



Avenger News

The official newsletter of the USS Avenger NCC - 1860
Volume 12, Number 69 [August 2001]
"What number am I thinking of?"

Hullo! Welcome to my 12th column.

My compliments to Lauren on serving up a fine edition of the newsletter a couple of months ago, and my undying gratitude to her on this issue.

After the whip was cracked, I have sought out the time to crunch together this article in a just-before-the-deadline manner.

In case any of you are keeping score, my computer is now, as Data would say, "fully functional", at least as much as a Pentium 166/MMX can be.

Tremendous kudos go to Ann Marie for hosting one heck of a 16th Anniversary Party. She and her co-conspirators can be seen in Geordi's photo album, using large amounts of combustible materials and super soakers.

People have told me Darry's place is a must-see for the next Command Staff meeting after going there for Planet of the Apes Day! If you missed it, well, it sounds like you missed one heck of a show.

The NY Ren Faire seemed to sport the good doctor and a great number of our crew with a blast to the past. On the 18th, we do the time warp again with the PA Ren Faire.

After going to LAN day, I can tell you that I had a blast! I got blasted, too, but hey, that's the nature of any game with extraordinarily high-powered weapons. Elite Force is high on my recommended gaming list; now all I need to do is find a Pentium III computer I can hold onto...

So, what's on the horizon?

We have the Challenger Mini Golf open on August 19th. Assuming one can make it down in the heat, it should be fun. That, and who needs an excuse to head to the Shore?

Watkins Glen will be at the end of September. If someone tells you to go take a hike, this is the one to take!

Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge... by Carlos Maldonado, Jr.

To all who are reading this, all membership packets should have been received. If you didn't get yours, please let me know right away so that we can get your packet to you.

For those seeking to get away from it all, start saving up for the Avenger Cruise!

Lay down your initial payment with Darry right away.

See you around the ship!

Carlos

Look at what's in this issue...

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Disclaimer:

'Tis a silly place ...

Volume 12, Issue 69 June 2001

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Avenger News has been brought to you by the hours 1AM-5AM, and fueled by a 3-lb can of Maxwell House coffee, the way God intended editors to operate.

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Avenger's Crew celebrate Leslie and Mark Gottlieb's wedding!

Executive thoughts... *Chris Underwood, XO*

Greetings, crew! It's about that time again. Well, it is that time again because you are reading this! Anyway, a lot has gone on since last we left each other, the details of most of which can be found in my article at the [Avenger](#) website, so I won't bore you with the rehash.

Suffice it to say we went to Shore Leave 23, Planet of the Apes Day, and a myriad of a hundred other things, including Ren Faires and LAN days, and for the most part we all had fun. :)

This issue of AN is again put together by our Chief Of Ops, and two for two, she's doing a bang-up job. (*he ain't this issue yet... Ed.*) We also have our latest installment of "Cabin Fever", and to put the rumors and requests out of my inbox, I want you all to know that though I live with him, I have no pull over his creative talents in this regard. Sorry. Stop asking me to ask him to do sit down and do it. That's the purview of the Lord Dickinson and I leave it to you to put questions about "Cabin Fever" to him directly over the next five installments (four, technically, after this publication you are now reading).

Last but not least, I changed my email to lordunderwood@yahoo.com, so those of you who don't already know should make the appropriate changes.

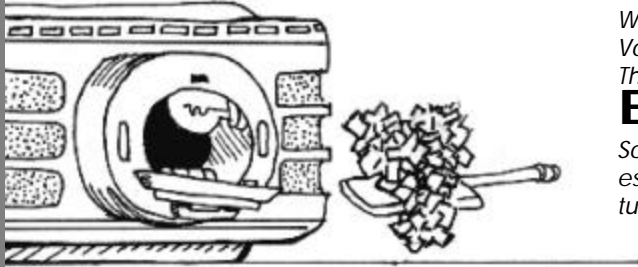
And that's about it from this office. LAN Day went fine and certificates of achievement should be available at the meeting.

In Service,
Chris

As Voyager fans already know, the series' final season left a shipload of loose ends and unanswered questions.... "Why wasn't half the ship incarcerated?" "When did Chakotay get emotions?" "Joe? JOE?" ..and of course, "Why did they completely gloss over B'elanna and Tom's baby shower?" We can only speculate as to the writer's motives... so let's speculate away...

More highlights from...

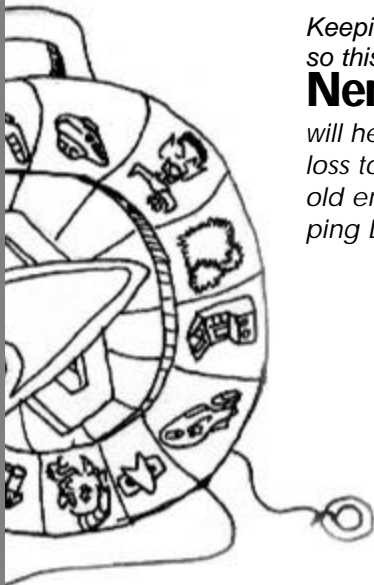
B'elanna's Baby Shower!



We all know that little girls need to learn important housekeeping skills. And on Voyager, that means knowing your warp propulsion system inside and out. That's why the Engineering division developed the...

E-Z Bake Warp Core

So Miral can learn about the all-important matter-antimatter intermixing process, in a fun and safe environment. Plus, the "dillithium chamber" in the center turns plain sugar crystals into delicious rock candy!



Keeping your child healthy and strong is just as important as smarts, so this pint-sized

Nerf Batleth

will help a feisty little girl learn about her Klingon heritage without loss to life and limb, while building strength and dexterity, until she's old enough for her big-girl Batleth. (It's also fun for playfully whapping Daddy with from time to time – just ask Mommy...)



Of course, leadership is important too, so get a head start with inspirational words from Voyager's own captain, with the...

Captain Janeway See & Say

Pull the cord and hear the captain's distinctive voice spouting words of wisdom and inspiration.

*Note: Following Voyager's return to the Delta Quadrant, the Cardassians stole this prototype for use in interrogating political prisoners. No plans have been made to rebuild this prototype.

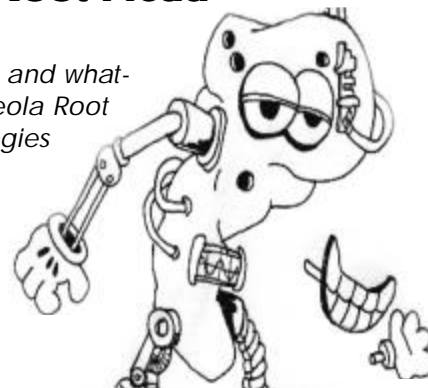
Other items include:

- Captain Proton Mini-Jetpacks
- My First Painstick
- Delta Flyer Trike, complete with turbo-powered rear wheels

Another part of life on Voyager is resourcefulness, and none on Voyager were more resourceful than Mr. Neelix. That's why before departing Voyager, he left the expectant parents with his home-made toy:

Mr. Leola Root Head

Hours of creative fun can be had using stock from the hydroponics bay and whatever leftover Borg components are lying around Cargo Bay Two) Mr. Leola Root Head is completely modular, to work with any additional alien technologies Voyager might come across in its return to the Alpha Quadrant.



Cartoon by Todd Brumans
Based on an idea by Lauren Milan & Alex Rosenzweig



Starfleet and Region 7 News



In Fleet News

The Helpdesk staff have gotten together and made this even easier for you. If you need to let us know that your address has changed, send an email to (newaddress@sfi.org).

The following chapters have commissioned:
GREYWOLF STATION, SFR-501;
U.S.S. LIBERTY, NCC-75012;
U.S.S. C.M. RUSSELL, NCC-75285;
and U.S.S. APPOMATTOX, NCC-75001.

Here're a few of the many members of Starfleet Academy's Red Squad, the best of the best:

College of Computer History, Sharon Ann Clark, Director
Kurt Roithinger - SS Nexus - Region 5

Judith Waidlich - USS Avenger - Region 7

Lena M. Johnson - USS Wind Spirit - Region 17

From Region 7

- Ken Swenson has stepped down from his job as Region 7 representative in the Diplomatic Corps. A replacement is being sought.
- Lorrie Nelson has stepped down from her quartermaster's position. In the interim, her deputy, Sonny Wright, will be acting as Quartermaster and anyone interested in seeking the position permanently should contact the chief of staff, Michael Klufas.
- The "Fleet 7" editor has also retired and a new editor is being sought. The new Region 7 shirt is now available from the Quartermaster store. It has a small logo on the front and a bigger logo on the back. Visit the Quartermaster store website at <http://www.region7.com/qm/> to see the shirt and submit orders.
- Region 7 also opened a store at CaféPress. You can find it at www.cafepress.com/sfir7/
- Fleet Captain Kris T. Klufas of the U.S.S. Thagard announced that the 2001 Region 7 conference is being hosted by the U.S.S. Malverne, the U.S.S. Sovereign and the U.S.S. Thagard and will be held November 2-4 at the Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA. In keeping with the fact that it is the weekend after Halloween, the theme is "The Scariest Region 7 Conference You'll Ever Attend." Kris distributed registration packets, which also included a pre-order form for the conference t-shirt and flyers for a Fashion Show/Talent Show and a Trek Cuisine food tasting. Full weekend registration is \$40.00. Fundraisers for the event include raffles at the Sovereign and Thagard Shore Leave tables and ads in the program booklet (contact Larry Neigt if interested). The room rate is \$82.00 per night if booked directly through the hotel (610-265-7500). A conference website has been established at www.region7.com/r7conf.html and contains a printable registration form as well as an on-line registration form with the option to pay by credit card through paypal.
- Fleet Captain Sanford Berenberg announced that the regional

holiday party is being co-sponsored by the U.S.S. Sun Tzu and the U.S.S. Highlander. There will be two parties held in different locations (West Point and Annapolis) at the same time with a weblink allowing for simultaneous announcements and interaction between the two groups. Sandy thanked Rick Driver and Mark Anbinder for their assistance in working out the technical issues. The two menu choices for each location will be chosen based on a vote to be held on-line prior to the event. Region 15 members have also been invited to attend the West Point party and Region 1 members have been invited to the Annapolis event. The Avenger plans to send contingents to both parties. Since both locations are military installations, no STARFLEET uniforms should be worn.

- Plane Pull - Gerri Wampler announced that the U.S.S. Highlander is coordinating participation in the 9th Annual Plane Pull on September 15, 2001 at Dulles Airport. The event, which involves several different teams attempting to pull a Boeing 727 at least 12 feet, benefits Virginia Special Olympics. There is a \$1,000 entry fee per team to participate. The STARFLEET team's entry fee has already been raised through corporate sponsors, but individual attendees will be asked to pay an individual \$10 fee to ensure they show up for the event. Members of the Highlander and Sun Tzu are already committed to participate, but additional volunteers are needed. Other teams that are expected to participate include the Fairfax County Sheriffs Office, U. S. Army, Navy and Marines, FBI and U.S. Secret Service. All STARFLEET team members are expected to show up in uniform, and participating ships will have access to complementary tent space for recruiting. There will be network TV coverage as well as an audience of over 20,000 people at the event. Gerri is also trying to arrange for a private tour of the Space Shuttle Enterprise for the STARFLEET participants as an additional incentive to participate.

- Polar Bear Plunge - Major Craig Shipley of the Maryland State Police gave a brief presentation at the STARFLEET/Region 7 meeting at Shore Leave, on the Polar Bear Plunge, which is a fundraising event sponsored by the Maryland State Police to benefit Maryland Special Olympics. Participants must raise at least \$50 in sponsorships and agree to wade into the Chesapeake Bay for a few seconds (last year over 1,200 people participated even though it was only 26 degrees). Participants receive a free sweatshirt and a free lunch at Outback Steak House for their efforts. Gerry Sylvester announced that the next Polar Bear Plunge is being held on Saturday, January 26, 2002, and several members of the U.S.S. Highlander are planning to participate. All members of Region 7 are invited to participate, and volunteers have already signed up from the Matrix, Challenger, Sun Tzu, Osiris, Triton, Thor, Asimov and Avenger. Gerri Wampler displayed polar bear plungers (real plungers decorated with small white bears) that will be auctioned to raise money for the event. A commemorative plunger was presented to Maj. Shipley for attending the meeting.

Anachronisms r Us!

By Todd Brugmans

And so it was on the 4th of August, 2001 that the U.S.S. Avenger set forth on an away mission filled with adventure and unexpected twists and turns! Fighting the wiles of the devious sandman, his dust still heavy in our weary eyes, we assembled the team at Dr. Ann Marie's residence, and with doughnuts in hand, we set forth for the New York Renaissance Faire! Arriving a short while later at the parking lot of the faire, we munched on snacks, applied sunscreen (tho' this was to be proven hardly needed this day) and finished off suiting up those of us in costume with the weapons and armor we'd stowed.

The team consisted of Ann Marie, Liz, Idalina, Matt, and myself from the ship, and three fellow faire-goers, James, Jay, and Becky. We met Frank and Brenda at the front gates of the Faire.

Looking at the program guides, we decided we would take in the living chess game first. This event features a game of chess played on a square field, roughly half the size of a high school football field, marked off in white checkered squares to form a huge playing board. Upon this field enter the combatants, a side championed for the Queen of the Faire, the other her rival in competition. The players would step onto the field, acting out the moves of the board, and the field would be cleared in the event of a piece being taken. For the two 'pieces' would then do battle, trading insults with weapon blows in a most entertaining display. The commentary turned to ad-libbing, as in the distance the rumbling of thunder could be heard.

Still, the performance played on until the evil Sherriff had cheated and defeated Robin Hood, and the story was to be followed throughout the day's events at the Faire. Then the rains came. The dark clouds, which gave the illusion of just passing us by, had lulled us into a sense of security made false as the heavens opened up, and thunder roared throughout the shire. Certainly, the Mud Players performing their Shakespeare were happily in their element, but many a blade or armor of steel showed the telltale instant signs of rusting when the water fell on their shine. Still, throughout the storm we made our way through to the row of merchants and vendors selling their wares, and offering shelter from the wet as we perused their wares.

The rains passed as swiftly as they came, giving rise to a humid, warm summer's day. The dripping of tarps over a rounded wooden stadium set a perfect environment for the first of the day's Turtle Races! Yes, the turtle race! Real turtles, real drama, really a waste of a half-hour of our lives.

Still, through the bad puns and jokes, and a couple of chastising comments to me about "drinking from an elephant-tusk" (I had a large drinking horn I'd acquired earlier in the day; I'd filled it with water), the turtles did compete, and we stared at each other in dumbfounded amazement as we realized we were cheering and boo-ing turtles.

Moving throughout the fair, we interacted with fellow attendees and fair characters alike. Striking up conversation with the Queen's Bishop and a visiting dignitary from an African nation, asking the Beefeater if in fact he ate beef..... Some of the crew felt inclined to flirt with the likes of the Sherriff of Nottingham. Much money was spent and we found our wallets lightened throughout

the course of the faire, as we found most delightful wares with a medieval flair to add to our varied collections. We met again at the May Pole toward the end of the day, where the Queen had knighted the Brave Sir Robin Hood and appointed him her champion for the final joust of the day. This celebration was led by a dance of the May Pole, in which lady dancers picked up alternating colors of ribbon, and as they danced in opposite circles, weaving to and fro, the colorful ribbons braided around the center pole.

The away team split up, some in search of privies (er, um, facilities), the others, witnessing the Queen's champion best the Sherriff despite his trickery. We all assembled at the central pub for the evening's gathering of singing together in harmony, entertainers and entertained alike. We then made our way toward the places from whence we came. A trip by many in the away team to a local diner soon followed, many of us still in costume from the faire. Heads turned and the diner staff were all impressed, to say nothing of being distracted as they tried to get their heads around the concept of maidens and men in kilts dining in their establishment.

Tired and stiff from a well spent day's excursions through time, I return now to the U.S.S. Avenger, that I may regale you with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

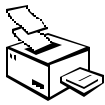
Lt. Todd F. Brugmans

Big Honkin' Kilted Thing in the corner of the Bridge

U.S.S. Avenger NCC-1860

Newsfeed: Way-Cool Trek News

- William Shatner (TOS: Kirk) is rumored to have been cast in "American Psycho 2: The Girl Who Wouldn't Die" as a former FBI profiler-turned university professor who once hunted the film's title villain. Coming Attractions is reporting that Shatner is currently filming at the Glendon College Campus in Toronto, meant to represent York University.
- Also in Canada, Shatner is appearing in television advertisements for Molson Beer, singing to a musical montage.
- Shatner will be among other celebrities to launch the Jewish Broadcasting Network in Chicago, IL. According to the Chicago Sun-Times' Robert Feder, the various celebrities will host weekly editions of the network's first series, "The Jewish Film Showcase," on AT&T Broadband cable systems at 7:30 PM Sundays.
- George Takei recently provided his voice for future episodes of Fox's "The Simpsons" and WB Kids' "Jackie Chan Adventures".
- Patrick Stewart is providing his voice talents for the British animated film "Water Warriors", based on the story by Graham Ralph.
- The independent film "How Harry Became A Tree", in which Colm Meaney stars, will be screened as part of the 58th International Venice Film Festival, which runs from August 29 to September 8.
- Marina Sirtis appears in "Peace Virus", with Michael Nouri. Filming on the movie, which tells the story of a powerful machine which begins thinking for itself, ended last month.
- LeVar Burton has received an Emmy award for "Reading Rainbow", in the Best Performer in a Children's



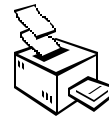
NewsFeed

Continued from the previous page

Series category. The series, on which Burton also serves as executive producer, also earned an award for Best Single Camera Editing. "I'm thrilled to have won the Emmy this year," Burton said, "but I'm even more delighted that Reading Rainbow's mission of bringing books to children has again been recognized." Reading Rainbow has won 15 Emmy awards and over 150 other accolades in its 18 years.

- Malcolm McDowell stars in "The Void", a film about a group of scientists who accidentally create a deadly black hole. The film, produced by Lions Gate Television, has completed production and is being distributed worldwide under Lions Gate's Avalanche Film banner.
- Whoopi Goldberg will be honored with an Angel Award by Project Angel Food on August 18 for her work with the organization that provides supplies and counseling to people living with HIV or AIDS.
- Stuart Baird (director of the U.S. MARSHALLS and EXECUTIVE DECISION) has just signed on to direct STAR TREK 10.
- The low-budget film "Deep Core", starring Terry Farrell and Wil Wheaton, is now available on DVD.
- "Vertical Limit", in which Alexander Siddig appears, is now available on DVD.
- Casey Biggs (DS9: Damar), will star in the PAX TV series "The Ponderosa", a prequel to the 1960s series "Bonanza". Biggs will play a younger Ben Cartwright, the role immortalized by Lorne Greene. The series, set in 1849, will air on Saturdays at 8:00, premiering with a two-hour telefilm. PAX has experienced considerable success airing "Bonanza" reruns on the self-described family-friendly network, and is hoping to further capitalize on the series' popularity.
- James Darren (DS9: Vic Fontaine) has recorded a new album, "Because of You", to be released July 10 through Concord Records.
- LightWorX has signed an agreement with Chase Masterson to appear as Imogen in its interactive online movie. Masterson would play one of several futuristic warriors, whom she described as being "...cocky, caring and trying to adjust to her amazing suit. I am really excited to be a part of the project and within this new technology media". Filming is scheduled to begin this week in England, after being delayed by the foot and mouth epidemic.
- Tim Russ announced that he is working on the film "Metal War - Robot Dawn". It is unclear whether he is appearing in the film, which will combine live action and computer-generated elements, or if he is working behind the scenes. More information about the film can be found on its web site at: <http://www.metal-war.com/>
- In his recent interview with SFX magazine, Robert Duncan McNeill (VGR: Paris) noted that he was now working on the film "Infested" with Amy Jo Johnson. "It's a horror film and a thriller," McNeill explained. "The premise is similar to 'The Big Chill.' A bunch of friends get back together for the funeral of a friend they grew up with, and reminisce about their high school teenage years. The movie has a killer mystery element to it as well -- the friends start getting killed one by one."
- Roxann Dawson announced that she would direct the seventh episode of "Enterprise". She previously directed two "Voyager" episodes, and has expressed interest in furthering her directing career.

- Roxann Dawson and Daniel Graham will soon release Tenebrea's Hope, which follows their previous book Entering Tenebrea as the second in a trilogy.
- For those wondering if there will be a Voyager Companion book coming out... yes there will be one coming out but the release date has not been set yet. There will also be 2 more Dark Passions books coming out, but again...no word on the release dates yet.
- Scott Bakula will star with Elizabeth Perkins in the Showtime film "What Girls Learn", based on the novel by Karin Cook.



STAR TREK BOOK NEWS



BOOKS:

Here are the highlights of the next few months in Star Trek books...

Available August 2001:

Gateways, Book One of Seven: One Small Step (ST:TOS), by Susan Wright

Scattered throughout the galaxy are Gateways capable of transporting matter and energy across unfathomable distances. Left behind by a long-vanished civilization, these mysterious portals offer a means of exploration-or conquest-many times faster than warp travel. The technology responsible for the Gateways has been lost for at least ten millennia, but that doesn't mean it can't be found again...

Having defeated the hostile computer program guarding an abandoned Kalandan outpost, Kirk and his crew are exploring the artificial planetoid in hopes of discovering the secret of an ancient apparatus that has hurled the starship Enterprise over nearly a thousand light-years. Unfortunately, the reactivated Gateway has attracted the attention-and avarice-of various alien explorers, including a mysterious race who claim to be none other than the enigmatic Kalandans themselves!

Gateways, Book Two of Seven: Chainmail (ST:CHA), by Diane Carey

Twenty years ago, in the space near Belle Terre, a caravan of alien vessels disappeared into a gigantic Gateway. Now the descendants of those aliens have returned, armed with incredible new weapons and abilities. Captain Nick Keller of the U.S.S. Challenger, already struggling to maintain peace in the troubled sector, must now cope with a fleet of hostile aliens driven by their own fanatical agenda!

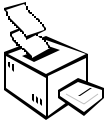
Cold Fusion (e-Book, ST:SCE), by Keith R.A. DeCandido

Following the catastrophic conclusion of Avatar, Lieutenant Nog-the chief operations officer of Deep Space 9-joins forces with the crew of the U.S.S. da Vinci!

With Deep Space 9's future in doubt, Nog meets the da Vinci at Empok Nor, DS9's long-abandoned twin, in order to salvage vital technology. But they arrive to find that someone has beaten them to it-an enigmatic and dangerous alien race known as the Androssi. When the S.C.E. crew learn what the Androssi have planned for Empok Nor, it threatens not only the lives of the da Vinci and DS9 crews, but galactic peace itself!

"Divided We Fall, Chapter 4: United We Stand" (Comic Book, ST:TNG/DS9), written by John J. Ordover and David Mack

The exciting crossover between "Star Trek: The Next Genera-



STAR TREK BOOK NEWS (cont)



tion" and "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" concludes. Moving uninfected Trill into quarantine is a big, dangerous job—especially when it turns out that the quarantine locations just might be the most dangerous spots on the planet! Beverly Crusher comes up with a unique, and risky, way to discover a cure for the retrovirus. But will she deliver it on time? And will it even matter, when it's learned that the virus is only one of the problems facing the Trill?

Available September 2001:

Gateways, Book Three of Seven: Doors Into Chaos (ST:TNG), by Robert Greenberger

More than 200,000 years ago, the ancient Iconians created a network of interdimensional Gateways providing instantaneous transportation across unimaginable distances. Once known as the "Demons of Air and Darkness", the Iconians mysteriously vanished many millennia ago, never to return—or so it was believed.

Summoned to an emergency briefing at Star Fleet Headquarters, Captain Jean-Luc Picard is stunned to discover that the legendary Iconians have returned at last, and are offering to sell the secrets of their advanced technology to the Federation. To prove their sincerity, they have reactivated their long-abandoned Gateways, but the results have been strife and chaos throughout the entire Alpha Quadrant. Now Picard and his crew must contend with feuding Klingons and Romulans as the captain seeks to discover the sinister truth behind the Iconians' unexpected rebirth!

Gateways, Book Four of Seven: Demons of Air and Darkness (ST:DS9), by Keith R.A. DeCandido

Once they moved from world to world in a single step, through innumerable doors that spanned the galaxy. They were masters of space, and to those who feared them, they were demons of air and darkness. But long ago they left their empire and their miraculous technology behind. Now someone has found the key to it, and all those doors have been flung open.

A world near Deep Space 9, threatened with destruction from the distant Delta Quadrant, becomes the focus of a massive rescue effort as Colonel Kira Nerys, her crew, and some unexpected allies fight to avert disaster on a planetary scale. Meanwhile, as Lieutenant Nog and Ensign Thirishar ch'Thane search for a way to shut down the spatial portals forever, Quark becomes involved in a dangerous game that could determine, once and for all, who will control the Gateways.

Invincible, Book One (e-Book, ST:SCE), by David Mack and Keith R.A. DeCandido

The S.C.E.'s top officer, Commander Sonya Gomez, is assigned to supervise a project on the crystal planet of Sarindar—helping the reclusive and hostile Nalori harness a valuable new ore. Morale is low and the project is behind schedule. Gomez must get the workers up to speed and on track—a task made more difficult by the Nalori workers who do not want her there, even if their government does.

Just when Gomez begins to gain their trust, two workers are killed by a mysterious local animal called a shii. Gomez must learn the secret of the shii before it kills again...

Star Trek: Celebrations (Trade Paperback), by Maureen McTigue
Ever wonder what to serve at a Klingon Day of Ascension? Just can remember if you bring a gift to a Rumarie celebration? Can't recall if on Galvin Five, a marriage is considered successful only if children are produced within a year or three of the wedding? You know that Damok was on the ocean, but you

can't recall just what does that mean? Have no fear! Finally you, too, can come prepared to any celebration held anywhere in the Federation. How? With this handy, dandy copy of Star Trek: Celebrations.

Culled from the data resources of every world this simple guide will let you strive into any celebration with assurance. Clearly laid out are the complex and compelling cultures that are a part of this vast Federation. And in a special section are the celebrations that have become part of the traditions of Starfleet. From promotion to ship commissioning, from the high solemn occasion of the passing of the member of the crew to the joyous exchange of marriage vows, you can be a part of it all!

Available October 2001:

Gateways, Book Five of Seven: No Man's Land (ST:VOY), by Christie Golden

Throughout the galaxy, an ancient network of interstellar portals has been reactivated, instantly linking distant planets and civilizations. Back home in the Alpha Quadrant, Starfleet can devote all its considerable resources to coping with the Gateways crisis, but in the Delta Quadrant, there is only the starship Voyager...

Just as Voyager enters an unusually hazardous region of space, the ship and its crew are confronted with a flood of lost and disoriented starships from all over the galaxy. Accidentally transported incredible distances by the unpredictable Gateways, the diverse alien castaways regard each other and Voyager with hostility and suspicion. Captain Kathryn Janeway suddenly finds herself struggling to hold together an extremely fractious fleet of dislocated alien vessels even as the newly awakened Gateways hold open the prospect of finally bringing her own ship home!

Gateways, Book Six of Seven: Cold Wars (ST:NF), by Peter David
Missing for two hundred millennia, the legendary Iconians have returned, bringing with them the secret of interdimensional teleportation across vast interstellar distances. Awakened once more, their ancient Gateways are rewriting the map of the galaxy, and nowhere more than in the New Frontier...

A century ago, the imperial Thallonians separated two feuding alien races, depositing each of them on a new world safely distant from that of their ancestral enemies. Now, however, the Gateways have made it possible for the long dormant blood feud to begin anew. Captain Mackenzie Calhoun of the U.S.S. Excalibur and his partner, Captain Elizabeth Shelby of the U.S.S. Trident, find themselves fighting a losing battle to keep the horrific violence from escalating, even as they gradually realize the catastrophic danger posed by the Gateways themselves!

Invincible, Book Two (e-Book, ST:SCE), by David Mack and Keith R.A. DeCandido

Long believed to be just a Nalori myth, the monster shii has turned out to be devastatingly real! The creature—seemingly invulnerable, undeniably powerful, and completely ruthless—has carved a swath through the Nalori construction project on the crystal planet of Sarindar. The project's supervisor, Commander Sonya Gomez, must find a way to stop this deadly creature before it claims the lives of the entire project.

But when the truth behind this creature is revealed, Gomez realizes that even the S.C.E.'s top officer may not be able to solve every problem...

Broken Bow (ENT, Novelization of the Premiere Episode), Author TBA, Based on the episode written by Brannon Braga and Rick Berman; "The Making of Enterprise" featurette written by Paul Ruditis
Novelization of the two-hour premiere of "Enterprise". Publication date is tentative.



Ship's BBS

(Inspired by the system in the novel Spock's World,
our "Ship's BBS" contains items of chapter business that the crew should know about.)



* **Please remember to send Starfleet Assignment Cards** (or copies of mailing labels) to Avenger Command when you receive them. This helps us verify your membership in Starfleet.

* **All Avenger personnel attending the Academy** are asked to keep Avenger Command informed of your progress. This will allow us to properly report it to Fleet HQ. Thanks.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT OR ACTIVITY?

If so, send a SASE to Avenger Command to get an Event Planner. Event Planners with descriptions of events/activities, as well as sign-up Sheets, will be found at each month's chapter meeting. Blank Event Planners can also be picked up at meetings. This is a way for everyone to find out the details of what's going on, or to share your ideas for what *you* want to do! We need your help, because if no one coordinates events, or no one attends, **they don't happen!!**

INTERNET

* Please note the current URLs (essentially, addresses) for important Avenger sites on the World Wide Web: Avenger:
<http://www.ussavenger.org>

We also invite you to subscribe to the Avenger's Internet mailing list. To do so, point your web browser to <http://www.onelist.com> and search for the links, or if you're coming in from an e-mail only account (e.g. Juno), e-mail Carlos Maldonado (purple@castle.net) for help.

The Avenger List is a great place to get updated news from the Avenger, for anyone who's on-line or talk to the rest of the crew when you can't be there.

OTHER COOL CRAP AT OUR CAFEPRESS STORE

Yes, we now have a CafePress store! You can buy Avenger schtuff like T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, mousepads, etc at the Cafepress Avenger Web site at <http://www.cafepress.com/ussavenger> . Also for all you gamin' freaks, Avenger also has merchandising for its Hazard Team at <http://www.cafepress.com/1860hazard> .

GARMENTS/MEMORABILIA

Well, folks, it turns out that Island Embroidery is closed in Woodbridge Center, so Avenger embroidered shirts are not currently available. Details on Avenger embroidered shirts will be made available here once we've signed up with a new shop.

TAKE OUR LOGO-PLEASE!

* Looking for Avenger patches? Where have you BEEN all this time??? We've got 'em! These slick patches are gray in color, with the chapter shield in purple, gold, and silver-white. The patches are 2 inches square, and are available for \$4.00. Send orders to: U.S.S. Avenger
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AVENGER BLUEPRINTS!

From the Federation Frontiers publishing office, we are pleased to offer General Plans for the Avenger-class Heavy Frigate. No starship, save the famous line of those named Enterprise, has received this much attention to detail. The twenty (20) sheet set includes:



- Construction history
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- Full starship specifications
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- Four (4) cross-section views
- Plan views of all eleven decks at 1:600 scale
- Full-sheet details of the bridge, torpedo pod, main engineering, two-level recreation deck, Sickbay, transporter complex, and auxiliary control

For more information e-mail the author, Mike Rupprecht, at MRupprecht@aol.com, or just visit the Federation Frontiers web site for this and other spectacular Star Trek technical documents (<http://members.aol.com/FdFrontier/>).

The Avenger-class Heavy Frigate General Plans cost a mere \$10.00 for Avenger crew members, and can be purchased directly from Alex Rosenzweig. You can also buy the plans via mail order for \$12, which includes shipping charges. Money orders are preferred, and will speed delivery. However, personal checks are acceptable and should be payable to "Michael C. Rupprecht." Custom rolled sets are available for \$15.00 and deluxe poster-sized sets for \$40.00. To order, simply print out the handy order form at web site, or send your name, address, e-mail address, number and type of sets desired, along with your check or money order, to the following address:

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Division Reports



Scientific Methods by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

Greetings!

Well, it's been a busy summer... As I write this, Shore Leave and the International Conference are done, and I'm slowly shifting gears back to the more routine business of day-to-day activities. Both the region's biggest convention event and Starfleet's annual get-together were great fun, and I highly recommend them. The IC for 2002 is in San Jose, California, so it'll be a somewhat bigger trip than the last few, but trust me, it's worth it. I'll be talking more about that in the months to come, but for those of you on-line, you might want to take a sneak-peek at their website, which is at: <http://www.ic2002.org/>

More locally, we finally set that trip to Franklin Institute! It's set for the 20th of October, so mark your calendars. I'll also be checking to see if any of our Philadelphia-based Starfleet friends will want to join us, and hopefully we'll be able to meet up with some friends beyond just our own group.

In the slightly nearer future, we also have a trip now planned to Crystal Caves, in Kutztown, PA. This natural cavern, one of the most visited in the state of Pennsylvania, has a fascinating array of rock and mineral formations. If you like geology or speleology, this is a very neat trip. It's been a long time since Avenger members last journeyed to this place, and I do recommend the trip.

Here at home, though, I am still looking for some activities for the Sciences Division to do. There hasn't been much in the way of feedback from the membership, so let me pitch two ideas at you, as a way of getting the ball rolling. First, as most of you know, we have a full set of deck plans for our ship. However, a few parts aren't as highly-detailed as others, and some of those parts are the ship's science labs. So, says I to myself, wouldn't it be cool if we could get the members of Sciences together and maybe do some sketchwork to possibly fill in those big empty blocks with furniture and equipment and supplies and so on? Well, it sort of intrigues me, but I'd rather share the job with all of you. So, what do you think?

A second idea is even easier. As a second page for the Sciences section of the Avenger's website, how about including a large reference list of sciences/scientific disciplines and what each of them studies? In many cases, it's as easy as going to your dictionary and looking a few things up. And if you send 'em in, I'll gather 'em up and get them into a form CMDR Underwood can use for the website. Easy points, and another way to participate. What more can one ask? <Grin>

I am continuing to take suggestions, by the way, for science-related topics for this column. If you're interested in something about science, let me know and I'll see if I can hunt down a few interesting facts to share about it in the division column. And, of course, if someone would like to write a guest-column (and you don't even have to be in Sciences!), please let me know. I don't mind sharing. <smile>

And that's all from me. Don't forget to check out "Telemetry Dump" for more science news (and remember that I always welcome contributions. Send 'em on in. You can use e-mail or streetmail). And watch the Events

Calendar for trips, too. There's lots of science fun to be had, and I look forward to lots of members having that fun.

'Til next time...

Ad Astra!

Alex

Telemetry Dump: News from the World of Science

By Alex Rosenzweig (and the Starfleet Sciences Mailing List)

24 May 2001: The 21st century will reveal a major metamorphosis in world population, according to an annual report released by the Population Reference Bureau. Population growth in the industrialized countries has essentially stopped, and demographic growth has now shifted almost entirely to the less developed countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the data reveals. Currently, of the 83 million people added to global population each year by the difference between births and deaths, only one million are in the industrialized countries, according to Population Reference Bureau demographers Carl Haub and Diana Cornelius, who prepared the data sheet.

29 May 2001: During testimony before Senate Appropriations Chairman Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) in Fairbanks, AK, today NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin called Alaska the nation's thermostat for understanding climate change, and cited the need for continued research into global climate change with a special emphasis on Alaska and the Arctic region.

30 May 2001: The most complete view ever assembled of the world's air pollution churning through the atmosphere, crossing continents and oceans, has been produced by NASA's Terra spacecraft. For the first time, policymakers and scientists now have a way to identify the major sources of air pollution and can closely track where the pollution goes, anywhere on Earth.

31 May 2001: Jupiter's magnetosphere, an ionized-gas bubble encasing the planet, is lopsided and leaky, with an unexpected abundance of high-energy particles bleeding out of one side, according to recent measurements by NASA's Cassini spacecraft.

31 May 2001: A team of young paleontologists published research in the June 1 issue of Science, describing *Paralititan stromeri*, a new genus and species of giant dinosaur that apparently ranks as the second-biggest ever found, at a site that was on an equatorial tidal channel 94 million years ago but is now in the heart of Egypt's Western Desert.

4 June 2001: Astronomers have reported finding evidence of a broad asteroid belt around a nearby star, Zeta Leporis, providing a glimpse of what conditions might have been like in Earth's early solar system when the planets and asteroids were created.

4 June 2001: Coffee grown under a canopy of trees provides

Telemetry Dump (cont.)

critical winter habitat for many migratory birds. But over the past few decades, coffee farmers have been cutting forests to grow new, sun-tolerant varieties of coffee in treeless farms. The result has been the loss of thousands of acres of bird and wildlife habitat in Mexican, Central and South American coffee-growing regions. Expansion of the coffee frontier is currently causing widespread tropical deforestation in Vietnam and other portions of Southeast Asia. To counter this trend, a coalition of conservation groups, coffee growers, marketers and financial organizations has crafted a comprehensive set of guidelines for producing environmentally-friendly coffee. They have pledged to cooperate in building markets for sustainable coffee in the United States and abroad.

4 June 2001: While human disturbances can destroy ecosystems, new research shows that a little disturbance can be good for forest plants with small ranges. Called endemics, or native plants, these species are often a conservation priority. This is one of the first studies of how human disturbances, even logging, may benefit them. "Forest destruction is a reality and finding that forests subject to human use can support endemic plants is good news," said botanist Michael Kessler of the Albrecht-von-Haller Institut für Pflanzenwissenschaften in Göttingen, Germany, who reports this work in the June issue of the American journal Conservation Biology.

4 June 2001: Astronomers are discovering a bumper crop of binary asteroids – space rocks locked in an orbital dance with a partner. The latest discovery was announced when radar images showed that asteroid 1999 KW4 is actually two objects separated by about a mile, something that had been suspected for the past year.

5 June 2001: For the first time, policy makers and scientists have discovered a way to identify the major sources of air pollution and closely track where pollution travels year round anywhere on Earth. A new Earth orbiting monitor, called MOPITT for Measurements of Pollution in the Troposphere, is providing the most complete view to date of the world's air pollution as it churns through the atmosphere, crossing continents and oceans. The first observations were released at the American Geophysical Union's spring meeting at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Massachusetts.

6 June 2001: More than a year into the most comprehensive mapping survey of the cosmos ever undertaken, astronomers today reported the first detailed results, including detection of the most distant object ever observed and a view of galaxy distribution in one thin slice of the sky out to three billion light-years. Closer to home, astronomers said, the survey has produced the first clear evidence that objects in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter tend to be segregated by chemical composition.

8 June 2001: Scientists, governments and environmental groups from around the world are planning a cooperative assessment of all the planet's wildlife habitats and ecosystems. The United Nations Environment Programme unveiled the plans at World Environment Day 2001 celebrations in New York, Tokyo and Torino, Italy. The goal of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is to determine the true health of habitats everywhere in the world and whether they are functioning for the benefit of humans as well as plants and animals.

8 June 2001: NASA recently invited members of the scientific community to submit proposals for projects to demonstrate the usefulness of "Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles," or UAVs. These unpiloted aircraft come in two main types (gas-powered and solar-powered) and promise great economic and environmental benefits in the future. One of the two projects that NASA selected will use the solar-powered Pathfinder-Plus aircraft, built by AeroVironment in Monrovia, California, to help U.S. coffee growers in Hawaii pinpoint the optimum time to harvest their beans.

11 June 2001: Northern spotted owls, already threatened by timber har-

that can quickly restore degraded lands.

12 June 2001: Exposure for as little as two hours to elevated levels of fine particulate air pollution – the kind in automobile emissions – raises the likelihood of heart attack, especially among people already at risk for cardiac disease, researchers said. Researchers tracked pollution levels in the Boston region and interviewed 722 people about four days after they entered area hospitals with a heart attack in 1995 and 1996. They found that the patients experienced a 48 percent rise in heart attack risk in the two hours after exposure to high levels of this type of invisible air pollutants. The patients experienced an increased risk even 24 hours after exposure.

13 June 2001: Mountain glaciers around the world are receding, a comparison of new satellite data with historical records clearly shows.

13 June 2001: Minnesota is creating a living laboratory for innovative forest management practices that could determine the future of forest management in the state. While still functioning as a working forest, the 97,128 hectare site located in Itasca and St. Louis counties will be used to experiment with management techniques for maximum conservation, biodiversity and timber harvest.

14 June 2001: At several recent Congressional hearings, NASA Administrator Dan Goldin testified about a projected \$4 billion cost overrun on the international space station. He acknowledged that funding for some remaining station elements will be redirected to offset the overrun, resulting in fewer permanent crew and a reduction in research capability, but insisted that NASA has several years to assess how to add those items back. While the Members he spoke to remained supportive, they were concerned about the program's costs and the ramifications for support by their colleagues.

15 June 2001: In our society, we tend to use terms like "bad", "wrong", and "evil" interchangeably. But one philosopher is proposing a theory to define the age-old concept of "evil" and differentiate it from ordinary wrongdoings. Claudia Card is the Emma Goldman Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin. She suggests that evil is characterized by two components: (1) culpable wrongdoing by one or more perpetrators and (2) its ability to cause intolerable harm. "Lots of things are bad without being such that they make anybody's life intolerable. I'm trying to offer a theory of evil that explains what's heavy about evil as compared with just ordinary bad things," says Card.

15 June 2001: Scientists said they had genetically engineered a type of algae to grow without sunlight, a breakthrough that could cut the cost of growing the single-celled plant used in dietary supplements. The addition of a single gene caused the algae to give up sunlight as its primary energy source – a process known as photosynthesis – and use glucose, a sugar, instead, researchers said in a study appearing in the journal Science.

18 June 2001: The nation's largest roof mounted solar array, being installed atop Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, California, was previewed this week by Alameda County's Supervisors and the county's General Services Agency. The solar deployment, together with energy efficiency improvements, was commissioned to help Alameda County reduce and stabilize future energy costs. Once the Santa Rita project is complete, it will reduce the jail's use of grid generated electricity by about 20 percent through solar power generation and energy conservation.

18 June 2001: Swiss scientists announced they have discovered a Mars meteorite in the desert of Oman, one of only 18 bits of rock ever found on Earth from the red planet.

26 June 2001: A paper published last month in Physical Review Letters suggests that the dimensions, like the forces and particles, may have popped into being as the universe cooled.

Telemetry Dump (cont.)

Though the idea is still in a very preliminary form, physicists are intrigued by the implication that reality may have started with just a single dimension: time. As temperatures dropped in the moments after the primordial explosion, the spatial dimensions—height, length, and breadth—crystallized into existence. Creation was not just a matter of “let there be light”, but “let there be space” as well.

28 June 2001: Polar bears and ptarmigan in the Canadian Arctic are going to witness an entirely new sight in July. A prototype solar-powered robot is being tested by Carnegie Mellon University researchers in the continuous sunlight of the Arctic summer. The researchers will test a concept called sun-synchronous navigation that may enable autonomous robots to run on solar power and maintain self-sufficiency for long-term exploration of distant planets and moons.

29 June 2001: Poachers still shoot 20,000 Tibetan antelopes each year, threatening the animals with extinction despite a worldwide ban on trade in their wool, wildlife protection groups said. They said super-fine shawtooth wool is smuggled through Nepal to India, where an industry of 40,000 people in the northern states of Jammu and Kashmir weave it into shawls.

29 June 2001: Vegetarians may have a lower risk of heart disease and bowel cancer than meat and fish eaters because of an acid found in fruit and vegetables, Scottish scientists said. Like people taking low-dose aspirin to prevent heart attacks, vegetarians have lots of salicylic acid, aspirin's main anti-inflammatory component, in their blood. Dr. John Paterson, a chemical pathologist at the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary in Scotland believes salicylic acid could protect vegetarians from heart disease and cancer just as it protects people taking aspirin.

2 July 2001: A solar power unit that can be carried in a backpack was created by a Portland, Oregon, inventor and is already making its way around the world. The Solar Power Pack contains a folding monocrystalline solar panel, battery, controller, plugs, cords and light. It weighs only 24 pounds but provides users with 120 watt-hours of power a day. The unit can power AC and DC electronics up to 300 watts. It can be used in recreational vehicles as well as for field research, emergency home power, disaster relief and international aid.

2 July 2001: A NASA spacecraft was launched on 30 June on a mission to study the oldest light in the universe, the afterglow of the Big Bang. The 95-million-U.S.-dollar spacecraft, called the Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) lifted off at 15:45 (GMT1945) aboard a Delta rocket from Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

3 July 2001: An American on the brink of death has received the first self-contained, mechanical heart replacement in a landmark experimental operation. Surgeons from the University of Louisville implanted the titanium and plastic pump into the patient at Jewish Hospital. They expect the first implants will only extend the patients' life only a month or so.

9 July 2001: Matter and antimatter blow each other up when they meet, as any Star Trek fan knows, which has left physicists working hard to explain how our universe, made up of matter, could exist, since around the Big Bang which started things there apparently were equal amounts of matter and antimatter. The answer is that matter is a bit tougher than antimatter, at least as far as the recent experiments on a particle called a B meson are concerned, the team working at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Palo Alto, California, announced.

10 July 2001: Climate change linked to the emission of heat-trapping greenhouse gases may not be the only cause of recent warmer winters in the Northern Hemisphere. A little known climate pattern called the Arctic Oscillation has been linked to warming winters by new research conducted

diesel fuel. It is safer to handle, and offers greater lubrication for engines and produces lower emissions. It is biodegradable and compatible with current engine and fuel distribution systems. But one serious technical problem has so far prevented biodiesel use in jet aircraft - the behavior of the bean oil at low temperatures.

16 July 2001: Humans are now known to be at least 5.2 million years old, a million years older than scientists previously thought. A team of U.S. and Ethiopian researchers has found remains of the earliest known human ancestor in Ethiopia that predate the previously oldest known fossils by almost a million years.

17 July 2001: Reducing the negative environmental impact of chemical processing and manufacturing is the goal of a newly funded nanoscience project at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York. The project is one of several taking place at the federal government's national laboratories, part of the new U.S. Department of Energy's Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Initiative. In nanoscience, objects are measured in nanometers, one billionth of a meter. Nanoscience is the study of structures and interactions that occur on this minute scale.

24 July 2001: There's a nine out of ten chance that global average temperatures will rise between three and nine degrees Fahrenheit over the coming century, with a four to seven degree increase most likely, according to a new probability analysis by scientists in the United States and England.

25 July 2001: Vibrant neighborhoods of housing, parks, and schools within walking distance to shops, civic services, jobs, and transit is an antidote to sprawl and a powerful tool for addressing many quality-of-life issues like traffic congestion, according to a new report by the National Governors' Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. “New Community Design to the Rescue: Fulfilling Another American Dream” is the final report released under a year-long exploration to determine the shape of future growth established by Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening, chairman of the NGA.

25 July 2001: For the first time ever, a star spinning so fast its mid-section is stretched out has been directly measured by an ultra-high-resolution NASA telescope system on Palomar Mountain near San Diego. “Measuring the shape of this star, Altair, was as difficult as standing in Los Angeles, looking at a hen's egg in New York, and trying to prove that it's oval-shaped and not circular,” said Dr. Charles Beichman, chief scientist for astronomy and physics at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, CA.

30 July 2001: Beginning this fall, Vector Tobacco of Durham, North Carolina, plans to market Omni, a reduced carcinogen cigarette. Vector spokesman, Paul Caminiti, says the company has developed a process to treat tobacco that significantly reduces nitrosamines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), considered to be the major cause of cancer from cigarettes. And early next year, Vector plans to introduce the first genetically modified (GM) tobacco that the company says produces no nicotine. Omni Nicotine Free will also have reduced carcinogens.

1 August 2001: Evidence of what could be life beyond our planet – clumps of extraterrestrial bacteria in the Earth's upper atmosphere – has been found, a team of international researchers said. Although the bugs from space are similar to bacteria on Earth, the scientists said the living cells found in samples of air from the edge of the planet's atmosphere are too far away to have come from Earth. “There is now unambiguous evidence for the presence of clumps of living cells in air samples from as high 41 kilometers, well above the local tropopause (16 kilometers up), above which no air from lower down would normally be transported,” Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, an astronomer at Cardiff University in Wales, said in a statement. He presented the findings to a

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

by Lt. Cmdr. Matt Rielly
Chief Engineering Officer

I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

If you've ever caught reruns of "The A-Team", then you have heard George Peppard utter Hannibal Smith's famous catch phrase "I love it when a plan comes together." Motivational speaker Charles Givens wrote in his best-seller "Superself" that in order to achieve success, you must develop a plan; a blueprint, if you will. That statement really hits home when we humans set out to build something. Whether it be a house, a bridge, a boat, a skyscraper, or even a tool shed, planning is everything. You don't want to find out after the project is complete that you forgot to lay the foundation or put in windows, or any other crucial component.

Even in the Star Trek universe, planning is everything...from figuring out who the main characters are going to be for the latest TV franchise to designing sets. The Original Series and all the shows and movies that have followed have all at one time had to deal with a common element: what the ship is going to look like. While blueprints have been used extensively in set and miniature design, some people have taken this art a step further.

They have actually gone on to envision what the REAL starship Enterprise looks like, inside and out, deck by deck, and compartment by compartment. This reporter would be seriously amiss without mentioning the endeavors of one of the USS Avenger's very own: Mike Rupprecht. Volumes of reference materials and hours of research helped him to develop actual blueprints of our good ship, "roll bar" and all. Along with the exterior views, these blueprints include deck layouts...with each compartment and stateroom numbered.

If that wasn't all, he is pursuing what many fans would consider a Holy Grail: detailed blueprints of the refitted Enterprise, as it appeared in the first three movies. He was fortunate enough to take an up-close-and-personal look at the original Enterprise-A studio model, checking every detail possible for project research. At last report, these much-anticipated blueprints are expected to be ready no sooner than Christmas, when the Special Edition DVD of ST: TMP is scheduled to be released. Like the Avenger/Miranda-class blueprint sets, the Enterpriserefitted set will be made available through Federation Frontiers (<http://members.aol.com/FdFrontier/>). Blueprint sets for other Trek-related starships and shuttlecraft can also be found there. In addition, you can visit the link for the Miranda/Avenger class blueprint page at <http://members.aol.com/FH1860/>.

You cannot take a look at the many official and unofficial Trek-style blueprints without examining two publications released between the cancellation of TOS and the start of the movie era. In 1973, Franz Joseph produced a nice set of 12 sheets, measuring 9-by-30 inches. It was upon obtaining my own copy in 1977 that I

discovered that Kevin Riley was right; the original Enterprise DID have a bowling alley (see TOS episode "The Naked Time"). Not only that, she had two theaters and a swimming pool! During this same period, the Star Fleet Technical Manual was released. This highly detailed work, which was recently reissued, tells you everything you need to know about bridge layout, phasers, uniforms, tricorders, portable medical gear, astronavigation, and even the Articles of the Federation.

We would not see another set of official blueprints released until 1980, when Wallaby published a set of 14 sheets from the first movie. Needless to say, the refitted Enterprise was featured prominently, including the new bridge. The retooled Klingon Battle Cruiser was part of the set, along with views of the Travel Pod, the Vulcan Shuttle, and the Work Bee and its assorted attachments. The artwork in this set is listed as being rendered by David Kimble.

Fast-forward to the early 1990's, when Pocket Books released a huge set of blueprints depicting the Galaxy-class Enterprise-D from "Star Trek: The Next Generation". These sheets really break down the detail of each deck, with the quality surpassing those of the original Constitution-class plans.

There were even spaces set aside for future expansion. Now, if only Paramount would sanction blueprints for the Sovereign-class Enterprise-E...

In addition to these sets, there are also the Jackill's series rendered and written by Eric Kristiansen, and an impressive volume titled "Ships of the Star Fleet, Volume One" which was published by Mastercom Data Center. Think of these as Starfleet equivalents to present-day "Jane's Fighting Ships" publications. Mastercom has also produced a full-color print packet and a "Ships of the Star Fleet" volume dedicated exclusively to the Akyazi-class perimeter action ship.

There are even more examples of Trek-style blueprints that have surfaced over the years, including a silhouette-recognition chart of all starship classes from the TOS and movie eras and even a time-slip cruiser. If you're lucky, you might even come across a couple of blueprint sets depicting the design of the Kobayashi Maru, made famous in the no-win training scenario from "The Wrath of Khan" (the same film that gave vision to the Avenger-class Heavy Frigate in the form of the USS Reliant).

This is only a sample of what has come and gone over the years in terms of starship blueprints. Fandom deserves a lot of credit in making these technical works of art possible, whether it be by a professional drafter hired by a major publisher, or by the amateur who knows his or her way around a drafting table and T-square or the latest AutoCAD programs. It takes skill to draft blueprints for real life, but it takes talent to make detailed drawings telling us where Counselor Troi's quarters are located.

You've got to love it when a plan comes together.

Comm Report

By Dale Kagan, Communications Chief

The Communications Division welcomes new member Frank Torok. He's become a regular at our meetings. Introduce yourselves to him. An update on the Lunacon SF convention was omitted last issue due to Carlos's computer crash. It is in this one.

Assignment for non-hazardous duty: We need a volunteer from any division to take brief meeting minutes and post the events schedule to the ship's Internet mailing list. Apply to me at dalek@sprintmail.com. Leslie Gottlieb and myself did this for two years and I'd like to pass the baton. Your work and the updated schedule on the List will be appreciated by all of the Avenger! (And you can give yourself points as record-keeper.).

Medical news

By Anne Marie Reilly, Chief Medical Officer

....And now, some news from Medical.....

We've been rather busy the past few months. We've hosted several events: Mel Brooks Movie Marathon Day and 2 Farewell to Voyager Parties in May, and the Fourth of July BBQ. We've run a successful anniversary party for the ship in June -- just check out the image archive to see how much fun was had by all!

We went back in time to the NY Renaissance Faire, and had a blast! As of the writing of this column, we will be attending the PA Ren Faire on August 18 and the MD Ren Faire on September 15! (Will all this time travel cause gray hair?!? Hope not!)

Your favourite Lady Doctor has taken the lead on some charity work for our ship. We are participating in the "Polar Bear Plunge" in January, which benefits Special Olympics. Our XO, Mr. Underwood, will be taking the plunge, which basically means he will be going for a dip in the ocean (or maybe it's the Chesapeake Bay?) on January 26, 2002, all for the Special Olympics. I'll be right there on the beach watching him, camera in one hand, and brandy in the other!

In order to raise funds, we have to ransom our little bear buddy being held hostage by a member of the USS Highlander. Let me explain: See, at Shore Leave, some Highlander folk got the idea to make "plungers" for each ship, personalized and painted silver, and decorated with a cute little teddy bear.

Well, Avenger associate Todd Brugmans (a teddy bear himself) took the Avenger plunger and bear hostage, and will not release them until a ransom is paid! He's diabolical, I tell ya! To date, we have just over \$135 collected towards the "ransom," and the Captain and myself would like to see more. I have promised a home made desert to the crewmember who contributes the greatest amount. Please make checks payable to: USS AVENGER and send them to either Captain Carlos or myself. Have you sent in YOUR check yet?

The other charity we have taken on is the Veteran's Hospital in Lyons, NJ. In October, we are having another game and project day, the project being the making of Veteran's Day cards for delivery to those in the hospital who have been forgotten. The 36 Valentine's Day cards we made in February were well-received, and now it's time to thank the Veterans who gave their all in order that we might be a free people. Other ships will be invited to join in and help make cards. My personal goal is at least 50 cards total from the Avenger. An afternoon/evening of gaming and/or personal projects will follow the card-making. The date for this event will be announced soon. Remember, Veteran's Day is November 11.

We are planning a ship camping trip for the weekend of October 13 - 14. Please let me know what kind of camping gear you have, so we can plan accordingly. A decision must be made between two campgrounds, and you will be informed shortly of that decision. The name of the trip is: Avenger: UNPLUGGED. This is to be a back-to-basics weekend, with no technology allowed, save for the cell phone or two necessary in case of emergency. Leave your laptops, game boys and palm pilots at home and join in on a relaxing and fun weekend with your crewmates. This is a bring-your-own-food event. More details to come soon.

The other activity you need to be made aware of is our 2002 Cruise. We are departing from Miami September 21, 2002, for a 5-day cruise of the western Caribbean in the Carnival ship Imagination. Please contact 2nd Officer Darry or myself for prices and other information. I'm looking forward to this trip, as I'll be celebrating a milestone birthday on board!

On September 26, the new Trek show, ENTERPRISE, premieres. We have made plans to watch it in my living room -- the party begins at 7 PM. Please let me know if you are attending. Dinner will be served for \$5 per person. Bring munchies and beverages to share, please, and pass this info on to other ships in the region who may want to join us.

That's it for now, people. I'm always here, looking out for your health and well-being, so if you have any concerns, please let me know. If I can help in any small way with anything, please give me a call or e-mail me. Your morale is my main focus -- please send me suggestions for activities you may want to see in the next few months.



Photo by Francisco Osuna, Elan Organic Coffees
Courtesy U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

All hail the coffee plant, without which very little on Avenger would ever get done...

CAPE COD TV APPEARANCE by Dale Kagan

Ethereal lights on the set greeted the cameras. It was an inspiration of the set designer, who wanted an SF author to sit on a fantasy-inspired set. I was interviewed for half an hour on the program, "Books of the World". It will air on two Massachusetts cable access stations a week from August through December until 40 stations have aired the program.

The host, Betsy Wilson, had never read science fiction before, so part of the program introduced the non-SF community to the worlds of science fiction. The format was two seats, a table with water for the guests, and a backdrop. I brought illustrations made for Lanterns Over Demner: An SF Mystery to liven up the visuals.

All the questions were submitted in advance with minor rehearsal over the phone, although at the last minute, she asked me to speak about the types of ESP. The control room tapes three programs back-to-back. Observing the monitors from the control room is an interesting experience. I watched the previous program it was being taped, trying to figure out what the guest was doing right and what could have been handled better. Her "book" was an audio book on how to mourn a pet. She had brought two small dogs. The camera cut to them sitting on a guest chair of their own. She needed to smile more.

My friend Elyse took pictures as I entered the set. A Starfleet member, Russ Hannigan, who works on Cape Cod at another TV station, drove us over. He had set up the interview with Ms. Wilson in the first place, after hearing about my SF mystery, Lanterns Over Demner. Russ will be in NYC over Columbus Day weekend and would like to meet the Avenger crew. After the interview, he



Dale Kagan on the set of Books of the World.

took Elyse and me around Cape Cod and to Captain Kidd's restaurant overlooking Woods Hole harbor. Captain Kidd was supposed to have buried his treasure around there somewhere. The Norwalk Islands, however, make the same claim.

By contributing some money to the "Books of the Word" Writing Workshop, I was able to acquire a copy of a tape of the program. The videotape will be sent in October. Ann Marie suggested having a screening at my place in NYC. I can have an SF movie marathon on the same day. Any suggestions on themes? Reach me at dalek@sprintmail.com.

Farscape Novel Review By Heidi Maldonado, Services Diva

"Farscape: House of Cards"
Rating: B-/C+

I don't know if it was simply bad editing, the author's inexperience with writing Farscape (it is the first Farscape novel after all), or the fact that the author is primarily a comic book writer, but the first (and to some extent the last) chapters were like reading painfully bad fan fiction. Actually, it was more like the first meeting of John Crichton and Stark: "Good paragraph. Bad paragraph. Good paragraph. Bad paragraph." Let me give you an example:

Words were repeated and actions painfully explained, as if the reader was a 3-year-old needing guidance.

The plot itself was, for the most part solid, but the setting – a planet "just like Las Vegas" and John's reluctance to visit it because it was a "painful reminder of home" just made me groan.

With all that said, the book overall, is not a horrible one. The author has obviously done his homework and enjoys the show. Crichton's manner of speaking and use of colloquialisms was accurate, if a bit overdone. The reader was also introduced to a side of Aeyrn that many wouldn't have considered – that she might feel guilt for all the things she did while a Peecekeeper. D'Argo was D'Argo and Rygel and Chinana put to better use than they been in most episodes.

Additionally, there were many funny lines. Examples: I ignored the author's numerous "rememberances" of past episodes, feeling that he did this for readers who may not have seen every episode.

Overall, I'd say the book was good. It was better than most fan fiction, but not as good as some. And, like I said before, it is the first Farscape novel written in the midst of an ongoing series.

THE AVENGER IN FICTION: CABIN FEVER, CHAPTER 8

By Steve Dickinson

"Space, The Final Frontier... These are the continuing voyages of the starship Avenger. Her ongoing mission: to explore strange, new worlds; to seek out new life and new civilizations; to boldly go where no one has gone before."

Many members' questions have dealt with the fictional Avenger. Since we call for members to make up personnel files for their characters, members want to know just how our fictional universe works. What does the fictional Avenger do? How does it fit into the Star Trek Universe as portrayed on TV and in the films, books, comics, etc.? To answer these questions, and to (hopefully) keep you folks entertained, this series of articles was born.

In this issue, the surprises start coming in "Cabin Fever".

CABIN FEVER

By Stephan Dickinson
Part. 8

"Dear Diary,

You are never going to believe this..."

Chaym n'Maldonado's Personal
Journal Entry
Stardate 9908.16

Ensign Charles Donovan had seen his share of strange things since joining Star Fleet. During his first five-year tour, he had boldly gone where no human had gone before. He had met aliens, been shot at by aliens, had dinner with aliens, and almost been eaten by aliens. He had narrowly avoided death on numerous occasions, and generally seen enough strange new worlds to sate any normal human being's quest for adventure. Of course, Star Fleet was not the place for normal human beings content with their lives of complacency. It was a place for people who liked seeing strange things, so Charles had just re-enlisted for a second 5-year tour. This was his first mission of his new tour.

And it was very, very boring.

Walking the corridors of Deck 5, Ensign Donovan sighed and dreamed of adventure. The Avenger's first voyage of his new tour had started out horribly. The ship was carrying an ultra-secret cargo at incredibly slow speeds to the farthest corner of the Federation. The cargo required absolute communications silence, so the crew was completely cut off from their friends and families. This would be tolerable for a military vessel, but the Avenger's primary focus was exploration. And with nothing to explore, most of the crew was going stir crazy. Charles had often heard Assistant Ops Chief Lauren Milan complain that if you stare at the same corridor walls long enough, you would start seeing things. Frankly, Donovan wouldn't mind seeing something strange or exciting. It was what he signed up for, after all.

So when one of his crewmates came galloping up the corridor on four legs, Charles did not consider it strange. There were lots of non-humans in the Avenger's crew, and a couple of them walked on all fours. As the crewman zipped past him at close to 50 kilometers per hour, Charles was not really surprised; perhaps they were in a hurry. And when that same crewman collided headfirst with someone coming out of the Geology lab, it seemed rather ordinary, being as they were both not looking where they were going.

What was strange about the entire ordeal was the identity of the two

crewmen. The one coming out of the Geology lab was Sasha Graevyn. This was not at all abnormal because Sasha Graevyn was the ship's geologist.

What was strange was that the crewman who ran into her was also Sasha Graevyn.

"It works better if you face forward, Zod-for-brains! Try watching where you're going..." The Sasha from the Geology Department muttered and rubbed her head. She then looked up at her assailant and went slack-jawed. The Sasha that had been running was sprawled against the wall, one hand nursing a swelling ankle and the other holding an odd piece of science equipment.

"Woah, talk about Deja vu," the Sasha against the wall said to her dumbfounded mirror image. "Are you okay? Well, I mean I know you're not okay because that's the same bump on your head that I've got on my head, and I remember how much it hurt when I got it. Oh, wait. If you're here then that means..."

"Waa.... Who the heck are you?" The Sasha from the Geology lab stood up slowly, never taking her eyes off her counterpart.

"What are you, blind? I'm you! Sasha Graevyn, Avenger's ship's geologist. I don't remember hitting my head that hard."

"Huh? Wait a minute.... What did you say? How can you be me."

"Geez, am I really this dense? I'm YOU, but from the future."

"WHAT!?" the first Sasha screamed. Her head was really starting to hurt now. "From the future? When? How far? This had better not be one of those goofy parallel universe stories."

"Only about twenty minutes from now." The Sasha against the wall slowly stood up. "Look, we don't have time for this. I have to get to the shuttlebay and you have to get to the brig."

"The brig? What the hell do you think...?" Suddenly everything began falling together. "Wait a second. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STOLE THE TORPEDO!!!"

"Quiet! Are you trying to get me arrested?!" The Sasha against the wall immediately started looking around. The only other person within earshot was Ensign Donovan, who remained transfixed by the entire exchange.

"Oh, no, you don't! Everybody's giving me trouble for whatever you've been up to! I bet that's Selerus' bi-polar thingamabob!" Sasha pointed at the equipment in her duplicate's hand. "You're no me-from-the-future! You're one of those alien doppelganger things, or a mirror universe double, or something. You're not going anywhere until I get some answers from you!" The first Sasha dropped into a Kyonan fighting stance.

"Look, you're making a mistake!" the second Sasha pleaded. "I know what you're about to do and I remember that it really, really hurt. You've got to listen to me. I need you to..."

"Heeeyah!" The first Sasha threw a flying kick. The second Sasha expertly dodged the attack, spun around, and swept the first Sasha cleanly off her feet. The second Sasha then kicked the first one squarely in the stomach, knocking the wind from her victim.

"Owww... That hurt," the first Sasha moaned.

"I know. I remember." The second Sasha lifted her shirt up, showing a stomach with four long scratches on it. The wounds looked to be several hours old. The first Sasha looked down at her own midriff, and saw the same marks, only newly made. "Now do you believe me?"

The standing officer extended a hand to her fallen counterpart and pulled her to her feet. "Okay, so now what?" asked the wounded Kyonan.

"Now you freeze," Security Chief Gor said. He and a half dozen security guards filled the end of the corridor. They were armed with phasers, and had them leveled toward the two women.

"Sasha Graevyn, put your hands on your head." Both women put their hands up.

"Don't panic, we're going to escape," the future Sasha whispered.

"Oh, really." The present Sasha eyed the guards warily. "This should be neat. Exactly how do we get out of this?"

"I can't remember."

"What? Why the frell not?"

"Hey, I've been through a lot in the last couple of hours. Besides, I was distracted."

"What? Weren't you paying attention? What the heck were you doing?"

The future Sasha grimaced. "Well, it just so happens that I was busy yelling at the future me because SHE couldn't remember."

"Oh." The present Sasha realized that she herself wasn't paying attention. Turning to look toward the security officers, she saw them closing in slowly. "I'm sorry," muttered the present Sasha.

The future Sasha's ears suddenly perked up. "Oh, yeah, now I remember. This is when the ship gets attacked!"

There was a tremendous noise, like the sound of the ship's hull scraping against another object. The lights went haywire, and then failed completely. The emergency lights flashed for a second and the artificial gravity gave way. The future Sasha leapt forward toward her assailants and wrestled the phaser rifle from one of the security officers. With a quick twist, she reversed the rifle and stunned the guard at point blank range.

"Run!!" she yelled toward her present day clone. The current Sasha nodded and immediately bolted in the opposite direction. The future Sasha waited until she was out of sight, then turned her attention to the guards.

Unfortunately, Sasha was in no condition to run far. Her stomach was still hurting from where she'd kicked herself, and the artificial gravity kept fading in and out. All around her was chaos. Only the emergency lights remained active. The red alert sirens were glowing, but the audio signal was all static. Crewmembers were running to battle stations, and she ran along with them in an attempt to blend in with everyone else. Three intersections from the battle, she paused to catch her breath.

"Good thing I remembered where to go," the future Sasha said as she ran up from the side corridor. She looked over her shoulder for pursuit.

"What did you do to them?" the current Sasha asked.

"Something that'll probably get me court-martialed." She turned away from the corridor to face her double. "Listen, we have almost no time left. You've got to get Chaym and get to the brig. Once you're there, grab Underwood. Take him and Chaym to Cargo Bay 4. Underwood will know what to do. Oh, and before I forget..." Sasha's future self handed her the bipolar tachyon receptor. "You'll need this."

"What for?"

Her future-self shrugged. "I don't know. You didn't tell me. Well, not you - you. I mean the future-you didn't tell me when I was you....oh forget it. I've gotta run."

"Where are you going?"

"I have to stop the Romulans from blowing up the ship." Her future self turned and ran towards the turbo-lift.

The Kyonan raised her hand and was about to call after her future self when the words "Hey, Sasha" came from behind her. Turning, the present Sasha saw Chief of Recreation Chaym n'Maldonado pausing from where she had been rushing to her battle station. Chaym immediately ran over to Sasha.

"Hey, who was that? She looked just like..."

Sasha grabbed Chaym's arm and half dragged her towards the brig. "Don't ask, PLEASE just don't ask."

"Why in Drizzit's name does Security have to be so damn...secure?" Sasha muttered.

Outside of Security Central, Chaym and Sasha both stood, growling. The automated door to the brig was designed to withstand a great deal of physical punishment, as well as being reinforced against energy weapons. In the event of an enemy boarding party, or a mutiny, this was the area to where the security officers would fall back. It was also designed to resist attempted liberations of prisoners. In the event of a breach of security, or total loss of power, the door operated on a "time safe" principle. Once closed, the door would not open for twenty-four hours, or unless the Captain or Chief of Security entered the code to open it.

This entire hallway was without power. Currently the door was closed. A convenient panel next to the door currently read 23:52:58 and was slowly

counting down.

"Time travel, huh? That's pretty crazy," Chaym muttered. Sasha had relayed the story of the last ten minutes of her life as they had run to security.

"Will you please try to focus a little?" Sasha said. "How can you be so calm at a time like this? The ship's under attack!"

"I'm not worried. Carlos is in command." Chaym smiled with absolute confidence. "He's probably on the bridge right now blasting whoever it is to kingdom come. I just wish I could see him."

"That's very nice, Chaym, but will you please concentrate? We have to figure out how to get past this door."

"That should be easy enough." Chaym approached the wall panel. "I'll just use Carlos' code."

"You know the Captain's access code?" Sasha gasped.

"Well, we ARE married." Chaym smirked and typed a number. The panel buzzed but the door did not open. "It's just a matter of figuring out what his code would be. It won't be long 'til I guess the right one." She typed another set of numbers. Again the door buzzed. Unaffected, Chaym continued to chat as she typed. "Why the hell would you want to travel through time? Isn't there a law against that somewhere?"

Sasha grimaced. "Only about nine hundred of them. I took a class in temporal mechanics back at Star Fleet Academy. It ended up being more philosophy than science. They basically drilled it into your head that you should never, ever, ever, EVER go back in time, no matter what. Stuff about paradox and parallel worlds and stuff. I was actually pretty good at it until they started getting into stuff like which universe is canon and which ones aren't. Also, there's how they justify having older technology that looked more advanced than the stuff we have now. The entire ordeal was just one big enterprise. After a while, you just have to turn your brain off and accept what they tell you. It just got too confusing, so I just gave up."

"Ah-HA!" Chaym exclaimed as the panel beeped and the sound of pneumatic depressurization came from behind the door. The portal slowly sank into the walls. "That's so sweet! Carlos used our anniversary as the code to get into security. Of course, that might have had something to do with the fact that our wedding night was spent in the stockade of Starbase 48. Did I ever tell you that story, Sasha? Sasha...?"

Chaym turned to her friend and her mood immediately fell. Sasha's face had drained of all color. She was staring in absolute horror at something beyond the door. Chaym shifted her view to look into security and gasped.

Just inside the door to security lay the body of Captain Carlos Maldonado, Jr.

Chaym's scream snapped Sasha from her trance. Immediately Chaym pounced forward and began shaking her husband. Sasha, too, leapt forward to join her.

"He's not breathing." Chaym's fur stood on end as she checked for a pulse. "His heart's not beating and he's not breathing. In the name of all the Mohnan highlords, he's not breathing. Sasha...I...I think he's..." The rest was a low noise and suddenly her face was a mass of silent tears.

"That green witch shot him." A voice came from farther inside the security office. Sasha looked up to see Underwood propped up against a desk, cradling one of his arms.

If Chaym heard what Underwood said she had no response. Sasha ran over to Chris and helped him to his feet. His legs were almost completely useless. "What happened?"

"That Orion chick shot us all with darts of some kind. She said they were poisonous." Chris indicated several gold and silver metal slivers on the ground near Carlos' body. "Good thing I'm not Human or I might be dead, too."

Chaym looked at the slivers and turned her gaze back to her husband. "Geisha..." was all she said.

"Where is she now?" Sasha asked.

"I think she beamed away after shooting us. I can't remember that part very clearly, but she said something about the Tribiddian..."

"EMERGENCY!" Se'ele's voice came very loudly across the com system. "STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY IS FAILING. ALL DECKS PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE DECOMPRES-

“Cabin Fever” (cont.)

SION!! SEAL ALL HALLWAYS AND AIRLOCKS IMMEDIATELY!!”

Sasha turned to look at the security door. It had opened completely, and without power, there was no way to close it. “We have to get out of here!”

“I’m not leaving him.” Chaym cradled Carlos’ head against her breast.

“Chaym,” Sasha pleaded. “We’re about to lose our oxygen! We have to get out of here.”

“I’m not leaving. You two go on. There’s nothing more for me.”

“You can’t stay here, Chaym, you’ll die! We have to leave now!”

“Nothing. Absolutely nothing! He’s my husband, don’t you understand that? What could there possibly be for me now that he’s gone?”

“Vengeance.”

Underwood spoke the word slowly, and with such calm that it seemed to break all the tension of the moment. Chaym swallowed and laid her husband’s head down. She then took the metal slivers from the floor and slowly stood. Silently she crossed over to the other two and shouldered part of weight of the incapacitated Operations Chief. Then the three of them moved out into the hallway.

In Cargo Bay 4, Ensign Charles Abrams was just finishing his modifications to the cargo transporter as he whistled the melody of one of his favorite Galactic Hussies songs. He usually only whistled when he was nervous, and at the moment, he looked very nervous indeed. The ship’s hull had been groaning dangerously and the lights constantly flickered on and off. He was thankful that the gravity had seemed to stabilize over the last 5 minutes, and he was resisting the urge to use his communicator. His instructions were very specific, and he had to follow them to the letter. Just as he closed the last panel, the door to the bay opened and the three crewmen entered.

Ensign Abrams smiled as they approached. “Wow, I thought you weren’t going to make it. I finished the modifications you requested, sir,” he addressed Underwood.

Underwood blinked groggily. “I requested? Kid, have we ever met? Who the hell are you?”

Sasha stared in awe the transporter pad. It was now completely surrounded by a dozen silver rods about a meter and a half tall. Next to the control panel was a pile of junk Sasha recognized from Chris’s room. “Isn’t that your microwave? What the hell is this thing?”

Abrams sighed. “I’m not really sure, exactly. A couple of hours ago I was having lunch in the cafeteria, chatting about the Galactic Hussies, when Lt. Commander Underwood pulled me aside and asked me to help him build this. It’s just a cargo transporter with those...things attached.”

Underwood stared at the device. “Those are quadratic enhancers,” he said, looking at the rods. Then he saw the microwave. “That’s my temporal distortion wave generator...OF COURSE!” Underwood smacked his forehead. “IT’S A TIME MACHINE!!! Do you know what this means?”

Sasha replied, “We can go back and warn the ship about the attack?”

“We can go back and save Carlos??” Chaym exclaimed.

Underwood burst out, “I can get off this ship and check my mail!!!”

Sasha flinched visibly. “We have to have your priorities examined.”

“You don’t understand. With this device, anything is possible!” Underwood exclaimed. He gestured for Chaym and Sasha to move toward the pad. “Ensign, set the oven for last month and we’re gone!”

“I don’t think that’ll work, sir,” Abrams interjected. “I don’t have any of the temporal co-ordinates for this ship.”

Underwood grunted. “Dammit, that’s right! I’d have to know the exact bipolar tachyon levels of the moment we wanted to travel to.”

“It’s a good thing we planned ahead.” Sasha handed Abrams the receptor.

Abrams was visibly shocked. “Umm...okay.” He pressed several buttons on the device. “Selerus is very methodical. She started recording data the instant she arrived on the ship. I can send you back about four and a half hours, and you’ll arrive at this exact location.”

“Excellent, let’s go!” Underwood exclaimed. All three climbed onto the

energizer platform.

Ensign Abrams activated the control panel. “Okay, here you go!” He raised the control lever. The cargo transporter glowed brightly for a moment and then the three figures disappeared. The quadratic enhancers hummed loudly for a couple of seconds and then the sound gradually lessened. In a moment, Ensign Abrams stood alone in the cargo bay in absolute silence. Then he pulled his communicator from his pocket and opened a channel.

“This is Abrams. Get me the Commander. There’s something he’ll want to know.”

END PART 8

In future articles, we’ll continue to talk about what’s aboard the ship, how various systems work, crew specifics, etc. (Members are urged to suggest topics. If there’s something you want to know about the ship, chances are that someone else wants to know, too. So send in your questions, and we’ll try to get answers for you in upcoming columns.)

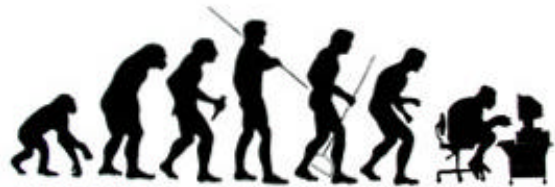
*This column also supports short stories! Stories should be no more than 4 pages in 10-point type, and can be about anything in the Avenger Universe. (Serializations are also accepted, but the story must be submitted **complete**, and arrangements with the column editor and Avenger News editor for serialization will be made ahead of time.) We hope everyone will take the opportunity to contribute to the tales of the Avenger.*

To help you out, we’re also running story ideas each issue. These aren’t fleshed out, but are jumpingoff points from which stories may evolve. If you do see an idea listed here that you’d like to build a story from, let me know, so that we don’t get multiple members working on the same idea. And here we have the next suggestions...

1] A Romulan Officer testing a new Warbird with an advanced cloaking device that will allow the ship to run at high-warp while cloaked takes the ship into the Neutral Zone. His course would have him exiting the Neural Zone only days from Earth at maximum speed. The Romulans contact the Federation saying they fear he may be trying to provoke a war, but a Starfleet Intelligence analyst thinks he might be trying to defect. The Avenger is sent to intercept...

2] The Avenger is sent to a colony with which contact has been lost. At first it appears that the colonists were killed by an undetected hostile life-form, but it becomes apparent that this life-form may be sentient.

Finally, as a part of this series, we’re including character-files of members of the crew. So, if you’ve made up a character-file, great! If not, why not try making one? We’ll try to publish one or two each issue, as space permits. We’re still a bit short of new character-files right now, so we’re again skipping it for this issue. We’re still always looking for members to create files for their own characters. If you’re interested in creating or updating a file for your fictional character, contact ADM Rosenzweig for help/information.



Something, somewhere went terribly wrong.

REPORT FROM SHORE LEAVE and the BALTIMORE AQUARIUM By (guess who?) Dale Kagan

What do Klingons and sea horses have in common? We saw them both at Shore Leave weekend. Ann Marie, Liz, Idalina and I van-pooled to Baltimore. We cruised the Baltimore Inner Harbor and played tourist. The aquarium was huge. Sea horses, manta-rays, and dolphins prowled separate tanks. Tall ships sailed the harbor and harbor ferries would take you to 8 tourist attractions.

Back at the convention, Bruce Adams took great pictures of the Klingon Banquet. You may see them soon on the web site, www.ussavenger.org, or just ask Bruce.

Bruce and Sandy both took pictures of me signing autographs at the "Meet the Pros" Party Friday night. Bruce had to lend me some change. I ran out of singles. A friend of mine had designed a Power-Point presentation around my book, Lanterns Over Demner: An SF Murder Mystery. A printout on the table attracted visitors. Sandy was videotaping the convention for his ship and got some footage of me with on-lookers.

I also met Joan Winston, who organized the very first Star Trek conventions in NYC. We had a mutual friend in common, so she moved her name plate to my table and sat down next to me.

Chris chatted all night with Keith DeCandido, author of a Worf story. Keith was a guest of the Avenger in March.

Inge Heyer, the Shore Leave person who set up "Meet the Pros", is to be commended for making me feel at home.

Cruise Q & A By Darry Lewis Jennings

Why was a cruise chosen for an Avenger "Away" Mission?

At the 16th Anniversary/BBQ, we were tossing around the idea of a major trip for the ship next year. Las Vegas was one destination mentioned during the talks. After researching prices for a Las Vegas trip next year, and looking at cruise prices for a comparison, I noticed the costs were almost the same. I brought all of the information back to the Avenger's last ship meeting (July 08) and the vote was for a cruise.

Why was Carnival Cruise Line chosen over the other cruise lines?

Carnival has the best-published and discounted prices. They offer trips at off-season prices, which are half of the regular published price. Add the savings based on group rates (if we meet the re-

quired amount of cabins), and you can wind up with \$899 (full price Category 4) cabins for \$350 (group rate). Category 6, 11 & 12 cabins are higher.

Why a five-night cruise?

After looking through the Carnival book of destinations, we determined that the listed book prices for the Western Caribbean appeared to be the best combination of sailing time and price.

What amount will I need for a deposit?

\$100.00 by September 30, 2001, but the sooner the better.

Will there be a payment plan?

Yes. It is listed at the end of this Q & A.

Do I need a passport?

Remember you are leaving the country. A passport will be the best form of identification. It is recommended. If you do not have a passport, you will need to bring your birth certificate with a raised seal (no photocopies) and a picture driver's license or military picture ID.

Do I need a cabin mate (roommate)?

Yes! All cruise prices are based on double occupancy.

Can I be a single in a cabin?

Yes! However, you will pay double the cost for the cabin. (Carnival's cabin rules)

What if I do not have a roommate will you assign one?

NO! I will not assign cabin mates (roommates).

I will post (email or snail mail) an updated list of people who are going. If you need a roommate it will be your responsibility to contact someone on the list to set it up. Before the reservations are finalized, I will need to know who is rooming with whom to have Carnival assign cabin mates to the correct cabins. This is necessary for us to receive the correct amount and type of cabins.

What is the difference between Category 4 cabins and Category 6 cabins?

Category 4 and 6 cabins have the **EXACT SAME** interior space (186 sq ft) per cabin. The difference is Category 6 cabins are called outside rooms, and have a full window view of the water. Category 4 cabins are called inside rooms; they do not have a window. Category 11 & 12 cabins are even larger, with higher prices to match.

Why the price differences within the Categories for the same type of room?

Cabin prices increase for higher decks

Cont....

Why is airfare not included with the price?

I chose not to include airfare with the cruise price because some people may want to book their own airfare through the internet/travel agent/airlines directly, where they can probably get a better fare.

Can I get the airfare added on to my cruise price?

Yes. I will need to know at the time of booking to arrange for that. Currently flight costs are running from \$319-\$349 per person additional. That may change slightly at the time of the booking.

What time do I need to arrive at the ship if I do my own flight?

Boarding begins at 12:30pm. You will need to allow 50min from airport to ship. The ship sails at **4:00 SHARP**. If you are not on board by 3:30 pm, wave goodbye to the ship as it passes you on the dock.

What time should I book my return flight home from the cruise?

Book your return flight from 2:00 pm at the earliest. Although the ship is scheduled to return at 7:00 am, it does not always arrive back into port on time. If you schedule a flight too early and the ship is late you may miss your flight home.

If Carnival books my flights, will I need to worry about the flight times?

No! Carnival will handle everything with the flight!

Are there any other mandatory costs?

Yes!
Port Charges - \$ 39.00
Taxes - \$119.00

Are there any optional costs?

Yes!
Cruise Insurance - \$ 59.00
Airport Transfers - \$ 25.00 only if you book your own flight.

How can I get additional information and/or view the ship?

Go to www.carnival.com or pick up a brochure at any Travel Agent.
Call Darry Lewis Jennings at 908.497.0180 after 6pm
Email darry@home.com.
Mail to:
Darry Lewis Jennings
208 Lambert St.
Cranford, NJ 07016-2543

Alternatively, Ann Marie Reilly at 732.827.0093 after 7pm

Email doctorannmarie@aol.com.

Mail to:
Ann Reilly
17 East Prescott Ave.
Colonia, NJ 07067-1410

When will it be known if the cruise cost is the group rate or the regular rate?

You will find out via Email or snail mail by September 15, 2001. If there is not enough interest to qualify for the group rate, the trip will be cancelled.

If the cruise is at the regular rate, can I still go?

Yes! You will need to make reservations with Carnival or any Travel Agent.

What is the payment schedule?

Deposit of \$100 by September 30, 2001
First 1/3 of balance by February 1, 2002
Next 1/3 of balance by May 1, 2002
Final balance by July 30, 2002

Can I make payments on a monthly schedule?

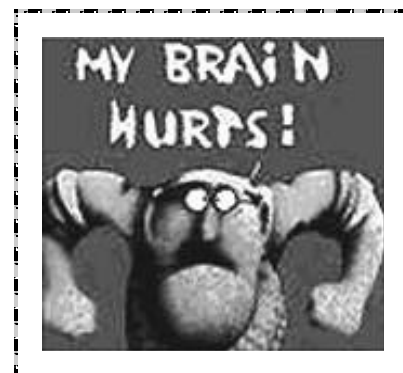
Yes! However, the dates for 1/3 of the balance must reach Carnival by the dates listed in question #19.

Can I pay the balance off early?

Yes! The sooner the better.

Will you send out reminder notices about the payments due?

Yes!



A sneak preview of the new Avenger patch...

MISSION DOCKET

(UPCOMING EVENTS)

AUGUST

August 18th – **Avenger's 2nd Time Warp this summer, to the Pennsylvania Ren Faire!** Meet at Todd Brugmans' house, 91 Hillcrest Road in Warren, NJ Around 8:30am. The plan will be to leave by no later than 9am. This will be opening weekend for the PA Renfair, and to celebrate, they've a fantastic Bagpipe band, The Rogues! Contact Todd Brugmans at babblingfarce@hotmail.com for more information.

August 19th– **USS Challenger BBQ and Miniature Golf Tournament**, 1PM-dusk. Join the **Challenger** for some putt-putt at Ridge Creek Golf Course in Toms River, NJ. Contact Mary Francen at Gempladi@aol.com for more information.

August 25th - Avenger Fiction Workshop, Contact Adm. Alex Rosenzweig at alexr@castle.net for more information.

REST OF THE YEAR

Sept 1st- World Con, Philadelphia. Contact Carlos Maldonado at purple@castle.net for more information.

Sept 8th- Creation Con, NYC - 35th Anniversary of Star Trek. Contact Carlos Maldonado at purple@castle.net for more information.

Sept 9th- Avenger Monthly Meeting: TGIF Lunch @ 1 PM, meeting at Barnes & Noble @ 3 PM. Contact Carlos Maldonado at purple@castle.net for more information.

Sept 15th – Trip to Crystal Caves, contact Judy Waidlich at waidlich@rutchem.rutgers.edu for more information.

September 22nd- Wild West City Trip. Contact Frank Torok at fjtjr@bellatlantic.net for more information.

September 26th - *Enterprise* Premiere Party, see the new series!!!! 7 PM, at Anne Marie Reilly's place in Woodbridge, NJ. Contact Anne Marie Reilly at DoctorAnnMarie@aol.com for more information.

Sept 28th- 30th- **Accord's Watkins Glen Weekend!** Food, folks, and fun... oh, and a hike! Join the USS Accord in a spectacular hike at Watkins Glen Gorge in upstate NY! Contact Alan Rose at alrose@14850.com.

Oct 20th – Trip to Franklin Institute, contact Alex Rosenzweig at alexr@castle.net for more information.

October 27th – **Region 7 Halloween Party**, hosted by the **USS Challenger**. Contact Bob Vosseller at ChalngrCmd@aol.com for more information.

November 2nd to 4th – **Region 7 Conference** – at the Holiday Inn at King of Prussia, in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia. Following Halloween closely, the theme of this year's conference will be "The Scariest Region 7 Conference You'll Ever Attend" contact Sonny Wright at SovsBorg@aol.com or go the R7 Conference Web site at <http://www.region7.com/R7conf.html> .

November 9th to 11th- **United Fan Con XI**, Springfield Massachusetts. For more info go to www.unitedfancon.com

Contact List

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Alex Rosenzweig 980 Linwood Pl. North Brunswick NJ 08902 (732) 249-2526 E-Mail: alexr@castle.net

Todd Brugmans 91 Hillcrest Road, Warren, NJ Email: babblingfarce@hotmail.com

Judy Waidlich Email: waidlich@rutchem.rutgers.edu

Alan Rose Email: alrose@14850.com

Bob Vosseller 554 Hollywood Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753-6708 Email: ChalngrCmd@aol.com

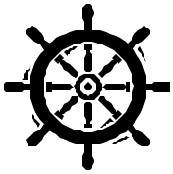
Mary Francen Email: Gempladi@aol.com

Sonny Wright PO Box 50685, Philadelphia PA 19132 Email: SovsBorg@aol.com

Anne Marie Reilly (732)827-0093 Email: DoctorAnnMarie@aol.com

NOTE: Please, if you are planning to attend an event, let the event/project coordinator know of your plans, so he/she can make the proper arrangements. Thanks!

You are invited to join the U.S.S. Avenger Crew on an Ocean Adventure



CARNIVAL CRUISE



5 NIGHTS ABOARD THE

IMAGINATION

SEPTEMBER 21 to 26, 2002

CRUISE ITINERARY

<u>Day</u>	<u>Port of Call</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Saturday	Miami, Florida		4pm
Sunday	At Sea		
Monday	Grand Cayman	7am	4pm
Tuesday	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	7:30am	3:30pm
Wednesday	At Sea		
Thursday	Miami, Florida	8am	

INSIDE STATEROOM (No window, two beds convert to a king size)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Deck</u>	<u>Group Rate</u>
4A	Riviera	350
4B	Main	390
4C	Upper	400
4D	Empress	410
4E	Verandah	420

OCEAN VIEW STATEROOM (With window, two beds convert to a king size)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Deck</u>	<u>Group Rate</u>
6A	Riviera	430
6B	Main	470
6C	Upper	510
6D	Empress	550

BALCONY STATEROOM (Queen size bed, sitting area with convertible sofa)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Deck</u>	<u>Group Rate</u>
11	Verandah	870

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Port Charges & Taxes	158.00 Mandatory
Cruise Insurance	59.00 Optional
Air Fare	by Carnival Optional
Transfers	25.00 Optional (to and from the Airport in Miami)

ABOVE RATES DO NOT INCLUDE TRANSPORTATION TO MIAMI. You must arrange your own flight or drive to Miami. Arrive at the ship by 2:30pm.

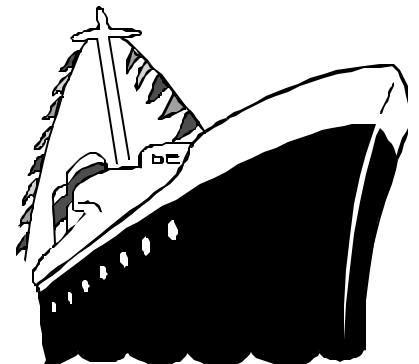
\$100 DEPOSIT PER PERSON DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2001, BALANCE DUE: JULY 30, 2002

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: U.S.S. AVENGER

For More Information Contact:

Darry Lewis Jennings
208 Lambert Street
Cranford, NJ 07016
darry@home.com
(908) 497-0180

Ann Marie Reilly
17 East Prescott Ave.
Colonia, NJ 07067
doctorannmarie@aol.com
(732) 827-0093



PAYMENT PLAN

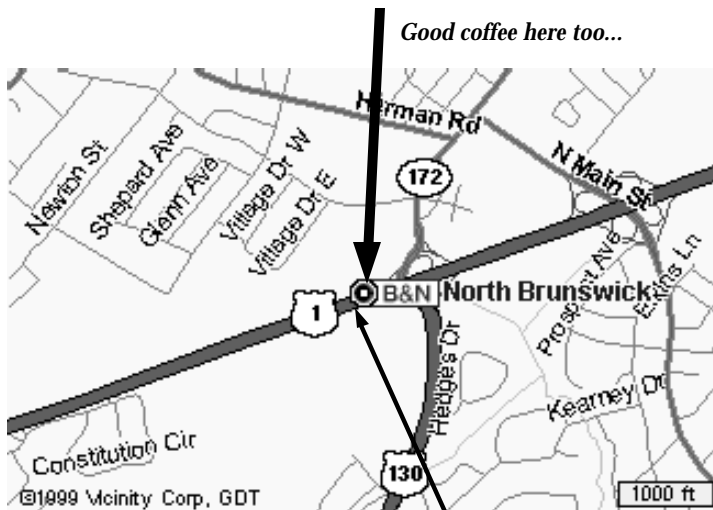
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First 1/3 of balance by February 1, 2002
Next 1/3 of balance by May 1, 2002
Final balance by July 30, 2002



USS Avenger
24 Wilson Street
North Brunswick, NJ
08902-2929

Next Meeting Date
Sun, Sept 9, 2001
3:00 pm

Location: Barnes & Noble



If you can't promote yourself...

We'll do it for ya! Congratulations to our crew:

- Ron Givis from Ens to Ens First Class
- Darry Jennings from LCDR to Commander

The Deadline for the next issue is:
Sept 30, 2001

DISCLAIMER:

This newsletter contains many very bad jokes in it, which could lead to insanity and/or death.

Thank you.