

ENCOUNTERS AT FARPOINT

U.S.S. Avenger crew members venture to Maryland for the annual winter convention

By Todd Brugmans

Several members of the Avenger's crew travelled to Timonium, MD mid February to attend the annual science fiction convention called Farpoint. This year, the convention was breaking in a new locale, The Timonium Cowne Plaza.

Farpoint, run annually by a staff comprised solely of fellow fans, is generally a smaller event than its Summertime counterpart, Shore Leave, also held in the greater Baltimore area.

This year, Farpoint hosted media guests Alan Tudyk, star of TV's "Firefly", and films "Death at a Funeral", "I, Robot", "Serrenity", and "A Knight's Tale"; Film producer Harve Bennett, who worked with the original series Trek actors on several of the Trek feature films, and Phil Weyland who also worked on the Trek features as an actor and dialogue coach.

Several prominent Trek authors were also on hand for this year's convention, and Fan-Film creators of "Star Trek: Phase II", "Starship Farragut", and "Trenches" were on hand to screen their features.

It was encouraging to see so many fans dressed in costume this year, something that had been lacking in years prior. Star Wars fans dressed as bounty hunt-



ers, Jedi, and Stormtroopers, while Colonial Warriors from Battlestar Galactica stood shoulder to shoulder with Space Marines defending the bar against a solitary alien (of Aliens fame).

Saturday Morning featured a Jedi lightsabre training exercise and demonstration, The STARFLEET Region 7 meeting, and shopping in the dealer's area, which occupied half of the hotel's spacious main atrium.

Judy Wiadlich, Annie Slonski, Alex Rosenzweig, and Todd Brugmans comprised the Avenger's away team compliment this year. Todd was particularly excited about this year's Farpoint, as a month prior he had won a contest for the cover art of the convention's program book. A second contest was being held throughout the convention weekend to select an official mascot for Farpoint convention, a contest for which Todd also had a submission.

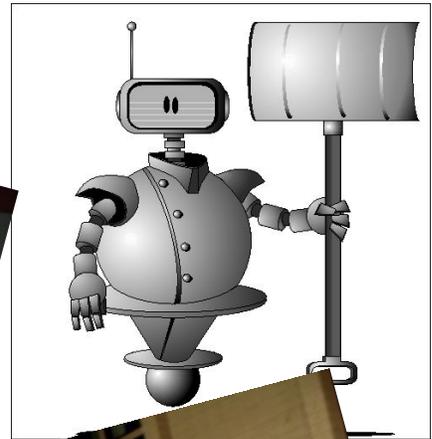
The contest was decided by convention goers voting (1 penny per vote, as many as they liked) for the mascot design they liked best. Proceeds from the contest are slated to go toward Leukemia research, as well as a local charity, the JulianFlemming Memorial Fund, which issues grants to families of terminially ill children. At the

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<http://www.ussavenger.org/>



end of the weekend, it was determined Todd's mascot had won by a significant margin. The amount of money raised for charity is not known at the time this publication went to press.

Alan Tudyk gave an entertaining and engaging talk, and included a special gag reel from the filming of "Serenity" that his co-star Nathan Fillion had put together. Fans throughout the weekend had the opportunity to participate in the Vic's Place karaoke, the Masquerade, and the Ten-Forward dance which ran late into the wee hours.

The Prometheus Players performed a radio-play reading on Friday night, and donned their alternate personnae as



"The Usual Suspects" to perform an original parody play: P for Producer. Famed 'filking' performers, the Bogie Knights and Insane Ian provided musical entertainment throughout the weekend.

It was a great weekend for getting together with friends who gather from all directions to attend these shows. Unfortunately, as with any really good time, it wrapped up all too soon.

“UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS”

A Movie Review by Annie Slonski

Initially one would think, okay, they're trying to milk this franchise for all it's worth. But, let me tell you, this movie is worth a lot and more!

As the title suggests, this is an origin story which explores and explains the centuries-old blood feud between the Vampires or Death Dealers and the Lycans. It fully fleshes out the backstory that we were given just a glimpse of in the first Underworld movie. Lucian (Michael Sheen, “Frost/Nixon” and seen as Lucien in the first Underworld movie) feels the responsibility of the Lycan race resting squarely on his shoulders, but at the same time, his forbidden love for Viktor's daughter, Sonja (Rhona Mitra, “The Shooter” & “The Number 23”), complicates his desire for his freedom from the Death Dealers.

Lucian begins his life as an enslaved child and grows into an almost favored “pet” by Viktor (Bill Nighy, reprising his role from the first and fleetingly in the second “Underworld” movie) and his coven. Lucian lives more comfortably than his Lycan brethren slaves, who are contained in cramped cells while not toiling in service to the coven, and is the coven's blacksmith, who serves the Death Dealers and bows to their whims.

The coven's society is complex, with stringent rules and disobedience is not tolerated well, especially by Viktor's own free-willed daughter, Sonja, who is expected to live up to the responsibilities of her lineage. Sonja is a vampire who empathizes with the Lycans, and through her love for Lucian, eventually becomes an ally in helping to free him and his kind from slavery, but at an extremely high cost.

The cast of this movie is brilliant and all the actors do an incredible job of bringing this story to life. The computer graphic work is seamless with the live action and only enhances the story instead of taking away from it.

Nighy's performance is spectacular as Viktor. He is the cold, hard, calculating leader of his coven and Nighy plays it with perfection. As pointed out to me, when watching this movie, watch the intensity of Nighy's eyes. With the exception of extreme emotion, he never blinks. Sheen as Lucien is nothing short of brilliant. He brings a three-dimensional, intense quality to what otherwise could have been in another's hands just merely a two-dimensional shell. He makes this role totally believable. Mitra as Sonja has just the right mixture of coldness and compassion. She adds a unique depth to her character and you truly experience all of her emotions with her.

“Underworld: Rise of the Lycans” very nicely brings this movie series full circle. This is a run, don't walk, must-see movie. There isn't an enormous amount of blood and gore, but just enough for the subject matter. There are also many twists and turns that sometimes had me on the edge of my seat. For me, this is the best one out of the series and the one I absolutely want to own when it finally comes out on DVD.

**“FANBOYS”**

A Movie Review by Todd Brugmans

2008 (Limited release, Feb. 2009)

Stars: Sam Huntington, Chris Marquette, Dan Fogler, Jay Baruchel, Kristen Bell, and Seth Rogan with cameo appearances by Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams, Ray Park, Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes, Danny Trejo, and William Shatner.

Fanboys is a buddy/road trip film set in 1998. It tells the story of a band of friends who embark on a cross-country road trip to California. Their mission: to storm George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch and attempt to steal a raw print copy of the latest installment in the Star Wars Saga: “Episode 1: The Phantom Menace”.

In their travels, they will square off against trekkies (whom Star Wars fanatics are reputed to hate), they will find themselves arrested, they'll learn the perils of early internet dating, and they once again re-build the tight bonds of friendship they once knew as kids growing up on their beloved trilogy of films.

Sounds all warm and fuzzy, doesn't it? Well, this film is amongst the funniest looks at fanhood I've ever seen put to screen. If you, a fellow fan of science fiction are familiar with all the visual gags, sound effects, and love the Star Wars Trilogy, this movie is rife with inside jokes that are guaranteed to entertain.

If you're more familiar with Star Wars as a Reagan-era military defense program, and have no clue what a Wookiee is, maybe you won't appreciate it quite as much.

This film was crafted by fans FOR fans. I recommend you see this at your earliest opportunity. If it doesn't do well in the theaters, that's simply because it's catering to a niche market, and wasn't widely released. It's worth a look even if the first opportunity you're given is at the rental store.

“Go...see this you will” (Master Yoda)



DIVISION REPORTS

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE BRIDGE...

By Judy Waidlich

A new year has begun and we hit the ground running. So far, for the movie op, we looked at our existing displays and outlined updates to be made. In February, we will update our PowerPoint presentation. If anyone has photos of Avenger members, send them in for consideration. In March, we paint the transporter display. In April, the PR campaign begins.

The Command Staff has been looking for a venue for the 25th Anniversary Party, coming up in 2010. We will keep all updated as we go forward.

Our chapter-in-training, the U.S.S. Odin, was commissioned and is continuing to be a very active group, taking academy courses and getting involved in the Stampede and OCP programs.

Our next upcoming charity event is the Polar Bear Plunge. Our brave plunger, Patrick Barnes, is working on the costumes that he and the Challenger members will wear as they brave the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean on February 28th down in Seaside Heights, NJ. Patrick has found inspiration from the song

by Napoleon XIV, "They're Coming to Take Me Away". The following day, the U.S.S. Challenger hosts their annual Intergalactic Food Fest at the Seaside Heights community center.

Also on the calendar is Farpoint, the U.S.S. Inferno's 5th Anniversary out in Pittsburgh, and the trip to the Adventure Aquarium (note the new date!). Check out the Mission Docket for more details.

And, of course, in May, there is the movie op, setting up a recruitment table in conjunction with the opening of the new Star Trek movie. This will be a very exciting opportunity for us at the AMC Theater on Route 1.

I hope everyone can make some of these activities with us. And here's to a very happy new year to us all.

Fleet Captain Judy

ENGINEERING DIVISION

by Matthew J. Rielly

The quest begins to select a venue for the Avenger's 25th Anniversary Party. I was on hand at Gabriel's Fountain in Martinsville, NJ, along with the crew to survey the site and sample their fare. While we are far from committing to a final choice at this stage, it appears the location will be a good candidate for the time being.

Eventually, the division would like to schedule a trip to check out the refurbished U.S.S. Intrepid Sea/Air/Space Museum. Considering the available calendar space and upcoming activities through July, I may consider a September date. Further details will be made available once this is settled.

Otherwise, things are quiet for the most part.

MEDICAL DIVISION

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. We all have high hopes once the old year passes and the new one begins. My year started out well, then in mid-January, my world was turned upside down.

I have had two had guinea pigs for about four years now, Piper MacGregor and Angus MacDonald. I joke and say that they are my "Scottish" guinea pigs. On Thursday, January 15th, I had to make the incredibly difficult and heart rendering decision to put my precious little Piper MacGregor down. Piper had been having breathing problems since mid-summer, but upon examination by an exotic vet, I was told that except for the heavy breathing, Piper was essentially healthy, just a little overweight. So, on a diet he went. His breathing eased up some, but never really returned to normal. Then, at the beginning of the week of the 15th, I noticed that Piper was having more difficulty than usual breathing. It all culminated

in an emergency vet trip on that fateful Thursday to the Ocean County Veterinary Hospital to see Dr. Briggs, the exotic vet specialist. I had both of my boys in the carrier; Angus was with me to help keep Piper calm and reassured.

The vet tech took a good look at Piper and immediately took him and Angus into the back. She then came out and told me that Piper had been put on oxygen, which consisted of a tiny oxygen mask held on by medical adhesive tape.

After a few minutes, the vet tech brought me in, where I found Angus alone in his carrier. Piper was still in the back room. The vet, Dr. Briggs, came in and said he was going to take some x-rays to get a better idea of what we were dealing with and that Piper literally stopped breathing twice, but responded somewhat to injections of Epinephrine and Dopram. The x-rays were taken and the vet came back into the exam room again with them. Putting the x-rays up on the light board, the gut-punching bad news was delivered to me. First he said that he didn't know how Piper was even still alive and showed

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me that his entire small body cavity was filled with fluid. He showed me that he could not see any dark areas indicating the lungs or even the shadow of his heart. Piper was literally drowning.

Dr. Briggs then escorted me into the back room where they do surgery and there was my precious little boy lying on a plush red towel, oxygen mask still attached and listing off to one side. He told me that Piper wasn't even fully conscious of his surroundings. He described what was happening to him as when you stand up very fast and experience that momentary head rush. That was Piper's continual state. There were no options. No last-minute, let's-try-this-to-try-and-save-him. No we'll-keep-him-here-under-observation-and-treatment. So, I made the only decision I could make, which was the most difficult decision of my life. I agreed with the vet that to try and keep Piper alive would be extremely cruel, as he was suffering.

With me petting and talking to Piper the entire time, Dr. Briggs began administering an anesthesia through the oxygen mask to relax Piper and begin putting him into a complete state of unawareness. When Piper achieved that state, confirmed by Dr. Briggs gently pinching one of Piper's feet without any reflex, he gave him the fatal injection that stopped his tiny heart.

As Piper's heart stopped, mine was breaking. He was my beautiful precious baby boy. We used to watch "Heroes" together. Okay, I watched and Piper enjoyed the cuddle time, but he was my regular Monday "Heroes" buddy.

The ride home with only Angus, who of course couldn't understand what was happening, was one of extreme sadness. I was totally devastated. My baby was gone.

Angus and I went through a difficult adjustment period and each time I looked at him, all I could do was cry. We cuddled a whole lot in the following days.

But as with everything else, life moves on. On Sunday, the 24th of January, I brought home an adorable baby piggie. I named him Piper MacGregor II, "Pip" for short. Pip also stands for "pipsqueak," because that's what he is. Pip was born on November 29th and he's a tiny little thing. Introductions between Pip and Angus went off without a hitch and they now reside rather amicably in their cage. There's the occasional tiff when Pip aggravates Angus, but overall, there's harmony.

Piper can NEVER be replaced, but Pip is helping to fill a void for both Angus and me. He's fun to watch as he tries to figure out the way his little piggie world works. He's darling and quite a clown.

Piper, you may be gone but you are most certainly NOT forgotten. I'll see you again someday on the other side of that Rainbow Bridge.

Until next time . . .

**Commander Annie Slonski
Chief Medical Officer
U.S.S. Avenger**



On Left: Piper MacGregor. On right: Angus MacDonald with "Pip"

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SCIENTIFIC METHODS

Happy 2009! Time does fly, now doesn't it? We're now less than four months away from the new Trek movie, and in the rest of the sci-fi world, as well, we've been seeing some stories coming to a close, and others preparing to begin. Even in the U.S. as a whole, as I write this, we're poised on the cusp of a new chapter of our history. As I write this, a new president is preparing to take office. Irrelevant of his political philosophy, I think it's pretty cool that our new president is a Star Trek fan.

As the year has begun, we've been looking solidly toward the future. Just recently, we checked out our first possible venue for the 25th Anniversary Party, and only a week before that, had our first brainstorming workshop for updating our recruiting materials for the opening of "Star Trek" (2009). We're looking forward to conventions, we're putting together a full schedule of ship events, and we're progressing nicely in telling the stories of the fictional Avenger, too. Y'know, though, all these things we have planned are pretty cool, but they're not nearly as cool if they don't have folks participating. After all, if I wanted to sit in a room and plan stuff, I could do that in a bunch of places. But only in a group like this could I share the cool stuff with all of you. [Grin] So I hope you'll all join in!

On the division front, we've been busy planning stuff, including the next division-sponsored trip. As I'd written

previously, the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ had been gaining a lot of favor, and we have decided to move ahead with that trip idea. The choice was made to hold the event in April, though, to improve the chances for good weather that day, since there are a number of outdoor aspects to the aquarium that we'd like to enjoy, as well. Some of you might have noticed that there was a recent date-change, which was updated on the various on-line calendars. Our original date for this trip was 18 April, but there are so many competing things going on that weekend that we decided to drop the event back a week, to 25 April, which was a considerably quieter weekend! This change was approved at the January ship meeting.

Other plans being looked at around the ship include possible trips to the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, and another fiction workshop. As always, if you've got ideas or thoughts for future SciDiv-sponsored trips, do feel free to send them along! They can be elaborate or very simple ones. Either's totally cool.

And with that, I'll bring this issue's column to a close. As usual, check out "Science Highlights" and let us know what you think. (And feel free to contribute your own suggestions for the coolest science events in the last couple of months!) Don't forget the Events Calendar for some neat upcoming things to do. And if you've got any comments, suggestions or ideas, don't hesitate to drop me a line. Take care, and 'til next time...

Ad Astra!

ADM Alex Rosenzweig
Chief Science Officer

Where were you when...

Compiled By Alex Rosenzweig

U.S.S. Challenger Holiday Cookie Exchange:

- 1) Tables filled with cookies, cakes, and other confections were the centerpiece of the event? (AR)
- 2) Janek and Joe's shuttlecraft was the hit of the event, filled with cookies in the shape of StarFleet uniform shirts? (AR)
- 3) Everyone just had to eat a redshirt? (AR)

New Year's Eve at the Victors:

- 4) RADM Todd brought DVDs of really bad sci-fi, and in between episodes of "The Twilight Zone" from Sci-Fi's marathon, we watched "Starcross" and other films of dubious repute? (AR)
- 5) Jeff and Laura laid out a veritable feast, from appetizers through a fine main course and on to dessert? (AR)
- 6) Good friends and good conversation were the order of the evening? (AR)
- 7) Of course, we did stop to watch the ball drop, and commented on the amazing crystal-work; Dick Clark, Survivor Extraordinaire; the performances aired that night, and the crazy folks out there in the cold? (AR)
- 8) We brought in the new year in the best way possible, with a lot of laughter? (AR)
- 9) The evening finally wrapped up, as we all abruptly realized, in mid-chatter, that it was 4 AM!? (AR)

"Star Trek (2009) Movie Recruiting Prep Workshop #1:

- 10) Brainstorming, brainstorming, brainstorming was the order of the afternoon? (AR)
- 11) In the best spirit of new-from-old, we figured out ways to upgrade our old displays to make them new and fresh? (AR)
- 12) We managed to finish up before the snow started again? (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: 980 Linwood Place North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2267
email: alexr@tellurian.com

Science Highlights

Compiled By Alex Rosenzweig

Welcome to "Science Highlights"! In this column, members of the Sciences Division (and sometimes others, too!) speak out about something science related that they thought was of particular interest since the last issue of Avenger News. So, without further ado, let me turn the spotlight on... Science!

Scourge or Savior?

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Excessive carbon dioxide might be portrayed as a villain these days, but in times past, it might have helped the Earth tremendously.

From World Science:

"Our planet's present-day 'greenhouse' scourge, carbon dioxide, may have helped ancient Earth escape a deep freeze, some U.K. scientists propose.

"The researchers claim Earth never froze over completely during the so-called Cryogenian period, about 840 to 635 million years ago. This view contradicts the 'Snowball Earth' hypothesis, which claims Earth was locked in ice for many millions of years owing to a runaway, planet-cooling chain reaction.

"What might have let the planet escape this fate is unclear, but the scientists point to recent research from the University of Toronto. This speculates that advancing ice was stalled by the interaction of the climate system and the carbon cycle of the ocean, with carbon dioxide playing a key role in insulating the planet.

"Carbon dioxide is by the same token today blamed for global warming."

Want to know more? Browse to: http://www.world-science.net/othernews/081130_snowball



It's Not just for Terra Anymore

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Speaking of carbon dioxide, it's now been detected on extrasolar planets, too.

From World Science:

"Carbon dioxide has been identified the atmosphere of a planet outside our solar system, a key step toward finding chemical signs of possible extraterrestrial life, astronomers say.

"The Jupiter-sized planet, called HD 189733b, is too hot for life. But the observations are a 'proof of concept' that the basic chemistry of life is measurable on planets orbiting other stars, according to scientists.

"On Earth, carbon dioxide is released when animals breathe. It and other carbon-based compounds can be byproducts of various life processes, so their detection on an Earth-like planet could someday provide the first evidence of life beyond Earth."

Want to know more? Have a look at: http://www.world-science.net/othernews/081209_co2

Wobbles Aren't Always Bad

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Studies are suggesting that planetary wobbles can be evidence of satellites. Some might even be Earthlike.

From World Science:

"Moons outside our Solar System capable of supporting life may have just become easier to find, thanks to new research.

"David Kipping, an astronomer at University College London, found that such moons can be detected through wobbling motions in the planets they orbit. The calculations allow confirmation of whether a planet has a satellite, plus its weight and distance from its host planet-factors that determine a moon's likely habitability, Kipping says.

"Of more than 300 planets outside our Solar System identified to date, almost 30 are believed to lie at distances from their host star suitable for liquid water and thus, possibly, life.

"The planets themselves are uninhabitable, being gas giants like Jupiter. Astronomers believe such planets could have habitable moons, though. Some have proposed that such moons, rather than planets, could offer some of the most exciting near-term targets in the search for extraterrestrial life."

Want to know more? Hop on over to: http://www.world-science.net/othernews/081212_moons

Science Highlights

Twin Star System, Twin Asteroid Belts...

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Epsilon Eridani is similar to Sol, but it has several belts of rock and ice.
From World Science:

"The nearby star Epsilon Eridani has two rocky asteroid belts and an outer icy ring, making it a triple-ring system, astronomers have found.

"The inner asteroid belt is described as a near-twin of the one in our solar system. The outer asteroid belt holds 20 times more material, astronomers said, and the three rings' presence implies that unseen

planets confine and shape them.

"Epsilon Eridani is slightly smaller and cooler than the Sun. It lies in the constellation Eridanus at about 10.5 light-years away. Visible to the unaided eye, Epsilon Eridani is the ninth closest star to the Sun, and is also younger than it, being an estimated 850 million years old.

"Epsilon Eridani and its planetary system show remarkable similarities to our solar system at a comparable age, researchers said."

To learn more, check out: http://www.world-science.net/othernews/081027_eridani

Going Up! Floor, Please? Low Earth Orbit!

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

New materials may move a space elevator out of the realm of science fiction a little quicker.

From DVice.com, via TrekMovie.com:



"The idea of a space elevator to allow for quick and easy transport to a space base is not new, but we may be getting closer to it becoming a practical reality. That's because a new form of carbon ribbon that's ultra-flexible and super-strong could be just what is needed to construct the first working model.

"A space elevator would be excellent, as it could get people out to a base or a relocated asteroid without using as much energy as a rocket. Once out of the atmosphere, they could catch a ship at an out-of-atmosphere airport to go to their final destination. The new material, created by a team at Cambridge University thanks to a grant from NASA, could stretch up to 29 kilometers in length from a single gram."

To find out more, check out: http://dvice.com/archives/2009/01/space_elevator.php

It's a Star! It's a Planet! It's Super-Neptune!

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

A new extra-solar planet has been discovered 120 light-years away, this one a bit larger than Neptune.

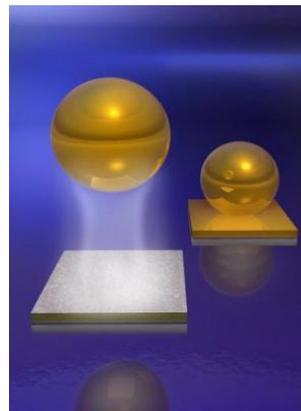
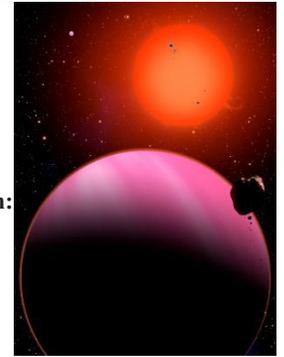
From Science Daily, via TrekMovie.com:

"Astronomers at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics have discovered a planet somewhat larger and more massive than Neptune orbiting a star 120

light-years from Earth. While Neptune has a diameter 3.8 times that of Earth and a mass 17 times Earth's, the new world (named HAT-P-11b) is 4.7 times the size of Earth and has 25 Earth masses.

"HAT-P-11b was discovered because it passes directly in front of (transits) its parent star, thereby blocking about 0.4 percent of the star's light. This periodic dimming was detected by a network of small, automated telescopes known as "HATNet", which is operated by the Center in Arizona and Hawaii. HAT-P-11b is the 11th extrasolar planet found by HATNet, and the smallest yet discovered by any of the several transit search projects underway around the world."

For more on this story, check out: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090121123043.htm>



Arise!

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Quantum scale levitation could lead to radical advances in nanotechnology.

From Science Daily, via TrekMovie.com:

"Magicians have long created the illusion of levitating objects in the air. Now researchers have actually levitated an object, suspending it without the need for external support. Working at the molecular level, the researchers relied on the tendency of certain combinations of mol-

ecules to repel each other at close contact, effectively suspending one surface above another by a microscopic distance.

"Researchers from Harvard University and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have measured, for the first time, a repulsive quantum mechanical force that could be harnessed and tailored for a wide range of new nanotechnology applications."

Want to know more? Discover it here: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090107161422.htm>

Avenger Roster Update

Welcome Back--Thanks for Renewing

- 1) Captain Carlos Maldonado, Jr.
- 2) Fleet Captain Judy Waidlich

STARFLEET News:**** Executive Committee Changes:**

- VADM Kim Donohoe has been relieved as Chief of Operations. She has been succeeded by VADM Jerry Tien.

**** Admiralty Board Changes:**

Following Regional Coordinator elections:

- VADM Wayne Lee Killough, Jr. has resigned as Regional Coordinator of Region 12. VADM Greg Trotter has now been appointed as Acting Regional Coordinator, pending elections.
- Brigadier Joe Sare has been elected as Regional Coordinator of Region 13.

**** Other Personnel News:**

- RADM Chrissy Killian passed her vote of confidence, and will continue as Region 4 Coordinator.
- MGEN Dennis Rayburn has succeeded MAJ Rob Kitson as Vice Chief of Communications and as Communiqué Content Editor.
- ADM Cindy Krell has been appointed as Vice Chief of Operations.
- ADM Alex Rosenzweig has been appointed as Vice Chief of Shakedown Operations.
- Richard Jolitz has been appointed as Judge Advocate General.
- Wayne Hoover has been confirmed as Inspector General.

**** FCAPT Teresa Remaly has been appointed as Personnel Director. She has recently announced the following job openings:**

Director of Accessibility and Support Services

Director of Crafting and Costuming Guild

Three new positions in the VCS's Department of Fleet Resources Center in the Division: Special Operations Department

Information can be seen here: http://personnel.sfi.org/staff_positions_openings.htm

If you would like to submit a resume to the Personnel Director, email her at: personnel@sfi.org

**** COMM John Halliday SFI, Chief of Computer Operations, announced the addition of two new moderators to the SFI-I moderator team, James Cecil and Gregg Kleiner.****** Brigadier Jeff Schnoor, Fleet Resources Center Director, announced that LT Gerry Purkey is the new Director of the Chaplains Services in the VCS Fleet Resources Department. Lt. Purkey is currently reviewing and receiving applications for open positions in the department. All interested members please go to the SFI Personnel website and submit their applications and/or resumes.****** The Membership Recognition Department restructure is now complete. All inquiries regarding awards (both individual and annual) and promotions (year-round) will now be directed straight to our Member Recognition Administrator, Linda Kloempken. Linda can be reached at recognition@sfi.org or, more succinctly, mr@sfi.org.**

awards@sfi.org and promotions@sfi.org email addresses continue to function and will be funneled through Linda.

Promotions sent via US Mail will now be sent to:

STARFLEET Attn: Promotions Office, P.O. Box 94288, Lubbock, TX 79493

Awards nominations sent via US Mail will need to be sent to the same address above, marked to the attention of the "Awards Office".

Updated forms will be placed on the SFI website shortly.

**** The Jaxon Information Institute (JII) is proud to announce the release of the latest rebuild of a Communiqué from days gone by. CQ 58 from August/September 1993 is now available at the following link: <http://www.jaxoninstitute.org/cqs/CQ58.pdf>**

For other CQs rebuilt or saved electronically feel free to visit: <http://www.jaxoninstitute.org/html/archives/cq.html>

**** STARFLEET Operations has announced the commissioning of the following chapter:**

- U.S.S. Odin, NCC-1875, based in Jeffersonville, Indiana, COL Antonio Lopes, Commanding

**** IC 2009 will be in Greensboro, NC on 7-10 August 2009****** IC 2010 will be in Wagoner, Oklahoma in the Sequoyah State Park, on 29 July - 1 August 2010. There is a lodge and cottages/cabins.****** The STARFLEET Annual Campaign is pleased to announce a Star Trek Short Story Writer's Contest.**

- Topic: Star Trek Fiction Short Story

- Details:

- + Submission must be an original document written by you.
- + Author must be a current member of Starfleet, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. and must provide his/her name and SCC #.
- + Author may use a pseudonym, however must provide his/her true name and SCC #.
- + The story can not have been previously published or submitted for publication electronically or via any other medium.
- + The story must be 7,500 words or less.
- + Submissions are limited to one entry per person.
- + Submissions must be received by midnight Eastern, 1 June 2009.
- + Items received after midnight Eastern, June 1, 2009 will be discarded.

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

By Matthew J. Rielly

Superman and Villager: A Tribute to Ricardo Montalban and Patrick McGoohan

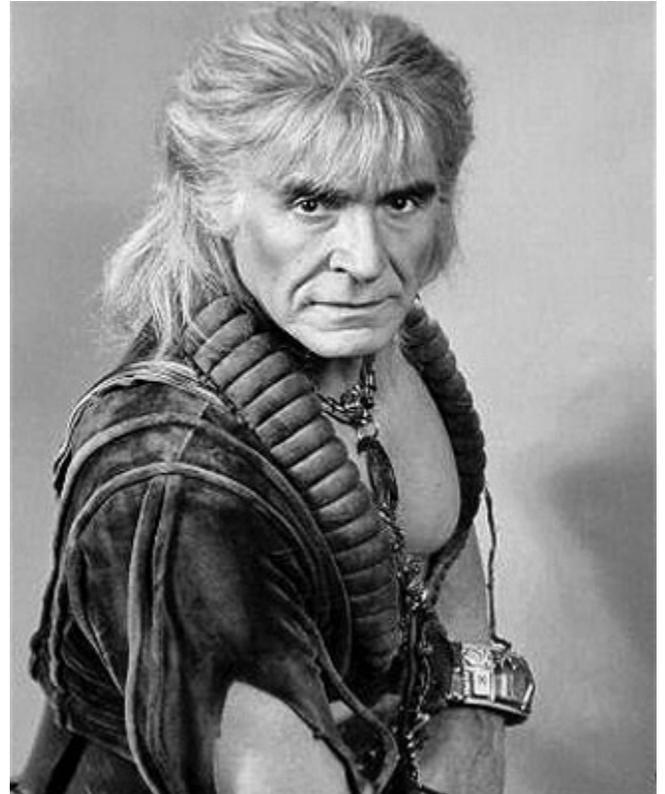
As we inch toward the end of the first decade of the new century and new millennium, we find that there are two less stars shining in the universe of showbiz. One man made an impression playing a genetically-enhanced superhuman and expounding on the virtues of rich Corinthian leather as luxury car upholstery. The other gave us glimpses into the life of a secret agent, as well as that of a man spirited away to a mysterious community where everyone was literally a number instead of a name.

This past January saw the passing of actors Ricardo Montalban and Patrick McGoohan. Both men touched the lives of sci-fi fans worldwide, as well as entertained fans of mystery, romance, comedy, and adventure. As a semi-rabid fanboy growing up in the 1970s, these men also touched my life in a way. In addition to highlighting the careers of these gentlemen, I would also like to share some personal recollections of how I came to know of them, and the roles that put them on my mental map.

If you have ever seen any of McGoohan's work, you may have notice that when he spoke, his accent was a sort of English-Irish hybrid. Ironically, he was born in the United States, in Astoria, Queens. American audiences first got a taste of McGoohan's craft in the 1960s spy series "Secret Agent" (also known as "Danger Man" in the United Kingdom). His signature work was the 1967 series "The Prisoner", which originally aired on the CBS network. His character was only known throughout the show as Number Six (not to be confused with the Number Six series of Cylons from the modern-day version of "Battlestar Galactica"). During the 1970s, he found himself working several times with his close friend Peter Falk in the series "Columbo". At one point, he was considered to replace Falk as the legendary detective. He was even considered to play James Bond at one time, before the role went from Sean Connery to Roger Moore for the film "Live And Let Die". Roger Moore was also Simon Templar in TV's "The Saint", which was another role for which McGoohan, but which he chose to turn down. During the 1977-78 TV season, he played the title character in the series "Rafferty", which followed the life and times of a doctor and retired Army colonel who had gone into private practice.

On the silver screen, McGoohan chewed the scenery as the main villain in the comedy-thriller-on-train "Silver Streak" alongside Gene Wilder, Jill Clayburgh, and Richard Pryor. He was the ultra-strict prison warden in Clint Eastwood's "Escape From Alcatraz". He also had a role in "The Phantom" opposite Billy Zane. Perhaps one of his most memorable film roles was that of King Longshanks in Mel Gibson's "Braveheart". On the sci-fi/fantasy front, McGoohan appeared in David Cronenberg's head-exploding magnum opus "Scanners". In things that might have been, he was also considered for the roles of Gandalf in the "Lord Of The Rings" trilogy and Dumbledore in the later Harry Potter films. Ian McKellen wound up playing Gandalf, and Dumbledore's shoes were filled by Richard Harris and then Michael Gambon after Harris' passing.

Ricardo Montalban was one of four children born to Spanish parents in Mexico City, and he made his mark in Hollywood with quite an extensive array of films, including two in which he worked with the famous bathing beauty Esther Williams. His other movies include "Battleground", "Madame X", "Neptune's Daughter", the second and third "Spy Kids" films, and "The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad". He was also busy on stage, in shows like "Can-Can" and "South Pacific". However, it would be television that wound up making Montalban a household name. Star Trek fans will never forget Montalban for his appearance in the episode "Space Seed", in which he played the genetically-enhanced conqueror Khan Noonien Singh, awakened from suspended animation to



Ricardo Montalban, seen here as Khan Noonien Singh in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan"

wreak havoc on Captain Kirk and his crew...only to be overpowered and banished to the planet Ceti Alpha V. Montalban would reprise the role to the relish of fans in the film "Star Trek II: The Wrath Of Khan". His signature TV role would be that of Mr. Roarke, the enigmatic host on "Fantasy Island".

Montalban was also remembered for being a gentle and caring person, as well as a staunch advocate for the Latino community and his efforts to have Mexican characters portrayed more positively in Hollywood productions. Toward that end, he threw his support behind the Nosotros organization, with which he eventually partnered to purchase the Doolittle Theater, which was later named after him in honor of his work.

My personal exposure to the works of these late greats was at first accidental and somewhat sporadic. However, it was my sampling of their performances that made indelible impressions on me. For Montalban, I believe my first introduction was one of the early TV commercials he did for Chrysler Corporation, namely the one introducing the Cordoba. That's the one where we would learn the catchphrase "rich Corinthian leather". The other upholstery option, if I recall, was velour, of which I wound up owning two or three shirts of the same material (this was the 1970s, after all). I also recall seeing a film clip of him and Esther Williams in the movie "That's Entertainment".

Then came my obsession with the original "Star Trek", once I started following the reruns. It was my first viewing of "Space Seed" and my introduction to Khan. Once Khan started speaking, the voice immediately told me, "holy cow, that's Ricardo Montalban!" Sure enough, I

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST



Patrick McGoochan, seen here as 'Number Six' in "The Prisoner"

saw his name in the end credits. This occurred during the same decade that ABC aired "Fantasy Island" on Saturday nights, right after "The Love Boat". After watching a few episodes of the former, I found the character of Mr. Roarke to be somewhat charming yet slightly menacing at the same time. Whenever someone engaged in living out their fantasy but it didn't turn out the way they expected, Roarke was somehow able to appear and explain why they should be careful what they wish for and so on. Yet in retrospect, given the choice between the original and the remake of Fantasy Island with Malcolm McDowell playing the same character, as great as both were in the part, Montalban carried himself in the role with more dignity and class...whereas McDowell's portrayal was

similarly elegant but much darker.

My introduction to Patrick McGoochan was a serendipitous one. Although I had seen trailer ads for "The Prisoner" on TV back during its original network run, I had no idea who he even was. Then, in the fall of 1977, while surfing channels without the benefit of a clicker, I discovered the show "Rafferty". I think I only caught maybe two or three episodes, but I also remember distinctly that it didn't last that long. Then came the winter of 1978, when I learned that PBS would be airing reruns of "The Prisoner". The premise intrigued me, I started watching, overcoming my man-this-is-such-a-weird-show reaction (but previously having seen Ernie Kovacs reruns, I wasn't that phased), and I was hooked. That gave me an appreciation for the man that I was able to carry with me through repeated viewings of "Silver Streak", "Escape from Alcatraz", and "Braveheart". Reruns of "Columbo" turned me on to the episode "By Dawn's Early Light", in which McGoochan played the commandant of a military academy about to go co-ed. Watching Peter Falk wear him down was gold...but I actually felt sorry for McGoochan's character in spite of his disciplinarian nature and desperation to cling to old-fashioned values.

Patrick and Ricardo, let me be one of many to echo the sentiments of Bob Hope in saying. "Thanks for the memories." Otherwise, how else could we declare that we are not numbers but free men. And what would William Shatner do if he never got the chance to say "KHAAAANN!!!!"?

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Source references: IMDb - The Internet Movie Database
(www.imdb.com)

FLEET AND REGION NEWS (Continued from page 11)

+ Submissions may be sent via Surface Mail or e-Mail to Marlene Miller; 461 Harmony Lane; Campbell, Ohio 44405-1212; marlene@cboss.com.

+ Surface-Mailed submissions will not be returned.

+ Submissions will be reviewed by the Annual Campaign Short Story Contest Staff.

+ Five stories will be chosen for final judging.

+ The top five entries will be judged and ranked by Keith R. A. DeCandido, author of the Star Trek Novel A Singular Destiny (and many others!).

+ Prizes will be awarded.

- Rules:

+ Submissions may be printed in the STARFLEET Communiqué (CQ) and/or online Starfleet Lists which may be read by children; therefore, the stories must be U.S. rated "PG" and must not contain profanity or graphic descriptions of sexual acts. The document must be deemed acceptable on American network television in the 8:00 p.m. prime time slot. While violence can be part of a story, horrendously gory violence may decrease a person's likelihood of being selected as the winner.

+ By entering, contestants retain the rights to their submissions, but grant STARFLEET the right to reprint their work in the CQ (with minor editorial spelling corrections, if necessary).

+ Contestants agree to allow STARFLEET to use portions of their story in any promotional materials we may create (such as e-mails or flyers).

+ The writer agrees to supply us with a photo of themselves to use in the CQ although writers can request their image not be used.

Region 7 News:

** The regional fundraiser continues; return used inkjet cartridges for cash (<http://empties4cash.com>) Mike Stein has individual pre-paid mailing baggies bar-coded with the Region 7 account info. If you need any, please contact him at JusticeOC@aol.com

** The U.S.S. Inferno will be holding their 5 Year Anniversary Party at 2 PM on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at Miller's Seafood Restaurant in Bellevue (Pittsburgh), PA. The address is listed below.

Millers Seafood House 3853 California Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 ph.1-412-766-7459

The Inferno is seeking a headcount for attendees as soon as possible.

** FCAPT Wayne L. Augustson, Commanding Officer- U.S.S. Britannic, announced that friend and fellow Britannic member, Mike Plunkett, lost his battle with cancer and passed away.

AVENGER FICTION

“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.

For this issue, we continue the story of the survey of UFC-18249-IV, for the sixth chapter in our ongoing tale of the Avenger's mission to that planet. The tale takes us away from the planet, and on a journey to find the Foroon homeworld. (For those coming in in mid-stream, the previous chapters are “The Survey Begins”, “The Circle”, “Descent into Wonder”, “City Beneath the Rocks”, and “Discoveries and Decisions”, most of which are available on the Avenger website at <http://www.ussavenger.org>).

HOMECOMING By Alex Rosenzweig, with Judy Waidlich, Matt Rielly, Todd Brugmans, and Annie Slonski

Retrieving their gear and pulling the climbing cables out from their concealment, the landing party prepared to return to the surface. The plan was for Kimko and Chin to make the ascent first, and then secure additional cables to allow the others to all climb up at once.

The initial ascent went without incident. Chin and Kimko reunited with Dekker, who had returned to the top of the cavern when the landing party had signaled that they were coming back up. With her assistance, they lowered additional cables, and soon the rest of the landing party, as well as the two Foroon, had reached the top of the cavern.

Standing on the incline of the tunnel from the surface, Vasmitt and Bretvil turned to look back at the cavern and the city it contained. They both gasped softly.

“Quite a view, eh?” asked Miller.

“I had imagined what it might be like to look at Roontall from this high up,” Vasmitt responded, “but my imagination fell far short.”

Bretvil said nothing, gazing silently at the city.

“Well,” Waidlich said, “we’ve done the hard part. By comparison, the rest of the way will be easy. But take it slowly. When we get out of this cave, you’re going to see something else that’s new: the sky.”

“Think either of them is agoraphobic?” whispered Escaban to Waidlich.

“I doubt it’ll matter much,” the exec responded. “It’s going to be pretty overwhelming, anyway, I’d imagine.”

“Probably right,” the geologist agreed.

Shouldering their gear, the group climbed back out of the cave system. They emerged into darkness; it was now late evening on the surface.

Both of the Foroon cried out in amazement as they gazed up into the vault of the sky, and beheld the stars for the first time.

“Those are...?” began Bretvil, his skepticism for once cowed in the face of a new natural wonder.

“Stars,” answered Waidlich with a smile.

“We have night down in Roontall, but stars... Stars are something I didn’t even know about until we looked in that early codex. And you say that you travel among them?” Bretvil was trying hard not to show it, but he seemed more than a little daunted.

“We do. And you will, as well,” Judy told him.

“In that?” asked Vasmitt, pointing at the shuttlecraft Horizon, which sat just a short distance in front of the crags out of which they were walking.

“That’s just a short-range craft,” said Kimko. We’ll use that to fly up to the ship.” He waved to Lt. Commander Rigoni, who stood in front of the Horizon’s hatch.

“Good to see you!” the pilot called to them. “And who are our guests?”

As the group reached the shuttle, Bretvil and Vasmitt were introduced. Rigoni bowed. “Santo Rigoni, your pilot for this little voyage. At your service.”

“It is good to meet you,” Vasmitt said.

“This is your...craft?” asked Bretvil.

“Well, I don’t own her, but part of my job is flying her. And she does fly nicely,” he said with a smile. He stepped to one side to allow the others entry to the shuttlecraft. “If you’ll all take your seats, I’ll get us back up to the ship in no time.”

The Avenger officers helped Vasmitt and Bretvil secure their restraints. Once he was satisfied that everyone was secure, Rigoni traded glances with Waidlich and powered up the shuttle’s engines. Smoothly, the Horizon lifted from the surface and accelerated skyward.

While Waidlich and her party were leading the Foroon out of the cavern which had comprised their world until very recently, the Avenger was making other preparations.

Several thousand kilometers from Roontall, the Avenger’s signal reached the shuttlecraft Wohali.

“A recall?” asked Captain T’HoD. “Seriously?”

“Captain’s orders,” Lt. Commander S’H’I said. “He wants all landing parties back on board as soon as possible. We leave orbit as soon as everyone is back aboard.”

AVENGER FICTION

“What’s going on?” asked T’HoD. “Does this have anything to do with the Foroon city?” All personnel had been updated about Roontall after Waidlich had reported her party’s discoveries.

There was a pause, and then Maldonado’s voice came over the channel. “You’ve got it right, D’HamYu,” he told T’HoD. “After we figured out the likely homeworld of the Foroon, Judy made a deal with the Foroon. We’re going to go check the place out, and we’re going to have two Foroon passengers along for the ride.”

T’HoD exchanged glances with Commander Setak, who had come over to stand next to him and was listening to Maldonado. “Interesting,” the Chief Science Officer said.

“Interesting indeed,” T’HoD agreed.

“Worth putting your studies on hold?” Maldonado quipped.

“Just might be,” T’HoD agreed. “I’ll need a few minutes to collect everyone, and then we’ll get Wohali back up there post-haste.”

“We’ll see you soon, then,” Maldonado responded. “Avenger out.” The channel closed.

The two men looked at each other for a moment, and then, almost as one, they moved out through the shuttle’s hatch. T’HoD went to look for the shuttle’s crew, while Setak began gathering the sciences personnel. Finding Graevyn and Coda on the rise near where he had first beamed down, he quickly brought them up to speed.

“I wish I could have seen the caverns,” Graevyn said, just a little wistfully.

“Perhaps when we return,” said Setak.

“Return?” Graevyn said.

“Well, we’ll have to bring the Foroon back, right?” said Coda.

“I would not wish to simply guess,” Setak replied, “but I would be quite surprised if that was not a part of the captain’s plan.”

“I think so, too,” said Coda.

“And in the meantime, we have another new world to explore?” Graevyn said.

“Precisely,” Setak answered.

“Then let’s get going,” the Kyonan said firmly. Calling out to the rest of the science team, she started rounding them up. Coda and Setak joined in, and soon the team was headed back to the Wohali. The shuttlecraft lifted off shortly afterward.

As the Horizon reached orbit above UFC-18249-IV, Rigoni noticed both Bretvil and Vasmitt staring raptly out through the shuttle’s forward viewport. With an impish half-smile, he touched a control. Slowly, the shuttle went into a roll. The stars wheeled around the craft, and then both Foroon gasped. Coming into view was the mottled white, blue and green globe of their world.

“Is that...?” Bretvil asked, his voice low in an awe, that overwhelmed even his promised skepticism.

“Yes,” Waidlich assured him. “It is.”

“It’s beautiful,” Vasmitt said.

“It sure is,” said Chin, who had come forward to join them.

“And you see this all the time?” Vasmitt seemed amazed anew by the thought.

“We see a lot of planets,” Waidlich told her, “but there are so many amazing things out there that it’s hard to get jaded by it.”

“Space and planets are amazing,” said Miller. “The people we meet are what we don’t forget.”

Rigoni let the shuttle continue its roll until it had completed a full 360 degrees, and then re-oriented on an approach toward the Avenger. After a few moments, he tapped Bretvil on the shoulder and pointed at the forward viewport. Bretvil turned to look, and Vasmitt followed his gaze. There, out ahead of them, was the Avenger. At first, distance made it look small, but as they closed in, the ship’s size became apparent.

“Now, that is what we’re going to travel to the stars in,” Kimko said to Vasmitt with a smile.

“Impressive!” she responded, catching his tease and smiling back. After another moment, she added softly, “It really is.”

“We’re very lucky to be able to do what we do,” Chin said. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

“Well, if you’ll excuse me for a moment,” Rigoni said, “I’ve got to do some of the mundane parts of this job.” Turning back to his console, he tapped a control. “Horizon to Avenger. We’re on approach. Requesting landing clearance.”

“Welcome back, Horizon,” came Lieutenant Hijiruach’s voice from the speaker. “You’re cleared for Hangar Bay 2.”

“Confirmed, and thanks,” replied Rigoni.

“Captain, the Horizon and Wohali have just com back aboard,” reported Lt. Commander S’H’I from the Mission Ops 1 station.

Captain Maldonado nodded to the Saurian Chief of Operations. “Thanks, Commander.” He glanced toward the Communications station. “Mr. Gullo, please ask Mr. Gor to meet the Horizon when they touch down, and ask him to escort Ms. Waidlich and our guests to the bridge.”

“Yes, Captain,” responded the communications specialist. Gullo turned to his console to carry out the instructions.

It wasn’t long before the hangar bay reported that both Wohali and Horizon, as well as the rest of the shuttles and other small craft that had been out, had returned to the ship.

Most of the rest of the shuttle crews and landing parties scattered to settle in and get some rest, but Waidlich, Gor, Vasmitt, and Bretvil arrived on the bridge just a short time after they got on board. As they stepped off of the turbo-lift, Maldonado finished signing a padd. He handed it to a waiting yeoman, then turned and stood up to meet the Foroon.

“Welcome aboard the Avenger. I’m Captain Carlos Maldonado, Jr.”

“Thank you, Captain,” said Vasmitt. “My name is Vasmitt, and this is my companion, Bretvil.”

“A pleasure to meet you both,” said Maldonado.

“Captain, may I ask a question?” said Bretvil.

“Of course,” Carlos told him.

“What sort of vengeance is this ship about?”

AVENGER FICTION

For a moment, Maldonado was taken aback. Then it hit him, and he chuckled for a moment, remembering a story that the ship's former CO, Admiral Rosenzweig, had told him about the people of another world asking much the same question. "Y'know, that's a good question, because we're not out here for vengeance at all. Or, if we are, we're avenging injustice and ignorance."

"So, why are you out here, Captain?" asked Vasmitt.

"Mostly, we're explorers, even though our ship is named for a vessel in our history that had a more military purposes."

"And exploring is what brought you to our world?" Vasmitt went on.

"It is. We were sent to learn about your planet, but we had no idea that anyone lived there. So your people were a big surprise to us."

"I hope not a disappointment," said Vasmitt.

"Not at all," Maldonado told her. "One of our specific credos is to explore strange new worlds and to seek out new life and new civilizations. It's never a disappointment when we find both." He flashed her a broad grin, which she returned. "So, the captain went on, "how about we get going and see what we can learn about your original home?"

"We'd appreciate that very much," said Bretvil.

"Okay, then." Maldonado turned to the Sciences station, where Captain Driver was listening attentively to the conversation. "Mr. Driver, do you have the star position data?"

"I do, sir," Driver said with a smile, "and I've transferred it over to Navigation."

"Thanks, Rick," said Maldonado, pleased. Driver was "on loan" from the heavy cruiser Highlander, but had embraced his temporary duties with gusto. Turning to the navigation officer, Carlos continued, "Lieutenant Perry, lay in a course to the Foroon homeworld, and put it up on the main screen."

"Aye, Captain." Perry worked controls. "Course laid in, and-" with a flourish, he tapped a switch, "-on the screen." The image on the viewer shifted from the orbital view of UFC-18249-IV to a graphic of the planned course. Maldonado walked forward to the viewer and gestured for the Foroon to follow him. "Pointing to the Avenger-shaped icon near the first small globe, he said, "This is where we are." He followed the line from the first globe across the viewer to icons for another star and planet. "And this is where we're headed."

Pointing at the globe icon at the end of the line, Bretvil asked, "That is where you think our homeworld is?"

"Right," Carlos said. "It's a little less than 30 light-years from here."

Bretvil nodded his understanding, and Maldonado turned to the Ensign 1st Class sitting at the helm. "Mr. Romany, you have the course?" Romany nodded. "Let's go, then. Warp factor three."

"Aye, Captain." Romany tapped controls, and the ship smoothly accelerated out of orbit.

The trip took a little less than two days. As the Avenger arrived in their target star system, and its fourth planet, the bridge was tense with excitement and the hope for something perhaps historic.

At the Sciences station, Commander Setak studied the readings as they came in from the ship's sensors. Something didn't seem right. He glanced up as T'HoD spoke from Communications. "Captain, I'm getting no response to hails on any frequency."

Maldonado's eyes narrowed. "That's odd."

"Sir, there's more," Setak added. "Energy readings are not what we would expect from a civilization at the level at which the original records from Roontall described the Foroon to be, let alone after several more centuries of advancement."

"What does all that mean?" asked Vasmitt, who was getting concerned by the tone she was hearing in the voices of the bridge officers.

"It may be nothing," Waidlich said. "We're not seeing what we would normally expect, but things happen that are unexpected all the time, so who knows?"

"Let's not jump to conclusions," Maldonado said firmly. "Let's just get in closer and find out when we get there."

The ship flew steadily into the system. Setak reported that the sensor scans showed no sentient life on the planet. As the ship reached orbit, his concerns grew. He motioned for Maldonado to join him at the Sciences station. "Captain," he said softly, "I did not wish to say this directly to the Foroon, but these readings suggest that something is rather seriously wrong. Look." He gestured to one of the viewers. "These readings suggest the remains of a civilization. Ruined buildings, crumbling infrastructure... But there is no activity, and as previously reported, no sentient life that we can detect. Also, I am detecting low levels of radiation over much of the surface."

"How bad?" asked Maldonado.

"The levels appear to be residual. They would be survivable for limited exposure times. But, Captain, they are consistent with the use of nuclear or other high-energy weapons at some point within the last several centuries."

"And we know the Foroon were in the midst of a war. You think they lost?"

"I do not believe that we can discount that possibility."

"We still need to go down and check. If things really are that bad, Bretvil and Vasmitt will need to see them firsthand."

"Agreed. I would recommend using a shuttlecraft, rather than the transporter, given the environmental conditions."

"Agreed. Better to be safe. Okay, thank you, Setak." The Vulcan nodded, and Maldonado moved back to the command chair. "All right," he went on, now to everyone on the bridge, "we have to see firsthand what's going on. Judy, feel up to leading a party down?"

"Certainly, sir," Waidlich replied.

"Good. Take the Kismet."

"Aye, Captain." The exec glanced around the bridge for a moment. "T'HoD, Setak, you're with me. T'Hod, please ask Ensigns Dekker and Kimko to join us in the hangar bay."

As the Communications Chief passed along the instructions, Maldonado said, "I'll let Commander Wilson know to prep the shuttlecraft. You can get going."

"Aye, sir." Waidlich headed for the turbo-lift, with Setak and T'HoD in tow.

AVENGER FICTION

A short time later, the shuttlecraft Kismet touched down at the edge of what might once have been an urban center at the edge of a large lake. The engines powered down and the side hatch opened. The five Star Fleet officers emerged, with Vasmitt and Bretvil right behind them. All wore somber expressions as they beheld the scene.

All around them, the sky was pierced by the upthrust skeletons of buildings. They were shattered, broken, only remnants of what the city might have been. There was little life of any kind to be seen, and even the environment around them seemed sad and mournful. The wind blew over the ruined landscape, and the water lapped softly against the shore. What looked like the remains of mechanical devices littered the area, but except for the wind and water, all was silent.

Tears streamed down Vasmitt's face as the import of what they were seeing hit home. She turned and buried her face in Bretvil's shoulder. For his part, Bretvil looked like he was fighting back tears, himself.

Setak was running scans, but had muted his tricorder. He tapped T'HoD on the shoulder and handed him the unit so the communications chief could read the display. T'HoD looked at it and just shook his head.

There would be nothing to break the silence but the wind and the water, and a young woman crying.

-----FINIS (FOR NOW)-----

* * * * *

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] The Avenger arrives at a mining colony to provide medical supplies. While there the miners begin to go mad and kill others for no apparent reason. Checks will reveal psionic or evil entity type monster living in the caves.

2] The Avenger is proceeding through a star system when the ship's sensors pick up a freighter abandoned in deep space. Sensor sweeps of the local system pick up the ship's lifeboat and detect five life-forms aboard although they are very faint and by the time the ship arrives they are gone. Once on board the lifeboat they find five humans dead, apparently having committed suicide. Investigation of the freighter also reveals 20 crewmembers dead, some from suicide and others murdered by insane crewmates.

Finally, as a part of this series, we include 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 and contributions permit. 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, or updating an existing file, contact ADM Rosenzweig for help/information.



Look at this spiffy poster below and go buy one! The newest addition to our online repertoire is the Cutaway Poster of Avenger herself. Done by artist Chris Allan, this detailed poster matches up with the official Avenger Blueprints and gives a detailed look inside our vessel. Take a look! It's at our CaféPress store: <http://www.cafepress.com/ussavenger>

TREK BOOK NEWS

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

Available February 2009:

A Singular Destiny (ST:Various), by Keith R. A. DeCandido

The cataclysmic events of "Star Trek: Destiny" have devastated known space. Worlds have fallen. Lives have been destroyed. And in the uneasy weeks that follow, the survivors of the holocaust continue to be tested to the limits of their endurance.

But, strange and mysterious occurrences are destabilizing the galaxy's battle-weary Allies even further. In the Federation, efforts to replenish diminished resources and give succor to millions of evacuees are thwarted at every turn. On the borders of the battered Klingon Empire, the devious Kinshaya sense weakness-and opportunity. In Romulan space, the already-fractured empire is dangerously close to civil war.

As events undermining the quadrant's attempts to heal itself become increasingly widespread, one man begins to understand what is truly unfolding. Sonek Pran-teacher, diplomat, and sometime advisor to the Federation President-perceives a pattern in the seeming randomness. And as each new piece of evidence falls into place, a disturbing picture encompassing half the galaxy begins to take shape, revealing a challenge to the Federation and its allies utterly unlike anything they have faced before.

Available March 2009:

Over a Torrent Sea (ST:TTN), by Christopher L. Bennett

As the Federation recovers from the devastating events of "Star Trek: Destiny", Captain William Riker and the crew of the U.S.S. Titan are ordered to resume their deep-space exploration. But even far from home on a mission of hope, they cannot escape the scars of the recent cataclysm. Painfully trying to rebuild their lives, they encounter a planet made almost entirely of water, which Aili Lavena, Titan's aquatic navigator, sets out to chart. But when their good intentions bring calamity to this new world, Lavena and Captain Riker are cut off from the Titan and feared lost. Deanna Troi is left to face a life-changing event without Riker, while the rest of the crew must brave the crushing pressures of the deep ocean to undo the global chaos they have triggered. Stranded with her injured captain, Lavena must win the trust of the beings who control their fate -- but the price for Riker's survival may be the loss of everything he holds dear.

Mere Anarchy (ST:TOS, Paperback Reprint of the eBook Miniseries), by Dayton Ward & Kevin Dilmore, Mike W. Barr, Dave Galanter, Christopher L. Bennett, Howard Weinstein, and Margaret Wander Bonanno

This miniseries consisted of six stories chronicling the aftermath of a disaster on the planet Mestiko, as it affected both the natives and Kirk and his crew, over the entire course of the TOS era.

Available April 2009:

Full Circle (ST:VOY), by Kirsten Beyer

When the U.S.S. Voyager is dispatched on an urgent mission to the planet Kerovi, Captain Chakotay and his first officer, Commander Thomas Paris, must choose between following their orders and saving the lives of two of those dearest to them. B'Elanna Torres and her daughter, Miral, are both missing in the wake of a brutal attack on the Klingon world of Boreth. With the aid of their former captain, Admiral Kathryn Janeway-as well as many old friends and new allies-Voyager's crew must unravel an ancient mystery, placing themselves between two warrior sects battling for the soul of the Klingon people...while the life of Miral hangs in the balance. But these events and their repercussions are merely the prelude to even darker days to come. As Voyager is drawn into a desperate struggle to prevent the annihilation of the Federation, lives are shattered, and the bonds that were forged in the Delta Quadrant are challenged in ways that none could have imagined. For though destiny has dealt them crushing blows, Voyager's crew must rise to face their future...and begin a perilous journey in which the wheel of fate comes full circle.

Treason (ST:NF, Trade Paperback), by Peter David

Three years have passed since the events of the previous "New Frontier" novel, Missing in Action, and tensions within the New Thallonian Protectorate are at fever pitch following the murder of Prime Minister Si Cwan. Captain Mackenzie Calhoun and the crew of the U.S.S. Excalibur face an uncertain future in the turbulent Andromeda Galaxy. The sudden power vacuum will have far-reaching consequences for them all, as lives and the very fate of Sector 221-G are catapulted into utter chaos. In Treason, the "New Frontier" storyline jumps ahead three years from the events depicted in Stone and Anvil, picking up again at a point of crucial change, where new and old Star Trek readers are at the same level of discovery for the series.

U.S.S. AVENGER - MISSION DOCKET

28 February 2009 - Polar Bear Plunge

Seaside Heights, NJ - Watch as plungers brave the cold water of the Atlantic raising money for NJ Special Olympics. Or join in and help with the fundraising!

Event Website: <http://njpolarplunge.sonj.org/>

1 March 2009 - Intergalactic Food Festival

Seaside Heights Community Center, Bay & Hancock Avenues, Seaside Heights, NJ

Come celebrate Federation Day with a taste of intergalactic cuisine from the Trek Universe.

Event Website: <http://www.usschallenger.org/portal/>

7 March 2009 - Movie Night - "WATCHMEN"

AMC Theater, Route 1, New Brunswick, NJ Time TBA - going to see the film based on the DC comics graphic novel

Event Coordinator: Todd Brugmans, Scotsmuppet@gmail.com

8 March 2009 - Avenger Ship Meeting

North Brunswick Public Library, 880 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ, 2:00 PM

Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program: "A Look back at the TOS Films". Dinner to follow.

Event Coordinator: FCAPT Judy Waidlich, waidlich@rci.rutgers.edu

21 March 2009 - Star Trek Movie Recruiting Operation Advance Workshop

Todd Brugmans's Home, 91 Hillcrest Road, Warren, NJ, Time TBA

Work session to paint our transporter pad for our recruitment drive in May when the next Star Trek movie opens.

Event Coordinator: Todd Brugmans, Scotsmuppet@gmail.com

19 April 2009 - Avenger Ship Meeting

North Brunswick Public Library, 880 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ, 2:00 PM

Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program: "Sci-Fi in Review: A Look at Genre Offerings of the Past Few Months". Dinner to follow.

Event Coordinator: FCAPT Judy Waidlich, waidlich@rci.rutgers.edu

25 April 2009 - Adventure Aquarium Trip

1 Aquarium Drive (aka 1 Riverside Drive), Camden, NJ, Time TBA

Join us on an exploration of the environment of the seas, oceans, and other bodies of water, and of the life that inhabits those places.

Ticket prices are: Adults - \$18.95; Children (2-12) - \$14.95; Children under 2 are FREE.

Event Website: <http://www.adventureaquarium.com/>

Event Coordinator: Alex Rosenzweig, alex@tellurian.com

8-10 May 2009 - "Star Trek (2009)" Opening Weekend

AMC Theater, Route 1, New Brunswick, NJ

Avenger will be out in force, celebrating the release of the newest Star Trek film and recruiting new members to join our ranks.

Event Coordinator: FCAPT Judy Waidlich, waidlich@rci.rutgers.edu

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.

TREKKIN' THE WEB

From Alex Rosenzweig:

PlanetSpace

Some people believe that the real future of space development is in the commercial sector. That might be true. PlanetSpace is an organization that is working on space commercialization and technology development. This site is a cool look at possible new ideas for getting humanity out into space for good.

<http://planetspace.org/lo/index.htm>

Drex Files

Do you like getting a peek at insider images from the history of Star Trek? Do you like insights and stories from a guy who's worked for years as part of the Trek production team, from makeup to the Art Department? Would you enjoy the chance to peek at the collection of a man who started out as a hardcore Trek fan and moved up to working as a pro in genre television and films? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", then this site is a total must-see. Go look. Right now. Yes, now. I'll wait. :)

<http://drexfiles.wordpress.com/>

Federation Reference Forums

Do you enjoy Trek tech? If you do, and especially if you like some of the fan-created tech that's been developed over the years, this is a great place to visit and chat about it. It's worth noting, perhaps, that the owner of this site is the guy whose original plans for the Avenger were the basis for a lot of what's been developed for this ship. So go visit, and mention that you heard about the forums from us. <grin>

<http://federationreference.prophbb.com/>

U.S.S. Odin

As many of you know, our most recent daughter-chapter commissioned recently. (Congrats, folks!) You might also want to stop by their website and see their little corner of the web. Check 'em out and say hello!

<http://www.ussodin.org/>

VISCO - The Visual Index of Science Fiction Cover Art

If you've enjoyed many of the really awesome cover paintings and other graphics that have graced sci-fi magazines and other periodicals over the years, this site is worth a look. It's a veritable treasure trove of cover images gathered from all over. Maybe your favorite's in there...

<http://www.sfcovers.net/>

From Mike Rupprecht:

Is Anybody Out There?

In this news report, we meet the real-life astronomer who's listening for other civilizations in the depths of space, much as Ellie Arroway does in the feature film "Contact" (based on Carl Sagan's novel). Check it out!

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/space/11/26/aliens.tarter/index.html>

From Lance R.S. McCormick:

Oh, Henry!

110-year-old dinosaur descendant undergoes lump surgery in his nether region and suddenly finds the urge to come out of solitary confinement and mate with an 80-year-old female! He fathered eleven eggs that recently hatched, helping pump up the numbers on the endangered species of Tuatara. Zoologists hope he mates with a 22 year old female next spring.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/science/01/29/lizard.reproduces/index.html?iref=mpstoryview>

\$50 gift certificates for \$25

Okay, so it's in Philly, but some of you come this way periodically. Most of the places in the list are places no one's ever heard of, like Bark Busters, but if you really think of it if two people put in some dollars toward the cert and you can have a nice dinner at a place you would have only gone to if you were 25\$ richer.

<http://www.phillyhalfoff.com/>

New Jersey Online Live Traffic Cameras

End that stupid debate "Are the roads safe enough to drive on?" Go online and peruse your route thanks to Big Brother, and you can see if there is traffic or snow on your way to work. Or if you're coming to Philly to redeem some of those gift certificates.

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/traffic/cameras/>

U.S.S. AVENGER - SHIP BBS

The Ship's BBS was first introduced in the novel *Spock's World*, written by Diane Duane. Like BBSs of today, it was a place where items of interest could be posted for the crew to read and respond to. This column is much like that. Things may change from time to time, so keep checking back each issue.

* Do you have an idea for an event or activity? We love to do stuff, that's for sure! Lots of stuff is based on ideas our members bring to the group, and can be as simple as something you enjoy and would like to share. How? It's easy! Just ask an Avenger Command Staff member for an Event Planner and begin your adventure today. Event Planners contain descriptions of events/activities, and both the Planners and sign-up sheets are passed around at each month's ship meeting. 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, they don't happen!!

* Internet Resources:

The Avenger has a lot of opportunities to interact through the Internet! Check 'em out...

- The adventure begins with our spiffy website where you can find information about your fellow crewmates and read online logs from your division chief:

<http://www.ussavenger.org/>

- Another great way to contact your STARFLEET buddies is through the Internet Relay Chat (IRC). Instructions can be found on the Avenger site. Go to the Internet Resources link on the navigation bar on the Avenger's main site, and follow the instructions about IRC. NOTE: To access the IRC servers, use:

irc.fleetchat.org

Port 6667

The main STARFLEET channel is #starfleet, and Avenger maintains its own channel at #avenger

For additional information, visit <http://www.fleetchat.org/>

- The Avenger Yahoo Group is a great place to get updated news from the Avenger via email and special website features. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/avenger-sfi>

- Avenger News newsletters are archived online, in PDF format, in a dedicated, members-only Google Group. <http://groups.google.com/group/avengernews?lnk=li>

* Our CaféPress Store: You can buy Avenger schtuff online like T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, mousepads, etc at the Cafépress Avenger Store, featuring our logo. The anniversary period is done, and the standard logo items have been restored, but there are still a couple of items to bear the anniversary logo, too. New for 2008, though, is the calendar. This time, it's a full-color graphic of our major insignia over time. The store can be found at: <http://www.cafepress.com/ussavenger>

* CaféPress Store Feedback: Is there something you'd like that we're not offering at the Avenger Store? Check out CaféPress's product list, and if you see something there that's not available in our store, contact Avenger Command and let them know.

* CaféPress Store Feedback II: It'll soon be time for the 2009 calendar! We'll be looking for suggestions for next year's calendar art. Any ideas, contributions, or stuff you'd like to see us do? If so, contact Avenger Command.

* A STARFLEET Community of Particular Note: Interested members are invited to join a community called Project SIMELE. "SIMELE" is short for "STARFLEET In the Movie and Early Lost Eras", and its focus is for members or chapters of STARFLEET who have an interest in, use the motif of, or are fictionally set in the timeframe of roughly 2270 to 2335 in the Star Trek Universe, to interact. (This, of course, includes the Avenger.) It's designed to provide a venue for members to share resources, exchange ideas and thoughts about playing in this era of Star Trek, possibly develop cooperative fiction, and so forth. Come check the group out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SIMELE/>

* Avenger Blueprints!

Do you find yourself getting lost every time you're on duty while serving aboard your ship? Maybe you should get one of these spiffy blueprint maps!

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 Drive
Hillsborough, NJ 08844-5531

* Help Wanted!

Looking to contribute to the Avenger? If so, we need your help! The following positions are open:

- Press Officer: Write and distribute press releases to the ship's media list, interact with reporters and other media personnel, and help craft our club image to the world at large!

- Chief of Security: Serve on the senior staff, and be a leader of the members in the Security Division. Have a direct voice in the running of the chapter. Highlight security/police/safety-oriented interests, both in the Trek Universe and in real life. (This position requires STARFLEET membership in good standing.)

Contact FCAPT Judy or COMM Todd if you'd like to volunteer!

Please submit all articles, illustrations and/or photos to Alex Rosenzweig:
alex@tellurian.com

March 25, 2009

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of Avenger News, AN-114:

North Brunswick Public Library
880 Hermann Rd.
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
<http://www.northbrunswicklibrary.org>

SUNDAY, March 8, 2009
2:00pm

The Next Meeting of USS Avenger will be

USS AVENGER
331 ACADEMY TERRACE, APT 17
LINDEN, NJ 07036-5695

NOTE: YOUR AVENGER MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES WITH ISSUE #