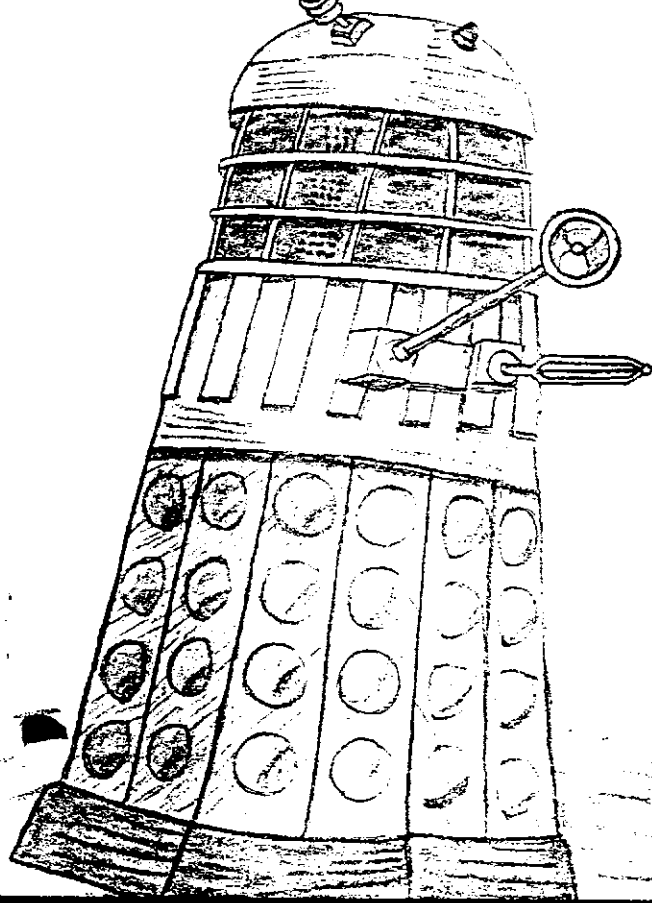
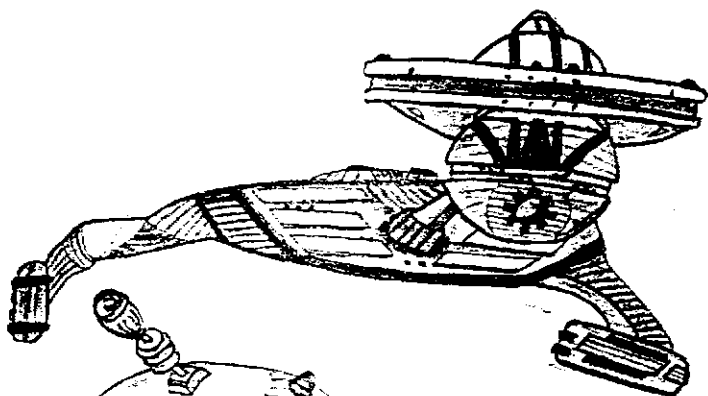


The Dune Sea Express

#13 January 1992



The *Dune Sea Express* is published bimonthly by Enterprise TARDIS Creations. The *DSE* is produced with the help of The Enterprise Tardis Connection (ETC) of San Angelo, Texas and by The Star Trek Austin Regulars (STAR) in Austin, Texas. This fanzine is produced for the enjoyment of Star Trek, Doctor Who, and Science Fiction Fans and is not intended to infringe on any established copyrights. All rights revert to the original author/artist after publication.

The *Dune Sea Express* is made up of submissions from its readers. Submissions from Supporting Members are given priority over submissions from non-members. Submissions should be typewritten if all possible. We request that artwork be in black and white. A high quality photocopy is acceptable. Submissions cannot be returned. Submission indicates permission allowing *The Dune Sea Express* to publish the work in part or its entirety. Should a submission be accepted for publication the author/artist will be notified and payment will be made in free copies of said issue.

Supporting Membership is \$5.00 per year unless otherwise informed. Membership entitles the member to a one year subscription of the *DSE*. Membership funds are used primarily for supplies, printing, and postage. Any profit made is put into improving the *DSE*. The staff is voluntary. Please make checks payable to Pamela Girard.

Members, the number of your final issue is printed in the top left corner of the mailing label. Also, please notify us of any change of address as soon as possible. Be sure to include your full name and old address printed clearly so we can update our records.

Please send all correspondence to:

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For information on joining The Enterprise Tardis Connection or The Star Trek Austin Regulars please contact the following:



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Cover art by Greg Rowe
 Letter from *Sky and Telescope* reprinted with the permission of the *Sky*
 Publishing corporation. Thank you.

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Interstellar Molecules

Beginning with the March issue, the DSE will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. This change will not only allow the staff more time in preparing each issue, it will allow us to expand the DSE and make it larger. We are planning to return to the original 8 1/2 by 11" size. However we are not returning to the original format. We will retain the magazine format. We hope to add pages, how many has yet to be determined. This change in size will facilitate the publishing of artwork as well as our ability to utilize larger typefaces. You may have noticed some changes already, mainly in the legend on page 1. Our subscription prices will remain the same. If you have 6 issues left in your subscription, you will still receive 6 issues under the quarterly system. By cutting the number of issues from 6 to 4 we should be able to weather any further rise in postage rates for the next year or so.

Incidentally, this is the second anniversary issue of the DSE. With the Star Trek anniversary, Star Trek VI, and Mr. Roddenberry's death I had forgotten our own anniversary. I remember being impressed by our improvement a year ago, that hasn't changed. The changes are more subtle now. We added a couple of artists, our staff has grown tremendously. With this issue we add the support of a whole new Star Trek group, the Star Trek Austin Regulars (STAR). I welcome them and all of their help. If there are any other groups out there that would like to help sponsor the DSE let me know. The more staff writers and artists we have, the longer the DSE will survive. A fanzine survives only as long as there are things to publish. A couple of the fanzines that started about the same time that we did have gone under recently and I have to stop and think that could be us if we're not careful. We are OK for now but that doesn't speak for a year from now. I would be very interested in getting some other groups involved. The more people involved, the longer we'll last and the better we'll be and that benefits everyone.

Here's to the Future---Pam

P.S. for the book seekers out there, there have been some delays:

The Galifrey Chronicles	From December to January
Doctor Who: Monsters	supposedly December but I haven't seen it yet.
The Terrestrial Index	From December to February
Timewyrm: Apocalypse	From November to January
Timewyrm: Revelation	From January to March
Probe	still listed as canceled and Not Yet received at the same time, you figure it out. And let me know if you figure it out.
25th Anniversary Coffee table book by Roddenberry	same condition as Probe.

Pinpointing Vulcan

in the Night Sky

(The following letter was originally published in *Sky & Telescope* magazine, July 1991 issue, page 5. It is reprinted with permission from Sky Publishing corporation. The letter was submitted to *The Dune Sea Express* by Walter McLeod.)

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the launch of two important enterprises. One is the HK Project at Mount Wilson Observatory, where astronomers have been monitoring surface magnetic activity on 100 solar-type stars to understand our own Sun's magnetic history. The other is the starship *Enterprise* on the series "Star Trek." Suprisingly the two have more in common than their silver anniversaries.

One of the TV show's main characters, Mr. Spock, hails from the planet Vulcan. The star around which Vulcan orbits was never identified in the original series or in any of the feature films based on it and so has never been officially established. But two candidates have been suggested in related literature, and both stars have been studied by the HK Project.

Star Trek 2 by James Blish (Bantam, 1968) and *Star Trek Maps* by Jeff Maynard and others (Bantam, 1980) name the star 40 Eridani as Vulcan's sun. *The Star Trek Space Flight Chronology* by Stan and Fred Goldstein (Pocket, 1980) cite Epsilon (ε) Eridani instead.

We prefer the identification of 40 Eridani as Vulcan's sun because of what we have learned about both stars at Mount Wilson. The HK Project takes its name from the violet H and K lines of calcium, both sensitive tracers of stellar magnetism. It turns out that the average level of magnetic activity inferred from the H and K absorptions relates to a star's age; young stars tend to be more active than old ones (S & T: December, 1990, page 589). The HK observation suggest that 40 Eridani is 4 billion years old, about the same age as the Sun. In contrast, Epsilon Eridani is barely 1 billion years old.

Based on the history of life on Earth, life on any planet around Epsilon Eridani would not have had time to evolve beyond the level of bacteria. On the other hand, an intelligent civilization could have evolved over the aeons on a planet circling 40 Eridani. So the latter is the more likely Vulcan's sun.

In that case, Mr. Spock's daytime star is a 4.4-magnitude multiple system about 16 light-years from Earth. Presumably Vulcan orbits the primary star, an orange main-sequence dwarf on spectral type K1. Data from HK Project reveal that it has a starspot cycle of roughly 11 years, just like the Sun.

Two companion stars - a 9th-magnitude white dwarf and an 11th magnitude red dwarf - orbit each other about 400 astronomical units from the primary. They would gleam brilliantly in the Vulcan sky with apparent magnitudes - 8 and -6, respectively.

Sallie Baliunas,
Robert Donahue,
and George Nassiopoulos
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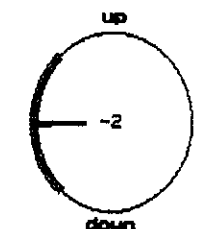
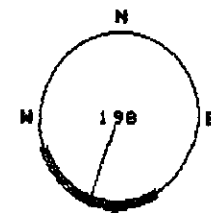
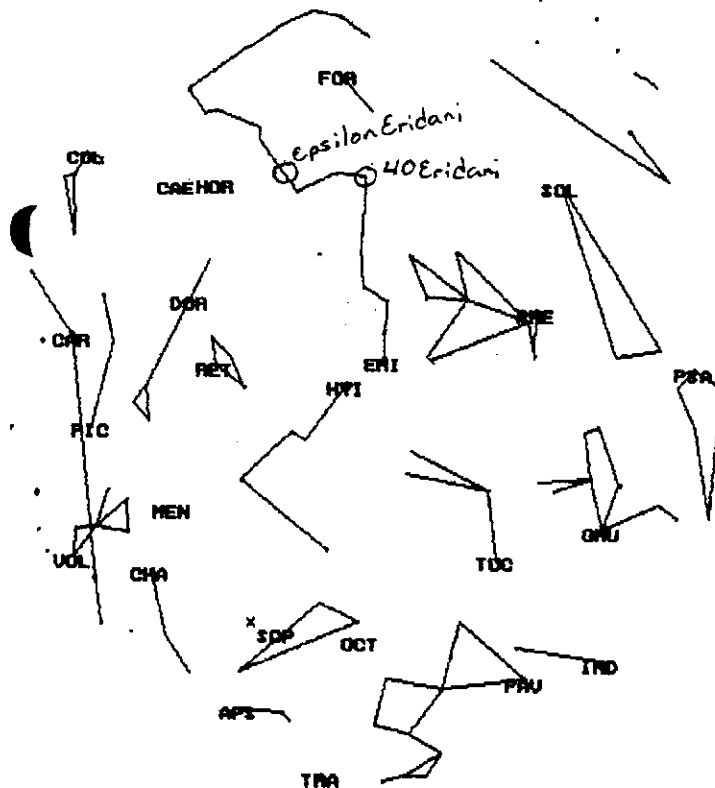
Gene Roddenberry
Paramount Pictures Corp.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90038



21:00:00 CST
15 Jan 1992
Track xi-077

Field 100° 00'
Normal View

Epoch 2000.0
RA = 14 38m
Dec = -57° 12'
Zenith Up



Selected Stars:
Phi ERI
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On the Death of Gene Roddenberry

1921 - 1991

[The following paragraph I received at the end of a personal letter from artist Rick Pearson, It touched me greatly and I sincerely hope he doesn't mind my sharing it.]

"...On a final sad note, I know that Star Trek fans everywhere are mourning the loss of its creator, Gene Roddenberry. I have had the pleasure of actually meeting him twice, and even ate dinner with him on one of those occasions. The first thing that I noticed about him, which does not come across well in photographs, is that he was a very tall and massively built man. He towered over me when we first shook hands, but his gentle and soft-spoken manner put me completely at ease and compensated well for his impressive size and strength. Roddenberry's vision of a positive future, where all of mankind will learn to put aside their petty differences and work together in harmony, has definitely affected me and helped to form my own personal philosophy and code of ethics. It should be a comfort to us all that his brainchild, a simple television program called Star Trek, has had a similar effect on millions of people around the world for over 25 years, and it will continue to be a living legacy to Gene Roddenberry's own personal vision for many, many more years to come."

[The following is a free-lance article that Sandra Steele (our own Space-fareing Insomniac) submitted to the Austin Chronicle. They chose not to print it. So she sent it to me. Please understand that it was written for a broader audience and so goes into more detail than would normally be necessary for readers of the DSE.]

He Could Change Your Life! He Has Changed Many!
A brief memorial.

Hung on the wall of the original Star Trek production offices was a very prophetic statement: "IT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE! IT HAS CHANGED MANY!" That saying was attributed to the show's creator, the late Gene Roddenberry. A man whose creative genius influenced the thoughts and actions of millions of people all over the world, Gene was an example of the best attributes of mankind. His optimistic and enthusiastic approach to life and his dedication to the community of mankind made him an individual who will be sorely missed. Gene Roddenberry died of a heart attack (or blood clot depending on the newscast) after a six week illness on Thursday, October 24, 1991, while visiting his doctor's office. He is survived by his wife, Majel Barrett, their son and two daughters from a previous marriage.

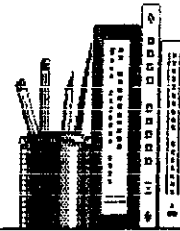
Eugene Wesley Roddenberry was born on August 19, 1921 in El Paso, Texas. His family later moved to Los Angeles, California, where he grew up. He often described himself as a weak, sickly child who, when unable to be as active as other kids, turned to books for his adventurous mind. As he entered adolescence his health improved. As an adult, he was a robust looking man with a silver mane and boyish smile. He attended the University of Miami and Columbia University in an effort to further his education. He studied pre-law first and then aeronautical engineering. During World War II, he joined the Army and flew B-17 Bombers in the Pacific. Among his decorations were the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

After the war, Gene became a pilot for Pan American World Airways on the New York-Calcutta run. It was during this time that Gene started writing seriously. By 1949, Gene had moved his family to Los Angeles and was working for the Los Angeles Police Department. In 1951, he made his first television sale. Later, in 1954, Gene quit his job as a police Sargent to write on a full time basis because he was making more money. He wrote stories for shows like "West Point", "Four Star Theatre", "Dr. Kildare", "Dragnet" and many other television shows throughout the fifties and sixties. He also won the Writers Guild award for "Best Western" with his scripts for "Have Gun Will Travel".

The step from writing to creating a television series was a creative leap more so than anything else and in 1963, he began producing his first series "The Lieutenant". This series only ran for one season before it was cancelled. His next project was Star Trek. Gene felt that there was a place for good science fiction on television and that people would watch it if one could make the audience identify with the characters. He wanted to format the stories like the popular westerns of the time and often referred to Star Trek as "the Wagon Train to the stars."

For Gene, science fiction wasn't an escape from reality as much as it was an opportunity to create and live in reality. Therefore it was only

Suggestions For the Spacefaring Insomniac



By Sandra Provence Steele

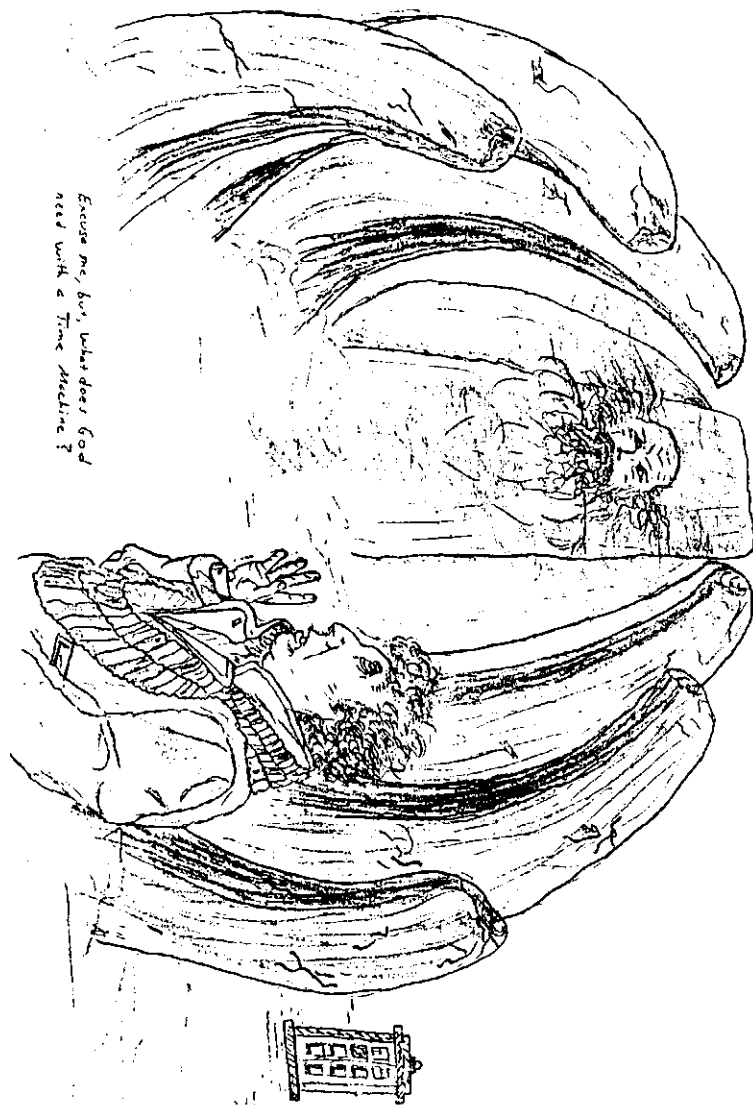
Q-In-Law
by Peter David
4 of 5 stars

Yes, I know. I don't normally read Next generation novels but this one had a title I couldn't resist. Lucky for me, this novel lived up to my expectations. The book flowed along just like an episode (and it stumbled where some of the episodes do also). It kept my curiosity up and forced me to finish it in one sitting. (No easy task for someone with a small baby.) The book starts off with a fast action scene, full of space battles and a romantic flourish. We quickly meet the ancillary characters. The "Romeo and Juliet" of the spacefaring set. The Enterprise is chosen as a site for the wedding between _____ and _____. (Look, I unthinkingly gave the book back to it's owner before I wrote this and my memory for names stinks. Please fill in the blanks. This is the sort of thing that happens when I have to leave town and turn in a review for an early deadline.) [Sehra and Kerin are the couple getting married-Pam] Because of their families importance, many dignitaries are invited to the week long festivities. Lwaxana Troi is chief among them. Mrs. Troi drives Deanna insane (a very entertaining event). The author does a bright characterization of the unique lady and her daughter. I won't tell anyone just exactly what happens, but trust me; it's great.

Q invites himself in order to study the emotion known as love. Everyone on the Enterprise has a fit which causes Lwaxana to become interested in Q. Q sticks his nose into the impending wedding business. Wesley is given a present of incredible proportions. (I'm being punny.) [that's really terrible-Pam] The poor kid acquires a concussion trying to control his baser nature.

The remainder of the story is a witty and funny comedy of errors. My only complaints were a few slips in the various characterizations and the length of the climax. A climax of any story should not last so long that it melts into the end of said story. (Pam, what do you call what comes after the blinking climax. AUGHHHHHHH) [After the climax come the falling action and the denouement, which is a fancy French word for "the end". I'm not certified to teach English for nothing. By the way, Sandra has a degree in English and also studied French in college. You see how much good it's done her.-Pam]

I did think most of this novel was funny. It just got to be a bit much that's all. Read this one. It's definitely worth the price. Now to read *Tek Lords* (and maybe I'll get the review out in time for the release of *Tek Lab.*)



Excuse me, but, what does God
need with a Time Machine?

NEXT ISSUE:

Whale art and poetry

Views and Reviews of STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY
and other stuff yet to be determined