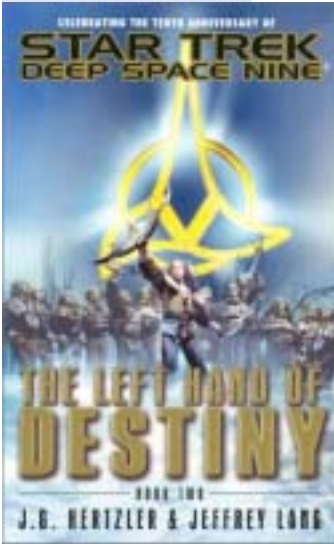


COMSTAR

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

July, 2003



Deep Space Nine lives on in the “novel” universe continued by J. G. Hertzler.

Can “The Right Hand of Destiny” be far behind?

The Left Hand of Destiny co-author J.G. Hertzler (*Deep Space Nine*’s Chancellor Martok) recently revealed he is working on a second book—but the actor is staying mum on the exact details.

“I am pitching an idea to Paramount right now about a book, the subject of which I cannot now talk about ... until the infant-idea becomes much stronger and well on the way to development,” Hertzler said in a Q&A at the *Deep Space Nine Avatar* website. “I will make some announcements if all goes well in the next few weeks,” he added later.

Hertzler said he was overwhelmed by the response to *The Left Hand of Destiny* books, which he penned with Jeffrey Lang. “Jeffrey and I greatly appreciate the fan response to our work,” he said. “For me, the novel was literally the most challenging piece of work that I have ever committed to, and that includes performing on Broadway, leading roles on television and seven screen plays.”

Outside of the literary arena, Hertzler will soon reunite with several *Deep Space Nine* alumni for a short film. “I am working on many things, not the least of which is a short film that will be shot in late summer. It is a comedy and will include some of my fellow

DS9 actors and some other surprises.”

Hertzler, who worked on the special features for the Collectors’ Edition DVD of *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, is slated to do the same for *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. The actor recently attended a ceremony to honor Matt Jefferies, during which the veteran designer was shown a tribute documentary, which will be included on the *Star Trek: Generations* DVD. “I highly recommend it,” Hertzler said.

▲ “Star Trek Row” on the Paramount lot has come back to life as the full *Enterprise* cast and crew take their places once again to dive into what promises to be an elaborate and groundbreaking third season, according to startrek.com.

The season opener will pick up on the *NX-01*’s incursion into the Delphic Expanse to track down Earth’s mysterious new enemy, the Xindi. This episode—tentatively titled, “The Xindi”—features an array of new creatures, sets and effects. There are also some new recurring characters onboard *Enterprise*, the military contingent referred to in “The Expanse,” who won’t be waiting long to see some action. This installment required a nine-day production schedule, compared to seven days for most *Enterprise* episodes. ■

IN THIS ISSUE:

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

We’ll fire up the barbeque at the July club meeting!

The next meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek Club will be held on Saturday, July 19, at the Gaithersburg, Maryland, home of Chief Engineer Scott Klein.

We’ll gather at 3 p.m. for a cookout on Scott’s patio. Be sure to bring at least \$6 to pay for your dinner and a lawn chair to sit on, of course. If you have any questions, you can e-mail Scott at esklein@aol.com.

During the club meeting, we’ll discuss conventions (including the recent Shore Leave), find out what fellow club members are up to and get the latest *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: Christmas in July

For those of us who enjoy regularly spending some of our hard-earned quatloos on *Star Trek* goodies, this has been a very slow year. No toys. No comics. Not even *Star Trek: The Magazine*, which ceased publication back in the spring.

Oh, there have been a few bright spots. The *Star Trek Communicator* magazine comes out every other month, about as often as the season-by-season DVD collections of *Deep Space Nine*. And a company called Sideshow Collectibles has started producing busts of Classic *Trek* characters, starting with head-and-shoulder representations of Captain Kirk and Mister Spock.

But being a *Trek* collector is hitting warp speed this month.

Action figures: Speaking of Classic *Trek*, Art Asylum is going to try and make up for last year's grotesque attempts at *Enterprise* figures with new seven-inch versions of Kirk (in his green "leisure" shirt), Spock, McCoy, Uhura and Khan (as he appeared in "Space Seed" and not *The Wrath of Khan*, doggone it!).

My first question when looking over that line-up was: "Why have Kirk in the green shirt? Do they think Playmates had too many versions of the captain in command gold?" A quick check of the Asylum website showed that the company had indeed planned to put out such a figure sitting in the captain's chair, but they'd cancelled it. That annoyed me, but not as much as when I found out why!

As you may remember, one of my big piques with previous *Trek* toymakers has been the production of exclusives, versions you can only get at certain stores or from particular websites. Well, Art Asylum has taken that to the next level.

In order to get a Kirk in command gold, you have to attend one of three conventions: a big comics con in San Diego the week after Shore Leave; the Creation con in Las Vegas in early August; or another comics con in Chicago in mid-August. So yes, I'm now looking into a trip to the Windy City next month.

Still, I can't be too angry because July is bringing something I've waited several years to buy: a toy of my favorite *Star Trek* ship, the *Enterprise A*! If it only had a button you could push and hear Kirk shout "Fire!" it would be a dream come true!

Trading cards: Two sets of cards are now

available for *Trek* aficionados. The first covers the long-dissed animated *Star Trek* series, and the other deals with our beloved *Deep Space Nine*. Both sets have nifty autograph cards, though the *DS9* run has one featuring the signature of the only actor from that show I haven't seen in person, Colm Meaney!

Video game: New this month is the aptly titled *Elite Force II*, the sequel to ... *Elite Force*. It's put out by Activision, the company that just filed suit against Viacom because its subsidiary, Paramount, isn't producing enough *Star Trek* stuff. Maybe if they'd waited another month ...

Books: Hoping to come anywhere remotely close to the success of the magnificent *DS9* Relaunch is a two-novel story written by Christie Golden chronicling the further adventures of the crew of the *U.S.S. Voyager*. The first part, entitled *Homecoming*, was available in book stores even before you read this, and *The Farther Shore* will tie up the storyline later this month.

The remaining *Next Gen* fans have not one, but two paperbacks to read: *Genesis Force* and *Do Comets Dream?* Meanwhile, the rest of us can put our *Trek* knowledge to the test by picking up *Star Trek Crosswords*, Book 1.

Calendars: With six months left in the year, it's time to start picking up those calendars for 2004. Along with a day-by-day desktop edition, there'll be wall calendars featuring Classic *Trek*, *Nemesis*, *Enterprise* and "Ships of the Line." I guess last year's captain's calendar didn't do too well because there isn't one this time around.

Christmas ornaments: As usual, July is when Hallmark comes out with its annual line of Christmas ornaments. And this year, there are three *Trek* entries: Jonathan Archer sitting in his captain's chair from *Enterprise*; Vulcan Science Officer T'Pol, also from *Enterprise*; and a ship called the *Scorpion*. Don't feel too bad if you don't remember it; it appeared in some little-known trifle called *Nemesis*.

Still, don't worry if you've blown your quatloos on all those other goodies. For some reason, this year's *Trek* selection isn't coming out until October. Maybe those Christmas ornaments will seem more exciting by Halloween.

But for now, it's like Christmas in July. See you in the stores! ■

Captain Randy Hall



If you see this action figure, let Randy know immediately!

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Trek: Deep
Space Nine" and "Star
Trek: Voyager,"
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"starship" and
"starship Enterprise,"
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SCIENCE TREK: The undiscovered Trek

Back in the day, we engineering students learned about such things as “knowns” and “unknowns.” But we also learned about “known unknowns” and “unknown unknowns.” That is, either you know that you don’t know what a value is, or you don’t even know you what the thing is you need the value of. (Let’s see Editor Wayne have apoplexy over these so-called sentences.)

Let’s say you’re writing a *Trek* column or a story and you need to locate a certain fact, but your trusty DVD-o-matic is on the fritz. So, you dig up your copy of the *Star Trek Encyclopedia* or *Chronology*, or even one of the series guides, and there’s your answer. Faithful readers won’t be surprised to learn that I do the same thing. In addition to the *Encyclopedia* and the *Chronology*, one of my favorite resources have been the *Star Trek Concordance*. Other recent sources were the *Next Generation Technical Manual* and the much-cursed *Mr. Scott’s Guide to the Enterprise*.

I suppose your wondering how the first two paragraphs tie together. Though it likely won’t surprise most of you, there are other scientific and technical *Trek* books out there. So much for the “unknown unknowns.” Of course, these were not written by anyone with a last name of Okuda, Sternbach or Taylor. Thus, they may not be considered in the same galaxy as “canon,” but that doesn’t mean they’re not fascinating.

Let’s look at two of them: Franz Joseph’s 1975 *Star Trek Technical Manual* and Stan and Fred Goldstein’s 1980 *Spaceflight Chronology*. For the record, I’ve also got two “books” before me—the *Ship Recognition* manual and “From the Files of Starfleet Command”—both of which are simply people copying text, illustration and style of the estimable Mister Joseph.

After covering the basics from the Articles of Federation, the Organian Peace Treaty and a chart of uniform color code, Joseph presents organizational charts of Starfleet and diagrams of Starfleet’s space station headquarters. (You didn’t know they had one, did you?) He’s also got uniform patterns for “non-computerized fabrication,” starship specifications. (If you ever need a level-by-level deck plan for a Class 1 Starliner transport container, start with page 01:04:20.) For those who want to see the original three-nacelled dreadnoughts (upon

which the *Chesapeake* is based), you’ll find it here (page 01:04:24).

The *Spaceflight Chronology* is an incredible illustrated history of spaceflight from 1957 to Classic *Trek*’s time. Illustrated by “the brilliant artist of the Space Age,” Rick Sternbach. (I said “not written by”—not “not illustrated by!”) For those who were/ will be too busy to notice, here are some events that were and will be:

- 1988: Mars Sample Return Probe launched*
- 1992: Last space shuttle launched
- 1996: DY-100 class launched (the ship Khan took for his big sleep)
- 1998: Goddard Moonbase established
- 2005: First spacechild born on the moon
- 2021: Evidence of life found on Mars (Didn’t I report this in 1996?)
- 2048: The first aliens we meet—the Alpha Centaurians (you know, Cochrane’s original race)
- 2059: Warp drive era begins
- 2065: Earth rescues Vulcans from disabled ship
- 2087: The United Federation of Planets is founded
- 2091: Starfleet Academy opens
- 2123: The “original” starship *Enterprise*, a Declaration-class spaceliner, launched
- 2147: Tricorder invented
- 2151: First encounter (*U.S.S. Sentry*) with the Klingons
- 2176: Dilithium crystals discovered
- 2188: *Constitution*-class *U.S.S. Enterprise* launched
- 2196: General Order #7 imposed on Talos star system
- 2215: *Enterprise* upgraded (a.k.a. *The Motion Picture*)

There are lots more fascinating facts and illustrations in both books. They’re a bit hard to come by these days. For the record, the *Technical Manual* came from Ballantine and the *Spaceflight Chronology* was put out by Pocket Books. Keep on *Trekk’n!*

Web Note:

- <http://www.mib.org/~sfof/timeline.html> (For the historians among us)

* (Don’t worry, it’s really happening in the next few years, according to NASA and the European Space Agency.) ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies



ART CREDITS:	
amazon.com	1
figures.com	2
Presentation Task	
Force	3, 6
startrek.com	4
stinsv.com	5
Dynamic Graphics	
scifi.com	insert front
	insert back

REFLECTIONS: Leaving no stone unturned

The end was near. Not only could I feel it in my bones, but I was starting to count the days, hours—even the minutes. I did this both with a degree of happiness and a degree of sorrow, for I knew the end was nigh. I both dreaded it and waited for it with bated breath.

“There are fans who just haven’t gotten a lot of it,” said Ira Stephen Behr, “and fans who have gotten a lot of it, and we are long past being bothered by all that. One of the drawbacks, I think, to *Deep Space Nine* has always been our desire to take the show into many different directions, and that’s just not what people are comfortable with when they watch TV. *Deep Space Nine* just veers wildly in tone from week to week, and wildly in subject week to week, and I think that is a very uncomfortable place to put the audience in. It asks a lot from them. We chose to leave no stone unturned—that can either be something great, or other people can perceive it as a major flaw or a drawback.”

“It’s Only a Paper Moon,” story by David Mack/John Ordovery, teleplay by Ronald D. Moore

Nog returns from Starfleet Medical, where he has been fitted with an artificial leg to replace the one that he lost at AR-558. He forsakes the hero’s reception from his family and colleagues, finding solace only at Vic’s Place in the holosuites. Unfortunately, he is only combining his denial with illusion when he refuses to leave and wants to live out his life at Vic’s.

Being a psychology major back in the day, I found a lot to love about this episode. There was denial and betrayal, compounding one illusion with another and out-and-out fear. There’s the “fantasy” hero versus “real” hero (the segments from the film *Shane* illustrate this nicely) and how Nog starts to see the similarities between the film and his current situation. He knows it’s not real, but facing reality is a lot tougher sometimes. A veritable *pot-pouree* of neurosis, manifesting itself as an hour-long television drama is in itself worthy of a few psychological treatises or dissertations. Intelligent television—who’d a thunk it?

This episode had very little to do with the main characters of the show. In fact, Ezri was the only main character who was directly involved in the plot. Her part wasn’t huge, but she was the voice of psychological reason. Not

only was she everyone’s moral conscience, but she actually used psychology on a hologram! Where else but in *Star Trek* would you see *that*? It was a brilliant episode and expertly directed by none other than Anson Williams. Yes, that’s right—“Potsie” from *Happy Days*! Rating: ★★☆☆☆.

“Prodigal Daughter” by Bradley Thompson/David Weddle

Away on a secret mission to find the wife of Bilby, the Orion Syndicate operative, Chief O’Brien suddenly disappears. Doctor Bashir goes to Captain Sisko with his concerns. Since Ezri’s family lives on New Sydney, where O’Brien vanished, Sisko sends Ezri there to use her family’s influence to help find him.

The original story was much deeper than the final version turned out to be. It was originally called “Mafia Princess,” and Ezri’s family were high up in the Orion Syndicate. But Rick Berman hated it, so it was decided to tone down any Syndicate involvement and bring in O’Brien.

It’s not a bad story, but it suffers a little from the underdevelopment of Ezri’s family (except her mother, who was a REAL witch!) and too little use of O’Brien. Nicole deBoer shines, though, as does Leigh Taylor Young, who plays Yanas Tigan, her mother. There is a nice little twist to the emerging murder mystery, but the episode could have been better. Rating: ★★½.

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

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



RANTINGS: Wrap it in the flag and run it up the flagpole

In the Original Series episode, “The Omega Glory,” Kirk, Spock and McCoy beam down to a parallel Earth that fought WWII between the Yangs and the Kohms. The result was a civilization that was a shadow of its former self. The Yangs had so many “worship words” and had been saying them for so long and so badly that they had forgotten not only their pronunciation, but also what they stood for.

I wonder if 21st-century America is in danger of the same thing. In this post-9/11 world, national security has become a compulsion. The attorney general of the United States, the HIGHEST-ranking law-enforcement officer in the land, is openly advocating getting Americans to spy and inform on other Americans by calling a toll-free number. This is called “Operation Tips.” But even more ominous is the USA PATRIOT Act. Actually, it is called, “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism.” It essentially allows domestic law enforcement and the intelligence agencies to expand surveillance on Americans while reducing the “checks and balances.” The government may spy on “web surfing” just by telling a judge it is “relevant” to a criminal investigation. We also have “national roving wiretaps” and ISPs “voluntarily” handing over “non-content” information to law enforcement. It allows the government to seek any and all information about your web-surfing activities with just a simple subpoena, judicial review not required. It grants broad powers for intrusion by the government into the lives of average Americans. I don’t know about you, but that is not the America I was born in.

Oh, by the way, in the proposed PATRIOT Act II (also known as “The Domestic Security Act of 2003”), Americans could have their citizenship revoked if they had been found to have “contributed material support” to organizations deemed to be terrorist. Before this, an American could renounce his or her citizenship only with a clear intent to do so. Now, and I quote, “the intent to relinquish nationality need not be manifested in words, but can be inferred by conduct.” They want to establish a DNA database, and just refusing to be a part of it gets you a year in jail and a \$200,000 fine. You can be wire-tapped

for 15 days on the phone, Internet AND e-mail, no questions asked. And should you be found innocent and the evidence of the search thrown out because it was illegal—check this out—officers will be granted immunity if they were just following orders. Does THAT have a familiar ring? It grants the FBI access to things like your credit history or your bank records, just about any-thing they want. In the words of Elmer Fudd, “Be afwaid, be vewy afwaid.”

Now, I know that the more reasonable, sober, calmer and conservative of you out there have been reading my tirade here and saying, “but since 9/11, we have to take these measures to protect ourselves, and the government will not overstep their bounds.” OH, WONT THEY? Most of the checks and balances that are so often reviled these days were put in place in response to abuses by the U.S. intelligence community in the ’60s and ’70s, including the FBI, which had spied on over 10,000 U.S. citizens, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Hell, it doesn’t even have to be for “terrorist” activities. Nixon and his “plumbers” had an “enemies list.” There were real threats to national security on it, too, like Bill Cosby and Carol Channing.

Some of you out there must look on me as unpatriotic or, as Ann Coulter would put it—treasonous, and will be on the phone in short order to turn me in to the “Department of Homeland Security.” Well, be my guest because the last time I checked, THERE STILL IS A FIRST AMENDMENT IN THIS COUNTRY (free speech, in case you forgot). Ashcroft hasn’t done to it what he has tried to the Fourth Amendment (unreasonable searches and seizures) YET, although dissent has practically been outlawed in this country now. It is a funny thing—they take away our freedoms to protect us. Hmm ... seems to me I read something once, and it went like this: “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Good night and good luck. ■

Officer Peter Chewning



Spock is under attack in Classic Trek's "The Omega Glory"

COMING EVENTS

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. Hertzler (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. The barbeque will begin at 3:00 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. For directions, see the insert that is included with this newsletter!

AUGUST

- August 16** It's time for our annual club olympics! More next month!

HOLODICTATION: You told him about the statue

I found a couple of websites that have a lot of very good sound bytes from all the *Star Trek* shows and movies, and I noticed some of the sound bytes from *Star Trek: First Contact*. I started to think of the line that Commander Will Riker said to Geordi La Forge where he asked him if he told Zefram Cochrane about the statue that had been erected in his honor. I considered our own history and how we have painted some of our forefathers.

Would we, as a nation, be dismayed if we found out that George Washington was an alcoholic? Would this make what the man did any less important? We want all of forefathers to be these perfect persons who never had an evil thought or did anything that

we would find offensive. I guess the thought that I am trying to get across to the readers is this—does that intention take away from the result? I like to think that all great people were like you and me. Each one had his—or her—own attributes and vices.

So, whatever the reason, we do things if something great comes of it. GREAT! When you are trying to invent that new mixed drink and discover the cure for common cold, you can curse yourself for failing as a bartender or rejoice in the fact that you did something that serves the greater good.

Make mine a double, and point me to the island with all of the happy natives!

Peace through superior firepower! ■

Weapons Officer Patrick McBee



CLUB BIRTHDAYS:
 Birthday wishes to
 Chief Medical Officer
 Stephannie Baldau
 on Tuesday, July 29,
 and Navigation
 Trainee Michele
 Brem on Tuesday,
 August 12.

Phasers on FUN!

Identify the speaker

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

1. "What's that human expression? 'Shoot to kill.'"
2. "You're killing me!"
3. "The only thing missing was the chocolate on the pillow."
4. "It wouldn't hurt you to seek out a little ... companionship."
5. "Doctor, if you don't cease your meddling, I will most certainly break your neck."
6. "With the captain lost somewhere, that's the best they can come up with?"
7. "Asking favors of the Vulcans usually ends up carrying too high a price."

- Answers:
 1. Captain Kirk, *Classic Trek*, "Amok Time"
 2. Guinan, *The Next Generation*, "Yesterday's Enterprise"
 3. Captain Janeway, *Voyager*, "Hope and Fear"
 4. Lieutenant Malcolm Reed, *Enterprise*, "Dead Stop"
 5. Gul Dukar, *Deep Space Nine*, "The Maquis"
 6. Lieutenant Sulu, *Classic Trek*, "The Mark of Gideon"
 7. Commander "Trip" Tucker, *Enterprise*, "Terra Nova"