

Issue 7!!!!!!!

September 2009 – Captain Christian, Editor



FEATURE

Beyond the Stars: What is next for Paramount Studios, Post -Star Trek
By Lt. Lola Morgana

As we all anxiously await the release of the Star Trek (2009) DVD and Blu-Ray, one cannot help but wonder what future endeavors Paramount (the movie's/franchise's) home studio has in the works. Well, according to my research (via Google and the Internet movie database), it looks as though there will be limited offerings from the studio, for both sci-fi genre fans, and fans of other such movies. Coming up later in the year will be the film Case 39, a horror flick starring Renee Zellweger of Chicago fame. Also upcoming is the drama The Lovely Bones directed by Peter Jackson, the man responsible for The Lord Of The Rings Trillogy. Also being released will be Mean Girls 2, a sequel to the Lindsay Lohan comedy that was released in 2004. It seems that those desiring anything science fiction related will have to wait till May of 2010, when Paramount will be releasing Iron Man 2, the sequel to the wildly successful Robert Downey Jr. movie. In conclusion, it appears as if the studio responsible for "boldly going where no man/one has gone before" will not be doing so for some time.

FEATURE

Episode Review
By Lola Morgana

Classic Trek: The Man Trap (Part 1 of 3)

It is Stardate 1513.1. The crew of the USS Enterprise, under the command of James T. Kirk, arrives at planet M-113. The mission is simple: provide examinations and vital supplies to the husband and wife archaeological team of Dr. and Nancy Crater, the only two known beings on the planet. This mission is of particular interest to the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Leonard McCoy, as he and Nancy Crater were in a romantic relationship in the past.

Captain Kirk, Dr. McCoy, and Crewman Darnell from the Science Division, all beam down to the planet to execute the mission. As they are introduced to the Craters, something very strange occurs: each member of the landing party sees a very different Nancy Crater. Dr. McCoy sees Nancy as the same woman he knew twelve years previously, Kirk sees Nancy as the appropriate age, and Darnell sees Nancy as a gorgeous woman that he knew on Wrigley's Pleasure Planet. As the crew waits at the Crater homestead for the arrival of Dr. Crater, who is away at the moment of arrival, Darnell is led off by the Wrigley's version of Nancy that he seems to see.

After much waiting, Dr. Crater arrives. From the beginning, he is very confrontational, obviously angry at the very presence of the Enterprise crew. He is standoffish, and insists that they need no physicals, only salt tablets to help replace salt lost in sweat on the dry and hot planet. Kirk insists on the examinations, but before Crater can protest further, a scream is heard outside the dwelling. As McCoy, Kirk, and Crater rush out of the building, they see Nancy standing over the corpse of Crewman Darnell, a plant root in his mouth, and bright red rings all over his face. Seemingly distraught, Nancy tells the crew that she tried to stop him from eating the poisonous plant, but couldn't stop him in time. Skeptical, Kirk orders Darnell's body beamed back to the ship while Nancy insists on more salt tablets...

THIS REVIEW SHALL BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE, SO STAY TUNED!!!!

OFFICER PROFILE

Officer Interview: Starbase Vice-Commander Captain Scott
By Brawn

When did you have your "First Contact" with Star Trek?
September 1966

What got you into Star Trek? Was it a particular character? Episode? Miscellaneous feature of the show?
The show put a face on the future and made it believable even obtainable.

As Vice Commander of this Star Base you are have shown great commitment over a prolonged period of time. How did you end up being involved here originally? Were you recruited by a member, or did you stumble upon this whilst "surfing" the web?
To this day I have no idea who sent me the URL to OSB but it was the best web mail I ever got.

What would you say is the best thing about this Star Base? The community spirit? The joining together of members from different societies/cultures and countries? etc
Different people of all ages can be as one here as the Star Trek life style lets all be equal. Working together instead of different agendas is what makes us great.

Star Trek Television Series:

To this day do you have a stand-out episode that is your absolute favourite?
As always "Shore Leave" is the one I would pick even though there are some close seconds which I had to discard.

Do you have a particular series that is your favourite? If so why is it your favourite?
TOS started it all and I love it but Voyager was and still is my favourite and not just because of seven. The series was well written and you have to look hard for a bad episode and there are a few but way more good. I liked the Janeway character the most as she is almost like Kirk in many ways.

Do you have a favourite Character from any particular series?
Part of me wants to say Scotty but Data wins out as he is so loveable. We all could really use a friend like Data.

Is there a character that you think is most like you (or vice versa)?
I am most like Scotty as I love to fix things that I can fix. Once I have respect for someone I am totally loyal to them...Scotty to Kirk.

Do you have a favourite Starship?
Sovereign-class ship NCC-1701-E

Do you have a favourite species?

Hu-mans as we so much potential and we could surpass hu-mans in the Star Trek world.

The final question is, if you could create a main crew from all of the characters from across the entire franchise, who would you put where (eg Communications, Captain, Tactical, Head of Engineering, First Officer, Chief Medical Officer)

Captain : Kirk
First Officer: Data
Engineering: Scotty
Science Officer: Spock
Tactical: Sulu
Chief Medical Officer: Bones McCoy
Communications: Uhura

FEATURE

Starbase happenings:

By Cathryn Pearson

August was a busy month here on the base. Command worked to streamline base operations. When completed the departments remained with department heads working as a liaison between department members and command.

Staff members are as follows:

Command:

Adm. Ryan W. Dean – Starbase Commander

Capt. Scott – Starbase Vice-Commander

Department Chiefs:

Commander Christian – Communications

Captain Daxino Joel – Security Chief

Commander Jade – Engineering

Welcome to the approximately twenty members who joined our site in the month of August alone!

Several members of the staff also made their way to Las Vegas this month for Creation's 2009 Official Convention. Lt.

Commander Marshall Crockett summed up the weekend here: <http://www.onlinesb.proboards.com/index.....lay&thread=1794>

Mark your calendars: Next year's event is August 5th through 8th.

FEATURE

What's in a Name? Part I "Establishing the Prefix"

- A study of the Starfleet naming conventions

by: LCDR Marshall T. Crockett

Many starships have graced the small and the silver screen over the more than 40 years since Gene Roddenberry's vision came to fruition. And, with that a variety of names, registries and classes have become so familiar that they almost seem as real as today's naval fleet. So, what's up with that?

In keeping with the naming conventions established by modern day navies, the Star Trek universe also uses specific prefixes, names and sometimes even alphabetical identifiers to delineate one vessel from another. Using the most popular example, the USS Enterprise, we see all facets of the naming convention: NCC (Prefix) 1701 (Registry) - A (Alpha ID). Let us look at each of these in more detail.

The Prefix: When Starfleet vessels were being named, there were two things that had to be settled; the Name of the vessel and the registry. While all ships have names (USS Enterprise, USS Defiant, USS Prometheus, etc) creating unique identifiers are much more difficult. And, each registry had to begin with an appropriate prefix.

In the United States Navy, all vessels have significant prefixes that tell you what they are. Carriers begin with CV, Destroyers with DD, Frigates with FF, Submarines with SS, etc. If a vessel carries guided missiles a "G" follows, ballistic missiles with "B" and nuclear powered vessels carry an "N." Thus, a nuclear powered aircraft carrier would be a "CVN," a nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine would be a "SSBN," and a guided missile frigate would be a "FFG." So, how does one establish an appropriate prefix for a starship?

Common lore says that the prefix "NCC" is a combination between the coding "NC" for US Civil Aviation aircraft and a former Soviet reference of "CC" for their airframes. However, in non-canon sources, "NCC" could stand for Naval Construction Contract. This idea is not widely accepted.

Aside from the NCC prefix, a few others showed up briefly and sporadically throughout the series' and the movies. NX was used for Experimental starships, for example, the NX-2000 USS Excelsior in Star Trek III. NAR was used for Research vessels, for example, the NAR-32450 USS Raven in the ST:VOY episode "The Raven." NFT was used for Federation Transports, for example, the NFT-7793 SS Robert Fox in ST:VII Generations. NGL was used for freighters, NSP for Vulcan transport ships, NCX for Federation Battleships, NCV for Federation Time Ships (USS Relativity), and NV for Earth ships. Though many have been used, by far the most common is the NCC prefix simply denoting an active-duty starship of the fleet.

To be continued next month with Part II: "The Registry Number"

OFFICER PROFILE

Officer Profile for Issua 6 of Blue Alert:

By: Lt Brawn

Name : Noah / Tangent

Position : Lieutenant / Security Officer

Location : Toronto, ON, previously Baltimore, MD

Age: 18

Hobbies : Talking, acting, hanging with friends, meeting new people, walking down the street, watching movies (particularly those outside the mainstream), attending music festivals, listening to music, pursuing science fiction, wearing sunglasses, flirting, trying new foods, reading, discussing, singing (bass), eating, video games in moderation, building toys (LEGO, PlayMobil, Lincoln Logs, Rokenbok, etc.), being somewhat eccentric and much, much more! Call now and receive not all but MORE hobbies!

Enjoys : Hobbies.

Hates : Overly negative people, disrespectful people, aches and pains, brevity in responses to long detailed from-the-heart messages, the GST and PST, breakfast, milk that's been in the fridge with Indian food, styrofoam, ants and alarm clocks.

Guilty Pleasures : Webcomics, Gilmore Girls, sleeping in late, rap.

Interesting facts : lived in both The States and in Canada for substantial periods. I've traded a jokes with both Michael Dorn and LeVar Burton at the same time. I try my hardest to combat awkwardness, but it's hard when the other party(ies) do not try. As a child, I liked the word "bus."

First Encountered Star Trek : at a very young age. It is unknown to me wheter I liked it before a friend of my mothers donated the first six movies or after I was sat in front of the TV series one day. I watched the movies constantly for the next few years of my life, but when I moved to the States for the first time I was introduced to Star Wars. Then there were the Dark Times. There was the Empire. I started watching the actual television series in fourth grade. I wasn't having the best year, and TNG was my way out of that. My love and devotion to Star Trek has continued far beyond fourth grade.

FEATURE

By Lt Brawn

Star Trek (Soundtrack) Review:

1. Star Trek

This soundtrack starts with a beautiful solo French horn opening, this beautiful emotive legato melody accompanied by a Harp initially. This track ends with a crescendo into a climax which sets the scene for upcoming battle between the Kelvin & Narada. The initial theme performed by the French horn is in fact the Theme for James Kirk (which is repeated several times during the film and the score).

2. Nailin' the Kelvin

This track starts off with a fantastic fanfare from the Trumpets, with the rest of the Brass involved heavily in quick succession, in what is a very dramatic, heavily rhythmic and almost military sounding start. Answering this heavy brass opening is an equally rhythmic, but surprisingly sombre section with a mysterious string melody accompanied by military style snare drum and percussion work. There is great dynamic contrast, and you can easily identify this as music accompanying a battle scene. The two contrasting styles obviously represent the USS-Kelvin & the Narada.

3. Labor of Love

This track is a nice change of pace from the previous tracks. It has a lovely souring melody which continues through the whole track. It is an emotive piece of music, that I believe is played during the birth of James Kirk whilst his father pilots the USS Kelvin into the Narada. It comes to a massive climax twice throughout the track, which accompanied the moment that the Kelvin hits the Narada and the other either when Kirk Senior makes the decision to fly into the Narada or when James Kirk is born (I am not 100% sure). The following music is calmer and although similarly endearing, does have a hint of remorse, sincerity & sadness within it.

4. Hella Bar Talk

This track was composed to accompany Captain Pike's conversation with James Kirk following the Bar fight, from when he says the famous lines from the trailer "Your father was captain of a starship for twelve minutes. He saved eight hundred lives, including your mother's and yours. I dare you to do better" right up to where he sees the Enterprise and enters the base. This track's melody derives from the James Kirk Theme heard in the first track. This time it develops from a French horn solo to a full orchestral melody, with rhythmic accompaniment from the Percussion section.

5. Enterprising Young Men

This track starts off sounding very much like a theme you would expect to hear in one of the magical moments from Harry Potter, with mainly strings, Celeste and a flutter tongued flute being used. But it quickly changes into a big majestic (albeit brief) version of the James Kirk theme, very heavy with the brass. It changes back into a sinister sounding section featuring muted Trumpets, featuring the Violins echoing the Trumpets. This leads into the James Kirk Theme being repeated once again but by the lower brass with great dramatic intensity from ascending scalic passages from the Bass Trombones and Tubas.

This leads into a tutti section featuring the woodwind (whom are rarely featured in any way) playing a simplified version of the James Kirk theme. This is followed by the theme being repeated with the French horns playing a floating counter melody over the top and the Bass Trombones & Tubas playing an intense bass melody which leads into a dramatic finish.

This track I think is played during Kirk & Bones shuttle journey to the Enterprise in Space. Personally it is my favourite bit of the whole CD. This track compares to some of the great movie themes (think Star Wars, Indiana Jones & Pirates of the Caribbean). I may be biased being a Brass player, but I feel that films with Brass Heavy scores tend to be remembered more for their music than those with Brass light films.

6. Nero Sighted

This starts off with a fantastic Brass feature. This accompanies the scene where the Enterprise first confronts the Narada in battle. It is highly intense testosterone filled loud brass filled music. There is no other way to describe it. It is definitely the BEST battle music I have ever heard! It features my single favourite bit of the entire soundtrack, where there is some brilliant dirty Bass Trombone playing which is rarely used, but is a succulent treat for everyone who hears it. Following this imposing sequence, there is an atmospheric (almost creepy) few moments of calm, before the music hits back into full flow with a short regurgitation of the Bass Trombone playing before the music dies away at the end. The ending of this track is very much like a section of the Rite of Spring (or for the uninitiated, the Dinosaur Music from Fantasia).

Part 2 to follow in the next issue!

OFFICER PROFILE

Sci-fi news:

By Cathryn Pearson

Currently in theaters:

Opened: August 7, 2009 – G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra - A live action film adaptation of the G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero toy franchise. The film is directed by Stephen Sommers and written by Stuart Beattie. The film is an original story telling how the G.I. Joe team battles the evil Cobra Organization.

Opened August 14, 2009 – The Time Traveler's Wife - Clare (Rachel McAdams) has been in love with Henry (Eric Bana) her entire life. She believes they are destined to be together, even though she never knows when they will be separated: Henry is a time traveler—cursed with a rare genetic anomaly that causes him to live his life on a shifting timeline, skipping back and forth through his lifespan without control.

Opened August 14, 2009 – District 9 - District 9 is a 2009 science fiction film that takes place in Johannesburg, South Africa. Thirty years ago, aliens made first contact with Earth. Humans waited for the hostile attack, or the giant advances in technology. Neither came. Instead, the aliens were refugees, the last survivors of their home world. The creatures were set up in a makeshift home in South Africa's District 9 as the world's nations argued over what to do with them.

Convention:

Labor Day weekend (September 4-7, 2009) Dragon*Con – Atlanta, GA

This mega-convention covers just about every wish for those into sci-fi, fantasy or gaming. Trek guests this year include John Billingsly (Dr. Phlox), Robert Duncan McNeil (Tom Paris), Kate Mulgrew (Kathryn Janeway), Leonard Nimoy (Spock), Patrick Stewart (Jean-Luc Picard) and others. Of course the Trek-Trak wouldn't be complete without the Miss Klingon Empire Beauty Pageant. This large, multi-hotel convention is definitely worth at least one visit. I've been to Dragon*Con twice in the past and hope to make it back again soon.

New in Sci-fi on TV:

Defying Gravity (ABC): Set in 2052 and follows a group of astronauts on a six-year mission exploring the solar system in a spacecraft named Antares. The team is on a mysterious mission that is followed by ground personnel. Episodes are divided between the present mission and flashbacks that show the selection process each astronaut went through to become part of the project. Four episodes of this program have aired (as of 8/19) and can be viewed at hulu.com. I tuned in to check out a few minutes of the pilot episode, and ended up watching all the episodes that aired to date.

OFFICER PROFILE

Officer at Large 02
Reflections of Bones
By: LCDR Marshall T. Crockett

In my continuing quest to learn more about this undiscovered country we call space, I routinely book passage on a variety of freighters, unflagged vessels, and other ships of questionable repute. Over the course of the past month I have taken a number of small jaunts to relatively benign planetoids and even a few desolate moons. I keep telling myself, "it's all about the quest..." But, that never seems to overshadow the fact that I've had a pretty lackluster month.

During my voyage to Delta Upsilon VI, a small class 'M' planet that was rumored to have a strange form of indigenous plant life able to survive in water that would, on most other planets, kill all vegetation, I had time to relax and reminisce about some of my more favorite experiences in Starfleet. One such encounter was with the venerable Dr. Leonard H. "Bones" McCoy.

I was actually a young cadet at the academy, two years from graduating and entering the communications field, when I happened to run into Dr. McCoy at an academy function. I had volunteered to emcee a dinner in which the Commandant, Admiral Chamberlain Fuller, was receiving the Distinguished Service Cross from the Starfleet Commander. The program was very interesting, but the best was yet to come.

From the back of the room, about half way through the ceremony, I noticed a slight man enter. He was in a crimson and black Starfleet Dress uniform and his hair was a sophisticated combination of gray and white. His escort was none other than the Starfleet commander. It sure looked like Dr. McCoy...but he wasn't in the program as a presenter OR a guest speaker. As the slideshow continued behind me, I watched...in great anticipation...to see who was advancing toward the stage.

In short order, my mouth dropped; it was Dr. Leonard McCoy, and he was walking right toward me. The exploits of the crew he was part of and the stories of that historic five-year mission, the experience with the V-ger probe, the near-death experience during his encounter with Khan that resulted in the death of his best friend, the carrying of Spock's katra to the point of near insanity, the travel back in time to save earth from an orbiting probe, the search for Sha-Ka-Ri, and the escape from Rura Penthe in time to save the Khitomer Peace Conference were all required learning. And, there he stood, not more than three feet from me with his hand extended.

"Leonard McCoy," he said with a wry smile.

"Well, of course, sir. It is, indeed, a great honor to meet you," I replied while not knowing really what to say!

Then he leaned toward me and spoke more softly into my ear, "what a dog and pony show this turned out to be." His quip left a smirk on his face that was vintage 'Bones.' I couldn't help but smile.

After the ceremony concluded, I was at the lectern gathering my notes and the guests were in the lobby shaking the hand of Admiral Fuller, rubbing shoulders with any and all big-whigs in attendance and hoping for a glimpse of our surprise guest before his departure. I had neither the time, nor the desire, to be part of the crowd. Apparently, neither did Bones.

"Nice job, son," a voice said from my left. I turned to take a quick look and nod my appreciation when I saw Dr. McCoy standing alongside the stage with his jacket flap opened and a brandy in his hand. "What a time."

"Yes it was, sir," I said.

Bones walked over and took a seat on the front of the stage next to me. He set his brandy down and ran two fingers between the green uniform collar and his neck in an effort to 'get more comfortable.' "You know, it was the darndest thing today; helping present a medal to the commandant. I know a lot more people who deserved to be decorated like that but who would probably not even show up for the ceremony."

"Your former crewmates?" I asked.

"You got it, sonny." He raised his glass in a one-man toast. "To the crew of the USS Enterprise, NCC-1701-A. May you have fair winds and following seas." Then, he drank alone. "Take a seat, son," he said to me and patted on the stage to his right.

The next hour was the best hour of my young life and solidified my desire to be a career Starfleet officer. If I could be half the man he is, I'd be twice the man I am. What an experience.

Until next time... ~mtc.

Editors Note: I owe my readers an apology. Over the last month the communications department got a face lift and a couple of new members to help me pump out a stellar newsletter. However in the process of getting my team together I neglected to get updates from the other departments. They will be in the next episode and will be informative as always.