

The DaVinci Pilot

VOLUME 1 , NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 1996

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

I hope everyone in the DaVinci is having a great new year. I am sure that 1996 will be an exciting year for the DaVinci and her crew. As the weather begins to warm I hope to have activities such as bake sales, car washes, and picnics. There is so much we can do as a ship. All it takes is a willingness by each of you to participate in events as they occur. We had nearly 25 crew personnel at our last DaVinci night out! I think that is great and I hope the turn out for the next night out will be equally as well attended. I know that this has been drilled into your minds by nearly all the senior staff at one time or another, but this is your club and without your ideas, willingness to lend a hand, and support, the DaVinci will suffer the fate as the other ships that called Columbus home. It certainly will not happen over night but a gradual decay will begin once apathy sets in. Okay, enough said. One of the first things I would like the DaVinci to become involved in is the Starfleet Stampede. All you need do is to cut out the cancelled postage stamps on your letters, bills, packages, etc., and bring them to any of the DaVinci functions. When you do cut them out you must be sure to leave about 1/4" around the stamp if possible. If more than one stamp is on the envelope or package and they are too close together for the 1/4" cut, then cut around the entire set. The collected stamps are sent to Starfleet where they are sold to dealers. The proceeds from the sale of these stamps goes for things such as Starfleet scholarships and donations to worthy organizations. Each year, at the Starfleet international convention, the ship that has collected the most

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FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

Isn't it a great weekend when you have not one, but two science fiction movies on at the local theater? Not that they were great movies, but having the choice was nice. On Saturday, I saw "Twelve Monkeys" starring Brad Pitt, Bruce Willis and Madeleine Stowe. Basically, the movie deals with a generation of the future forced to live in grim underground warrens because in 1996 the earth had been decimated by the release of a fatal virus. Bruce Willis, a prisoner in this dark draconian world, is given a chance to commute his sentence by time-traveling back to 1996 to collect a sample of the original virus so scientists could make a vaccine to conquer it. "Twelve Monkeys" is definitely an action picture with a complicated plot. The combination of memory as shown in flashbacks and time travel keeps the audience alert or hopelessly lost. Some people left the theater with mistaken beliefs as to the meaning of the final scene. Of course, those confused souls probably were not sci-fi fans who are keen and knowledgeable observers. Brad Pitt dispelled any doubts that he could play a role other than that of resident hunk. In this movie, he played a totally demented lunatic and he was a hoot! "Twelve Monkeys" is based on a 29 minute short by Chris Marker entitled "LaJetee" (1964). Film critics praised the original for its "spooky obsessiveness", while the newer version was thought to have a "much tamer kind of weirdness". I will definitely see this movie again. I think it may have broad appeal to movie-starved sci-fi fans if they are willing to pay attention to the subtleties of the plot. The second movie I saw was "Screamers" starring Peter Weller. The setting for the dark and unrelenting story was 2078 on the planet Sirius where the New Economic Block (NEB) had found a material that solved the earth's

critical need for a fuel source. Unfortunately, the mining process released fatal levels of radioactivity. In true democratic fashion, the engineers and miners on Sirius formed the Alliance to battle the greedy NEB. When the movie opens, the planet has been devastated by radioactivity and war. The Alliance and NEB survivors live a spartan existence in bunkers underground. Weller plays the Alliance commander who finally realizes that the Sirius contingent has been abandoned by Earth and decides to negotiate peace with the NEB on his own. He has one very large problem - SCREAMERS! The screamers were killing machines which looked like mechanical moles on speed. They were originally developed to protect the Alliance people, but it is an understatement to say that they got a little out of hand. The screamers were programmed to clone themselves underground, but somewhere along the line, they developed their own intelligence and learned to modify themselves. Once a human left the bunker, they were fair game for the burrowing screamers to dismember with their radial saw teeth. Makes for an interesting hike over to the NEB headquarters! The movie was adapted from a Philip K. Dick story whose title makes the existential madness a little more sense, so stay and read the credits. I guess that until the next Star Trek movie comes out we will have to be content with dark, melancholy, pessimistic movie fare. At least we have some choice.

LTCMDR Rita Johnson
Executive Officer

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stamps by weight is recognized and awarded Starfleet honors. You do not have to add up the amount of stamps you have collected as you do with the coupons. Since LTCMDR Joe Perry moved into the Science Officer position, we have had a vacancy in Operations. I am pleased to announce that ENS Rodney Weiss is our new Gaming Officer. It will be Rodney's task to develop a gaming cell within the DaVinci. ENS Weiss and his staff(?) will give lectures and teach the finer art of customized card games to whom ever is interested. If enough people are interested a tournament may be arranged with fabulous prizes to the winner. See Rodney at the next meeting or call him at 298-7508. There is an event coming up which some of you may be interested in attending. It is the Region 2 Summit being held on March 15-17, 1996 in Pensacola, Florida, at the Ramada Inn - Bayview. Hotel rates are \$53 per night and you must mention STARFLEET Region 2 to get this rate. Their number is 1-800-282-1212 or 1-904-477-7155. Conference rates are \$30 for the entire weekend which includes the banquet on Saturday night, \$20 for the weekend conference only, and \$15 for Saturday only or \$10 for Sunday only. Checks for the Sunny Summit '96 should be made out to STARFLEET/Region 2 and sent to 2221 Peachtree Rd. NE, Suite D #531, Atlanta, GA 30309. Make sure you include your name, address, SCC number, and tell them you are with the DaVinci. During the conference the new Regional staff will be introduced and discussing the future of Region 2 will be the main topic. Also part of the weekend festivities will be the first annual Regional Coordinator's Cup, a Putt-Putt Tournament as well as the Region 2 tradition of the Sunday morning free hangover breakfast of doughnuts and coffee/juice/milk. Additionally,

a reception will be held Friday night at 10:00 pm. Dan McGinnis and Deborah Nelson have been invited and one if not both may attend. This summit will be your chance to provide input into this region and get those questions answered. I am planning on attending and if you would like to go please let me know as we can share the ride and the room. See y'all at the February meeting.

CMDR Freddy Heller
Commanding Officer

FROM BELOW THE DECKS

Greetings from below the decks! I hope that everyone survived the holidays, cheered during the Superbowl, maintained all those New Year's resolutions, and are ready to move on to new heights for 1996. This year promises to be a good one for those members of the Shuttle DaVinci. The club has formed, beginning to take shape, and ready to charge off in whatever direction we the membership choose, even to "go where no man has gone before." Now that we are firmly entrenched in the new year, I plan to have some Engineering "staff" meetings to outline details and ideas on just where we are going with this organization. Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, be thinking of the types of activities you would like to be involved in or support. Hope that you all will continue to support the DaVinci night out, as well as monthly meetings and other scheduled activities. See you in February!

LT(JG) Steve Holt
Engineering Officer

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

This portion of the newsletter may or may not appear monthly. It will only appear when I have something I need to say. Most of the general information may be found in "From the Center Seat", my monthly news to the members of the DaVinci. What I need to say this month has to do with what happened at the February DaVinci night out. The primary purpose of the DaVinci night out is to be seen in public - to let the population of Columbus know that we exist and to hopefully get new members in the process. What we do not need is a bad reputation. We had a good turnout at Deorio's. The food was good and the service was a little slow because only one server was on duty and the place was busy. What happened next was very disturbing. Three people took advantage of the confusion and let without paying for their meal. I hope it was only an oversight and not a deliberate act. I do not know who these individuals are, nor do I care. What Does bother me, however, is that fact that the reputation of the DaVinci has been tarnished. To make amends with the owners of Deorio's, I have decided that the DaVinci will pay for these meals. I hope that this will never happen again. The DaVinci has too much class for that.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Since I have not been doing regular finance reports to the club, let me summarize the activity in the account since it was opened to bring you up to date. When the club first started, the Heller family "staked" the club \$50.00 to get the account opened. As the first dues were received, we were gradually paid back until the DaVinci now owes us no money. The

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only expenses for the club have been printed checks (\$12.74), post office box rental (\$40.00), Thanksgiving turkey (\$11.18), Senior Center rental (\$35.00), and Christmas gifts for our adopted family (\$95.91). The Christmas gift expense was offset by special donations from members LTCMDR Joe Perry, the Murphys, LT(J.G.) Steve Holt, crewmen Karen Ferris and Rohnnie Cunningham, and the Hellers, for a total of \$33.00, which brought the cost to the club as a whole down to \$62.91. While membership dues are the primary source of money for the club, the penny jar competition is a fairly painless and rather amusing way to raise funds. The first competition gave the club \$51.00 and the second \$38.37. The current balance in our account is \$330.54, not bad for a club less than a year old. \$10.00 of that total was earmarked as a donation for "Starfleet Challenge of the Heart" when it was deposited (the money I earned for doing alterations to the Klingon ambassador's uniform). At the appropriate time, that money will be sent to Starfleet to assist in their educational programs. Speaking of money, I think the 24th century Starfleet could save a lot of credits and lives by studying their own history. Have you noticed the resemblance between the unfortunate alien at Rura Penthe who desired Kirk's coat and the Jem'Hadar? Shouldn't they try aiming phasers at the knees for maximum effect? (Of course, since I am the mother of a 5-year-old I also see a resemblance between the Jem'Hadar and Ivan Ooze, but that's another alternate reality.)

LTCMDR
Connie Heller
Finance Officer

ACCOLADES TO:

Congratulations to Crewman Karen Mutton who is now Karen Ferris. It seems as if she failed to get the Captain's "permission" and went a head and got married anyway. Oh well. ***Much happiness Karen!***

CONVENTION NEWS

There will be a contention at the Gwinnett County Civic Center on Sunday, 3 March 1996 (Northeast of Atlanta). Starline Productions is trying to get William Shatner. I will let you know as soon as I hear any further information. Hopefully I will be receiving a flyer in the mail and will let you know any further details at the next meeting. This next convention should be a good one! There will be a convention in Toscaloosa, AL on 24 and/or 25 February. The guest will be Denise Crosby!! This is all tentative and I will know much more information in about a week. Connie and I plan on going to this one because we have never seen Denise Crosby. The Grand Slam Show IV in Pasadena, CA is quickly approaching (19-21 April) and the guest list is quite impressive. The "headliner" will be Patrick Stewart who has not done a US convention in nearly two years! For ticket information you can write to:

CREATION
411 N. Central Ave. Suite 300
Glendale, CA 91203

or call them at

(818) 409-0960, Ext 225 from 9 A.M.
to 3 P.M. weekdays.

HOW TO GET TREK AUTOGRAPHS

Getting autographs from your favorite Star Trek actors is not hard but does take time and must follow certain rules. Most of the actors will sign material sent to them and others will send you pre-signed photographs or letters (real and stamped). Some will not sign anything due to personal or contractual reasons (e.g., William Shatner). Okay, here are the steps to follow for obtaining autographs. Good luck!

1. Do not send more than two items.
2. Package your photographs between two pieces of cardboard or use a special photograph mailer.
3. ALWAYS include a SASE the size of your photographs with your items.
4. Be patient. It may take several months before you hear anything. Remember the actors get a lot of mail and it may be weeks before they get your request.
5. Send Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, or Voyager requests to: Actor/Person
Particular Show (TNG, DS9, Voyager)
Paramount Studios
555 Melrose Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90038
6. Send Original Series requests to: Actor/Person
C/O Lincoln Enterprises
14710 Arminto St Van Nuys,
CA 91402

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BOOK REVIEW Q-SQUARED

The 37th paperback Star Trek: TNG novel. By Peter David, First Printing: August, 1995. \$5.99 list, 434 pp. Published by Pocket Books, a Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. Available at many bookstores for 20% off the suggested list price.

"Q, I want to talk to you alone!" Q smiled briefly at his companion, the entity called Trelane, and then gestured grandly in the direction of the captain's ready room. Picard strode briskly through the door. Q was right behind him. But the moment the door hissed shut, Q grabbed Picard by his uniform front. His usual smug facade had evaporated, to be replaced by desperation. "Picard," he said, low and intense. "You've got to help me." "What?" was all Picard could

get out. "With what? With whom?" "With Trelane! He's driving me nuts! I can't take it anymore!" And Picard did something then that he had never done before. He laughed in Q's face. Picking up where the Original Series episode "The Squire of Gothos" left off, Q-Squared is a continuation of the story of the child-Q, Trelane. In addition to tales about the cause of the gravitational fluxes, temporal anomalies and other spacial oddities that the original Enterprise crew seemed to encounter on a more-than-usual basis, Q-Squared fills the reader in on details about the lifestyle and upbringing of those entities simply known as the Q. We find that the Enterprise-D's Q was the mentor for the young Trelane, whose fascination with James T. Kirk and the original Enterprise crew did not end with his parents separation of Trelane from his play-time companions. Explanations

abound about how and why the Original Series crew were tested time and again by situations that other Federation starships never encountered. In a book chocked full of deadpan humor, Q-Squared successfully manages to give us an understandable glimpse into the true nature of the Star Trek Universe, with its multiple and some-times overlapping dimensions. It lso places the members of the Q Continuum in context with the whole of the Universe, and with God (you know, the one who doesn't need a starship). All in all, it is a amusing tale that the casual Trekkie should read and enjoy, and that any serious Trekker must read.

CMDR Chuck Freas
Shuttle Palo Duro
Amarillo, Texas