

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

I am unhappy to report that Dr. McCoy — the 21st Century medical officer of the spaceship "Enterprise" whose standards of medicine are the pride of the inter-galaxy medical association — had a stomach ache when I met him. To "Star Trek" fans, this is like learning your swimming instructor has just drowned.

Actor Deforest Kelley, a Baptist minister's son who plays the role in the NBC space opera, was fairly cheerful. Other than moaning occasionally and grabbing his mid-section, I would never have known he had just been to Mexico.

His cheerfulness is due in part to the renewal of the series for a third season. "Our spaceship is on a five-year cruise and it would be unsettling to think we had been canceled before then and left dangling up there in the sky," observed Kelley.

The series has had a nerve-racking two years during which it has never been renewed for longer than 16 segments at a time. Early this year the cast discovered it wasn't included in the new season's schedule. Protests from fans poured in to NBC at the rate of 50,000 to 100,000 a month. One was a telegram from Arizona that said: "You have canceled Star Trek. Go to hell. Offensive letter follows."

NBC HAS NEVER been famous for allowing viewer mail — offensive or otherwise — to influence its renewals. Just ask anyone who remembers "Matinee Theater" or "It's a Man's World," two excellent shows that were canceled in spite of an avalanche of protest.

"At one time we even broke the studio fan mail record held by 'The Monkees,'" said Kelley. "The network has a policy of answering all such letters and when it gets as high as one million it runs into money."

Maybe NBC renewed "Star Trek" as an economy measure. Anyway, it is now scheduled to continue its space mission at 10 p.m. Friday nights in September while "The Monkees" will be banging their tambourines elsewhere.

DURING THE first two seasons of "Star Trek" it was hinted there was some competitive conflict among the officers on the bridge of the "Enterprise." That's what happens when Navy-men go on long cruises — particularly when they're actors.

"I think if the three of us — Shatner, Nimoy and I — had been laid end-to-end that first year the audience wouldn't have been able to distinguish any of us, but the network publicists didn't even know there was a doctor aboard. I had to fight for a place to park at the studio," said Kelley. "The second year I was in a co-starring position but no one wanted to believe it. This year things are much better."

At least one viewer could recognize Kelley, however. He received a long distance phone call one day at the studio from a fan who refused to undergo an emergency operation without first checking with Dr. McCoy. "If surgeons ever start asking my advice, then we are really in trouble," said Kelley.

EARLY THIS YEAR some officials of NASA called upon the producer of "Star Trek" regarding one sequence which closely paralleled some ultra secret work being done by the government.

Maybe our space experimentation ought to be conducted at Paramount Studios. If Jules Verne had

## Bel Canto Singing Lessons

"Anyone who can speak, can sing also," says Adrian Rosati, voice teacher, who is currently conducting singing classes at the Torrance YWCA and the Lomita Recreation Center.

The Torrance classes are held Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at the YW, Carson Street at Madrid Avenue.

Rosati teaches the "bel canto" method. Voice lessons, he says, help develop a better speaking voice as well as singing talents. Poise and self-confidence are more benefits of the lessons, Rosati believes.

Marine Pfc. Ronald D. Freeman, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Freeman of 22046 Ravenna Ave., recently participated in a coordi-

nated anti-submarine warfare exercise aboard the anti-submarine warfare aircraft carrier USS Bennington.

## Youths Rob Donut Stand; Take \$25

Two young men escaped with \$85 from Winchell's Donut House, 17210 Prairie Ave., Sunday afternoon, threatening to shoot the attendant if she didn't cooperate.

The clerk on duty at the donut stand told police the two men approached the

window about 4:20 p.m. After ordering two donuts, one of the young men handed her a note which said, "Give me all the money in the register or I will shoot you."

When she asked what the note meant, the attendant was told, "I means you're

dead if you don't give me the money."

## Market Robbed

A man who claimed to have a gun in the waistband of his slacks held up Stop and Go Market, 3541 Artesia Blvd., Sunday afternoon, walking off with \$368.

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