



Jeri Ryan, who portrayed Seven of Nine on *Voyager*, is pregnant ... again.

Star Trek family remembers the past, looks to the future

A special tribute has been unveiled to mark the life of *Star Trek* star James "Scotty" Doohan in Linlithgow, Scotland.

Doohan's widow Wende and son Chris joined other family members to unveil a plaque commemorating the late *Trek* legend. At the age of 85, he passed away on July 20, 2005.

The plaque was placed in Annet House Museum, High Street, Linlithgow, on Monday, September 17.

The museum already hosts the James Doohan Memorial exhibition that displays personal memorabilia and props.

Councillor Martyn Day, executive member for Development and Transport, said: "We are delighted to welcome the Doohan family to West Lothian for this very special event.

"James Doohan and his memorable *Star Trek* character, Engineer Montgomery Scott, are known to millions all over the world, and it is fitting that a permanent memorial is erected in Linlithgow, Scotty's future birthplace.

"James Doohan's widow Wende and son Chris have given their full support to the exhibition, and we are pleased they are making the trip over to unveil the commemorative plaque," he said.

▲ Jeri Ryan, who wed French chef Christophe Emé in the Loire Valley in June, is expecting a baby, according to *People Magazine*.

"She is thrilled about the new addition, and they are very, very happy," said her representative, David Lust. "They are beyond excited and are beaming from ear to ear."

Although she does not yet know the gender of her child, Ryan is due in March, 2008. She also has a 12-year-old son, Alex, from a previous relationship.

Ryan is best known among genre fans for her role as ex-Borg Seven of Nine in *Star Trek: Voyager*. She joined the show at the beginning of its fourth season.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in theater from Northwestern University.

At their wedding, Ryan and Emé exchanged vows before about 120 guests at a castle in Emé's hometown outside Angers, France.

Ryan returns as attorney Jessica Devlin in the CBS drama *Shark*; the show's second season premieres on Sunday, September 23, at 10 p.m.

Outside of acting, Ryan and Emé own the Hollywood French restaurant, the Ortolan.

Ryan was born on February 22, 1968, in Munich, Germany. Her family currently lives in Los Angeles. ■

September means "Hard Times" for our meeting

The next meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be on Saturday, September 22, at the Hard Times Cafe located in College Park, Maryland.

Dinner should begin around 5 p.m., followed by our club meeting, which will start no later than 7:00 p.m.

We'll find out what fellow club members

are up to and hear the latest news about *Star Trek* and other sci-fi television shows and feature films.

Do you need directions in order for you to be able to make it to the this month's club meeting? Download this month's insert, which you can now find in our online Yahoo! Group. ■

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CAPTAIN'S LOG: "World Enough and Time"

I remember when former club member John Staton told me about *Star Trek: New Voyages* a few years ago. At first, I was less than thrilled about the concept of recasting the original *Enterprise* crew, but the prospect of having new Classic *Trek* to watch was just too enticing for me to pass up.

Since then, a number of other fan projects have come along, from *Starship Exeter*, which has been caught in a time warp between acts of its second episode, to *Starship Farragut*, a local effort that will release its second program, "For Want of a Nail," on October 10.

Still, *New Voyages* was the first to brave this new frontier, and I've been following their progress for years. I remember expressing my disappointment with the non-ending of their Chekov-centered episode, "To Serve All My Days," and I worried that future endeavors might not live up to fans' (or my) expectations.

The latest release, "World Enough and Time," is now available online, and it has an interesting plot.

When testing of a new Romulan weapon leaves the *Enterprise* trapped in a distortion field, Sulu and a new female crew member shuttle to a Romulan vessel to get information on the device that could enable Kirk and company to break free.

The field begins to deteriorate rapidly, and Scotty tries to beam Sulu and his crewmate back. When he does, the crew finds that what was 30 seconds to them was 30 years to the helmsman, who now has an adult daughter and no longer remembers the data he was sent to retrieve.

With that said, it's time to put on my Clint Eastwood hat and get reviewing.

The good: I've read many glowing reviews of "World Enough and Time," including one from Gene Roddenberry's son, Rod. Let me put it this way: This episode sets a new standard against which all other independent *Star Trek* productions will be judged.

Yes, it's *that* well done.

George Takei does a terrific job as the older Sulu, from duking it out with Captain Kirk to receiving the character's first mind-meld from Spock, a scene that could have been awful but instead was gripping.

With each outing, the "new crew" becomes easier to accept as the classic characters, and I thought this was definitely James Cawley's best performance as my second-favorite Kirk. That's high praise from a longtime William Shatner fan.

Just as Andy Bray scored as the new Chekov in the "TSAMD," John Lim was great taking over the role of Sulu. Not only did he nail Takei's mannerisms, but I came away appreciating the character better than I did in all of Classic *Trek*.

On top of that, I have to say Christina Moses was wonderful as Sulu's daughter, Alana. Her character was pivotal to the episode, and she pulled it off beautifully.

The props and costumes were excellent as always, but the biggest improvement came in the direction. The episode had many interesting camera angles, and the lighting was reminiscent of the mood evoked in many first-season *Trek* programs.

The bad: The only time I felt I wasn't watching "real *Trek*" unfortunately came during a pivotal scene.

As the 30-year-old Sulu exclaims that the other person in the transporter beam is his daughter, the camera inexplicably cuts away from Takei in mid-sentence to focus on Kirk's reaction. I can only assume that some problem with the footage forced the *New Voyages* team to jump to Cawley's face sooner than they wanted to.

The ugly: Ironically, the biggest flaw in "World Enough and Time" came in getting the episode to the people who wanted to see it.

After getting positive reactions to showings at Shore Leave in July and the Las Vegas Creation con in August, the *New Voyages* people should have been ready for an enormous amount of interest in the film when it was released.

I know the crew had their computer experts run a number of tests, and I'm sure they expected people to be able to download the episode at warp speed when the time came, but sadly, things didn't turn out that way, and if it were up to me, I'd have different computer experts when "Blood and Fire" comes out a few months from now.

Next month: My review of the second *Farragut* episode, "For Want of a Nail." ■

Captain Randy Hall



New Voyages' latest offering stars George Takei from Classic *Trek*.

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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SCIENCE *TREK*: These are the new voyages ...

It was 20 years ago today that the Great Bird asked the--. Wait, wrong generation. Let's try this. I was in high school listening to Q107 when another Q appeared on the television screen. Sorry if that makes you feel old, but it was two decades (or about 631,134,720 seconds) ago that *Star Trek: The Next Generation* appeared on television screens across America and eventually the world.

Twenty years ago, these were the new voyages of the Starship *Enterprise*. Her continuing mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before.

The question, looking back, is did they? Explore strange new worlds, seek out new life and new civilizations? Split infinitives once more?

As specified by the *TNG Writer and Director's Guide*, the ship's mission (with commentary) is five-fold:

To expand the body of human knowledge. (Curious wording as the Federation and Starfleet was not limited to humans ... but then the audience is — as far as we know)

To provide assistance as required to Earth/Federation colonies, commerce and travelers. (Obviously, Earth plays a major role in the Federation, like the U.S. in the United Nations)

To provide for Earth/Federation security.

To seek out new life, new civilizations. (The one line from that famous quote above and it's buried at number four)

To provide further understanding of the universe and humanity's (there's that word again) place in it. "Who are we? Where have we come from? What are we about? And where are we going?"

Throughout the history of space travel, accomplishing the mission safely has been the key to gaining insight into the universe, our world and our capabilities, both technological and biological.

Let's take a look at episodes from each of *Next Gen's* seasons. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to read the description below, compare it to the mission objectives above, and then choose one of these four reactions:

- Huh?
- I remember that episode!
- Ah, I see where that fit in/did not fit in

with their objectives.

- 10-20 page essay explaining response number three.

Season 1: "Angel One" The U.S.S. *Enterprise* crew travels to Angel One, a planet run by women, to search for survivors from a Federation freighter disabled by an asteroid collision seven years earlier. Men = refugees sentenced to death, Wesley brings a virus aboard, and oh yes, the ship needs to fend off Romulans in the Neutral Zone. Riker saves men, Dr. Crusher cures virus, and ship rushes off to fight the Romulans.

Season 2: "A Matter of Honor" A special exchange program brings a Benzite named Mendon aboard the *Enterprise* and gives Riker the opportunity to become the first Federation officer to serve on board a Klingon ship. Meanwhile, a pesky space virus (I hate those) infects the hulls of both ships. Putting to use his brief "Worf's Kourse in Basic Klingon," Riker ingeniously takes command of the Klingon ship and orders the *Enterprise* to surrender.

Season 3: "Evolution" Dr. Paul Stubbs, an eminent scientist, has come aboard the *Enterprise* to study the explosion of a star in the Kavis Alpha Sector, which occurs only once every 196 years. As the crew prepares to launch Stubbs' research unit, the ship is suddenly drawn into the fiery path of the stellar matter. The *Enterprise* computers initially fail to respond to commands to stabilize, yet even after the ship is restored to normal, the computer reports no malfunction. Teenage science nerd (Wesley) + science experiment (nanites) = bad idea.

Season 4: "Best of Both Worlds, Part II" Captain Picard had been captured by the Borg. As the new season begins, his captors have mutilated him into a half-Borg, half-human called Locutus and have been manipulating him to gain insight into human behavior to aid their plan to conquer Earth and enslave humanity. They have also accessed Picard's extensive knowledge of the *Enterprise*, its crew and their strategy to defend Earth. The rest is obvious, so let me explain it. Oops, wrong show.

Season 5: "The Perfect Mate" The battle between the Krios and Valt Minor systems is set to end aboard the neutral ground of the *Enterprise* in a Ceremony of Reconciliation. Kriosian Ambassador Briam arrives first with a gift for

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Commander Riker (right) defends Wesley Crusher during *TNG's* "Angel One."

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startrek.com 1, 3, 4, 6
newvoyages.com 2
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REFLECTIONS: Lightning in a bottle again

“Captain’s log, stardate 42353.7. Our destination is planet Cygnus IV, beyond which lies the great unexplored mass of the galaxy ...” —Jean-Luc Picard’s first log entry as captain of the *Enterprise*.

As the song says, “It was 20 years ago today,” when Eugene Wesley Roddenberry did what Leonard Nimoy said would be impossible. Not only did Roddenberry create another *Star Trek* show, but he created another POPULAR *Star Trek* show.

In doing so, he managed to “catch lightning in a bottle” a second time, making Roddenberry the only man in history to create a sequel to a television show and have that series equally as popular as the original.

Star Trek: The Next Generation aired on the week of September 28, 1987. The show would be syndicated, another bold move on Roddenberry’s part. At that time, syndication was viewed as the domain of reruns and talk shows. First-run shows for syndication were considered a “fool’s error.” Now it is the norm of the television industry.

I’ll tell you how long ago that really was. Our first and second officers were still in high school. The Redskins won a Super Bowl that year. My hair was still black. (It used to match the rest of me.) I watched the first episode on October 4. This was syndication, you understand, so everyone did not view the pilot at the same time, so this will be a two-part article. I’m such a stickler for detail.

So I dusted off my old *Next Generation* tapes. (Yes, I still have them—the original airings, commercials and all!) and sat down to immerse myself in the allure that was the late 1980s.

I expected to see a clunky show with outdated production values and moldy script ideas, but much to my surprise, the show holds up quite well, especially the early years. Granted, it took half of the first season to find its legs, but that’s pretty much any and every show produced in Hollywood.

During the second half of the first season, you could see that the show was going to be something special.

The most surprising thing to me about those early years was the amount of actual science and the science-fiction plotting the show used during its first two years. Not only were the show’s roots firmly planted in science, but

Next Generation gave actual scientific speculation on the very things the real scientific community was concerned with at the time much more than I remembered. Unfortunately, any and all scientific speculation and interest disappeared sometime in the third season.

Ten years ago, in these very pages, I wrote about the negative reaction of the fan base and how hostile most fans were to the idea of a new *Star Trek*. I also wrote about being chased out of a convention because I told everyone how much I liked the new show. I was lucky to get out of there alive. Ahhhhh, good times.

Despite fan misgivings and hostile reactions, the show struck a chord with many new fans, people who were not necessarily familiar with the Original Series.

I know it’s hard to believe, but there were some folks who were ignorant of *Star Trek*. These people made *Next Generation* the hit that it was, not the hit that some people believe it became.

A lot of people believe that *Next Gen* didn’t become a *bona fide* hit until its third season. Well, let’s squash that nasty rumor right here and now. *Next Generation* was a hit from its first telecast, and not just a minor hit, but a major one. There was never a moment when *Next Generation* was not popular, even when it started to become pretty bad.

Every season, *Next Generation* gained in viewership, and every season, it would lose something of itself in the process. Its exploration of the philosophical aspect of life would be augmented, its regard for science and scientific theory would diminish. As the seasons went on, the show would abandon its scientific roots for a more dramatic position. This helped the “mundanes” enjoy the show, but it left the die-hard science-fiction fans out in the cold. This would eventually fuel the unheard-of-at-the-time anti-*Star Trek* movement of the ’90s science fiction crowd and give birth to television shows supposedly designed to be “un-*Star Trek*.” C’mon, YOU know what show I’m talking about.

Next month: I will analyze *Next Generation* season by season, naming the best episodes from each. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



WAYNE'S WORLDS: They died too soon

It does my heart good to see so many science-fiction and genre-related shows on the airwaves. I struggle to watch and keep up with them all, but that's a good thing.

Being a genre fan means getting used to having your heart broken. How many times, prior to the Internet, did I rush home to catch the show I was currently passionate about, then plunk down in front of my TV in time to catch an unscheduled rerun of "Dateline NBC" or some reality show where my program was supposed to be?

Looking back, I can see that many shows actually paved the way for the current state of sci-fi on television. Still, I miss them and wish that, in true genre fashion, they would return from the dead.

With apologies to Lorenzo (who I am sure will weigh in on these sometime soon), I thought this time I'd honor some of my favorites that died way too soon.

Birds of Prey

This WB network program was intended to be another *Smallville*, this time focusing on some of the Batman family. Based on the comic book of the same name, the show featured intelligent women with abilities that complemented each other as they worked together as a team to take on mutant bad guys.

The main characters were Barbara Gordon, who went from Batgirl to being called Oracle after a serious injury put her in a wheelchair; the Huntress, the daughter of Bruce Wayne (Batman) and Selina Kyle (Catwoman) who had the ability to track and fight with the best of them; and Black Canary, the youngest of the crew. She had the sonic powers her comics counterpart had.

Add Alfred, the Waynes' butler, who provided caustic remarks and reality checks now and again, and you had a pretty varied crew.

I'm still convinced that this show would have survived if they had paired it with *Smallville* instead of airing it on a different night. Yes, the mutants were very reminiscent of the meteor-powered freaks that Clark faced week by week, but the setting was different (a large metropolitan area), and the women got to save the day in this show.

I will always be grateful to the show's producers for putting in a very short scene at the end of the final episode for the fans, many of whom knew this was the end. In it, Alfred

spoke on the phone with Batman, and he told the Dark Knight how proud he would be of his daughter and the rest, and that they will represent him very well as they continue to protect Gotham City just as he would do if he were there.

Witchblade

It has been rare for TNT to venture into genre territory, but this series, another based on a comic book, was special from the first episode.

I've often stated that magic can be an easy out for bad writers — you just call out the "woo-woo ray" and it solves everything without explanation. But this show was like *The Dresden Files* in that the magic was clearly defined and actually made sense.

Sara "Pez" Pezzini, a New York City detective, crossed paths with an ancient device of amazing power, and it attached itself to her arm. Yancy Butler did a great job of breathing life into this complex character.

Sadly, personal demons in the actress' life are blamed by some for this show being cancelled after only two seasons, but it was a wonderful thrill ride.

As an aside, if anyone remembers Will Yun Lee, who played Pez's partner Danny Woo, he'll be portraying Jae Kim in NBC's new upgrade of *Bionic Woman* this fall.

Brimstone

Fox has made a habit of bringing genre shows to the screen, only to cancel them far too soon, I feel. One of the best was this supernatural drama about Ezekiel Stone, a police detective (funny how that profession keeps showing up in sci-fi shows) who returned to Earth after 15 years to help the devil capture and return 113 of the worst bad guys to Hell.

Peter Horton, the star of the show, was trying to bring something different to TV. He did a wonderfully understated job of missing his old life while shooting the eyes out of the baddies, returning them to the Nether Regions.

I loved the twists and turns in this program. Even a car was one of the hellions. Stone had to blow out its headlights.

Smallville fans would recognize John Glover, who is Lionel Luthor, as the devil, one of the highlights of the program.

Sadly, Fox announced that the program was cancelled before the last episodes aired. No wonder the ratings went down after that! ■

Chief of Security Wayne Hall



Yancy Butler wielded the *Witchblade* on TNT.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

September 22 Our next club meeting will be on Saturday, September 22, at the Hard Times Cafe in College Park, Maryland! Meeting at 7 p.m.

SCIENCE TREK: These are the new voyages ... concluded

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Valtese leader Alrik, a fragile and irreplaceable item he asks to have declared off-limits. While on course to meet Alrik, the *Enterprise* is summoned to aid a Ferengi shuttle and beams aboard its two passengers. Picard and the crew learn their arrival was no coincidence when one of the Ferengi is caught trying to steal the gift. After being bumped by the Ferengi, the cocoon-like structure that houses the gift dissolves, revealing an exotic and beautiful woman. And Picard falls in love with her.

Season 6: "The Chase" Picard is surprised when Richard Galen, his old archaeology professor whom he hasn't seen in 30 years, pays a visit to the *Enterprise* and asks Picard to accompany him on a mission. The renowned archaeologist has made a discovery so profound that the findings could reverberate throughout the galaxy, but he will only reveal them to Picard if he agrees to join him on a lengthy, possibly year-long expedition. The offer is tempting to Picard, who once intended to make archaeology his life's work, but he chooses duty instead, prompting the professor to angrily leave the starship. Soon afterward, the *Enterprise* receives a distress call — Galen's ship is under attack by Yridians. After inadvertently destroying the attacking vessel with a phaser hit, the crew is able to transport Galen aboard, but not before he takes a disruptor blast in the chest at point-blank range. Picard is at the professor's side when he dies in Sickbay, taking his secret with him to the grave.

Now that explains it all!

Season 7: "Phantasms" Data is disturbed by his first nightmare, in which a group of workmen attack and destroy him. He tells Geordi about the dream while the pair works to install the ship's new warp core, and Geordi points out that he has probably reached a new level in his dream program. Soon, Picard and Riker interrupt to try out the new warp core. But when they attempt to engage the drive, it fails, and the lights on the *Enterprise* shut off. Disappointed, Geordi says that he will have to reconfigure the plasma conduit. That evening, Troi pays a visit to Data in his quarters, having been alerted to his nightmare. Data tells her that he is afraid to activate his dream sequence again, but she encourages him to keep at it. Data is soon asleep and dreaming, this time seeing Worf eating a piece of "cellular peptide cake," which is really Troi, who has taken the form of a half-woman, half-cake. He awakens surrounded by a concerned Troi, Worf and Geordi, who inform him that his chronometer failed and he has overslept for the first time. What's going on? If you guessed interphasic leeches, you win a free cellular peptide cake!

Your homework assignment is: Find five episodes that exemplify one or more of the mission objectives and bring them to the meeting. ■

Synopses based on:

<http://www.startrek.com/startrek/view/series/TNG/episodes/index.html>

Second Officer Phil Margolies



The Enterprise D on Next Generation.

PHASERS ON FUN: SHELDON

