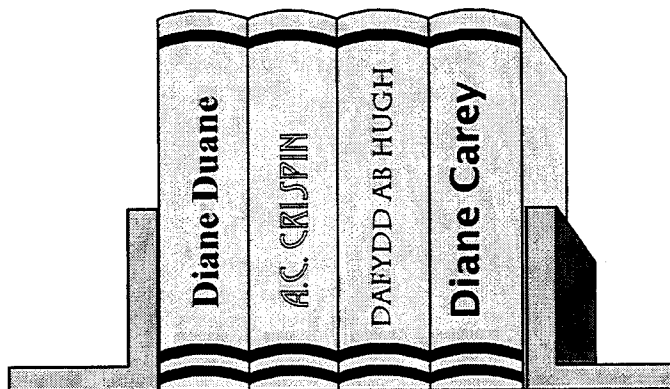
Herb Solow begins his narrative with the wonderful/awful situation that in late 1965, NBC had picked up not one, but two of his series — *Star Trek* (on the basis, as we all know, of the second pilot, "Where No Man Has Gone Before") and the original *Mission: Impossible*. Solow was thus facing the happy/awful realization that he was going to be one overworked producer, indeed. Solow recounts the familiar story that both *Star Trek* pilots had been produced at Desilu Studios. He reveals the fact that the first pilot, much less a second, might never have been filmed if comedienne Lucille Ball, owner of Desilu, had exercised her veto prerogative over the original pilot script, "The Cage." Solow had provided her with

a copy to review, but Ball never read it. Months afterward, Solow visited Lucy in her dressing room and saw the script, unopened, lying on a table, so we will never know what she might have done had she read the script and disliked it. At any rate, "the rest is history," as they say, and following the first pilot, the second was filmed and ultimately sold to NBC. Roddenberry was so grateful for the second opportunity to film his *Star Trek* vision that one of the new characters introduced was "Sulu," created as a tribute to Herb "Solow" himself.

It is always disappointing to discover that a hero has feet of clay; however, Solow's and

Justman's portrayal of ST founder Gene Roddenberry is certainly less than flattering. Although styled as "The Great Bird of the Galaxy" for his efforts in pursuing the ST dream, the authors suggest

that "The Great Blotter of the Galaxy" was a more appropriate nickname, since Roddenberry apparently had a habit of soaking up other people's ideas and concepts and later producing them as his own, in an effort to protect his image as the sole guiding genius behind ST. He also earned the everlasting enmity of composer Alexander Courage by writing lyrics to Courage's magnificent original ST theme; the words were never used (the original sound track has only a mysterious female voice vocalizing without words), but Roddenberry claimed 50% of Courage's royalties for his contribution to the ST theme. Courage wrote music for two of the



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Book Review

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first-season ST episodes and then refused to write another note for the balance of the series.

The book is studded with pictures and other documentation, among which is a copy of a fascinating memo from Gene Roddenberry dated March 11, 1964, outlining some possible story ideas for ST, and we can clearly see some of the future episodes taking shape:

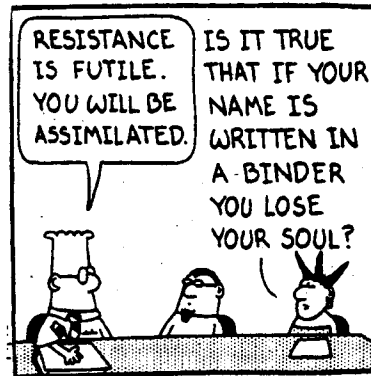
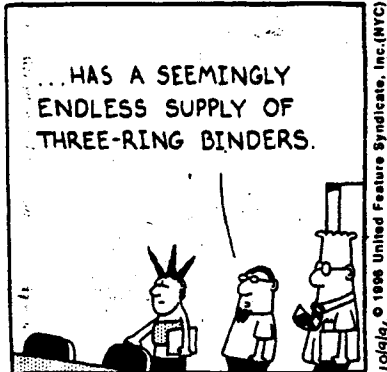
"THE NEXT CAGE. The desperation of our series lead, caged and on exhibition like an animal, then offered a mate." [Of course, this became the original pilot show, "The Cage."]

"THE DAY CHARLIE BECAME GOD. The accidental occurrence of infinite power to do all things, in the hands of a very finite man." [This concept obviously became "Charlie X."]

"PRESIDENT CAPONE. A parallel world, Chicago ten years after Al Capone won and imposed gangland statutes upon the nation." ["A Piece of the Action," one of only two true comedic masterpieces among the original episodes.]

"THE COMING. Alien people in an alien society, but something disturbingly familiar about the quiet dignity of one who is being condemned to crucifixion." [This is the seed of an idea later found in "Bread and Circuses."]

This book is a wonderful collection of history, anecdotes, background material, and personal reminiscences, all of which vastly increase our perspective on and appreciation for the phenomenon we know and love as *Star Trek*. □



STAR TREK in everyday life

A column by syndicated writer Leonard Pitts, who writes for the *Miami Herald*, appeared in the *Atlanta Constitution* for Thursday, July 25, 1996. Pitts' tongue-in-cheek column was titled "Learning to Love Our Alien Friends." Pitts, who is black, might be expected to be somewhat more alert to the nuances of racial and ethnic "sensitivity" issues than most of us, but even he reported himself at a loss for words when a friend of his said that the hit summer movie *Independence Day* was "offensive." Pitts writes:

"The choice of words stopped me cold. I scratched my head, trying to figure out how this good-natured popcorn chomper could have rankled anybody. Well, it seems that Howie [Pitts' offended friend] was irked over the fact that the movie portrays aliens as loathsome, repellent, tentacled creatures. He feels that this betrays a certain Earthcentric smugness on humanity's part, a self-satisfied conceit that the humanoid form is the template for all that is good and decent in the universe. 'Star Trek,' noted Howie righteously, 'treats its aliens more respectfully.'"

Pitts' otherwise humorous article attempts to demonstrate the fact that the very real "sensitivity" issue can be trivialized by pushing it too far. "Who would have thought it was possible to get into trouble by breaking the ice at a cocktail party by asking 'How many aliens does it take to screw in a light bulb?' Instead of 'aliens,' maybe we should reject the term in favor of a more politically correct term like 'planetarily challenged.'" At any rate, the ideals of ST are once again held up for all to

see as a reference point in enlightened relations among sentient beings everywhere.

Stay Tuned for More ST in EDL:

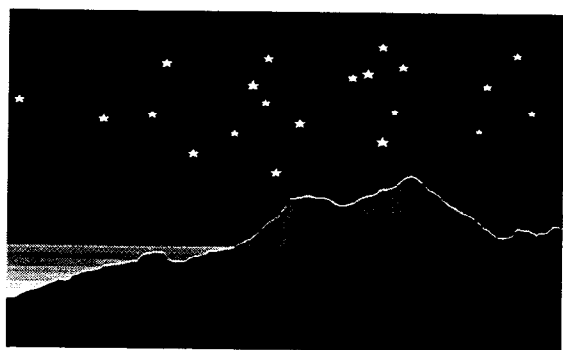
The "Going Places" feature column in the Travel Section of the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* for Sunday, September 1, 1996, was titled "This Star Trek May Be the Enterprise of the Future." The title, of course, is a deliberate attention-grabbing play on words familiar to all of us — and not one word of the article had anything to do with ST. The idea is that booking vacations to the stars is likely to be a big business in the future: "Don't plan any trips to Mars just yet. It could take six months to get there, and possibly they won't begin to leave until the year 2018. Some travel industry heavyweights are up for the challenge, however . . ." The column interviewed several large and internationally recognized travel agencies, including Pan Am (whose corporate logo was painted on the spaceship in the 1966 landmark movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*).

Columnist Doug Monroe, writer of the regular "Monroe Drive" driving/commuting/traffic feature for the *Atlanta Constitution*, noted on Friday, September 20, 1996, that with the end of the Olympics, Atlanta motorists have been quick to resume "traveling at warp speed" around town. Atlanta drivers have a notorious reputation for very high rates of speed, particularly on the Perimeter. (Monroe noted in his column that "Operation Hardnose," targeting speeders, was being reinstituted.)

Two articles in the same issue of the *Atlanta Constitution* used ST as a reference point. In the Monday morning issue of the *Atlanta*

continued on page 13

Constitution, October 7, 1996, a "hard news" article appeared analyzing the previous Sunday evening's Presidential debate between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. The moderator of the debate was "Jim Lehrer, the likably low-key PBS newsmen who sat behind a way-too-large desk, set in front of and slightly below both candidates, looking as if he were working the controls of the starship *Enterprise*." I did not see the debate myself (I was watching the 30-year anniversary ST show on another channel), but the writer's comparison of Lehrer's oversize console by way of reference to the bridge of the *Enterprise* is perfectly clear. Another reference to ST came in the course of a humor column, "The Recline and Fall of a Middle-Aged Male," extolling the virtues of the ubiquitous recliner lounge chair: "The future of comfortable chairs is secure. Look at *Star Trek*. With each new generation of space traveler, one custom remains the same. The captain explores strange new worlds, destroys hostile alien battle cruisers, has an intergalactic fling or two—all the while rarely leaving that cushy seat." That's a considerable oversimplification of course, but nonetheless, the trend seems clear: Captain Kirk's boxy, squarish command chair gave way to Captain Picard's overstuffed leather seat which in turn gave way to Benjamin Sisko's palatial office on DS9 . . . □



Book Review:

*Gene Roddenberry:
The Last Conversation*

by Yvonne Fern
Forward by Arthur C. Clarke

This book is subtitled "A Dialogue With the Creator of *Star Trek*" and consists not actually of "the last conversation" but of a series of conversations the author had with Gene Roddenberry in the last year before his death on a number of wide-ranging subjects. Fern acknowledges the complexities and the contradictions inherent in her friendship with Roddenberry. In researching the background to her own interviews and substantiating Roddenberry's responses, she again and again encountered discrepancies—irrefutable discrepancies from too many otherwise "respectable, talented, and prominent people in a variety of fields—writers, executives directors, musicians, producers, etc." She agonized over her own book, as she writes in her prologue: "Perhaps Gene was mistaken . . . his memory failed him . . . he didn't mean . . ." And then she adds: "But I remember the gentle, courteous, cooperative old man with whom I spent weeks and weeks, with whom I talked at length, for whom I truly cared . . ."

What Fern finally presents is simply the sum total of what Gene had to say, with a minimum of necessary editorial comment and parenthetical explanation; she leaves the evaluation of Gene's life and work to others. (As a matter of fact, she specifically recommends the Solow/Justman book, reviewed in this issue of *ATTR*, as a companion to her book.) Her personal opinion is limited to the following:

continued on page 14

"What I do not like, in retrospect, is the fact that he did not give credit where credit was due for creative ideas—never once mentioned Matt Jeffries, who designed the sets, the props, the very core of Star Trek—the Enterprise. Nor did he mention a good many other people without whom there would have been no Star Trek at all. But then I didn't ask him those kinds of questions, although it would have been fitting for him to offer such information in his answers. I simply asked him who he was, what he thought, and why."

By way of "reviewing" this book, I want to offer several excerpts from Gene's reminiscences that are provocative and insightful. They offer a rare and intimate glimpse into the mind of the creator of our Star Trek universe, but these rewarding glimpses are by no means the entire, nor even the entirely truthful, picture.

"It is a terrible mistake to think that the future is off somewhere in a distant time. It is here—in embryo. We are creating it right now, with the decisions we make about the environment, with the attitude we take toward space exploration, with the education we are giving our children. Everything."

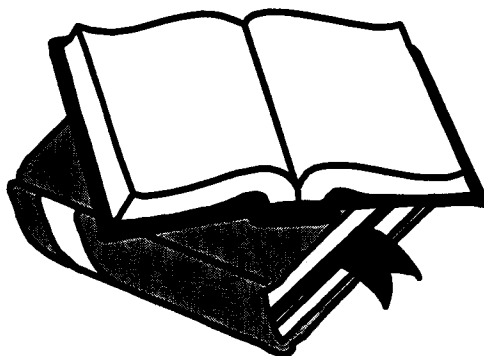
"I think we are getting closer to the time in which computers will be part of our internal structure, as we now have false joints and pacemakers and other wonderful things that enhance human life."
[Could Gene have been thinking of

the Borg? What kind of moral judgment would he have made about the "assimilation" drive of these organic/machine creatures? — ET]

"I am as near to an absolute monarch as is possible in this industry. I have complete control over what my show says and does. Much, much more freedom. And far more direct responsibility for what goes out to the audience. I am Star Trek." [Is this a simple statement of fact or is it supreme arrogance? It puts me in mind of what Louis XIV (the famous "Sun King") is supposed to have said: "L'état c'est moi" — "I am the state." — ET]

The final word in this "review" goes to Arthur C. Clarke, who provided the forward to the book:

"Few men have left a finer legacy than Gene Roddenberry. At a dark time in human history, Star Trek promoted the then unpopular ideals of tolerance for differing cultures and respect for all life-forms—without preaching and always with a saving sense of humor. We can all rejoice that Gene achieved professional success and world respect. There is a sad irony in the fact that he entered the Undiscovered Country just when the eagerly awaited movie of that name was about to be released, but it gives me great satisfaction that he lived to see so many of his ideals triumphantly accepted." □





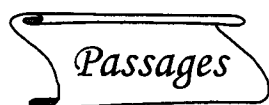
trek

up close & personal

by Mike Henigan

Well, here we are with another column. As everyone knows, this past month was Star Trek's 30th anniversary, and there were all kinds of events taking place around the country and the world. We, of course, include some stories and pieces from those events among other news . . . so read on, everyone!

BIBI BESCH DIES—

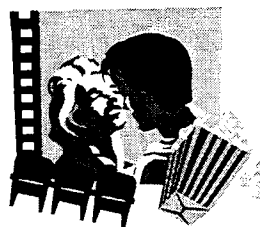


Bibi Besch (Dr. Carol Marcus in STII) passed away on Saturday,

September 7, 1996, after an extended battle with cancer. She is survived by her daughter, actress Samantha Mathis. She loved her fans and was dearly devoted to her daughter and her career. Most people would recognize Bibi even if they didn't know her from Star Trek. She had a most versatile career in stage, television, and motion pictures. As an Emmy-nominated character actor, she was prolific. Bibi has appeared in hundreds of TV episodes over the past 20 years, ranging from soap operas to dramas and sitcoms and made-for-TV movies. After STII, where she played Dr. Carol Marcus, she worked again with director Nicholas Meyer on a TV movie about nuclear holocaust, "The Day After," which became the most-viewed TV movie in history. She followed that with her Emmy-nominated role in "Doing Time on

Maple Drive," a story about a mother dealing with a gay son.

FIRST CONTACT UPDATES—



The new and improved trailer for FC will reportedly appear in theaters on October 11, attached to "Ghost and the Darkness." Writer

Brannon Braga has a cameo in the film. Ron Moore reported that the cameo for him and his wife did not get filmed due to tight production schedules. On Channel 89, Paramount Station, during the special Live Trek 30th Anniversary show, we were ecstatic to glimpse scenes from First Contact. There was Data being seduced by the Borg queen, Picard being threatened by a changed Date, AND a brand-new Enterprise! The official Star Trek: First Contact site has been updated. It contains new information. The site is located at <http://startrek.first-contact.com> and <http://www.first-contact.com>. A couple of very interesting things about the Borg came from some photo closeups. Among the Borg in the new film are various assimilated Alpha/Beta Quadrant species. There is at least one assimilated Klingon (head and nose ridges) and a Bolian (vertical "crease" down the center of the face). Both of these photos are in the fourth "stills" screen at the Paramount website.

AWARDS FOLLOWUP—



Among its other nominations, DS9 received a Special Visual Effects nomination for "The Way of the Warrior" (the fourth season premiere). Star Trek's Emmy of the night

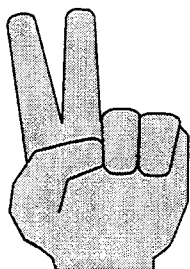
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"Threshold"). Among other Emmy notables were Ray Walston (Boothby) winning Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series (for "Picket Fences"). This year's Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation went to the Babylon 5 episode "The Coming of Shadows." DS9's "The Visitor" was another nominee for the award. Patrick Stewart won a Family Film Award in the category of Outstanding Actor in a Television Film for his role in "The Canterville Ghost." (The movie itself also won Best Television Movie.)

AGAIN. FANS INFLUENCE TREK—



In the AOL universe, Pocket Books editor John Ordovery joined in on a discussion of the status of the Worf/Troi relationship. John noted that no novels would address the relationship since the possibility remained that it would crop up sometime in

the show or in a film. An alert AOL member pointed out that DS9 producer Ron Moore had been saying for some time on another AOL message board that the producers had declared Worf/Troi a dead issue that would never rise up again in episodes or movies. Thus (after confirming that), John announced that Pocket Books will be doing a novel that focuses on what happened to the Worf/Troi couple and why it didn't work out. J.M. Dilliard is to write the book, which has a working title of "For Love or Honor." See, you are more powerful than you can imagine. □

ATTR *Updates*

This is a twofold feature—a follow-up to several recent articles about the exciting discovery of new worlds orbiting other stars and,

accordingly, a follow-up to my "Ravings" column strongly supporting space exploration, even in the face of criticism by those social activists who believe that the money thrown away on NASA could be better spent in the inner cities. A major article in the *Atlanta Constitution* for Tuesday morning, October 15, 1996, was prominently headlined "Astronomers' Excitement Grows With List of Planets." The article began: "Just one year ago, this month, astronomers announced the discovery of the first planet circling a sunlike star outside our solar system. Now the count of such planets is up to ten—surpassing the nine in our own backyard—and rising fast."

Of course, as the article points out, these new planets have not been observed directly; they can't be—they are, after all, quite some distance away. The presence of these extrasolar worlds is inferred from fluctuations that an invisible companion causes in the motion of a star. In just exactly such a manner were our own planets Neptune and Pluto discovered. Invisible to the naked eye, their existence was postulated because of their influence—perturbations—on other known planets. So far, none of the newly detected bodies (giant gas balls resembling our Jupiter or Saturn) resembles the Earth or is likely to harbor life, or at least Earthlike life, as we understand it.

Due to the immense distances involved, it seems likely that so far we have managed to discover only the very biggest planets—those planets whose size, density, gravitic pull, and so forth would make them obvious candidates for our present instruments. But the exhilarating aspect of these discoveries is that where there is one planet, there may be many thousands more, and where there are thousands of Jupiter-size worlds, there must be smaller ones also. Perhaps one of these will be an Earthlike Class M world beckoning to us across the gulf of space. These discoveries "create tremendous hope among astronomers that planetary systems similar to ours do indeed exist," enthused Alan Boss, an astrophysicist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. □

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM

Name: _____
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 Home Phone: () _____
 Work Phone: () _____

Emergency Contacts:

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 Relationship: _____
 Address: _____

 Home Phone: () _____
 Work Phone: () _____

No. 2: Name: _____
 Relationship: _____
 Address: _____

 Home Phone: () _____
 Work Phone: () _____

Blood Type: _____
 Allergies: _____
 Food: _____

 Medication: _____

Please list all prescribed medications, amounts, when taken, and for what reasons:

	Medication	Amount	When Taken	Reasons
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 Office No. _____
 Beeper/Pager: _____

No. 2: Name: _____
 Office Address _____
 Office No. _____
 Beeper/Pager _____

Surgeons:

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 Office Address: _____
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 Beeper/Pager: _____

No. 2: Name: _____
 Office Address _____
 Office No. _____
 Beeper/Pager _____

Live Long and Prosper!

*Important Facts You Need to Know to Stay Safe from HIV/AIDS
Provided for the members of the International Star Trek Fan Association*

Who is getting HIV infected these days?

- Long ago, HIV was a small problem (only 9,000 U.S. cases by 1984), confined to specific risk groups. But now, nearly 54,000 Americans newly infected each year catch HIV through heterosexual sex, IV drug use, or passed from mother to child at birth.

"Those who fail to appreciate history are doomed to repeat it."

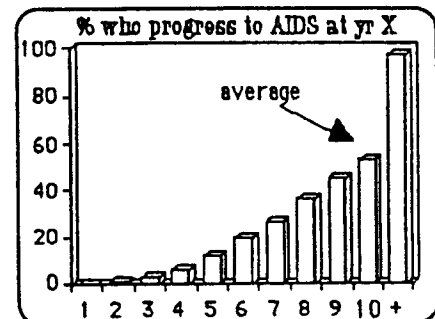
George Santayana

The Good News: you *won't* catch HIV the way you catch other diseases

- **Casual contact is absolutely safe:** yes, we're sure. We tracked 1,100 families living with an HIV+ family member for over a decade--no one got HIV infected.
- **Our skin provides an excellent shield against HIV:** 2,712 doctors and nurses were sprayed by HIV-tainted blood, but *none* became infected.
- **Saliva has built-in barrier against HIV transmission:** SLPI wraps around HIV and keeps it from infecting white blood cells--so saliva is safe. But still be careful of cuts or sores in the mouth when kissing.
- **You're *not* a monkey:** don't freak out over that study on monkeys that concluded "oral sex is high risk." It had *many* mistakes. Ten years of real life studies on humans have shown that oral foreplay (not to climax) is 100 to 3,000 times safer than unprotected intercourse, unless you have cuts in the mouth.

At War with the Virus: what is medicine accomplishing these days?

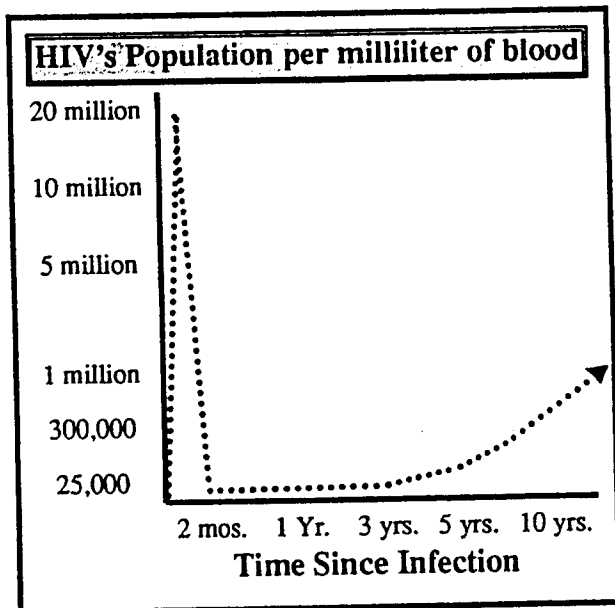
- **Rare cases of natural immunity may provide new direction in medicine:** newly discovered CKR-5 co-receptor is mutated in some people (less than 1%), and seems to block infection. Still researching to see ¹⁾ if the protection has a limit, and ²⁾ if it's safe to try to "mutate" other people's receptors to create a vaccine effect.
- **HIV tests have improved, shortening the "window period":** HIV-antibodies show after just three to six months; you can test with confidence.
- **No cure doesn't mean no hope:** your body holds HIV at bay for a long time. The average person stays AIDS-free for 10 years!
- **Prophylactic drugs fend off many HIV-related diseases** (PCP pneumonia down 60%!); and



pregnant mothers can reduce the risk of giving HIV to their child (25% to 8%).

- **But:** HIV is a tricky virus that's outsmarting every approach we take. Even new drugs (protease inhibitors) that initially wipe out 99.9% of HIV in the blood soon sputter, as HIV rebounds to full levels. (See "Limitations of Medicine" handout).
- **Remember:** it's not just about trust: $\frac{1}{3}$ of all HIV+ people have *no symptoms* at all until they actually have AIDS (so they can't warn you if you're with them!)

The Bad News: the odds of getting infected defy common sense!



- HIV's dirty trick makes people feel safe: HIV+ people don't always release the virus in their sexual fluids (average just 22% of the time). So some people "luck out," and remain uninfected after risky encounters. But a person just infected in the last 60 days (before the antibodies have kicked in) is 1,000 times more contagious to you than someone infected years ago!

- **Bad recipes for love:** no inhibitions means no smart decisions; don't mix your partying with your romance.
- **No such thing as "making love":** don't let someone talk you into "proving" anything; abstinence is the only 100% guarantee of safety from HIV.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Condoms: They're not Steel Fenders, & they're not Swiss Cheese"

Used properly, condoms are up to 99.75% effective in blocking HIV; used wrong, they'll pop one out of every ten tries. Here's how to use one correctly:

- (1) Give it the Charmin Test: before opening a condom, squeeze the package to make sure it's still sealed airtight.
- (2) pinch the tip of the condom to leave slack for catching fluids (you must *always* use two hands to put on a condom—one to pinch, and one to unroll.)
- (3) don't use oil based lubricants; they break down the condom. Use water based lubricants, preferably with nonoxynol-9 spermicide (i.e. K-Y Jelly™, Wet™, etc.).
- (4) clean up before cuddling; don't let a loose fit cause a spill of sexual fluids.

"Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly" St. Francis de Sales

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4. Each collection sheet holds 16 UPC's. Please try to fill each page before submitting.
5. Certain KODAK Film Products have separate panels labeled "proof of purchase" which are **NOT** eligible for redemption in PPP—**only UPC's from KODAK Consumer Products are eligible.**
6. KODAK Professional Photography Products, KODAK foreign products, Hershey concession products and Hershey fund-raising carton UPC's are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for redemption in PPP.

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1. Distribute copies of this sheet to your members and supporters (write your organization's name and account number [from your address label] at the top before photocopying).
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3. Each collection sheet holds 16 UPC's. Please fill each page before submitting for redemption.
4. **There's no need to tally up point totals or separate bonus UPC's from non-bonus UPC's. A scanning computer will do that automatically and credit the bonus to your account.**

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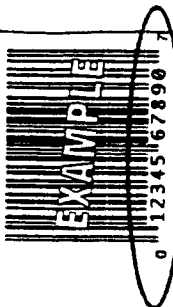
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VIDEO TAPES





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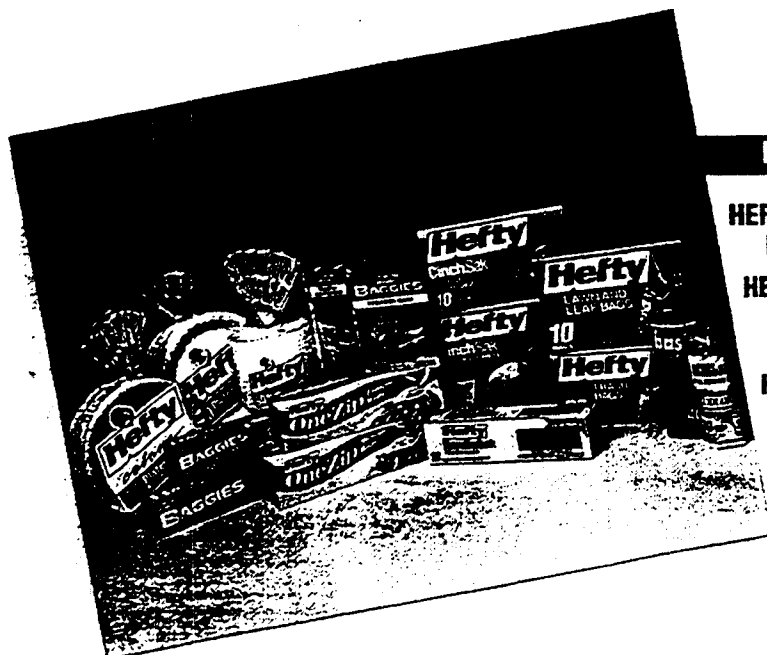
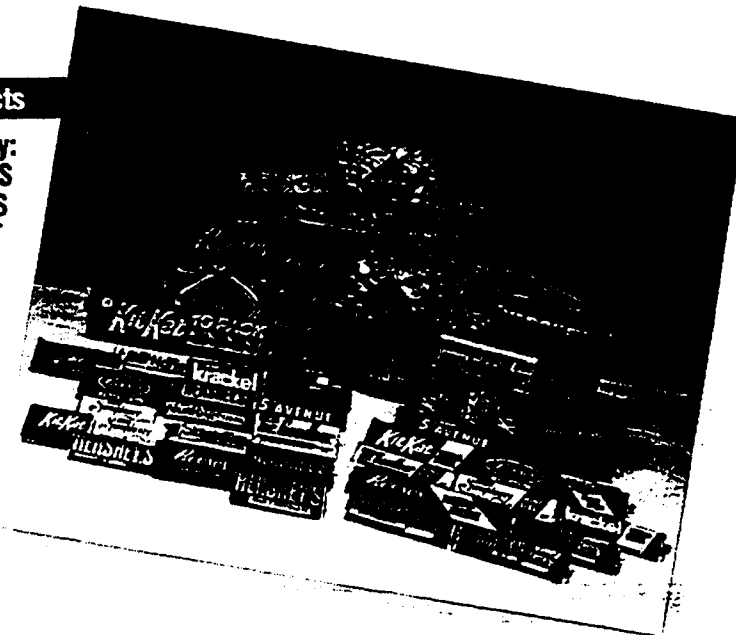


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HEFTY OneZip Products

HEFTY OneZip Food Storage Bags • HEFTY OneZip Freezer Bags

HEFTY Indoor, Lawn & Leaf, Outdoor, Tall Kitchen and Trash Bags

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	Sweatshirt	BLUE	S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	\$20.00	\$3.50	
	Sweatshirt	MAROON	S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	\$20.00	\$3.50	
	Windbreaker	BLUE	S M L XL 2XL*	\$20.00	\$3.50	
	Windbreaker	BLUE	S M L XL 2XL*	\$20.00	\$3.50	
	Polo Shirt	BLUE	S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	\$20.00	\$1.70	
	Polo Shirt	MAROON	S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	\$20.00	\$1.70	
	Polo Shirt	BLACK	S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	\$20.00	\$1.70	
	STARFLEET FLAG	BLUE	3' X 5'	\$30.00	\$3.00	
	Plastic Coffee Mug	BLUE	12 oz.	\$ 5.00	\$2.50	
	Embroidered Patch	BLUE	4"	\$ 5.00	SASE	
	Barrel Bag	BLUE	18" X 10"	\$10.00	\$2.50	
	Barrel Bag	MAROON	18" X 10"	\$10.00	\$2.50	
	Tote Bag	BLUE	10" X 14" X 5"	\$ 5.00	\$2.50	
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	Mylar Sticker (STARFLEET Logo)	SILVER/BLUE	4"	\$ 1.00	SASE	
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	Magnet (STARFLEET Logo)	BLUE/SILVER	2.5"	\$ 1.00	SASE	
	Key Chain	BLUE/SILVER	2.5"	\$ 3.00	\$.85	
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	Business Card Holder	BLUE/WHITE	4"	\$ 2.00	SASE	
	Portfolio (no handle)	BLACK/WHITE	15.75" X 11.5"	\$10.00	\$1.70	
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