



# Avenger News

The official-ish newsletter of the USS *Avenger* NCC - 1860  
Volume 12, Number 68 [June 2001]

**"My god, Heidi, what have I done..."**

Greetings and welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> run on my column here in the center seat.

It is a time of changes here on the ship and I believe them to be for the better. We're not talking anything drastic here, so keep your fingers off the panic button.

First off, you may have noticed that Avenger News is in the different, and capable, hands of Lauren Milan. (*Hiya! - Ed.*) Our Operations Chief has said we can look forward to many changes, I myself will be able to notice these changes before you, since I will likely get to preview it beforehand. My thanks to you, Lauren, for taking a load of time off my busy schedule.

We also have an Assistant Chief Science Officer. As I'm sure many of you have heard, Judy Waidlich has assumed this role. Alex will have times in the year where ShOC duties or the occasional book subcontracting (you lucky little...) [Ahem] will get in the way. Anyway, Alex sought out the vice chief for just one of those occasions, and it never hurts to have a talented individual work with you as well as for you.

The Avenger has an online store! Check out the website for many details. Samples of these items have cropped up and are wonderful to behold. They're even better if you own a set. So check out [www.ussavenger.org](http://www.ussavenger.org) and see for yourself.

On the home front, we have some developments on my computer. I am typing this in after having to reformat my C drive and reinstall Office 2000, among other things. Right now I don't even have sound since I'm waiting for

my computer to download it from Heidi's computer, now that we both have ICQ.

My thanks to all my friends, who have stood with while I was having operational difficulties. Your patience, understanding, and assistance are all greatly appreciated. I still need to revitalize my bookmarks, email addresses and fonts. A small price to pay for a computer that was hit rather hard with a virus. Right now Macafee has my official unendorsement...

In any case I'm back in business and hope to be printing membership packets shortly.

As for events, let's see what we've got in our events calendar. The one event that gets the most hype from me is our 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party! We're outdoors and having a calm cool collected picnic party. (If this sounds too sedate, bring a super soaker!) If you're not involved, get in on it!

We now resume our regularly scheduled adventure...

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

**USED** **Used Intrepid Voyager**  
1995 - 1999

Although it has a sleek design, The Voyager is not as fast as its looks boast. Your chances on getting where you want to get in the matter of time you expect, are slim to none.

find this vehicle in our **Lost & Found marketplace**  
My ZIP Code is:

Year	Kelley Blue Book Value	Reliability
1999	\$16,000 - \$27,790	Poor
1998	\$14,400 - \$25,330	Poor
1997	\$12,700 - \$22,490	Poor

**Look at Another Vehicle**

- View New Voyager Pricing & Reviews
- View All Passenger Cars
- View All Vans & Minivans
- View All Passenger Vehicles

## **Look at what's in this issue...**

Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge by Carlos Maldonado - Executive Thoughts by Chris Underwood - A Greeting from the Editor Starfleet News & Region 7 News - Newsfax- BOOK NEWS	Page 1 Page 2 Page 3 Page 4 Page 5	Ship's BBS Division Reports: Sciences , Ops Avenger in Fiction: <b>Cabin Fever, Pt. 7</b> Events & Announcements	Page 7 Page 8 Page 11 Page 14
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## Disclaimer:

**Warp Drive will be installed ...  
on Tuesday ...**

### Volume 12, Issue 67 June 2001

**Publisher** - Carlos Maldonado

**Managing Editor** - Lauren Milan

**Layout Editor** - Still Lauren Milan

**Copy Editor** - Alex Rosenzweig and the Red Pen of Justice

**Staff Writers** - Carlos Maldonado

- Chris Underwood

- Alex Rosenzweig

- and yup, Lauren Milan

**Contributors** - Blair Learn, *Highlander*

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Avenger News  
241-B Pleasantview Drive  
Piscataway, NJ 0854

**Advertisement inquiries, letters, and address corrections** should also be sent to the above address or emailed to: laurenmilan@yahoo.com.

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

### Other Stuff

Carlos made me editor... if you are reading this, it means it hit the presses before the good captain came to his senses... whew...

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New Jersey, USA

## USS Avenger Command Staff

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## Executive thoughts...

By: C. Underwood

In this issue I'd like to talk about the need for all of us to start using our chain-of-command.

Basically, in the case of the average member, there are a few things to keep in mind. We have a group of elected and appointed leadership positions on Avenger to deal with issues that shouldn't take up the common membership's time. This is simply so that the average member can concentrate on their own fun and levels of participation and involvement in activities, without being bogged down by every little thing that really doesn't affect the member on the individual level.

This allows us to deal effectively and quickly with issues that otherwise have the potential to get us too mired in red tape to actually get anything done. With this in mind, it still annoys me somewhat that few of us actually do use the chain-of-command.



Basically, the only time this becomes an excessively annoying issue is when it comes to matters of involvement of activities involving other ships. I see ideas thrown about to the ether and to anyone who will listen about great activities; for example, a Liam Neeson movie night, a Tim Roth Movie Night, a Rutger Hauer Movie night, an Apocalyptic Interactive Experience trip, a Rest Stop Tour of the New Jersey Turnpike, etc.

However, I also hear talk when I get together with reps from other groups, about events that Avenger did or is doing that I either have heard of jokingly in passing, in a would be nice capacity, or haven't even heard of at all. The problem is that, as XO of this boat, I am shocked that such rumors are flying about in the first

## ***Executive Thoughts... Cont...***

in the arse by any of these rumors, but I can see a time when we will.

For free activities, movie nights, gaming events, etc... where individuals are called on to pay their own way all-the-way, this isn't usually a huge problem. It's just annoying in that it projects the idea that we don't know what's going on under our very noses.

Moreover though, if such rumors extend to activities that actually involve a commitment of resources, cash, and personnel such as TCF, for example, this is where my Vulcan blood would boil... if I were Vulcan.

The reasoning is simple. Suppose a member states to some other ship's CO, XO, staff / standard member, or **gods forbid** region staff member or higher up, that we are thinking of doing an activity and want other ships to join in. What starts as an innocent hypothetical foray can quickly come to a head if, in the game of telephone, this rumor changes from, 'What if Avenger did this, what do you think? Would you be interested?' to '**Avenger is doing this and we want you to be involved.**'

The problem is then magnified if other COs or chapter members call in pledging support for this and we decide that it's not an activity that we want to do as a group. At this point, we have just slighted another chapter without our knowledge and over time this causes bad blood.

Even worse is if we, as a group, are supposed to host such a function and everyone shows up at the supposed appointed day and time, and we're not there. This causes A LOT of bad blood.

Of course, chances are likely that we'll find out about such a rumor turned unscheduled and uncommissioned event just in the nick of time and will feel obligated to carry it off at much expense, stress and outlay of personnel. This causes internal bad blood and could lead to a witchhunt we'd rather avoid.

Folks, we are all volunteering here. We pay a membership fee and we volunteer our time to various events we feel we can handle as they arise. We can't allocate people's spare time for them, not even members', and we can't force someone to show up or else. We can't fire anyone from the Avenger for not participating in an activity. And, even though we have a lot of members on paper, only about 20 participate in any single event (those are the high numbers presently). In the end, if you force us, even without meaning to, to cancel pre-arranged plans and pickup a major fumble, especially ones with purse strings, then we can't serve **you** because we're too busy taking up the slack on obligations that we really had no intention of assuming in the first place.

The Command Staff then wastes time better spent on things we would like to do, on things we now have to do against our will, or playing cleanup with other ships and region people, instead of answering your emails or planning new events.

The solution is simple though. Don't start rumors. Don't go off,

even with the best intentions, to another ship or region member with ideas for group activities which you want the Avenger as a whole to be involved. The C-Staff collaborates and either the Captain or myself or someone we designate from the C-staff, speaks on behalf of the ship. Now if you want to, as an individual, go and propose an idea to another group to do, then fine. But leave us out of it till you've cleared it with us. This avoids a lot of bad blood and a fair amount of lumber for the witchburning to follow if the offense is particularly heinous. In short, save trees folks.

If you have an idea for an activity you think would be perfect for us to do, with the assistance of or in conjunction with another ship, then bring it to us. Talk to your division chief and then they will bring it to the C-staff and we will discuss the ramifications of it (with angles you may not see on the first pass) and bring that to the membership. If the membership on the whole is in agreement or not against the idea, then we'll do it and **we will contact** other ships. This way, they know that the info they get from us is accurate and that we get it to them without putting it through another round of the telephone game. (We tend to know the principal people who disseminate the information to their groups anyway). If they want to be involved, they can contact us and let us know. It works out much better this way, trust me.

Well, my rant is done. All flames, hate mail and good responses can be sent to [diva@ussavenger.org](mailto:diva@ussavenger.org)

*In Service,*

*Chris Underwood  
Executive Officer, USS Avenger NCC-1860*



***You know how it is... you go away for the weekend,  
and your work piles up on you...***



# Starfleet and Region 7 News



## Fleet News

- The U.S.S. WITCHFIRE, NCC-75006 has been commissioned.
- SFI Dept. of Gaming: Fleet Gamers should contact Joe Brouhard at [joe@armadaproject.net](mailto:joe@armadaproject.net) to talk to Fleet people with the same interests as you. (And most likely the same games...)
- The Fleet Web site has been overhauled; check it out if you have a chance at [www.sfi.org](http://www.sfi.org). In addition, the Fleet database has undergone a recent update.
- Liz Woolf has stepped down as the Fleet awards Director. Elizabeth Cash is on board as Interim Director, STARFLEET International Awards
- IC 2001: a Starfleet Odyssey is set for July 27 to 29, in Kansas city, MO. If you have not registered, please visit him on the IC2001 website at <http://ic2001.sfi.org/>. Also, be sure to reserve your hotel room at the KCI Airport Marriot. The deadline for reservations is July 5, 2001.
- *Stellar Visions*, the Fleet fan fiction publication is now in the final stretch of its submission phase. Short stories, art, poetry, and other works, either based on the Fleet fanfic universe or the canon Trek series/novels, are welcome; please send submissions by July 1st to Chris Wallace at [fanzine@sfi.org](mailto:fanzine@sfi.org). *SV* will be published in PDF format and available for download in late July in time for the International Conference. For more information, check out the *SV* Web site at <http://www.ussbrightstar.org/sv4/>.

## In Region 7 News

### Region 7 Halloween Party

The Region 7 Halloween party will be hosted this year by the USS Challenger, commanded by Bob Vosseller. The party is Saturday Oct. 27th starting at 7 p.m. until midnight and will feature games, a contest and more with a potluck dish system, no fee. The party will be at the Seaside Heights Community Center, on Bay Avenue and Hancock and those interested or who need directions can contact Bob at 732/830-3262 or e-mail him at [Chalngrcmd@aol.com](mailto:Chalngrcmd@aol.com).

### R7 Cadet Corps Web site premieres

Dean Rogers, CO of the R7 Cadet Corps, is happy to report that the R7CC web site is here for all officers to enjoy. Go and check it out at: <http://www.geocities.com/r7cc>  
Comments, questions, and suggestions can go to the webmaster or the head of the Cadet Corps.

### Farpoint Changes Date

Farpoint, one of R7's major conventions, is changing its date to February each year. This will give the fans more time between major conventions to create costumes, write filks and produce 'zines. More information from Farpoint will be forthcoming.

### R7 Conference Info

The Region 7 Conference will take place November 2-4 2001, and have a theme of "The Scariest Region 7 Conference You'll Ever Attend." The Conference is taking place at:

**Holiday Inn**  
**260 Mall Boulevard**  
**King of Prussia PA 19406**  
**(610) 265-7500**

### Promotions

*USS Highlander* – Gerry Sylvester to Ensign

*USS Justice* – Jim Miller to Chief Warrant Officer

*USS Matrix* – William "Heavystun" Fox to Lieutenant  
Ray Gales to Lieutenant, Junior Grade  
Melissa Cawein to Midshipman

*USS Osiris* – Donald Jones to Lieutenant, Junior Grade

## Presidential Pie in the Face Challenge!

Dominion News Service  
*Courtesy of Blair Learn, USS Highlander*

The Dominion is pleased to announce the **Presidential Pie in the Face Challenge!** If the members of STARFLEET can raise \$1,000 for the STARFLEET scholarship fund before July 27, Fleet Admiral Les Rickard has agreed to let us smash a pie in his face during the International Conference.

As with previous Dominion fundraisers, a running total of donations from each region will be maintained online at <http://www.networkboy.com/dominion/>. The region contributing the most money will be announced at the IC and that region's RC or designated proxy will have the privilege of choosing the person to throw the pie.

Checks or Money Orders made payable to "Starfleet Scholarship Fund" may be sent to The Dominion, P.O. Box 101, Germantown, MD 20875-0101. Please be certain to include a note specifying which region your donation is to be counted toward.

## A Greeting From the Editor

By Lauren Milan

Hello, all,

I wanted to make a brief introduction as Avenger News' new editor-in-chief. Yeah, yeah, I know most of you know me, but in case you don't, well, I'm Lt. Cmdr. Lauren Milan, Chief Operations Officer aboard Avenger, and a member for 2 years.

When Captain Maldonado asked me to become editor, I was very excited and a little worried about taking on this responsibility. I always wanted to become a newsletter editor, but still Avenger News is a very well-established publication, with a format and focus that has remained relatively unchanged over time. As eager as I am to add new features to the newsletter, I also understand and respect the greater goals of the newsletter, to share news and information regarding Avenger, Region 7 and SFI, discuss topics of interest to the crew, and publish Avenger fiction. And I plan to preserve that focus, but still work to balance it out with a larger amount of fun content.

In this issue, I've started to incorporate more photos, parodies and fun stuff, and plan to include more reviews of Avenger events and photos as well. Avenger News is a reflection of who we are and what we do as a crew, especially for our far-flung members and non-Avenger subscribers, and I feel it is important for us to show everyone what a good time we're having, and the level of talent and creativity we crank out on a regular basis (and perhaps, what SuperSoaker addicts some of us are.) This is not a Monthly Status Report, and it's not a science journal, it's one of our primary modes of distributing news & info shipwide, and should be as lively and fun, and as good a showcase of the talent and energy of the crew, as our meetings, our events, and our Web site.

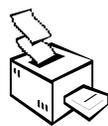
The evolution will be gradual; as we think up new ideas for the newsletter, and as I receive feedback on each issue, you will see changes in the layout, the art, and of course the articles. I'm currently working with Alex Rosenzweig and Todd Brugman to develop some great comedy & parody features, and sketching out some new ideas for title art.

And of COURSE, the best way to get some changes made is to get more than one set of eyes on the newsletter, so I am currently looking to fill the position of Assistant Editor. I've received a few offers so far, and I am following up on them this month so that we can have a full-fledged staff ready to get to work in August on our next edition.

Thank you for giving me the chance to give Avenger News a new attitude, and I hope you will enjoy this issue and those yet to come. Also, remember, all submissions for our next issue, to be published in August, can be sent to me at [coo@ussavenger.org](mailto:coo@ussavenger.org).

*Sincerely,*

*Lauren Milan*



## Newsfeed

STAR TREK BOOK NEWS



Available May 2001:

Avatar: Book 1 of 2 (ST:DS9), by S.D. Perry

In the aftermath of a war that brought the Alpha Quadrant to the brink of destruction, Deep Space 9—the galaxy's nexus of scientific and military intrigue—is once more the flashpoint of impending Armageddon as a surprise attack cripples the station, killing hundreds and threatening the fragile new peace.

Colonel Kira Nerys and the survivors—together with several controversial new officers—are all who stand against the outbreak of a new war and a terrible doom tied to the unborn child of Captain Benjamin Sisko.

Elsewhere, Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the starship Enterprise make a startling discovery—one that will affect the destiny of an entire civilization and forever change the lives of those aboard Deep Space 9.

Avatar: Book 2 of 2 (ST:DS9), by S.D. Perry

As the Federation prepares to launch a counterstrike against the Dominion, Colonel Kira Nerys searches for a way to prevent another galactic holocaust. But when a newly discovered prophecy propels Jake Sisko on an impossible quest and threatens to plunge all of Bajor into chaos, Kira is forced to choose between being true to her faith... and being true to herself.

Meanwhile, as the combined crews of Deep Space 9 and the starship Enterprise struggle to stop a terrorist plot to destroy the station and the ship, lives change, new friendships are forged, and the shocking truth behind a grisly murder is revealed.

Strange New Worlds IV (ST:All), edited by Dean Wesley Smith

In the fourth year of its ongoing mission, the Strange New Worlds writing competition has once again sought out exciting new voices and imaginations among Star Trek's vast galaxy of fans. After scanning countless submissions for signs of style and originality, the judges are proud to report that the universe of amazing Star Trek writers just keeps expanding.

"Strange New Worlds IV" features twenty-two never-before-published stories spanning the twenty-third and twenty-fourth centuries, from the early days of James T. Kirk and his crew to the later generations of Captains Picard, Sisko, and Janeway. These memorable new tales explore and examine the past and future of Star Trek from many different perspectives.

"Divided We Fall, Chapter 1: Crossfire" (Comic Book, ST:TNG/DS9), written by John J. Ordovery and David Mack  
The U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-E, under the command of Captain Jean-Luc Picard, receives an urgent distress call



# NewsFeed

Continued from the previous page

from a shuttle carrying Odan, a Trill ambassador. At the same time, Lieutenant Ezri Dax, stationed on Deep Space Nine, receives word that Lenara Kahn, her spouse in a previous lifetime, has been kidnapped. Ezri must return home to Trill at once or Lenara will die. The Enterprise also finds itself drawn to Trill, bringing the wounded Ambassador Odan--for whom the planet represents a last chance at survival.

When they arrive at the planet, they find all is not well. A revolutionary group of unjoined Trill is out to destroy all the symbionts on the planet and with them, the hosts they are joined to. Captain Picard and the Enterprise must work with Elias Vaughn, the new commander of the U.S.S. Defiant, to stop a civil war that might cost Dax and Odan their lives and bring Trill to the edge of destruction.

Available June 2001:

Section 31: Rogue (ST:TNG), by Andy Mangels and Michael A. Martin

Six months before their ultimate battle against the Borg for the fate of Earth, Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise face a very different kind of crisis. A world in turmoil becomes a focal point of conspiracies and betrayal as an unexpected reunion brings with it startling revelations. Old friends become bitter enemies, and one young officer reaches a crossroad when he's forced to choose between the greater good of the Federation and the ideals for which it stands.

Section 31: Shadow (ST:VOY), by Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch

Someone or something is trying to kill Seven of Nine. As the crew races against time to save millions of refugees from an imminent stellar cataclysm, the former Borg becomes the target of several seemingly random but potentially lethal "accidents". The investigation reveals a truth more terrifying than anyone ever imagined, as Captain Kathryn Janeway and the crew of the Starship Voyager fight for their lives against the most unexpected enemy of all.

"Divided We Fall, Chapter 2: No Quarter" (Comic Book, ST: TNG/DS9), written by John J. Ordovery and David Mack  
The crossover between The Next Generation and Deep Space Nine continues. The search for the missing Ezri Dax gets some unexpected assistance from the crew of the Enterprise-E. But that aid may be too little too late, since Ezri's kidnapping proves to be only one part of a worldwide conspiracy of genocide against all joined Trill. Meanwhile, Beverly Crusher, unaware of the plot, brings the Odan symbiont to the caves of Mak'ala, which should be a healing place but, in fact, might be the most dangerous spot on the Trill planet...

The Computers of Star Trek (Trade Paperback), by Lois Gresh and Robert Weinberg

This latest entry in the "Science of Star Trek" genre is both an entertaining look at popular assumptions about computers and an exploration of computing's future.

From the beginning in 1967, when the starship Enterprise first set off to seek out new civilizations, we have marveled at the wonders of the computers in Star Trek. Inspired by the computers described in the popular TV series and its offshoots, Lois Gresh and Robert Weinberg discuss contemporary ideas about computers and their role in our lives. In fact, each of the Star Trek shows reflects a distinct mindset--from the deep distrust of computers in the original series, to the ubiquity of computers in every aspect of life on Deep Space Nine.

Their exploration will yield answers to such puzzling questions as these:

- \* When the android Data's head is opened, why are there lights inside?
- \* If the Enterprise's computer is artificially intelligent, why doesn't it make more decisions?
- \* Could we ever create a holographic doctor like the one on Voyager, or use nanoprobes to alter a person's physiology, as the Borg does?

This combination of futurist TV series and futurist science makes for great entertainment--and great science.

This book was not prepared, licensed, approved, or endorsed by any entity involved in creating or producing the Star Trek television series or films.

Available July 2001:

Section 31: Cloak (ST:TOS), by S.D. Perry  
Once, in order to preserve the galaxy's fragile balance of power, Captain James T. Kirk carried out a dangerous mission to capture a cloaking device from the Romulan Star Empire. Months later, while investigating a mysterious disaster aboard a Federation starship, Kirk discovers that the same technology he obtained for the sake of peace is being put to sinister purposes. What the crew of the starship Enterprise uncovers will send shock waves through the quadrant, as Section 31 sets in motion a plan that could bring the major powers of the galaxy to their knees.

Section 31: Abyss (ST:DS9), by David Weddle and Jeffrey Lang  
Mere days after the startling events of Avatar, Dr. Julian Bashir faces his darkest nightmare when Section 31 compels him to undertake a mission to stop one of their own. But this renegade is no ordinary agent. Like Bashir, Dr. Ethan Locken is genetically enhanced, a human superior in body and mind. But Locken dreams of remaking the galaxy in his own image--and of creating a new human empire based on the example of the infamous Khan Noonien Singh. And as he begins to understand the terrifying truth about his opposite number, Bashir will learn more about himself than he ever wanted.

The Eugenics Wars: The Rise and Fall of Khan Noonien Singh: Volume One (Hardcover, ST: TOS), by Greg Cox  
Even centuries later, the final decades of the twentieth century are still regarded--by those who know the truth of what really happened--

*Cont....*



# 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.

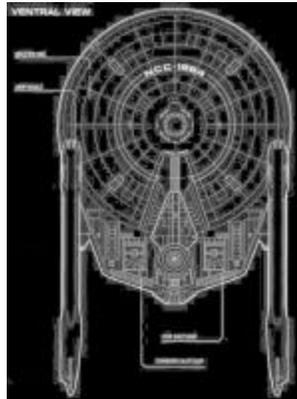
This helps us verify your membership in Starfleet.

\* **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.

## 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

## 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](mailto:purple@castle.net)) for help.

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

## OTHER COOL CRAP AT OUR CAFEPRESS STORE

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

## GARMENTS/MEMORABILIA

Orders for embroidered Avenger shirts (or other garments) are now ready to be taken! Several symbols are available, including a communicator logo (at \$6.00) or the Avenger "screaming chicken" insignia (at \$6.00). Lettering is also available. The block-lettered text: U S S Avenger  
NCC-1860

costs \$9.00 (\$5.00 for the first line, \$4.00 for the second line). Different color combinations, depending on garment and embroidery color, can be created. Other options include getting only the logo, only the text, or a custom phrase. For more information, contact Island Embroidery, Inc. at (718) 982-8577 (They're in the Staten Island Mall, Sears Wing, lower level. They're also at Woodbridge Center in Woodbridge, NJ. Please consider purchasing something. These folks were nice enough to set up the ship's insignia for free!

\* 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

## Book news (cont.)

as one of the darkest and most perilous chapters in the history of humanity. Now, as an ancient and forbidden technology tempts mankind once more, Captain James T. Kirk of the starship Enterprise must probe deep into the secrets of the past, to discover the true origins of the dreaded Eugenics Wars—and of perhaps the greatest foe he has ever faced. A.D. 1974: An international consortium of the world's top scientists have conspired to create the Chrysalis project, a top-secret experiment in human genetic engineering. The project's goal is nothing less than the creation of a new, artificially improved breed of men and woman: smarter, faster, stronger than ordinary human beings, a super-race to take command of the entire planet.

Gary Seven, an undercover operative for an advanced alien species, is alarmed by the project's objectives; he knows too well the apocalyptic consequences of genetic manipulation. With his trusted agents, Roberta Lincoln and the mysterious Isis, he will risk life and limb to uncover Chrysalis' insidious designs and neutralize the awesome threat that the Project poses to the future.

But he may already be too late. One generation of super-humans has already been conceived. As the years go by, Seven watches with growing concern as the children of Chrysalis—in particular, a brilliant youth named Khan Noonien Singh—grow into adulthood. Can Khan's dark destiny be averted—or is Earth doomed to fight a global battle for supremacy?

The Eugenics Wars: Volume One is an engrossing and fast-paced thriller that explored the secret history of the twentieth century—and the rise of the conqueror known as Khan. Endgame (ST:VOY,

Novelization of the Finale Episode), by Diane Carey, with additional material written by Christie Golden

Based on the episode, teleplay by Kenneth Biller and Robert Doherty; story by Rick Berman, Kenneth Biller, and Brannon Braga A novelization of the final episode of “Voyager” written by Diane Carey, plus some additional material written by Christie Golden taking Voyager into the future.

“Divided We Fall, Chapter 3: All Fall Down” (Comic Book, ST: TNG/DS9), written by John J. Ordovery and David Mack The exciting crossover between Star Trek: The Next Generation and Star Trek: Deep Space Nine continues! The truth about Verad's plot against joined Trill is revealed—and Ezri Dax turns out to be one of Verad's first targets. With a highly communicable airborne virus racing across the Trill world, Verad on the run, and Ezri down for the count, will the U.S.S. Enterprise be able to come up with a solution before the Trill population is decimated?

Cold Fusion (ST: S.C..E. E-Book), by Keith R.A. DeCandido Following the catastrophic conclusion of Avatar, Lieutenant Nog—the chief operations officer of Deep Space 9—joins forces with the crew of the U.S.S. Da Vinci!

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

# Division Reports



## Scientific Methods by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

Greetings!

Happy spring! Things have been fairly quiet on the Sciences Division (SciDiv) front in the last couple of months, as projects in other realms have occupied perhaps a bit more attention than I'd originally hoped. However, Avenger's SciDiv members have not been forgotten, and I want you to know that. Given the number of general activities the ship has been developing, we haven't gone ahead and added the next SciDiv-sponsored trip to the schedule yet. This will hopefully change over the next few months.

The major news since last issue is the appointment of our new Assistant Chief Science Officer. I'd like all of you to join me in welcoming LCDR Judy Waidlich to that position. She's been super-active with the group, and I felt she really deserved the post. I'm delighted that she said yes! <grin>

Mercury capsules and realizes they really were little more than glorified tin cans, it's just amazing. For that matter, when one thinks of the kind of chances scientists and explorers today take in the name of finding out new things, from going into space on giant Roman candles to using ropes and slings to climb down into caves of potentially-unstable ice, it makes one appreciate the Human need to know. Exploration isn't only about technology; it's about will. Part of why I'm so emphatic about supporting it is **because** it's about will. To hearken back to an old phrase, if not us, who? If not now, when?

Meanwhile, getting off the soapbox, I'm still hoping eventually to see some more activity in the division, but we'll take this a step at a time. As always, if someone would like to see something done that we're not doing, or might even want to help with a suggested activity, I'd love the input. Never be afraid to bring up a suggestion. Suggestions are good! ☺

I am continuing to take suggestions, by the way, for science-related topics for this column. If you're interested in something about science, let me know and I'll see if I can hunt down a few interesting facts to share about it in the

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## Telemetry Dump: News from the World of Science

*Alex Rosenzweig (and the Starfleet Sciences Mailing List)*

**2 April 2001:** NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has seen a burst of light from an exploding star located much farther from Earth than any previously seen - a supernova blast in the early Universe that is casting light on a mystery of truly cosmic scale. This stellar explosion is extraordinary not only because of its tremendous distance, 10 billion light-years from Earth, but also because its discovery greatly bolsters the case for the existence of a mysterious form of "dark energy" pervading the universe.

**3 April 2001:** A new report from the National Wildlife Federation notes that not only panthers and ocelots but all wildcats are vanishing from the United States, Mexico and Canada. Left behind are natural ecosystems that are "imbalanced and vulnerable". The imbalances that remain when these top predators disappear are overpopulation and declines among other species that share their habitat, says Elizabeth Murdock, chief author of the report.

**5 April 2001:** Environmentalists in Brazil are celebrating the birth of the 1,000th golden lion tamarin monkey in the wild, a milestone in the fight to preserve the orange rain forest species.

**9 April 2001:** The European Union is gaining support from Russia, Asia and the developing world for pushing ahead with a 1997 deal on combating global warming that the United States has rejected, EU officials said. A delegation from the 15-country European bloc is in Japan on the last leg of a diplomatic tour to urge world powers to stick to the deal on cutting "greenhouse gases" that the White House threw out last month.

**13 April 2001:** New efficiency standards approved by the Bush administration are expected to save billions of dollars in energy costs but significantly increase prices of new washing machines and water heaters.

**13 April 2001:** A top Australian official said that no global warming agreement will be complete without the United States and that U.S. leadership is needed to craft a better treaty on the issue.

**17 April 2001:** A progressive warming of tropical oceans, likely due to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, is driving major climate changes observed in the Northern Hemisphere since 1950, according to a new study by two veteran American climate scientists.

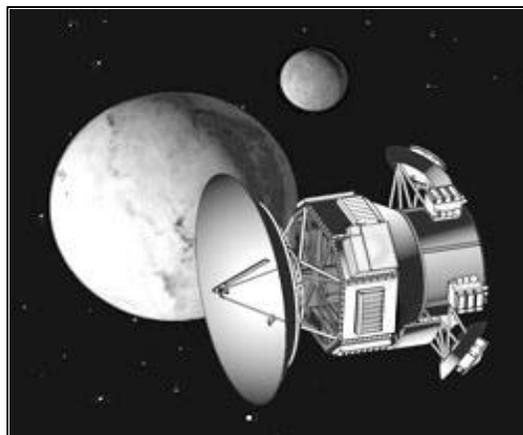
**18 April 2001:** Vice President Dick Cheney has jumped on the nuclear energy bandwagon as an answer to both the U.S.'s energy crisis and the world's high fever. "If you want to do something about carbon dioxide emissions, then you ought to build nuclear power plants. They don't emit any carbon dioxide. They don't emit greenhouse gases," Cheney said recently on MSNBC's "Hardball" program. Cheney believes that greater use of nuclear energy must be a

part of the country's long-term energy strategy. Currently 20 percent of U.S. power is nuclear. If the Bush administration get its way, the figure will rise.

**20 April 2001:** With Earth Day just around the corner, President Bush said he would sign a global treaty intended to clean the world's air and water by curbing the use of a "dirty dozen" toxic chemicals.

**25 April 2001:** An enormous dust cloud from Mongolia recently arrived in the western United States, causing concerns over air quality and air transportation, and proving that pollution is an international problem.

**26 April 2001:** Scientists around the world are preparing to boycott scientific journals unless they make old research papers available for free. The strike has been called as part of a larger plan to establish a vast online library of scientific research material, much of which is currently in the hands of the journals rather than the scientists who did the work. The researchers behind the boycott say the library is needed to preserve academic freedom, stimulate study and creativity and ensure that science stays free of commercial pressures. But the call to set up the library is meeting resistance from publishers and



academic associations, which are keen to protect their copyright on scientific papers. In September this year, many scientists could stop sending in papers to journals and refuse to renew subscriptions to them in support of a plan to create a huge Public Library of Science (Plos) on the internet.

**26 April 2001:** IBM scientists have, for the first time, created a vast assembly of transistors using a new material only a few molecules wide, taking a significant step toward computers far tinier and more powerful than those used today.

**26 April 2001:** A duck-sized dinosaur fossil unearthed in China last year sports a downy coat from head to tail, bolstering evidence that feathers arose first for insulation and not flight, scientists report. The fossil, which will likely stoke the debate over the origin of birds, is the most complete of several found with feather-like features in China in recent years. It is dated between 126 million and 147 million years old.

**27 April 2001:** A theory about asteroids is gaining more and more credibility among astronomers, who allow

## **Telemetry Dump (cont.)**

that life on Earth might have been brought here from another planet. During a recent conference at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas, astronomers revealed that asteroids, previously thought to be only remnants of unformed planets, may actually be ejected from other planets, spreading life as they travel.

**30 April 2001:** Two detectors in Antarctica have discovered minute patterns in a glow from primordial gases, possible traces of the cosmic match that ignited the Big Bang and led to the creation of the universe 14 billion years ago, astronomers announced.

**30 April 2001:** NASA scientists said that they had contacted the Pioneer 10 spacecraft, ending fears that the robotic probe had gone silent 29 years into a mission that carried it more than eleven billion kilometers from earth.

**1 May 2001:** two new, unrelated studies are reporting that dolphins are able to recognize themselves in mirrors—often taken as a sign of self-awareness—and of spontaneously grasping the thoughts of other individuals, in this case, humans.

**1 May 2001:** By studying the rapidly varying X-ray emissions from an object 10,000 light-years from Earth, an astronomer believes he has measured the spin of a black hole for the first time, scientists said at a meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, DC.

**4 May 2001:** Scientists say they have detected wide swings and, most recently, a sharp drop in atmospheric concentrations of chemicals that naturally purge the air of many kinds of contaminants and methane, a powerful, heat-trapping greenhouse gas. The scientists say they suspect that the decline is related to human activity, because the biggest drop was measured in the northern hemisphere, where most industry and other human activity is concentrated.

**4 May 2001:** In an advance that may help biologists examine the components of cells and engineers build Lilliputian machines, scientists have found a way to use a beam of light to set microscopic objects spinning.

**8 May 2001:** Climate change could have a far-reaching impact on health patterns in the United States, according to a recent assessment by a broad coalition of scientists from academia, government and private industry. The evaluation, published in the May issue of the Journal of Environmental Health Perspectives, identifies and examines five key health problems that could be influenced by global climate change. Those problems include heat-related illness and death, health effects related to extreme weather events, health effects related to air pollution, water-borne and food-borne diseases, and vector-borne and rodent-borne diseases.

**10 May 2001:** A research team based at the University of Minnesota concludes that biodiversity is an important factor regulating how ecosystems will respond to increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide, a component in global warming. The team of investigators, led by Peter Reich at the university, found that more diverse plant eco-

systems are better able to absorb carbon dioxide and nitrogen, both of which are on the rise due to human activities and industrial processes. The more of a mix of species, the better job they do at absorbing these greenhouse gases.

**17 May 2001:** Using 10 radio-telescope antennas spread across the United States from Hawaii to the Virgin Islands, an international group of researchers has detected a perfectly round bubble of material being ejected from a young star more than 2,000 light-years away from Earth. "It is surprising that nature can maintain such perfect symmetry," said Guillem Anglada of the Institute of Astrophysics of Andalusia in Granada, Spain. "This appears to be a triumph of order over chaos." After several months of observations, the bubble, formed by water molecules, had grown in diameter to 5.8 billion miles, the researchers report in the journal Nature.

**22 May 2001:** On a third and final tour of duty in the Jovian system, NASA's dauntless Galileo spacecraft makes its closest pass yet to Jupiter's outermost large moon. On Friday, May 25, the orbiter should skim over Callisto, at an altitude of about 123 kilometers, at 4:24 a.m. PDT. If Callisto were the size of a baseball, that would be just a nickel's thickness away.

## **The Ops Report** By Lauren Milan, Operations Chief

*By Lauren Milan*  
*Chief Operations Officer*

\*Milan pulls off her editor cap, and slaps on her Ops Chief cap, the one with the way-cool propeller on top.\* All is well in the Ops Division, I am pleased to say, first off I would like to congratulate Tactical Officer Joe Paternostro's promotion to Lt. JG, and the newest addition to Operations, Ensign Peter Stark. Welcome aboard!

In other news, I am now taking suggestions from the crew regarding new event ideas. I'm looking for events that center around aviation, space exploration & astronomy, and technology, and so far I've gotten some good ones from around the Avenger crew. The best ideas that have been suggested so far...

- Presentations post-meeting on real-life space exploration
- Visiting one of the many air shows in the NY/NJ area
- Reviving Astronomy Sundays at a local observatory
- Group together with an NYC chapter for a tour of the USS Intrepid

If you have any more ideas for events, especially for stuff we can do this fall when con season winds down, please let me know, either at the next shipwide, or by email at [coo@ussavenger.org](mailto:coo@ussavenger.org). I was also considering hosting a few events on my own that had little or nothing to do with Operations, such as a B-Movie night (complete with Ed Wood, Roger Corman, and spaceships that have NOTHING to do with scientific fact, or even any reputable fiction!) and working with Commander Underwood to throw a Zephram Cochran Post-Apocalyptic Party (kind of a rehearsal for our plans to throw the first official First Contact Day party next April!)

See you next time light reflects off you!  
-LM

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**THE AVENGER IN FICTION:  
CABIN FEVER, CHAPTER 7**

By Steve Dickinson

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

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

*In this issue, things start heating up in "Cabin Fever". It's getting more and more...interesting...*

**CABIN FEVER**

By **Stephan Dickinson**

Part. 7

"The reason you shouldn't time travel is because if you do something you don't want to do, you could go back in time and tell yourself not to do it, then you don't do it and wonder what it is you didn't do, but now you know you didn't do it, but since you didn't do it you don't know what happens when you did do it so you've got no reason to tell yourself not to do it so you don't not do it so it still gets done."

-excerpt from "The Reason You Shouldn't Time Travel."

By Cadet Sasha Graevyn  
Temporal Physics 101 Term Paper  
Star Fleet Academy, (2284 AD)  
Grade A+

"Doctor Graevyn, I presume?"

Sasha Graevyn took off her headphones and turned towards the voice. As ship's geologist, Sasha often spent long hours alone in the geology lab, studying rock samples and cataloging experiments. Since she worked off-shift from most of Avenger's physical sciences department, she had taken the luxury of modifying the ship's audio circuits so she could listen to some of her native Kyonan melodies at loud volumes. This way she could blast her music without disturbing other crewmembers. However, since the arrival of the Vulcan science team this morning, Sasha now had to share her workspace with four Vulcans and an awfully large amount of equipment.

"Can I help you?" Sasha replied to the Vulcan. Sasha recognized her as Selerus, the chief scientist on the Vulcans' team.

"I seriously doubt that," replied Selerus in a loud voice. "It would be unlikely that your skills would be useful in my research, and while I am in need of a personal assistant, I don't think you fit the bill. However, the Vulcan Science Academy does have several custodial positions available, if you are interested."

Sasha wasn't quite certain, but she was overcome with the sensation that the woman had just insulted her. However, before she could react, Selerus continued. "I would appreciate it, Dr. Graevyn,

if you would return the bipolar tachyon receptor that you borrowed earlier."

"The what?" blinked Sasha.

Selerus sighed heavily. "The bipolar tachyon receptor. It records various temporal phenomena. You had asked if you could borrow mine, since yours was broken. I thought this was very suspicious, since you did not seem like the type of person who knew how to interpret the non-linear reactions of bipolar tachyons, but I wasn't currently using it, and you told me you would return it immediately."

"I did!?" Sasha asked in total astonishment.

"Yes, you did. That was exactly four hours and forty two minutes ago, and you have yet to return my property."

"Look, lady." Sasha stood up from her desk. "I really don't remember borrowing your wacha-ma-callit. I've been here studying my Formica samples since your shuttlecraft landed. I really don't know what you're talking about."

"A likely story." Selerus folded her arms and scowled. "You Federation types are always borrowing things and not returning them. A *katra* here, a bird-of-prey there. I suppose it's my own fault. I knew you weren't trustworthy when I saw your face on the security bulletin."

"What??"

Rather than answer, Selerus reached over and pressed a button on the comm unit on Sasha's desk. The screen immediately displayed a security fugitive alert with Sasha's own picture on it. The caption listed her as having stolen a Mark IV torpedo. In flashing text, the bulletin said that she was armed and dangerous, and that anyone who saw her should contact security at once. Sasha stared with her mouth agape at the screen for several seconds. "This must be some mistake," she finally said aloud.

"Not very likely," replied Selerus. "You are obviously a dangerous criminal, bent on mass destruction. The logical course of action would be turning yourself in to the authorities and throwing yourself on the mercy of the court. But only after you've returned my bipolar tachyon receptor."

"But I didn't DO anything!!" Sasha stepped forward and pressed the comm button. "Graevyn to security." The screen flashed and Commander rRham's face appeared.

"Aaahhh... Sasha," said the big lizard. "Right on schedule. I suppose you're planning on making your demands now?"

"Schedule? Demands? What in Drizzit's name are you smoking?"

"Well, you did steal a torpedo. Standard terrorist patterns indicate you're going to threaten to blow up the ship if your demands are not met. What is it that you want? Money? A fully fueled escape shuttle? The release of political prisoners?"

"But I didn't steal a torpedo!!"

"I should warn you that a Mark IV torpedo is considered a class A weapon, and thus we are authorized to use deadly force in its retrieval. Now if you immediately surrender yourself to our custody the military tribunal may show leniency."

"Has everyone gone crazy?!? I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING!!!" Sasha screamed.

"You haven't returned my receptor yet. Technically that's stealing," interjected Selerus.

"Theft of a personal item is a misnomer," said rRham. "It carries a maximum 5000 credit fine and two years--"

"Shut up!" Sasha pulled at her mane. "This is useless. You're not even listening to me! Where's the chief of

security? I want to talk to him.”

“I’m afraid it’s Star Fleet policy never to negotiate with terrorists. Now if you won’t surrender, you leave me little choice but to—”

“rRham, listen to me! I *didn’t* take a torpedo!” But Sasha knew rRham, and she knew where rRham had come from, and how he thought. A simple protestation of innocence wouldn’t be enough, not for a Tzen. Of course, it wasn’t.

“Then you must surrender and clarify your involvement in this. You will be dealt with fairly, but you know what such a charge means, and you know I cannot—”

The rest of rRham’s speech was cut off as Sasha slammed her hand down upon the comm unit. She stared at the now blank screen and growled.

“That wool-headed numbskull! Why the hell would I steal a torpedo? It’s not like I even know what to do with one anyway. Or with your bipolar thingamabob.” Sasha stormed past Selerus and out into the hallway. She turned left and marched furiously towards the turbo-lift. “Everyone is acting crazy! Accusing me of being in places I’ve never been, of doing things I didn’t do... This is like some bad science fiction story. Any second now I’ll come face to face with my evil twin, only she’ll have a big scar and be bent on world domination. That, or a little midget called mini...”

Sasha never finished her sentence. She had half-turned around a corner when she was knocked clean off her feet by someone who had been running down the corridor, and not looking where they were going.

“It works better if you face forward, Zod-for-brains! Try watching where you’re going...”

Sasha’s voice trailed off. She stared slack-jawed at an identical copy of herself, who was staring slack-jawed right back. The two were indistinguishable from each other, except that one of them held Selerus’s bipolar tachyon receptor in her hand.

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Captain Carlos Maldonado returned to the security complex with a new shirt and a pungent odor. The brig’s two guests and their single guard all noticed immediately.

“Pardon me, sir,” said the large green guard, “but something smells like... shoe polish.”

“Don’t start with me, rRham.” Carlos shot the big lizard an evil eye. “My wife seems to think that little-miss jealousy here might be carrying a disease or five. She wouldn’t let me leave the quarters without smothering me with some sort of Mohnnan antibiotic. How are our guests?”

Carlos’ gaze went to the two occupied cells in the brig. The first contained the ship’s chief of operations, Lt. Commander Chris Underwood. An eyewitness had connected him to the missing torpedo, but despite all questioning, he maintained his innocence. Now he was concentrating heavily on bouncing a baseball against one side of his cell.

“Hey, Chris. I don’t suppose you’ve decided to make my life easy and admit you know anything about what’s going on, would you?”

“Sorry, Captain,” the ops chief replied. “But it’s like I said, I was in the arboretum for the last 6 hours. Now if you’ll excuse me, sir, I think I’m making progress.”

“Progress?” Carlos watched Underwood throw his ball and catch it again.

“He is attempting to escape.” rRham left the security station and stood next to the captain. “He seems to think that he can use that antique piece of sports equipment to get out of his cell. I must admit that I cannot fathom his logic.”

“It’s actually basic particle physics, rRham. The electron shell of each atom in my baseball has a random phase shift. If the random phase of the wall atoms is exactly opposite of that of the baseball’s random phase, the two objects will not physically resist each other.”

Carlos couldn’t help but smile. “So you’re going to keep throwing that ball until it magically decides to pass through the wall.”

“It’s not magic, it’s science!”

Carlos suppressed a chuckle. rRham watched suspiciously. “Captain, do you think I should remove that device?”

“I don’t think we’re in any danger of his escape.” Carlos turned to the other prisoner.

“I wouldn’t underestimate him, sir,” rRham said as he followed the CO.

Carlos turned his attention to the brig’s other occupant. Geisha, the Orion ambassador accused of interstellar espionage, sat quietly in her cell combing her hair. She was incredibly beautiful, and her smooth green skin was accented by a strategically cut silk slip. The gold and silver beads in her hair jingled as she brushed, humming a few bars of a nameless tune. She seemed perfectly calm, almost queen-like in her attitude. She did not acknowledge the Captain or rRham as they approached. rRham’s ears twitched as he heard the melody she hummed, but he said nothing. Carlos couldn’t quite place it.

“That’s a very pretty tune you’re humming,” Carlos said. Geisha didn’t respond. Carlos grimaced at this. Being the Avenger’s XO for five years was mostly about running a ship and following orders. Now, as Captain, Carlos had to start dealing with the political and diplomatic part of the job. And the more he dealt with it, the less he liked it.

“Listen, Geisha. We’ve got nearly six more months before the Avenger gets to ELR-19. That’s a really long time to spend alone in the brig. Now we can make a deal...”

“A deal?” Geisha’s hand froze in mid-motion and she turned her amethyst-colored eyes toward the Captain. They blazed with fury. “Is this the part where I fall to my knees, grovel before you, and submit to whatever demands you desire? That time has passed, Carlos Maldonado, Captain of the Federation Starship Avenger. Have you forgotten my last words to you so soon? Dead within the hour, Maldonado. Dead within the hour. Well, your hour is almost up, my poor Captain. Have you prepared yourself for the next life?”

“I’d be more worried about your own life if I were you, Geisha. We’ve confiscated your equipment, and have overwhelming evidence against you. When this ship puts in, you’ll be shipped back to the Orion confederation in chains. I’ve heard that they don’t take too well to spies that can’t cut it. I’d hate to think of what would happen to a girl like you in a forced labor camp.”

Geisha’s face dissolved into a wicked grin. “I see that my comrades vastly overrated you, Captain. You have no clue what’s really going on, do you?”

rRham quickly interjected, “Perhaps you are referring to the fact that you’re actually working for the Romulans. That this entire interstellar espionage business is in fact a diversion. And that your true purpose here is for the Tribiddian-12.

Geisha’s eyes shot open and she gasped. Carlos was

## “Cabin Fever” (cont.)

just as shocked, but he hid it better. The Orion woman recovered quickly. “And how exactly did you come to this conclusion?”

“Go ahead, rRham. Tell her,” Carlos prompted. He was anxious to hear the story himself.

“It was quite obvious,” said rRham. “Why would you want to spy on a Federation starship that was cut off from its fleet? There is no way for you to report your findings to your government until we dock at ELR-19, and any information you get would be useless by then. The only thing of value to bring you here is the Tribiddian. And since T-12 is manufactured by the Orion confederacy, it seems unlikely that they would go through the trouble of stealing it. Therefore you are working for the Romulans.”

“How do you know that?” asked Geisha. “I could be working for the Klingons.”

“I know my music. The song you were humming before was a Romulan funeral dirge. Not too many outsiders have ever attended a Romulan funeral. But I’ve heard rumors that the fatality rate for those who wish to join the Tal Shiar is very high.”

Geisha’s face was a mask of stone. After a moment, she smiled and leaned back against the cell wall. “I was wrong, Captain. My comrades did not overestimate you, they underestimated your crew. But then I suppose history always credits the leader for the deeds of his men. However, your deduction changes nothing. Your time is up.”

Just then, the ship was rocked violently from an impact. Chris was knocked from his bunk and rRham and Carlos struggled to keep their footing.

“Red Alert. Hostile ship decloaking to the aft. The ship is under attack. All hands to battle stations. Red Alert,” Se’ele’s voice sounded out from the comm system. It was quickly replaced by a s-sistant chief engineer Mike Rupprecht. “Attention all hands, power loss on all decks. The enemy is using some form of energy dampening field. All hands...” The rest of the message dissolved in a crackle of static.

“I’ve got to get to the bridge.” Carlos bolted for the door... and smacked nose-first into it when it didn’t open. “What the...?”

“My comrades have arrived.” Geisha was now crouching on her bunk, still grooming her hair. The lights across the brig started to flicker.

“What’s going on?” Carlos shouted.

“EPS systems failure,” said Underwood. “The ship’s power grid is losing stability. It would explain why the door and the lights. I can’t understand why the batteries haven’t kicked in.”

“Sabotage,” hissed rRham.

“Ohhh... You’re a smart one.” Geisha smiled. She made a small clapping motion with her hands.

“Disrupting the ship’s power grid will not allow you to escape,” said rRham. “The brig has a fully independent power cell that can imprison you for 24 hours. The force fields will remain in place. You aren’t going anywhere.”

“Think so?” she smiled.

A second blast rocked the ship and everything went dark. Carlos’ stomach lurched as the gravity gave way and he felt himself floating in freefall. Emergency lighting filled the room with a pale red glow. “Ow!” rRham yelped and swatted something from his snout. A tiny golden hairpin was lodged directly between his nostrils.

“You shot me!” rRham blinked in disbelief. “You shot me with a hairclip!”

“You ARE smart, aren’t you?” Geisha pulled a second clip from her hair and snapped it onto the front of her comb. Bringing it level with her eyes, she pulled back on a hidden trigger and the hairpin shot out and struck rRham directly in the neck. The Tzen warrior roared, drew his phaser, aimed for the green woman and fired.

Nothing happened.

rRham checked the settings and aimed again. Still the phaser would not fire. By now two more golden hairclips protruded from his chest. Bellowing in outrage, the security officer spun in the non-gravity. Coiling his snake-like tail, he used it to push off from the wall and sailed through the air toward the Orion woman, intending to subdue her hand-to-hand.

He never made it.

With the grace of a zero-G ballerina, Geisha casually stepped aside as the giant reptile sailed by her and collided with the wall. The lizard made no move to get up. Geisha chuckled to herself and turned her attention to the two other Star Fleet officers. Carlos floated near the door, one hand on the inactive comm unit. Underwood was drifting helplessly from his cell toward the security desk.

“What did you do to him?” asked Carlos.

“Tranquilizer darts,” Geisha said, reloading her weapon. “Non-lethal, so they’ll get past your scanners. Normally one will suffice, but with an opponent of his size, I wasn’t taking any chances.”

“I don’t get it.” Underwood kicked in midair, finally managing to grab hold of rRham’s desk. “Why frame me? If you were just trying to escape and steal the Tribiddian, what purpose does stealing a torpedo and locking me up serve?”

“I didn’t frame you. I have no idea who did or why. All I care about is the Tribiddian-12, which should be getting loaded onto my shuttlecraft even as we speak. As soon as the shuttle departs, it will dock with our starship, my comrades will beam me off, circle around, and blow the Avenger to atoms. No witnesses, and the Avenger is assumed destroyed by a T-12 explosion.”

“I DON’T THINK SO!” Underwood reached under the desk, pulled out a fully charged phaser rifle, and leveled it at Geisha. “For once rRham’s paranoia paid off! Drop it now!”

Geisha’s laughter was like a spring rain. Even now her beauty struck Carlos.

“Foolish boy, didn’t you see what happened to your large friend? High-energy weapons are useless within the dampening field.”

Underwood set the rifle to maximum and fired. Phased energy burst forth, only to dissipate less than an inch from the emitter.

“Gold star for effort, left-tenant commander.” Geisha’s amethyst eyes sparkled as she raised the comb and shot Chris. He grabbed his shoulder and struggled for a moment before floating unconscious in zero-G.

“I don’t understand.” Carlos felt like he was trapped in a nightmare. “This is impossible. The Romulans don’t have energy dampening weapons of this magnitude.” “Ow!” rRham yelped and swatted something from his snout. A tiny golden hairpin was lodged directly between his nostrils.

“You shot me!” rRham blinked in disbelief. “You shot me with a hairclip!”

“You ARE smart, aren’t you?” Geisha pulled a second clip from her hair and snapped it onto the front of her comb. Bringing it level with her eyes, she pulled back on a hidden trigger and the hairpin shot out and struck rRham directly in the neck. The Tzen warrior roared, drew his

## “Cabin Fever” (cont.)

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“I don’t understand.” Carlos felt like he was trapped in a nightmare. “This is impossible. The Romulans don’t have energy dampening weapons of this magnitude.” “Of course not. At least not yet. They won’t be invented for at least 500 more years. Now for you, Captain, I have a special treat.” Geisha drew two beads from her hair, one gold, one silver. She loaded the gold one. “These tranquilizers are normally non-lethal.” She pulled the trigger and shot once, hitting Carlos in the chest. “But when mixed with a dose of quadrazine like I have here, it’s a slow, painful way to die. This is the fate of all men who defy me.” She raised the weapon and locked gazes with Carlos.

“I was expecting more from you, Maldonado. 500 years from now the Avenger and her crew are still spoken of with reverence. But I guess this time history will take a different turn. Goodbye, Captain.” Geisha fired her weapon, hitting Carlos in the jugular vein.

Instantly his body went cold, his vision dimmed, and the last thing he heard was Geisha’s laughter fading away in a Romulan transporter beam.

## END PART 7

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 is transporting diplomats from a recently-discovered race to important negotiations with Federation representatives. Unknown to the crew, the new race gives off a strange invisible aura that begins to affect electronic equipment, causing it to malfunction. As the voyage progresses, food synthesizers begin belching out inedible slime or won’t stop producing chocolate pudding, etc. Lights and turbolifts go wacko, the ship’s computer alternately pipes old disco hits and Klingon marching songs mixed with jokes (in Vulcan) over the intercom – which nobody can shut off. And so forth. The crew must find the source of the trouble and fix it without resorting to beaming the diplomats out into space, etc. before the ship’s systems totally fail.

2] During a first contact with a technologically advanced civilization, an Avenger officer uses one of the species’ artifacts and accidentally wipes out the whole race from existence. How does he cope with it? Can he be judged for his crime? And how come the officer was allowed to use such a powerful artifact? What was the species’ real agenda? Are they really dead?

Finally, as a part of this series, we’re including character-files of members of the crew. So, if you’ve made up a character-file, great! If not, why not try making one? We’ll try to publish one or two each issue, as space permits. We’re still a bit short of new character-files right now, so we’re skipping it for this issue

We’re still always looking for members to create files for their own characters. If you’re interested in creating or updating a file for your fictional character, contact ADM Rosenzweig for help/information.

# MISSION DOCKET (UPCOMING EVENTS)

## JUNE

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – USS Osiris 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Mars 2112.** THE science fiction eatery of Manhattan.

**June 23 – Avenger's 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party!** - The crew of the USS Avenger invites you to join in their 16th Anniversary Celebration! It's a BBQ/Picnic! From 12 Noon to Dusk. Cost is \$10 per person; Under age 3: free. That price includes: All food and beverages for the afternoon. The menu is Hamburgers, Kosher Beef Hot Dogs, Teriyaki Chicken Strips; Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Garden Salad, Veggies & Dips; Assorted Munchies and Dips; Cookies, Sweets (Marshmallons!), Sheet Cake; Assorted Sodas, Gatorade, Iced Tea & Water. Please contact Ann Marie Reilly, CMO at: DoctorAnnMarie@aol.com with any special dietary needs/requirements (Kosher, Vegetarian, etc.) To order tickets: PLEASE PAY ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1!!! Please print out your name, address, phone number and e-mail address, and mail it with your check payable to: USS Avenger, CAPT Carlos Maldonado 24 Wilson Street North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2929.

TO GET DIRECTIONS: Contact ADM Alex Rosenzweig at AlexR@castle.net

MORE INFO, SPECIAL DIETARY CONCERNS: Contact CMDR Ann Marie Reilly at DoctorAnnMarie@aol.com

FEEL FREE TO BRING: CD's & Cassettes, Lawn Chairs, Blankets, Water Guns, Toys to play with in the playground.

**June 30 – July 1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northeast Supercon**, West Hempstead NY (Long Island)

**July 1st - USS Challenger Anniversary and BBQ** 1:00 PM At 202 8th Avenue, Ortley Beach, NJ Sunday, July 1, the 13th annual USS Challenger Anniversary and BBQ. Contact First Officer Capt. Mary Francen at Gemladi@aol.com or call 732/830-3262 concerning your covered dish item. No charge and the party will be held at 202 8th Avenue, Ortley Beach, NJ. Contact us if you need directions. The party will run from 1 pm until ? Bring a bathing suit and if you have one, a water gun. A separate set of dry clothes might not be a bad idea either. Come join us for some summer fun and watch as we toss our commanding officer into his own pool as per tradition. We'll watch the annual Lavalette bayside fireworks display at dusk.

**June 30th - July 1st - Third Annual Northeast Supercon** Sci-Fi Fantasy Toy and Collectibles Extravaganza Island Garden - West Hempstead, NY (LONG ISLAND)

**July 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> - Shore Leave.**

**July 28<sup>th</sup> – Go APE for a DAY. – Planet of the Apes Movie Marathon.** Cranford, NJ. All five of the PLANET of the APES movies on DVD! Listed below in release order: Planet of the Apes – 1967 Beneath the Planet of the Apes – 1969 Escape from the Planet of the Apes – 1971 Conquest of the Planet of the Apes – 1972 Battle for the Planet of the Apes – 1973. All of this \*PLUS\* the full original Theatrical Trailers and the Behind the Planet of the Apes documentary - 1998. Contact Darry Lewis Jennings for details.

## REST OF THE YEAR

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> – Slanted Fedora Con**

**August 19th - R7 Miniature Golf Open** 1:00 PM USS Challenger Location: Ridge Creek Golf Course, Route 37 West, Toms River

**September 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> – Watkins Glen Weekend 2001**

**October 27<sup>th</sup> – Region 7 Halloween Party** Come

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> – Region 7 Conference.**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> - United Fan Con XI**, Springfield Massachusetts. For more info go to [www.unitedfancon.com](http://www.unitedfancon.com)

### Contact List

Carlos Maldonado 24 Wilson St., No. Brunswick, NJ 08902-2929 (732) 448-7914 E-Mail: [purple@castle.net](mailto:purple@castle.net)

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

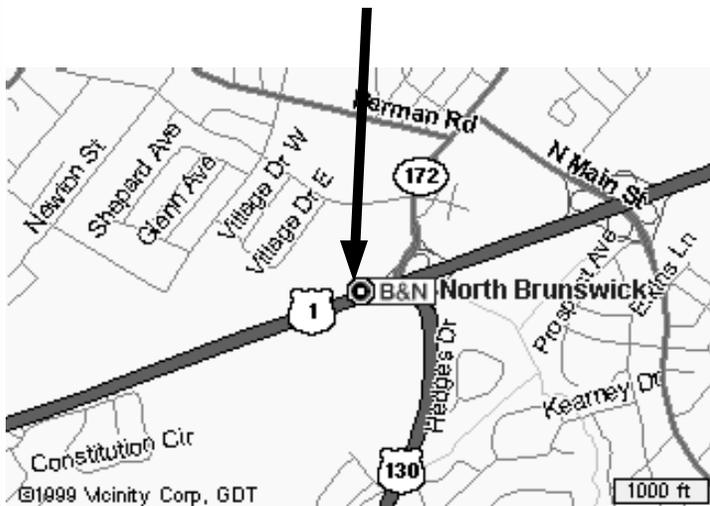
***NOTE: Please, if you are planning to attend an event, let the event/project coordinator know of your plans, so he/she can make the proper arrangements. Thanks!***



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

**Next Meeting Date**  
**Sun, June 10, 2001**  
**3:00 pm**

**Location: Barnes & Noble**



### Hey, who's the new guy?

*The Avenger welcomes its newest members:*

- Ensign Peter Stark Ops/Nav
- Ensign David Allen Security
- Ensign Bruce Adams Medical
- Ensign Ron Givis Communications
- Mike Sten Security
- Frank Turok

***Welcome Aboard!!!***

**The Deadline for the next issue is:**  
***July 30, 2001***

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

Do not pay any attention to the above deadline. It is a purely theoretical number, which has positively my relation to reality. Thank you.