

Students hope group will STIC to Trekkies

By Jake Berg
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ed Carson is no Mr. Spock — his ears aren't pointy enough, and he smiles too much to look like the cooler-than-thou Leonard Nimoy character from the old *Star Trek* television series.

And despite the fact that Carson is first officer of the *Star Trek* Information Center (like Spock was on the *Starship Enterprise*), he says members of the new student group are going to try and simulate the actual Starfleet of the popular *Star Trek* films and television series, not copy it.

So don't expect any Vulcan mind probes from Carson. "We're trying to make it as close as possible to what happens in Starfleet," Carson said. "Nobody plays a specific character — that's important. We're not role-playing."

So what the heck are they doing? Well, on a campus that seemed like it already had just about every student group possible, Carson, along with STIC Capt. Thomas Huckaba and Counselor Caitilin Twain, began STIC with the hopes of promoting *Star Trek* on campus.

Huckaba said he and several others often got together and spoke about *Star Trek*, but on a less formal basis.

"We thought primarily that it would be nice to get an organization together," he said. "It's also a route to get students involved and an excuse to get together and watch *Star Trek*."

Carson has goals for the group. "We want to create a positive environment for people to come to terms with their *Star Trek* identity," he said.

Carson, Huckaba and Twain created bylaws last year for the new group and had the STIC's first meeting, which was attended by about 15 people on a strictly word-of-mouth basis.

Carson said that because of the number of *Star Trek* fans around, the STIC could become an attractive group to a number of people.

"We really expect this to be one of the more popular groups on campus because there are a lot of people interested in *Star Trek* in Eugene, and there aren't a lot of groups that work from that natural base," he said.

Huckaba agreed. "There's probably nothing bigger than *Star Trek*," he said.

Huckaba believes the variety of people interested in *Star Trek* will prove to be an asset of joining the STIC. He said it will allow students who may be involved in other groups to meet students in other groups, combining students who may not normally meet otherwise.

Carson said the STIC is looking for more people interested in becoming part of the bridge crew. He said responsible people with a great interest in *Star Trek* are preferred.

People who are interested in becoming part of the group but have little time to participate may be suitable for the Starfleet Command, which will act as the STIC's board of directors.

Although the group will be student-dominated, Carson said University faculty will be welcome to join and community members may possibly, too. Huckaba said associate membership will be available to those who don't pay student fees.

Carson also plans on making a request to the Incidental Fee Committee this school year for funds to help the group. He said the group will need money to publish a newsletter and make long-distance calls to the movies' and TV shows' studios for information.

"If we're an active organization on campus, it seems to me that people who are interested in *Star Trek* have the right to funds as much as any other group," said Carson, a former IFC member. "I don't see why we'd be denied. We're not going to have any politics at all. I think *Star Trek* rises above all petty politics on campus."

Huckaba said the STIC plans to meet every other week, and the fall caucus will be during the season premiere of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Year abroad can change person

By Mark Mazurkiewicz
For the Oregon Daily Emerald



Emerald

The first time I saw Zeus, I really knew I was back.

After spending a year abroad in Germany, it's nice to know that some things don't change. That does not mean, however, that coming back is always easy. For the student returning from abroad, it can be a time of laughter and painful discovery.

About 300 students will be returning to the University this year from more than 30 different countries in the world. Most of these students were enrolled in the University's Study Abroad program.

Kathy Poole, the program coordinator, has heard many students explain their impressions about returning to life in Eugene. "Students will inevitably say that they've learned a lot about themselves," Poole said. "I think one of the frustrations people experience sometimes is that friends and family don't rec-

ognize the changes they've gone through."

A year in a foreign country can change a person. Being body-checked out of a line by your fellow man or dealing with people in another language is a game of survival. Things that once were common become rarities.

After adapting to this, returning to the United States turns once-common sights into fascinating new discoveries.

"The presence of drinking fountains and fat people were a shock," said senior Heidi Binder, who spent a year in Poitiers, France.

David Jalali spent a year studying German culture and language in Freiburg, Germany.

"People didn't wear mesh and foam hats and chew tobacco in Germany," he said. "There are no trucks and no hicks, although in my heart of hearts I missed them a little bit."

Coming back also means seeing friends and family again. As much as the traveler wants to spend hours recapturing those moments in Paris or that time when the backpack was almost ripped off in Spain, it's not uncommon to find the listener nodding off.

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