

COMSTAR

Newsletter of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek Club

March, 2003



The crew of *Enterprise* works its way to the end of the show's second season.

Enterprise second season finale scheduled for May 21

Enterprise's season finale is currently scheduled to air on Wednesday, May 21, as part of a double-bill of new episodes.

The final Series V outing for the year, about which no details are currently known, will be shown together with episode 51 (reportedly entitled "Bounty") as a two-hour block, according to startrek.com.

Trek stalwart Allan Kroeker will direct the episode, which will likely start filming at the end of March. Kroeker has become something of a finale regular over the years, having helmed the fifth, sixth and seventh season-enders of *Deep Space Nine*, as well as the *Voyager* series finale and *Enterprise's* first-season cliffhanger, "Shockwave."

According to the official site, the first-run schedule for the remainder of the season is as follows:

April 2	"The Crossing"
April 9	"Judgment"
April 16	"Horizon"
April 23	"The Breach"
April 30	"Cogenitor"
May 7	"Regeneration"
May 14	"First Flight"
May 21	"Bounty" (8:00 p.m.) and

May 21 Season Finale (9:00 p.m.)

★ Viacom is reportedly in talks to acquire some Vivendi Universal U.S. businesses.

Viacom, which owns Paramount Pictures and UPN (*Enterprise's* creator and broadcaster, respectively) stands to pick up a number of businesses if the deal goes through, according to Merissa Marr at Reuters/Variety Industry (via *Yahoo! News*).

The company is particularly interested in picking up USA Networks, as well as the Sci Fi Channel, but the deal could branch out into buying theme parks. Vivendi Universal Music and the Universal film studio will also probably be up for grabs, although Viacom isn't expected to be interested in these.

The deal comes amid massive losses for Vivendi—the largest in history for a French company. So far, only oil billionaire Marvin Davis has shown an interest in buying the companies, with an offer of \$15 billion. Vivendi chief Jean-Rene Fourtou has apparently met with Viacom in an attempt to broaden the range of prospective buyers.

★ The *Star Trek: Nemesis* DVD will be released on Tuesday, May 20. It will include a variety of deleted scenes and behind-the-camera features, all introduced by Executive Producer Rick Berman. ■

IN THIS ISSUE:

Art Credits	3
Captain's Log	2
Club Members	
Insert front	
Coming Events	8
Directions to Meeting	
Insert front	
Holodictation	8
Meeting Minutes	
Insert back	
Officer Profile	6
Phasers on Fun	8
Rantings	5
Reflections	4
Science Trek	3
Wayne's Worlds	6

Don't miss our March 22 club meeting!

The next meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake will be held on Saturday, February 22, at the meeting room in the Hard Times Cafe located in Rockville, Maryland.

We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. and eat dinner, ordering it from the staff. Then, we'll begin our club meeting at around 8 p.m. (or a little earlier, should we finish dinner sooner).

During the club meeting, we'll discuss

conventions (including the recent Galaxy Con and upcoming Shore Leave), find out what fellow club members are up to and get the latest on *Star Trek* news, as well as an update on other areas of science fiction.

Do you need directions to this month's meeting? Then please be sure to check out the insert that is included with this month's newsletter. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: Berman ... must ... GO!

Something has to change.

Star Trek, which used to zoom through the universe at warp speed, is now limping along at impulse power, if that.

Let's start with the movies. *Nemesis* broke the so-called "odd-even curse" by easily wresting the crown for worst-performing film away from *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*.

I knew the 10th *Trek* feature was in trouble when it came in second place on opening weekend behind a flick featuring current pop fad Jennifer Lopez. Since then, *Nemesis* has gone on to make as much in its entire theatrical run as most *Trek* movies made in their first few days, about \$45 million.

So what went wrong?

Part of the problem was that a lot of people were disappointed with *Insurrection*, and they decided to wait until they got the word of mouth on the next movie. The lines on opening day used to be long regardless of the weather or the views of various movie critics, but now *Trek* fans are used to waiting until they hear what others think and then deciding whether or not to lay down their hard-earned quatloos.

Also, *Nemesis* had to compete with a lot of blockbusters, including the new Harry Potter movie and the second installment in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Intense competition can definitely hurt, but it shouldn't do this much damage!

But as is often the case with these things, the biggest problem was with *Nemesis* itself. Instead of "boldly going where no one has gone before," it went to a lot of places we've already been.

The captain of the *Enterprise* battles an ultimate enemy. Gee, ever heard of a trifle called *The Wrath of Khan*? And at least in that movie, the villain was played by Ricardo Montalban instead of some unknown young punk with makeup on his nose and chin so he looks a bit like Patrick Stewart.

What about the "double Data" syndrome? Regardless of how well Brent Spiner handles that, haven't we been down that road enough times in the past 15 years to last us a while?

Then there's the death of the logical bridge officer. Once again, refer back to *TWOK* to see it done before and done better.

Some have wondered if Harry Potter and *LOTR* are doing well because they're showing

us things we haven't seen before. Perhaps that explains why *Nemesis* was such a failure on so many levels.

Now, if I was in charge of *Star Trek*, I'd be almost frantic trying to figure out why a movie I said was so terrific before it was released did so poorly. I'd be looking at statistics, checking reviews, the whole bit.

Not so Rick Berman, whose batting average with the movies is now one for four. You see, it's all the fans' fault.

While telling an interviewer that it's "silly" to try to determine why a particular film does or doesn't do well, he pointed to the "deteriorating fan base" for *Trek*. Yes, everything would be fine if only the fans would stop aging or stop getting discouraged with their once-beloved franchise.

So what's next? Well, Berman is making his "laundry list" even bigger for the next film. Let's pull in characters from all the *Trek* shows. Isn't Rene Auberjonois a good actor? Let's put him in it. And how about Jonathan Frakes? Yeah, he's good. And Jeri Ryan? Yes, people would love to see her on the big screen.

But let's not ever talk to Avery Brooks. No, he was only a popular captain and is an accomplished Shakespearean actor. No one would ever want to see him in a *Trek* movie, right?

Still, maybe things are going well for *Trek* on the smaller screen.

Enterprise is back to being the top-rated show for the United Paramount Network. Faint praise indeed, considering that both *Buffy* and the wrestling "federation" have seen their ratings slide in the past year or two.

Unfortunately, the fifth *Trek* TV series is also losing viewers, so much so that Berman and The Powers That Be have decided it needs to be tinkered with. Their solution? It needs to be "sexed up" some more. Yes, time for more scenes in that hotbed of sexual tension, the decontamination chamber. Sigh.

Maybe it's not time for someTHING to change, but rather someONE. Yes, I'm sure Berman could follow Michael Piller's success with *The Dead Zone* and apply his considerable talents to something outside *Star Trek*. After all, nothing lasts forever.

Paging Ira Behr! We've got a whole universe (including a familiar space station) that needs your help! ■

Captain Randy Hall



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SCIENCE TREK: Science by season IV—conclusion

(*Editor's note*—In the first part of this topic, Phil discussed science in the “fourth” season of *Star Trek*, the first year of the animated series. The first episode was “Beyond the Farthest Star,” penned by science-fiction writer Samuel Peeples, and dealt with the story of a long-lived malevolent evil. It included many accurate scientific details, making it an interesting start. The next was “Yesteryear,” which featured scientists using the *Guardian of Forever* to conduct research. It focused on time travel and Spock’s childhood. The next episode, “One of Our Planets Is Missing,” wasn’t one of the most scientific or interesting of the series, but “The Lorelei Signal” after it showed just why women weren’t sent on many away missions—they tended to save the day! This month, Phil concludes his comments on the first season of the animated series.)

This brings us to “More Tribbles, More Troubles,” David Gerrold’s follow-up to his amusing “The Tribble with Troubles”—err, “The Trouble with Tribbles.” Let’s see, take the same cast of characters, the same location, throw in a tribble predator, mix with a transporter beam, and what do you get? Go read the first sentence again.

In “The Survivor,” we get a tale of a love-lorn shapeshifter who confesses his connivance because of the power of love. On the other hand, had McCoy believed the objective readings on his medical instruments rather than trusting his human feelings, a lot of deceit and tension might have been avoided.

“The Infinite Vulcan” shows us that Khan was not the only consequence the Eugenics War (it’s over now, so I don’t know why we’re going back into Iraq). A crazy clone trying to save the universe makes a supersized Spock. Ironic that a man exiled for being “antihumanistic” wants only to bring—okay, force—peace on the galaxy. In the end, though, Kirk and compadres escape thanks to the most human of their crew: Uhura.

As for the “Magics of Megas-Tu,” I can only ask this: Did someone trademark Big Bang™? “Great Explosion,” really.

Don’t you hate it when you go back to a familiar vacation spot and the guy who ran the place is dead and his master computer is mucking everything up? So do Kirk, *et al.* In “Once upon a Planet,” we return to the “Shore Leave” world to find a depressed and resentful

computer. Uhura, Kirk and Spock cheer it up, and everybody has a good time. Hey, it could happen—that’s why it’s science fiction. One reason I like *The Wrath of Khan* is that it deals with consequences.

In “Mudd’s Passion,” Harcourt Fenton Mudd learns that consequences of his love potion include the withdrawal symptom of hatred and his own imprisonment.

Some science fiction badly fakes the sciences to create the fiction, while other SF eschews the fiction to detail the science. “The Terratin Incident” wasn’t a particularly bad story, but given today’s knowledge about atomic forces, shrinking crew stories don’t tend to suspend my disbelief. Of course, the beauty of science is that tomorrow’s discoveries can make today’s beliefs obsolete. “The Time Trap” a.k.a. the Sargasso Sea in space—now *that’s* original.

Bombarding part of a planet to move the epicenter of an earthquake?

Either that’s bad science, or by the time of the “Ambergis Element,” future science will have made today’s theories on earthquakes obsolete. Forget the “Slaver Weapon.” Literary science-fiction writer Larry Niven’s stasis box would be priceless if it existed, or rather if it could exist. How do you stop time? Easy, just don’t change—anything.

These are the last two. “The Eye of the Beholder” starred highly intelligent slugs who told Kirk to come back in a couple millennia after humanity had matured. This episode showed that even when the natives are a lot more intelligent than the scientists studying them, they’re not necessarily smarter. And finally, we have the aptly named episode, “The Jihad.” In this season-ending adventure romp, we find that Starfleet officers have training in zero gravity environments, which comes in real handy when a crazy bird-like dude cuts off the gravity.

Coming sometime in the future—Science by Season V: The Second Season of Animated *Trek*. In the meantime, a whole lot of other columns. C U in 30 (or thereabouts)! ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies



ART CREDITS:
startrek.com 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
trekconnection.com 3
Ben Burgraff 6
Presentation Task Force 8
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Dynamic Graphics
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REFLECTIONS: Goodbye, yellow-brick road

“And now, the end is near; we have reached the final curtain” —“My Way,” Frank Sinatra

I knew that someday, this time would come. I thought I had properly prepared myself, but how does one prepare for emptiness? A complete emotional void? How does one get ready for capaciousness of the heart the size of a space station? For amplitude of the soul, especially when you have gotten SO used to that void being filled every week? You wallowed in the security of the fact that it was always there.

I know what you’re thinking. *Lorenzo, are you in love?* Yes, I am, or I was, but not with a woman. This much heart-wrenching, this much emotion from me is for a TV show, which is pretty pathetic when you think about it, but I don’t care. There are similarities, you know. I had NO problem turning either off; it was turning them *on* that I had trouble with.

These were my feelings during the weeks leading up to the seventh and final season of *Deep Space Nine*. On one hand, I was anxious to see what these guys had created to end one of the greatest, if not *the* greatest, television runs ever. On the other hand, I dreaded the arrival, for I knew that once it ran its course, there would be no more. *Heavy sigh.*

“Image in the Sand” by Ira Stephen Behr/Hans Beimler

Kira is now in charge of the station, and Romulan Captain Creetak plans to build a hospital on one of Bajor’s moons, which is fine with Kira until she learns that the Romulans are stockpiling weapons there as well. Worf has not gotten over Jadzia’s death and desperately tries to figure out a way to get her into Sto-Vo-Kor. Martok has just the mission for Worf—it’s dangerous. He, Bashir, O’Brien and Quark decide to go along to honor Jadzia’s memory. Sisko is a recluse at his father’s restaurant on Earth until he receives a vision of a woman’s face buried in the sand. He discovers that this face belonged to a woman he never met—his real mother. Another vision reveals the location of the Orb of the Emissary. Sisko goes there to rescue the Bajoran gods, but before he shoves off, a young woman comes to see him, complete with spots. It’s the new Dax, Ezri.

That’s a lot of story in one episode, but that was quite the norm for the show at that time. It had a rather quiet beginning, no gun battles, no explosions, no fist fights—just drama.

Well, there was the scene where Sisko is stabbed repeatedly by a Pah-wraith follower, but that was pretty much it. The episode both answered questions and raised a lot more, which is what a good “part one” of a “two-parter” is supposed to do. There are scenes early on with Sisko seated at a piano playing jazz. That’s really Avery Brooks playing the Thelonius Monk tune. The man has talent. Rating: 🌟🌟🌟🌟.

“Shadows and Symbols” by Ira Stephen Behr/Hans Beimler

Sisko, Dax, Jake and his grandfather go to Tyree to uncover the mystery of the vision and Sisko’s real mother. While there, Sisko experiences some disorientation and starts to drift in and out of another vision. Meanwhile, on the station, Kira sets up a blockade of the Romulan “hospital” preventing it from getting supplies that would make their weapons operational. Meanwhile, Worf, Bashir, O’Brien, Quark and Martok set out on a suicide mission to destroy a Dominion’s shipyard that happens to be heavily guarded and next to a sun.

Like I said, a lot of story, but they had a lot of stuff to resolve. The revelation that Sisko’s mother was taken over by a Prophet is, in itself, a bit mindblowing, but it makes sense. Sisko didn’t happen to come to DS9—it was arranged. Heck, Sisko didn’t just happen to be born; THAT was arranged, too! It makes me wonder exactly how much the Prophets actually did orchestrate in the first place. Who knows? Starfleet itself could have been one of their schemes.

The scene in which we see Benny Russell had me totally speechless because once I saw it, I knew that meant that “Far Beyond the Stars” was in fact a Pah-wraith vision. That explained SO much about that episode, which itself is another column. We see Doctor Wykoff (Casey Biggs, Damar out of make-up) trying to get Benny to give up writing and clean the walls of his cell, which is covered with writing. What we see is the entire story of *Deep Space Nine* up until that point. They had people go in and write episode synopses on the walls to tell the story. I love it! They didn’t have to do that—no one would have known, but I applaud the effort. I enjoyed it! Rating: 🌟🌟🌟🌟.

Next month, we will review one of the best and funniest television baseball episodes ever made. Until then . . . *heavy sigh.* ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



DS9’s cast during its seventh and final season.

RANTINGS: ... and the horse they rode on

After Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, which forced the United States to enter World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave orders that Japanese Americans be held in internment camps. These people were taken from their homes, then stripped of their lands, their possessions and their dignity. They posed no threat to the United States; they had done nothing except be born Japanese. Of course, ask most any black person how his or her family came to this country, and the most common answer would be “in chains.” So, forced removal of a person from his or her home is nothing new—it is as American as apple pie. I bring this up in light of the current circumstances we find ourselves in: Isn't the Guantanamo Bay facility nothing more than an internment camp?

There is a joke going around currently that an ambassador from an Arab nation meets with President Bush. They talk about American society. The ambassador says, “I watch this show called *Star Trek*, and I enjoy it very much. But one thing puzzles me. Why are there no Arabs on *Star Trek*?” The president replies, “Because *Star Trek* is set in the future.” I believe that whirring sound you hear is Gene spinning in his grave. So, before the Department of Homeland Security comes to get me for having a dissenting opinion, let me launch into this month's half-baked diatribe.

Each *Star Trek* series seems to be a product of the time in which it was created. The Original Series was definitely a creature of the 1960s. It dealt with social issues. It showed that, in a time when a fragmented society was in danger of tearing itself apart, people COULD live together for the betterment of all. Granted, it was very Pollyannaish and *naïve*, but then, so were the '60s. There were those of us who actually thought we could make a difference. God, what fools we were. One of the Original Series episodes, “Let That Be Your Last Battlefield,” tackled racism in the form of two survivors of the planet Cherron who were half black and half white—what mattered was whether it was the left or the right side. But the show did inspire people like Whoopi

Goldberg and a host of others, so it was not a complete loss.

The '70s were known as the “Me” decade. People still smarting from the battles in the streets of the '60s took on the mantle of Bogart in *Casablanca*—“I stick my neck out for nobody.” The animated *Star Trek* series was a product of this time. It took a group of characters and reduced them to caricatures of themselves. They just went through the motions just like everyone else in the '70s.

After finally getting the *Star Trek* films off the ground, along came *The Next Generation*. It took the prevailing paradigm of the '80s—that the corporate structure was good for all. The '80s were the era of Reaganism and trickled-on economics. *ST: TNG* presented a world in which people no longer struggled for their civil rights. They didn't have to—everyone was equal. Gee, what a nice idea. It was even more Pollyannaish than the original.

One of the prevailing notions at the time was that the civil rights era was over. There was some debate over who had won the struggle. But the ironic thing was that most of the architects and leaders of the “Reagan Revolution” were white southern men over 50. I am not saying Reagan and his bunch were inherently racist, but they did make people comfortable with their prejudices. They would never do anything like burn a cross on a black person's lawn. However, if they found one burning, they might roast some hot dogs or marshmallows. Actually, their prejudice was not racial—it was economic, as eloquently stated by the matriarch of modern Republican dogma, Marie Antoinette, “Let them eat cake.” Now, before anyone accuses me of being a “yellow-dog Democrat” (which I am, I am proud to say), I must point out that the Democrats did absolutely nothing to stop any of this except quake in fear, wring their hands and whine. (It's much the same as they are doing NOW.)

Deep Space Nine and *Voyager* were products of the '90s. They reflected the gains by blacks and women among other groups in society, but even that was a token. With all of this going on, who knows what the legacy of the zeroes will be?

Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this son of York. ■

Officer Peter Chewning



Bele and Lokai on the bridge of the starship *Enterprise*.

OFFICER PROFILE: Officer Justine Randt

The Mount de Sales Academy for Girls, a Catholic secondary school in Catonsville, Maryland, is probably one of the last places on Earth one would expect to find a copy of Anne Rice's vampire novel, *Queen of the Damned*—especially one that is being read by a student in plain sight of the faculty. Nonetheless, that is precisely what Justine Randt did one year during her four-year stint there.

Anyone expecting a humorous story or anecdote surrounding that incident, however, will be sorely disappointed: "One of the nuns kind of looked askance at me, but that was it," she recounts. "They had more pressing things to deal with, like fights breaking out and girls setting each other's hair on fire." And they say that Catholic school is boring . . .

Justine Marie Randt was born on October 11, 1980, at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. Her mother and father (originally from Jersey City, New Jersey, and upstate New York, respectively) had relocated to

Charm City just a few years earlier when her father took a job at the offices of the National Security Agency. The three of them currently live together in Ellicott City.

By the tender age of 10 years old, Justine began developing an affinity for books—an affinity that she maintains to this day. "I love to read sci-fi, fantasy, mysteries, mythology—just about anything." Among her favorite authors are Grace Chetwin, Anne Rice, Ray Bradbury and J.R.R. Tolkien. Among her favorite books are Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time*, J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series and the *Star Trek* novels of Peter David. Not surprisingly, Justine belongs to many book clubs: "My book collection has its own zip code!"

It was also at the age of 10 that Justine took another step in the development of her science-fiction fandom: "During the Gulf War, my mom started watching *Star Trek: The Next Generation* because she was tired of all the [war] coverage on TV." Justine started watching with her, and before long, *Star Trek* became a staple of the Randt household—so

much so that the family attended their first convention together: a Creation convention in the Baltimore/Washington area (Justine can't recall specifically) featuring Brent Spiner (Data). They also attended Shore Leave XIV—Justine's first—in 1992. She has attended almost every Shore Leave since.

Not long after the beginning of *Deep Space Nine*, Justine's favorite *Star Trek* series, she became a member of Nana Visitor's fan club (Major Kira Nerys was her favorite *Star Trek* character), then called ENVY: "They used to send out these huge, 50-page newsletters with news and fanfic (this was before the Internet was big). I loved reading them. I used to read them during my Health and Wellness class at school!" By the mid-1990s, the so-called "information superhighway" had grown by leaps and bounds, and the boom in science-fiction television was accompanied by an increase in the number of online chat rooms, bulletin boards and mailing lists devoted to the genre shows of the time. Thanks to the early Internet service Prodigy, Justine became an active participant in the online community associated with such shows as *The X-Files*, *Space: Above and Beyond* and *seaQuest DSV*.

It was by way of one of those Internet mailing lists, an *Earth 2* list, that Justine met and befriended U.S.S. *Chesapeake* crewmembers Annie and John White in 1996. Understandably tentative about their then-15-year-old daughter associating with significantly older people online, Justine's parents invited the Whites to dinner one night to meet them. But their doubts were quickly dispelled, and John and Annie became like a second set of parents to Justine.

That summer, the Whites took Justine to her first *Chesapeake* meeting. She soon became a member, drawn by the club's laid-back manner and its penchant for having fun. "We don't take ourselves too seriously. Other groups have rules of order and rigid meetings—I really don't need any more structure in my life! It's just a great place to have intelligent conversations with other fans and have some fun." She giggles as she cites examples of the club's more "colorful" and "animated" antics (all of which involve Lorenzo, oddly enough). "Meetings get

Continued on next page



Officer Justine Randt

WAYNE'S WORLDS: DS9 on DVD—yeah!

An event that many of us have been waiting for has finally taken place. Was it war with Iraq? No. Was it Bill Clinton being part of a “point/counterpoint” debate on *60 Minutes*? Heavens, no! (The former “Sex Maniac in Chief” needs to learn to keep his mouth shut, like a good ex-president should.)

No, the event that several of our club members greatly anticipated was the release of the first season of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* on DVD.

As I mentioned on the club’s e-mail reflector, I bought a year’s membership at Costco for the express purpose of buying the DS9 DVDs. Previously, I had heard that the *Next Generation* DVDs had been available for \$89.99. (Each season retails for \$129.99.) Well, imagine my happy surprise to find that they cost only \$84.99 each. I bought the needed number of seasons, then headed home with my prize.

For a long time, I’d been planning just how to watch the DVDs. I had made the decision a year ago not to watch any of the episodes until the DVDs were out. And I had dusted off my copy of the *Deep Space Nine*

Companion (dubbed by Lorenzo, “The Good Book”) so I could read about each episode after watching it.

I’ve just finished watching “Dax” tonight, and I have several points I think are important to make about the DVDs:

1. The quality of the pictures and the sound is some of the best I’ve ever seen on a DVD. From those in the know, the DS9 DVDs have much better quality than

the TNG DVDs because the technology had improved so much by the time DS9 debuted.

2. The menus are a little confusing. And the “extras” DVD only has about an hour or two on it, but there are some great details the rabid *Deep Space Nine* fan will eat up (like the story about the “tailhead” aliens).

If you love DS9, buy the DVDs! I highly recommend them. Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ -1/2. ■
Chief of Security Wayne Hall



Continued from previous page

crazy,” she says, “but it’s all good.” Does she have any misgivings about being the youngest member of the club? Apparently not, for the bond that she feels within this community of science-fiction fans is much stronger than any age discrepancy. “I always hung out with older people because I didn’t fit into the usual high school cliques.”

That same summer, while browsing the fan tables at Shore Leave, Justine’s attention was grabbed by a table occupied by the Friends of Vedek Bareil—the official fan club of recurring DS9 guest star Philip Anglim. It was there that she met her friend Gayle (who was dressed up as Vedek Bareil) and her friend Stella (“the sister I never had”). “They were having fun doing crazy stuff like sending orange ribbons to Paramount [as part of a fan campaign to bring back the character after his demise the year before].” It was only natural that Justine—a fan of Kira Nerys—would also become fond of Kira’s first love interest in the series: “Bareil was attractive, he was spiritual, and he brought out the feminine side of [Kira] without her

turning into a simpering pile of mush.”

When she’s not absorbed in a good book, watching one of her favorite TV shows or out purchasing Wicca implements, Justine can sometimes be found at a nearby yoga center practicing the kundalini style of yoga, which is centered around “the force at the base of the spine, coiled up and waiting to strike.” “It’s very Klingon,” she notes, “very rough. Lots of breathing, ‘thighs of fire’... It’s a total energy buzz.”

On May 22, Justine will graduate from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) with a degree in American Studies. Although she claims to not know what she’s going to do with that degree, she has expressed an interest in practicing alternative medicine (herbal healing, acupuncture, etc.). She may even pursue a master’s degree in botanical healing, provided she can find a way to pay for it. Hmmm ... a zip code-full of books might sell pretty well on eBay! ■

Communications Officer Marc Villa

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

March 22 Spring is about to be sprung! Don't miss our last meeting of the winter as we get ready for warmer weather again! We'll be meeting at the Hard Times Cafe in Rockville, Maryland. Check out the directions on the insert included with this newsletter!

APRIL

April 19 Let's get together for our next club meeting in April. Look for more information in the next issue of COMSTAR.

MAY

May 17 You just "may" want to attend this meeting! More information as soon as it is available!

JUNE

June 21 The summer is finally here! It's time to enjoy our June meeting. Watch this space as plans are finalized!

HOLODICTATION: Spring is here!

One of the things that I enjoy about *Star Trek* is that there are not any changes of seasons on board the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. It is nice to think that you can deal with snow, sleet and hail but only when you want to. I know—you're saying, "What about the dreaded Ice Planet from Hell?" If you are on a landing party, you have to deal with it.

I guess that I am getting to the point where I do not like all of the extreme weather that we have been having. The wintertime has really taken its toll on my mental health (or lack thereof). The winter blues are real. I know that my family and I are truly feeling the effects of the lack of light and warm weather.

I like the snow. I like to see it snow. I just

hate the aftermath, with all of the slipping, sliding and shoveling, as well as the damage to the roads and houses that it causes.

I am glad that spring is on its way. I know that with the spring will come more work outside and all of the things that a home needs to have done in the summertime. But, given the winter that we have gone through, I am looking forward to the long days of warm weather.

So, my friends, I wish you many happy, warm hours of this wonderful season we call SPRING.

(P.S.: I see the light at the end of the tunnel. I hope that it is not a train.)

Peace through superior firepower! ■

Weapons Officer Patrick McBee



CLUB BIRTHDAYS:
Cadet Samantha
Brem on Thursday,
April 3.

Phasers on FUN!

