

Kate Erwin (left) and Brad Siegel on the *Enterprise D* bridge prepare for the biggest “trek” of their lives—marriage.

Couple married at *Star Trek* exhibit in Philadelphia

A couple from Maine boldly went where few others have gone before: marriage at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia with a *Star Trek* setting.

Brad Siegel and Kate Erwin, residents of Maine, won a competition to get married at the institute earlier this month. As a result, the couple was dressed in full *Trek* regalia.

Together, the bride, in a strapless crimson dress, and the groom, in his *Star Trek: The Next Generation* London-made uniform, found themselves on the deck of a mock *Enterprise*, standing before a Vulcan-speaking Buddhist priest and surrounded by green faeries and dark angels.

In a way, it had everything one would hope for in a dream wedding: romantic theatrics and the promise of intergalactic adventures amid the world’s most comprehensive collection of *Trek* ships and props gathered from 40 years of the show’s filming.

“We were so lucky to win this,” said Erwin, whose online entry with Siegel was chosen from among the 15 submitted to the Franklin Institute, which has been

displaying the *Star Trek* exhibition until September 20.

For Erwin and Siegel, celebrating their union in the Feels Planetarium—with purple orchids landing atop a sphere of black roses and stars lashing showers across the coiled curtains—was more than a “dream come true.”

“It was so meaningful to see family dressed in *Star Trek* garb, supporting us in one thing that plays such a big part in our lives,” said 53-year-old Siegel, who met his 34-year-old bride three years ago.

After the ceremony, with Michael Giacchino’s memorable score playing in the background, the couple went on to enjoy the rest of their winning package, which included a galaxy-inspired champagne toast and wedding cake, two nights at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing and a four-hour private party at the *Trek* exhibit with up to 80 friends.

For those jealously gawking at that night’s wedding, Siegel and Erwin’s union goes to show that it takes true devotion to turn a human ritual into a magical one. ■

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Hard Times again for the September club meeting!

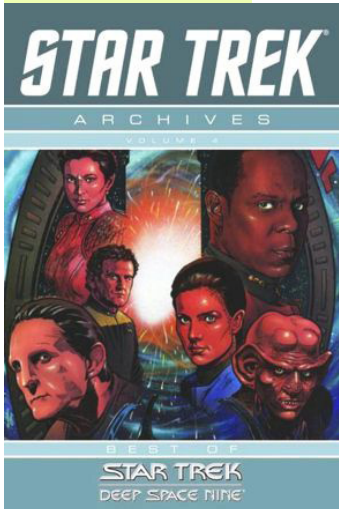
The next monthly meeting of the *U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek* and Science-Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, September 19, at the Hard Times Cafe in College Park, Maryland.

We’ll get together to order our dinner at 5:00 p.m. Our club meeting will start no later than 7:00 p.m.

During this month’s meeting, we’ll talk about what fellow club members have been up to and catch up on the latest sci-fi television shows and feature films. We’ll also discuss our trip to *Star Trek: The Exhibition* in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For directions to this month’s meeting, get the latest Insert. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: Best of *DS9*



The cover of the latest "Star Trek Archives," covering *Deep Space Nine*.

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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I might as well admit it at the start: I'm a big-time fan of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

The show mixed clever stories, great characters and wonderful actors. The series even changed continuity from being the bane of *Trek's* existence and made it into a linchpin of the series.

As we've discussed before, the *Trek* license for producing new comics has bounced from one company to another, but *DS9's* existence in the four-color world can be credited mostly to a short-lived producer—

Malibu Comics.

Malibu put together a great team and told them to produce great stories. Writer Mike W. Barr, who has a fondness for writing murder mysteries, and long-time *Trek* artist Gordon Purcell put out terrific stuff.

Sadly, Malibu was too good for its own good. In 1994, Marvel Comics bought out Malibu, reportedly to acquire its groundbreaking coloring studio. Most of the company's series were cancelled.

About 10 years later, IDW Publishing obtained the rights to produce new comics of Classic *Trek* and *The Next Generation*. The company figured that readers would know about those two series, but balked at such properties as *DS9* and *Voyager*.

Nevertheless, IDW also acquired the right to reprint earlier material, including *DS9*. One result of that agreement has been a series of *Star Trek* archives spotlighting other parts of that universe.

That led to a compilation of Malibu's first five *Deep Space Nine* comics, which were set during the first year of the TV series and produced a pair of two-parters with a murder mystery in the middle.

"Stowaway" was the title of the first tale, which began when Jake Sisko and Nog tried to sneak out of a class being taught by Keiko O'Brien and accidentally released a toxic green mold into the station. The substance grew and spread quickly, lead-

ing to the appearance of three Cardassian ships under the command of Gul Dukat.

His offer: Allow Cardassian scientists to board the station to find a solution—or refuse the offer, which would result in the deaths of everyone aboard *Deep Space Nine*.

Kira's response was certainly in character: Allow the Cardassians on the station, she stated, and Dukat and other representatives of their empire could reclaim the station—as well as Bajor itself.

One of the interesting characters in the first story was Captain Johnson of the *U.S.S. Armstrong*, who looked a lot like radio host and entertainer John Tesh. The universe can be a curious place sometimes.

Doctor Julian Bashir and Science Officer Jadzia Dax determined that the mold was feeding on the oxygen in the air, so they came up with a formula that would eradicate the moss.

The story ended with Gul Dukat calling the station and expecting only a few survivors, but Sisko told the surprised Cardassian that they had been able to take care of the situation themselves.

"Old Wounds" was the title of the next storyline. Gul Trelar, who was nearing the end of his life, asked for permission to spend his last days on the planet where he was born. Kira and the Bajorans said the "Butcher of Bajor" could surely find other accommodations.

Starfleet told Sisko that Trelar could stay on the station, complete with several members of his family and a holosuite that looked like the bedroom of his childhood, down to a representation of his mother.

Yeah, that wasn't going to last long. During an evening dinner with Trelar, Kira could barely contain her anger toward the Cardassian (who killed a friend of hers during the occupation of Bajor). He responded to her emotional outburst by stating that Bajor benefitted from the industry and technology the Cardassians brought.

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SCIENCE TREK: Ballast in, ballast out

Every so often there's an article in Wayne's newspaper that I just can't throw out. Sometimes, that's because I have glue on my hands, sometimes because it's a really good article, and sometimes because it gives me an idea for *Science Trek*. This month's column was born of the latter category.

Every Monday, the *W. Post* publishes a science column in the "A" section amidst a tsunami of ads. A couple of weeks ago, the *Post* printed a column entitled "Major Shipping Route Fosters a Plague of Sea Life," discussing how species travel inadvertently yet invasively across great bodies of water via the ballast tanks of ocean-going vessels.

You can see where this is going, can't you?

For those three people (you know who you are) who have no clue, let me 'splain. First, a history lesson, but before that, a definition. A ballast tank is used on a ship (the water-going kind) to maintain buoyancy. That is, if a ship rides too high on the water, it has a greater tendency to capsize (get knocked over) by large swells (waves). Ballast lowers the center of gravity of the ship, increasing stability.

When a ship gets close to a shallow harbor, though, it dumps the ballast—which is typically sea water taken on when the ship left port. Often, it's not just water that gets drawn into the ballast tank, but small sea life and vegetation, such as Fishhook waterfleas, red or brown algae, fourspine sticklebacks and zebra mussels. These foreign life forms are thus transported to destinations not prepared for them (i.e., no predators or mitigating factors to control population).

The use of ballast and the problems associated with the inadvertent transfer of biological entities is not new. Ships have been using ballast for thousands of years. Even though laws are intended to prevent contamination from ballistic creatures, the harm has been done do bodies of water, including the Great Lakes and the

Chesapeake Bay.

So what's this got to do with science fiction, you ask? (As if you didn't know). Ever read or watch *The Andromeda Strain*? S'okay, it wasn't a ballast bearing ship, but you get the idea. Contamination of one world with the biological detritus of another can be a bad thing.

In the real world, the fear of such contamination was the reason the early Apollo astronauts were quarantined upon their return from the moon, until scientists determined they harbored no lunar bacteria. It's a two-way street, of course. Landers and craft intended to operate on other worlds, such as Mars, are cleaned of Terran microscopic life so as not to contaminate other planets. (Remember how susceptible the Martians were to the common microbes per *War of the Worlds*.)

As I said, though, it's a two-way street and we're in the (very, very early) planning stages of sending people to Mars and returning them safely to Earth. Such journeys would likely be preceded by sample return missions. While we're deliberately bringing chunks of Mars back to Earth for study, who knows what may tag along if indeed there's anything on Mars to tag along.

Makes you wonder about microbes or other life forms that may be transported inadvertently aboard runabouts and shuttles, or ships like *Voyager*, *Serenity*, or the *Millennium Falcon*. An interesting concept, I do say. Perhaps some science-fiction club writers group should tackle it.

So what, you say? What's a few Eurasian round goby deposited in the waters off Duluth? Just keep in mind what would have happened if the *Nostromo* had made it back to Earth bearing its alien cargo. And I don't mean we would have had AVP 20 years ago. ■

Second Officer Phil Margolies

Web Notes:

- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/30/>

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Phil wonders, is there a fungus among us?

ART CREDITS:

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REFLECTIONS: Lightning strikes again—2

We continue to chronicle the amazing inaugural season of *Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda*.

I am still amazed with the ease and poise *Andromeda* demonstrated in its first year. Most shows start off rather shaky since the writers still trying to find the show's voice, but *Andromeda* hit the ground running and never looked back.

This can be credited to Robert Hewitt Wolfe and his incredible writing staff. It was obvious from the start that the writers had a plan and were not just writing by the seat of their pants.

• “Angel Dark, Demon Bright”—Robert Hewitt Wolfe

In an effort to teach Trance Gemini to pilot the slipstream, she inadvertently (?) threw the ship back in time 300 years, two days before the “Battle of Withead,” the final battle of the Nietzschean rebellion.

It is extremely rare in television, film or any type of media that an episode or story is great in the first reading/viewing, but even greater the second time around. I knew this was a great episode the first time I saw it, but I really didn't realize how great it was until I saw the rerun! Upon a second viewing, I was totally blown away.

Commonwealth legend has it that one ship stood tall against 500 Nietzschean ships and won. Nietzschean legend has it that one ship, piloted by the Angel of Death, destroyed 100 hundred ships. The reality of the situation was that the *Andromeda Ascendant* destroyed 1,000 Nietzschean ships lying in wait to ambush the Commonwealth fleet. This was a pivotal moment in Commonwealth history, and *Andromeda* was thrown smack dab in the middle of it. Coincidence?

Not at all! Upon a second viewing, I realized that once Trance piloted the ship back in time, there was a curious smile on her face as she got out of the slipstream chair. At first, I thought this was a case of a pre-destined paradox, but then I realized that it was done on purpose. Trance pur-

posely brought them back in time for the battle. A battle she knew that the *Andromeda* was supposed to be in.

Trance made sure everyone played his or her part. Harper's building of an explosive device that ended up killing 100,000 Nietzscheans. Talking Tyr out of stealing the Maru and joining the Nietzschean fleet. And making sure that Dylan became the “Angel of Death.” Brilliant episode. Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★.

• “The Ties That Bind” – Ethlie Ann Vare

The *Andromeda* saved a Wayist ship that had survived an attack. The pilot turned out to be Beka's scoundrel brother.

We get to delve deeper into Beka's past. Rapheal Valentine was a swindler, con man and thief and he was Beka's brother. Meanwhile, we had an unknown attacker (first seen in the episode “D Minus Zero”) firing on the *Andromeda* and a Wayist monk, Sym Causa, who also was not what he seemed.

We also had a group called the “Restors,” an intergalactic organization of environmentalists that sought to halt all slipstream travel in the universe. They were “space huggers,” who also inhabited the mystery ship that had been trailing and attacking the *Andromeda*. Then we discovered that Raph was also working for the FTA, the Free Trade Association, which saw the “Restors” as a threat.

A good episode, not great, but good, and it lays the seeds for several stories to come. Rating: ★ ★ ★ -1/2.

• “Banks of the Lethe” – Zack Stentz/ Ashley Edward Miller

A signal from the past brought Dylan and the *Andromeda* back to the black hole that held him prisoner only to find that the signal was 300 years old and from Dylan's old flame, Sara.

Perseids were performing an experiment on the *Andromeda*, using the black
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Why did Trance “accidentally” fling the *Andromeda Ascendant* into the past?

WAYNE'S WORLDS: Syfy's *Sanctuary* on DVD

Created by Damian Kindler of the *Stargate* franchise, *Sanctuary* began as an eight-“webisode” program that originally appeared on the Internet in the first part of 2007. It wasn't long before what is now the Syfy Channel picked it up as an ongoing original series, with the first season containing 13 episodes.

The series first was seen on television screens in Canada and the United States on October 3, 2008, followed by the United Kingdom on October 6. When it debuted, it attracted an audience of three million, making it the highest-rated premiere since *Eureka* arrived in July of 2006. The first two hours re-told the story of the first four “webisodes.” All of the original cast, including Amanda Tapping (who played Samantha Carter in both *Stargate SG-1* and *Stargate Atlantis*), returned in the “new” show.

So, what's the premise? Even things that go bump in the night need protection. And the job of aiding “abnormals” falls to Dr. Helen Magnus (a 157-year-old scientist) (Tapping), her daughter Ashley (Emilie Ullerup), forensic psychiatrist Will Zimmerman (Robin Dunne) and the rest of her crew as they maintain a safe “sanctuary” for them all.

In this four-DVD set are all thirteen episodes of the first televised season of the series.

On many levels, *Sanctuary* is a reverse-*Star Trek*. While *Trek*, especially the original series and its first few spin-offs, was

particularly male dominated, this show has the ladies large and in charge while the guys in the staff are searching for who they are. Also, this show began on the Internet and moved to television while *Trek* began on television and has moved to “independent productions” on the Web. There was often a starship involved in *Trek*, allowing the crews to explore the galaxy, while this program is based, as the title says, on an earthly home. The program has yet to leave the planet.

The first two-parter shows how Magnus recruited Dr. Zimmerman to the team, and through his eyes, we see the Sanctuary, its quirky staff and the abnormals for the first time.

Honestly, Christopher Heyerdahl often steals the show from the rest of the cast as the bald, moody and also long-lived Druitt. His interconnection with the Magnus family makes him an important part of the first season, and Heyerdahl does a terrific job of playing a more primal character and an opposite number to the more intellectual Dr. Magnus.

The computer graphics and the make-up are both excellent, and Tapping does a very good job of NOT making me think of Sam Carter.

If you are a fan of Tapping, of Kinder, of Syfy original series, or of earth-based sci-fi, I'd recommend this show. The second season of *Sanctuary* will premiere on Syfy on Friday, October 9, at 10 p.m. ■

Chief of Security Wayne Hall

REFLECTIONS: Lightning strikes again—2 (concluded)

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hole as a power conduit. At the same time, 300 years earlier, Sara, Dylan's bride-to-be, was trying to free the *Andromeda Ascendant* from the same black hole. Harper's experiment in transportation established a link to them.

Eventually, the link was used to transport Dylan back in time, and they were reunited. Harper tried desperately to devise

a way to bring Sara into the future.

Another good episode. It reminded us of Dylan's impending wedding, which we first heard about in the pilot. We discover details of his relationship with Sara Riley, a research scientist and her relentless effort to rejoin the one true love in her life. Rating: ▲▲▲

Next month: More episode guide. ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



“I will shoot the first person who says I look like Samantha Carter,” claims Dr. Helen Magnus on *Sanctuary*.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

September 19 It's not an "early fall" ... at least, not yet! Before the new season begins, come to the Hard Times Cafe in College Park, Maryland. Dinner will be ordered at 5:00, then our monthly club meeting will start no later than 7:00 p.m.!

CAPTAIN'S LOG: Best of DS9 (concluded)

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Just then, Trelar had a heart attack. After being treated by Doctor Bashir, the elderly Cardassian asked to spend the night alone in his room.

But when morning came, the door was opened to show that Trelar had been stabbed in the chest several times. No one had come in or out during the night, and the blade that the killer used had no residual fingerprints or heat from being held.

Odo investigated the crime, and he determined that the method of death was a reprogramming of the mother's image in the holosuite so there would be no fingerprints or residual heat. One of Trelar's sons was an engineer who wanted to transfer to a medical vessel, but his father disapproved and prevented that from happening.

"Emancipation," the final double-issue story, started when an unknown ship came through the wormhole and asked for medical help. During those examinations, Bashir found wounds that had been inflicted over a long period of time.

When the aliens told Sisko that the wounds were nothing unusual, the commander replied: "You're slaves, aren't you?"

Not long after that, another vessel with a similar configuration came through the wormhole and docked at the station. That group told Sisko they were the right-

ful "owners" of "their property."

During a conversation with leaders of the second ship, the "undercaptain" responded harshly to a complaint from Kira, and his captain ordered him to apologize to the major.

"I ... apologize," the undercaptain said.

Kira responded: "I didn't hear that."

Sisko intervened: "Major-!"

"Oh, alright," Kira said.

After several attempts to work out a solution that both sides could accept, the leader of the slave-holders surprisingly agreed to allow all of his people go free. It wasn't long before his crew took over the ship and tried to destroy the station during the process.

When the crew's attempt to halt the negotiations failed, the two factions agreed to return home and rebuild their society (but I'm sure Sisko would keep tabs on them for quite a while).

Yeah, it's not hard to determine that Kira was/is my favorite character. She was one of the strongest female characters in *Trek* history, but sometimes you need to have someone who'll kick butt and let the Prophets sort them all out.

If you'd like to obtain a copy of this paperback, contact your local comics specialty store or check with Border's or Barnes & Noble. ■

Captain Randy Hall

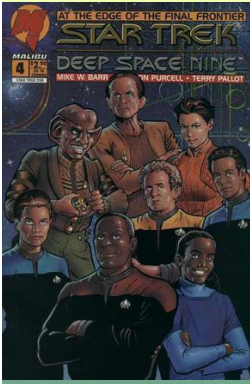
SCIENCE TREK: Ballast in, ballast out (concluded)

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- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballast>;
- <http://books.google.com/> (search on "Andromeda Strain");

- <http://www.astrobiology.com/adastra/bring.em.back.html>; and
- http://ca.encyclopedia.msn.com/column_scienceplanetpollution/bugs_on_the_moon_preventing_interplanetary_pollution.html



The crew on *Deep Space Nine* as seen in Malibu Comics.