



Patrick Stewart (right) reunites with Kelsey Grammer in Frasier.

Trek actors enjoy work after their series' ends

Star Trek doesn't necessarily mean the end of an actor's career. More and more *Trek* alumni are finding work in non-*Trek* projects.

▲ Patrick Stewart (Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Next Gen*) was a guest star on the long-running NBC sitcom *Frasier* on Tuesday, September 30. According to a press release, the episode entitled, "The Doctor Is Out," featured Stewart portraying Alistair Braithwaite, head of the Seattle Opera Guild and acclaimed opera director.

In the show, *Frasier* (Kelsey Grammer) is outed as gay on his radio show, thanks to a series of misunderstandings. A chance encounter shortly thereafter has him meeting Alistair, and the two strike up a friendship. Alistair comforts *Frasier*, having been in a similar situation himself. *Frasier* is impressed with Alistair, and the two continue to become close friends—even though Alistair's feelings for *Frasier* are more than friendly.

This episode marked a reunion of sorts for Stewart and *Frasier* star Grammer, who appeared as Captain Morgan Bateson in the fifth-season *Next Generation* episode, "Cause and Effect."

▲ René Auberjonois (Odo on *Deep Space*

Nine) will star in a Broadway production of the comedy *Sly Fox* with a cast of luminaries in spring, 2004. He will appear alongside Richard Dreyfuss, Elizabeth Berkley, Bronson Pinchot and Irwin Corey in a revival of the Larry Gelbart play, scheduled to open at the Barrymore Theatre on the first of April next year, according to *Playbill*. The play, based on Ben Jonson's classical comedy, *Volpone*, will be directed by Arthur Penn, who also directed the original Broadway staging in 1976.

Auberjonois has appeared on Broadway numerous times, in *CocoBig River* and *City of Angels*, as well as the recent musical, *Dance of the Vampires*.

▲ Colm Meaney (Miles O'Brien in *DS9*) co-stars in the Western *Blueberry*, a French movie featuring Vincent Cassel, Juliette Lewis and Michael Madsen.

According to *The Internet Movie Database*, the film is about Mike S. Blueberry, an 1870s U.S. marshal contending with murder suspects, a lynch mob, bounty hunters and rumors of a gold mine guarded by a ghost.

The film is scheduled to be released in France and Germany in February, 2004. No release date for the United States has been announced yet. ■

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October means a special away team mission!

It's time for our next away-mission club meeting!

So let's enjoy ourselves at the October gathering of the U.S.S. Chesapeake, which will be held on Saturday, October 18, at the West Virginia home of Weapons Officer Patrick McBee and his wife, Sue.

We'll gather around 5 p.m., then head to a local restaurant for dinner. We will return to the McBee residence by 7 p.m.

During the club meeting, we'll discuss upcoming conventions, 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. Or contact Patrick directly if you have more questions. ■

Editor's note:
Captain Randy Hall is stricken with Rigelian flu. His column will return next month.



William Marshall as Doctor Richard Daystrom

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OFFICER'S LOG: William Marshall remembered

William Marshall, perhaps best known outside of *Star Trek* as "Blackula" in the early '70s films updating *Dracula*, died in June at age 78. He trained in Grand Opera, Broadway and Shakespeare, and came to recognition in 1968 in the *Boston Strangler* film starring Tony Curtis. He was the "King of Cartoons" on *Pee Wee's Playhouse* in order to please his grandchildren.

In fandom, and also from 1968, he is known as Doctor Richard Daystrom, creator of the M-5 multitronic unit that piloted the U.S.S. *Enterprise* with unfortunate results in "The Ultimate Computer." Daystrom's instability was transferred to M-5 and resulted in the death of 500 Starfleet officers during a war game. Kirk's intuition allows him to confront M-5 with its crimes and force its penance before Starfleet ships could destroy the *Enterprise*.

A towering (6'5") presence with a booming voice that commanded authority, Marshall was one of the more memorable guest stars in *The Original Series*. Daystrom struggled to reach up the Jeffries tube when Scotty tried to regain control of M-5 and had to be dispatched by Spock's nerve pinch when he started going over the edge. He was pushed by his own genius and skeptical colleagues to produce results too quickly. He became a formidable yet tragic figure as we viewed his paternal defense of M-5 and finally his mental collapse. Daystrom was clearly disdainful of Kirk and McCoy—and alter ego M-5 gruffly classified them both as "non-essential personnel."

At first, Daystrom's moral code did not seem to transfer well to the M-5. The latter's obsessive self-preservation resulted in the murder of innocent lives. Both creator and created could not initially see the forest for the trees—Daystrom was prepared to excuse its early mistakes as natural development, and the M-5 indicated that its choice of self-defense methodology was purely discretionary.

The subtext of this episode is whether man belongs in space—an appropriate question in 1967 after the accidental death of the three Apollo 1 astronauts due to a fire during capsule testing. After the shuttle disaster this year, NASA continued to study the cause of the explosion. Space shuttle launches had seemed to be routine, but long ago it was decided that unmanned spacecraft were useful for long-distance space travel. How soon will

we see a return to shuttle launches? Caution is now the order of the day as it must be to ensure the safety of our astronauts.

Man should continue space exploration if "The Ultimate Computer" is any guide—a machine could not make a decision based on its humanity, but Kirk's friend Commodore Bob Wesley could. When Kirk allowed the *Enterprise* to look dead (a deception the M-5 might have done), Wesley considered that it might not be a trick and verified that the other starships were no longer in danger. Thus, the attack force did not destroy the *Enterprise*.

Spock viewed machines as more efficient than people, but he had no wish to serve under them. He reminded Kirk of the importance of his leadership in the operation of a starship. Kirk realized that the M-5 made better decisions about whose experience best serves on a landing party. In contrast, Kirk preferred to take hands-on control of a landing party and have his friend McCoy along for the ride—even if they did not contribute to the knowledge base required. But the group may be less motivated and effective with Spock in charge. (See TOS: "The Galileo 7.")

All machines are without conscience, whereas man at least has society's limitation of civil laws if he goes too far. Man must be the final arbiter over the machine—to prevent the wrongful action of the computer. One could argue that the M-5 (as proxy for Daystrom) had too much power, and the resulting absolute power corrupted absolutely. This may have played a role in the M-5's destruction of the cargo ship, an *Enterprise* crewman and full-power attacks on the other ships.

Space is still full of danger in the 23rd century—even without a protagonist—as indicated by the horrible death of the Psi 2000 science team (due to a virus and exposure to the freezing planet). Joe Tormolen's soliloquy neatly summarizes his inner reluctance to be in space as a result (TOS: "The Naked Time").

Although there was an intent to have Richard Daystrom's descendant, David Daystrom, appear in *ST:TNG*, Caucasian actress Susan Gibney had already been hired for the episode. So, she graduated from the Daystrom Institute instead (*TNG*: "Booby Trap") indicating the genius's early successes were not forgotten in the 24th century. ■

Starfleet Academy Instructor Dave MacPherson

SCIENCE TREK: Something borrowed

Borrowing is universal. I can borrow a cup of sugar from my neighbor (not that I intend to give it back in that form). A country can borrow money from a bank or another country. A culture can borrow from another culture.

Some would even have us believe that our Terran cultures borrowed from aliens. Crazy talk, if you call it “non-fiction.” SF, if you call it fiction. Of course, in science fiction, we often go one step further and imagine aliens borrowing from aliens.

One prime example from Classic *Trek* is the Romulans borrowing—via a military alliance—the design for the Klingon battle cruiser. (Yeah, yeah, I know the real reason, but I’m trying to stay in character here.) Of course, years later, the Klingons borrowed the Romulan “Bird of Prey” name for their smaller classes of scout ships.

Cultural borrowing can occur when peoples of two or more cultures interact, as in establishing trade or immigration of one population into the territory of another. Borrowed “objects” can take the form of words, ideas, tools and attributes (among others). As with cultures solely on Earth, one can expect Terrans to interact with alien races in much the same fashion.

How much interaction, though, does Earth (as opposed to the Earth-based Starfleet and the Federation) have with other cultures? Obviously, there are aliens on Earth—many, many aliens on Earth, but it looks like the same old planet (just spruced up over the years). One facet of cultural borrowing is that it shows a culture is alive. A dead or stagnant culture doesn’t give anything, nor does it take anything.

To borrow from an old column of mine: “Technology and

change in attitude have freed the people of 23rd- and 24th-century Earth to create a paradise. Of course, there are many who would rather just visit, or perhaps never visit at all. Must a paradise be stagnant? Must a paradise be boring? (I heard that ‘yes,’ Lorenzo.) Well, I’ll leave that up to the philosophers and technologists of the future.”

Next time you watch an episode (of Classic *Trek*, the *Animated Series*, *Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager* or *Enterprise* (Oops, I mean *Star Trek: Enterprise*), see how much interaction there is (culturally) between the various peoples or races—humans in particular. Term papers are due at the January meeting.

Web Notes:

- <http://www.houseofessays.com/viewpaper/858.html> (Japan borrows from China during the eponymous “period of borrowing.”);
- <http://www.hfs.k12.nf.ca/Grassroots/Cultural-Borrowing/> (These Canadian kids swear they didn’t borrow this paper.);
- <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Rampart/8067/index.html> (I’m borrowing this URL to point you to all you wanted to know about the Orions.);
- <http://www.plimoth.org/Library/Wampanoag/wampnow.htm> (See, it was borrowed corn the Indians gave the Pilgrims.); and
- <http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/PAO/html/warp/warpfaq.htm> (NASA’s FAQ on warp drive. Maybe we’ll borrow the technology and funding.) ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies



The Romulans were the source for the name of the Klingons’ Bird of Prey.

ART CREDITS:
startrek.com 1, 2, 3, 4
joinarnold.com 5
Presentation Task Force 6
DynamicGraphics.com insert front
scifi.com insert back

REFLECTIONS: The countdown, part 2

Ladies and gentlemen, we have just reached the home stretch. When the countdown arrived, I was in a serious state of complete and utter denial. I wouldn't consider it, I wouldn't acknowledge it, I wouldn't even think about it. I had been steadily denying the fact that my favorite television show was about to hoist anchor and sail away into that vast, voluminous ocean known as rerun heaven.

Unbeknownst to me at the time, my second favorite show, *Homicide*, was also seeing its final days of light. It's a good thing I didn't know it—I don't know if I could have handled that. One great show bowing out was bad enough, but TWO great shows? What on Earth would I watch?

I knew sooner or later I'd have to face up to the sobering fact that perhaps the best *Trek* ever was finally calling it quits. Fortunately, the next 10 hours were so replete with engaging plot lines, full of surprising twists and turns, with enough character development to spark at least 20 more storylines. Developments overflowing with betrayal, triumph and tragedy that would do Shakespeare proud. I did not have time to contemplate the end until it was over.

"It was frightening," admits Rene Echevarria. "And I've got to say there were moments in which I was afraid we weren't going to pull it off ... moments when I thought that we'd backed ourselves into a corner. It wasn't until we had broken the last episode that I finally said, 'You know what? I think we did it.'" "It was a journey into the unknown," states Ira Steven Behr. "We took a lot of risks. We ran the risk of taking missteps and falling on our faces. And the only thing we had that would convince people that we were doing the right thing was the quality of the episodes. We had to keep everyone interested in order to keep doing what we wanted to do. That was our one fallback position. People might have hated the fact that it was serialized. They might have hated the direction that the show was going in, but they HAD to admit that the episodes were pretty good." Start the countdown. T-minus 10 hours, and counting ...

"Penumbra" by Rene Echevarria

Sisko buys land on Bajor, with plans to build a house. He tells Kasidy Yates of his aspirations while proposing marriage. Worf's ship is attacked by Jem'Hadar and destroyed

near the Badlands. Worf is not among the rescued.

Ezri steals a runabout and heads to the Badlands in search of Worf. She finds his escape pod and discovers Worf very much alive. After she brings him to the runabout, they are attacked by the Jem'Hadar and narrowly escape death by beaming down to the planet below. Meanwhile, on Cardassia, we discover that the illness that has stricken the "Female Founder" has spread throughout the Great Link, infecting all the Change-lings. Weyoun tells the "Female Shapeshifter" that no progress has been made on a treatment for them. She has secretly been in communication with someone, keeping it from Damar.

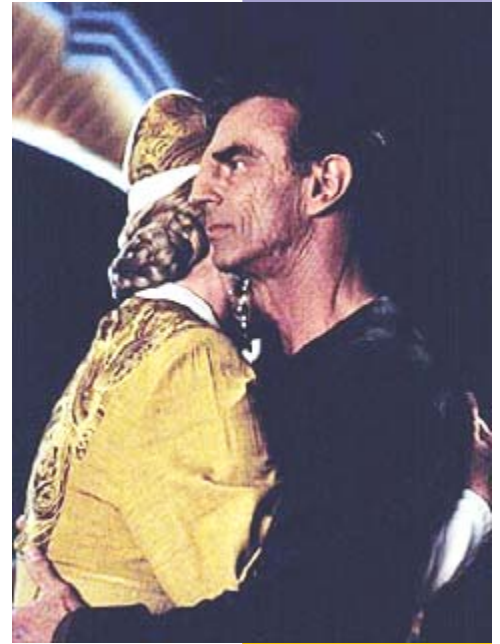
Damar has a surprise visitor—Dukat, who wants Damar's help. Back on the planet in the Badlands, Ezri and Worf finally have it out about the way Worf has been treating her. After trading insults, they both give way to unacknowledged lust that has been surging through the both of them, after which they awaken, not to a cigarette, but to Breen soldiers.

The next time we see Dukat, he has been surgically altered to look Bajoran. Damar is curious, but Dukat is not forthcoming with his plan. Sisko has another visit from the Prophets—this time, it's Sarah, his mother. She tells him that his path is difficult, and he must walk it alone. If he marries, he will know sorrow. To be continued. Rating: ★★☆☆.

"Strange Bedfellows" by Ronald D. Moore

The Breen and the Dominion are now allies. Worf and Ezri have been turned over to Weyoun and Damar. Damar is furious that he was not privy to the alliance, and he is even MORE angry when he is told of the Dominion's plans to give Cardassian territory to the Breen. Meanwhile, Kai Winn has been wooed and screwed by a kindly, humble Bajoran who has the same ideals and theories about the

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"Anjoli" comforts Kai Winn in *DS9*'s "Strange Bedfellows."

RANTINGS: What if princes danced on pinheads?

Okay, I am back from vacation—a lot more in debt, a little older and not much wiser. Not much has changed. I still put ketchup and Tabasco sauce on my scrambled eggs, and I still spell Fox News with a swastika, but hey, you all know me for the mad fool that I am. SO DEAL WITH IT!

From what I have seen so far on *Star Trek: Enterprise* this season, I can see that they have definitely changed some things and some characterizations. I mean, they have turned Trip into a “rage-a-holic,” Captain Archer is becoming more obsessed with his mission, and they have seemed to try to make T’Pol into a cross between an Earth mother and Seven of “D” Cups. Whether those changes are any good or not remains to be seen. But at least the show has a direction, which is a lot more than they had this time last year. I have got to say though that the episode, “Extinction,” was predictable, trite and clichéd. But as we know, there are not any new storylines—only the same old crap regurgitated. Of course, “Raijin,” the sex-slave episode, was entertaining, and her scene with T’Pol was the stuff that nocturnal emissions are made of.

From the recycling department, there is *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier Special Collector’s Edition*. According to the Paramount PR machine, the DVD will contain over five hours of bonus material including audio and text commentaries, deleted scenes, special features and interviews, production art, an Easter egg and more. Happy, happy, joy, joy—I’m just so happy, I could plotz. The *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country Special Collector’s Edition* DVD, or whatever they are calling the latest attempt to make us squander our money on stuff we already have, is due out in late January, 2004, while an equally expensive *Generations* is set to come late next year.

Speaking of old things, I do not know if it is a hoax or not (some say it is, others just aren’t saying), but Mark Millar on *CBR.com* wrote that a man named Lionel Hutton is working on a biography of Orson Welles. In this book due out next Easter, Hutton says

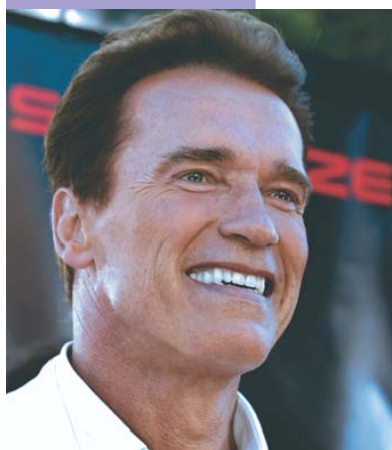
that in 1944, Welles began meeting with National Comics (now DC Comics) about making a serious film version of Batman. In addition to directing the film, Welles wanted to play Bruce Wayne and Batman. He wanted George Raft for Two Face, James Cagney as the Riddler, Marlena Dietrich as Catwoman and Basil Rathbone as the Joker. Apparently, they also had letters of agreement from all these people for their parts. The main reason the film never got made? The studio wanted to cast Gregory Peck as Batman, and Welles bolted to make *The Lady from Shanghai*. It could have been good, it could have been crap, but we will never know because it never got made. I am sure that some self-appointed debunker of all Hollywood rumors will jump on this story to prove it is a load of crap. Won’t you, Lorenzo?

It gives rise to that ultimate game of geekdom, “What if?” What if Gene Roddenberry had made *Star Trek* in the ’40s? Who would have been Captain Kirk? Who knows? Personally, I would have liked to see what Bogart could have done as JTK. To a Klingon: “When you’re slapped, you’ll take it and like it.” Who would have played Spock, Boris Karloff or Bela Lugosi? Ahhhh, forget it. It would not have been an “A” picture anyway.

Now this is something that’s got to be right out of a science-fiction movie, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. I caught part of his acceptance speech the other night as he was being elected governor of “Cali-Fohhn-YA.” He finished with, “Now, if you will excuse me, I have to go be fitted for a brown shirt and a pair of boots.” Of course, out of the 135 candidates on the ballot, it was amazing that anyone got more than 27 votes. Seeing how the Republicans select their candidates makes me glad I do not belong to an organized political party. I’m still a Democrat. Hey, but my favorite candidate, Mary Carey, got 10,000 votes. I still think the lap-dance deduction can prick the interest of the voters. And Larry Flynt got 15,000 votes, which just shows to go you, there are some sick puppies in the world, God bless’ em.

These are not events; they strengthen from stranger to stranger. ■

Officer Peter Chewning



Arnold is now the “governator”-elect of California.

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

October 18..... The leaves are changing colors, and the weather's getting colder. That's a great time to enjoy the warmth and laughter of this month's club meeting. We'll be gathering at the West Virginia home of Weapons Officer Patrick McBee and his wife, Sue, for this event, so be sure to check out the directions you'll find in the insert that is included with this month's newsletter. Or call or e-mail Patrick if you need more information.

NOVEMBER

November 15..... Thanksgiving is on the way, so let's get together for our November club meeting! Be sure that you check out the next issue of COMSTAR for more details, including meeting location!

DECEMBER

December 20..... Our annual holiday party! Plan now to attend!

HOLODICTATION: Rearranging the deck chairs

Every now and then, you have to change things in your life. Sometimes, it is a dramatic change, like shaving your head and getting that full-face tattoo; other times, it is subtle, like changing your answering-machine message.

I have found that every now and then, I need to change things in my life. I knew that something just did not feel right with the way some of the furniture was in our house.

I seized the opportunity of my wife resigning her position with Managed Healthcare and venturing into substitute teaching to suggest that we change the layout

of our living room.

I will not bore you with the details of what we did, but I had a general idea of what I wanted to do. Sue, Harrison and I worked on Sunday to totally change the feel of our house. I never thought that a simple rearrangement of a room of furniture could have such an impact. Every time that I am in the room, I like it better. The room and the entire house feel more comfortable.

I think that every now and then, you have to change a few things in your life to keep you on an even keel, and it also keeps everyone else guessing.

So, you will never know when I will be rearranging the deck chairs aboard the deck of the good ship McBee.

"Set sail, Mister Christian!" ■

Weapons Officer Patrick McBee

REFLECTIONS: The countdown, part 2

Continued from page 4

Prophets, the Emissary and the restoration of Bajor as she does. The problem is the "Bajoran" is Dukat, who's going by the name of "Anjohl."

Weyoun shows a perverse delight in his captives. He can't resist flaunting his new friends, the Breen's capture, to Damar. Weyoun boasts of his plans to kill both of them. He gets too close to Worf and, in a flash, Worf snaps his neck like a twig. Damar finds this hilarious. Winn finally has a vision, but it is

from the Pah-wraiths, not the Prophets.

Damar is incensed to discover that 500,000 Cardassians have been sacrificed at Septimus 3, where he told Weyoun they would be vulnerable. Fed up, he releases Ezri and Worf, telling them that the Federation has a NEW ally. Winn finally comes over to the dark side and recants her belief in the Prophets, embracing the Pah-wraiths. To be continued. Rating: ★★☆☆☆. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



CLUB BIRTHDAYS:
Birthday wishes to
Weapons Officer
Patrick McBee on
Sunday, October 19,
and First Officer Abby
Lindstrom on Tues-
day, November 11.