



Avenger News

The official newsletter of the USS Avenger NCC - 1860
Volume 12, Number 71 [December 2001]

Holiday greetings to you all!

With this 14th installment of my column, I can tell you never, EVER go shopping at the Day after Thanksgiving Sale at Wal-Mart without proper body armor! I went oh, so early in the morning and let me tell you, it was almost enough for a guy to lose faith in humanity. They stripped down a pallet full of \$5 appliances in the 40 minutes it took me to make it to that part of the store. It was like having ants pick at a carcass.

I now know why some people wear spikes on their leather jackets.

This will prevent people from bumping into you. If they do, they learn their lesson soon enough.

So yes, this is a plug for more on-line shopping. Be safe, sane and with a lot less bruises by shopping anywhere but in stores.

Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge

by Captain Carlos Maldonado, Jr.

Well as the "holidayze" draw near and I can feel my schedule getting tighter by the minute. I'm just glad it's not nearly as bad as it was in previous times. My house is getting back into shape as we work on restoring the master bedroom. Heidi has led a crusade in this house and has so far restored

the bathroom, Kiran's room, the living room, kitchen, and now our room. She has done this mostly as her hobby to the point where she has no other time for herself. For that, I wish to publicly thank her here.

So, in any case, with the Region 7 Conference, and holiday party now past, we start gearing up for the MiSHaP party. Our ship's role in this is to do decorations and crafts.

Our calendar for the coming year needs a bit more work but, we'll take care of that in the next couple of meetings.

Our last meeting was a relaxed book signing with our crew having a great time with our guest authors, Bob Greenberger and Keith DeCandido. It was worth the trip. To those of you who didn't make it, WHERE WERE YOU? My thanks to both Bob and Keith for coming all the way down here and making our meeting much more interesting.

In the future... Well, we'll let the future figure itself out. For now, I am caught up in what looks to be a promising year. I keep thinking to myself, as a kid, what 2002 would be like. Now, while we're not living like the Jetsons, we can hope to shape the future for the better.



Communications Dept. posted an e-mail to the International Space Station astronauts on behalf of the USS Avenger. NASA sent us this picture as a thank you. Cool, huh? (visit ussavenger.org for full-size!)

Carlos

Look at what's in this issue...

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Disclaimer:

Editor on Egnog...

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Executive Thoughts

by Commander Chris Underwood

Greetings Cast And Crew Of The Avenger,

It's that time again. Time when we all write something as to the state of whatever and go on merrily to the next feature of life. And so, it is here that my segment goes and it goes a little something like this:

I'm wondering where it is we're going. I'm asking you, really, where you think we're going as a group, as a people, as a species. Because right now, I'm not so sure.

Right now, there's a lot of speculation and a lot of hate and very scary and unkind things afoot, and I have to tell you, it's not over in Afghanistan. It isn't the stuff over there that scares me as much as the stuff happening right here in the land, which once, at least, seemed free.

Last time I checked the Constitution, it said that we were guaranteed, as citizens, the right to free travel, the right to be unmolested by the military, and the right to say what we want to say insofar, at the very least, as our opinion is concerned. Last I checked, we had freedoms, and the last I checked, Ben Franklin was a very wise man.

He said, "Those who would trade their essential Liberty for a perceived temporary Security deserve neither Liberty nor Security."

See, a wise man. Now look at what we're allowing our elected representatives to get away with. I don't know if many of you are aware, or even care, that the President has signed into law an edict which has given the government the power to hold secret military tribunals to try suspected terrorists once they are brought to our country or jurisdictions. I don't know if you are aware that the PATRIOT law was passed, allocating funds and grand powers to the government to harass suspected terrorists and other threats to National Security.

And I'm not sure if you are aware that the government has not specifically defined what a threat to National Security is. Or what a Terrorist is. They've kinda left that open and fuzzy. (Incidentally though, I do know hackers are potentially to be added to that list, and the government has defined a hacker as anyone who has violated any computer law.... That's right, that software you copied for a friend to make their lives a little easier... just may make you a terrorist... Scary, huh?) And by leaving that door open, we've left ourselves, as a country, open to abuse from the government. Our Government.

Think it can't happen here? It already is. Sorry to burst your bubble, but the Founding Fathers knew if you gave the people in power an inch, they'd take a mile, and that's exactly what we have done in the wake of this disaster: given the government an inch... for security's sake, and they've taken a mile, for 'our best interests'.

My best interests, insofar as the government is concerned, is to stay the hell away from my hard drives, stay the hell out of my e-mail, stop listening for special words in my phone calls, stop tracking me by cell phone and beeper and by sophisticated electronic GPS devices in my phone or car.

My best interests are in allowing me to be free from this kind of watch. From having my bags rifled through at an airport or bus station, by anyone, especially by people who've done god-knows-who or what with their grubby little paws in a thousand other bags before mine. (Think about it. Do you really want someone checking your box of tampons for a weapon, or going through your under-

(Continued on p. 4)

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Starfleet and Region 7 News



In Fleet News

- Lorrie Nelson has accepted the position of International Charities Coordinator. She will oversee the Ronald McDonald House Charities; Overseas Coupon Project; and STARFLEET Stampede.
- The Fleet Division Chief Program is now known as the Fleet Division Program. Matt Copple has accepted the position of Director of the Fleet Division Program. MGEN Wade Hoover is Deputy Director of the Program. The positions of various FDC's were reevaluated and major changes have been made. FDC Ops, ShOC, and Special Services have been closed down, while FDC engineering is on-hold. With these 3 closings and 1 division on hold, this is the new, streamlined FDC Program, its 8 divisions and their missions:

Cadet Services Division - Dean Rogers

This division works with both the chapters and Region youth departments to create programs for the youth of our organization. It's a resource for ideas and activities to get them involved in Fleet in any level possible.

Chaplains/Counselors Division - Dennis Rayburn

This division works with the Fleet Chaplains/Counselors in our organization. It has an awards program for the chaplains/counselors and is putting together a list of all those in Fleet who can legally perform weddings in their respective areas.

Command Division - Larry Neigut

This division is the one-stop shopping place for ideas on constitutions, promotion policies, chapter handbooks, etc. It's a resource for chapter activity ideas, how to keep the members interested, different chapter set-ups, and what successful chapters do to stay successful.

Communications Division - Division Director yet to be verified

This division works with chapter and Region Communications officers for ideas and advice on newsletters, including content, format, articles and graphics. Basic templates and layouts will be available to those who need them.

CompOps Division - Roy Sesler

This division is available to all who have questions about creating and maintaining databases and/or spreadsheets for whatever you are tracking. Roy offers basic stand-alone databases for you to use for your chapter, Region and/or department. Roy will also look at your database/spreadsheet to help troubleshoot any problems you may be encountering with it and will custom create one for you with your specific needs in mind.

Medical Division - Charles Via

This division is a resource for all things medical, be it real-world or Trek related. It works with members and Regions to develop medical programs, newsletter information, and other medical-related resources.

Science Division - Richard Heim

This division is a resource for all things science, be it real-world or Trek related. It works with members and Regions to develop science programs, newsletter information, and other science-related resources.

Security Division - Paul Wheeler

This division works with chapter and Region Security officers and offers ideas and organizational plans for running security at cons, summits, conferences, etc. Basic staffing needs, dispersal of security personnel, communications, handling high needs areas and dealing with conflicts are a few of the resources available from this division.

- Gordon Goldberg, long time STARFLEET Officer and VCS for 2 Commanders, STARFLEET, has stepped down for personal reasons. Mike Mallotte has been appointed to fill his place as VCS, leaving Communications to be filled by former Vice Chief of Communications, Greg Trotter. Dixie Lance and Joan Pierce are taking over as Vice Chiefs of Communications, for Publications and the Helpdesk, respectively.
- The Chapter Assistance Program (CAP), which is designed to help chapters which are below-strength in member numbers, is back with a new director, Marian Murphy.
- Starfleet Communications has opened a re-tooled Graphic Arts Department. The initial staff includes: Lauren Milan of the U.S.S. Avenger, Chris Allen of the U.S.S. Thagard, and Joseph Horton of the U.S.S. Sovereign.

From Region 7

- Two new shuttles were launched at the R7 conference. Congratulations to the crews of the shuttles Edinburgh and the Alexandria.
- Lamar Barrett of the U.S.S. Albany applied for and was appointed as Sector 3 VRC.
- Michael Figueroa resigned as Region 7's recruiting officer. Bob Vosseller is currently filling in until someone is permanently appointed to the job.
- Fleet Captain Donald R. Burke is the new Assistant Inspector General for Region 7.
- Sonny Wright, who has been acting quartermaster, was offered and has accepted the position of Region 7 quartermaster.
- Kimberly Brooks of the U.S.S. Malverne has agreed to serve as the Region 7 Calendar Coordinator.
- The Kilometer of Pennies, a long time regional fundraiser and favorite of many chapters, is returning. The idea is that chapters in R7 will collect change at their meetings and events. They will then write a check for the total collected to the Region. The money will be split 50-50 between the R7 charity and a charitable organization (currently the STARFLEET Scholarships). The prizes for winning this competition will be the option to pick the next year's charity and getting to do something silly and embarrassing to the Region Coordinator (this year, pelting him with Water Balloons).
- The recipients of Region 7 Commendations, for their dedication and assistance to the Regional Coordinator and the Region itself, were Allyson Dyar, Sandy Berenberg, Lauren Milan, and Tony Rowley.

Executive Thoughts (cont.)

wear? Especially in front of two hundred other people you might be hanging out with for the better part of a flight or bus trip?)

My best interests lie in being able to express what I think and feel without some ass with a gun telling me what I should be saying or thinking.

I'm pretty damned sure, after religious freedom, our country was founded upon the fact that we might like to have a say. Instead of a mandate from on high, we wanted, nay, we **demand**ed a government of the people, by the people, for the people. And last time I checked, Martial Law wasn't declared.

So why is it that people who are wise to this, are getting the golden line "If you have nothing to hide, you shouldn't have a problem"?

Why are we afraid of this kind of Big Brother crap? People, a prison without walls is still a prison and someday you may want to be able to go to Texas without being checked at every state border or without having to have a special airline travel pass, or even, as some guardsmen have put it, a 'Good Reason'. You may want to be in Albuquerque and have the in-laws think you're in St. Louis. You may want to suddenly decide to strap your lover to the headboard for a night of kinky exploration, or you may not. But unless we wake the hell up and smell the coffee (and I'm referring to strong-as-hell black coffee, not some fru-fru Maple Nut and Berry variant), we're not going to have the option. And we'll only, as my roommate pointed out, have ourselves to blame.

And just in case you think I'm paranoid (which I am) or have no foundation to stand on, please note that the capacity to track your position is **built into** your cell phones and beepers. Please note that Carnivore, a special program built by the alliance...er...empire...er...government... (But alas, I repeat myself) to sift for emails/IMs with special words/phrases deemed "not in the government's best interests" is already installed and functioning on all ISPs in America. Ever wonder how they found those terrorists by their cell phone calls? Ever wonder how they listened in? Ever wonder how they tracked people down online? Yeah. The average citizen doesn't know it's there, but it is. Hey Earthlink users, you know that line about "not giving your info to anyone"? That applies to everyone BUT Uncle Sam.

Granted, **some** of it has been a help to us, but it should scare the hell out of you at the same time. Is your data on your networks secure? No. Is your Hotmail, Yahoo, Netzero, Juno or home email secure? Nope. It's all been read before it even got to you. Ever get to a site online that's been marked FORBIDDEN... Say hello to Uncle Sam. He's watching, making sure you don't go play with things they deem far too dangerous for you to view. Uncle Sam is watching. And don't think for a minute he's not logging.

So take note of what's going here at home, as well as what is going on over there in Afghanistan. After all, we don't have any more useable land to move to if our government decides to go nuts on us. Well, any more than it already has.

Oh. Happy Holidays.
Resolutely,

Chris

Where Were You When... by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig and the Usual Suspects

1) At Operation Wallpaper Rutgers, 300 Avenger mini-posters were distributed over 2 Rutgers University campuses by a team of 4 members, amidst great fun and silliness? (AR)

2) Amidst the silliness, lots of creative ideas for new mini-posters came up, resulting in such lines as "Got Phlox"? (AR)

3) The merriment extended to cheerfully greeting Rutgers students, a few

of whom even seemed quite interested in what we were doing, and in the group? (AR)

4) LCDR Liz "The Swabbie" Reilly had taken a mouthful of fudge cake when a baby at a nearby table emitted a high-pitched noise, similar to one of Liz's famous squeaks? When XO Chris Underwood asked if that was one of her squeaks, she replied: "No....I can't squeak with a mouthful!", and the table dissolved into hilarity as she realized what a double entendre she had just walked into! (LR)

5) When CAPT Frank Warren told Liz to "Write that down!" (meaning some witty comment by a crew member), she replied "I'm writing! I'm writing! I'm also trying to ingest chocolate...I have my priorities!?" (LR)

6) Associate Member Todd Brugmans said (for unknown reasons) "Watch me go flambe!?" (LR)

7) When ADM Alex Rosenzweig and LCDR Lauren Milan shared a "French Kiss" coffee, CDR Darry Jennings said "Hey, they shared a french kiss"....and FCAPT Brenda Bell chimed in with "And Lauren is dangerously close to snorting it!?" (LR)

8) Brenda advised us all to "Never drink from a strange horn!" (Safety first....)? (LR)

9) After a fit of laughter, Liz found herself feeling rather warm, so she cried "Someone fan me!", whereupon Brenda fanned out her (Liz's) hair and Todd declared that "She (Liz) had gone peacock!?" (LR)

10) Upon Liz demonstrating her toilet-paper-stuck-on-shoes removal technique, Todd quipped that it was like "Quilted Northern presents 'Riverdance!'" (LR)

11) En route to (and from) the Franklin Institute, Cadet Kiran Maldonado tried every trick he could think of to avoid actually having to walk the entire way unassisted? (He was successful a rather high percentage of the time.) (AR)

12) Avenger members cheerfully played Peanut Gallery for a program about the International Space Station at the Franklin Institute? (AR)

13) The Avenger crew sat in the cockpit of a fighter aircraft and discovered firsthand just how small a fighter pilot had to be for the U.S. Air Force? (AR, DK)

14) The Human heart proved an irresistible lure for adventuring Avenger members in the Franklin Institute's human biology section? (AR)

15) A display of kites in Ben's Garden Café sparked LCDR Matt Rielly's creativity, and the first designs for an Avenger kite were born? (AR)

16) We lost the CO in the depths of the Franklin Institute? (DK)

17) Alex spoke at the Avenger meeting about his contributions to a book (about Star Trek, of course)? (DK)

18) We saw the premiere of "Enterprise"? (DK)

19) We hiked the gorge at Watkins Glen, seeing brilliant mixes of light and shadow, and of plants and rocks and water? (DK, AR)

20) Frank beamed over a tricorder program with his Palm Pilot? (DK)

(Continued)

Where Were Your When... (cont.)

- 21) Frank Torok led the landing party to the Wild, Wild West? (DK)
- 22) The Communications Division hit Broadway on Broadway? (DK)
- 23) Alex played celebrity and signed copies of Starship Spotter at the Region 7 Conference? (AR)
- 24) Toe tags, belly dancers, a fashion show, and costumes galore added color and style to this year's Region 7 Conference? (AR)

ADM Alex Rosenzweig, this column's compiler, would like to thank everyone who sent in contributions to this column. Of course, more are always needed. If you want to share something that happened at an Avenger, Starfleet, or Star Trek event, please send your contributions to Alex at:

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Star Trek Book News by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

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

Available December 2001:

The Genesis Wave, Book Two (ST:TNG, Paperback Reprint of the Hardcover), by John Vornholt

Like an unstoppable cosmic storm, the dreaded Genesis Wave continues to sweep across the Alpha Quadrant, transforming entire planets on a molecular level and threatening entire civilizations with extinction. Based on the long-hidden research of Dr. Carol Marcus, who has mysteriously disappeared, the wave of mutagenic protomatter seems to have come from nowhere, posing a cataclysmic menace to life as we know it. To combat the rushing terror of the wave, Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the starship Enterprise have been forced into an uneasy alliance with both the Klingons and the Romulan Empire, both of whom may crave the forbidden secrets of the Genesis technology for themselves. The finest engineers of three civilizations, including Geordi La Forge and his long-lost love, Dr. Leah Brahms, must race against time to devise some sort of way of halting the deadly wave before yet another world is transformed into something entirely alien and unrecognizable. But even if, against all odds, the Genesis Wave can be defeated, Picard and his potentially treacherous allies must still confront the greater mystery of what unknown intelligence dared to launch the wave against an unsuspecting galaxy—and for what malevolent purpose...

Religions of Star Trek (Trade Paperback), by Ross S. Kramer, William Cassidy, and Susan L. Schwartz

Written for Star Trek devotees and students in the classroom of religious studies, authors Cassidy, Kramer, and Schwartz take their readers on a journey through the religious dimensions of the 23rd and 24th centuries: God; Evil; Messiahs and Shamans; Myth and Ritual; extraterrestrial religions in Star Trek; Terran religions through the third millennium; Life, Death, and Immortality in Star Trek; Science as Salvation; and Star Trek as a religious and cosmological system in and of itself. Drawing regularly, but gently, on the authors' training as scholars and teachers of religion, Religions of Star Trek illuminates a fascinating and neglected aspect of the American cultural phenomenon that is Star Trek.

The Valiant (ST:TNG, Paperback Reprint of the Hardcover), by Michael Jan Friedman

Three hundred years ago, the S.S. Valiant was destroyed during an ill-fated attempt to cross the legendary Galactic Barrier. Star Fleet had always assumed that the Valiant had perished with all hands aboard, until a pair of unusual humanoids arrive at Starbase 209, claiming to be the descendants of a handful of Valiant survivors who found refuge on an M-Class planet beyond the Barrier. Even more shocking, the visitors warn that a hostile alien species, the Nuyyad, are preparing to invade our galaxy. Uncertain of how much of the strangers' story to believe, Star Fleet orders the U.S.S. Stargazer to investigate at once.

Lt. Commander Jean-Luc Picard is second officer on the Stargazer. A young man who has yet to command a vessel of his own, he soon develops a special bond with one of the visitors, a strikingly beautiful woman who has inherited mysterious psychic abilities from her alleged Star Fleet ancestors. But can Picard really trust her? His doubts deepen when the Stargazer is ambushed by Nuyyad warships, leaving the captain dead and the first officer incapacitated. Picard suddenly finds himself in command and facing immediate danger. Trapped on the wrong side of the Barrier, cut off from Star Fleet, he must now rely on questionable allies and a crew uncertain of his abilities. And not only the Stargazer, but perhaps the entire Federation, may depend on the decisions he must make.

Gateways Epilogue: Here There Be Monsters (e-Book, ST:SCE), by Keith R.A. DeCandido

In the wake of the gateways crisis, the S.C.E. is left cleaning up the mess—including a horde of rampaging monsters that have been let loose on the planet Maeglin!

Available January 2002:

By the Book (ENT), by Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch
In their first few weeks in space, Captain Jonathan Archer and the crew of the Enterprise have already discovered several new species and explored strange new worlds. But each planet brings new discoveries... and new dangers. The Fazi, whose ultraregulated culture ranges from strict conversation protocols to unvarying building designs, inhabit half of a planet discovered by Enterprise. But after a disastrous first contact with the ruler of the Fazi, Archer must depend on Vulcan science officer T'Pol and communication specialist Ensign Hoshi Sato to help him mend relations with the people of this planet, and to unravel the mystery of the other creatures living on the world.

Have Tech. Will Travel (ST:SCE), by Dean Wesley Smith, Keith R.A. DeCandido, Christie Golden, Dayton Ward, and Kevin Dilmore
High-tech adventure with the Starfleet Corps of Engineers! Need a gigantic, marauding starship explored? Is your global computer system starting to break down? Call in the crack team from the Starfleet Corps of Engineers. Overseen by Captain Montgomery Scott from his office at Starfleet Headquarters, the S.C.E. can build, rebuild, program, reprogram, assemble, reassemble, or just figure out everything from alien replicators to doomsday machines. Just don't expect them to perform miracles—unless they absolutely have to.

This is a print collection of the first four SCE e-book stories: "The Belly of the Beast", "Fatal Error", "Hard Crash", and "Interphase, Part One of Two".

Millennium (ST:DS9), by Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens
An omnibus edition of the three novels of the "Millennium" miniseries.

In the Name of Honor (ST:TOS), by Dayton Ward
Delicate peace talks between the Federation and the Klingon

Book News (cont.)

Empire become complicated when Captain Kirk discovers that Star Fleet prisoners of war are being held captive on a remote jungle planet. Now, with the unexpected assistance of an old adversary, Kirk embarks on a daring rescue mission, knowing that if he fails, the Federation will deny all knowledge of his intentions. But powerful forces within the Klingon government are determined to keep the shameful secret of the hostages' existence, even if it means obliterating every last trace of the prisoners-and anyone who comes to save them!

The Genesis Wave, Book Three (ST:TNG Hardcover), by John Vornholt They thought the menace was over. They were wrong. An exciting sequel to the bestselling duology!

Ambush (e-Book, ST:SCE), by Dave Galanter and Greg Brodeur What started out as a simple supply run turns into a life-or-death struggle! The crew of the U.S.S. da Vinci thought they were just bringing mining supplies to Beta Argola. But en route they find out that the planet has been attacked-by the same superior forces that are now overwhelming the da Vinci! Overmatched by three enemy vessels that will not rest until the da Vinci is destroyed, the S.C.E. crew must use all of their wits to figure out how to take on a more powerful foe. And they have to do it soon, because the miners on Beta Argola are quickly running out of time before their reactor goes critical...

Available February 2002:

Immortal Coil (ST:TNG), by Jeffrey Lang He is perhaps the ultimate human achievement: a sentient artificial life-form-self-aware, self-determining, possessing a mind and body far surpassing that of his makers, and imbued with the potential to evolve beyond the scope of his programming. Created by one of the most brilliant and eccentric intellects the Federation has ever known, the android Data has always believed he was unique, the one true fulfillment of a dream to create children of the mind.

But is he?

Investigating the mysterious destruction of a new android created by Star Fleet, Data and the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise uncover startling secrets stretching back to the galaxy's dim past. That knowledge is coveted by beings who will stop at nothing to control it, and will force Data to redefine himself as he learns the hidden history of artificial intelligence.

Miracle Workers (ST:SCE), by Dayton Ward, Kevin Dilmore, Keith R.A. DeCandido, and David Mack This is a print collection of the fifth through eighth SCE e-Book stories: "Interphase, Part Two of Two", "Cold Fusion", "Invincible, Part One of Two", and "Invincible, Part Two of Two". A special bonus: the SCE Minipedia, which covers the first eight books!

Some Assembly Required (e-Book, ST:SCE), by Scott Ciencin and Dan Jolley Keorga is a haven for artists and musicians, a place of contemplation and artistic appreciation. When their request for a planet-running computer is denied by Star Fleet, they go elsewhere-unfortunately, the instruction manual is in a language they cannot understand. A team from the U.S.S. da Vinci is brought in to help them out, but soon they realize there's more to this than a simple translation problem. The computer seems to be running a test-one that the Keorgans are failing! If the S.C.E. team can't get the information they need out of the recalcitrant Keorgans and figure out how to stop the rampaging computer, Keorga may well lie in ruins!

Report from the Meeting of the American Society for the Study of Liver Diseases by Ensign Anthony Yeo

I recently attended the 52nd Annual Meeting of the American Society for the Study of Liver Diseases, which was held in Dallas, Texas. My interest in this meeting was focused on treatment therapies for viral hepatitis C and viral hepatitis B.

Hepatitis C

Viral hepatitis C is an infection of the liver. Infection with the Hepatitis C virus will usually result in persistence of the virus in the liver in 85% of individuals. That is, chronic infection. Fortunately, chronic infection usually is asymptomatic. However, over a period of 20-30 years, around 20% of such individuals will develop cirrhosis of the liver, i.e. liver scarring. Among those with liver cirrhosis, the rate of development of liver cancer is approximately 5% a year. If an individual was to drink alcohol excessively, then the effects of the disease would be seen much earlier. The public health importance of Hepatitis C virus infection is that about 4-5 million Americans have this disease.

Current therapy for this infection includes the use of 1) branched pegylated interferon and 2) ribavirin (two drug combination therapy). There are 6 strains of Hepatitis C, termed 1 through 6. For strain 1, the cure rate with this drug combination is around 50%. For the other strains of the virus, the cure rate is greater than 80%. These figures represent a major stride over the figures obtained in the early 1990s, when the cure was around 15% or so for all strains.

Hepatitis B

In order to comprehend what is happening here, the process by which a drug is brought into clinical usage must first be explained.

The initial stage is preclinical testing of a compound. Pre-clinical testing means a drug is tested in the laboratory. This is called in vitro testing. It can also involve testing in animals. This is called in vivo testing and includes toxicology studies, that is, studies designed to see how toxic the drug is in animals at very high and varying doses. If the results are encouraging, then a candidate drug goes onto clinical testing. There are 3 phases of clinical testing: phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3. A phase 1 clinical study is when volunteers are tested to see if the drug is safe for human usage. A phase 2 clinical study is when the optimal dosage of a drug is selected and the range of side-effects noted. A phase 3 clinical study is to determine how effective a drug is against a disease. After a drug has passed all 3 stages, it is licensed. This means your physician can prescribe the drug.

In hepatitis B therapy, this has been an exciting area and several new compounds have entered clinical trials. The leading contender is Adefovir dipivoxil. This is a drug which blocks the reverse transcriptase enzyme of the Hepatitis B virus. Blockade of this enzyme means that the virus is not able to get the building blocks to make new copies of itself. Hence it dies.

Overall, there are 8 agents in the pre-clinical testing stages, 3 agents in phase 1 studies, 5 agents in phase 2 studies and 3 new drugs in phase 3 clinical studies. A minor revolution in Hepatitis B therapy is underway.

The future is likely to be the usage of various drugs in combination with one another to prevent the rise of drug resistant Hepatitis B virus. If this is prevented, then Hepatitis B virus will be eradicated from the body. This has been the current failing of existing therapy. Thus the search now is for that drug combination that makes resistance by the virus futile.



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

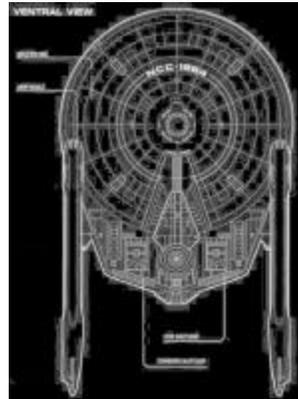
* Please note the current URLs (essentially, addresses) for important Avenger sites on the World Wide Web: Avenger:
<http://www.ussavenger.org>

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.

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
- Ship's directory
- Six (6) external views
- Full starship specifications
- Equipment listing (with system contractors)
- 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:

FEDERATION FRONTIERS

c/o Michael C. Rupprecht
3711 Bloomingdale Dr.
Somerville, NJ 08876-5531

MORE NEW STUFF AT OUR CAFEPRESS STORE

Yes, we now have a CafePress store! You can buy Avenger schtuff like T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, mousepads, caps, teddy bears, 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>

Not to mention the Senior Officer's Lounge at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/sofflounge>

and Way-Cool-Retro themes (plug, plug) at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/1860Protey>

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
24 Wilson Street
North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2929

Division Reports

Scientific Methods

by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

Greetings, and welcome to the final Sciences Division (SciDiv) column of the year for 2001!

As we approach the end of the year, that time when the holidays are upon us and we look forward to the New Year, it's also a time to take stock, and I've been doing a bit of that for the Sciences Division.

Looking back on 2001, I'm pleased in a number of ways with the division's progress. SciDiv hosted two trips, to the Crystal Caves and Franklin Institute. Both were well-attended, and those who were on hand enjoyed themselves a lot. "Telemetry Dump" has continued to bring science news to the membership, and I hope you all enjoy it. So far, at least, what feedback I've received has been good, so the column continues.

For 2002, I'm looking at a couple of significant goals. First, I'd like to plan another 2-3 science-oriented trips for 2002, and will be starting research soon on what those trips should be. As always, any suggestions from any member of the ship are welcome. I can't possibly know everything, so input is good! Second, and maybe more important, I'd like to see improved participation from the members. As of right now, we have six members in the division, about half of whom are involved to one degree or another on a quasi-regular basis. That's actually not bad, but I don't want to just rest at 50%. I'd love to see full participation, even if it's just a note dropped on occasion in response to something I write here.

Another goal, although not strictly for SciDiv, is to see Avenger become more involved in Starfleet activities. We had three members (including me) go to this year's Region 7 Conference. And we had a **lot** of fun, even if yours truly got to act very silly on Friday evening. <grin> But the one thing I would have loved to have seen is more members of this crew there. Remember, it's fun, and it's a great way to make lots of new friends.

Finally, I have been ruminating lately on matters of science, and more specifically, the role it plays in our daily lives. Everywhere one looks, one can see science and scientific principles at work. From understanding the collapse of mega-skyscrapers to watching cars move on local streets, the laws of physics are played out before our eyes. Amazing medical procedures that can extend the lives of all people are grounded in understanding of biology and chemistry. Physics was at the heart of helping a friend move a non-working car to a local repair shop (thank goodness it was only a couple of hundred meters away!). Basic physics and astronomy were at the heart of a wonderful sky show that we were able to watch in the wee hours of the 18th of November. Even the bombs and missiles and other weapons in use in Afghanistan are based on straightforward principles of chemistry and physics. The point is that we can see the workings of science all around us, and indeed, part of the fun is realizing how important science is to understanding that world around us. As we head on into 2002, I'd like to keep Avenger involved in learning all about the universe, both aspects great and small, and I hope you'll all continue to take that journey with me.

And that's it from me this time out. 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. And don't forget that the hunger for new

knowledge is one that can never be fully quenched.

'Til next time...

Ad Astra!

Alex

Telemetry Dump

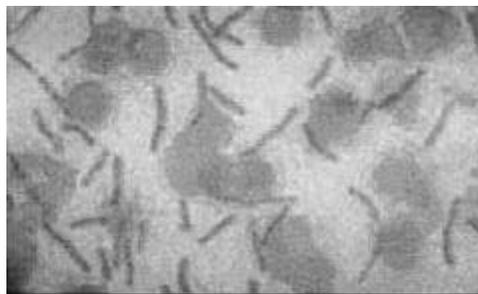
News From the World of Science
by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

25 September 2001: In a risky flyby, NASA's ailing Deep Space 1 spacecraft successfully navigated past a comet, giving researchers the best look ever inside the glowing core of icy dust and gas.

2 October 2001: After its three-month journey in space, NASA's Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) moved into its new home a million miles from Earth and is ready to chart the oldest light in the cosmos.

2 October 2001: The big cats of Namibia - lions, leopards, and cheetahs - are under scrutiny in Illinois at the request of the Namibian government. The researchers say their discoveries will help with the management of the threatened felines in Africa, as well as those in zoos throughout the world.

2 October 2001: Scientists tracking the effect of global warming on Antarctica's vast ice sheets launch a seven-year research program in early October, seeking clues to how much ice could melt if temperatures continue to rise.



Courtesy U.S. Postal Service

2 October 2001: Amid heightened concern over a biological weapon attack involving anthrax, scientists said they had made important headway in understanding the molecular events triggered by the bacterium's lethal toxin and developing an antidote for it.

11 October 2001: A pair of eagle-eyed NASA spacecraft - the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) and Hubble Space Telescope - are giving amazed scientists a ringside seat to the biggest global dust storm seen on Mars in several decades. The Martian dust storm, larger by far than any seen on Earth, has raised a cloud of dust that has engulfed the entire planet for the past three months.

(Continued)

Telemetry Dump (cont.)

12 October 2001: NASA researchers have uncovered evidence that gravity, or the lack thereof, may play an important role in the development and evolution of life. The study suggests fertilization is gravity-sensitive and works differently in the near-weightless environment of space than it does here on Earth. Using sperm from tiny sea urchins, the research team conducted both ground- and space-based experiments to examine the impact gravity has on the reproduction process.

15 October 2001: An international team of astronomers has discovered eight new extrasolar planets, bringing to nearly 80 the number of planets found orbiting nearby stars. The latest discoveries, supported by NASA and the National Science Foundation (NSF), uncovered more evidence of what the astronomers are calling a new class of planets. These planets have circular orbits similar to the orbits of planets in our solar system.

16 October 2001: Satellite data show the area of this year's Antarctic ozone hole peaked at about 26 million square kilometers - roughly the size of North America - making the hole similar in size to those of the past three years, according to scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Researchers have observed a leveling-off of the hole size and predict a slow recovery.

17 October 2001: After nearly ten years as the head of America's space program, NASA's longest-serving Administrator, Daniel S. Goldin, announced his resignation, effective November 17.

18 October 2001: In an advance that presages the tiniest of computer circuitry possible, researchers at Lucent Technologies have built a transistor in which the layer that switches currents on and off is only one molecule thick.

19 October 2001: Wisconsin fisheries biologists have detected a new species of nonnative fish in Duluth/Superior harbor on western Lake Superior. They suspect the single tubenose goby discovered during a routine survey in late September was a stowaway on a vessel from the St. Clair River, which connects Lakes Huron and Erie.



19 October 2001: Environmentalists claim that a piece of the Amazon equal in size to Rhode Island is destroyed every year. But they can cheer the fact that 86 percent of the forest still stands.

19 October 2001: The slick brown goo that Tom Leue concocts in his backyard chemistry lab isn't as appetizing as the french fries it once cooked, but Leue gets plenty of mileage out of the used restaurant oil. With a dash of wood alcohol and a sprinkle of lye, Leue brews the grease trap sludge into biodiesel, an environmentally friendly fuel that powers diesel engines and heats homes. Biodiesel can be produced from soybean oil or recycled vegetable oil from restaurants. It produces none of the carbon monoxide or small particles created by burning traditional petroleum-based diesel fuel.

22 October 2001: Scientists for the first time have seen energy being ex-

largest, most sophisticated and most powerful spacecraft ever built.

26 October 2001: Complex communities of potentially new creatures have been discovered in the hearts of Red Sea coral reefs. In 1842, Charles Darwin identified the "coral reef paradox": the puzzling fact that reefs, the most biologically diverse regions of the oceans, thrive in the some of the most nutrient-deprived waters. Now that mystery may have been put to rest. Mark Wunsch of the University of Bremen in Germany and colleagues delved inside the reef's depths with the CaveCam, a video camera married to a surgeon's endoscope that can be threaded into coral mazes. With the aid of this underwater eye, the team counted 370 different animals living within the coral's crevices and passageways, including sponges, bacteria, and relatives of sea squirts.

26 October 2001: The mystery of why birds fly in "V" formation has finally been solved. It reduces the energy the birds must expend by allowing them to glide more often when following birds in front of them. The "V" formation's benefits had long been suspected but were impossible to test until now.



Photo by Keith Weller / Courtesy U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

29 October 2001: A Madison, Wisconsin-area company, Infigen, is predicting that its cloned cows will soon be producing milk for market. Infigen has cloned a herd of 140 cows from different cell lines. The herd consists primarily of Holsteins, the black and white variety known as dairy cows. The company has also cloned beef cattle, which will not be bred for consumption. At \$82,000 dollars a head, they are just too expensive for eating. "They'll be used primarily as sires," says company spokesman Peter Steinerman.

29 October 2001: Enter a University of Florida (UF) engineering professor who pioneered an indoor air disinfection system that has killed a close cousin of the anthrax bacteria. Yogi Goswami, a UF professor of mechanical engineering and director of the university's Solar Energy and Energy Conversion Laboratory, originally developed the system to kill dust mites and mold spores. He says it will also destroy airborne anthrax and other pathogenic microbes.

30 October 2001: Turning a liability into an asset, Shell Chemicals has announced it has begun selling to soft drink manufacturers more than 60 percent of the excess carbon dioxide produced at one of its plants. At its Scotford plant in Alberta, Shell previously vented its CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere as a waste product. Carbon dioxide, blamed by some scientists for being a principal cause of global warming, is produced as a byproduct of fuel combustion and some chemical processes. Shell said it is selling the carbon dioxide to a neighboring company, Air Liquide, which processes the gas so that it can be used to carbonate soft drinks. Shell said it eventually would sell 62,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year to Air Liquide. In return, Air Liquide has become the sole supplier of steam and electricity to the Shell complex, making the deal a win-win situation for both companies. Shell used to buy its energy from the Alberta grid.

(Continued)

Telemetry Dump (cont.)

30 October 2001: In most people's minds, Halloween means vampires, witches, bats, owls, and spiders. Even the mere mention of these creatures sends shivers through some folks. A fear of vampires and witches is understandable. But what is it about bats, owls, and spiders that makes people associate them with evil? One trait these creatures share is a preference for darkness. They're active mainly at night, which runs counter to our own diurnal tendencies. As a result, people have historically regarded night animals as demonic.

5 November 2001: While winter may be approaching, researchers using data from satellites and weather stations around the world have found the air temperature near the Earth's surface has warmed on average by 1 degree F (0.6 degree C) globally over the last century, and they cite human influence as at least a partial cause.

5 November 2001: After a close look into the devious workings of the salmonella bacterium, scientists say they have discovered a major clue as to how the bug infects cells and wreaks its havoc on the body. It has been known that many different types of bacteria possess a microscopic syringe-like mechanism for injecting proteins into the cells of humans to disrupt normal function, ultimately causing these individuals to feel sick. But just how the proteins travel through the tube-like structure was a mystery. But now, lead investigator Dr. Jorge E. Galan of the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, has discovered that proteins destined to make their way into human cells must first hook up with proteins - dubbed "chaperone" proteins - whose sole purpose is to guide the harmful proteins through the "needle" of the syringe. Galan told Reuters Health that if researchers could figure out how to stop chaperone cells from doing their job, they might be able to stop an infection in its tracks.

5 November 2001: An independent panel criticized NASA for its management of the International Space Station as the agency marked the first anniversary since sending astronauts to man the orbiting platform. The 20-member Independent Management and Cost Evaluation Task Force, which includes two Nobel laureates and space experts, said NASA had consistently underestimated funding and managed the space station as an institution rather than an evolving program.

6 November 2001: Scientists now have the first clear picture of what lies beneath sunspots, enigmatic planet-sized dark areas on the Sun's surface, and have peered inside the Sun to see swirling flows of electrified gas or plasma that create a self-reinforcing cycle, which holds a sunspot together. The new research, gathered from the Michelson Doppler Imager (MDI) onboard the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft, will deepen understanding of the stormy areas on the Sun in which sunspots appear.

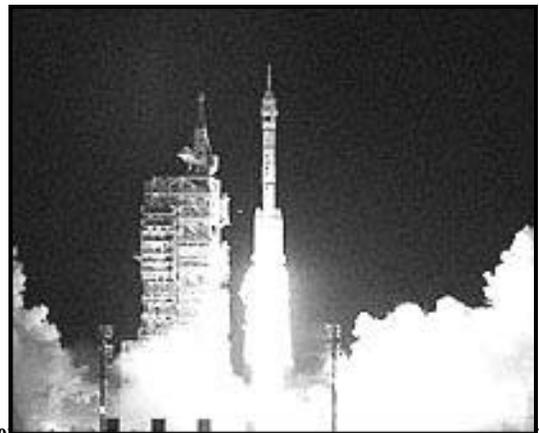
8 November 2001: Carbon sinks - forests and farmlands that can absorb carbon dioxide - will not be able to soak up environmentally damaging greenhouse gas indefinitely, scientists said. In a report, a panel of 30 carbon experts warned that carbon sinks can't be relied on because their ability to soak up carbon dioxide will change with time. "Although carbon sinks have a role to play in absorbing excess carbon dioxide, it is possible that the net global terrestrial carbon sink may disappear altogether in the future," David Schimel of the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Germany said in a statement.

12 November 2001: Carbon dioxide emissions spewed by the United States and its territories jumped 3.1 percent last year, one of the biggest annual increases in a decade, a government report said. Carbon dioxide emissions, which accounts for more than 80 percent to total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, reached 1,583 million metric tons of carbon equivalent, according to the Energy Department's analytical arm.

indeed warmer than it has been in the past, according to Dr. James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York and Marc Imhoff of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

16 November 2001: The first light flickering in the universe following its creation in the Big Bang most likely came from a star about 100 times more massive than the sun that formed in the collapse of a primordial cloud of hydrogen and helium, scientists said. Three astrophysicists used a sophisticated supercomputer simulation to study how the first stars were formed following the Big Bang, the humongous explosion of matter and energy 12 billion years ago thought to have spawned the universe.

20 November 2001: On Oct. 23, a scientific drill ship, the JOIDES Resolution, docked in Honolulu, Hawaii, bringing with it evidence of multiple episodes of global climate warming that date back as far as 135 million years. The evidence comes in the form of core samples from a deep sea drilling expedition in the western Pacific. Researchers repeatedly drove a cylindrical tube into the sea bed in order to bring up samples for analysis. When raised to the surface, the sequence of substances that were deposited on the sea bed over time can be seen in the long cylinder of sediment that is captured inside the tube. Study of the samples indicates warming events on Earth were more common than researchers have previously believed.



21 November 2001: According to Joseph Tash, a NASA-supported physiologist at the University of Kansas Medical Center, sperm behave differently in the near-weightless environment of space than they do on Earth. Whether these changes will impair or aid fertility, he doesn't yet know. But, says Tash, it's becoming increasingly clear that in outer space, fertilization - of humans, of animals, and even of plants - will very likely be affected.

21 November 2001: Lichens - those ubiquitous plants that dot rocks around the globe - may help provide answers to where, and how rapidly, the Earth's climate is changing. It turns out tiny, durable little lichens might serve as a useful biological calendar for the time period up to 300 years ago. Lichens are hardy combinations of fungi and algae that can grow on rocks and live for hundreds of years. *Rhizocarpon geographicum*, the lichen used in lichenometry, is widespread in areas where glaciers have recently retreated and grows at a relatively constant rate. Katie Schoenenberger, a recent University of Cincinnati master's graduate now at the University of Dayton, has set out to create a geologic time clock based on lichen sizes.

23 November 2001: China has yet to send a manned craft into space, but plans to do so by 2005, the state-run China Daily newspaper reported. The mission is part of Beijing's plans to create a space industry and earn the prestige of joining the United States and Russia as the only nations to have sent humans into space.

Medical Alert

by Ensign Mike Balewitz

Spontaneous Deltan Pheromone Syndrome (SDPS)

A "Spah'NEESH" fly was caught and numerous tests were done. It has been duly noted in my report that the virus is not a naturally occurring virus, but a biogenetically engineered version of the disease. On or about 26 September, I had noticed that the disease may have infected some crew members. They have been acting with erratic behavior. Some additional items have been reported missing: 2 medical tricorders with extra power packs, a number of neuro stimulators, and 1 vial of a highly experimental antiviral agent.

Let it be duly noted that security should be assigned to sickbay.

The antiviral agent has been my work over the past month as a possible cure. But with the missing research, I must start from scratch. Being Deltan, I am immune to the virus, but it has been known to be a powerful aphrodisiac when synthesized unnaturally, and has been known to be sold on the black market by Orion Pirates. I have an idea who is behind this, but I don't have enough evidence at the present time.

End of entry.

From the Belly of the Beast

by Lt. Cmdr. Matt Rielly

Resolutions for the Final Frontier

It's been said that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. That is precisely what we all have in mind when it comes to making what is perhaps the pinnacle of unkept promises: New Year's resolutions. Before you start panicking and fretting even more over the annual holiday preparations, there is no cause for alarm. I'm not advocating we all make those grandiose resolutions we know we're not going to keep. I can't tell you how many times I've promised myself to lose weight, spend less money, devote some spare time to community service, yada yada yada. We would all be better off with the "Indiana Jones" approach: making them up as we go.

As we continue to ponder and pursue the daily banalities of our existence, there is something for Trekkers to consider. At one point or another, you have to wonder if any of our favorite characters...all the way from the original series up to "Voyager" and back to "Enterprise"...have grappled with this issue. After all, they're only human, or at least humanoid. What you are about to see is a conjectural list of resolutions that could have been made by Trek characters, or what we would like to seem them make. If any of these seem too familiar or close to home, you don't have to resolve to get a life. Just resolve to make the most of the one you have, sit back, read and contemplate:

CAPTAIN KIRK: "I resolve to keep my hormones in check. Besides, you don't know where half of those green women have been."

SPOCK: "To make resolutions that one will not keep anyway is illogical."

SCOTTY: "I resolve not to start any bar fights with Klingons next time I visit Space Station K-7."

DR. MCCOY: "Resolutions? I'm a doctor, not a motivational speaker!"

NEELIX: "I resolve to become the Wolfgang Puck of the Delta Quadrant."

TUVOK: "I resolve to warn everyone about Neelix's plan's to become the Wolfgang Puck of the Delta Quadrant."

UHURA: "I resolve to let someone else open those hailing frequencies for a change."

SEVEN OF NINE: "Resolutions are irrelevant."

CAPTAIN PICARD: "I resolve to listen more to my inner Kirk."

RIKER: "I resolve to BE my inner Kirk."

DAX: "Three hundred years and you expect me to make MORE resolutions? You've got to be crazy!"

DR. BASHIR: "I resolve not to cheat every time I do a round of darts with Chief O'Brien."

ODO: "Hey, bend me, shape me, anyway you want me..."

TOM PARIS: "I resolve to restrain myself from painting racing stripes and flames on the Delta Flyer. However, I REFUSE to budge on the fuzzy dice!"

B'ELANNA TORRES: "I resolve to paint racing stripes and flames on Tom."

CHAKOTAY: "I resolve to let my spirit guides really party for a change."

QUARK: "I believe Rule of Acquisition number 136 says resolutions are bad for business."

ROM: "As Grand Nagus of Ferenginar, I declare that Rule 136 be amended to say that resolutions are GOOD for business."

CAPTAIN SISKO: "I resolve to spend less time 'with the prophets'."

JAKE SISKO: "I resolve to be the next Ernest Hemingway."

CHEKOV: "I resolve to be less annoying."

SULU: "I resolve to keep those shields up, captain." (Spoken in a voice sounding a little like Casey Kasem)

CAPTAIN JANEWAY: "I resolve next time, I will stop and ask for directions, and I'll remember to make a LEFT turn instead of RIGHT at the Badlands."

HARRY KIM: "I resolve to always remember we're Starfleet officers and 'weird' is part of the job. (Sigh) Oh, God help me."

THE DOCTOR (Voyager's EMH): "I resolve to give all those other Mark One EMH's a run for their credits. I mean, how many EMH's do you know remember the entire score of 'Tristan and Isolde', as well as the collected works of Masters and Johnson? Still wanna state the nature of the medical emergency?"

(Continued)

From the Belly of the Beast (cont.)

COLONEL KIRA: "I resolve not to crack Quark's skull open, no matter how much that little troll gets on my nerves. Oh, prophets, who am I kidding? Let me at him!"

CHIEF O'BRIEN: "I resolve to live a normal life for a change. I mean, seven bloody years in the Bajor sector. I'm entitled to it."

Oh, and let's not leave out the folks aboard the good ship Enterprise, registry NX-01.

CAPTAIN ARCHER: "I resolve to keep annoying T'Pol to no end. Oh, boy, I love that. It's great to be the captain!"

"TRIP" TUCKER: "I resolve to brush up on my flying lessons, so that next time I don't scratch the paint."

MALCOLM REED: "Two words: more firepower."

HOSHI SATO: "I resolve not to freak out when the Universal Translator malfunctions or if we hit an ion storm."

TRAVIS MAYWEATHER: "I resolve not to bore everyone to tears with stories of my childhood aboard a freighter."

T'POL: "I resolve to defer more to Captain Archer's judgment, as illogical as it may be."

DR. PHLOX: (Spoken with a big grin) "Oh, the possibilities! I don't deny that I have a few vices that I could overcome...like, say, transplanting strange yellow slugs from one alien planet to another."

In closing, I, your humble narrator, resolve to be the baddest mutha (Shut yo' mouth!). Sorry. Too much Romulan Ale. Happy Holidays, campers, and live long and prosper.

Communications Division Report by Commander Dale A. Kagan

Today I spent raking leaves at Ann Marie's. I hope all of Communications had a happy and delightful Thanksgiving, with lots of warmth and friends or family. I spent mine cooking with a friend. I have been giving some thoughts to both events and our division for the next 3 months. Since two of us are job hunting it might be wise not to schedule a Comm Division activity until April. Would anyone like to make suggestions for an April spring event?

Second, I thought we needed better "job" titles for the Communications Specialists. Here are my suggestions:

- Communications Specialist sub categories:
- Cybertech Intelligence: reads/scans Internet (or Internet-equivalents) of all species and reviews their comm channels
- Xenocommunications: studies non-Human news and communications/languages
- Federation News Specialist: reads news items on colonies and nonhuman worlds
- Political Analyst: interprets news items or situation on other ships or worlds

Let me know if you like to append any of these to your rank and specialty.

The advantage is that if you write up a character profile it will give Avenger writers some idea how to use your character in a story. Some stories might even see print in Avenger News. It may also give you ideas on non-fiction articles for Avenger News based on your specialty. In other words, contribute something to Avenger News. :-)

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday season.

***An open Communication from Dale Kagan,
Comm. Chief***

Report from the Chocolate Show by Lt. Commander Idalina Teixeira

Well, I would not have thought it possible, but we did manage to reach our Chocolate Limit. As it was, I couldn't even LOOK at chocolate for about 24 hours.

Total attendees: 4.

Time it took to make rounds of the show: 2 1/2 hours (We did not partake in any of the demonstrations & the fashion show was on Sunday.)

Best Sample: Fondue & chocolate dip!

Best Drink: Chocolate Vodka (4 thumbs up!)

Best Art: The Chocolate Borg Cube (Actually, it was called "Starry Night", but the resemblance was uncanny.)

Best Dress: Choco-Doodle-Dandy (very Patriotic :))

Yet-Another-Reason-to-Fight-Terrorism: Only 36 out of the 60+ exhibitors originally scheduled showed up.

Best tip for next year: Bring an empty bag!

Chocolatedly Yours,

Idalina



Avenger News: Covering All the Important Stuff

12

The Avenger in Fiction: *"Cabin Fever"* by Commander Stephen 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.

This issue, "Cabin Fever" returns. And the action continues to heat up...

CABIN FEVER, CHAPTER 9

"People constantly ask me why you can't alter the future. The answer is simple: Because it's already happened."

- Dr. Emmit Brown,
Professor of Temporal Studies,
Star Fleet Academy

*"Transporter sequence start : 22h.14m.8s
Transporter sequence end: 18h.08m.52s.
Total sequence time: negative 255 minutes"*

- Cargo Bay 4 Transporter Pad Error Log
Stardate 9908.16

"Chris. Chris! Commander! Wake up!"

Lt. Commander Chris Underwood blinked groggily up at the figure crouched over him. It took him a couple of seconds to focus his eyes, and his entire body seemed very reluctant to respond.

"Wha... Where?" Chris rolled onto his side as a violent stomach cramp wracked his body. After a moment, the pain subsided and he sat up.

"Take it easy, Chris. I think that poison you got shot with is still in your system." Chaym wiped his forehead with a damp cloth.

"Poison? What are you talking about?" Chris tried to remember where he was or how he got there. Everything seemed distorted, like trying to remember a dream. "Where are we?" he asked.

"Cargo Bay 4," answered Sasha. She was leaning against a wall several meters away. She looked like she was feeling only slightly better than Chris was. "We just traveled back in time."

"What? How the heck did we do that?"

"Apparently you built a time machine." Sasha smirked. "One that works, according to the chronometer on the wall over there. We seem to have gone back in time about 4 hours."

"We used the time machine I built? Well, that would explain why I feel like 3-day old targ droppings. I was never able to work out the tachyon shielding principles." Chris searched his memory in vain, trying to remember the last thing that had happened to him. "Why did we go back in time?"

"The ship was being attacked by Romulans," Sasha volunteered. "Don't you remember? You were in the brig, and you got shot with a poison dart. That's where we found you. You and Carlos..." Sasha bit her tongue and

looked at Chaym.

"Carlos was shot." Chris was starting to recall. "He wasn't moving."

"He wasn't breathing either," Chaym said. Chris thought she seemed unnaturally calm about her husband's apparent death. When she spoke next, Chris understood why. "We can change that now that we've traveled back, can't we?"

"Uh..." Chris gulped. "Not exactly."

"WHAT??" both women yelled simultaneously. "What do you mean?" Underwood blinked through the haze of his headache. "Um... Short answer or long answer?"

Chaym's ears flattened. "Short answer."

"Paradox." Chris nodded his head as though that explained everything. Chaym waited for an exposition that never came.

"What? That's it? Paradox?"

"Hey, it's that or the long answer." Chris settled himself against a cargo container to try and get comfortable.

"Well, I guess it's the long answer, then." Sasha and Chaym approached the Chief of Ops.

"Okay, here's the extremely simple version: There are two kinds of time travel. In the first kind, you don't actually travel through time. Instead you actually create a parallel universe where your actions can actually alter events. This is more of a multi-dimensional shift, and is generally pretty messy from a space/time continuum point of view. The second type is the *real* time travel. In this one, it's kind of like reading a book or watching a holo-vid. The end is always the same, no matter how many times you re-wind it and watch it again. The only thing that's different is the point of view of the observer. A time traveler can't go back in time and alter events because those events were taken into account the first time."

Both women sat for a moment, trying to comprehend Underwood's words.

Underwood sighed and rubbed his forehead. "Here's an example of the first kind of time travel. Say a Star Fleet vessel answers a Klingon distress call and discovers a bunch of Romulans attacking a Klingon outpost. In the fight, some weird accident gets the ship shot through time, creating an alternate future where the Klingons and the Federation are at war. Now imagine if they meet some future Star Fleet people, and they repair the battle damage, upgrade the old ship's technology, give them some of their people and send the ship back to the original timeline in an attempt to prevent that future from occurring. Do you see the problem?"

Chaym and Sasha looked at each other. "Ummm... No."

Chris rolled his eyes. "If people from an alternate future were running around in the true timeline, all sorts of crazy things could happen. They could meet themselves, get themselves killed, start cross-breeding with aliens and have their own kids become their greatest adversaries."

"You totally lost me," said Sasha.

"Forget about it. What's important is that the time travel machine we just used moves stuff back along the TRUE timeline. This means that we can't change the past."

Chaym growled furiously. "What the hell is the point of building a time travel device if you can't change time!"

"Because I built the device so I could send stuff like Mountain Dew back in time to myself! I don't want to be sending stuff to some parallel universe me! I'm the one who's thirsty!"

Sasha rolled her eyes. The entire thing seemed very stupid and hard to figure out. "Okay, so what CAN we do?"

"We have to figure out a way to save the ship and Carlos without changing any of the events that we saw."

"Events like Carlos dying," Sasha said very coldly.

"Events like Carlos getting shot..." Chaym corrected in a quiet voice. She seemed to be concentrating hard on what Chris had said. Chris leaned back and rubbed his head.

"We need a plan," Sasha said and began pacing back and forth across the cargo bay. She started talking out loud, "Okay

Avenger in Fiction (cont.)

what do we know? In about four hours, the Romulans attack the ship, and Carlos gets shot with poison dart in Security.”

“Why would the Romulans attack our ship?” Chris asked.

“The Tribiddian-12,” Chaym answered. “Our ship was disabled with an energy sapping weapon. They must’ve done that to lower our shields so they could transport the T-12 without any risk of damaging it.”

“You can’t use transporters on T-12. The Romulans would need to use a shuttlecraft, and that means a boarding party.”

“Unless...” Chaym’s ears shot up. “Unless they already HAD a shuttle on the Avenger.”

Sasha stopped pacing. “You mean...”

“Geisha, that little green-skinned spy, must’ve been sent to find out exactly where the T-12 was so they could beam a boarding party over, grab the T-12, get to her shuttlecraft, and get off the ship before we knew what hit us.”

“Good plan,” Sasha mused. “How do we stop it?”

“We don’t,” said Chris with a smile. “We let them grab the cargo and get off the ship.”

Both women looked at Chris like he was crazy.

“Why the hell would we let them get away?”

“Because before they grab it, we’ll switch the T-12 with a bomb!”

“It’d have to be a pretty powerful bomb,” Chaym said.

“How about a torpedo?” Sasha grinned. “I think I’m starting to see how this whole time travel thing fits together.”

“Huh?” Chris seemed oblivious.

“Never mind,” Chaym said, getting to her feet. “We also need to get a signal off to Star Fleet Command. There’s no way we’re going to be able to fight off an angry warbird alone. Okay, here’s the plan: Chris, you go to work disabling the sensors around the T-12 so we can switch it with a torpedo. Sasha, you go up to Communications and try to send a signal to Star Fleet about what’s going on.” Chaym got up and ran towards the door.

“Where are you going?” asked Chris as he got up.

“Sickbay. We’re all feeling woozy, so I’m gonna get something to treat this tachyon poisoning. We need to be at our best if we’re going to get out of this alive.” With that she stepped out into the hallway and the door closed behind her.

“Why do I not believe her?” asked Chris as he stumbled to the door.

“Because you know her as well as I do.” Sasha helped Chris through the door and into the hallway. “I’m off to Deck 3. Where are you going, anyway?”

“Deck 7. There’s a juncture next to Security Central that controls the alarms around the T-12. Meet me there when you’re done, and we’ll figure out how to snag a torpedo.”

Nearly an hour later, Chris was sealing shut the security bypass juncture on Deck 7. It had been hard work, and his headache hadn’t helped. As he finished his last weld, he heard Chaym’s voice behind him.

“Hey, Chris, need some help?”

Chris responded without looking. “Nope, I’ve almost got it.” The Ops Chief climbed out of the tube and snapped the casing back on. Standing up, he turned to face Chaym. “Did you get the... CAPTAIN!?! What are you doing here???”

Chris blinked back and forth between Captain Carlos Maldonado and Chaym. Both looked alive and healthy, and Chaym seemed free of concern she had shown an hour ago. The two of them seemed taken back by the shocked look on his face.

“I’m the Captain and this is my ship. Last time checked I was allowed to go wherever I damn well pleased. What’re you doing here?”

It suddenly dawned on Chris that these were the REAL Chaym and Car-

los. Chris straightened up and wiped his forehead with his sleeve. He needed an excuse fast. “Huh? Oh, there was a problem...with, um...a sensor glitch. I had to come down here and fix it manually.”

The Captain grimaced. “Uh-huh. And that’s why you missed the reception?”

“Reception?” Underwood blinked in confusion. He had no idea what Chris was talking about.

“The shuttlecraft?” Chaym offered.

“OH, YEAH!!!” Chris exclaimed. Geisha and the Vulcans must have just arrived.

“Are you feeling alright?” Chaym asked. “You look horrible, and paler than usual.”

“Oh, I’m just not feeling that well. I think I had some bad Mountain Dew or something.” Chris tried desperately to figure out how to get himself out of the situation.

Just then, Sasha Graevyn came striding around the corner. “Hey, Chris, there you are! That sensor glitch is all cleared up now. C’mon, let’s go.” Striding over to the Chief of Ops, Sasha swung one of his arms over her shoulders and turned and began walking back the way she came.

“Where are you going?” asked Carlos as they departed.

“Sickbay,” Sasha called over her shoulder. “The Commander here hasn’t been feeling well, so I told him to report to sickbay. But noooooo.... He insisted on coming up here himself and fixing the sensors. Anyway, you big oaf, let’s get you to Deck Seven.” The two of them then vanished around the corner.

Chaym stood blinking after them. “That was strange.”

“Considering that we’re on Deck Seven, and that sickbay is behind us, yeah, I’d say so. If I didn’t have more important things to worry about, I’d be feeling kind of paranoid right now.”

“I’m used to it. I’m going to the mess to meet Mitzi for dinner. I want to introduce her to that Abrams. What about you?”

“I’m heading for the bridge. I’ll see you tonight, sweetheart.” The Avenger’s captain gave his wife a quick kiss before they parted ways.

As the doors closed behind them, Sasha and Underwood collapsed against the turbo-lift walls.

Sasha turned toward Chris. “That was stupid! You almost got yourself caught!”

“Hey! How was I supposed to know that was the real Chaym?”

“You’re right.” Sasha put her head in her hands and sighed. “We were lucky this time. We can’t afford to get careless. How’s your arm, anyway?”

“It’s still numb from where that little witch shot me.” Underwood grimaced as he touched his left bicep. As he pulled his hand away, there was blood on it. “Did you have any luck?”

“None. They’ve got communications locked down tight. There was no way to get past security. You?”

“A little. I think I disabled the sensors. Getting to the actual Tribiddian itself is going to be harder than we thought. And we don’t have much time.”

“You’re right.” Sasha glanced at the turbo-lift’s chronometer. “We’d better get moving. The Romulans are going to be here soon.”

END CHAPTER 9

(Continued)

Avenger in Fiction (cont.)

Also, for your reading pleasure, we offer you a character file. This time, it's Chief Engineer Matt Rielly, and he has a rather interesting background. Enjoy!

RIELLY, MATTHEW JOHN

LT. COMMANDER

Serial Number: SE 54546
Official Position: Chief Engineer
Current Assignment: U.S.S. Avenger, Heavy Frigate, NCC-1860
Nature and Duration of Mission: MultiPurpose (Exploration; Peaceforcer; Survey; Etc.), 5 Years
Age: 35
Nationality: Terran
Place of Birth: New York-United States-Earth
Date of Birth: 15 March 2266

History: Entered Star Fleet Academy at age 18, specializing in engineering, with a sub-specialization in communications. At the end of his third year, Rielly served a three-month internship with Star Fleet Service Net (a subspace computer network equivalent to Armed Forces Radio on 20th and 21st-Century Earth). Graduated at age 22 in the top 30% of his class. Applied for a position aboard the heavy cruiser U.S.S. America, but was instead assigned with the rank of Ensign to the frigate U.S.S. Knox as a communications specialist. Seven months later, while monitoring routine signals, Rielly picked up a distress call from a private freighter, the Hidachi Maru. He was placed in charge of coordinating communications between the Knox and the through-deck cruiser U.S.S. Coronado, having been the first to intercept the signal. All hands were safely evacuated before the Hidachi Maru's engine core overloaded and destroyed the freighter. Rielly was awarded the Star Fleet Decoration for Vigilance for his performance during the crisis. At age 23, Rielly transferred to the through-deck cruiser U.S.S. Oriskany and was assigned as a communications support specialist. In June of 2290, the Oriskany was assigned to escort the transport-tug U.S.S. Ptolemy to an undisclosed sector bordering the Neutral Zone between Federation and Klingon territories. Rielly devised a scheme to deceive suspected Klingon renegades from raiding the two cargo containers the Ptolemy was carrying. His false signals reporting that the Ptolemy was stranded two light-years away lured the renegade fleet into an ambush by the destroyers U.S.S. Cochise and U.S.S. Lysander. As a result, Rielly was awarded the Star Fleet Medal of Valor and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant J.G. At age 24, he was transferred to the heavy cruiser U.S.S. Potemkin as a communications officer. In November of 2293, the Potemkin was ordered to Sector 403. Rielly was assigned to lead a landing party to contact an opposition group to a military coup on the planet Ardalas. Rielly's team and the resistance cell were captured by troops loyal to the general who had seized power from the Ardalan Prime Minister and the Parliament. Rielly and his party retained secret information, but half of the resistance cell members were executed. When two members of Rielly's team were taken to be tortured, the others pursued, and one was killed by an overzealous sentry. Rielly ordered his surviving team members to return fire. He was able to get a coded signal to the Potemkin, which subsequently called in reinforcements. In a struggle with the coup's leader, General Zhigal Kav, Rielly's phaser accidentally went off, disemboweling his opponent. Following the restoration of the rightful Ardalan government, Rielly was brought before a Star Fleet tribunal, and debriefed regarding the events leading to the torture of two members of his landing party, the death of a third, and the fatal fight with Kav. During the hearing, Rielly broke down and wept, declaring he was no longer certain he could function as a Star Fleet officer. Rielly's legal counsel persuaded the tribunal board to consider his client's

mental and emotional state, believed to be brought on by the mission to Ardalas. The tribunal ruled that although Rielly had violated orders to avoid contact with Kav, what had happened was beyond his control. Rielly avoided imprisonment but was demoted to Ensign. He was transferred from the Potemkin and removed from active duty, pending psychological evaluation. From January to August 2294, Rielly took an extended leave, at the recommendation of the Medical Division, after being diagnosed with severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. After three months at the Van Gelder Clinic as a voluntary inpatient, at the Tantalus Rehabilitation Colony, he returned home to Earth to spend the rest of his leave with his family. At age 28, Rielly was cleared to return to duty, and was assigned as a communications officer to Starbase 1. At age 29, he transferred to Star Station Liberty, where he served as a content editor for the Star Fleet Service Net. At age 30, transferred to the small frigate U.S.S. Fury as a communications specialist specializing in universal translator technologies. While aboard the Fury, he took several Academy courses in engineering by subspace from the Academy, refreshing his skills. At age 31, Rielly transferred to the corvette U.S.S. Renner as a communications specialist. At age 33, transferred to the heavy frigate U.S.S. Avenger as a communications specialist with the rank of Ensign. He found himself spending a great deal of his off-duty time with then-Chief Engineer Zulkowski, pursuing Engineering-related interests. Following his assistance of Lt. Commander Kagan with a project to archive political records at the New Edison colony, Rielly was promoted to Ensign 1st Class. Several months later, following consistently excellent performance reports, and notable contributions to various landing parties and extra duties aboard ship, he was promoted again to Lieutenant J.G. and reposted as a communications officer. This was followed soon after by a promotion to full Lieutenant. During the first quarter of 2300, the ship's executive officer took note of Rielly's interest in the field of Engineering, as evidenced by the many hours he spent reading tech journals and creating his own schematics and blueprints. At age 34, following a shipboard prank involving a shuttlecraft, Rielly was transferred to the Engineering Division as an engineering officer. Shortly thereafter, the Avenger was severely damaged during a mission the details of which remain classified. While the Avenger was undergoing repairs, Rielly joined a number of the crew aboard the prototype testbed vessel U.S.S. Ascendant, where he served as Chief Engineer with the brevet rank of Lt. Commander. Once the Avenger's repairs were completed and the crew returned from their mission aboard the Ascendant, Rielly served as an engineering officer. At the very beginning of 2301, some months following Commander Zulkowski's departure from ship's company, Rielly was appointed as Chief Engineer of the Avenger.

Personal: Unmarried. Parents are alive on Earth, where his father, Thomas Ian Rielly, a Star Fleet veteran, is a retired accounts manager for a major interstellar trade corporation, and currently works part-time as a docent for the Smithsonian Annex Starship Museum. Mother, Victoria Bauer Rielly, is a retired school administrator. No siblings. Several significant romances. Rielly was involved with Jean Gladstone during secondary school and briefly just after graduating from the Academy. She broke off the relationship after two months the last time. Rielly vowed never to speak to her again and has not contacted her since. While assigned to the Oriskany, he met Ensign Monica Spinelli. They rapidly became fast friends, and he soon found himself falling in love with her. However, he was afraid to tell Monica his feelings for her, for fear of rejection. Upon learning that Monica was involved with a man on her homeworld, he became cold and aloof toward her, and she eventually gave up on any future relationship, frustrated with his attitude. She transferred off the Oriskany eight months after he joined the crew. Later, while serving on the Potemkin, he developed an emotional attachment for Lieutenant Carrie Sorenson, who was killed during the Ardalas mission. Since then, while not totally shying away from women, he has been reluctant to start building a serious long-term relationship with anyone. Significant friendships

Avenger in Fiction (cont.)

include fellow ensigns aboard the Knox, Jonathan Briarton and Kirsten Feeney. The three were well-known for their off-duty pranks. Another friendship was with Ensign Andreas Constantinou, a navigation specialist aboard the Oriskany. The two maintained their friendship even after Rielly was posted to the Potemkin. Constantinou managed to get a transfer at about the same time, coming aboard less than a month after Rielly did. The two stayed in touch briefly after Rielly took extended leave, but their lives and duties have taken them in different directions since that time. Hobbies and interests include painting, drawing, sculpture, cooking (a hobby he picked up from his father, who loved to cook), reading technical journals, and listening to 20th-century Terran rock music. Throughout his life, Rielly has always kept in close contact with his parents. He is especially close to his father, and he does his best to remain close to his mother. She was a driving force in his early years, constantly pushing him to excel academically. When she first learned of her son's interest in Star Fleet, she opposed the idea, fearing for his safety in deep space. During his leave between his posting on the Potemkin and later assignment to Starbase 1, she insisted that he resign from Star Fleet, especially after his demotion back to Ensign following the incident at Ardalas. After a huge argument, Rielly left home and moved to San Francisco without leaving a forwarding address. His father, using sources through the Federation Information Service, located his son and begged him to come home. He vowed that as long as his mother objected to his return to active duty, he would not make his peace with her. However, she had realized that he felt he no longer had a purpose without Star Fleet, his career goal since childhood. Accepting her realization, he moved home and spent the remainder of his leave with his parents and other relatives. They saw him through the emotional highs and lows of that period, and were relieved that his first assignment back on duty would be comparatively close to Earth. After a while, they all felt comfortable enough to encourage him to seek deep space duty again. Rielly especially credits his father with helping him maintain stability. After his transfer from Starbase 1 to Star Station Liberty, Rielly has seen many friends come and go. He feels the turning point in his life came during his assignments aboard the starships Fury and Renner. However, he has found himself making more close friends since joining the crew of the Avenger. With newfound confidence, he has pursued his Star Fleet career with renewed zeal. He credits this drive to his advancement up the ranks to Lt. Commander, along with development of his ability to lead and rally whomever works under him. His transfer from Communications to Engineering helped him realize a calling he never expected to achieve. Rielly tends to keep to himself in very large gatherings with strangers, but loosens up in the company of familiar faces. He is eager to help and befriend his fellow crewmembers, especially in settling any disputes between them. He also enjoys extending friendship to non-Federation species he encounters, is not one to complain when called upon to help. He can be articulate in conversation when the situation calls for it, but he also knows when to keep it simple. He is interested in acquiring new knowledge and has no problem working with other divisions than his own. He thoroughly enjoys the company of women, but still feels reluctant to pursue any serious relationship, for fear that he may appear unworthy. He has a sly, low-key sense of humor, which he enjoys using to take people by surprise. He is enthusiastic about new ship designs, and was very excited to work on the Ascendant project. His performance on that test run is credited with his eventual assignment as Avenger's chief engineer.

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 jumping-off 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 Neutral 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 Star Fleet 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 you can see, 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 always looking for members to create files for their own characters. If you're interested in creating a file for your fictional character, contact ADM Rosenzweig for help/information.



The Avenger crew finds a new post-meeting restaurant... it's nice to go someplace where we know we really belong...

The Ops Report

by Lt. Commander Lauren Milan

Hey, folks!

Well this issue, I must report that all is well on Avenger, and, like, operating and stuff. I personally am busier than any human has a right to be, and thus came to my senses, and started handing over work to other fine folks in fleet to handle. As one good friend wisely told me, "Hey, you can't be webmaster of the world!" Well, I could TRY.

Anyhow, I'm getting back to focusing on bringing my group - both Ops and Avenger as a whole - to produce a more collaborative effort in Region 7 and Starfleet as a whole. Kind of like seeing my experience and ongoing interaction in Fleet as a way of enhancing Avenger's activities, instead of just distracting me from them.

So, as I was saying, so far Ops has had one very successful Ops-focused event, last year's outing to the Edison National Historical Monument. We had an attendance of 10 people, and was enjoyed by all. This is to be the start of more events bringing Ops subjects (technology, aeronautics and space exploration, information science) to life for the entire crew.

What made it so much fun is that, like most events regardless of their division focus, that trip involved members of all divisions of Avenger. It was at that point that I realized, it's not just about creating events that address your division, but taking your division's interest, and sharing your fascination and enthusiasm with others. And by interacting with other divisions of the ship, I also get the input and perspective of very different people than myself, and a few lessons in how to do my job. Which always seems to help, I find...

One of the events that I'm interesting in bringing to Avenger is a nature hike/orienteering, in collaboration with Alex Rosenzweig and Sciences Division. Why? Well, first off, it's time to get outdoors already, we do too much stuff indoors. Second, we've got a lot of great nature trails that we can explore in our area. Third, well, we can take the biological/ecological perspective from Sciences, and the orienteering perspective from Operations. Fourth, well it's fun and it couldn't hurt. Unless you eat something you found growing on a bush on the trail.

In addition, I am very committed to increasing Avenger's interaction with other chapters in the region, in the form of collaborative events. As you know, we already have a few great events we participate in every year, either as hosts or as very enthusiastic participants. MiSHaP, our MultiShip holiday party, is one example of a collaborative effort that WORKS.

Why? Simple. When several ships put together a holiday party, we can have a better venue than we would as separate ships, better entertainment, more activities, and a lot more participants of course. Plus we get the bonus of meeting up with other chapters' members we've befriended over the years (one of the reasons I NEVER miss a MiSHaP!)

The whole point of collaboration is not just saving money. It's about getting something that's higher quality than we could do alone, about not "reinventing the wheel" by each chapter doing its own events, overlapping each other on the calendar, etc. And it's about addressing many different perspectives on how to run an event. At MiSHaP, for example, we have LAN gaming for the gaming junkies, we got lots of comfortable space for sitting around and shooting the breeze, for folks that are there to socialize. We got a full bar for folks who wanna "carouse", shall we say, and we got Santa, prezies and décor for folks that wanna make merry and such. Keep a wider variety of people happier than we could do with one party planner, that's for sure. And keeping the costs low by putting one person on food, one of getting a location, one on LAN setup, one on um, "carousing".

But hey MiSHaP only happens one night a year and there's gotta be more to our efforts than that. There's our collaboration with other chapters like the Accord and the Challenger, and there's also our events for the

future, which aside from a nature hike/orienteering trip, are still quite undecided. So once more, I ask the crew for not only their ideas for events, trips, presentation, etc, but also about events that other divisions of Avenger, and other chapters, are interested in planning. We can bring an idea rattling around in your head to life just by getting a group of folks focusing on it rather than just one.

Speaking of collaboration, brace yourself for a BIG FAT PLUG for a collaboration I and several others on Avenger have expressed interest in. I was approached by Fleet Captain Edgar Torres, CO of the USS Osiris, for my input on planning the next Region 7 Conference. We'd all just returned from the 2001 Conference, and his crew was really interested in taking a turn at running a conference themselves. Well I heard his ideas, thought they were pretty good, but I didn't know that my chapter would be interested in getting involved as a co-host of the conference.

But I took a chance, asked around the ship, and got enough casual interest in it that I brought up the subject at our shipwide meeting. Sure enough, at least six people were interested enough to actively participate in planning the conference. Hey, I guess ya never know, eh?

So it looks like we're in for participation in a bid for the the 2002 R7 Conference, and the good news is, not only are we working alongside the Osiris, but the Northstar and possibly the Lexington. Talk about Multi-Ship Collaboration!

Why so many ships? Well, one ship COULD run a conference. Technically speaking. But they'd be doing it with a lot fewer people, with less input as to what kind of events, location and schedule to put together, and with less expertise and confidence that comes from having many folks with many different perspectives and skills.

Among the four chapters, we've got a lot of enthusiasm and participation, we've got folks experienced in publicity and layout, folks experienced in running events—hey, we've even got at least four talented webmasters to pick from!

And now that we have a thumbs up to proceed with a bid to host the 2002 conference, I think it's time to plug it! The location will be the Fort Lee Hilton, in Fort Lee, NJ, date unknown. I've visited the hotel once already, and we'll return in the coming months to inspect the conference facilities in person. So far, we've seen that not only is it a gorgeous hotel, but it's a great location... in 4 miles of the George Washington Bridge, close to airport and public transit. And we got a great rate (\$89/night, thanks to Osiris' travel-industry contacts) And let's face it, this upcoming year for those of us in the NYC area, is ALL about showing our pride and strength, and showing the world how utterly cool New York really is, as well as how cool our New York area chapters are.

So at this point, we're really still in the early stages, but we do want to get input and participation in planning this event to make it as enjoyable as humanly possible for our region members. So even if you don't want to be on the planning committee, I do ask you as a crew to give me your suggestions, comments, complaints, stuff you loved or hated in previous conferences, anything that can clue us in as to what you want to see us do in 2002.

For those of you that ARE interested in getting involved in the planning committee, WELCOME! Any member of the crew can join the committee; all that is required in attendance at our upcoming planning meetings. The first will be on Sunday, Dec. 16, in Manhattan, at the restaurant Mars 2112 (see "Upcoming Events" on p. 19 for more info). We'll be taking the train into Manhattan, so you could come on your own or join us and go into Manhattan together (contact me at laurenmilan@yahoo.com for more information).

See you around the zero-G swimming pool (or rather, you'll see it around me!)

Lauren Milan

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS !!

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MISSION DOCKET (UPCOMING EVENTS)

December

December 15th – MiSHaP IV: The Voyage to Party! This is the 4th installment of this great trilogy, and sequel to last year's wildly successful MISHAP (MultiShip-Holiday-Party) !!! Hosted by: the USS Avenger, USS Bounty, USS Challenger, USS Lexington, and the USS Tempest! **Where:** Society Hill North Clubhouse, 1 Society Way, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (directions below) Time: 5:00 pm - Midnight Cost: ONLY \$10 [NOTE: Net proceeds will go to a charity in support of WTC Disaster Relief!]

You get (much of which will go to charity!)

- **FOOD!** All-you-can-eat PIZZA FEST, with fresh, hot, Italian Pizza arriving continuously throughout the night! Soft drinks will be provided as well!
- **DJed MUSIC!** Ty of The Band O' Pirates will be spinning the CDs for non-stop partying and dancing!
- **DOOR PRIZES!** Everyone who attends will be eligible for door prizes! No purchase necessary...
- **SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE!** It's a holiday "Bring a Gift, Get a Gift"! If you would like to participate, bring a gift that is valued at approximately \$10.
- **HOLIDAY CRAFT TABLE!** A yearly favorite! Create your own tree ornaments and other decorative items for the holidays!
- **GAMING GANG!** What's a Sci-Fi/Trek Party without Gaming! Bring your own board or card games, or join in with other people's games!
- **MERRIMENT, DRINKING, and CAROUSING!** Would we have a party without this! Remember to BYOB if you are over 21! Plus other surprises, including the annual visit from SANTA!!!
- **CANNED FOOD COLLECTION:** Please consider bringing one more items of non-persishble or canned food. This is in support of a local food bank, which can always use the help especially during the holidays! REMEMBER: THIS IS A CHARITY EVENT TOO! So, by partying with us, you will be helping WTC Disaster Relief. All proceeds from this event after our costs will go to a charity in support of the WTC disaster.

Contact **Stephen M. Buonocore** at (732) 846-1069 or sbuonoco@lehman.com for more information.

January

January 13th – Shipwide meeting – Barnes & Noble, 3pm.

January 26th – Polar Bear PLUNGE! - Take the Plunge! Come join the ships of StarFleet that will be plunging into the Chesapeake Bay: [USS Highlander](#), Shuttle Edinburgh, [USS Triton](#), [USS Matrix](#), [USS Challenger](#), [USS Avenger](#), [USS Malverne](#), [USS Osiris](#), [USS Asimov](#), [USS Thor](#), [USS Justice](#), [USS Sovereign](#), [USS Thagard](#), IFT Raven, to benefit the Maryland Special Olympics. Contact Gerry Sylvester at tmsart@bellatlantic.net for more information.

Later in the Year...

February 3rd - The 8th Annual Intergalactic Food Festival on Stardate: Sunday, February 3, 2002 at 1 :30 p.m. at the Seaside Heights Community Center in Seaside Heights New Jersey. The Challenger is the Ocean-Monmouth counties chapter of STARFLEET. Meet fellow fans in Star Trek uniforms/costumes. Delight in interesting tasting and looking foods and drinks. Meet a Star Trek author who worked on the recently released Star Trek book "Starship Spotter". Starfleet Admiral Alex Rosenzweig is a technical expert on various ships seen in the Star Trek TV series and movies and will be glad to autograph copies of this incredible new book. Fellow Starfleet Officer Dale Kagan will also be present to sign her new science fiction/murder mystery novel at this event. Both are members of our fellow central-jersey chapter, the USS Avenger. A special demo on intergalactic cuisine will also be featured this year by our friend from Philadelphia, USS Sovereign Officer and their ship's chef Joe Horton. This event is FREE. We encourage you to bring an interesting food dish or beverage (nothing alcoholic please) and to be a part of the event. Be a part of the fun. Contact the USS Challenger at 732-830-3262 or Beamaboard@aol.com for more information.

April 5 – 7. Jersey Devil Con 2 - New Jersey's newest Science Fiction / Fantasy / Gaming / Comics Convention! Contact Steven Yoder, Convention Chairman, at JerseyDevilCon@aol.com , or visit <http://www.jerseydevilcon.com> for more information.

Contact List

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Bob Vosseller (732-) 830-3262 E-mail: Beamaboard@aol.com

JerseyDevilCon P.O. Box 403, Metuchen, NJ 08840 E-mail: JerseyDevilCon@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!



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

Next Meeting:

Sunday, January 13, 2002
3:00 pm

Location: Barnes & Noble



Hey, new faces!

WELCOME to our newest members:

- Ensign Anthony Yeo
- Catherine Miller
- Robert MacBrock

The Deadline for the next issue is:
Jan. 30, 2002

MISHAP!!!

It's the Multi-SHIP Holiday party!

Dec 15, 5PM, Society Hill Clubhouse, North Brunswick, NJ
See inside for details