

A Touch of Winter

What better to do as we weather "Snowpocalypse II" in February 2010 than to look back at the best in science fiction from 2009, Chief of Starfleet Intelligence Annie White presents:

Annie's Awards for Best in Sci-Fi for 2009

Best Show: *Torchwood: Children of Earth*. okay, so it was a mini-series. But it packed more punch than most other regular series into that 8 or 9 hours of entertainment. It was a non-stop, edge-of-your-seat thriller. Plus a nekkid captain Jack never hurts. Runners-up: *Battlestar Galactica*; *Supernatural*; *Lost*; *True Blood*.

Best New Show: *Warehouse 13*. In an era of reboots, retreads, and recycled ideas, the best idea was a fun, steampunk-inspired show about *America's attic*. Runners-up: *Dollhouse*; *Flash Forward*; *Stargate: Universe*, *V*.

Worst New Show: *Eastwick*. Or *Desperate Housewives meets Charmed*. Someone's

been nipping at the Eye of Newt too much. Runner-up: *The Vampire Diaries*.

Most Untimely Cancellation: *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*. FOX strikes again. 'Nuff said. Runners-up: *Primeval*; *Dollhouse*.

Hail and Farewell: *Battlestar Galactica*. Ah, BSG ... how I will miss you. It would be #1, if it wasn't for that last hour of the finale (see below). Also, *Stargate: Atlantis*.

Best Non-Episodic Offering: *Alice*. As much as I love the Doctor Who specials, I believe that *Alice* was an excellent, modern take on the classic story. And,

with Kathy Bates, Colm Meaney, and Matt Frewer, what's not to love? Runners-up: *Doctor Who - The Next Doctor*; *Doctor Who - Planet of the Dead*; *Caprica*; *BSG: The Plan*.

Best Actor: Edward James Olmos (BSG). "I'm taking my ship back." That was just

Continued on page 5



Oscar himself

Hard Times after the Hard Times

The next monthly meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek and Science Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, February 20, at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland. We'll meet for dinner about 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 the recent Farpoint convention

the previous weekend. We'll also discuss what fellow club members have been up to and catch up on the latest sci-fi television shows and feature films.

For directions to this month's meeting, get the latest insert. ■



Washington, DC, in the snow

IN THIS ISSUE:

Annie's Awards	1
Art Credits	3
Captain's Log	2
Club Members	
Insert front	
Coming Events	6
Directions to Meeting	
Insert front-	
Meeting Minutes	
Insert back	
Reflections	4
Science Trek	3

CAPTAIN'S LOG: The Romulan Wars

Since the club was founded during the second month of 1991, my columns in February have tended to look back at where we've been and gaze forward to where we want to be. Just this once, I'm going to take a break this year, our 19th anniversary, so we can discuss and plan our 20th birthday in 2011! Be thinking about what we could and should do for that big anniversary!

And now for something almost completely different...

While *Star Trek* is well known for its message of peace, the series' universe has experienced its fair share of wars, even though viewers haven't actually seen much of them.

The rich storylines of war and how it affects people is one of the things the fan film series *Star Trek: The Romulan Wars* is exploring through its focus on the *Enterprise*-era conflict between the Federation and the pointy-eared race Starfleet didn't officially see until a century later.

Of course, *Deep Space Nine* used the Dominion War as the backdrop for the show's final seasons, but it's difficult to really depict the loss of war when most of your major characters have years-long contracts (unless fate intervenes, as it did with Terry Farrell's role of Jadzia Dax).

But in a series of independent productions like *The Romulan Wars*, anyone can come or go at any time, and change is a major constant for the crew of the *U.S.S. Yorktown*.

The first episode, entitled "Unto the Breach," finds newly promoted Captain Bill Stiles (played by Bryan Justice) assuming command of the NCC-208 as it

prepares to leave spacedock over Earth.

His timing couldn't be worse. Romulan starships have destroyed a Federation vessel in deep space without provocation, and soon after, a fleet of enemy ships obliterates a heavily armored Starfleet space station.

On top of that, no sooner has the *Yorktown* left Earth than Chief Engineer Tim Samuels (Lee Gartrell) tells the captain about a number of mysterious power drains that raises the possibility of a saboteur on the vessel.

Meanwhile, the situation continues to escalate. After the Romulans destroy the human settlement of Terra Nova, Starfleet declares war and orders all ships to engage the enemy.



U.S.S. Yorktown, NCC-208, from *The Romulan Wars*

The *Yorktown* follows the warp trail left by Romulan ships until three of them drop out of warp and attack the Federation vessel. The *Yorktown* survives, but at a terrible

cost. More than a dozen crew members are dead, including First Officer Ross (Buddy Gartrell), and the vessel is so badly damaged that Samuels tells the captain: "We're dead in space."

"The Outpost" picks up the story two weeks later. While the Federation continues to take a pounding from the Romulans, the *U.S.S. Challenger* has been rendering assistance to the *Yorktown* for a week and takes Samuels and his "significant other," Ensign Monica McDonald (Gail Sorrell), to Outpost 7, where they can get the parts they need to make final repairs on their ship.

However, once Samuels and McDonald land a shuttle on the planet, it's de-

Continued on page 5

Copyright 2010 U.S.S. Chesapeake NCC-9102, a not-for-profit organization. All rights reserved, including reproducing parts of this document.

Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the entire club.

"Star Trek," "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Star Trek: Voyager," and "Star Trek: Enterprise," as well as the terms "starship" and "starship Enterprise," are registered trademarks of Paramount Pictures Corporation. All rights reserved. Absolutely no infringement on these rights is intended.

SCIENCE TREK: Anniversaries Aplenty

I don't know about your neighborhood, but we're in deep here in Silver Spring. I have to shovel my way out of our upstairs window. On the upside, I don't think any worries about drought conditions can be put to bed. But since snow is too common a topic to talk about these days, let's pretend it's warm and sunny outside and talk about the things that really matter.

That is, the two big anniversaries this month: *Star Trek: Voyager's* 15th and the *U.S.S. Chesapeake's* 19th. Second things first, as usual.

Wow, 19 years for the good 'ol "unready" *Chesapeake*. Nineteen years ago I was single, in college, and had about a dozen more hairs on my head. It was also nearly half of my life ago (and yes, Abby, I know you were like 7 years old). I'm most amazed at the fact that I remember back that far. (Yes, I know that most of you recall the past much further back, but it's my column and my lousy memory we're talking about).

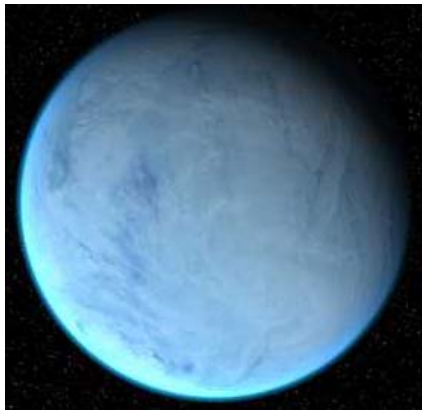
Boldly Going...Accidentally

When the *Chesapeake* was still a young ship, the *U.S.S. Voyager* found itself thrown far across the galaxy to the Delta Quadrant, 70,000 light years from home. Flip the page (not yet though) to learn more about the series. This is *Science Trek*, so we'll explore the science and technology behind 15 *Voyager* episodes this month and next month.

Now this is not a list of my favorite *Voyager* episodes (You don't see "Living Witness" below do you?) or even the best science and technology episodes. Rather, it is a compilation of several science, science fiction, and technology themes that appeared throughout the series (while compiling said compilation, I realized

there are several episodes with a similar theme (for instance, "Mortal Coil" and "Ashes to Ashes," which deal with resurrected crew members trying to re-associate themselves with their formerly past lives).

"Time and Again": This was the episode that pulled me into *Voyager*. I don't know about you, but after seeing this episode for the first time my thought was "Time travel done right." And it had the ultimate test for any Starfleet captain: thrown into the teeth of the Prime Directive.



Hoth II, 2010 (the Planet formerly known as "Earth")

"Eye of the Needle": The phrase "missed it by that much" typically refers to a measure of distance, but in this case, it's a matter of time...20 years to be precise. Not only do we learn a bit about the science of *Trekkian* worm holes, we get to meet a Romulan scientist and learn a bit more of that culture otherwise appear-

ing to be steeped in cloak and dagger games.

"Meld": To me, the best of science fiction focuses not on the cool and neat technologies, but rather explores aspects of humanity and culture using tools that only science fiction can provide. Here is an episode that focuses on the question of crime and punishment and demonstrates how a intimate psychic connection (mind meld) can be used as an investigatory tool.

"Deadlock": Okay, I'm left with the question of two objects occupying the same space at the same time (I guess that's what the "phase" variable gets you), but I think it's a fascinating study in decision making on Janeway's part. Plus, "our" Harry Kim is actually killed.

"False Profits": Quick quiz. You're a

ART CREDITS:

Angela Gittles	1
Book of Drewsus	3
Daymix.com	4
Farpointcon.com	insert
Oscars.org	1
Randy Hall	2,5
Sacbee.com	insert
Startrek.com	6

REFLECTIONS: Happy 15th Birthday, Voyager

Monday, January 16th, 8:00 P.M. It was an unusually warm day, for January in the D.C. area. Perhaps an omen representing good tidings of comfort and joy..... wait a minute, that was Christmas! This happened a little after that, not that it wasn't considered a holy day. To some science-fiction fans, especially those of the female persuasion, it was a true day of rejoicing. For that evening Trekkers, Trekkies, and all of America witnessed two milestones; Paramount's launching of its own television network and the latest installment of the phenomenon known as *Star Trek: Voyager*.

There are certain milestones in history in which I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing. The day JFK was shot, (YES, I was around then and YES and I remember where I was and what I was doing. I didn't quite understand it, but I knew who JFK was.) The day MLK was shot, the day I heard about this new show called *Star Trek* (February 9th, 1967. 12:00 P.M., it was at recess. I am SUCH a geek!), the day I heard about a new *Star Trek* movie, July, 1976, I was at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, the old one. This is not so spectacular, Paramount made sure that EVERYONE knew about this.

The day I heard about a new *Star Trek* show called *The Next Generation* (this was a chance to get my geek on one a week!), the day I heard about *Deep Space Nine* (nine months earlier I had sold my first television script to a show called "A Man Called Hawk", upon finding out it had been canceled, I mused about maybe signing Avery Brooks, who played Hawk, to play Captain Sisko. Two weeks later, they did. I almost had a heart attack!) and they day Paramount decided to add another show to the *Star Trek* roster.

It was July 10th, 1993, I was at the Shore Leave Convention when I heard about *Voyager*. I had just sat through one of the worst panels I had ever attended (This clown was bashing *Deep Space Nine* and was surprised that there was a room

full of people who liked it.) I remember thinking "Why a new show now? *DS9* is really good!" At the same time, literally, work on shaping *Voyager* had just begun. Rick Berman pulled Michael Piller away from his duties on *DS9* and Jeri Taylor from *Next Gen*'s final season, to help him develop this new series. Four days a week, at noon, Rick, Michael and Jeri met over lunch in Rick's corner office. Hatching out story ideas, creating characters and deciding, much to Paramount's chagrin, that the new Captain of *Voyager* was going to be a woman.

This was a BIG deal. Let me put this in perspective, time wise, there were five to eight area conventions a year (Octobertrek, which became Farpoint, in.....well, October. Vulcan in March, sometimes April too. Two Novacons, one in April and one in August and of course Shore Leave in July. Not to mention two to three Creation conventions. Those were the days!), our club dues were 15 dollars a year and my hair was black!

Paramount had decided to launch its own network and figured what better way to start then with *Star Trek*. UPN's Monday night schedule started off with *Voyager* at eight (*DS9*'s ratings winning time-slot), the sitcoms, *Platypus Man* and *Pig Sty* at nine and nine-thirty. Tuesday nights were the *Marker* (starring Johnny Depp and Gates McFadden. YES, Beverly Crusher!) and *The Watcher* which starred Sir Mix a lot of "Baby got back" fame. *Voyager*'s first episode pulled in a 13 rating with a 19 share, ranking it 21 out of 150 shows that week, averaging roughly 21.2 million viewers. Not bad for a network with very limited coverage around the country. Not bad? It was amazing.

It was a good run. I am constantly amazed at how many people tell me that



The U.S.S. Voyager and crew

Continued on page 6

CAPTAIN'S LOG: The Romulan Wars [concluded]

stroyed by the Romulans in an effort to strand the crew members there while the enemy attempts to extract valuable resources from that world.

During this episode, a traitor to the Federation is revealed, and Samuels is tortured in an attempt to get information from him. When that effort proves to be fruitless, a Romulan officer hidden in the outpost decides to kill the traitor and leave the system before the *Yorktown* can arrive and rescue the people at the station.

I don't have a Clint Eastwood hat with pointed ears, so my regular one will have to do while I review these episodes.

The good: As I stated earlier, a fan film series is a fairly realistic way to examine the consequences of war. For example, the ship's first officer is only seen in the opening episode, and judging by some previews, new members will be joining the crew in future stories.

I also like the fact that the series is set during the era of *Star Trek: Enterprise*, which hasn't been explored by many fan films. That's certainly a challenge regarding costumes and sets, but the *Romulan Wars* folks have done a commendable job in both areas.

It's also cool that this series is playing by the rules followed on *Enterprise*. Starfleet never actually sees what the Romulans look like. Oh, the occasional person does and we do, but that information



Bryan Justice plays Captain Bill Stiles for *The Romulan Wars*.

never makes its way to Starfleet Command.

The bad: As with all initial fan film efforts, these episodes have their share of bumps and scrapes. There's the occasional wooden reading of lines and obvious green-screening behind the actors. Still, the cast and crew are improving by leaps and bounds with each episode.

The ugly: One of the most interesting things about these episodes is the captain's "mysterious mustache." Sometimes it's there. Sometimes it's not. When Stiles steps onto the bridge to tell the crew Starfleet is at war, he has a mustache. But when you see him speaking from a different camera angle, it's not there.

The reason for this discrepancy is that some scenes were shot at one point and others as much as three years later. From what I've seen of later episodes, that's been taken care of. As my favorite starship captain once said: "Everybody's human."

Speaking of future episodes, *Romulan Wars* has released the fifth episode of its "season," which is entitled "The Wounded." However, production problems have held up the release of the third and fourth programs.

I encourage anyone who's interested to check out all available episodes at the group's website at <http://www.stromulanwars.com/>. ■

Captain Randy Hall

Annie's Awards for Best in Sci-Fi for 2009 [concluded]

awesome. And he can direct, too! Runners-up: John Barrowman (*TW*); Zachary Levi (*Chuck*); Jared Padalecki (*SPN*); Jensen Ackles (*SPN*); Joshua Jackson (*Fringe*); Joseph Fiennes (*FF*)

Best Actress: Mary McDonnell (*BSG*). Dying is easy. Making it look good is hard.

Runners-up: Lena Headey (*T:SCC*); Anna Paquin (*TB*); Eve Myles (*TW*); Amanda Tapping (*SCY*); Morena Baccarin (*V*) ■

(to be continued next issue)

Starfleet Intelligence Officer Annie White

COMING EVENTS

February 12—14..... Join the *Chesapeake* at the annual Farpoint convention at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore North in Timonium, Maryland.

February 20..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland. We'll go out to dinner at 5:00, then our monthly club meeting will start no later than 7:00 p.m.!

SCIENCE TREK: *Anniversaries Aplenty [concluded]*

pair of Ferengi stranded thousands of light years from home. What do you do? If you answered set yourselves up as gods, you are correct. Did you notice the subtle theme of: save the natives, lose the opportunity? Plus more worm hole physics. ■

Web Notes

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_trek_voyager_episodes

(to be continued next issue)
Second Officer Phil Margolies

REFLECTIONS: Happy 15th Birthday, *Voyager* [concluded]

Voyager was either the best *Star Trek* or the second best. Granted all of these people have been female, which doesn't in any way demean their opinion, but it also explains the second best comments as well. Its been my observation that the female population REALLY liked *Next Generation*.

As I said, it was a good run, but not without it's stumbles. The first half of the first season was very good, as good as *Star Trek* gets. The second half lacked in my opinion when the show decided to become a clone of *Next Generation* and abandoned everything that made it unique. This was also about the time Michael Piller left to produce "Legend" for UPN(turning

the *DS9* reins over to Ira Steven Behr. Hassah!), Jeri Taylor was locked into the "can't we all get along" mode of *Next Gen* and destroyed all the conflict that was in those first eight episodes. Piller came

back and was furious at what she had done to "his" show (He was furious at Ira too, but Ira backed him down) and immediately started throwing out scripts (three were written by Taylor), it got so bad that the writers were all going to walk en masse.

This led to Piller's termination. So after, Jeri Taylor was asked to leave. Funny, the fans were crying out about *Voyager's* bland stories, yet they blamed Brannon Braga . I would talk to Brannon and he would tell me all these things he wanted to do, things that were very different, but Taylor didn't want different or unique, she wanted *Next Generation*. Another funny thing, when Braga finally took over, the show took off! It became the "unique" *Star Trek* people wanted. They still refused to credit Brannon (except on the east coast, they gave him his props), acknowledging the improvement, but accepting that the show "just got better" on it's own, with no help from the man who was now running the show.

So here's to *Star Trek: Voyager*. I raise my gobtu to you and your seven year journey. I enjoyed it immensely! ■

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



Six of Nine