

# STAR TREK

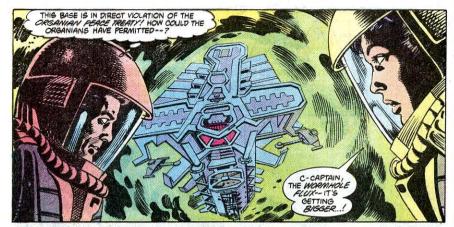
Based on the series created by Gene Roddenberry



MIKE W. BARR \* TOM SUTTON & RICARDO VILLAGRAN
Artists

JOHN COSTANZA \* MICHELE WOLFMAN \* MARV WOLFMAN
Letterer Colorist Editor

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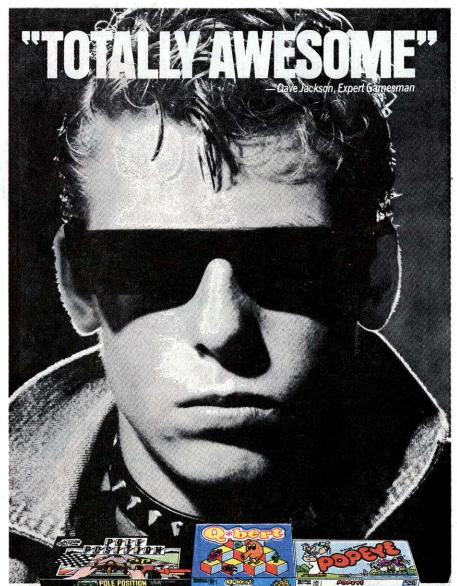








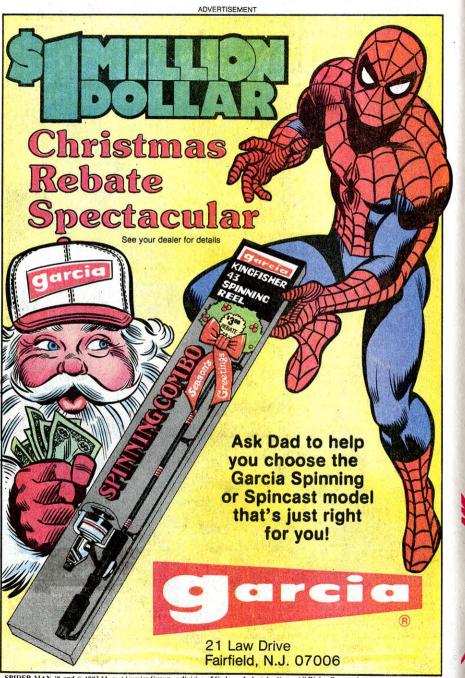




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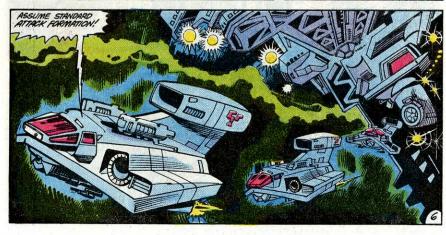
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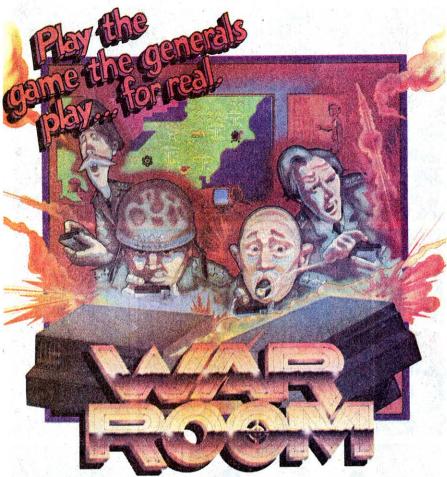








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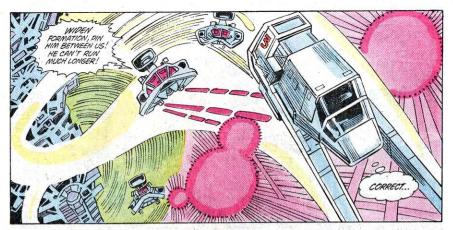


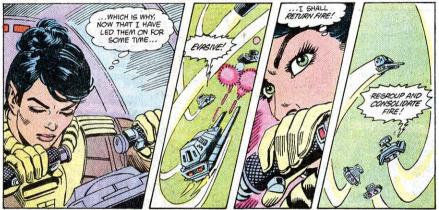


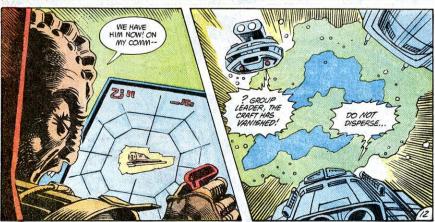


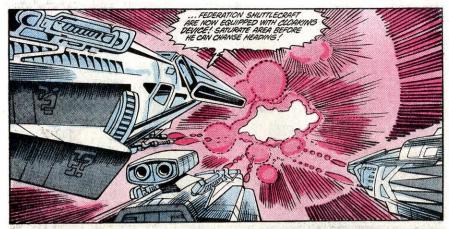


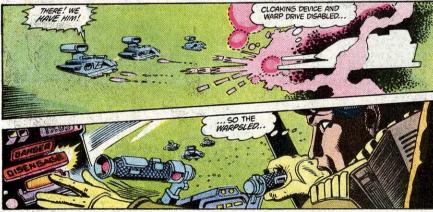


















































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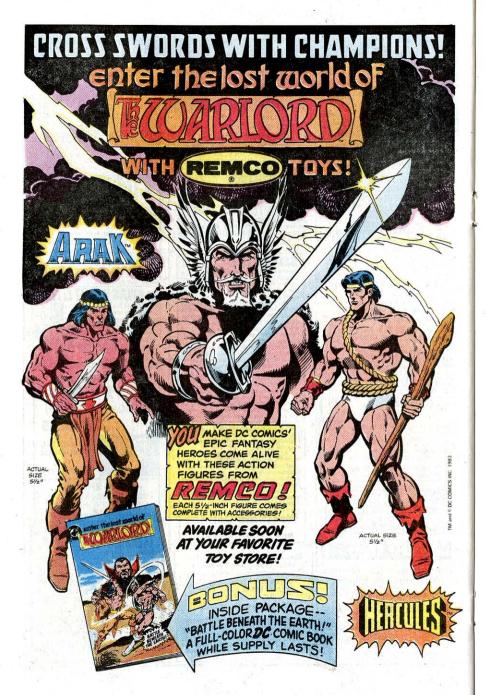


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#### RANDOM THOUGHTS: ON THE CONVENTION TRAIL, 1983

I like flying, I really dol (Providing I'm in an airplane ... no matter what the ads said, I don't believe a man can fly!) I hate getting to and from airports, though, and since I'm a bit paranoid about missing flights I tend to allow a little extra time to get to the airport (just in case) and inevitably find myself hanging around for an hour or two before I can board my flight. Thank God for airport bookstores, coffee shops and, I quess. cocktail lounges. Getting home after a trip is always a hassle. I live in Connecticut, about seventy miles from N.Y. airports and whether I have my car or hop a limo, the ground trip home seems to tire me more than the flight.

I became more aware of these attitudes this summer as just about every weekend I traveled to a distant city to attend a comic convention, the most ambitious convention tour ever undertaken by DC and/or yours truly. With Sal Amendola (our Talent Coordinator) for company on every trip and various other DC luminaries on some of them we attended conventions at Aneheim, CA; New York: Philadelphia, PA: Ottawa, Canada: Chicago, IL: San Diego, CA: Orlando, FL; still to come are Boston, Hartford, Wichita and New York again. I missed Houston, though I was scheduled to go and a small show in the Washington, D.C. area was cancelled

I'm writing this a few days before Labor Day with Bob Rozakis (and the typesetter) hovering anxiously in the background. (copy was due September 1st... late again!) A jumble of fleeting remembrances, impressions and random thoughts vie for attention.

I remember,
—Sal Amendola calling my home
from Houston to make sure I was still
alive. He'd flown there from
Washington, D.C. where he had just
completed teaching a week-long
seminar on drawing S.F. comics at
the Smithsonian Institute. He
expected to meet me at the Houston
convention. A rumor spread on the

convention floor that I had collapsed passed out or had been taken to the hospital in a state of exhaustion. All untrue, of course ... but I was tired and not feeling well enough to take the trip. Still, Sal's concern (and the rumor-monger's) was touching.

The wonderful reception afforded DC's 16MM sound film which was shown at leest once each convention. It's about ten minutes long and after a brief retrospective, it outlines all the new and exciting comics coming from DC for the rest of '83 and some of '84.

-Having Murphy Anderson (and Mrs. "Murph") show up, unexpectedly, at many of the conventions. Murph has been away from comics for about 10 years while he handled the immense task of producing a monthly preventive maintenance magazine for the U.S. Army. He's finished with that and his byline and familiar style will be gracing the pages of DC Comics again! Welcome back, Murph. -Meeting Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel at San Diego. We've met before, of course, and we didn't have too much time to talk this time but it's always good to meet Superman's creators.

-Chicago and San Diego which continue to be among the best attended and best organized cons around. (Although there was a massive room foul-up at Chicago this year, it was the hotel's fault.) Lotsa pros, lotsa fans and dealers at both. -The Ottawa con held on a modern college campus. We slept in small, clean dorm rooms (Ye Gods! No TV?) Some pros thought that wasn't sophisticated enough. I guess, and opted for hotel accommodations nearby. Sal and I (the DC contingent stayed and had fun! Sloshing beer with college guys made me feel young again ... Briefly.

—Talking to so many of our readers and fans. About comics in general and DC Comics in particular. Most of 'em thought comics today are more exciting than they've been in years. —Wishing I could have talked to more.

-Grateful to be alive after being attacked (sort of) by about a half dozen crazed DC writers upon my return to the hotel in San Diego. I was coming home from a nice dinner at a Mexican restaurant down at the harbor and these six loonies had concocted an idea for a new maxiseries and were looking for me to approve the idea. They charged at me as I entered the lobby and in exchange for sparing my life I gave

exchange for sparing my life I gave them the go ahead ... and the DC Challenge was born! (More on that later)

—Talking with DC regulars and old friends Roy Thomas, Gerry Conway, Dan Jurgens, Mark Evanier, Dan Spiegel, Jerry Ordway, Mike Machlan, Ian Strnad, Don Newton, Steve Gerber and others (whose names I will remember the moment this goes to press) who live and work too far from the home office for me to see regularly.

—All those hotel rooms, all those restaurant meals, all those rented cars, all those cab rides. All those carefully collected receipts for my expense youchers.

—Talking comics with old friends
Mike Friedrich (of Star\* Reach) and
Dez Skinn (Editor of Warrior, a topnotch British comic).

-Beating Marvel (by a nose!) at the Comics Feud, a San Diego Con version of The Family Feud! They'll be after us next year, with blood in their eyes, at a re-match.

—The projector breaking down at Philadelphia about 2 minutes into our film and Sal Amendola and me having to do about 15 minutes of impromptu chatter and fielding questions from the audience while a new projector was found and set-up.
—The unprecedented steak 'n' eggs breakfast for attending pros given by the new quye on the block, Multi-Media conventions, at Philadelphia. Thanks. Guvs.

-The hotel itself at the aforementioned Multi-Media Con in Philly. Brand new and beautiful! -Talking to aspiring writers and artists as Sal Amendola and I looked at their portfolios. So many reminded me of myself some thirty-odd years ago. Incidentally, we're being forced to temporarily shelve our talent search for a time. We've been overwhelmed by samples mailed to us and folk who have talked to us and showed us samples at conventions. We're going to have to spend some time working closely with the talent that has surfaced and responding to all who have submitted samples. If you've thought of submitting, please hang on for a while as we dig out. We'll give you the go-ahead in this

column as soon as all's clear.

—Seeing and chatting with our comic distributors all of whom I was lucky enough to meet at a meeting on the Warner's lot in L.A. earlier this year.

—Hearing the universally positive attitudes expressed by publishers, distributors, dealers and fans about the future of comics in this country.

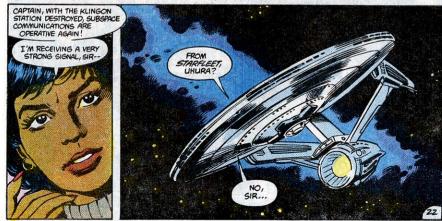
Thank you and Good Afternoon.

















STAR TREK-1548

As I write this page, the first issue of DC's STAR TREK has not yet been printed. Yet, such is the interest in TREK, that a few correspondents couldn't wait to give us their views. (Which is fine with me. Otherwise, you'd be reading mail on BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS.)

Dear Mike

I am glad to hear that you are writing the STAR TREK series. I liked your work on GL, so I expect a lot. I have been a TREK fan for years, and I want the book to be a big hit. I have a few suggestions:

 Give Saavik a major part. She is the best character created since the TV series. If she was left out,I might not buy the book. I think she deserves a promotion. She was very well developed in the novel version of Trek II.

 We fans have been waiting for a war with the Klingons or the Romulans, so how about it. We want to know what a Tholian looks like, and find out what the Gorns are up to.

Since Saavik is part Romulan, she would be perfect as a spy.

I wish you lots of luck. Rich Walsh II 2917 Emory St. Melbourne, FL 32901

Thanks, Rich. And to take your comments in order

1) Marv and I could not agree more as to the importance of Lt. Saavik, and we're already planning a story line dealing with her little-known past. And since Tom Sutton has referred to Saavik as "my current heartthrob," I rather think he likes her, too. But we think we'll keep her a Lieutenant for a while.

2) A war with the Klingons you got, as of this issue. And for the future, Tholians and Gorns are certainly a possibility. (And another alien race from the TV series will be popping up next issue.)

3) "That thought," as Mr. Spock once said, "has occurred to me." —MWB

Dear Mr. Wolfman:

Congratulations are in order. I have longed for many years to hear the news that DC would start a book about my favorite television show. I wish you enormous success.

This letter, however, is to warn you to tread extremely lightly. There have been two previous attempts to make STAR TREK a comic; both of them failed miserably. Reproduction of a television show into a comic must be done delicately. While a (very) few adaptations of this type work, STAR TREK is not any mere movie or television series. It is cerebral, intelligent, and sophisticated, unlike almost any other science fiction ever seen in the movies or the small screen.

Remember that, often, the show did not have entirely happy endings. Oftentimes the protagonists suffered incredible losses (even though the good guys usually won). An example of this is Harlan Ellison's excellent script "City on the Edge of Forever," which is generally regarded as STAR TREK's most popular episode.

PLEASE keep your Trek trivia handy. The Marvel people forgot the Federation signed a peace treaty with the Klingons!

There was precious little, if any, character development in either previous incarnation of the STAR TREK comic book. Character development is what made Star Trek great (although again, the first film did not give Marvel much to go on). I would like to see a very simple thing: subplots.

Also, please remember to use ALL your characters. Throughout the show and both movies, we did not see anything new regarding the supporting cast. Issue after issue, the comic book focused continually on Kirk, McCoy, and especially Spock (who usually saved the day at Marvel or provided the essential clue needed to defeat the menace). We were still shown that Sulu was a fencer. that Uhura was not just a weeping woman, that Chekov was still fiercely proud of Russia (although I think he has matured past that stage), and that Scotty was an engineer by nature as well as by trade. But that was ALL. If handled well, these characters can be as interesting as the major ones. Use them, please.

Marvel was held back by the fact that they could only use characters from the first movie to do their book. I would love to see some of the established characters from the series cross paths with the Enterprise right now. For example: Could Charlie X be given a second chance? How is Miri doing as an adult? How do the Federation and the Gorns behave toward one another? Are Gary Seven and Roberta Lincoln still around? What about Janet Wallace from "The Deadly Years"? (Now, there's someone who could help Kirk forget an aging problem.)

As always, the success or failure of any STAR TREK project rests on Kirk and Spock. It is inevitable. These two men are the backbone of Trek, and if they are handled incorrectly, everything suffers. Rumors exist that STAR TREK III will begin a galactic war featuring the Klingons, the Romulans, the Tholians, V'ger, and darn near everybodyl This may be milestone in Trekkism, but it could prove to be difficult to put into a comic in the months between STAR TREK III and IV. If, Surak forbid, Kirk or Spock don't make it through movie #3, then don't attempt to do it without them. In a case such as that, your best bet would be to go back to the last two years of the original five-year mission.

This is the longest letter I've ever written to a comic magazine, but wanted to do my part as a Star Trekker and write to tell you what I expect. After all, Mr. Wolfman, it is you who took a chance on another two-time loser and made it the best-selling book at DC. You

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P.S.: It is never too early to select titles for the letter page. May I suggest "THE COMMAND CHAIR," "TREK-GRAMS;" or "HAILING FREQUENCIES OPEN."

Marv didn't know what "best-selling book" you were talking about. Peter, until I reminded him that it was doubt-less THE NEW TEEN TITANS. (Okey, Marv. now you owe STAR TREK a totally gratuitous plug.) And yes, we'd like to hear reader recommendations on the letteroit title. Please!

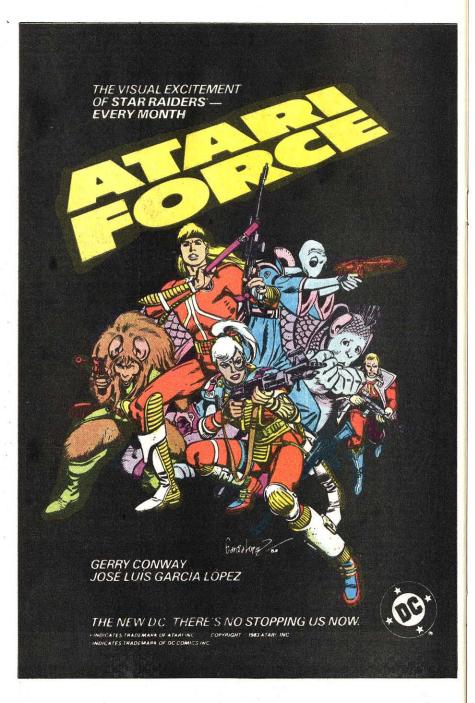
We (that's Marv and Mike, mostly, with associate editor Alan Gold chiming in every now and then) agree totally on the treatment of the supporting cast, as well as the necessity of ongoing subplots. And we're also introducing some new characters who will be regulars, and, we hope, just as real a part of the Enterprise crew as the familiar faces we've known for so long. Let us know what you think of them, okay?

As indicated above, characters from the TV show will be appearing in these pages, and not just the alien races, either. In fact, if you were to bet the rent that one of the returning characters would be a guy whose initials were Harcourt Fenton Mudd, you wouldn't be sleeping on the street.

You've realized by now, Peter, that since our series follows directly after STAR TREK II, Mr. Spock is not an active part of our cast. However, his presence will be felt now and again—after all, if a friend of yours dies, you don't forget about him or her and I can safely say that Spock will appear—albeit briefly—in at least one flashback.

One last point, of perhaps historical interest: It was not "The Marvel people" who "forgot the Federation signed a peace treaty with the Klingons," it was me (I?)I The letter-writer whose LOC brought on the famous faux pas referred only to "peace with the Klingons," which I didn't remember, as opposed to a reference to "The Organian Peace Treaty," which I would have remembered. To the best of my knowledge (which includes a deep dive into "Trek trivia"), the Organian treaty was never signed, or even agreed to by the Federation and the Klingons, but simply enforced upon them. All of which makes a nice seque into the

NEXT ISSUE BLURB: The U.S.S. Enterprise returns to Organia - rist on an errand of mercy, but an "ERRAND OF WAR!" Be here! — Milke W. Bear





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