



Do you care for the company of Klingons? Then there is good news for you!

## Celebrate International Klingon Meetup Day

The Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corps (KIDC) has announced an International Klingon Meetup Day on Saturday, July 5.

To celebrate the web site's seventh year on the Internet, the Canadian-based KIDC has established a partnership with Meetup Inc. to facilitate meetings between Klingon fans in cities around the world. Fans can register at this site to track down others in their area.

"Through the years we've continued to hear from Klingon fans who've had great difficulty in tracking down other local fans in their area," said Capucine Plourde, founder of the KIDC, in a press release. "This service will be a new and exciting way for those Klingon fans to meet and connect in their own communities."

The first worldwide Klingon Meetup Day will take place on Saturday, July 5, at 2 p.m. local time around the globe. Meetups will then continue on the first Saturday of every month.

More information about the Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corps can be found at their web site, <http://www.klingon.org>. To register for the meetup, visit <http://klingon.meetup.com>.

▲ *Trekkies 2* has been given the official

seal of approval from Paramount Pictures.

The *Star Trek* production company recently greenlit the sequel to the original 1997 documentary, *Trekkies*, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. Although *Trekkies 2* was announced in April, Paramount had not officially confirmed its involvement.

As with the first *Trekkies*, actress Denise Crosby (Tasha Yar) will serve as host and executive producer, with Roger Nygard (*The Mind of the Married Man*) once again taking the helm as director. Mike Leahy is set to produce the film.

The *Trekkies 2* crew has already visited conventions in Germany, France, England, Italy, Serbia and Australia, and will travel to Brazil and locations in the United States (including the upcoming Shore Leave convention in the Baltimore, Maryland, area) in the coming months. According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, the documentary will also pay return visits to fans featured in the 1997 film.

The production team is accepting applications from fans who want to be featured in the new film. Details on how to submit your *Trek* artwork, home movies and even an interview with yourself can be found at their web site, [www.trekkies2.com](http://www.trekkies2.com). Submissions will be accepted until Monday, September 1. ■

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## We'll travel to West Virginia for the June meeting

The next meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake will be held on Saturday, June 21, at the Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, home of Weapons Officer Patrick McBee and his family.

We'll gather at 1 p.m. at the McBee house for a cookout or travel to the nearby Weaver's Restaurant if the weather is rainy. Then, we'll have the club meeting at the McBees' at 5 p.m.

During the club meeting, we'll discuss

conventions (including the upcoming Shore Leave in July), 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: Mourning M'Benga

Four years ago this month, my column dealt with the passing of DeForest Kelley, the man who made Doctor Leonard McCoy part of Classic *Trek* and American mythology as well.

I now have the sad duty of reporting that the original *Enterprise* has lost another physician. And though Dr. M'Benga only appeared in two episodes of the first series, he made quite an impression on me.

Just to be accurate, I need to point out that Booker Bradshaw, the actor who played M'Benga, actually died of a heart attack back in early April. Still, I didn't find out about that until a few days ago, so I'm still a bit saddened by the news.

I remember the first time I saw the good doctor during "A Private Little War." I certainly wasn't looking for someone to replace Bones, but I had wondered who ran sickbay while McCoy was down on the planet with Kirk and Spock.

It was shocking to see our Vulcan first officer get shot in the back in that episode's teaser, and I had my doubts that either Bones or Nurse Chapel could handle the situation.

Enter M'Benga, who was yet another example of the racial diversity so obvious on the good ship *Enterprise*. Not only was he another capable member of the crew, but he had knowledge and experience our favorite country doctor lacked in dealing with the medical problems of Vulcans.

Of course, his most famous scene came when Spock told Chapel to hit him so the pointy-eared alien could snap out of his healing trance. While Christine did little more than give the first officer some "love taps," M'Benga seriously let him have it when he entered the room.

Still, Spock was back on the bridge by the episode's end, so everything turned out all right.

The only other time we saw M'Benga was in the third-season episode, "That Which Survives," and he never even got to hear Lee Meriwether say, "I am for you, M'Benga." (Life on a starship in those days was often fatal.)

What I didn't know then was that Bradshaw had started his career as an executive at Motown Records in the 1960s. After managing such acts as the Supremes, he moved into screenwriting and acting and appeared in such other TV programs as *The Mod Squad* and *The F.B.I.* and later wrote stories for my favorite

rumples detective, *Columbo*.

A couple of decades passed, and M'Benga joined Kevin Riley and Gem from "The Empath" as characters I wished we'd have learned more about but probably would never see again.

During a trip to California to attend one of Creation's Grand Slam conventions, I wandered through the room of folks asking for piles of quatlous for their autographs. I didn't recognize or know the names of several people in the room, so I often had to look at the pictures they were selling to know if I wanted one or not.

Suddenly, I saw one I recognized. "Doctor M'Benga?" I asked.

"That's me," the man sitting behind the table said with a broad smile.

While Bradshaw signed an autograph for me, I got to tell him what a great job I thought he'd done all those years ago. He replied that a lot of people still enjoyed what to him had been a brief job among many other brief jobs.

The most "fascinating" part of our conversation came when he told me what had transpired behind the scenes the day he was supposed to slug Mister Spock.

It was late in the shooting day, and Leonard Nimoy had someplace important to go. He approached his guest star and said he wanted to finish that scene in only one take. "Give me all you've got so I can get out of here," Nimoy said.

"Sure thing," Bradshaw replied.

Be careful what you wish for.

When the director shouted "Action!" Bradshaw moved in and hit Nimoy as hard as he could. The impact not only stunned "Spock," but it also knocked the pointed ears right off his head!

Of course, Bradshaw apologized profusely, since it would take some time for the makeup artists to get the ears back on right and for them to do another take. Nimoy never made it to where he wanted to be, and for some inexplicable reason, M'Benga and Spock never so much as said a cross word during that doctor's second appearance.

Anyway, I'm glad I got the chance to thank him for his contribution to *Star Trek*, and I wish him rest now that he's beamed up to the Sickbay in the Sky. ■

Captain Randy Hall



Doctor M'Benga from Classic *Trek*

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Trek: The Next  
Generation," "Star  
Trek: Deep  
Space Nine" and "Star  
Trek: Voyager,"  
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# SCIENCE TREK: The worlds on which we stand

In past columns, I've covered how a planet like Earth comes to be (Speaking of which, recent research has shown that Earth apparently came to be earlier than previously thought.), but I haven't looked much at what it is once it is. Like the last sentence, it's complicated, but most of you can muddle through it (and probably already have).

A quick summary of the Earth goes like this: from inside to out, there are the solid iron-nickel inner core, the liquid iron-nickel outer core, the mineral rich mantle (about 85 percent of Earth's volume) and the thin crust upon which we live. The crust consists of a dense oceanic crust and a less dense continental crust.

Taking the "geo" in geology to mean "earth" in its generic sense, we can look at the makeup of other planets, known and postulated, as well. Planetary geology is a growing field. While each of the other rocky worlds, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Pluto, as well as some of the larger moons, are different in their composition, they have some similarities to Earth. Mercury has an iron or nickel-iron core. Venus shows evidence of tectonic plates. Mars has great volcanoes.

Even the gaseous worlds share some traits with li'l old Earth. Jupiter, for instance, apparently has a rocky core—though several times the size of Earth.

Geology, unlike its cousins physics and biology, has gotten the short end of the shrift. Much of the geology mentioned in the original *Trek* relates just to mining, and much of the rest is just the word being bandied about. One issue I've had with many science references in *Star Trek* and much media science

fiction is that they are just technical terms with no depth of conceptual understanding. Ah, the fickle fate of the hour-long TV program!



## Geology in Trek:

▲ So spake Bjo: "A geological survey is the routine duty of the *Enterprise* as it seeks out new life throughout the galaxy." (Trimble, B. 1995. *Star Trek Concordance*. Etc.)

▲ And from the earliest (i.e., "The Cage): "A geological lab report is expected to be given to the captain of a starship when a new planet is encountered." (*ibid.*) In fact, one of the landing party on Talos IV was a geologist.

▲ The *Enterprise's* senior geologist, Lieutenant D'Amato, looks forward to presenting at a conference, but is killed by Losira's touch—all too common a fate for enthusiastic scientists in *Trek*.

▲ *Classic Trek's* "Devil in the Dark" (one of my personal favorites) has a burrowing alien that cuts through solid rock.

▲ In *Next Gen's* "Lessons," Picard falls in love with the ship's geologist.

▲ Doctor Farouk El-Baz, professor of geology and Apollo program trainer, was honored by *Trek* with a shuttlecraft named for him.

So, with much of science in science fiction (and *Trek* in particular), geology is ever present, but in the background. It's the science that keeps the genre from being just speculative fiction.

## Web Notes:

- <http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/nmgc/2002/startrek/> (Going to England? You just missed the *Trek* exhibit!);
- <http://geomag.gfdi.fsu.edu/~cain/planetary.html> (Not that you want to go to school again, but you can.);
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cult/st/interviews/bormanis/index.shtml> (A BBC interview with Andre Bormanis);
- <http://www.postmodernvillage.com/eastwest/issue3/3a-0008.html> (*Star Trek* and the Great Utopian Sellout—but hey, it mentions geology.);
- <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/AmazingEarth-1107649/about.php> (Patrick Stewart talks about our amazing Earth.);
- <http://www.whfreeman.com/ENVIRONMENTALGEOLOGY/EXMOD36/PLANET.HTM> (Text and pictures—what more could you want?); and
- <http://kevin.atkinson.dhs.org/timeline/> (It's chronology, not geology—so sue me.) ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies

## ART CREDITS:

<i>startrek.com</i>	1, 2,
	insert back
<i>Presentation Task Force</i>	3, 6
<i>W&amp;R Graphics</i>	4
<i>thetpg.com</i>	5
<i>Dynamic Graphics</i>	
	insert front

# REFLECTIONS: *DS9* in the dark

Picture, if you will, that I am sitting alone in a candle-lit room. A wave of sadness has overcome me—feelings of doom, despair and agony entrap me in an aura of near-suicidal ponderings. Why, you may ask? This was supposed to be a night of joy and elation, of euphoria and ecstasy. For this was the night I'd planned on watching the new release of *DS9*'s third season on DVD, and on this night of all nights, a thunderstorm has knocked out my electrical power. I sit in the candle light, holding back the tears, staring at the DVD cover and even the DVDs themselves, damning the cruelty of fate. Thoughts of suicide dance in my head, but they are quickly dismissed. If I was dead, I would NEVER watch those DVDs. That revelation alone is enough to sustain me until I regain full power.

*"The Siege of AR-558" by Ira Steven Behr/  
Hans Beimler*

While making a supply run to AR-558, a planet behind the Dominion enemy lines, Sisko, Ezri, Quark, Nog and Bashir beam down to make a delivery. But the *Defiant* is attacked by the Jem' Hadar, who have also deposited more troops on the planet's surface.

War is hell, but you'd never know that watching antiseptic pseudo-science fiction like *Star Wars*. This was *DS9*'s attempt to really show the true horrors of war. "Rocks and Shoals" was a terrific show," comments Ira Behr, "but I don't think we went quite far enough. The idea there was that was isn't just exploding ships and special effects. If the viewing audience has become deadened to certain forms of violence because of the use of weapons like phasers, I would like to think there's still something disquieting about knives. You've got to stick a knife in someone to hurt them."

In this episode, *Deep Space Nine* did something I had always wanted to do—kill Will Robinson. Ira Behr had once told me that Billy Mummy was a friend of his and that he always wanted to do *Star Trek*. I was happy to see this come to fruition and even happier that he died a grisly death.

At first you may wonder, "What the heck was Quark doing there?" Quark served as the moral conscience, defining things in a non-

Federation way, which is, of course, the only way to get to the actual truth of the situation at hand.

Every faction thinks they're doing the right thing and that they are the good guys. Everyone believes God is on their side, therefore the truth gets altered and is rendered unclear and indistinguishable from reality. Quark's presence presents an objective Greek/Ferengi chorus, providing commentary that is both insightful and bone-chilling. On the positive side, there is Vic Fontaine! An instant classic. Rating: ★★☆☆☆.

*"Covenant" by Rene Echevarria*

Kira is tricked by a former friend and mentor, and is transported to Empok Nor. There she finds a community of Bajorans who worship the Pah-wraiths, and their "Master" is Gul Dukat.

There is one thing you can say for Gul Dukat—he was persistent. He had been after Kira for years, and through all her loathing of him, in spite of all her insults, even in light of all the death threats she's spewed, Dukat was determined that one day, Kira would awake from her mad state and declare her love for him. Nothing could

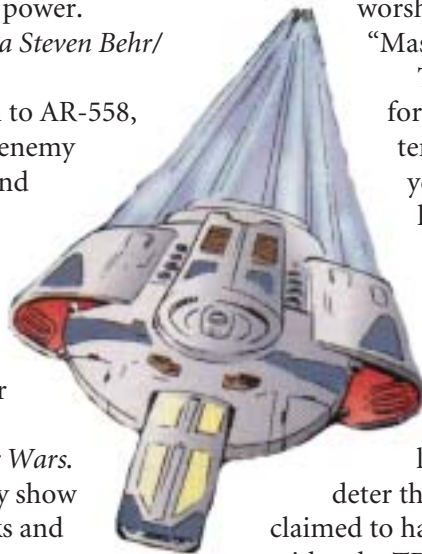
deter that thought, and now he claimed to have the blessing of the Pah-wraiths, the TRUE Bajoran gods. For the Pah-wraiths were his Prophets, and he was their emissary.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Dukat had become the mirror image of the captain of Deep Space Nine. He was the "anti-Sisko," if you will. He had his own station, his own Bajoran followers and now he wanted a Bajoran first officer who would double as his "Kasidy Yates." Of course, Kira didn't cooperate and, of course, thought that he was evil and insane. But, to her surprise, she was starting to realize one startling fact—Dukat was genuinely sincere in his belief and following of the Pah-wraiths. He had changed, and that frightened her more than anything.

Rating: ★★-1/2.

Next month: *DS9* episode logs continue. Until then, peace. ■

*Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard*



# RANTINGS: I have absolutely nothing to say

French filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard once observed, “The world is full of filmmakers with nothing to say.” Some people have believed that about Gene Roddenberry and the Original Series. Certainly, it was true of the Animated Series. And do not even get me started about the *Next Generation* OR *Voyager*. Those two series’ can be summed up in one word: flatulence. Berman and Braga have tried to take the intelligence out of *Star Trek* over the years, and with *TNG* and *Voyager*, they succeeded.

It was only because of a production team that refused to give in to the dumbing down of another *Star Trek* series that this one did not fall into the same trap of mediocrity. I guess that is why Berman hated *Deep Space Nine*—he and Braga actually had to think. This guy probably wants to emulate Jon Peters. (In case you are wondering, Jon Peters started off his Hollywood career as Barbara Streisand’s hairdresser and salami supplier.) Peters has clearly shown that he has the attention span of an eight year old. I would guess that would still put him a couple of years ahead of Berman and Braga. But I digress.

Sometimes having nothing to say is intentional—how else do you else do you explain eight years of *Seinfeld*? In fact, those guys even wrote that into the storyline: “It’s a show about nothing.” Not that this worked well every time. Still, it was a somewhat novel concept. And we all know that there are damn few novel concepts on television. By the way, the only episode of *Seinfeld* that I ever found funny was “Master of My Domain.” As far as I could tell, the rest of the show was a lot of whining by a bunch of “New Yawkers.” And they were not even the first ones to do that. Woody Allen had been making whining films and doing whining stand-up comedy for about 15 years by the time Jerry Seinfeld came along. Still, *Seinfeld* and Woody Allen do have something in common besides being from New York. They share a love for the young ladies. And I do mean YOUNG, as in barely out of diapers. You’d think these guys were from West Virginia. But they just like them young, not related. (Hail to

our Weapons Officer, Patrick McBee. Or should I say, “Yee haw?”) Anyway, they asked Woody Allen in 1975 who was his perfect woman, and he answered, “She hasn’t been born yet.”

I hope now that the crew of the *Enterprise* is going to get serious that Hoshi will stop her damn whining. She was really getting annoying with that crap. I haven’t wanted to see anyone pushed out an airlock since Wesley Crusher. But Hoshi isn’t the first whiner on *Star Trek*. Ever looked real close at that breakdown scene by Bailey in “The Corbomite Maneuver?” If that wasn’t the biggest whining wuss out by a character at that time, I’d like to know what it was. So what does the Great and Powerful Captain Kirk do? He sends the offender to his room and has the doctor take him there. Only trouble is, six minutes later, he is back on the Bridge. Of course, they do send Bailey off to cruise around the galaxy with a midget at the end. I guess that was Kirk’s way of telling Bailey, “Don’t get short with me.” That has been one of the biggest problems with all the *Trek* series’ since *Next Generation*—the whiners get promoted, rewarded or condoned. Actually, they SHOULD send them to a Klingon ship. They’d just be killed (Ah, what a delightful thought.), although those who whine the loudest and longest frequently have nothing to say.

Shakespeare wrote of “a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing” as well as a comedy called “Much Ado About Nothing.” Harry Truman campaigned against the “Do-Nothing” Congress. That whirring sound you hear is Truman spinning in his grave over the current state our government is in. In the classic *Trek* episode the “Trouble with Tribbles,” Cyrano Jones observed, “Twice nothing is still nothing.” In the 1970s, Billy Preston wrote song called, “Nothing from Nothing Leaves Nothing.” Sometimes people write about all kinds of interesting minutiae in place of having any cogent point, and that was what I was demonstrating. You all really didn’t think I could talk about nothing for 750 words, did you?

*Nothing can come of nothing, speak again.* ■

Officer Peter Chewning



Ensign Hoshi Sato from the *Enterprise* crew.

# COMING EVENTS

## JUNE

*June 21*.....It's summertime, and the living is fine ... so let's gather for our June meeting at the McBee household in West Virginia! We'll meet early so folks can travel back that night if they prefer. For directions, see the insert included with this month's newsletter!

## JULY

*July 11-13*..... The Shore Leave XXV convention will be at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley, Maryland, July 11 to 13. Guests will include Andrea Thompson, Christopher Judge (Teal'c on *Stargate SG-1*), Marina Sirtis (Counselor Troi on *Next Generation*), Vaughn Armstrong (Admiral Forrest on *Enterprise*), Klingons J.G. Hert-zler (Chancellor Martok) and Robert O'Reilly (Chancellor Gowron), Denise Crosby (Tasha Yar on *TNG* and producer of the *Trekkies* films) as well as several editors and writers.

*July 19*..... The July club meeting will be held at Chief Engineer Scott Klein's home in Gaithersburg, Maryland. More information in next month's newsletter!

## HOLODICTATION: Retinal scan confirmed

I have noticed since the heightened security that passwords and I.D.'s have become an everyday occurrence. I recently saw a news story indicating that now we are going to have facial and palm scanners to expedite our journey through the airports.

Have we come so far that we have to prove who we are with every little thing that we do? Everyone has an I.D. badge that they wear at work and now at school. I guess that life imitates art in the sense that in *Star Trek* we have seen voice print and retinal identification. When I got my driver's license, I put my thumbprint on my license.

We are sometimes so arrogant that we

think we are above anyone stealing our identity. But since we use passwords for our ATM cards, computer access and our credit card accounts that have so much information about us, identity crooks find it so easy to tap into our checking and savings accounts and to open up new credit card accounts in our name.

What is the answer? I guess that, short of giving a pint of blood, we will be using our eyes, our fingerprints and even our faces to prove that we are who we say we are.

So here's looking at you!

***Peace through superior firepower!*** ■

*Weapons Officer Patrick McBee*

*(Alpha/36793/Beta 3)*



**CLUB BIRTHDAYS:**  
Birthday wishes to  
Officer David Mac-  
Pherson on Thurs-  
day, June 26, and  
Chief Operations  
Officer Ann Harding  
on Friday, June 27.

## Phasers on FUN!

### Identify the speaker

*Adapted from a trivia chat in the Star Trek Community on America Online*

1. "The final frontier has some bound-aries that shouldn't be crossed."
2. "Your directive apparently doesn't include spying on other cultures."
3. "I could probably think better without your hand on my thigh."
4. "Captain I do not think it is appropri-ate for a Starfleet officer to appear ... naked."
5. "How on Earth can history get past people like me?"
6. "If we're exposed, we could contaminate their culture."
7. "Is confinement to quarters enough?"

- Answers:
1. Captain Janeway, *Voyager*, "The Omega Directive"
  2. Anji, *Star Trek: Nemesis*
  3. Commander Jadzra Dax to Quark, *DS9*, "Rules of Acquisition"
  4. Commander Worf, *Star Trek: Nemesis*
  5. Captain Kirk, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*
  6. T'Mir, *Enterprise*, "Carbon Creek"
  7. Doctor McCoy, *Classic Trek*, "The Menagerie"