

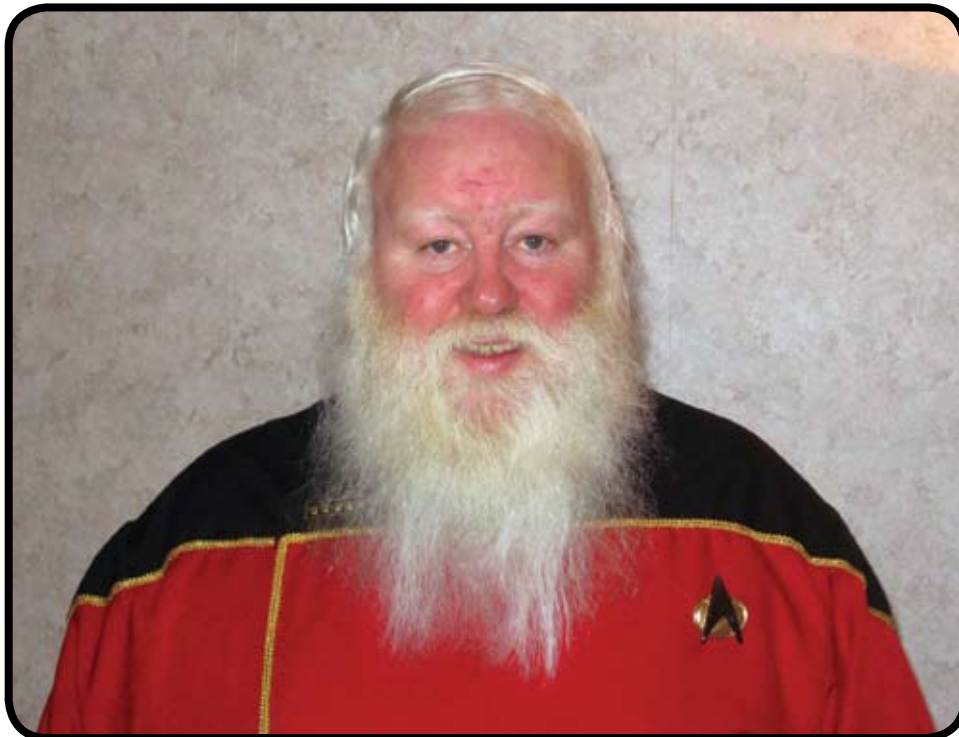
# STARFLEET COMMUNIQUE

www.sfi.org

December, 2007/January, 2008 #143

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF **STARFLEET**, THE INTERNATIONAL *STAR TREK* FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Meet The New Boss



**Hail to the Chief!** Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard takes the Center Seat in 2008 to become Commander, STARFLEET for the next 3 years.

Photo by Jerome Conner.

The 2007 STARFLEET election results:

There were 3,538 ballots mailed to members, and 1087 were returned. There were 4 cards that had duplicate serial numbers, so the total number of cards counted was 1,083, for a response rate of 30.61%.

### COMMANDER / VICE-COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Lizard / Halverson	532
Ueffing / Halber	233
Plant / Devine	162
Olson / Berenberg	144
No selection	12
Total	1,083

### Constitutional Amendment 0701:

Yes: 823  
No: 234  
Abstain: 26

### Constitutional Amendment 0703:

Yes: 932  
No: 123  
Abstain: 28

### Constitutional Amendment 0702:

Yes: 840  
No: 217  
Abstain: 26

### Constitutional Amendment 0704:

Yes: 857  
No: 200  
Abstain: 26

All four amendments were declared ratified and went into effect immediately following the election. Thank you to all the members who participated in the voting process.

### Inside:

The New Spock: Chatting with Zachary Quinto  
Halloween with the USS Angeles  
Star Trek on the Picket Line  
Region 4 Conference 2007 in Vegas, Baby!  
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# “Quote” Trek

### TOS: “The Naked Time”

**Captain Kirk:** We might go up into the biggest ball of fire since the last sun in these parts exploded, but we’ve got to take that one in ten thousand CHANCE!

### STIV: The Voyage Home

**Spock:** They like you very much, but they are not the hell “your” whales.  
**Dr. Gillian Taylor:** I suppose they told you that.  
**Spock:** The hell they did.

### TNG: “Remember Me”

**Dr. Beverly Crusher:** If there’s nothing wrong with me... maybe there’s something wrong with the universe!

### DS9: “Improbable Cause”

*After Bashir tells the story of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”...*  
**Julian Bashir:** The point is, if you lie all the time, nobody’s going to believe you, even when you’re telling the truth.  
**Garak:** Are you sure that’s the point, doctor?  
**Julian Bashir:** Of course. What else could it be?  
**Garak:** That you should never tell the same lie twice.

### VOY: “Learning Curve”

**B’Elanna Torres:** Get the cheese to sickbay.

### ENT: “In a Mirror, Darkly, Part II”

**Hoshi:** You are speaking with Empress Sato. Prepare to receive instructions.”

## STARFLEET COMMUNIQUÉ

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**Dave Mason**

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Send submissions via e-mail to:  
**cq@cq.sfi.org**  
Or mail submissions to the  
address below.

Postmaster, please send  
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**Peter Christian**  
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Fort Lewis, WA 98433

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# The new Spock

"Heroes" star  
Zachary Quinto  
talks about  
playing the  
Vulcan



NBC

*Zachary Quinto says he likes when fans recognize him for his work on "Heroes" and realizes he will become more famous when he plays the younger Spock in the next "Star Trek" movie.*

By Chief Gary Sandridge  
USS Angeles

**Editor's note:** Gary Sandridge and his partner Steve, active members of the USS Angeles, live in Los Angeles, where they have met "Star Trek" celebrities.

LOS ANGELES — Steve and I ran into the new Mr. Spock — Zachary Quinto of "Heroes" — this fall on the dusty and parched trails of Griffith Park.

We saw Quinto near the famous Bronson Cave, featured on "Star Trek" shows and the 1960s "Batman" TV show. It was an hour or so before sunset, and the crickets were already out. Our dogs Holly and Smokey and Noah, Quinto's wolf hound and terrier mix, enjoyed the much cooler temperatures in the park, as we humans and one Vulcan chatted about acting, living in L.A., "Heroes" and even a little "Star Trek."

When asked about whether "Heroes" and the upcoming 10th "Star Trek" movie were his big breaks, Quinto said he was lucky to have made a living at acting for more than eight years. But he added that his starring roles on a TV show and now a feature film are what he has been working toward during his whole career.

I asked if being recognized in public was fun or a bother to him. Quinto said he realized he had to expect a certain amount of it. He explained he likes when people recognize him for his work and likes knowing that people watch and support "Heroes." He added he realizes that once the new "Star Trek" film comes out on Christmas 2008, it will bump up his fame quite a bit, but he likes to take things as they come and not worry too much about it.

Quinto has a really zen outlook on things and has a good attitude about the fans.

Steve asked Quinto if children recognized him and were a little fearful of him. He smiled quickly and told us kids seemed to understand that he was a character on a TV show. But he also said he had run into several adults who were afraid of him because of his villainous "Heroes" character, Sylar.

Most of the rest of the conversation was about the dogs and how the east end of the park, where Quinto usually walks Noah, was still closed due to the fires, which occurred here this summer.

We talked about how great it is to live in Los Angeles, despite the traffic and the pollution. Where else can you be in a hit TV show and play Spock in a "Star Trek" movie, or walk your dogs with the actor who will play the young Spock in the new movie?

Now in regards to Quinto himself: He's a little taller than I thought he would be in person. He is also very soft spoken; more than once I had to ask him to repeat himself.

He was very polite, quick to walk up with a handshake, and he seemed to enjoy talking about his career.

**Continued on the next page**

# Quinto knows how to be a Vulcan

By **Cmdr. Dave Mason**  
*USS Angeles*

**Editor's note:** *Dave Mason of the USS Angeles covers TV for the Ventura County (Calif.) Star and Scripps Howard News Service. He ran into "Star Trek" star Zachary Quinto at the Emmys.*

LOS ANGELES — Zachary Quinto is already thinking like a Vulcan.

The "Heroes" star, who will play a young Spock in the next "Star Trek" movie, decided to be logical on the red carpet at the Emmys in September. To stay cool on a hot afternoon, he wore a gray suit instead of the usual black tuxedo.

Quinto, who plays the villain Sylar on "Heroes," is working on being a Vulcan in other ways. He has been in discussions about the iconic character with the actor who has played him since the first "Star Trek" pilot, Leonard Nimoy. (It took two pilots to convince NBC to pick up "Star Trek" in 1966; Nimoy was in both.)

"Leonard and I talked this morning," Quinto said at the Emmys.

Quinto, a 30-year-old Pittsburgh, Penn. native, said he plans to bring something new to the role while still connecting it to the portrayal that Nimoy made famous. He added he was attracted to the role because of Spock's intelligence.

Nimoy is playing the older Spock in the film, set for a Christmas 2008 release. Paramount Pictures hasn't said whether the film will involve time travel or flashbacks.

When asked if he and Nimoy will be in scenes together, Quinto remained as calm as Spock, but let a little emotion slip through. Quinto smiled mischievously. "I can't tell you that," he said.

Quinto said producer/director J.J. Abrams first started talking to him about the role in June. Abrams announced the casting of Quinto in July

## 'Star Trek' film

Filming began in November, and the Paramount Pictures movie, directed and produced by J.J. Abrams ("Lost," "Alias" and "Felicity"), is set for a Christmas 2008 release. The movie stars Chris Pine as Capt. Kirk, Zachary Quinto as the younger Spock, Leonard Nimoy as the older Spock, Karl Urban as Dr. McCoy, Simon Pegg as Scotty, John Cho as Sulu, Anton Yelchin as Chekov, Zoe Saldana as Uhura, Ben Cross as Sarek (Spock's father), Winona Ryder as Amanda Grayson (Spock's mother), Bruce Greenwood as Christopher Pike and Chris Hemsworth as George Kirk. Eric Bana is playing the villain, Nero.

at Comic-Con in San Diego, so the details were completed in two months, a fairly fast negotiation by Hollywood's standards.

Quinto, Nimoy and others in the "Star Trek" cast began filming in November.

The filming schedule has allowed Quinto to continue to play Sylar, the powerful villain on "Heroes," and be in the "Star Trek" movie. He was in the last scene of the "Heroes" midseason finale, which showed Sylar regaining his powers. "Heroes" will return sometime next year.

At the Creation Entertainment Convention in August in Las Vegas, Nimoy praised Quinto for his talent.

Off-screen, Quinto is much nicer than his "Heroes" character, according to a friend who has known him for 10 years: Kristen Bell. The "Veronica Mars" star recently began playing the powerful Elle on "Heroes" after telling producers at Comic-Con in July how much she likes the show.

"It's the polar opposite of Zach's personality because he's just the kindest, gentlest, most giving person," Bell said during a conference call this fall with reporters. She added it's difficult as a friend to watch Quinto play someone so evil.

Not that she wouldn't want to be in a scene with him. "I would love to see him (Syler) and Elle face off one day. I think that that would be unbelievable," Bell said. After she made that comment, Bell got her wish. Elle blasted Syler with her electrical charges in the midseason finale, but he escaped from her.

At the Emmys red carpet, I found Quinto to be mild-mannered, soft-spoken and polite. He seems ideal to play Spock.

Quinto has been acting in Hollywood since 2000, and his first big breaks included a role on "The Others." Like "Heroes," the NBC series featured people with special mental powers. Quinto also has guest-starred on shows such as "CSI," "Touched by an Angel," "Six Feet Under" and "Crossing Jordan."

And he had a recurring role on "24." Today Quinto lives in Los Angeles, where he's learning how to play the banjo and is taking cooking classes, according to his NBC biography.

Quinto is one of four "Heroes" stars with a "Star Trek" connection. George Takei, Nichelle Nichols and Dominic Keating have acted on the show. But Tim Kring, the executive producer and creator, said he isn't deliberately trying to put "Trek" stars on the show, although he noted "Heroes" fans enjoy seeing them.

It was a coincidence that Takei, Nichols and Keating were the best actors for those roles, Kring said during a conference call with reporters.

Nichols' character of a New Orleans grandmother has been strictly a supporting role, but Kring said she would emerge more on her own later this season.

## 'Heroes' star shows mild-mannered persona

### Continued from the previous page

But he didn't just talk about himself. He and Steve discussed Steve's recent trip to Peru and how much worse the traffic and pollution were there.

Just listening to Quinto speak, and seeing him face to face, I could totally see casting him as a Vulcan.

He is very mild mannered, and when he smiles,

it is almost like an oversized grin, rather than a full smile. His grin slips out for a second, then is gone again.

He looks exactly like Sylar, in or out of makeup. Other actors appear different in person than they do on TV.

For instance, I was at the checkout behind "Star Trek: The Next Generation" star Gates McFadden (Dr. Beverly Crusher) at the Mayfair market

recently, and it took me more than a minute to be sure it was her.

Having met Quinto, I sincerely look forward to seeing his portrayal of the younger Spock. I also wish him the best of luck with his acting and hope to see more of his work.

I also hope that the new "Star Trek" movie does the mythology justice and revives "Trek" for us all.



# Trek into Cuba

By LCDR Alejandro L. Barreiro Agrelo  
USS Magellan, R14

## The First STARFLEET Event in Cuba

On Sunday 1st, took place the First STARFLEET Event in Cuba, by the crew of the USS Magellan. It is truly amazing how a TV show can reach every corner of the world and bring people together in this wonderful adventure, but what makes the fun even greater is to meet each other and become friends.

We want to thanks Joost and Susan Ueffing, for making this dream come true and expanding SFI to this new country, our country.

This time we went to a place in Cuba called Lenin Park, there we were able to ride horses, and test our adrenalin to the limit, while doing some Trek activities like fishing and camping. Next time we

are planning on going to Varadero, one of the most beautiful beaches of the world.

Please enjoy some photos from our first trip, and let's hope tomorrow you can be with us, and travel to those undiscovered countries, boldly going where no man, where no one ... has gone before. For more information visit [www.region14.ca/ussmagellan/cubatrek](http://www.region14.ca/ussmagellan/cubatrek)



*LCDR Alejandro L. Barreiro Agrelo*



*ENS JR Wilfredo Torres Amador*



*ENS Torres, LCDR Barreiro and ENS Ayled Barreda Diaz*

# IC2008: How to get there

This is the first in a series of articles about the International Conference in 2008. The conference will be held in beautiful Ithaca, NY. Ithaca is gorges, as we like to say! Say it out loud, and you'll understand what we really mean.

Let's go over some basics! The IC costs 20 dollars until the end of 2007, and then it goes up to 25, and then 30. So there is good reason to register early!

The banquet costs an additional 27 dollars. The dinner is a buffet offering a choice of chicken marsala, roast leg of lamb, or eggplant parmesan, as well as salads and sides. Additionally, we can cover special need items but remember, if you have a special need, you have to let us know in advance! You can add a note to your registration or email us at [chair@ic2008.org](mailto:chair@ic2008.org)

The hotel is the Ithaca Airport Ramada Inn, a wonderful conference space with 2 classrooms, 3 board rooms, and 2 ballrooms which divide in to up to 5 smaller meeting rooms. The hotel is providing rooms that weekend for \$99.95 if you use the group code STAR. You can reach the hotel by calling 607-257-3100 or Ramada Reservations at 800-272-6232.

All this information and more can be found at <http://www.ic2008.org/>

So, you might be thinking to yourself... "I've heard of this Ithaca, and one of their slogans is "centrally isolated". How the heck am I going to get there?" Well, let us count the ways!

Those of you in Regions 7, 13, 15, and part of Regions 1 and 14... or perhaps even beyond, will most likely want to drive to Ithaca. Most of you driving will wind up on Inter-

state 81 for at least part of the trip, which will take you to Cortland NY and Route 13 if you are coming from the North or Whitney Point and Route 79 if you are coming from the South. An intrepid few especially those coming from Region 15 may take Interstate 88 to Bainbridge and then 206 to 79 to Ithaca. And a few coming from the South and West may wind up on Interstate 86 / Rt. 17 to Elmira / Horseheads, and then get on 13 to Ithaca. As always, we at IC08 recommend using maps. [google.com](http://google.com) or a GPS to make sure your directions are good.

Ithaca has plenty of access by bus. The two main bus lines are Greyhound and Shortline. Both probably come most frequently from the NYC area but their websites at <http://www.greyhound.com> and <http://www.shortlinebus.com> should help you best travel a trip to Ithaca. The Ithaca bus station is down in the valley, a 15 minute drive from the Ramada, so be sure to let IC08 know when you're coming so we can get you to the hotel.

Many of the rest of you are likely to be flying in. By far the best place to fly in to is the Ithaca Tomkins Regional Airport itself, as its only a mile or so from the hotel and the hotel will gladly pick you up, if a staff member of IC08 doesn't do it themselves. Ithaca is served by two major airlines, US Airways and Northwest Airlines, at <http://www.usair.com> and <http://www.nwa.com> respectively. US Airways flights tend to come from the NYC area or Philly, while Northwest tends to fly through Detroit. You can learn more about flying directly in to Ithaca by visiting <http://www.flyithaca.com>.

It should also be noted that while US Airways and Northwest are the two airlines that service Ithaca directly, Codeshare arrangements with the airlines open up travel direct to Ithaca from airports served by America West, American, Continental, Delta, United,

and numerous other SkyTeam Global Alliance and Star Alliance airlines from around the world such as Air Canada, Air France, JAL, KLM, Lot, Qantas, Varig, and many others.

Alternatively, you may choose to fly in to other cities around the area. Syracuse is a popular choice for flying in to the area. You can rent a car and drive to Ithaca in about an hour, or you can take a shuttle bus: Ithaca Airline Limo makes frequent but unscheduled trips between Syracuse and Ithaca, call 1-800-273-9197 or (607) 273-3030. Additionally, Right Limousine & offers daily service from Syracuse to Ithaca. You can reach them at (800) 647-5466 or by email at [service@rightlimo.com](mailto:service@rightlimo.com). Other nearby airports include Binghamton NY and Elmira, NY. A little further afield, some people have been known to fly in to Albany, Rochester, or Buffalo NY. However, flying in to anywhere but Ithaca means we can't guarantee we can be there to pick you up and greet you in person. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you choose Ithaca as your airport destination.

As long as we're talking about options that are further afield, you can also take the train in to Syracuse. Getting to Ithaca can be done by bus, by the shuttle services above, or by rental car. A taxi from Syracuse is not really economically viable.

So Ithaca may be "centrally isolated" but there's plenty of ways to get here. After all, 27,000 students find their way to and from Ithaca a few times every year between Cornell and Ithaca College. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact us and ask!

What to do when you get here? Well, that's the theme of an upcoming article, now isn't it?

# IC 2008 - "Back to School" Register Now!

By Captain **Dan Adinolfi**  
Chief of Operations, *USS Accord*  
IC2008 Conference Chair

Greetings from Ithaca, New York, home of the 2008 STARFLEET International Conference: "Back to School". The IC is a little over five months away, and the IC staff is working to make the conference fun and productive for everyone.

<http://www.ic2008.org/>

IC2008 will be held June 27th-29th, 2008, at the Ithaca Airport Ramada Inn. The Ramada is offering a group rate of \$99/night plus tax for the weekend.

<http://www.ic2008.org/hotel.html>

For those interested in food, there will be plenty to

be had. The annual STARFLEET Marine Corps Mess will be held on Friday night. Saturday night will feature the IC Banquet along with our charity auction. For those who can get themselves up the next morning, the Ramada's Sunday Brunch is available. These events, along with the myriad of restaurants and eateries in Ithaca, will ensure that no one will want for fine cuisine at the IC.

We are accepting registrations though the IC2008 website as well as though the US mail. Registration for the conference is \$25 from now until the end of March, 2008. From April through June 15th, the fee will be \$30. So, as you can see, it behooves you to register as early as you can for the conference. (When you register, please register for the meals and/or merchandise at the same time if you intend to do so anyway. This will help reduce the processing costs associated with online transactions. Thanks!)

<http://www.ic2008.org/register.html>

But saving money on the registration fee isn't the only reason to register early. Each month, from now until June 15th, we will be having a drawing for a \$5 gift certificate good toward the purchase of IC merchandise. Anyone who has registered by the time of each drawing will be eligible to win. The longer you've been registered, the more chances you will have to win a gift certificate!

Our first drawing was for all those who were registered as of October 31st. The winner of that month's gift certificate was Biff Bassett. Congrats, Biff! (We'll contact you directly with the details, Biff.)

Though summer will be in full swing, we look forward to seeing you come Back to School in June in Ithaca.





# STARFLEET Sciences - Our Eyes in Space

by RAdm. Richard Heim  
Director, Fleet Resource Center-Sciences

Greetings from Starfleet Sciences! In this Sciences Fleet Resource Center report, I'd like to talk about how satellite remote sensing helps scientists detect features on the Earth's surface which are totally unrecognizable from the ground.

In a February 2006 report, NASA announced that scientists from NASA and the University of New Hampshire used advanced imaging technology developed for the space program to pinpoint ancient Mayan settlements in the heart of the Guatemalan jungle. NASA archaeologist Dr. Tom Sever, university archaeologist Dr. William Saturno, and NASA researcher Daniel Irwin examined high-resolution satellite images from Landsat and the IKONOS Earth-observation satellites to detect variations in the color of plant life around the ruins at Tikal. Plants grow differently depending on what is underneath them (different chemicals in the ground, differential moisture in the ground, stone slabs of ancient buildings, etc.) and the differential growth shows up in how the plants reflect energy at the different electromagnetic wavelengths – their chemical signature. These variations are displayed using a false-color technique since the variations don't show up in the color range of the spectrum that our eyes can detect.

As noted in the report: "From the air, everything but the tops of very few surviving pyramids are hidden by the tree canopy," said Sever, widely recognized for two decades as a pioneer in the use of aerospace remote-sensing for archaeology. "On the ground, the 60- to 100-foot trees and dense undergrowth can obscure objects as close as 10 feet away. Explorers (on the ground) can stumble right through an ancient city that once housed thousands – and never even realize it."

The NASA scientists provided Dr. Saturno with high-resolution commercial satellite images of

the rainforest, and collected data from NASA's Airborne Synthetic Aperture Radar, an instrument flown aboard a high-altitude weather plane, capable of penetrating clouds, snow and forest canopies. These resulting Earth observations helped the team survey an uncharted region around San Bartolo, Guatemala. They discovered a correlation between the color and reflectivity of the vegetation seen in the images – their "signature," which is captured by instruments measuring light in the visible and near-infrared spectrums – and the location of known archaeological sites.

The cause of the floral discoloration discerned in the imagery quickly became clear to the team. The Maya built their cities and towns with excavated limestone and lime plasters. As these structures crumbled, the lack of moisture and nutritional elements inside the ruins kept some plant species at bay, while others were discolored or killed off altogether as disintegrating plaster changed the chemical content of the soil around each structure.

"Over the centuries, the changes became dramatic," Saturno said. "This pattern of small details, impossible to see from the forest floor or low-altitude planes, turned out to be a virtual roadmap to ancient Maya sites when seen from space."

Scientists believe the Maya fell prey to a number of cataclysmic environmental problems, including deforestation and drought, that led to their downfall, Irwin said. "The world continues to battle the devastating effects of drought today, from the arid plains of Africa to the southern United States," he said. "The more we know about the plight of the Maya, the better our chances of avoiding something similar." Another aspect of the research involved using climate models to determine the effects of Maya-driven deforestation on ancient Mesoamerican climate. The goal of this effort was to determine whether deforestation can lead to droughts and

if the activities of the ancient Maya drove the environmental changes that undermined their civilization.

Another example of using remote sensing to detect surface features is the Chicxulub Crater, an ancient impact crater buried beneath a kilometer of younger rocks and sediments on the Yucatán Peninsula, with its center located approximately underneath the town of Chicxulub, Yucatán, Mexico. Investigations suggest that this impact structure is dated from the late Cretaceous Period, about 65 million years ago. The meteorite's estimated size was about 10 kilometers (6 miles) in diameter, releasing an estimated 500 zettajoules (5 times 10 to the 23rd power joules) of energy, equivalent to approximately 100 teratons (a hundred million megatons) of TNT, on impact. By contrast, the most powerful explosive device ever detonated, the Tsar Bomba or Emperor Bomb, had a yield of only 50 megatons, which would make this impact 2,000,000 times more powerful than the Emperor Bomb.

The impact of the Chicxulub meteorite, which was maybe a comet but probably an asteroid, would have caused some of the largest megatsunamis in Earth's history. The emission of dust and particles caused environmental changes close to a nuclear winter, during which the surface of the Earth was totally covered by a cloud of dust for several years. Most scientists believe the impact caused the extinction of the dinosaurs, along with 50 to 70 percent of all species of life on Earth at the time.

The trail leading to the discovery of the crater involves analysis of iridium, tektites, tsunami deposits, an airborne magnetic survey, a gravity map, andesite, and satellite images. Iridium is a siderophile ("iron-loving") element, and these are elements found in the metal-rich interiors of asteroids but are extremely rare on Earth's surface. Tektites are natural glass objects which have been formed by the impact of large meteorites on Earth's surface. Andesite is a type of rock formed by extreme heat, mostly by



volcanic action (magma) or melting between two tectonic plates, but also can be formed from the intense heat and pressures of an asteroid impact (shock-metamorphic rock). Iridium and tektites were found near the impact site, and a layer of andesite was discovered 1.3 kilometers (4,200 feet) down an exploratory well drilled in the region by the Mexican oil company PEMEX in 1951, and from other wells in the area. These proved to the investigators that a meteorite impact had occurred somewhere in the area. They just couldn't find the crater.

In 1978, geophysicist Glen Penfield detected an underground arc, half of a circle, from a PEMEX airborne magnetic survey of the Yucatán Peninsula, which was inconsistent with the region's geology. He found another arc, the other half of the circle, in a gravity map of the Yucatán that had been made in the 1960s. The circle was 180 kilometers (112 miles) wide, with its center at the village of Puerto Chicxulub.

In 1996, a team of California researchers, including Kevin O. Pope, Adriana Ocampo, and Charles Duller, conducted a survey of satellite images of the region, including images from the Landsat Thematic Mapper. They found that there was a ring of sinkholes centered on Puerto Chicxulub that matched the ring Penfield had found in his data. The sinkholes were likely caused by subsidence of the crater's wall. In addition, maps of the region's wetlands, produced by the spaceborne imaging radar-C (SIR-C) mission in 1994, identified zones of groundwater discharge that correlated with the crater's structure. Detailed, three-dimensional topographical data from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission also corroborates their analysis. Indeed, some evidence has accumulated that the actual crater is 300 kilometers (186 miles) wide, and the 180 kilometer ring is just an inner wall.

Next, I want to give you a brief description of the Sciences Fleet Resource Center.

As we say on our web site, the mission of Starfleet Sciences is simple: to serve as an informational and communications resource for the Science Regional Division Chiefs, Regional Coordinators, and chapter Chief Science Officers throughout STARFLEET. In doing so, we hope to enhance interest in science within STARFLEET's

membership and to promote science education whenever possible. We have abundant science resources on our website

<http://alaricrh.home.sprynet.com/science/starfleet-sciences.html>

including links to real-world science web pages, photographs, educational materials, and science museums worldwide. Our Regional Science Contacts page is updated with the latest information provided to us by the Science RDC's across 'Fleet. We have two listserves, an administrative list (SFI-FDC-Science) and a fun info list (Science-Lab). Anyone with an interest in science, both real-world and as depicted in Star Trek, is invited to join. My email address is: AlaricRH@charter.net. If you aren't connected to the web, we can be reached by land mail at: Starfleet Sciences, P.O. Box 2072, Asheville, NC 28802 USA.

Now, I have sought help to aid us in understanding some details of remote sensing of a planetary surface. The help comes from a tap into a temporal rift, where I acquired the visual/audio log of a starship from the 23<sup>rd</sup> century. Here is a transcription from that log.

---- AUTOLOG, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE, STARDATE 3715.6 ----  
---- TRANSCRIPTION BEGINS ----

"Astrophysics Laboratory Log, Stardate 3715.6, Lieutenant Nancy Klein reporting. In orbit around planet Gamma Trianguli VI, we have detected unusual meteorological, geological, and geomagnetic readings with passive sensor scans. Upon initiating an active sensor sweep, starting with ground-penetrating radar, the ship was attacked by the planet's defense system. It's possible that the planetary defenses interpreted our active scans as an attack and simply retaliated. We are gathering valuable data on the mechanical systems threatening the Enterprise, but the ship is being pulled out of orbit and it's only a matter of hours before we burn up in the atmosphere."

Ensign Roberto Odarezno stared at Lieutenant Klein as she finished her log entry. "I've killed us all!" he moaned, his face twisted in guilt. "I initiated the scans ... I'm responsible!"

Dwight Fugherouea sauntered over to Odarezno's side. "Hey, man," he said, "take it easy. We'll get out of this!"

"How can you say that?," Odarezno whined.

"*Odie!*," Tom Thacker barked, hoping his perversion of Odarezno's name would wrest him from his depression. "Snap out of it!"

"Silence! All of you!," Klein commanded.

"*Panicking* is what will get us killed. We have a job to do. Let's do it." She turned a grim face toward Odarezno. In a melancholy voice, she said, "*I* gave the order to initiate the sensor sweep. If anyone's to blame, it's me."

Ensigns Thacker and Fugherouea glanced at each other then went back to their sensor stations. Kara Lenermann took the trembling Odarezno by his shoulders. "Look at me," she said. "*Look at me!*" Their eyes locked, her determined stare boring into his glazed orbs. "Roberto. Focus. You are not at fault here. We came under attack the moment we entered orbit. The antimatter pods, they went inert. The transporter's inhibited. Remember? The landing party deaths. That all happened before you did *anything*."

Odarezno's breathing steadied. "Yeah," he said, "yes, you're right. We were attacked before, too."

Ensign Lenermann nodded. "Now," she said, "tell me about ground-penetrating radar."

"W-what?," he said, staring blankly. Then Odarezno smiled slightly, thankful for the distraction. "Our ground-penetrating radar uses electromagnetic radiation in the microwave band of the radio spectrum," he began, and paused to gather his thoughts. "It detects the reflected signals from subsurface structures. It's useful for characterizing bedrock, ice, and other features of the ground and what's beneath it. And for locating buried voids or cavities. And for detecting artificial structures buried underground. That's what we were using it for."

"How does it work?"

"We use two antennae in the ship's sensor array, one for transmitting and one for receiving. The transmitting antenna radiates short pulses of the high-frequency radio waves into the ground.

When the wave hits a buried object or a boundary with different dielectric constants, the receiving antenna records variations in the reflected return signal."

Lenermann was pleased that their conversation was pulling Odarezno out of his emotional crevasse. "Tell me about dielectric constants. How do they affect the reflected signal?"

Odarezno closed his eyes and concentrated. "The dielectric constant is a measure of the electrical properties of matter, the extent to which a material concentrates electrostatic lines of flux. As an electromagnetic field or energy passes through an object, the material will reduce it. Some of the energy passes through and is reduced, some is reflected. This is permittivity, a material's ability to transmit, or permit an electric field to pass through it. And the material will polarize the electromagnetic field to some degree."

"Explain polarization."

"For this explanation, we have to think of an electromagnetic field as consisting of a balance between positive and negative electric charges. It also is oriented in a certain direction. This is what's referred to as a vector field, you know, properties of magnitude and direction. As an electromagnetic field – the microwaves of our ground-penetrating radar – pass through or are reflected by an object, the material changes the direction property, changes the polarization. The receiving antenna measures changes in the strength, timing, polarization, and other properties of the reflected signal to create a map of what's being scanned."

Odarezno took Lenermann's hands off his shoulders and gave them a gentle squeeze. "Thank you," he whispered. "Thanks for dragging me back."

She smiled and nodded a 'you're welcome.'

Watching the conversation, Lieutenant Klein motioned the couple toward her. The best way to overcome a fear, she knew from experience, was to confront it head on. "Ensign Odarezno," Klein said, "if you were designing a planetary defense system, what components would you include? Use the case of Gamma Trianguli VI as

an example."

His eyes widened. "I ...," Odarezno stammered, "you want me ...."

"Answer the question, Ensign."

He looked at Lenermann. Her face was a mask hiding her emotions. But she gave him an encouraging nod.

Odarezno turned toward Klein. "I ... I would create a system that would combat intruders approaching from space. Destroy the ship with offensive weaponry. Or use the resources at hand, the planet. Pull the ship out of orbit to burn up in the atmosphere or crash. I'd crash it into one of the large oceans ... no cities or villages there. Tsunami waves not a problem, no coastal settlements on this planet."

"What about landing parties? If an intruder managed to get an invasion force on the planet's surface?"

"I'd protect my people by using the planet to destroy the intruders. The weather ... lightning, wind. Even the plants."

"Vegetation biogenetically engineered to kill?"

"Either that," he said, "or not really plants. Weapons engineered to look like plants."

Klein directed his attention to a monitor. "This was constructed from a tricorder scan relayed to us from the landing party." They were looking at a schematic of the poison plant that killed Hendorff. Only it wasn't a plant. The schematic revealed a metal skeleton with gears connected by a fibrous musculature, interlaced with some kind of electrical wiring and a trigger mechanism at the top. "It was very cleverly disguised. Initial tricorder scans were fooled into indicating it was a plant."

"Who would do such a thing?," Lenermann asked. "And why?"

Klein gave them a sly grin. "I trust you will find out." She paused, listening to her communications earpiece. "Mister Thacker," she said, "Bridge wants us to tell them the total amount of energy being expended by the

planetary defense system against the ship. Let me know as soon as you have an estimate."

Thacker programmed in the command. As the number came back, he widened his eyes. "Lieutenant, the power source at the village is generating alternating cycles totaling ten to the twentieth power Wortham units."

She acknowledged and relayed the data. "Monitor the field. I want to know how it changes over time." Thacker entered more commands and directed the output onto a time series plot on the monitor above his station.

The next five hours passed routinely ... at least there were no surprises. The ship's labs continued to gather data, the engineers worked feverishly but unsuccessfully to get the warp engines operating again, and the Enterprise slowly lost ground in its orbital battle with Gamma Trianguli VI. Klein was pleased with the ensigns' scientific proficiency. When their shift ended, they had roughly ten hours until burnup.

Odarezno found it difficult to fall asleep, as the day's events weighed heavily upon him. He rose from his bunk and fingered his cabin's communications console.

"Davison here," the image of the groggy astrogeologist said.

"You were asleep!," Odarezno said. "Sorry."

"Yeah? Who is this?"

"Roberto Odarezno. We talked today in the Astrophysics Lab."

"Yeah. Ensign Odarezno. You want something?"

"Yes, sir. When we were scanning the planet's surface mineralogy, you said that an asteroid hit on one of the deposits of explosive rock would destroy the planet."

"Did I? What rock?"

"Yes, sir," Odarezno said. "The uraninite, hornblende, ferrous oxide, and other explosive components we haven't identified yet."

"Oh, yeah." Lieutenant Davison rubbed the sleep

out of his eyes. "Call up the inventory of public programs on your computer there. Select the module called 'KEDav'."

"What's that?"

"Dav' is for Davison, 'KE' is for Kinetic Energy. You know, your basic physics. Kinetic energy equals one-half mass times velocity squared?"

"Yeah. Got it."

"We're going to do some calculations for an asteroid impact. Now, the devastation caused by an asteroid impacting a planet is going to depend on several factors, including the characteristics of the asteroid, like its size, speed, mass, density, trajectory, and so forth, and also the characteristics of the impact site, say, type of rocks and geologic structure. Let's assume your typical asteroid is traveling around 22 kilometers per second —"

That's about 50,000 miles per hour, Odarezno figured as he keyed in the number.

"— and strikes a typical continental land mass at a perpendicular angle of impact. Assume the asteroid is one kilometer in diameter. How much kinetic energy will be imparted to the planet?"

Odarezno keyed in the numbers. The computer flashed figures across the monitor: typical rocky asteroid density of 3 grams per cubic centimeter, translates to 3 times ten to the twelfth power kilograms per cubic kilometer. A one kilometer diameter asteroid computes to 1.57 times ten to the twelfth power kilograms. "About 3.8 times ten to the twentieth power joules," he said.

"And that translates into how many megatons?"

"About 100,000 megatons, sir."

"One hundred thousand megatons," Davison repeated. "And how big an explosion will a Constitution-class starship's impulse engine cause if it is overloaded?"

Odarezno pulled the answer out of the computer library banks. "Roughly 98 megatons, sir."

"About 100 megatons, then, rounded. Compared to 100,000 megatons for an asteroid impact. Or

about a thousand impulse engine explosions, and that's a *small* asteroid! Now tell me what effects such an asteroid impact would have on the planet."

Odarezno keyed the appropriate commands. Wow!, he thought as images, text, and numbers flashed on his screen, this is a cool program! "It would create a crater about 24 kilometers in diameter, and a fireball about 300 kilometers across."

"What about climatic effects?"

"Dust, soot, and sulfur oxides thrown up into the atmosphere would darken the skies, cutting down solar insolation and causing cooling ... regional freezing for weeks. There would be moderate global effects for weeks. Plant growth would be disrupted for months and there would be global crop failures."

Davison said, "Okay, now do the calculations for a 5 kilometer diameter asteroid."

Odarezno keyed in the numbers, and read back the results. "About a hundred times bigger than the small asteroid. Ten million megatons explosive kinetic energy. It would cause a 100 kilometer diameter crater and a fireball about 1200 kilometers across."

"A twelve hundred kilometer fireball," Davison interrupted. "About the size of a small continent, eh?"

"Yeah. Climatic effects would be global." Odarezno furrowed his brow as the magnitude of the effects hit him. "Dark skies would last for months, photosynthesis would stop for months. There would be global crop failures. It would take decades for the plants to recover."

"Uh huh. What about the impact on the people?"

"Well," Odarezno began, "those who weren't in the path of the impact, and those who survived the fireball, would probably starve to death or freeze to death."

"The end of civilization," Davison concluded, "unless they could prepare for it. Now factor in the deposits of that uraninite stuff."

"The explosive rock?"

"Yeah." Davison transferred some data from his monitor to Odarezno's. "From landing party tricorder readings, a mean density of about 1 gram per cubic centimeter, about two-thirds the density of the reference substance TNT. That computes to what explosive potential?"

Odarezno did the computations. "About 2 and a half million joules of energy per kilogram."

"What's the size of a typical deposit on the planet?"

The ensign pulled up the data from the ship's sensor scans, fed it into a histogram. "About 10 kilometers square by 100 meters deep. Equates to about 10 to the thirteenth power kilograms, and an explosive force of about 6000 megatons."

"Less than a tenth as destructive as the impact of a small asteroid."

"Yes, sir."

"What's the typical size of a large deposit?"

"About 100 kilometers square by 1 kilometer deep. That equates to 10 to the sixteenth power kilograms, and an explosive force of about 6 million megatons."

"Six million megatons," Davison repeated. He let that number sink in for a moment. Then he said, "About as destructive as an impact from a 5 kilometer diameter asteroid. Think about it. A 5 kilometer asteroid hitting regular, non-explosive ground will cause damage equating to a ten million megaton explosion. But an asteroid of any size, even a small meteorite, that strikes a large deposit of the explosive rock will cause 6 million megatons of explosive damage. A meteor hit on a large deposit may not crack open the planet, but it would spell the end for any civilization."

Odarezno sat silently, amazed as he digested the information, staring at the image of the Lieutenant on the monitor.

"Fascinating," Davison said, "isn't it? Now, get some sleep."

"Thank you, sir," Odarezno said, then closed



the connection. He thought for a moment, then buzzed Lenermann's cabin. An image formed on the desk communicator's monitor of the young woman pulling on a nightgown over her head. "Yes?," she said.

"Kara, I need to come to your cabin."

Lenermann paused in surprise. "You presume too much from this afternoon, Odarezno," she said sternly. Then her face twisted in indignation. "I *don't care* if we all die in the morning, I'm *not* spending my last night alive with you in my bed!"

"I ...," Odarezno stammered, "... you think ..." Then he sighed. "No! I don't want to *sleep* with you! I need to talk. I feel that you're the only one I can trust."

"What about?," she said suspiciously.

"Sensor scans. Ground-penetrating radar. And 6 million megaton explosions."

By the time Odarezno arrived at Lenermann's cabin, she was fully dressed. He quickly went over the calculations and conversation he had with Davison. Then Lenermann said, "Big numbers. So what?"

Odarezno called up more data on the computer monitor. "These are scans from the ground-penetrating radar," he said. "The thick vegetative cover makes it nearly impossible to make it out visually, but these scans clearly show the crater." He highlighted an irregularly-shaped polygon on one of the continents and added elevation contours to show height and depth. "There's been considerable erosion from weathering over the centuries, over the millennia, maybe even longer. It's definitely not circular, not oval, not any shape you'd expect from an asteroid impact." The crater's dimensions flashed on the side of the monitor next to the image of the radar scan. "About the size of a large deposit of the uraninite hornblende rock. Except deeper, much deeper."

Lenermann thought for a moment. "You think a meteorite struck an explosive rock deposit and made this crater?"

"Yes."

She did some calculations in her head. "The

depth of the crater is about what you'd expect from an explosion of that magnitude."

"There's more," Odarezno said. He put the image from another scan on the monitor. "This is from another continent, a multi-spectral sensor image. You see the variations in the vegetation here that don't show up in a visible image, what we see with our eyes ... different species of plants, and different growth rates. The jungle is thicker in some places." He called up another image and overlaid it on the first. "The ground-penetrating radar shows what's underneath the plants. You can clearly see the structure here and here." He highlighted the complex geometric shapes, the buildings, roads, plazas.

"A city?," Lenermann asked.

"A large one."

"Abandoned?"

"Obviously," Odarezno replied. "This city is old. Maybe from the time before the explosion. And there are other ruins ... other cities." He looked her hard in the eye. "I've got to get down there. Check it out, to be sure." He mapped out his plans. They'd need to take an archaeologist to examine the ruins, and a palynologist to take soil samples to verify the climatic effects of the explosion and hopefully determine how long ago it happened.

"We have to run this past Lieutenant Klein," Lenermann said. "In the morning."

He looked at her earnestly. "You don't think I'm nuts?"

She sighed and smiled. "Not at all. Assuming Mister Scott gets us out of this mess, we'll get some answers, Roberto."

Odarezno closed his eyes and sighed deeply, letting his breath out slowly. As he got up to return to his cabin, he said, "Now I can sleep."

The ship was bustling with activity in the morning. While some of the crew had slept, the engineering department had been hard at work, frantically rerouting energy conduits, from systems all over the ship, to the engines. They had one chance to break free from the death grip of Gamma Trianguli

VI, and tension permeated the ship.

Thacker and Fugherouea were the last of the four young ensigns to arrive in the Astrophysics Lab. They found Odarezno and Lenermann talking to Lieutenant Nancy Klein. After checking a crew roster, Klein said, "Lieutenant Paul Jones would be the best choice. He's an archaeologist with a specialization in palynology." She motioned to the two arrivals to join them. Half of the monitors in the lab were dark. "Lieutenant Christopher is the duty officer here this shift," she said, nodding toward the officer. "We've powered down all non-essential instruments here to divert as much power as possible to the engines." Suddenly a voice echoed throughout the ship.

"Attention, all hands," the intercom said, "this is Lieutenant Commander Scott. Prepare for maximum reverse thrust." There was a moment of silence as the crewmen in the Astrophysics Lab grabbed onto consoles to brace themselves. Then voices from the bridge came back, as if the ship were eavesdropping in on a conversation. "Full reverse, Mister Kyle," Scott's voice said, "all engines."

The sound of the impulse engines straining against the planet's pull reverberated throughout the ship. In the deadly tug of war, it seemed the Enterprise was winning! But then the ship lurched violently. A despondent Chief Engineer's voice came across the intercom: "... We pulled away a little. We gained ... maybe an hour, but we blew almost every system in the ship doing it. There's nothing left to try again ..."

The four new recruits stared at each other, fear etched in their faces. Lieutenant Christopher was shouting to the Astrophysics Lab crew. "Check those panels! We're not dead yet! I want to know what instruments we still have functioning!"

Odarezno was amazed at the efficiency of the Enterprise professionals, even in the face of certain death. But his spirits sank. It seemed this mission was over, with so many questions still unanswered. Then, Nancy Klein said, "We may still have a chance. We're firing phasers."

"At what?," Thacker said. "Our phasers can't penetrate the planet's defensive force field!" Her stern look silenced him.

It felt like the phaser barrage lasted forever. But within minutes, the tractor beam was gone and potency was returning to the antimatter pods. Christopher checked energy readings on a monitor, then announced, "The planetary defense system ... this Vaal machine ... is dead. Our phaser attack forced it to drain its energy reserves. We'll live to scan another day!" A cheer roared across the Lab.

The transporter was repaired within an hour, as promised by Chief Engineer Scott. An engineering detail with full analytical equipment to examine Vaal beamed down as the original landing party returned to the ship. When Klein, Odarezn0, and Lenermann caught up with the Captain, he, Spock, and McCoy were having a heated discussion in a corridor.

Spock was saying, "Captain, I'm not at all certain we did the correct thing on Gamma Trianguli VI."

McCoy responded, "We put those people back on a normal course of social evolution. I see nothing wrong in that."

"Well," Kirk said, "it's a good object lesson, Mister Spock. An example of what can happen when a machine becomes too efficient, does too much work for you."

Spock then brought up the biblical story of Genesis. Odarezn0 really wished they'd hurry up and finish their discussion. He had something important to say, but he wasn't about to interrupt the commanding officer and second in command.

"Is there anyone on this ship," Kirk said as he and McCoy circled the hapless Science Officer, "who even remotely looks like Satan?"

"I am not aware of anyone who fits that description, Captain," Spock responded with arms crossed.

"No, Mister Spock," Kirk said, "I didn't think you would be."

As Kirk and McCoy hurried away from the Vulcan, Lieutenant Klein spoke up. "Captain, sir!"

Kirk stopped in his tracks and whirled around. "Yes, Lieutenant?"

"Sir, Ensign Odarezn0, here, has been analyzing the sensor scans of the planet that we've taken over the past day and has a report that you need to listen to. Sir."

"Okay," Kirk said as McCoy and Spock joined the group. "Let's hear it."

"I'll show you the data in a minute, sir," Odarezn0 said, "but first I'll get right to the point." He took a deep breath. "Sir, Mister Spock is right. We have to reactivate Vaal."

---- TRANSCRIPTION ENDS ----

If you're at all familiar with the classic episode, "The Apple," which this transcription is based on, you know that Captain Kirk saved the Enterprise ... again! But, somehow, I suspect that wasn't the end of the Gamma Triangula VI story.

I needed help in preparing this report – the fourth in a series of five – and decoding the transcription, so I utilized the following resources:

Okuda, Michael and Denise Okuda, 1999, ***The Star Trek Encyclopedia: A Reference Guide to the Future***, Pocket Books, New York: "Impulse drive."

"A 'Smoking Gun' for Dinosaur Extinction." <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/features.cfm?feature=8>

"Andesite." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andesite>

"Asteroid Mass and Density." <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-54328/asteroid>

"Chicxulub Crater." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicxulub\\_Crater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicxulub_Crater)

"Environmental Damage from Asteroid and Comet Impacts." <http://users.tpg.com.au/users/horsts/climate.htm>

"Extinction Event." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass\\_extinctions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_extinctions)

"Ground-penetrating radar." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground\\_penetrating\\_radar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_penetrating_radar)

"JPL Imaging Radar." <http://southport.jpl.nasa.gov/>

"NASA, University Scientists Uncover Lost Maya Ruins -- From Space." <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/multimedia/photos/2006/photos06-018.html>  
([http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/lookingatearth/mayan\\_ruins.html](http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/lookingatearth/mayan_ruins.html))

"Permittivity." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permittivity>

"Polarization density." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polarization\\_%28electrostatics%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polarization_%28electrostatics%29)

"Siderophile elements." <http://www.solarviews.com/eng/terms.htm#siderophile>

"Specific heat capacity." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Specific\\_heat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Specific_heat)

"Tektite." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tektite>

"Terrestrial Impact Craters." <http://www.solarviews.com/eng/tercrate.htm>

"TNT equivalent (Megaton)." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megaton>

# USS Tiger Family Day - Fun with Rockets

By Capt. Brad Danner, C.O. USS Tiger

The USS Tiger recently held their first family model rocket launch and cookout. This was a way for the Tiger's crew to share a bit of space fun with the rest of their family, and to introduce a few of the crew members since we are a correspondence chapter. There was a total of sixteen present, with seven of those being under 10 years of age! One of the main reasons for having this event was to try to show our enthusiasm for space exploration and rocketry with our children.

The festivities began in the afternoon heat with the rocket launches, referred to as Historical Launch Simulations. Sixteen rockets were brought, including a flying model of a Port-A-John! Over the next hour and a half, 25 launches were executed. Most were successful, a couple of launches were comically acrobatic, and at times search and recovery were lengthy. Only one rocket is still missing at the present time!

After the launches were over, the crew took refuge from the heat inside as we enjoyed food and fellowship. Everyone enjoyed this event, and the crew is already planning our next rocket launch and cookout for sometime in the spring.



*The Crew of the USS Tiger*



*Liftoff!*



*The rockets*



# Invading Las Vegas

Greetings.

Yes, it's true. While everyone else was talking about the IC, my XO, Fleet Captain Walter Ewing and myself went on the greatest Star Trek adventure in North America - The 2007 Las Vegas Star Trek Convention at the Las Vegas Hilton and Convention Center. This year would celebrate the 20th Anniversary of The Next Generation.

For me, an autograph collector, this is HEAVEN! So many Sharpies, so little time and money! But I was on a mission. I would complete my collection of Star Trek Engineers or die trying. Okay, maybe not die, but be seriously disheartened.

We arrived in Vegas at 11 a.m. on Thursday morning to find that the convention had already begun. Autograph tickets for Shatner and Nimoy were already sold out and we missed the presentations by Patti Yatsutake (Nurse Ogawa of TNG) and Tim Russ (Tuvok of Voyager) Bummer, as I had wanted Patti's autograph! We also missed Suzie Plakson (K'Ehleyr and Dr. Selar of TNG), but I found out she was hanging around all weekend for the Klingon Luncheon on Sunday, so I got her autograph later in the autograph room, Twice!

Scarlett Pomers (Naomi Wildman of Voyager) was on stage when we arrived. Boy, has she grown up! Red headed as ever but "cute as the Dickens". She was followed by Dwight Schultz (Reg Barclay from TNG), who is naturally funny no matter what he does. Then Catherine Hicks (Dr. Gillian Taylor from The Voyage Home) who is perhaps best known for her role as the wife on Seventh Heaven. She does very few conventions so this was a golden opportunity, if the budget would just hold out.

Next would be phase one of my mission: Levar Burton. Levar talked at length about how blessed he considered his life to be, between his wife, kids and his career. He had just completed his 25th and final season of Reading Rainbow and admitted that it would be odd not doing it, but that he was keeping busy, directing everything from movies to commercials. When I got his autograph, I had to thank him for taking Geordi off the bridge and down to engineering. Until he put on the gold, it had seemed as if The Next Generation had suffered from a never ending stream of "guest engineers". You never knew who would respond

when you called engineering. Levar gave TNG the stability that Scotty had given The Original Series, and I was glad to see Geordi make the transition.

Then came another great moment for me. One of the great ladies of Star Trek in my book and one of the three most beautiful women in the franchise: Gates McFadden. Dr. Beverly Crusher in one of her rare convention appearances. Endearing to me was that Gates is also from Northern Ohio (Cuyahoga Falls, to be precise). I noted it to her when I got her autograph and she looked up and asked where I was now. I told her Louisville. She shook her head and asked "Why did we ever leave?" Neither of us seemed to be able to come up with a very good answer. But Gates is now busy with a new theatre she is starting in France, of all places, so seeing her may be hard from now on. I felt blessed to see her this one time.

And, while we were occupied, Malachi Throne (Commodore Mendez), Wil Wheaton (Wesley Crusher) and Richard Arnold (Gene Roddenberry's right hand man for 15 years) were appearing in another auditorium. We did get to hear a little of Wil's presentation, but what we heard was hysterical as he lambasted all things in life, including his time on Next Generation. I think his future should be stand up comedy.

Friday opened with none other than George Takei, followed closely by Walter Koenig and the trio of Gary Graham (Vulcan ambassador from Enterprise) Chase Masterson (Leeta from DS9) and Vaughn Armstrong (Admiral Forrest from Enterprise, among others), discussing life with Star Trek. Nichelle Nichols was next, then "Star Trek: The Official Panel". In this, a number of people responsible for various aspects of the franchise's future let us in on what to expect in the next few months. Unfortunately, I was less than impressed. It seemed to include mostly video games and comic books.

Writer D.C. Fontana came on stage next. She is a real rarity in conventions, partially due to shyness. But what a resume! Writer of ten episodes of the Original Series, 1 animated episode, 6 episodes of Next Gen, and one of DS9. And that's just the start.

It was time to party next with the Enterprise party boys, Dominic Keating (Lt. Malcolm Reed) and Connor

Trinnear (Commander Trip Tucker). Keating couldn't sit still more than 30 seconds and Trinnear was so laid back, I don't think he left his chair. But neither could stop throwing jabs, either at the question askers or each other. Connor was so ready to party that while signing autographs, he heard one guest tell another about attempts to get a star for a fundraising event. Connor immediately volunteered. "If there's a party, I'm there."

After the Enterprise twins, we were treated to the first appearance of Terry Farrell at a convention in five years. Another of the three most beautiful women in Trekdom, Terry was a natural, fielding questions, and compliments, like she did it on a daily basis. And afterwards, she had the longest autograph line of the convention. It got so backed up that Terry came out from behind the table and had two lines coming at her, one on each side, with her signing autographs like a it was going out of style. When I got up there, I thanked her for coming out to this convention so us fans could see her again. She took the time to put a hand on my shoulder, on my red DS9 uniform shirt, and thank me for being a fan!

That shirt will never be washed again! Anyone know how I could get it hermetically sealed to preserve it?

And, one last set of guests for Friday, Mike and Denise Okuda talked about their long association with Star Trek, including the work they did preparing for the Christies Auction.

In the other auditorium, some fans were treated to a ninety-minute feature called Borg War. It was an animated movie created using the graphic technology used in computer video games. A sneak peak was given in the main hall, and while I considered it lacking to be called a movie, it was interesting.

Friday night was a highlight as those of us with Captain's Chair tickets got treated to a dinner party, of sorts. Five hours of exclusive, unrestricted access to all aspects of the Star Trek Experience, there at the Hilton. Four buffets kept us fed, Marc Alaimo, Vaughn Armstrong, Casey Biggs and Chase Armstrong provided the entertainment. Them along with the many attractions, like the Museum of the Future and the two motion simulator rides, Klingon Encounter and Borg Invasion 4D. While Klingon encounter was a

typical motion simulator, with a lot of great sets from the Enterprise D along the way, the Borg Invasion was really more of a sensory simulator, using 3D graphics and some truly funky seats. I won't go any farther there. The food was good, Chase was too (heck with the guys) and the cute little Andorian girl was a sweetheart. But then again, so was the female Romulan officer, despite her best attempts to be otherwise. The Klingon girl was typically, well, Klingon, but the young lady dressed as Seven of Nine was not only a head turner, but close enough to cause a lot of people to do double takes, especially in the silver suit.

And she wasn't the only one. I almost ran over Avery Brooks in the dealers' room, or so I thought till I realized he was too short. He was a dead ringer otherwise, especially in that command First Contact uniform. There were two Shinzons, one not especially good, but the second was a Tom Hardy look-a-like, except he was too tall. And on top of it all was the Orion Slave girl who was the spitting image of Yvonne Craig. There was a very good looking Ilia from the first movie, shaved head, glowing crystal at her throat and everything. There were two Q's in the robes he wore in Encounter at Farpoint, as well as a Deanna Troi in her Encounter at Farpoint outfit. The Bajorans were well represented, including one Kai, a couple of vediks, and a few in the Bajoran military uniform. A couple of lovely green Orion slave girls were on hand, and a rather nice Scotty, though he was no match for Ben Redding.

Saturday began with Nana Visitor and Rene Auberjonois (Kira and Odo from Deep Space 9). One guest asked about a story that Alex Siddig told once about Nana and Ms. Visitor could not remember any of it, but said she had an excuse. Apparently on the set of Wildfire, she was to do her own stunt of falling off a horse that had reared on her. Problem was, it was done right next to another horse that was a little skittish. As I understand it, when she landed, it was startled and either kicked her in the head or stepped on her head. Either way, she was somewhat injured and has had memory failures.

Next was an author, Kristine Smith, who is a former Warner Brothers executive secretary and author of a book called *DeForrest Kelley: A Harvest of Memories*. The book is filled with stories of Kelley's mentoring Smith for almost 30 years.

Soon after, the Cardassians invaded. Marc Alaimo, Andrew Robinson and Casey Biggs arrived to talk about their time on DS9 and field questions. Casey, of course had to tell of his continuing peril, never quite sure when Kira Nerys would show up to kick him around again, prompting Nana Visitor to return to the stage, just to keep old Damar honest.

They were followed by some more behind-the-scenes people, including David Reddick, known for his comic

strip *The Trek Life* which can be seen on startrek.com. He was followed by Brannon Braga, who began as a writer on The Next Generation and went on to become Executive Producer for Voyager and Enterprise, and Larry Nemecek, author of the TNG Companion.

The stars returned with Jonathan Frakes and Brent Spiner (Riker and Data) celebrating 20 years of The Next Generation. Talk about two kids in a candy shop. For those who haven't seen them in a while, Brent is definitely graying, headed for a reprise of Data as the distinguished college professor, it would seem, but Jonathan looks not much the worse for wear, except he wouldn't fit the uniform anymore. But we begin to see in their performance why they were seen as the practical jokers of the cast. Neither one can let an opportunity for a wise crack pass, it would just kill them.

Jonathan and Brent were followed by Captain Janeway herself, Kate Mulgrew. Kate was fascinating to listen to and gave some interesting advice. A 13 year old girl told her about what a good role model Kate was and asked Kate for advice on how she could grow up following in Kate's footsteps. Kate's first response was "Stay away from guys.", which garnered some responses from the crowd. Kate explained that getting into that stuff too young was a recipe for trouble. She went on to tell the young girl to decide





what she wanted to do in her life and proceed to follow the steps to make it happen. And no matter what it was, never let anyone tell her she couldn't do it.

And, to end Saturday, what Creation Entertainment was calling the "First Family of Star Trek" appeared. Avery Brooks (Ben Sisko), Penny Johnson Jerald (Cassidy Yates) and Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko) appeared to talk to fans and take questions. Worked just like a family, too. Avery ran back and forth across the stage to ask people for their questions, ordering Cirroc to following him like a dutiful son, and then passing most of the questions on to Penny for the answer!

Last that evening was a costume contest, and it was big. At least eighty participants, including two Q's, three green Orion slave girls, several Kirks and Picards and many others. The winner was to get a one-thousand dollar gift certificate, but I missed seeing who it was. I was in an autograph line.

Sunday opened with the startrek.com trivia challenge, with some nice prizes being handed out, including some DVD sets. Then it was on to Nicholas Meyer, the screenplay writer and director for both The Wrath of Khan and The Undiscovered Country, in addition to co-writing The Voyage Home. So he was highly instrumental in three of the most successful of Star Trek Films.

Robert O'Reilly blessed us with the next performance and those "Gowron eyes". He was asked how he got the role and admitted that he was perplexed about that himself. He went for a reading and actually had to do two separate items. The first was a reading, which he noticed left the interviewers snoozing. Then he had to act like a Klingon. Feeling that he needed to crank it up a notch, Robert went wild on them, causing everyone in the room to go running for the exits, except Jonathan Frakes, who's only response was "Interesting." Frakes was ultimately responsible for hiring O'Reilly for the part of Gowron.

In mid afternoon, Leonard Nimoy stepped onstage, sporting a white t-shirt under a black blazer. He paused and decided the blazer had to go, and so turned his back to the crowd to take it off, revealing that on the back of the t-shirt, in huge bold letters, was written "#1 Vulcan". The crowd went nuts and Leonard proceeded to avow ignorance of what they were cheering for. "You humans are so emotional." That got a few shouts from the audience of "Bones" and "McCoy", to which Leonard just replied with a simple "Yes."

An interesting occurrence soon followed. A ten year old boy told Leonard a story about how he had begun watching Star Trek a couple of years back and about how the character of Mr. Spock had inspired him

to do things differently, including doing much better in school. Leonard proceeded to quiz the boy a bit, finding out that his name was James, and that he had come to Las Vegas with his father to see Leonard all the way from Honolulu. He had a mother and two younger siblings at home. Leonard was touched and had people from Creation get contact information from the boy and his father, then promised to take financial responsibility for bringing the whole family, all five of them, to the world premier of the next Star Trek film in December of 2008. It brought a standing ovation from the audience, along with whispers of "Now what's Bill going to have to do to show Nimoy up?"

Nimoy walked back across the stage after meeting James and his father, scratching his head and obviously pondering. He said "Someone asked me earlier where I saw the future of the Star Trek franchise?" He pointed at James. "There it is."

Bill Shatner was next, proceeding to tell two stories and not leaving a lot of time for questions. I never really got why he told either story, but the first was about running into a driver on the way to the airport that infuriated him so much that he nearly decked the guy at a stop light, before realizing "Wait a minute, I'm Captain Kirk!" The second was about appearing in a horse show in Louisville (I had actually heard this one from one of the EMT's that responded to the situation) and how he had gotten such lousy treatment there in Louisville. What was the moral of either story? I have no idea. Maybe Denny Crane isn't an act.

Leonard then joined Bill on stage and they proceeded to throw jabs. Bill just would not let go of the fact that Leonard had a part in the new movie and Bill did not. He also made note of Leonard's shirt, asking if the number sign shouldn't be a dollar sign.

Bill and Leonard were soon replaced on stage by Anthony Montgomery (Ensign Mayweather on Enterprise) who apparently has a recoding career going as well. Then it was Nicole deBoer (Ezri Dax in the final season of DS9) but I did not get to see her presentation. Soon after though, I was in her autograph line and never would have recognized her. She was wearing her hair long and looked totally different.

The final performance was the Ferengi. Max Grodenchik (Rom), Jeffrey Combs (Brunt), Armin Shimerman (Quark) and Wallace Shawn (Grand Negas Zek) This was Wallace's first ever appearance at a convention, so we got to see a bit of history.

At one point, Walter and I were sitting at a table and drinking our Diet Cokes when a gentleman came up behind Walter and asked if we had the time. I looked up to realized it was Richard Herd, who played a

Klingon on The Next Generation as well as Admiral Paris on Voyager. He was looking to not miss an early flight and recommended that we get while the getting' was good because it would just get crazy later. Richard was just one of the people who had populated the autograph room. These were not guests of the convention, but had come anyway to sign autographs and meet the fans. Others included Richard Hatch and Herb Jefferson Jr. from the original Battlestar Galactica, Felix Silla from Buck Rogers, Richard Keil from one of the Bond films, Tracey Scoggins and Stephen Austin from Babylon 5, Virginia Hey from Farscape, Ernie Hudson from Ghostbusters and a multitude of actors who only had a part or two on Star Trek. These included:

Don Marshall (Lt. Boma from Galileo Seven (TOS))  
Lois Jewell (Drusilla from Bread and Circuses (TOS))  
Lawrence Montaigne (Ston in Amok Time (TOS))  
Victor Brandt (Lt. Watson in Elaan of Troyius (TOS))  
Celeste Yarnell (Yeoman Martha Landon in The Apple (TOS))  
Barbara Luna (Lt. Marlene Moreau in Mirror, Mirror (TOS))  
William Wellman Jr. (Bajoran Security Officer in Favor the Bold (DS9))  
Arlene Martel (T'Pring in Amok Time (TOS))  
Joanne Linville (Female Romulan Commander in The Enterprise Incident (TOS))  
Natalija Nogulich (Admiral Nechayev in six episodes of TNG and DS9)  
Bobby Clark (The Gorn from Arena (TOS))  
Sean Kenney (The crippled Capt. Pike in The Menagerie (TOS))  
Cully Fredricksen (Vulcan Captain in First Contact)  
Todd Bryant (Captain Klaa from Star Trek V)  
Garry Walberg (Lt. Hansen from Balance of Terror (TOS))  
Stephen Manley (The young Spock from Star Trek III)  
Michael Dante (Maab from Friday's Child (TOS))  
Barrie Ingham (Danilo O'Dell in Up The Long Ladder (TNG))  
Barry Jenner (Admiral Ross on DS9)  
James Horan (Various roles on TNG, DS9, Voyager and Enterprise)

All and all, it was a heck of a convention. Expensive, yes, but with all these celebrities in one place and available for autographs, it is well worth it. I brought home eighteen autographs and my XO added another twenty-five to the tally. It was a busy four days, but next year it is expanding to five days.

Plans are already in the works.

To see some pictures from Las Vegas go to the Indiana's website at <http://www.sfiussindiana.com/LasVegas2007.html>



# What Happens in Vegas...

## Region 4 Meets at Star Trek: The Experience



**It started with a kiss!** Albert Cromedy knew it was love at first sight...until he found out his new sweetheart was only interested in him for his salt. Another broken heart litters the space ways. *Photo by Jennifer Cole.*



**BEAR-ly legal to drink!** Jackie Bundy (left) and Chrissy Killian share a tasty Warp Core Breach with the aptly-named Lush Bear. *Photo by Jennifer Cole.*



**The Gorn Identity.** Our favorite lumbering reptile makes a bold fashion statement with an attractive *USS Angeles* baseball cap. *Photo by Jennifer Cole.*



**Pardon me, but do you have any Blue Poupon?** Serving hew-mons and aliens since stardate 46132.7, Quark's Bar and Restaurant features a colorful assortment of characters to add to your dining experience. *Photo by Jennifer Cole.*



**Dare we say it? They look like a cadet review.** Region 4 folks and guests from other sectors of the Alpha Quadrant gathered for a meal and drinks at Quark's. Our apologies, but not everyone in this photo was identified for us. Left to right: Boyd Harmon, not sure, Paul Lester, Joost Ueffing, Alvn Rupp, not sure, not sure, Unicorn Escobedo. *Photo by Jennifer Cole.*



**USS Angeles crew plus two.** Back row (from left): Jennifer Cole (CO), Salt Vampire, Jackie Bundy (XO), Janice Willcocks (founding CO), Gorn, and Paul Lester. Front row (from left): Unicorn Escobedo, a case of Romulan Ale, Luis Valtin, and Albert Comedy. *Photo supplied by Jennifer Cole.*



# Remember to send high-resolution digital images of your Chapter or Region's best events to: [cq@cq.sfi.org](mailto:cq@cq.sfi.org)

(make certain you include captions, names of people in the photos, and credit the photographer)



**It's the officers' mess.** Dining at Quark's Restaurant, from left to right, Chrissy Killian, her significant other Jack Kane, Lush Bear, Albert Cromedy, and Janice Willcocks. Photo by Jennifer Cole.



**Come to Region 4 for good friends and good food.** Again, our apologies for not having the names of everyone in this photo. On the left in front is Luis Valentin. On the right side of the table (from back to front): Michael Blanchard, Alvin Rupp, and Paul Lester. Photo by Jennifer Cole.



**Buddy, can you spare a strip?** Pressed for latinum, Paul Lester (right) prepares to sneak up on an unsuspecting Ferengi and try to get his money back. Good luck with that, Paul. Photo by Jennifer Cole.



**Is that a phaser in your pocket? Oh, so it is!** From left to right: Jackie Bundy, Luis Valentin, and Unicorn Escobedo. Photo by Jennifer Cole.



**Baseball tryouts today!** Jackie Bundy and Janice Willcocks pose with two of *Star Trek's* more famous creatures. The Salt Vampire will be playing shortstop (although we hear the creature sucks), and the Gorn is getting ready for batting practice. Photo by Jennifer Cole.



**A man and his tribble.** Paul Lester thought he was buying a William Shatner toupee, but it turns out it was actually an adorable tribble. The little fellow was obviously very hungry, so Paul went off to feed his new pet. Photo by Jennifer Cole.



## Calling the Shots - USS Niagara Hosts Bingo Night

On Sept. 20, the crew of the U.S.S. Niagara hosted a free Bingo Night for the residents of Montgomery Park Retirement Home, located in East Amherst, NY. Thirty residents were in attendance for the night's gaming. The excitement started at 7 p.m., and ended at 8:30 p.m. Approximately 20 games were called during the evening, with several residents winning multiple times. The evening concluded with a final game of "Fill the Card" — which produced seven winners. The crew of the Niagara donated their time, as well as all the prizes for the evening. The Niagara holds its monthly meeting in the complex's Recreation Room. According to BGN Diebold, "This is our way of saying 'Thanks' to the residents of the retirement community for allowing us to use their Recreation Room. It's also just one more example of how the crew of the Niagara is always giving something back to the local community."



### Dream Plate

When 2LT Jeffrey Triz of the USS Niagara, NCC75634, went to renew the registration on his vehicle recently, he was not prepared for the surprise that awaited him. "Because my license plate was originally a custom

plate, I could not renew on-line, I had to call the New York Department of Motor Vehicles Office directly. While speaking to the representative, I mentioned that my dream license plate would be Star Trek. She

checked the available plates, and much to my surprise, the plate was actually available!" said Lieutenant Triz.





# USS Angeles' Halloween Adventure

By Lt. Cmdr. **Gloria Rodriguez**  
*USS Angeles*

A few nights before the annual Earth celebration of death and all that is eerie, crew members of the *USS Angeles* gathered to wear strange non-regulation costumes and venture into a dark place. Lit only by a ghostly glow and lightning, it is locally known as The House at Haunted Hill in Woodland Hills, California.

As we looked into what appeared to be a private cemetery, a Jack o' Lantern intoned a tale of lovers' despair. Spirits appeared to re-enact the story and the atmosphere rang with groans, music, and a strangely localized storm. In the adjacent yard, ghosts and skeletons intermittently appeared to cavort amongst the headstones as flickering forms told other stories of past lives and deaths. *Angeles* crew members braved the paranormal activities long enough to document the sightings, then ended the mission in a shaky retreat.

At the designated rendezvous, the home of Commander Jackie Bundy and Petty Officers Andrew and Adam Bundy, the crew was able to embrace the fearsome holiday with food and entertainment. Surrounded by Halloween trappings, starship personnel mingled with crew in outfits ranging from pirates and cowboys to witches and aliens. A nun and a Vulcan, perhaps similarly curious about such odd revels, also indulged in our merriment. We played Harry Potter "Scene It" and ended the evening with an improved attitude towards our supernatural adventure.



Be happy, or else! *USS Angeles* CO Jennifer Cole tries out an innovative new approach to keeping spirits high on board ship. *Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.*



Where's the Holodeck? Attendees at the annual *USS Angeles* Halloween party, (from left to right): Candi Rosales, Dave Mason, Chris Mulroone, Marci (guest), Cliff Gardner, Luis Valentine, Jennifer Cole, Boyd Harmon, Gloria Rodriguez, Jolene (visitor), Mel Bundy, and kneeling in front are Goldie Chaikin and Jackie Bundy. *Photo supplied by Gloria Rodriguez.*





**Fleet meets Wild Women.** In uniform (back row), left to right: Fleet Captain Boyd Harmon, Crewman Recruit Luis Valentine, and Commander Dave Mason. In...well... a different kind of uniform (seated) Lieutenant (jg) Goldie Chaikin and Lieutenant (jg) Candi Rosales. *Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.*



**Otherworldly Storyteller.** Taken at the elaborately decorated House At Haunted Hill in Woodland Hills, California. The crew of the *USS Angeles* visited this local "haunt" before returning to Jackie Bundy's home to enjoy the fun of the chapter's annual Halloween party. *Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.*



**Point n' Shoot Technology.** Petty Officer First Class Andrew Bundy and Lt. Commander Cliff Gardner at the *USS Angeles* Halloween party. *Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.*



**Alien Visitation.** First contact between Lt. Commander Gloria Rodriguez and Crewman Recruit Luis Valentine. *Photo supplied by Gloria Rodriguez.*



# SPH: The Region 4 Experience

By Fleet Captain Unicorn Escobedo  
*USS Angeles*

Having been to the shuttle port (Enterprise Rent-A-Car) earlier in the day, my fellow crewmate, Albert Cromedy, and myself set off in the USS Mercedes runabout about 0230 (2:30 AM) from the Starfleet Command HQ city of San Francisco for our trip to Risa (Las Vegas). Once there, we were to meet up with numerous fellow Fleet members from throughout Region 4 and STARFLEET who were in attendance for our annual Region 4 Conference being held at Space Port Hilton (SPH), also known as Star Trek: The Experience.

Upon arrival to Risa, we went directly to SPH to meet everyone and pick up our conference badges, while waiting to check in to our lodging accommodations (America Best Value Inn) at the end of the day. We met with R4RC Rear Admiral Chrissy Killian, who was sitting with a few other conference attendees. After getting a brief explanation of the day's planned activities, we were told we'd be more or less free to explore the Promenade, where we could purchase numerous assorted intergalactic items (ST related clothing, books, toys and jewelry), with the whole group meeting in front of Quark's at 1630 (4:30 PM) for an authorized Behind the Scenes tour of the internal workings of SPH. However our first stop was going to be Quark's for several of us, as we needed nourishment and refreshments.

Being that this was my first time at SPH/Quark's, there was a lot to look at and take in. It turns out Quark's is much larger than first meets the eye. As we were only planning to eat and have refreshments, we were seated in what is called the 'Federation Circle' or primary replicator lounge (restaurant) portion of the establishment. Although I never was able to find the entrance to the Holosuite, we did see several large transmission screens (flat screen TVs) scattered throughout the faculty where we were able to monitor various past missions of famed Starfleet crews (ST: TOS, ST: TNG, ST: DS9, ST: VOY, ST: ENT episodes).

While trying to figure out what intergalactic item I wished to ingest, several personnel from the SPH stopped by to greet and welcome us. I was not able to get everyone's name, but I met a very friendly Ferengi who was not helpful at all about telling me where the Holosuite was located...although still a pleasant being to chat with. Next we were visited by a rather exotic female Andorian who seemed to be interested in a mating ritual with fellow crewman recruit Paul Lester, who claims he was 'sitting' in a trapezoidal position because it was more comfortable, due to the chair configuration at Quark's. I never fully believed this, as I'm sure I saw Paul, the Ferengi, the Andorian and another unknown species slipping away together after our meal. However since they say what happens in Risa stays in Risa, I will not speculate further.

Towards mid meal, we were surprised to be welcomed by a Borg, who said he was 3 of something and from Hugh's ship. He was a very nice being, although I tried to avoid being within arm's reach of him, just in case he wanted to do some assimilation to increase his hive.



**Man underboard!** Unicorn Escobedo stands beneath the giant replica of the *Galaxy-class USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D* in Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton. **Photo by Jennifer Cole.**

After our meal, several of us decided it was time to explore the rest of Quark's and the Promenade to do some shopping. In the secondary area of Quark's, which looked a lot like the establishment on Deep Space 9 (must be a restaurant chain thing), we found a full bar serving numerous synthehol (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) beverages, and several



**Good customers are as rare as latinum. Treasure them.** Albert Cromedy discusses the 57th Rule of Acquisition with the Ferengi host at Quark's. **Photo by Jennifer Cole.**

additional members of the conference, including Commander, STARFLEET candidate Joost Ueffing. They too were having lunch and enjoying the atmosphere of a more secluded area.

On the Promenade, we weaved in and out the various establishments. Much to my surprise, they had tribbles for sale, of which Paul bought a large one. It really seemed to like him, as everywhere we went for the rest of the day, we could hear it chirping (battery operated) its happiness.

Although I chose not to make any purchases initially, I did come back the next AM to get several items for myself, including some new patches to add to my old 'ST: Federation Sciences' jacket, which has numerous other patches I've collected during my career in Fleet. I was even able to get a 10% discount on a T-shirt by saying I had taken the authorized tour of SPH (Behind the Scenes Tour). I'm sure if a Ferengi had been nearby, he would have never allowed me to get such a great deal.

Afterwards it was time to explore the upper Promenade, where a vast museum of past historical Fleet items was on display, including some rather large and impressive looking replicas of the *USS Enterprise-D* and the *USS Voyager*. I also saw a replica of a Klingon Bird-of-Prey. The walkway was filled with display cases of articles (*Star Trek* props) representing the Terran (*Star Trek*) spaceflight time line.

Again so much to see, and we were told that changed with new items. The one and only item we were allowed to actually touch and closely examine was a torpedo that served as the coffin for the great Vulcan Ambassador Spock (*ST: Wrath of Khan* & *ST: The Search for Spock* prop). Further down the walkway, we came upon the mechanical skull and spinal column of a Borg Queen (*ST: First Contact* prop). For some reason, we were then required to assume a stand-and-wait period for some 20 minutes, as some kind of event was taking place around the spaceport.

We later moved into a large room where we discovered that the SPH was under attack by Borg (the "Borg Invasion 4D" ride). During this time we were evacuated to a shuttle that was taken hostage by a Borg cube and pulled inside. Thanks to the EMH, we were given instructions on how to protect ourselves from assimilation. However, one member of the contingent (and well-known Fleet officer) was very 'startled' when assimilation was attempted on them. Thanks to a 4D encounter with an *Intrepid*-class vessel, we were able to escape the cube and return to the SPH unharmed, although much more 'awake.' I heard of other members who had a 'Klingon Encounter' (the other virtual reality ride), however due to my own cardio implants, I avoided such an encounter.

As the time was growing near for an authorized tour of the inner workings of SPH, we returned to the upper Promenade entrance to meet the others of our conference group. After a brief instruction on our security bypass modules (headphones with audio radios to hear the tour guide) and having each signed the Security Clearance 4 form (agreeing to not reveal any of the special effects or secrets from the tour), we then began our tour into the inner workings of SPH. However, being that I was



with the Press Corps of Region 4 and Editor of its bi-monthly newsletter, the *Subspace Communicator*, I have been allowed to reveal two secrets otherwise not known to the general populace of SPH.

For those who have never been to SPH or have and would like a better understanding of how things function, I highly recommend you take this tour if available. We were taken deep into the inner workings of numerous sections of the facilities that normally one only sees from a passerby point of view. One of the more revealing inner places was an area designated for the various visiting aliens, whom we met earlier at Quark's. This area was normally strictly off limits, however we found several aliens in various states of relaxation and also a variety of wind blowing devices to cool them off, due to the heavy and sometimes confining uniforms and other necessary accoutrements for their particular life form.

Another secret that I've been allowed to reveal involved their 'transporter' and how it actually worked. Having seen and used this device on countless prior missions, I had grown so accustomed, that I had not given it much thought till this tour. It was interesting to learn that a complete transport takes five seconds and involves an unexpected side effect, which in actuality adds to helping the overall transport itself.

Although I'm extremely grateful that the SPH personnel allowed me to reveal the two above inner working secrets, I do not wish to say too much, lest this report get into the hands of Breen or Dominion personnel, who might use such information to bring harm to the SPH or the Federation.

As the evening hours quickly approached, it was time for many of us to return to our various lodgings to change into fresh duty or dress uniforms for the evening dinner and official conference. As we had not yet gone to our primary lodging facilities, Lieutenant Commander Jackie Bundy and Commodore Janice Willcocks (both of the *USS Angeles*) allowed us the use of their quarters as they were lodging at SPH. After a quick change into my dress uniform (3rd season TNG), we headed back to the Federation Circle.

Many members arrived later than the designated 1900 hours (7 PM), however by 1930 (7:30 PM) it seemed everyone had arrived and taken a seat. Although I may have missed a few ships or persons, I could see that representatives from the *USS Angeles* (largest away team), *USS Eagle*, *USS Gallant*, *USS Onizuka*, *USS Peacekeeper*, *K'Ehleyr Station*, and the *USS Stormbringer* from Region 4 were in attendance. As I said earlier, we also had one CS candidate. Later on, I got to meet the founder of *K'Ehleyr Station*, Rear Admiral Richard Benker. As numerous synthehol (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) beverages were ordered along with some dinner items, the evening got underway.

Thanks to the generous donations by the afore-mentioned Jackie Bundy, as well as be Commander Alvin Rupp, Rear

Admiral Chrissy Killian and myself, a silent auction was held with approximately 18 items, varying from an out-of-print book of poems by the Terran author, Leonard Nimoy; a variety of puzzles, including one of a 3-D Millennium Falcon; a complete set of ST: The Animated Series trading cards with a set binder and one autographed card...to name just a few of the items. Each item had a bid sheet listing the name of the item, estimated value, a starting bid amount and bid increment listing. Conference attendees were encouraged throughout the evening to check

the bid sheets often to make sure someone had not come along and outbid them. One of the more sought after items appeared to be the near-mint condition full-size poster of the periodic table of the elements (from *Star Trek*).

While everyone else had dinner, I chose to explore the facilities again, do some additional window-shopping on the Promenade, and get a few unobstructed holophotos (pictures). Upon rejoining the group, I could see that most had consumed their meals and were now ordering desserts. It was during this time I was approached by two other officers in duty uniforms who were also visiting the SPH. They inquired into our group and activities. I do not recall their names, but did get that the male officer was from Chicago, while the female was from Philadelphia. I invited them both to

take seat at the end of our table to listen in, as the RC was getting ready to present her State of Region speech, as well as Regional promotions and awards.

Her speech was short; however two individuals were recognized for their ongoing contributions to their crew and ships. First up was Jackie Bundy, who was promoted to full Commander, as she was now the XO of the *USS Angeles*. Then Alvin Rupp was promoted to full Captain, as he was now the CO of the *USS Onizuka*. There were many cheers and well wishes--with a few sympathy comments thrown in for good luck--as the two individuals were handed their certificates. No Regional Awards were given.

Afterward, five raffle prizes were awarded. Earlier in the evening, I had the duty of giving out one free ticket to each attendee. Additional tickets were available at 1 ticket for one credit, 6 tickets for 5 credits, or the crowd favorite, as many tickets as it took to go all the way around your chest to reach from one side of your comm badge to the other for 10 credits. Several times I made sure I had a spouse's permission to measure tickets, lest there be scuttlebutt later.

The prizes ranged from a collection of all 4 books from the *Invasion* set with a laminated Security badge, to holo recordings (VHS Video tapes)

of past *Enterprise* missions (ST: TOS - "The Menagerie" and ST: TNG - "Encounter at Farpoint") and a paperback copy of the second recording, to one bag that had both *Imzadi* (paperback book), *Imzadi II* (hardback book) and an autographed photo of the famous Counselor Deanna Troi (Marina Sirtis). Finally there was a gift basket that had been put together by R4RC Rear Admiral Killian herself with numerous space-related items and a promotional UPN/*Voyager* poster board autographed by Garrett Wang, Ethan Phillips, and Armin Shimerman.

With the raffle over, the conference itself came to a close. I believe all in attendance had a good time thanks to being able to roll with the various and unexpected numerous last minute changes in the schedule and dinner location. Several members adjourned themselves to the more secluded portion of Quark's to see if they could help close it down at 2400 (midnight), while others adjourned to the Dabo tables or their lodgings. As both Crewman Cromedy and myself still had not checked into our lodging habitat and the hour was getting late, we went up to Commander Bundy and Commodore Willcocks' quarters, joined by Crewman Paul Lester and Luis Valentin to retrieve our personal carriers. It turned out Paul and Luis were also staying at the same habitat as we were; so they helped guide us to the shuttle pad (hotel parking lot) where we could park our runabout.

As no conference activities were planned for the next day (Sunday), due to several attendees having to return to their primary ships (personal dwellings), Rear Admiral Jennifer Cole (*USS Angeles* CO & R4 Vice-RC), Crewmen Lester and Cromedy and myself decided to purchase a Monorail day ticket to see more of Risa after having made a quick stop by Quark's to make some final purchases. It was a perfect day for walking, to enjoy the various sites and see the wide range of other visiting species to Risa. We each seemed to have taken numerous holograms (pictures) of remarkable architecture along the main strip.

Although for most Sunday was the last day for their adventure in Risa, both Albert and myself still needed to make a quick stop in the Anaheim, California sector to visit my grandmother who was celebrating her 87th birthday on Tuesday, October 23rd. Along the route, we came within 40 kilometers of the Diego Nebula (the recent San Diego Fires). I was able to get a few holograms (pictures) from the safety of our runabout front window. After a day of visiting, we finally headed back to the City By The Bay that we call home.



**Climbing the corporate Jeffries Tube!** The new XO of the *USS Angeles*, Jackie Bundy, gets a well-deserved promotion to full Commander. **Photo by Jennifer Cole.**



**The measure of a woman.** Fleet Captain Unicorn (left) measures Region 4 Coordinator Chrissy Killian for a new tunic. Actually, Conference attendees could purchase, for \$10, however many raffle tickets would fit around their torso from their comm badge and back again. **Photo by Jennifer Cole.**

# The Further Adventures of the Ambassador-At-Large (another view of the Region 4 Conference)

By Captain Alvin Rupp  
CO, *USS Onizuka*

It's Tuesday afternoon, and I'm just starting to put down my thoughts and impressions of the recent Region 4 Conference held in Las Vegas at Star Trek: The Experience. And WOW, was it an Experience! We began our journey in Chico, California. It lies 100 miles north of Sacramento, the capital of the state. Six hundred miles away was Las Vegas.

We picked up our rental car Friday morning at 10 a.m. and quickly loaded our personal items aboard and headed south. Vicki took the helm and as we wended our way past Sacramento to Lodi, California, where we changed seats and I began to put our vehicle through its paces. We were flying at 90 miles an hour, and people were still passing me up! Whatever happened to the speed limit? As I needed to make as much time as possible, I just stepped on the accelerator and flew! We hit Bakersfield around 4:30 p.m., gassed up and took off for Barstow through the Mojave Desert. It also was a quick trip. At Barstow, we gassed up again and had something quick to eat, and then hit the road again. I had been thinking it was approximately 100 miles to Las Vegas from Barstow, but in fact it was 151 miles. So again we were whizzing along, trying to keep up with traffic all the way to Las Vegas.

We arrived around 10 p.m. and went straight to the hotel and checked in. I had tried to get a room at America's Best Value Inn, where most of the other delegates were staying. Unfortunately, it was sold out, but we got a room at the Knights Inn just a few blocks away. We went straight to bed, as we were tired from being in the car for over ten hours. As my shuttlecraft is experiencing problems at the moment, we couldn't take it. If I had, we would have just set down in the America's Best Value Inn's parking lot where many of the attendees had registered. Oh, well.

After a good night's sleep, we woke rested and ready for the day. We arrived at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel at 11 a.m. as was scheduled. At the entrance to the Experience, we met R4RC Chrissy Killian and Jack... and no one else. Shortly thereafter, Fleet Captain Boyd Harmon, CO of the *USS Stormbringer*, arrived, and slowly after those others began to appear. It seems that Region 4 likes to arrive fashionably late.

Once we had a group together, Chrissy obtained our tickets for the Experience rides, and we had all afternoon to ride the

Klingon Attack and Borg 4-D Experience. Vicki and I quickly became separated from our fellow Trekkers and hopped aboard the rides. As Vicki had never been to the Experience, she had an extremely enjoyable time. I've been there before and even so, had just as much fun as the first time.

At 4:30 p.m., we met at the front of the Experience for our Behind-the-Scenes tour. It lasted almost 2 hours as we wended our way behind the rides and discovered how they worked the 'magic' that made them such fun. After the tour, Vicki and I jumped in the car and rushed back to the hotel, in the midst of a serious dust storm, so we could change clothes

truly creatures of Quark's Bar at DS9, and that is all there is to it. Enjoy it and have FUN! As Ambassador-At-Large from the *USS Onizuka*, I entered into a discussion with an Andorian and Ferengi about the relative merits of each species' apparent strengths and weaknesses. Extremely FUN.

Dinner was excellent and the company was exceptional. Quark's Bar pours very strong drinks (all the better to separate customers from their hard-earned latinum), and it loosened up tongues and stories flowed across the tables. I have to admit that several of them were mine. I hope I didn't bore anyone with monologues of my many adventures throughout the Quadrant. I certainly enjoyed telling them.

After dinner, we held a silent auction for collectables and memorabilia as a fund-raiser for Region 4. It was, as usual, a success and drinks flowed freely among us. As often happens, I helped close the bar along with Vicki and Dan Toth and Boyd Harmon.

We finally left the bar close to midnight, and as we were standing in the foyer, the topic of gambling came up (in Las Vegas, what else is there?). I informed the group of several rules I have learned though hard experience about gambling. I don't think anyone believed me until I told Captain Dan Toth to play a particular machine. He agreed and on the last roll of his five-dollar wager, sure enough, he hit for 40 dollars. Jerry Tien tried also, but wasn't willing to add any extra to his original attempt--although I was sure that machine was about to hit also. Gambling is just that, gambling! Take a

chance! Just don't lose your head...or your shirt!

Vicki and I made it back to our hotel room about 1:30 a.m. only to fall into bed and sleep solidly until the alarm went off the next morning--way too early! We rose and began packing for the long trip home. Checking out at noon, we again hit the road and began the long trip home to Chico. Arriving there at midnight, we again fell into bed only to be rudely awakened by the alarm. We needed to return the rental car, and afterward we went home and crawled back into bed and slept the remainder of the day. And now my story is finished. Hope you enjoyed the tale. It was much more fun being there than just reading about it. Much more occurred, but it would be indelicate to write about it here. Next time, make sure that you come and join in the FUN!



**Rank hath its privileges.** Region 4 Coordinator Chrissy Killian (right) presents Alvin Rupp a certificate confirming his promotion to Captain as he takes command of the *USS Onizuka*. **Photo by Jennifer Cole.**

for the dinner. It was this same storm that created the several fires burning in Southern California at the time. The wind was blowing up to 35 miles-per-hour, and the sand and grit was a constant bother in your eyes and mouth, not to mention other places!

Dinner was held in the Federation Circle at Quark's Bar. We almost filled the place up with Federation uniforms, to the amazement of many of the other guests, as well as the 'characters' that wandered throughout the bar. The aliens at Quark's Bar in costume are actors but with a twist. When they 'work' they must stay in character. And each one has written up their own 'backstory' as to how they have arrived at Quark's. If you go, brush up on your alien cultures history and strike up a conversation. And don't attempt to talk to them about their mundane job because they will not break character. They are



# Star Trek Day on the Picket Line

By Commodore Jon Lane  
USS Angeles

It was like a *Star Trek* convention, only with picket signs instead of a dealers' room!

As the Hollywood writers strike entered its second month in December, news coverage of the picket lines waned, and fewer and fewer writers were bothering to spend their days walking back and forth for hours in front of studio entrance gates. How could the Writers Guild of America (WGA) make things more interesting? What could they do to draw out more writers and actors and production personnel? An answer came from a little sci-fi show we all like to watch.

"*Star Trek* Day" was not an official event. News of it spread through word of mouth and e-mail. There had actually been a few other "theme days" on the picket lines over the last few weeks. Writer/Producer Joss Whedon had organized a rally by creators and actors from the *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and *Firefly* series. There had also been a horror genre theme day. And most recently, fans of *Battlestar Galactica* had organized picket support in front of Universal Studios. But so far, the "big kahuna" of them all--*Star Trek*--had not had a theme day on the picket lines. But that was about to change...in a very big way.

On Monday, December 10, former (and current) *Star Trek* writers were asked to come to the main gate at Paramount Studios in Hollywood. The Screen Actors Guild (SAG), which isn't on strike yet but will be this coming summer, is supporting the WGA strikers, and *Star Trek* actors were also asked to show up as well. The invitation also went out to producers and visual effects people, set designers, make-up artists...

anyone with a link to *Star Trek* was welcome to come and spend a few hours picketing at Paramount.

Although I'm not a member of the WGA, I have written a *Star Trek* book ("Starship Spotter" back in 2001) and have done work for Paramount's licensing department. And being currently unemployed, I had nothing else to do that Monday. So I put on a red shirt (not because I wanted to die on an

key people were "sought out" by writers and actors looking to network and schmooze...people like Ron D. Moore (former Executive Producer of *Deep Space Nine* and co-creator of the new *Battlestar Galactica*) and Ira Behr (also an Exec Producer on DS9 and currently producing *The 4400*).

The picket line itself was extremely organized. Not everyone picketed at the same time, but for those with signs, the city of Los Angeles granted "gate blocking" permission only during red lights. Once the traffic light onto Melrose Avenue turned green for cars entering or leaving Paramount Studios, the picketers had to clear the way. And so, every other minute or so, if there were cars waiting to get in or out, a "designated spotter" would speak into a megaphone saying, "Five seconds to green light, please prepare to clear the way." And five seconds later, all the picketers would be standing back on the sidewalk to let cars pass.

I joined fellow *USS Angeles* member Jim Van Over, who previously worked for over a decade on *Star Trek DS9*, *Voyager*, and *Enterprise* with Mike Okuda (who was also there that day) in the scenic art department. Currently, Jim does digital effects work on several shows, including "24" and "Journeyman", but on this particular Monday, Jim had no work to do. The writers strike has shut down production on most shows, and that affects the casts and crews on these shows as well as the writers. Yet despite the loss of their own work, the other Hollywood unions support the WGA, and Jim was there as both a fan and as a professional.

*Continued on the next page...*



Jon Lane joins Nichelle Nichols (Uhura) on the picket line in front of Paramount Pictures in December. Photo by Jim Van Over.

alien planet, but because the WGA strikers are all wearing red on the picket lines), grabbed my camera, and drove over to Hollywood.

As if to prove that *Star Trek* is still the granddaddy of television and film franchises, turnout was nothing less than phenomenal. During the four hours of the event, nearly 400 people showed up to rally their support...and there were more than enough picket signs for everyone (I brought a sign home as a memento).

Despite the seriousness of the writers' situation, the mood there that day was warm, friendly, and fun. One writer brought a saxophone along and played *Star Trek* music while folks picketed. Walter "Chekov" Koenig went around with a huge box of bagels, giving them out to anyone who wanted one. Armin "Quark" Shimerman and George "Sulu" Takei chatted with anybody who happened to walking next to them on the picket line at any point. In fact, just about everyone was approachable if you were holding a sign and walking back and forth. Amusingly, I noticed that certain



Brent Spiner (Data) on the picket line. Photo by Jon Lane.



Armin Shimerman (Quark) and Tim Russ (Tuvok) on the picket line. Photo by Jon Lane.



Continued from the previous page...

Also there from the Angeles was Larry Nemecek, *Trek* archivist and former editor of the *Official Star Trek Fan Club Magazine*. The three of us hung out, meeting up with other friends like Jack Marshall, the director of the "New Voyages" *Star Trek* fan video series on the Internet (find it online at [www.newvoyages.com](http://www.newvoyages.com)). We also had a nice conversation with *Star Trek* TV and book writers Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens about their new novel about Kirk and Spock's Starfleet Academy days, co-written with Bill Shatner.

Every so often I'd wander over to a celebrity and have a quick chat. I spoke briefly with George Takei, Walter Koenig, Nichelle Nichols, and Chase Masterson ("Leeta" of DS9). Different people came and went during the day at different times. Ron Moore, Brent "Data" Spiner, and Tim "Tuvok" Russ were

there early and then left shortly after noon. Nichelle Nichols arrived later on at about 1:30 p.m. Scott Bakula came around 2:00 p.m., along with Vaughn Armstrong (Admiral Forrest of *Enterprise*...who brought his *Enterprise* Blues Band with him to entertain the strikers). Other folks, like Walter Koenig and Anthony Montgomery (Travis Mayweather of *Enterprise*) were there the entire time.

Although I didn't recognize everyone who showed up, I was able to get the complete list of attendees (see box on the right) from the **StarTrek.com** website. It's pretty impressive.

After you read down the list, I invite you to peruse the other article I've written about why the writers are striking in the first place. Most Americans don't completely understand the situation and what is being asked for. But these *Star Trek* folks cared enough to come out in support, and it would be nice if more people were aware of what's really going on.



Music on the picket line. Photo by Jon Lane.



Walter Koenig (Chekov) and his box of bagels. Photo by Jon Lane.



That's the address of Paramount Studios in Hollywood, CA. Photo by Jon Lane.



Commodore Jon Lane. Photo by Jim Van Over.



Anthony Montgomery (left) and Chase Masterson (right). Photo by Jon Lane.

## Here's a list of who was there at Paramount:

### Writers

Ira Steven Behr - Exec Producer DS9 and The 4400  
Hans Beimler - Writer TNG and DS9  
Chris Black - Writer on ENT  
Andre Bormanis - Science Advisor on TNG, DS9 and VOY, Writer and Story Editor on ENT  
Fred Dekker - Writer and Producer on ENT  
Harlan Ellison - Writer on the original *Star Trek* series  
Jane Espenson - Writer on DS9, currently a Writer and Producer on *Battlestar Galactica*  
David Gerrold - Writer of "The Trouble With Tribbles" (TOS) and "Trials and Tribble-lations" (DS9)  
Andre & Maria Jacquemetton - Writers on ENT  
Alex Kurtzman - Co-Writer and Exec Producer on ST:11  
Nicholas Meyer - Director of ST:2 and ST:6, Co-Writer of ST:4  
Ron D. Moore - Writer on TNG/DS9/VOY; Exec Prod on DS9; Co-Creator/Exec Prod of *Battlestar Galactica*  
Roberto Orci - Co-Writer and Exec Producer on ST:11  
Garfield & Judith Reeves-Stevens - Writers on ENT and of several *Star Trek* novels  
Naren Shankar - Writer on TNG, DS9, VOY and ST:7  
Phyllis Strong - Writer on VOY and ENT, Co-Prod on ENT  
Mike Sussman - Writer on VOY and ENT, Producer on ENT  
Michael Taylor - Writer on DS9 and VOY, currently a Writer and Producer on *Battlestar Galactica*  
Bradley Thompson - Writer on DS9, currently a Writer and Producer on *Battlestar Galactica*  
David Weddle - Writer on DS9, currently a Writer and Producer on *Battlestar Galactica*  
Ron Wilkerson - Writer on TNG and VOY  
Robert Hewitt Wolfe - Writer and Producer on DS9, currently and Writer and Producer on *The 4400*

### Actors

Vaughn Armstrong - Admiral Forrest on ENT and multiple roles on TNG, DS9, and VOY  
Scott Bakula - Captain Jonathan Archer on ENT  
J. Paul Boehmer - multiple small roles on DS9, VOY, ENT  
Victor Brandt - Tongo Rad in TOS episode "The Way to Eden"  
Nicole de Boer - Ezri Dax on DS9  
Chris Dooan - son of James Dooan (Scotty)  
Menina Fortunato - one of the 3 Orion Slave Girls on ENT  
Gary Graham - Soval on ENT and Det. Sikes on *Alienation*  
Jennifer Hetrick - Vash on TNG and DS9  
Walter Koenig - Pavel Chekov on TOS and the first 7 movies  
Chase Masterson - Leeta on DS9  
Anthony Montgomery - Ensign Travis Mayweather on ENT  
Nichelle Nichols - Nyota Uhura on TOS and the first 6 movies  
Robert O'Reilly - Klingon Chancellor Gowron on TNG and DS9  
Steve Rankin - multiple small roles on TNG, DS9, and VOY  
Tim Russ - Lieutenant Commander Tuvok on VOY (also appeared on TNG and DS9)  
William Schallert - Nilz Baris in TOS episode "The Trouble With Tribbles" (also appeared on DS9)  
Armin Shimerman - Quark on DS9 and VOY (also appeared in four episodes of TNG)  
Brent Spiner - Lieutenant Commander Data on TNG  
George Takei - Hikaru Sulu on TOS and the first 6 movies, (plus Captain Sulu on VOY ep. "Flashback")  
Wil Wheaton - Wesley Crusher on TNG and ST:10

### Production Crew

Juan Fernandez - Pre-Production Coordinator on ENT  
Alan Kobayashi - Graphic Designer on ENT  
Dennis "Danger" Madalone - Stunt Co-Coordinator on TNG, DS9, and VOY  
Ronald B. Moore - Visual Effects Coordinator TNG, VOY, ENT  
Tom Morga - Stuntman and Double in TNG, DS9, and VOY  
Michael & Denise Okuda - Graphic Art Supervisors on TNG, DS9, VOY, and ENT; Line Producers on ST: Remastered  
Jim Van Over - Digital Effects Artist on TNG, DS9, VOY, ENT



# So Why Are They Striking?

By Commodore **Jon Lane**  
*USS Angeles*

For most of America, the Hollywood writers strike means we're stuck with reruns, reality TV, and game shows starting in January. It's inconvenient. A lot of people support the writers, but only because we generally think of the networks and the studios as big, greedy, nasty megaliths. And they are. Heck, they cancelled *Star Trek*...twice! Of course we hate the networks.

But with only 25 seconds of news coverage each night (if they're lucky), the Writers Guild

those up), we're likely going to have less and less patience for this annoying writers strike.

So with that in mind, let me answer the question "Why are they striking?" in a clear way...and maybe you won't be quite as mad at the writers come February as you decide whether to watch "America's Next Big Accordion Player" or "Are You Smarter Than a Watermelon?"

Let's set our time machine back to the 1950's, the very infancy of television. And let's visit the Desilu Studios as they created episode after hilarious episode of *I Love Lucy*. You've

Well, actually no. They got paid once. TV was still a new medium back then, and the concept of a "rerun" (let alone billions of dollars in licensing, advertising, and merchandising revenue) was beyond comprehension.

Even by the time of the original *Star Trek* in the late 1960's, paying writers and actors some kind of residual fee for their work was limited by most contracts. Sure, William Shatner is swimming in money now, but in the early 1970s, he was living in a trailer...literally. All the *Trek* writers and actors were paid residuals for ONLY the first TWO cycles of reruns (who could have imagined *Star Trek* would last



Nearly 400 people showed up at Paramount Studios in Hollywood on December 10, 2007, for "Star Trek Day" to support the Writers Guild of America strike (see the article elsewhere in this issue).  
Photo by Jon Lane.

of America doesn't get a lot of opportunity to explain themselves to the public. And as reality shows like "America's Smallest Waiter" and "Who Wants to Marry a Volkswagen?" start proliferating the airwaves (no, I made

seen the show, right? You've probably seen every episode multiple times. Those writers were pretty funny. They probably made out like bandits with all those reruns over the years, wouldn't you think?

beyond that, right?). Then nothing. By 1971, the only entity making money from *Star Trek* was Paramount—not Gene Roddenberry, not

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Shatner, Nimoy, Kelley, Doohan, or any of the rest...and definitely not the writers.

Eventually, the writers were able to negotiate a fee for reruns of 2.5%. In other words, whenever a show or movie aired on television, for every dollar the network made from selling advertising, the writer of that episode or movie

Movies and TV shows on video tape was an untapped market, potentially worth millions (maybe even billions). And the writers wanted their fair share. But the studios were worried that they would not have enough money left over after paying the writers their two and a half cents on every dollar to properly market these new video tape thingies. "If VHS doesn't catch on, we all lose," said the studios. "We need you to take a smaller percentage of VHS sales," they told the writers, "At least until we can get the video industry running smoothly. Then we'll pay you a higher percentage once everything is stable. We'll even pay you back for the few years of lost revenue."

The writers agreed to an 80% fee cut. Yep, an unbelievable fourth-fifths pay cut--talk about generous! So with video sales, writers were now getting **half a penny** for every dollar the studios were making.

Fortunately, that was just for a short time, right? After all, the

video tape industry quickly became a healthy market. It even evolved into DVDs, and that's been a major money-maker. The writers must be swimming in riches by this point!

Well, not exactly. You see, the studios never did readjust that 80% fee cut. The writers are still making their half cent for every studio dollar on video and DVD sales. But that's still not why they're striking.

You've probably heard that the writers are concerned about Internet residuals. What exactly is that all about? Well, thanks to online services like iTunes and many others, people can now buy tens of thousands of movies and TV shows without ever leaving their homes. And because DVD quality video files can be downloaded directly to someone's computer, the studios no longer have to pay for manufacturing, distribution, warehousing, or shipping to a store. The studios are making

lots more money per purchase on Internet downloads (legal downloads, that is) than they ever did on video or DVD sales...because there's almost no per unit cost to the studio other than marketing.

And yet, the studios are offering the writers of these downloaded movies the same royalty rate that's been in place for twenty years on video and then DVD...yep, the rate which INCLUDED the 80% fee cut. So the studios are still paying the lower rate, but they're making lots more money.

But wait, there's more (or rather, less... if you're a writer).

Ever miss an episode of *Heroes* or *Lost*? Now it's no longer a problem. Just go to nbc.com or abc.com and watch however many episodes of your favorite shows for free...



George Takei (Sulu) on the picket line at Paramount. Photo by Jon Lane.

got two and a half cents. Actors and directors get their small pieces of the pie, too, but when all is said and done, the studios still sees nearly **85 cents of every dollar** generated by reruns.

But this isn't about reruns.

In the early 1980's, a new revenue stream came into existence for the studios: VHS.



Several people made custom signs with Star Trek-related messages. Photo by Jon Lane.



DS9 Executive Producer Ira Steven Behr. Photo by Jon Lane.

right on your computer screen. Of course, the networks do insert commercials into these online video streams, and unlike TiVo or DVR or video, you can't fast forward through these commercials (the system won't load the next segment of the show until the commercial has played through).

The advertisers LOVE this. In fact, they're paying premium dollars to advertise on these

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studio and network websites. And when I say “premium,” the advertising industry estimate is **\$4.6 billion** (with a “B”) over the next three years. Yowza!

And what percentage of this online windfall makes its way into the writers’ pockets? Can



Nichelle Nichols (Uhura) on the picket line at Paramount. Photo by Jon Lane.

you count to zero? Yep, believe it or not, the studios and networks are paying the writers, actors, directors, and production crews 0% of the ad revenue coming in from their websites. Zip, zilch, nada. That’s because the studio marketing, accounting, and lawyer folks got together and determined that television shows that are delivered for free over a TV network’s website would be considered “self-promotion” and not sales revenue. In other words, allowing fans to watch reruns online counts as promoting a network, advertising it, and why would residuals ever be paid on a promotional campaign?



DS9 and Battlestar Galactica Exec Producer Ron D. Moore. Photo by Jon Lane.

“But aren’t most Hollywood writers millionaires already?” you ask. Extremely few are that successful. The vast majority are lucky to pull in \$40,000-50,000 per year...which in Los Angeles is almost below the poverty line. Writers aren’t always working, either. Unlike salaried employees who work all year and get benefits and holidays, the vast majority of writers work only half the year (since most TV shows only have 22 or 26 episodes a season). Movie writers get paid only if their script is purchased. At any given time, an average of 48% of WGA writers are NOT working. In other words, it’s tough to make a living as a writer for all but the top few, and those residual checks go a long way toward helping to pay the bills while your show is in hiatus.

And what are the writers actually asking for during this strike? What is the insanely greedy amount that they are demanding of the poor studios?

How much blood money will it take to get our favorite shows back on the air?

Four cents.

Currently, the writers get four cents for every twenty-dollar DVD that sells, based on that old 80% discounted rate. The writers are asking for an additional four cents per DVD. In addition, writers want to be paid for episodes of their shows that are downloaded or streamed via the Internet...the same or a comparable rate to what they’d be paid were those shows to be rerun on television. Essentially, the studio or network would look at the ad revenue being generated via their website and synch it up to a comparable amount being made selling ads for airing a rerun on TV.

You see, the writers are trying to avoid the following (very likely) scenario. In the coming years, television and the Internet may well merge into one entity. Suddenly, all reruns will stream in over people’s computers. Using their “logic” of today--that streaming shows count as promotional marketing--the studios could effectively **avoid** having to pay writers for airing reruns anymore. It would be *I Love Lucy* all over again.

Of course, it isn’t just the writers who want to protect themselves. Film and television producers at all levels have a stake in this.

It just happens that the writers’ contract came up for renewal first. In June of this year, the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) will reach the end of their current contract, and they will likely strike, too...in order to get the same stipulations as the writers ultimately get.

And that’s why the studios are playing hardball and making this so difficult. Whatever they give the writers, they will also need to give to the actors, directors, and producers. Four cents here, four cents there...pretty soon the studios might be giving away an extra 25 or even 50 cents of every \$20 they make. I know that sounds sarcastic, but with DVD and download sales in the billions, that could translate to



Jack Marshall (left), director of the fan-produced *Star Trek: New Voyages* Internet video series, marches with Jim Van Over of the *USS Angeles*. Photo by Jon Lane.

residuals in the tens of millions of dollars. Of course, when you’re already making billions, there should still be enough to go around.

Meanwhile, the writers have to be tough, not just for themselves, but also for the other unions that are still locked under their previous contracts. If the writers give in for less than they are demanding, it could hurt lots more people than just the writers themselves--it could hurt the actors, directors, and producers as well. Sure, the big stars get paid in the millions, but the actress who portrays a patient for three minutes during an episode of “House” and then goes back to work as a waitress at Jerry’s Deli, she’s the one who will be helped...or hurt...depending on where the new contract negotiations for the writers end up.

So, as you watch those reruns and reality shows this winter, now you’ll know why. And hopefully, you won’t be quite as angry at those striking writers, and just a little bit more frustrated with those greedy studio executives.





# ATTENTION ON DECK

## SFMC

THE OFFICIAL NEWS AND INFORMATION RESOURCE OF THE STARFLEET MARINE CORPS.

In today's world of fast-paced communications, it is important for an entity to have a presence on the Internet. The STARFLEET Marine Corps web presence as sfi-sfmc.org was established in the year 2000. Since then the Corps web site has undergone many revisions, each one building upon the last, using new technologies to bring the best possible web experience to those that visit the site. The biggest change since the inception of the web site was the recent addition of the backend, which controls just about everything seen on the site. Once again the SFMC site is going to be changing. This is something that I have been saying since I was appointed COINFOCOM, and I know I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, but the change is happening. By the time this article has gone to print the new SFMC site should be in Beta testing and the STARFLEET Marine Academy site should be in the process of being built.

A large part of the STARFLEET Marine Corps's online presence is the web sites that the individual units, battalions, and brigades run. Now, not every unit is online and there is no requirement to be, but those that do use them as effective recruiting tools and as a means to keep members of their units informed about the various goings-on. For

# ONLINE PRESENCE FOR THE CORPS

By Brigadier General Sean Niemeyer • CO, INFOCOM

those units that have been thinking about going online but either do not want to deal with the services provided by companies like Geocities or a paid account there is a new service that has been started up. SFILabs.com is now offering free web sites and web space for any chapter or other STARFLEET entity. A really cool thing about SFILabs.com is that they have built several Wordpress templates that can be used to generate an attractive web site in minutes.

An alternative for those that would like to have their own account and don't mind paying a fee, there are several paid web hosting companies out there. The one that STARFLEET and I use is Dreamhost.com. For those units that are looking into this option I have created a promotion code, which will give you a chance to sign up without having to pay any setup fees, a savings of \$49.95. To sign up with Dreamhost go to Dreamhost.com and when you are setting up the account enter SFMCWEB2007 in the promotional

code box.

While for the most part I work on the web sites, I also work on various SFMC publications as the G-3 Publications Officer, and now I'm pleased to announce that I am the IC2008 SFMC Liaison. Yes, I know that IC2007 just ended, but it is never too early to start planning for the next one. As liaison I'm going to help organize the various marine events that take place at IC2008. These events include panels. So if you have an idea for marine oriented panels for IC2008 please feel free to send it into me. I look forward to seeing some of you at IC2008.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Corps I'm here to serve you and to that extent I maintain an open door policy. If you need to contact me for anything please feel free to contact me at infocom@sfi-sfmc.org. I'm also willing to help any unit out there that needs help with their web site. Just drop me a line and I'll see what I can do.

*End transmission...*

## A REPORT FROM THE DANT

By Major General John Roberts • Commandant, SFMC

Greetings, Marines! I was very glad to be able to meet and chat with so many of you at the International Conference in Denver last month. I hope you had as much fun as I did.

### Bank Account Information

We started the month of August with a balance of \$1,141.18. I have been unable to get a current statement so I cannot report our income/expenses or an ending balance for August. I hope to be able to do this by my next report.

### Commander STARFLEET Election

Remember to submit your vote for Commander STARFLEET and on each of the constitutional amendments. This is your chance to say what you want and how you feel the organization should move forward in the coming years.

### SFMC Annual Awards

The Honor Award winners, although posted right after IC, are truly deserving of recognition and I include them here as a way of thanking them all for their service and dedication to the Corps:

#### Cross of Honor

Loraleigh Graves (404 MSG, USS Bondar, 10BDE)

#### Sword of Honor

Rey Cordero (166 MSG, USS Liberator, 1BDE)

#### Shield of Honor

Jeff Schnoor (347 MSG, USS Thunderwolf, 3BDE)

#### Star of Honor

Sarah Takahashi (342 MSG, USS Ark Angel, 3BDE)

#### Legion of Honor

342 MSG (USS Ark Angel, 3BDE)

### Original Series Era Uniforms

As mentioned earlier, we now have designs for the Original Series Era uniforms for the SFMC. The braid and chest insignia can be purchased here:

<http://www.costumecostumecostume.com/SFIMarines.htm>

You will also note they can make the Original Series Uniforms and even the Monster Black Uniform for those of you who wish to have them made rather than try and construct them yourselves.

### SFMC Historian

Do you have an interest in history? Do you like to write fiction? Then the SFMC wants you! We are looking for an SFMC Historian. This person would be charged with creating the SFMC History, based upon the information in the MFM and other SFMC publications and then "filling in the gaps." You would report to the Commandant of the SFMC and have almost unlimited creative control (it must still be approved and fit in the already established histories). You would also need to work closely with the STARFLEET Historian to make sure there were no contradictions in the histories.

Minimum Qualifications for this post are:  
Be a member in good standing of STARFLEET and be, at least, a member of the SFMC Reserve;  
Have passed OTS and PD-10 (OCC and PD-20 are preferred);  
Have regular and reliable email access;  
Have the ability to write clearly and creatively within accepted guidelines.

Still interested? Then here is the application procedure:

Write a fictional history for the SFMC Mess night Manual (will be uploaded to the SFMC



website in the next few days) detailing the history of the SFMC Mess Night in the same basic manner as the modern day military histories contained in Appendix A of the current draft are written. The history you create must cover the period of time from 2100

to 2261 and should include anecdotes and stories such as those contained in the earlier histories of the modern day military.

### What do YOU want from the SFMC?

We have announced several changes and plans for the SFMC over the last several months. Generally, these have been well received. However, the members of the General Staff have received very little feedback about what you, the members, would like to see from the SFMC General Staff.

If you have ideas you think we should take a look at, please let us know. You can reach the members of the General Staff as follows:

SFMC Commandant: dant@sfi-sfmc.org  
Deputy Commandant: depdant@sfi-sfmc.org  
Sergeant Major, SFMC: sgm-sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org  
CO, Forces Command: forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org  
CO, Training and Doctrine Command: tracom@sfi-sfmc.org  
CO, Information Command: infocom@sfi-sfmc.org

Remember, we are here to serve you and your needs. We can't do that without your input. Help us make the SFMC even better.

Until my next report, I remain in Service to the Corps,

Major General John Roberts  
Commandant, SFMC  
dant@sfi-sfmc.org



# A JAPANESE APPROACH TO THE ROMULAN STAR EMPIRE

By Carol Thompson

*This is being written from the Point of View of a 24<sup>th</sup> Century Starfleet Cadet writing a Political Science paper.*

## OUTLINE

The premise in Federation understanding of the Romulans.

Isolationism

Philosophical comparisons

Where the power lies

Dealing with "outsiders"

Conclusions

## I. THE PREMISE

The UFP's First Contact with the Romulan Star Empire was disastrous and less than cordial ever since. We have approached them on our terms, which are based on Western Terran culture.

It would be presumptuous of us to assume that all cultures hold the same value system as the UFP: that they have the same rights for its citizens, that they mete out Justice in the same manner, that they explore space for the same reasons, or that they have the same benign curiosity for other races as we do.

It is more prudent for us to look into Earth's own history for parallels of European and American attempts to establish relations with the Japanese in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries to learn from the mistakes that were made there. Once establishing a basis of comparison, we can then attempt to apply that knowledge to adapt our point of view to that of the Romulans in order to establish peaceful relations with them.

## II. ISOLATIONISM

Due to the culture clashes of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Western traders with Japanese officials, Feudal Japan tried to isolate the country from the "barbaric" influences of Western European culture. Westerners seemed rude and uncivilized to Japanese society. Westerners did not understand the proper way to talk to the leaders in Japan, or even WHOM to talk to in order to achieve some kind of trade agreement.

Such is the dilemma of the UFP today. We have approached the Xenophobic Romulans near or within their own borders, making demands, facing their ships down with little understanding of their point of view.

Romulans, as did the early Japanese, seek to keep their culture untainted from outsiders. When they broke off from the Vulcan race millennia ago, they actively changed the way they think, talk, act, and relate to each other. We cannot make the mistake of basing our interaction with the Romulans by what we know of Vulcan diplomacy.

The Romulans prefer isolation to open and friendly exploration. Their exploration is based primarily on the need

for resources. Border patrols and outposts strive to keep outsiders away and to keep a wary eye upon patrols on the other side of the fence. We seldom see a Romulan ship inside of Federation Territory except in the most unusual circumstances.

## PHILOSOPHICAL COMPARISONS

When the early Japanese embraced Buddhism they were introduced to a warrior-monk style of interpreting the world. Though they did not revere the Elements like the Romulans do, they revered nature and the cycle of life. They explored the meaning of nature as well as the nature of man within themselves. They embraced quiet contemplation as well as their passions, the yin and yang, as they referred to it.

Upon the rise of the Samurai Class in ancient Japan, the concept of Bushido became popular. Samurai embraced both the fighting arts and such gentle arts as Poetry, painting, flower arranging. Along with these seemingly opposite pursuits (the Yin Yang philosophy) came the idea of respect and one's place within the society. Every person in the society had a rank, a position, a class.

We find several parallels in Romulan society. Romulan society is hierarchical. Every citizen has a purpose, a rank of sorts, and fits into one of the classes. In contrast to the unfriendly reception we have received from them, the Romulans are respectful to each other and the principles in which they believe.

Like the early Japanese, the military practices several kinds of martial arts, most of them with Vulcan roots, most of them deadly when practiced in earnest. Also they balance their studies with outright passion. The Romulans have a saying:

"Certain it is and sure: Love burns, ale burns, fire burns, politics burns. But cold were life without them."

They approach everything they do with passion, even death and war, for the intensity of the experience.

In the manner of respect and saving face, the Romulans are very much like the ancient Japanese. The honor of self and one's house is paramount, and duty above all else to one's house is second only to *mnhei'sahe*, or personal honor. A slight to one's honor can result in death of the offender in personal combat.

It is this sense of personal honor that underlies all social interaction among Romulans. Romulans of lower social rank never fail to nod or bow to one of higher social status and to use the title "*rekkaï*" (an honorific).

When a foreigner with his rude manners confronts a Romulan warship, he is likely to be blown out of the galaxy for his insolence. It is best to approach Romulans with respect, and an understanding of face-saving diplomacy. In

the coldness of space, warship to warship, it is easy to forget such niceties, that the opponent on your forward screen is a reasoning being with home, family, society and religious beliefs.

## WHERE THE POWER LIES

It is a mistake to assume that a lofty title means a person is truly in charge. Even in ancient Japan warlords fought constantly either on the battlefield or in the political arena to determine which Daimyos were the most powerful. A trade agreement with a powerful Daimyo could become worthless when that leader lost power. The emperor of Japan was never more than a figurehead, and never commanded any military troops or navies. Power rested with the most powerful warlords at any one time.

The Head Praetor of the executive branch, likewise, holds no absolute power of his own but serves at the pleasure of the High Command, and his given powers are similar to that of a president. Power is a constant struggle among upper and lower households who hold senatorial positions. Those with the most power make the laws and set policy.

The Romulans have a violent dislike of supreme rulers, so political power is shared. The UFP needs to be aware that the Praetor cannot make sweeping decisions on his own. All legislated policy must be made through the Senate. Acts of Diplomacy may take time that the UFP is unwilling to spare, especially when a situation is time sensitive, such as the extrication of a Starfleet officer imprisoned by the Romulans.

Since the seat of power lies deep within the Romulan Empire, the UFP diplomats have to deal with the Romulan diplomats, such that they are. It must be remembered that diplomats from any governments have no power to make agreements on their own, but must receive orders from home. Any negotiation with the Romulans is going to require a great deal of patience on the part of the UFP.

It can be a mistake for the UFP to attempt to change Romulan power from within, by attempting to make allies of high-ranking senators or proconsuls (planetary leaders), as when faced with pressure from outsiders, Romulans will tend to unite against those outside powers. Overt efforts to change Romulan policy will be seen as a threat to the Romulan way by outsiders.

## DEALING WITH OUTSIDERS

Feudal Japanese leaders found the Europeans to be unwashed, uncultured and ill-mannered. These Europeans used force and threats rather than respect and diplomacy to force their ways and trade upon Japan, with disastrous results over the centuries leading up to the attack on Pearl harbor in mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Japan was forced into modernization by outsiders, which resulted in vast changes in their culture, not all of it beneficial.

Outsiders, that is anyone not Romulan, especially people associated with a foreign government, will be received with suspicion. A Romulan may even be suspicious of other Romulans who might be plotting to take away power from his House. But Romulan power struggles follow predicted patterns and such struggles are accepted within the Empire.

What is acceptable among Romulans is not acceptable from outsiders. Historically, outsiders have posed dire threats against their way of life, their identity as Romulans. They are especially wary of governments bearing gifts, always assuming the gift-bearer wants much more in return.

Romulans do not tolerate outsiders in their space, which includes client systems, colonized systems, mining interests and strategic installations along their borders. However, unlike the Klingons, they will not shoot first and ask questions later. Instead, they will warn the intruder off and use deadly force when their sense of honor allows them to act.

In strategic encounters, Romulans prefer to wait out the situation, manipulating the other side to make the first move. It is then that the Romulans will strike, and strike without mercy, their sense of honor satisfied. Starfleet commanding officers need to be on guard for goading and manipulation into an unwise first move.

## CONCLUSIONS

By comparing early European contact with the ancient Japanese and the UFP's contact with the Romulans, we can learn not to repeat our mistakes. It is imperative that all who approach the Romulans have an understanding of their cultural principles as well as an idea of why they think the way they do.

Force will not gain the UFP any ground in formulating relations with the Romulans. Imposing our belief systems upon the Romulans will only harden their resolve against us. Attempting to subvert their government by supporting underground movements will result in more distrust of the UFP and its motives.

In the face of decades of distrust, the UFP must be willing to offer the kind of trade and genuine help that the Romulans will value, resources, medical help, improved strains of crops and joint science projects with the foal of improving Romulan way of life on outlying colonies. Should we give without expecting in return? Certainly not, for without reciprocation, the Romulans will look upon us as fools, giving away our resources and gaining nothing in the exchange.



From the Office of the

## Commandant, STARFLEET Academy



Welcome to another exciting issue of the CQ! We have been keeping busy at the Academy in the last few months...making sure that the membership's requests are being taken care of, and keeping the Academy as the "Jewel in the Crown" of STARFLEET.

Now, on to the current activities within the Academy!

### ADMINISTRATION

I am proud to announce that the Academy Alumni Association is back in action. Under the leadership of S. Adam Day, the Alumni Association will become a great enhancement to your Academy experience. For more information on the Alumni Association, please contact Adam at [captain.shermday@usseldestino.org](mailto:captain.shermday@usseldestino.org).

STARFLEET Academy now offers it's own bimonthly newsletter. This is a way to ensure that SFA Graduates are being recognized for their activities, as well as keeping the membership of STARFLEET up-to-date on the happenings of the Academy. We will also publish interviews/biographies of Academy personnel, so that the membership as a whole can get to know the Staff of the Academy. The Newsletter is being handled by Abe Smith. As the Newsletter begins to grow, Abe may be looking for Staff to assist in its creation. For more information on the Newsletter, please contact Abe at [N\\_star99@yahoo.com](mailto:N_star99@yahoo.com).

### INSTITUTE OF ALIEN STUDIES

Due to real-life constraints, Jay Hurd has stepped back from some of his Academy work, and has passed on the Directorship of the Cardassian Orientation College to Carol Thompson. For more information on this College, please contact Carol at [betazoid@mosquitonet.com](mailto:betazoid@mosquitonet.com).

[mosquitonet.com](http://mosquitonet.com).

Due to real-life constraints, Nick Hamze has resigned as Director of the College of XenoAnthropology. Please join me in welcoming Ros Haywood as the new Director. For more information on this College, please contact Ros at [ros77uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ros77uk@yahoo.co.uk).

We currently have an opening for the Director of the Andorian Orientation College. If you are interested in serving as Director of this College, please send a resume (real-life and Fleet-related) to the following email addresses:

- [robynhunter@mchsi.com](mailto:robynhunter@mchsi.com) – Commandant
- [betazoid@mosquitonet.com](mailto:betazoid@mosquitonet.com) – Carol Thompson, Vice-Commandant – Admin.
- [gorn@att.net](mailto:gorn@att.net) – Carolyn Donner, Institute Dean

### INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

Wayne M. Smith has taken over the duties of Director of the College of Mythological Studies. For more information on this College, please contact Wayne at [waynemsmith@exemail.com.au](mailto:waynemsmith@exemail.com.au).

There are some additions in the design phase for the College of Economics. Jan Sleigh, the Director, is adding to the current curriculum to increase student's knowledge of Business Ethics. For more information on this College, please contact Jan at [jdsleigh@charter.net](mailto:jdsleigh@charter.net).

### INSTITUTE OF ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULARS

We at the Academy are still looking for members interested in creating Colleges for the new Institute of Athletics (currently in design phase). For more information, please

contact me directly at [robynhunter@mchsi.com](mailto:robynhunter@mchsi.com).

### INSTITUTE OF CADET STUDIES

Running at Optimum Speed.

### INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Running at Optimum Speed.

### INSTITUTE OF INTELLIGENCE & ESPIONAGE

The College of Intelligence in Media, under the Directorship of Carol Thompson, has added additional courses. For more information on this College, please contact Carol at [betazoid@mosquitonet.com](mailto:betazoid@mosquitonet.com).

The College of Intelligence Operations, under the Directorship of Glen Diebold, has added additional courses. For more information on this College, please contact Glen at [Ussniagara@roadrunner.com](mailto:Ussniagara@roadrunner.com).

The College of Military Intelligence, under the Directorship of Carolyn Zimdahl, has added its third course. For more information on this College, please contact Carolyn at [czimdahl@ussbortas.net](mailto:czimdahl@ussbortas.net).

### INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Running at Optimum Speed.

### INSTITUTE OF MILITARY STUDIES

We at the Academy are tossing around some ideas around about a new College that would include Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Weapons & Weapon Technology, etc. as part of the curriculum. Keep an eye out for more information...

### INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The College of Engineering, under the Directorship of Jeff Davis, has officially opened with its first set of exams ready to go for students. For more information on this College, please contact Jeff at [capt\\_ncc\\_79158@insightbb.com](mailto:capt_ncc_79158@insightbb.com).

### INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE FICTION STUDIES

The College of the Macabre is now open, under the Directorship of Angel Avery. This College already has a wide selection of courses read for students. For more

information on this College, please contact Angel at [njel@aol.com](mailto:njel@aol.com).

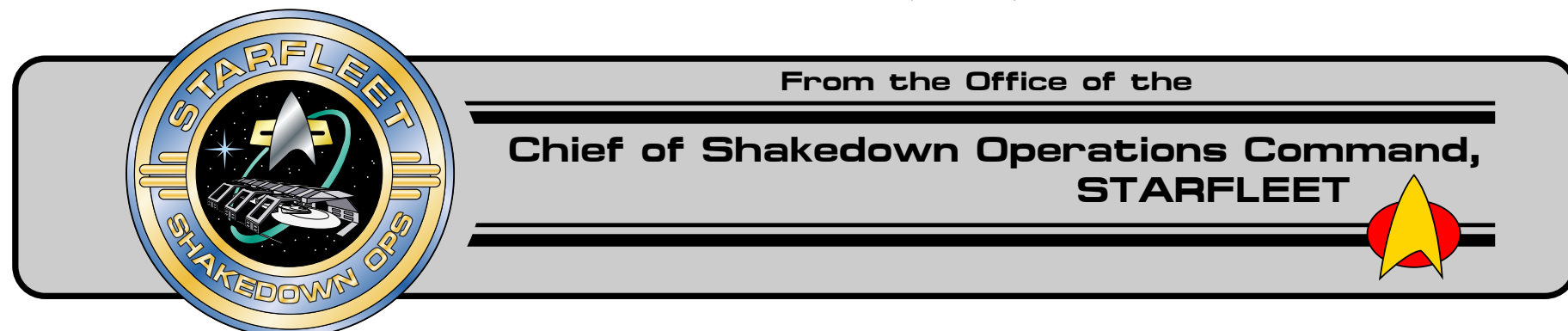
The College of Parallel Studies is now open, under the Directorship of Abe Smith. This College offers studies into the Parallel Universe, as seen in Star Trek. For more information on this College, please contact Abe at [N\\_star99@yahoo.com](mailto:N_star99@yahoo.com).

### COURSE DEVELOPMENT

As always, the Academy is looking for new additions. This can be new Ideas, Courses,

Schools, Colleges, Institutes, Staff, etc. If you have an idea for a new College, a new School within a current College, new exams within current Colleges/Schools, etc., please feel free to contact us. There is a new email set up for Course Development: [sfa-cd@sfi.org](mailto:sfa-cd@sfi.org). This email address will contact all members of the Course Development Team in one shot. We can't wait to hear from you on your new ideas!!!

Until next time!



It was great to visit Region 17 again during IC 2007. I was glad to see many members who usually couldn't afford to attend east coast IC's at this year's event.

As usual, we commissioned several ships at IC this year. Congratulations to the following chapters that commissioned at IC:

USS Robins (R2)  
USS Southern Cross (R11)  
USS Tiberius (R2)

Based on my experience working with these chapters, I can assure you they are all hard working and active chapters in their respective regions. Look them up if you are trying to sign up for a chapter. Good luck to them all.

Next, I am happy to report that we added several training chapters since the last issue of Communique:

USS Blackheart (R7) - CAPT Emmet Plant, [tetrisblock@gmail.com](mailto:tetrisblock@gmail.com)  
USS Devil's Tower (R17) - CMDR Lee Montgomery, [johnchricton31@hotmail.com](mailto:johnchricton31@hotmail.com)  
USS Vre'kasht (R6) - CMDR Debbie T'Plon Fee, [tplon2001@gmail.com](mailto:tplon2001@gmail.com)

Several more training chapters are working out their launch details, so I expect to add a few more to our training program very soon.

Speaking of launch, one thing I'd like to suggest all groups thinking about launching new chapters is to reserve the ship number as soon as possible. In light of recent growth, there may indeed be multiple chapters seeking out certain numbers in each class. The registry numbers are managed by the Department of Technical Services. Please contact ADM Alex Rosenzweig ([dts@sfi.org](mailto:dts@sfi.org)) to reserve the number to avoid conflict with other groups.

Another suggestion is more philosophical, but vitally important to the future of your chapter. We really want to see all chapters happily coexist in fleet. In lieu of the so called "30-mile rule," try to work out some cooperative plans with your neighboring chapters, especially if you plan to launch a meeting chapter. Why not start a business venture on a good note?

Just curious what it takes to launch a new chapter? We have a new version of START Manual to explain the entire Shakedown Cruise. It's available in the usual place as well as the back up site, [www.pcisys.net/~biff/downloads.html](http://www.pcisys.net/~biff/downloads.html).

That just about covers the ShOC news for this time.

# EC/AB Report

## ECAB Report – CQ 143 By Michael Klufas

Since the International Conference in Denver, the Executive Committee and Admiralty Board have continued to follow up on a number of matters, including:

- Formation of a committee to discuss election reform. As of this writing, the committee membership has not yet been firmed up.
- International Conference finances, including sales tax paid by the IC. IC2007 has a debt of just over \$9,800. How this debt will be handled, and whether STARFLEET might assist in any way, are under discussion.

- The status of the official meeting minutes for the ECAB meeting held at IC 2007. As of October 7, these minutes were not available.
- Potential replacement of Inspector General Ray Brown because of failure to perform duties in a timely manner (including the IC minutes). The AB must vote to remove Ray and confirm his replacement.

As always, if you have any questions about these matters, please contact your regional coordinator or chapter’s commanding officer.

# Boothby Honorees

### Bronze

Debbie French

### Silver

Gary Hollifield, Jr.  
Graham Smith

### Gold

E. Lexie Currie  
Josephine Fisher  
Carolyn Zimdahl

### Trilithium

Wayne Lee Killough, Jr.



# Watkins Glen Weekend 2007

By Captain **Dan Adinolfi**  
Chief of Operations, *USS Accord*  
IC 2008 Conference Chair

This past September, *USS Accord* in Ithaca, NY, hosted its 18th Annual Watkins Glen Weekend (WGW). WGW is a weekend-long party including lots of food, lots of friends, and a gorgeous hike up Watkins Glen, one of the many beautiful gorges in the Finger Lakes region. The leaves were just coming into their Autumn colors, and the weather for the weekend was perfect for a hike. Over two dozen people came from all over North America for the event, and everyone had a great time.

For those who might have missed WGW this past year, 2008 offers members of STARFLEET two opportunities to find their way to the Glen. First, June 27-29, the STARFLEET International Conference will be held in Ithaca, NY. The Ithaca Airport Ramada Inn, the hotel at which *Accord* usually hosts WGW, will be hosting the IC. Many WGW folks this year commented on how ideal the conference space in the hotel would be for IC, and we, the IC staff (who happen to be a few members of *Accord*) are looking forward to having a full plate of programming events for everyone during the IC, including a trip to Watkins Glen. More information on the International Conference 2008, "Back to School", can be found at the IC08 website: <http://www.ic2008.org>

The second opportunity folks will have to visit the Glen will be during the 19th Annual Watkins Glen Weekend, October 17-19, 2008. Again, the Ramada will be hosting us. Look for more information on next year's WGW in the coming months. In the meantime, start making plans for IC08, and be ready to see why Ithaca, along with the rest of the Finger Lakes region, is Gorges!



**Twelve thousand years in the making!** These are two of the seemingly countless waterfalls that take your breath away in the Watkins Glen Gorge. Receding glaciers from the last ice age began forming this amazing natural wonder tens of thousands of years ago. *Photo by Will Devine.*



**Queen for a day.** *USS Accord* member Chief Petty Officer Anna Adinolfi shows off her crown. The Watkins Glen Weekend tradition is to eat lunch first at the Burger King next to the State Park. Anna kept her crown on for the entire hike. *Photo by Will Devine.*



**Me and my waterfall.** *USS Accord* member Chief Petty Officer Alec Frazier stops for a photo op before walking under one of the Glen's many waterfalls. The trail continues higher, allowing folks to look at the cascade from both sides. *Photo by Will Devine.*

