

CAPTAIN'S LOG: "Operation Beta Shield"

Crossovers on TV and in movies can be interesting and exciting events. Viewers of the *CSI* programs got a treat along those lines when characters from each series recently overlapped and became a ratings smash.

While characters from *Star Trek* programs have made guest appearances in other *Trek* shows, the closest we've come to an event like the *CSI* crossover came when the casts and crews from *Hidden Frontier* and *Intrepid* joined forces for a vignette that led the way to a full-blown adventure called "Operation Beta Shield."

The crossover followed a vignette called "Orphans of War:" that showed both Starfleet and the Romulan Star Empire think that their victory in repelling the invasion by the Archein Empire has left the two Alpha Quadrant military organizations seriously depleted. If the empire were to attempt another invasion, the Alpha and Beta quadrants could fall.

To prevent such a catastrophe, the Fed-

eration, the Romulans and the Klingons start working together to create a "shield" of starships to stand ready if their foes try to conquer any territory in the Beta Quadrant, especially Romulus.

In preparation for such a strategy, Admiral Alice Rand (Carol Soldo) calls together captains Elizabeth Shelby (Risha Denney from the starship *Excelsior*, a prominent player in the *Hidden Frontier*



series) and Daniel Hunter (portrayed by Nick Cook from *Intrepid*), as well as Klingon General Koorg (Karl Puder), who tells the others at the meeting that the empire has noticed an increase in coded messages and other suspicious de-

velopments.

At that point, the decision is made to have a fleet waiting if the Archein try to attack again through wormholes. Shelby is promoted in rank to commodore so she will have the authority to command the fleet.

Not long after, the *Excelsior* departs

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Shore leave's over, time for our next club meeting

The next monthly meeting of the U.S.S. Chesapeake Star Trek and Science Fiction Club will be held on Saturday, September 18, at the Hard Times Café in College Park, Maryland.

We'll start the stuffing our faces about 5:00 p.m., then talk with our mouths full about 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. For directions to this month's meeting, get the latest insert. ■

CAPTAIN'S LOG: "Operation Beta Shield"

spacedock (with fantastic SFX as the *Excelsior* as it heads out. In fact, all of the effects are mind-bendingly good. I've never seen ships traveling at warp speed with such detail and coolness.

The *Intrepid* arrives at Romulus, and Hunter gets a chilly reception from Proconsul Yeshva (Joni Bovill), who says she wonders if they have to close the gate to one enemy, the Archein and open the gate to another—the Federation.

"We're allies, not invaders," Hunter replies, asking why the Romulan Senate had given Starfleet the authority to set up defensive positions if the fleet is invading and not helping.

The proconsul responds with an old Earth saying: "The devil you know...."

"If you think we're the devil, then you don't know us at all," Hunter states before

noting that Starfleet had nearby taken into custody nearby breeders of tribbles, which could be used against Klingons.

The proconsul has an interesting reply: "Tribbles were banned in the empire because they're an environmental hazard, but they're delicious when properly prepared."

When the *Excelsior* joins the fleet, Shelby assumes command and orders the ships to use warp speed to a debris field for examination. Once again, the fleet going to warp speed one at a time is incredible, as is the view we get of the debris.

The situation is further complicated by the relationship between Chief Engineer Benjamin Nostrom (Rick Corbett) and First Officer Robin Leffler, who wasn't in this episode.

Also concerned about the safety of a crewmate, Hunter tells the proconsul that

S'Ceris (David Reid) runs the risk of being caught while he's gathering information on Romulus, his home world and where he's considered a traitor for joining Starfleet.

Emotions also bubble to the top for Nostrum, who leaves the *Excelsior* in a runabout to search for Leffler. After an acrobatic chase through a massive amount of debris, he's caught and returned to the ship by friends who give the false explanation that both the runabout and shuttle were running tests on the vessels..

S'Ceris makes brief contact with Hunter with a screened message, but the abrupt end of the transmission only adds to the captain's concerns for his security officer.

Hunt and Koorg beam

down to Romulus in the hope of finding S'Ceris and are arrested for their effort. During the encounter, Koorg is discovered to be an operation of Section 31, and S'Ceris is released as well since Klingon and the Federation forces are protecting areas of Romulan space.

Back on the *Excelsior*, the arrival of a new, powerful starship—*Starfleet One*—draws the attention of the rest of the fleet. The ship, whose commander is United Federation of Planets President SoFron (Jim Davis), enlists the *Excelsior* for a trip to Romulus itself.

The meeting there results in an agreement to allow Starfleet ships to enforce more Romulan space, but because Koorg was an agent of Section 31, any Klingon presence is still banned. But no sooner had the agreement been



A guy, a girl, an alien, another alien, R2D2. Oh wait, that's a starship. And what the heck's growing on her face. The alien woman that is.

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Check out our club website: www.usschesapeake.org

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SCIENCE *TREK*: The Final Frontier

Continued from last month:

The past is prologue and who cares to read the prologue since the story really starts in chapter one. Thus, through the magic of the non-sequitur, I ask not what your Federation can do for you, but what can you do for your Federation.

Jurisprudence

Why is that, you ask? Well, if the Federation fails to provide you adequate legal counsel and you get railroaded into a bogus conviction and shipped off to

Hoth 2.0, they're certainly not doing much for you, are they? (What ever happened to the Terran embassy on the

Klingon homeworld? We spent googles of quatloos to build it!!!)

Anatomy Lesson

Here we have one of the best lines in all of *Trek*. "Not everyone keeps his genitals in the same place," Martia says to Kirk after the fearless captain kicks the horned alien in what he supposed was the kneecaps. Now, why anyone would evolve genitals in their kneecaps other than for comic effect, I don't know. Correction, I don't want to know.

Logic and Spock's Failure to use it

Now, everyone's favorite pointy eared hobgoblin correctly used logic to deduce that 1) the photon torpedos were not fired by the *Enterprise*, 2) a cloaked shipped must have fired it, and 3) it was a Bird of Prey. Fast forward a few movie minutes later when Spock & Chekov confront Crewman Dax after the magnetic boots are found in his quarters. Chekov accuses him of being the assassin, but Spock intelligently points out the crew-

man's non-conforming feet. But there, Spock's logic fails him. His logic that "if the boot does not fit, you must acquit" only clears Dax of being an assassin. He could still be a member of the conspiracy! Thus, we must shake our head sadly at our favorite Vulcan and whisper, "all too human."

Racism and Human Rights

One aspect that the Great Bird of the Galaxy Gene Roddenberry bemoaned about *Star Trek VI* is how Kirk's feelings

about the Klingons came across. His do-gooder captain was not the epitome of the perfect human. Then again he never



Oops.

was. Beyond Roddenberry, some of the cast members (Nychelle Nichols and Brock Peters) were greatly reluctant to say some of their lines—and in the case of Nichols, outright refused to, which is why Chekov ended up with the line "guess who's coming to dinner."

Chekov, trying to demonstrate the Federation's benevolent diversity to the Klingons, steps in the targ manure by describing the Federation's core value that all inhabited planets have the sovereign claim to inalienable *human* rights. To which, Azetbur, the Chancellor's daughter, remarks: "Human rights. Why the very name is racist. The Federation is no more than a homo sapiens only club."

One final thought for future historians of the human and klingon peoples. Watch the dinner scene and listen to the history quoted and the history to be made. ■

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Youtube.com	6

Second Officer Phil Margolies

REFLECTIONS: Lesson 1, Delinquent Columnists

Conn Officer Lorenzo Heard



<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3053453/>

The Day Lorenzo was on the Internet:
[June 2, 2008 at 9:20 pm](#)



UPLOADED ON WWW.TOPNEWS.IN

CAPTAIN'S LOG: "Operation Beta Shield" [continued]

reached, SoFron and the diplomacy shuttle he was traveling in are destroyed, and a new president, Karah Vindenbol (Rebecca Wood), is quickly installed and the fatal incident declared an "accident."

As the dust begins to settle, Hunter and the *In-trepid* return to the Charybdis sector, and Koorg announces his retirement. Another interesting development takes place between Vindenbol and Lieutenant Commander Matt McCabe

(Wayne Webb), as her new security guard despite the fact that each of them apparently has some serious hatred for the other.

Well, time to put on two Clint Eastwood hats (for the number of ships in-

involved) and get reviewing.

The Good: The 67 minutes of the feature go by pretty quickly, and the large number of starships involved was a computer-generated treat.

One item that really impressed me is the friendship between Shelby and Hunter. Much of the time, the only person the guy (or girl) with four pips finds that the only person to be confided with is the first officer. I like the fact that they stay in contact. This is a great twist to the usual captain's loneliness and need to appear as strong and decisive when there's a need to appear so to the crew.

The Bad: Not much to speak of here, but I was a little concerned that the chief engineer is so wrapped up in love that he tries to get through a debris field and a fleet of star-

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Rizzoli & Isles (after the operation)

BOOK REVIEW: *Seven Deadly Sins*, 'Revenant'

As I read this sixth story that focused on the deadly sin of Gluttony, the one thought that kept nagging at me was "where is the willing suspense of disbelief" that is supposed to accompany any fictional story? In this case, my willing suspense of disbelief just could not be mustered up while I read through this tale that involved privateers, a disgraced former Academy cadet, (from *ST: Next Gen*, "The First Duty"), Starfleet, the Federation, and, ultimately, the Borg, (or what was supposed to pass for the Borg).

After watching *ST: The Next Generation*, *ST: Deep Space Nine*, *ST: Voyager* and the movie, *ST: First Contact*, I had come to expect what the Borg characteristics would be like...robotic, mindless, computerized, mechanistic drones mindlessly serving the Borg Queen, who looked anything BUT humanoid, traveled via a Cube, and that NEVER spoke in the singular. I was given the impression that one would always recognize a Borg on

sight with the various mechanical implants, lack of hair, and ashen-looking flesh that we've all come to know and loathe. Based on the brief description on the back of this anthology, I was expecting to read a description of the tell-tale Borg cube showing up and actively attacking any humanoid ship at any moment but...that just didn't happen!

The Borg, in this story, didn't behave in the predictably obvious way that I had come to expect. The writer seems to expect his readers to believe in the possibility of "undercover" Borg, which does not strike me as logical, especially by the end when I felt that this story had completely fallen to pieces and entered the realm of the entirely unbelievable. It also raised the question of "where does gluttony fit into this story given what we know of the Borg?"



Let's see...the Gorn's obvious, but which sin is the Shapeshifter?

To me, the concept of gluttony conjures up images of eating too

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COMING EVENTS

September 18..... Time for our next monthly meeting! We'll be at the Hard Times Café in Collegiate Park, Maryland. We'll start eating at 5:00 a.m., then our club meeting about 7:00 .p.m.!

REFLECTIONS: Will the real Lorenzo Heard please poke your head in?



CAPTAIN'S LOG: "Operation Beta Shield" [concluded]

ships to find out what happened to his significant other. Love makes fools of us all, or something to that effect.

The Ugly: I like seeing Shelby (originally played by Elizabeth Dennehy [that's her to the right ed. >>>>]) after the character's wonderful part in the *Next Generation* episode "The Best of Both Worlds." I understand there was some friction between the actress and the staff, but anyone who can stand up to Riker adds the element of conflict in a show with very little drama to speak of.

Still, I'm glad the character has played a significant part in the *Hidden Frontier*



series. If you want to learn more about Hidden Frontier, point your web browser at <http://www.hiddenfrontier.com/>, and

you can see "Operation Beta Shield" here as well: <http://www.hiddenfrontier.com/episodes/xover.php> as well.

As for the *Intrepid*, they have a website as well at <http://www.starshipintrepid.net/> as well. Hopefully, we'll see some new material from both groups either individually or in a cross-

over. ■

Captain Randy Hall

BOOK REVIEW: *Seven Deadly Sins, 'Revenant'* [concluded]

much but that does not fit the image of the Borg as they do not eat in the conventional sense. Their implants seem to take care of all normal bodily functions that a humanoid would have. The idea of gluttony being part of Borg behavior seems

like a poor fit to me...a non-sequitor or even an oxymoron. ■

Pat McCoy, Xenobiologist and Xenopsychologist