



Jimmy Doohan as Scotty on *Star Trek*.

Jimmy Doohan diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease

Jimmy Doohan, the beloved actor who played Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott in the original *Star Trek*, has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

According to his agent, Steven Stevens, the 84-year-old actor was found to have Alzheimer's "within the last couple months" and is in the beginning stages of the disease, a progressive neurological disorder that afflicted former President Ronald Reagan before he died on June 5.

Doohan also has suffered for some time with Parkinson's disease, diabetes and fibrosis, the latter due to chemical exposure during World War II when he was a soldier in the Canadian military, Stevens said.

Stevens, who has represented Doohan for 28 years, said he last saw the actor in January in Los Angeles, where he made a cameo appearance in the upcoming horror film *Skinwalker: Curse of the Shaman*.

"He didn't have any energy, and he seemed very frail. But as soon as they yelled 'Action,' he was the same old feisty Scotty," Stevens said.

Doohan's career in show business spans more than 50 years, but he's best known for his role as Scotty, chief engineer of the U.S.S. *Enterprise* in the original *Star Trek* television series, the animated *Trek* show in the 1970s

and the first seven *Trek* movies.

The actor has lived in a suburb of Seattle, Washington, for more than a decade with his wife, Wende. They have a 4-year-old daughter and two older sons, and Doohan has four children from a previous marriage, Stevens said.

Doohan will receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on August 31, Stevens noted, after attending a three-day "farewell" convention in Hollywood with all surviving members of the original *Enterprise* crew.

"Hearing this sad news about Jimmy Doohan makes me glad that our club made a donation toward helping him get his well-deserved star on the Walk of Fame," noted Randy Hall, captain of the U.S.S. *Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club.

"Even though a local club like ours only has limited resources," he added, "it's great that we can give something back to people like Doohan, who have made such a tremendous contribution to something we all know and love as much as *Star Trek*."

The club also raised more than \$3,000 to help victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and recently voted to make a donation to a scholarship fund for the children of Richard Biggs, the actor who played Doctor Stephen Franklin on the *Babylon 5* TV series and passed away suddenly in late May. ■

Talk about Shore Leave at the next club meeting!

The next meeting of the U.S.S. *Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, July 17, at the Laurel, Maryland, home of Chief Science Officer David Brewer.

We'll gather around 5 p.m. at a nearby restaurant, then head to his home for the meeting by 7 p.m.

During the club meeting, we'll discuss the recent Shore Leave convention, 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.

Need directions to this meeting? Then please be sure to check out the insert included with this newsletter. ■

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Captain Randy Hall's column will return in this space next month!

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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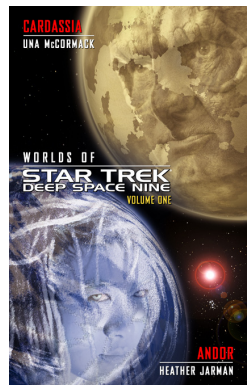
BOOK REVIEW: *Worlds of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Volume One*

With the release of *Unity* (to be reviewed later) and the winding up of the various story lines that started in *Avatar* and continued in the subsequent releases of the *Deep Space Nine* relaunch books, one couldn't help but wonder what they'd do next. If the relaunch material itself wasn't worthy of the legacy, nothing would be. So it made sense to explore the worlds that the show and the relaunch novels had created.

Thus, we have the next in line of DS9-related novels, *Worlds of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Volume One*. The new offerings in this 365-page paperback are designed to keep us abreast of the goings-on of the planets involved with DS9's legacy. Makes sense; DS9 was always a show that had to deal with what it created or destroyed, depending on the circumstances, totally unlike *Next Generation*, which would wreak havoc amongst the stars and ride off as if nothing had happened, the equivalent of a galactic one-night stand.

Deep Space Nine was always about consequences, cause and effect, waking up and facing the person you brought home the night before. So it seems fitting that we would want to peek in on those affected and see how they're faring. We've come to know them and respect some of them, even after the initial meetings were not forthcoming. Some we've come to love. So let us explore these brave but not-so-new worlds and not-so-new civilizations. Let us boldly go where we should have gone a long time ago.

The first story, "The Lotus Flower" by Una McCormack, is set about eight weeks after the events in *Unity*. Miles and Keiko O'Brien have been assigned to Cardassia Prime. Actually, Keiko is on assignment (a nice twist on things), and Miles is along for the ride. Keiko is there as a Starfleet botanist to help replenish the dead Cardassian soil. But, of course, some people don't want them there, and danger does rear its ugly head.



Ironically, both authors are relatively

new to the world of DS9, but they possess at least a good understanding of the characters. I could definitely hear the voices of Miles, Keiko and Garak as I read the book, and try as I did, I was unable to find any major continuity flaws. O'Brien, the everyman of *Star Trek*, was once again put through some trials and tribulations, a true DS9 tradition. Heck, just being on Cardassia was enough to make O'Brien's hair stand on end, since that's one of the last places in the quadrant O'Brien would want to be or would be welcome.

I found Garak to be, well, Garak—mysterious and calculating, but a bit more considerate and a bit more trusting. After all, he has to revitalize a world and make it look as though someone else is doing the heavy work. I found myself enjoying the Cardassian story very much, but then again, I never could get enough of Garak. Rating: 🍌🍌🍌-1/2.

"Paradigm" takes place about four weeks after *Unity* and deals only with characters we've met primarily in the relaunch novels. If you're a fan of the Andorians, this is the story for you. Heather Jarman (whom I dubbed the "Andorian Historian" at last year's Shore Leave) creates a fairly extensive view of Andorian society, dealing with subjects that range from their history to their religious practices to Andorian sex.

Quite possibly, everything you wanted to know about the Andorians is in this book. Ensign Thirishar ch'Thane is summoned back to Andor to attend the funeral of one of his bond mates. He reluctantly does so with Ensign Prynn Tenmei and Lieutenant Commander Phillipa Matthias, DS9's resident counselor. Shar is considered something of an outcast on Andor, and to say that his visit is not greeted with open arms is an understatement.

All in all, a good character story, but woefully short on plot. A better plot would have dragged me deeper into the story and the characters, but a few times, I found myself wishing something, *anything* would happen. As I stated, if you like the Andorians, there's no better story. As for me, I enjoyed the sauce and the seasoning, but I just wished there was a little bit more meat on those bones. Rating:

🍌🍌🍌-1/2. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard

SCIENCE TREK: Threading the rings

Like the Cassini spacecraft, this month we swing from Venus to Saturn. OK, it's a bit more complicated than that, but you get the idea.

Last month, I went golfing for the first time in about two years. Although I wasn't as rusty as I thought (It's like falling off a bike.), I wasn't, to put it kindly, at the top of my game—some good shots, many more bad shots. You'd think it would be easy to tap an inch-wide ball seven feet into a hole three times its size, but it's not as easy as it looks on TV most of the time.

Somewhat more difficult, though, is sending a spacecraft a couple hundred million miles and threading it through the rings of Saturn—a gap perhaps a few dozen miles across. Pretty good for a couple of Earth boys and girls in the second half of the 20th century! (Cassini was launched in 1997.)

Trek aside: If anyone still doubts the reach of *Star Trek*, CNN's lead "Science & Space" article on the Cassini mission begins with a note that Patrick Stewart's signature is among the 616,400 sent to Saturn with the spacecraft. Is yours?

If you've been involved in other, earthly matters recently, here's the skinny: Cassini blasted off about seven and a half years ago, escaping both Earth and a controversy over its nuclear power source. (Some worried that a launch disaster or a later collision with Earth would disperse enough plutonium to kill who knows how many people.) That didn't happen, of course, and Cassini headed first toward Venus before looping past Earth twice.

OK, I know what you're thinking: Did you cover this in some column in the distant past? I believe I did, but I'm going to say it again. Trying to send a spacecraft away from the sun, out of its gravity well, you've got two choices: One is to load up enough fuel to force your way out; or two, you swing by an inner world, siphoning a second or two off its orbit to gain enough energy to reach the outer planets. Thus, thanks to Cassini, our year is a split-second or two shorter (think more split than second).

Once it built up its head of steam, Cassini was on its long road toward the gap in the rings. One quick swing past Saturn's possibly-a-former-comet moon Phoebe with its retro-grade orbit, and the craft was on target to pass

through the rings. (Ring stats: Each about 1 mile thick and 60 miles across, overall about 106,000 miles across, and with enough mass to make a very, very small moon.)

After passing through the gap, Cassini will settle into the heart of its four-year, 76-orbit mission. But wait, that's not all! Attached to Cassini is the European Space Agency-built probe, Huygens. In December, Huygens will separate from the mother ship and descend toward the surface of Titan, a moon larger than the planet Pluto. Unlike the probe Jupiter-bound Galileo loosed into the gas giant, Huygens may make it to Titan's surface and report back. As with Jupiter's moon Europa, there is speculation that Titan may harbor life-enabling organic compounds.

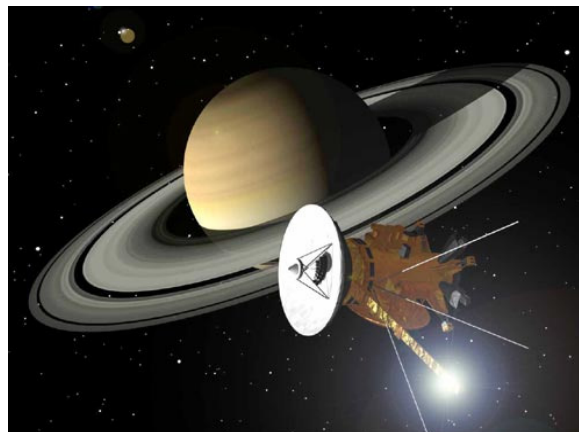
This isn't the first time we've been by the ringed planet. (Yes, I know that Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune have rings, but who really notices?) Pioneer 11 and both Voyager probes passed by on their way out of the solar system over 20 years ago, but Cassini is by far the closest we've been.

This is but one big step along the way, arrival and orbital insertion at Saturn. There's hopefully far more of this story to come.

Web Notes:

- <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/home/> (The skinny from the people who run it.);
- <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/space/07/01/signature.cassini.ap.ap/index.html> (You read it here first.);
- <http://ringmaster.arc.nasa.gov/saturn/saturn.html> (And you thought you'd had enough rings after *Return of the King*.); and
- <http://galileo.jpl.nasa.gov/> (First time we aimed a spacecraft at a gas giant.). ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies



A representation of the Cassini probe as it flies near Saturn.

ART CREDITS:

thetpg.com	1
psiphi.org	2
saturn.jpl.nasa.gov	3
whatsbetter.com	4
dcomics.com	5
Presentation Task Force	6
desktopstarships.com	Insert front
sci-fi-online.50megs.com	Insert back

REFLECTIONS: “X” marks the spot—2

The X-Files had a great advantage while not being shot in California. After all, it’s hard to conjure up images of the grotesque and grisly with constant sunshine and palm trees in the background. The Vancouver landscapes they chose were often bleak and dreary. There was rarely any sunshine, and at night, there always seemed to be a chill in the air. What better place to make horror than where the texture and layout bring feelings of doom and dread?

The first season was and still is, in my opinion, the show’s best. There has never been a greater collection of the macabre than in *The X-Files*’ inaugural airing. The mood was dour and bleak, the paranormal adversaries were original and extremely clever, and the show was genuinely funny! The humor stemmed entirely from the characters, not forced from the plot as it would be in later seasons.

The show was clicking on all cylinders. It was well written, and the critics liked it. The only sore spot was the audience—or lack thereof. As summer approached, this would change dramatically. FOX was set to cancel it but noticed a spike in the ratings during the summer re-runs. Evidently, word of mouth had spread throughout genre fandom, and people who weren’t hip to the *Files* before were now tuning in. The numbers surged and, much to FOX’s surprise, all of a sudden and out of nowhere, the network had a top 20 Friday night hit!

FOX didn’t know what to do. The network didn’t know whether to defecate or go blind. Some say, judging by their penchant for quick cancellation, the executives went blind, but that’s an argument for another time. Anyway, they quickly renewed the show for 22 more episodes, and no one was more surprised than the show’s star (at the time), David Duchovny.

“I didn’t see this show lasting very long,” he said. “I didn’t see any continuity, and I did see some difficulty in making this series good. I thought there would be problems in the fact that this show was essentially an anthology and that the only real constant was these two characters.”

Despite Duchovny’s reluctance to embrace his character *and* his show, he was always trying to get out of his contract, even

though his character was the key to the show’s success. Fox Mulder was one of the more original characters on television. In addition to being a trained psychologist, he was an expert on the paranormal and unexplained phenomena. He also had a rather sick sense of humor and a penchant for pornography. (I’m not kidding.)

He wasn’t much of a fighter; in fact, he got beat up a lot. He was always losing his gun. Dana Scully, his partner, was a much better shot, and neither he nor she always saved the day. But he was a tenacious investigator, dogged and determined. Like a pit bull, when he latched onto something, he shook it until something came loose. He wasn’t always smart in his dealings with his superiors, but his closure rate was so high that the Bureau had to keep him out of respect for his results, if not the agent himself.

Now that I think about it, the premise of *The X-Files* reminds me of a TV movie that aired on NBC back in 1977. The movie was about a criminologist and his usually tipsy doctor friend who investigated the paranormal. It starred Robert Culp and Gig Young. What made it so interesting to me was not only the presence of the supernatural, but it was also produced by Gene Roddenberry. But I digress.

Come the fall of 1994, *The X-Files* came back, armed with a full commitment of episodes and millions of new fans. Those who didn’t tune in until the second season (and there were, as I said, millions) found themselves a bit confused by what was transpiring. The *X-Files* had been disbanded, Scully was reassigned (Gillian Anderson was pregnant, and they had to disguise it), Mulder had a new partner—Alex Krycek—and Deep Throat had been shot. It was no wonder that when the FX cable channel started showing re-runs of *The X-Files*, it was the highest-rated show in cable history; at least, the first season was. That made sense to me since most people missed the first season, and they needed answers.

Next month: the rise and the fall of *The X-Files*. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



Fox Mulder and Dana Scully of *The X-Files*.

RANTINGS: A postcard from an undisclosed location

A couple of years ago, *Voyager* actress Jeri Ryan filed for divorce from her husband, Congressman Jack Ryan. (She married a character in a Tom Clancy novel; who knew?) She said that she was pressured to have sex in public in clubs in New York, Paris and New Orleans. Neither Ms. Ryan nor the Congressman leaked this information.

This bombshell was among more than 400 pages of records ordered released by a Los Angeles superior court judge who ruled on media requests to unseal documents from the Ryan case. That's right, a media company filed suit and publicized charges from their child custody case. I guess public figures really don't have *any* expectation of privacy, but then, in this Patriot Act era, neither do the rest of us.

Apparently, he took her to at least one S/M club. She refused to participate and made him leave with her. NOTHING ELSE EVER HAPPENED. But apparently now, perverted thoughts can end a political career. There has been considerable buzz about this on the Internet. The average *Star Trek* geek would rather be on his knees with his palm pilot worshipping her "Borg implants."

This is being written just before July 4th, so as Q said in "Encounter at Farpoint:" "The issue at hand is patriotism." Contrary to what the administration says, people who question their government policies and practices DO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY.

There was an incredible level of patriotism after the 9/11 attacks. We were hurting, we were angry, we were sad after those attacks, and some of us still have unresolved feelings. We were looking for someone to lead us out of this, and we turned to the president. Instead, we were given a totalitarian political agenda wrapped up in a flag, and we were expected to salute.

We were told in school that the United States government is "of the people, by the people and for the people." There can be no greater proof that this is just a fairy tale than the current occupational authority of the United States, which practices government "of the conservatives, by the contractors and for the corporations."

Michael Moore's film *Fahrenheit 9/11*

opened as the number one movie of the June 25-28 weekend. The right wing is trying to stop it. Conservative groups are going to the Federal Elections Commission, saying advertising for this film violates campaign finance laws when they feature a presidential candidate. They are also trying to intimidate theatre owners into refusing to show the film.

Most evening shows sold out over that weekend. I'll bet that Fatherland Security was out there taking pictures of all who were in line to see the film. If they were at the Avalon Theatre on Saturday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m., I hope they got my best side. I'm sure that these will be used when the congressional hearings on the Defense of Free Speech Act (which actually repeals the First Amendment) with a new round of witch hunts within the next couple of years, and there will be a 21st Century Joe McCarthy railing about traitors in some government agency.

If you haven't seen this film, you should. If your politics run to the left, like mine, you'll love it. If your politics goose step to the right, you'll hate it. Some of the more fanatical will call for Michael Moore to be tried for treason. For *what?* For making a film questioning the actions of our leaders? Last time I checked, in this country, we had a right and a responsibility to do just that. And as I've said before, most of our leaders' actions have been highly questionable.

Walt Kelly in the comic strip *Pogo* used to write: "We have met the enemy, and he is us." The U.S. accused Hussein's government of torture of his citizens. We overthrew him, took over his country, and guess what? We torture people in Iraqi prisons. Talk about a country under new management. I think that when any government engages in the more reprehensible actions of their enemies, they become NO BETTER than their enemy. I wonder, though, now that the U.S. has transferred sovereignty in Iraq two days early, does this set the stage for a premature Iraqi nation? Sorry, I guess I beat David Brewer to the punch line.

"When beggars die there are no comets seen; the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes." ■

Officer Peter Chewning



"I'm not bad, I'm just drawn that way."

COMING EVENTS

JULY

July 17..... Let's get together and discuss how this year's Shore Leave convention went during our July club meeting. For directions, check out the insert that is included with this newsletter!

AUGUST

August 21..... Time for our club olympics/summer outing! Plan now to attend this yearly fun club happening!

SEPTEMBER

September 18..... Football, falling leaves and ... our first meeting of the fall "brr" months! Be sure to watch this space for more information as it becomes available!

OCTOBER

October 16..... It would be a scary thing to miss the October meeting! Mark your calendar today!

NOVEMBER

November 20..... Be thankful that it's time for the November club meeting!

HOLODICTATION: Looking at ourselves through the looking glass

As I am recovering from my surgery, I've had to deal with a lot of things: emotions and boredom, not to mention the lack of movement in my left arm. I started my physical therapy the day after the surgery (no rest for the weary).

I'm sure that we all think our problems are the worst things in the world. I still have a hard time sleeping, and I still cannot do a lot of the things that I want—or have—to do.

Each time I go into physical therapy, I can do a little more than I could before.

The therapy center is great. I've gotten to know the therapists and a lot of the other patients who go there for treatment. I've learned some real life lessons from a few people there. The first is a young lady named Sally.

Sally is 14 years old with long dark hair. She is very beautiful and has a great smile.

She had a tumor on her spine that required a number of surgeries; she attends therapy four times a week, some of which require her to be in an arthritic pool. I've never heard her complain about anything she has had to do or anything she has gone through.

The next two people are a brother and sister; they both have a disease that affects

their spinal cords and their legs. The brother also has some kind of heart and kidney problems. They are going to therapy not to cure their problems, but to stop the progression of their illnesses. Both of them are wheelchair-bound, but they still have a positive outlook on life.

The last person I want to tell you about is a man named Lenny. I first saw Lenny about the middle of June. He was already doing his therapy when I arrived. Lenny is in his late 20s to middle 30s; he can hardly talk and is wheelchair-bound. His mother was there and had to help the therapist communicate with him. Part of his therapy included raising and moving his legs while he was lying down. The part of his therapy that stood out in my mind was when he had to walk around the therapy center, with a walking device, while the therapist assisted him.

After Lenny left, I was talking to the therapist about the usual stuff and told him: "You know, after seeing Lenny, my problems don't seem that big anymore."

I guess my challenge is to be understanding, helpful and, most of all, to be a friend. Till next month, shalom. ■

Weapons Officer Patrick McBee

