



# Blue Alert

Excellentia in Defero - Excellence in Communication



Volume 3, Issue 12

Seasons Greetings to All at OSB

December 2011

## A Letter from the Editor

by **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader / BA Editor

December marks the year-end Holiday Season for a great many cultures. Regardless of what it is called, it is a time of joy, a time of cheer, a time for friendliness, a time for giving. Wherever you go, in many public places music fills the air and an uplifting spirit fills the people. We put pettiness aside, for the most part, and we think more of others than of ourselves. We think especially of the children for this is really their season. Yet, because it is their season it is our season. We plan for gifts for the little ones; toys they will be excited about or giggle over, and we go to great lengths to hide even the slightest hint of what we are doing from them. Then on the chosen day, the children rush to see what is waiting for them. Their eyes open wide and sparkle with glee when they open their gifts and see what wondrous things they have been given! And we revel in their joy! This is how it is every year, and this is how it should be. The ultimate spirit of giving. Sound familiar? Is this not a metaphor for what the world of Star Trek is all about?

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from the Editor | Breaking Trek News
- 2 Officer Profile: CDR Benson
- 3 Upcoming Conventions
- 4 Ships of the Line: USS Raven / A Nugget | "Let it Snow!"
- 5 Alien Species: the Ba'ku, the Son'a
- 6 Alien Planets: Ba'ku | Janeway Tops Picard and Sisko
- 7 Romance: Tucker & T'Pol | The Vulcan Hi. Cmd. - Part 1
- 8 The Battle of the Omarion Nebula - Part 1
- 9 Episode Review: TNG's "The Inner Light"
- 10 Command Relationships: Kirk, Spock, McCoy
- 11 Recreations Fortnightly Fiction: Two Stories
- 12 BA Fiction: "All I Want for Christmas"
- 13 Crossword Puzzle
- 14 Word Search | Sudoku
- 15 BA Staff | On Command

## Breaking Trek news

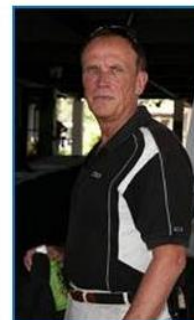
by **CDR Kira marys**

Senior PR Correspondent / Feature Writer

### Star Trek XII

The new release date for this most awaited Star Trek - 3D - sequel is May 17, 2013. Shooting set to begin in January 2012. More names have been added to the cast registry. Indeed, we should see "Robocop" Peter Weller and "Seven of Nine's sister" Alice Eve. Okay, maybe she isn't Seven's sister. My imagination's playing tricks on me. I wonder why...

Update: According to a new report, JJ Abrams and Benicio Del Toro could not agree on financial terms. Thus Del Toro most probably won't be part of the Star Trek sequel.



### Trek Nation Director's Log

Rod Roddenberry's project of Trek Nation has so much extra footage that its director Scott Colthorp has decided to release a web serie on youtube.com called Trek Nation Director's Log. On November 29, four episodes were available including interviews with Nichelle Nichols and Sir Patrick Stewart. As I'm writing this column on December 5, ten episodes are now available for your enjoyment!

### Linda Park in "All My Sons"

Actress Linda Park, whom we know as Hoshi Sato from Star Trek Enterprise, is currently involved in the play "All my Sons" written by Arthur Miller. She plays the role of Ann Deever, daughter of a machine shop employee during World War II. She'll be at the Matrix Theatre in Los Angeles until December 18, 2011. Yeah... by the time you get this, it'll be too late. What can I say? All good things... must come to an end.



Source: <http://www.subspacecommunique.com/>

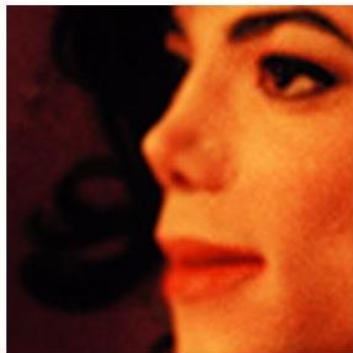
# Officer Profile

## **CDR Benson**

*Recreations Department  
GamePlay Team Leader*

### **Interviewed by CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader, BA Editor



Name: Mark.

Age: 17

Position on the Starbase: GamePlay Team Leader

Location: Northern Ireland

Hobbies: Games, Pool, Darts, Football, books, RAF & Naval History, Michael Jackson Buff!

Enjoys: Sleeping, cooking, gaming!!

Hates: My Commanding Officer Kate!

Guilty Pleasures: Games...games PC gaming Xbox gaming..ah man...I feel the guilt already..

**CDR Warp:** How did your Star Trek Journey begin?

**CDR Benson:** Before my Mother and Father Split up, me and My dad watched The Next Generation..and I loved it from the start!

**CDR Warp:** Please state the nature of your addiction to Star Trek.

**CDR Benson:** Oh you know...stop going to Navy collage for three weeks to sit down to watch full boxset of Voyager..you know usual.

**CDR Warp:** In all the episodes of all the series, which Star Trek character is your favorite and why?

**CDR Benson:** Ohh..tough one....hmm... Captain James Tiberius Kirk. Or Janeway...I loved the whole fact of a Female Captain..but yet.. I loved Kirk..I grew up on Kirks Movies... Warp..Dont ask me to chose? but then again there is Picard..

**CDR Warp:** Entering the wormhole to the Star Trek Universe, which race would you morph yourself into and why?

**CDR Benson:** Vulcan. I'm much like that race as it is. I am never angry and never let my emotions get the best of me.

**CDR Warp:** Peering into the Orb of Philosophy, what is the most valuable lesson that the Prophets have taught you?

**CDR Benson:** Never stick your hand in a mouse trap, even for a bet.

**CDR Warp:** Resistance is futile. You will share one of your personal Star Trek experiences with the Collective!

**CDR Benson:** Once when I first started my school in the UK. my phone went off in class and it was the final Log of Kirk on the Enterprise. And I got stuck with "the geek boy" all through my school life. It was funny I loved it!

**CDR Warp:** Under what circumstances did you join the omnipotent Online Starbase?

**CDR Benson:** I searched around of ST websites and I loved OSB from the Start...so I joined!

**CDR Warp:** What do you like most about Online Starbase?

**CDR Benson:** The People. I have met some real nice people on OSB including our Mr Warp!

**CDR Warp:** Why did you make the decision to join a Department?

**CDR Benson:** I've always wanted to help out OSB even since I first started, and decided to re-take a new Department job again.

**CDR Warp:** What is it like to be a GamePlay Team Leader?

**CDR Benson:** I can make people Polish my pins and make me coffee, Living the life!

**CDR Warp:** What was your childhood dream?

**CDR Benson:** Oh wow..I cant even remember, something like meet Michael Jackson and Hug him, it was either hug him, or moonwalk with him.. one of them, maybe both.

**CDR Warp:** What is your current situation?

**CDR Benson:** Officer cadet, Royal Navy. Warfare Department. (training, and on leave)

**CDR Warp:** What are your aspirations for the future?

**CDR Benson:** Marrying my girlfriend..she's still picking her dress..not only that expensive ones too!

**CDR Warp:** Any other information or thoughts you'd like to share with us?

**CDR Benson:** Nope, but I hope Mr. Warp is keeping up with his Meds! Don't want your hips to go sir! 😊

**CDR Warp:** Thank you for your time, CDR Benson. Live long and prosper!

**CDR Benson:** Take Care Sir!

## Upcoming Conventions

by **CDR Kira Marys**

Senior PR Correspondent / Feature Writer

January 13 to 15: Albuquerque Comic Con

Location: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Guests: Brent Spiner, Kristin Bauer (Laneth - ENT Ep: Divergence), Cary-Hiroynuki Tagawa (Mandarin Baliff - TNG Ep: Encounter at Farpoint)

January 28: OzTrek 7

Location: Rydges Melbourne, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

Guests: Walter Koenig, Barbara March (Lursa - TNG), Gwynyth Walsh (B'eTor - TNG), Alan Scarfe (Admiral Mendak and Tokath - TNG, Augris - VOY), Chase Masterson (Leeta - DS9), Lolita Fatjo (Holographic Guest - DS9 Ep: What You Leave Behind)

January 29: OzTrek 7

Location: The Sebel Parramatta, Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Guests: Walter Koenig, Barbara March (Lursa - TNG), Gwynyth Walsh (B'eTor - TNG), Alan Scarfe (Admiral Mendak and Tokath - TNG, Augris - VOY), Chase Masterson (Leeta - DS9), Lolita Fatjo (Holographic Guest - DS9 Ep: What You Leave Behind)

January 28 to 29: New Orleans Comic Con

Location: New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Guests: William Shatner, Paul McGillion (Starfleet Academy barracks leader - Star Trek XI, Stargate Atlantis, the X-Files), Diora Baird (Orion officer mistaken for Gaila - Star Trek XI)

February 10 to 12: The Hollywood Show

Location: Burbank Airport Marriott, Burbank, California, USA

Guests: David Soul (Makora - TOS Ep: The Apple), Joanne Linville (Romulan Commander - TOS Ep: The Enterprise Incident)

February 10 to 12: SFBall 18

Location: Carrington House Hotel, Boumemouth, ENGLAND

Guests: Kate Vernon (Com. Valerie Archer - VOY Ep: In the Flesh and Ellen Tigh - Battlestar Galactica), Torri Higginson (Weir - Stargate Atlantis), Michael Hogan (Battlestar Galactica)

February 11 to 12: Sci-Fi Expo

Location: Irving Convention Center, Irving, Texas, USA

Guests: Ron Glass (Loken - VOY Ep: Nightingale; also Firefly), other Firefly guests and Hayden Panettiere (Heroes)

February 17 to 19: Mega Con

Location: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, USA

Guests: Kate Mulgrew, Ethan Phillips, Robert Picardo, Tim Russ, Brent Spiner, Paul McGillion (Starfleet Academy barracks leader - Star Trek XI, Stargate Atlantis, the X-Files), Saul Rubinek (Kivas Fajo - TNG Ep: The Most Toys), Tony Amendola (Chorus Member - VOY Ep: Muse, Stargate SG-1), Arne Starr (Enterprise Engineer - Star Trek XI), Corin Nemec (Stargate SG-1), David Prowse (Darth Vader - Star Wars), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca - Star Wars), Richard LeParmentier (Admiral Motti - Star Wars), Bruce Boxleitner (Capt. John Sheridan - Babylon 5), Stephen Furst (Vir Cotto - Babylon 5), Peter Jurasik (Londo Mollari - Babylon 5)

February 17 to 19: Gallifrey One's Network 23

Location: Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel, Los Angeles, California, USA

Guests: John de Lancie (Q), Chase Masterson (Leeta - DS9), Daphne Ashbrook (Ensign Melora Pazlar - DS9 Ep: Melora), Mark Sheppard (Leucon - VOY Ep: Child's Play), William Morgan Sheppard (Klingon Commandant - ST:VI, Ira Graves - TNG Ep: The Schizoid Man, Qatai - VOY Ep: Bliss, Vulcan Science Minister - Star Trek XI) Other Doctor Who guests: Paul McGann, Camille Coduri, Mark Sheppard, Louise Jameson, Maureen O'Brien, William Russell, Tony Curran, Mary Tamm, Frazer Hines, Richard Franklin, Yee Jee Tso.

February 17 to 19: Farpoint

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Timonium, Maryland, USA  
Guests: Kristin Bauer (Laneth - ENT Ep: Divergence), Kate Vernon (Com. Valerie Archer - VOY Ep: In the Flesh and Ellen Tigh - Battlestar Galactica), Michael Hogan (Saul Tigh - Battlestar Galactica).

February 24 to 26: GalaxyFest

Location: Antler's Hilton, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA  
Guests: Robert Picardo, Denise Crosby (Tasha Yar / Sela - TNG), Torri Higginson (Weir - Stargate Atlantis), Claudia Christian (Ivanova - Babylon 5), Dean Haglund (the X-Files), Frazer Hines (Doctor Who)

Source: <http://startrekappearances.blogspot.com/>



## **Ships of the Line**

USS Raven: NAR-32450

by **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader, BA Editor

The USS Raven (NAR-32450) was a Federation Raven-type exploration vessel that was in service with Starfleet in the mid-24th century. This ship was on loan to the Federation Council on Exobiology, and was given



USS Raven

the NAR prefix. On her last mission, the Raven had three crewmembers: the exobiologists Magnus Hansen and Erin Hansen, and their daughter, Annika Hansen.\*

During the 2350s, the Hansens took the Raven on a field mission to locate and study a rumored race of cybernetic beings from beyond the Romulan Neutral Zone known to the peoples of the Beta Quadrant as the Borg.\*

In the course of their mission, the Raven (under the alias Jefferies) visited Drexler outpost. In their time at the outpost, the Hansens didn't file a flight plan, and upon leaving, set a course for 234 mark 74. This was the last time that the Federation had contact with the starship. This information was recorded in the logs of Deep Space 4. It was later determined that after leaving the station, the Hansen family had disobeyed a direct order to return and had crossed into the Neutral Zone as part of their study into the Borg.\*

After tracking stray readings and sensor echoes for eight months, the Hansens were able to locate a Borg cube. The ship was pulled into a transwarp conduit while trailing the cube and transported to the Delta Quadrant.\*

The Raven continued its exploration of the Borg for three years until 2356, when an ion storm damaged the vessel's multi-adaptive shielding. The shields went off-line for 13.2 seconds, and the Borg detected and pursued the Hansens. The Hansens and their daughter, Annika, were assimilated. The ship itself was also partially assimilated before crashing onto a moon in B'omar space. (VOY: "The Gift", "The Raven", "Dark Frontier")\*

The vessel's Borg components continued to emit a resonance frequency despite its damage. This resonance frequency drew Seven of Nine, who had once been Annika Hansen, to the vessel in 2374. Shortly afterward, the vessel was destroyed by B'omar forces. (VOY: "The Raven")\* ♦

\*Source: Memory Alpha

### **A Nugget from CDR Logan Kale**

Though the famous line "Beam me up Scotty" is often quoted by many Star Trek fans, Captain Kirk has never actually once said this during any of the episodes.

Source: <http://www.themovietimeline.com/>

## **Let it Snow! Let it Snow!**

by **CDR Kira Marys**

Senior PR correspondent / Feature Writer

Note to Onliners: the following is what happens when my brain mixes Star Trek with the song "Let it Snow!" No rights are given or implied. My personal thanks to lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne for the original 1945 winter song; Paramount Pictures Corporation for the Star Trek franchise and, of course, Gene Roddenberry, the man behind the helm.

Oh the captain's figure is frightful  
But the journey is so delightful  
On this starship I boldly go  
Make it so! Make it so! Make it so!

If villains show signs of stopping  
And try to get our bones popping  
The red alert starts to glow  
Let it glow! Let it glow! Let it glow!

When we finally face the fight  
How I'll hate battling out in the throng  
But if you'll really arm me right  
Like a Klingon I'll be strong

The redshirts are slowly dying  
And, in tears, we're still goodbying  
But as long as they shield me so  
Let it blow! Let it blow! Let it blow!

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **Departmental Advancement HOORAHs**

(Effective: Stardate 201111.16)

**Advanced to Chief, Department of Public Relations**  
**CAPT Yu'Wanna**

(Effective: Stardate 201112.02)

**Assigned to Department of Recreations**  
**LTJG Richard Smith**

### **Posting Award Milestone HOORAHs**

(Effective: Stardate 201111.23)

**5000th Post**  
**CDR SF Warp**

## **Calendar of Events**

### **Article Submission for Blue Alert Newsletter**

Place: PM to CDR SF Warp  
Time: 2359 OST, 8 January 2012

Anyone wanting to be published in our newsletter must submit their articles by the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## Alien Species

by CDR SF Warp  
IPR Section Leader,  
BA Editor



Ba'ku Female



Ba'ku Male

### The Ba'ku

The Ba'ku were a humanoid civilization from the planet Ba'ku within the Briar Patch, in Sector 441. They look remarkably human.\*

The Ba'ku people were a technologically advanced humanoid civilization. In the early 21st century, the race developed the means of building weapons of mass destruction and was on the brink of self-annihilation. A small, enlightened group of the Ba'ku people escaped the horror of their unknown homeworld and found an isolated planet.\*

This group of Ba'ku followed a simple way of life and prohibited themselves from using technology. At first they were unaware of the metaphasic radiation in the planet's rings, which caused their aging process to significantly decelerate, although it was later discovered and cherished.\*

The Ba'ku society consisted of strong bonds between each individual as there were only 600 living in the village. Their simpler way of life eventually prompted some of the younger Ba'ku villagers — who wanted to explore the galaxy with offworlders — to rebel against their elders, and an attempt was made to take over the village. When they failed, they were exiled and eventually became the Son'a people.\*

In 2375, First Contact between the Ba'ku and the Federation was established during a failed cultural observation mission, when a monitoring post was discovered on the planet. Lieutenant Commander Data, suffering a malfunction, disabled the post's duck blind, revealing the operation and the observers. Data subsequently informed the Ba'ku that the Starfleet and Son'a observers were their enemies, and attacked the support vessel in orbit with a scout craft.\*

Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the USS *Enterprise-E* headed to the planet, intending to capture Data and resolve the situation. Although Data was repaired, the question of why he had malfunctioned led the *Enterprise* crew to discover a cloaked Federation holoship hidden near the village. It emerged that Son'a leader Ru'afo planned to collect the planet's rings and harness the power of the radiation. Starfleet admiral Matthew Dougherty was cooperating with the Son'a, intending to kidnap the Ba'ku and take them to another world.\*

Ru'afo and Dougherty's plans were stopped when Picard and his crew gained control of the holoship, transported the Son'a off Ru'afo's ship, and destroyed the Son'a collector.\*

Peace on the Ba'ku planet was restored, and several members of the Son'a, including Subahdar Gallatin, returned to their families to live in peace. (*Star Trek: Insurrection*)\*

### The Son'a

The Son'a were a narcissistic and materialistic humanoid race descended from the Ba'ku.\*

They left the idyllic Ba'ku home planet in the Briar Patch during the 2270s after a failed attempt to take over Ba'ku society. They had rebelled against the Ba'ku philosophy of rejecting high technology.\*

In 2325, they subjugated the Tarlac and the Ellora species to serve as indentured servants and soldiers. (*Star Trek: Insurrection*)\*



Son'a Male

The Son'a equipped their vessels with unpredictable isotopic subspace weapons, in defiance of the Second Khitomer Accord. (*Star Trek: Insurrection*)\* They also manufactured large quantities of the Dominion narcotic ketracel-white in the Son'a colonies in the outlying areas near Cardassia and the Bajoran wormhole. One of their white storage facilities was located at their outpost at Devos II. (DS9: "Penumbra")\*

Without the regenerative effects of the Ba'ku homeworld's metaphasic radiation, the Son'a became desperate in their efforts to prolong their lives by any possible means, including genetic manipulation and surgical techniques. The Son'a would make regular visits to facilities where their skin was stretched tight, and accumulated toxins were purged from their bodies. Nevertheless, in the 2370s many Son'a were nearing death. It was also revealed that it would take at least ten years of normal exposure to the metaphasic radiation to begin to reverse their condition.\*

In 2375, a group of Son'a led by Ahdar Ru'afo attempted to access the metaphasic particles within the rings of the Ba'ku planet, now located within Federation space. To do so, they entered an alliance with Starfleet Admiral Matthew Dougherty, who convinced the Federation Council to approve the scheme. The Son'a had developed a metaphasic collector to harvest the particles, but it came with the secondary effect of rendering the planet uninhabitable. They agreed to follow Starfleet procedure and relocate the existing Ba'ku population beforehand, using a hidden Federation holoship.\*

The plan began to unravel when Lieutenant Commander Data from the USS *Enterprise-E* uncovered the holoship and was shot by a Son'a soldier. This caused him to malfunction and the *Enterprise* was sent to retrieve him. When the *Enterprise* arrived, they discovered the true nature of the Son'a's operations. Captain Jean-Luc Picard threatened to expose this to the Federation, by sending Commander William T. Riker and the *Enterprise* to the edge of the Briar Patch to contact the Federation Council, while he and a number of his officers took the captain's yacht to the surface to help the Ba'ku. In response, Ru'afo sent Son'a warships to intercept the *Enterprise* and ordered the Ba'ku to be removed by force, though his efforts were impeded by the *Enterprise* crew.\*

Unwilling to wait any longer, Ru'afo decided to commence with the next stage of the operation, without relocating the remaining Ba'ku. When Dougherty objected to this, Ru'afo killed him and deployed the metaphasic collector. Fortunately, Picard was able to stop its activation and trigger the auto-destruct sequence, with help from Ru'afo's second-in-command Gallatin. Soon the Federation Council withdrew their support for the project, with new information from the *Enterprise*. Some of the Son'a elected to return to the Ba'ku. (*Star Trek: Insurrection*)\*

During the later days of the Dominion War, Weyoun diverted a number of Dominion warships to the Son'a outpost on Devos II. They were diverted, rather than sent to pursue the USS *Defiant*, which was searching for survivors from the IKS *Koraga*, in order to help protect the new ketracel-white facility built there, as the Dominion was aware that the Federation had discovered its existence. Damar questioned this, as he felt the Son'a should be able to protect it themselves. (DS9: "Penumbra")\*

Vice Admiral Kathryn Janeway later joked with Jean-Luc Picard about his encounter with the Son'a, telling him he always got the easy assignments. (*Star Trek: Nemesis*)\*

Source: Memory Alpha

## Alien Planets

Ba'ku

by **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PPR Section leader,  
BA Editor



The planet Ba'ku was an M-class planet located in the Briar Patch, an area within Sector 441, a region of Federation space. It was the location of a Ba'ku colony, and was characterized by a unique effect caused by the planet's rings that cause the planet's inhabitants not to age.\*



The Surface of Ba'ku

### History

Ba'ku is a ringed planet, the rings themselves being saturated with metaphasic radiation. The planet is home to a Ba'ku settlement, established in 2066 by a group of approximately 600 of the Ba'ku, fleeing their homeworld for fear of their race's self-destruction. The planet's radiation allowed the inhabitants to live extended life spans. In the late 23rd century, a group of the Ba'ku, disillusioned with the settlement's ways, left the planet, and became the Son'a.\*

In 2375, an attempt by the Son'a – led by Ahdar Ru'afu, and assisted by Starfleet officers under Admiral Matthew Dougherty – to strip the planet of its metaphasic particles and to forcefully relocate the Ba'ku to another planet, was stopped by the actions of Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the USS Enterprise-E.\*

### Geographical

There are several mountains near the Ba'ku settlement that contain caves lined with kelbonite ore that protect from transporters.\*

### Zoological

There are many species of animal life on the Ba'ku planet, several of which can be seen in a Ba'ku children's book. These species' names are unknown, but pictures have been seen of a six-legged turtle-like animal, a polar bear-like animal, an animal that resembles an ancient Earth pterodactyl, and a Ba'ku butterfly.\*

Ba'ku also has a small caterpillar-like mammal, known as a rhyl. There are also several species of goats, llamas, fish, and a two-tailed kolibri\*

### Recommendation

Ba'ku is one of the most idyllic planets in the quadrant. If you want to party, then go to Risa. But if you are seeking beauty, tranquility and the most gracious of peoples, I strongly recommend Ba'ku! On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being best, Ba'ku far exceeds even a 10! ♦

Source: Memory Alpha

## Why Captain Janeway is Better than Captains Picard and Sisko

Contributed by **LCDR Andrew Conlan**  
Senior Officer

1. Janeway has more hair - which means you can tell when she's frazzled. Picard - he has to rely on facial expressions.
2. Janeway has told people to 'go to hell' and meant it. Picard invites them to chat in his Ready Room over a cup of tea.
3. When Janeway knows there's trouble, she picks up a phaser rifle. Picard's weapon of choice? Worf.
4. She's never had to pretend to be in love with an officer's mother.
5. Q picked her over Picard to be a godparent to his child.
6. Q picked her over Picard and Sisko to um... well, mate with him.
7. Janeway's not afraid to get in a physical confrontation when things get tough. Picard has to call on an officer to do the dirty work. Sisko just runs away and abandons what he was told to command.
8. Janeway's not afraid to play around with the temporal prime directive. Picard has to think through what's going on before he takes action.

Source: <http://www.lacarlotta.com/st113.html>

## OSB Fiction Writing Contest

By: **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader, Blue Alert Editor

Created by: **CAPT Marshall Crockett**  
OSB Vice Commander

The Public Relations Department is always looking for creative writers. Contest Submission Guidelines are:

**Maximum Length:** 800 Words

**Deadline:** 8th of the following month, 2359 OST - PM CDR Warp

**Topic:** Finish the starter at the bottom of this section

**Genre:** Any Star Trek genre is acceptable

**Don'ts:** Don't kill off any main characters, have relations between any characters beyond the ones established in ST canon, use foul language, overt sexual innuendo or verbiage, or any other distasteful item not covered here but would make you go, "What? Cmon! Seriously?"

**JAN TOPIC:** On board the shuttlepod were the science officer who was piloting, and a young geologist. With their starship docked for repairs, they're en route to a nearby asteroid field to collect samples. As they near the field, the shuttlepod strikes something and shudders violently. "What was that, Commander?" "A quantum filament, I think, Ensign." "I'll call for help, sir!" "Can't! Comm's out! All we have is life support! We're not going anywhere!"

**THE WINNER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!!**

## Romantic Relationships

Tucker and T'Pol

By **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader,  
BA Editor



Tucker's and T'Pol's relationship was cordial in the beginning, even though neither seemed to have much sympathy for the other. Upon their first meeting, T'Pol refused to shake hands with him and Tucker once mentioned to Crewman Elizabeth Cutler - who was trying to be nice to T'Pol - that she'd have "better luck making friends with a housefly." (ENT: "Broken Bow", "Strange New World")\*

However, they warmed up to each other during the Xindi crisis. After Tucker's sister died in the Xindi attack on Earth, Tucker suffered insomnia so Phlox convinced T'Pol to assist the engineer, in order to help him rest.\*

T'Pol's application of Vulcan neuropressure helped, but Tucker also began to develop romantic feelings for T'Pol. They had intimate relations in January of 2154, though T'Pol later denied her emotions, calling it an "exploration of Human sexuality". (ENT: "The Xindi", "Harbinger", "E")\*

After the battle of Azati Prime in February 2154, Tucker was haunted by visions of Crewman Jane Taylor, a member of his engineering team who had died in the attack. He was unable to compose a letter of consolation to her parents, as she reminded him too much of his sister, Elizabeth. T'Pol consoled Tucker, discussing the emotions he felt concerning both his sister and Crewman Taylor. (ENT: "The Forgotten")\*

Once Enterprise returned to Earth, T'Pol went on to Vulcan, asking Tucker - who complained of having nowhere to go - to Vulcan. While there, she discovered her mother was forced into retirement and her old bond-mate, Koss, entered the picture. The Vulcan explained that his family could save T'Les, T'Pol's mother, and T'Pol entered into marriage. Tucker's heart was broken by this. Even though the marriage to Koss was annulled soon thereafter, T'Pol and Tucker's relationship from that point forward was confusing to both of them as T'Pol sought - after her mother's death and interest in Surak's teachings - a more Vulcan way of life. (ENT: "Home", "Kir'Shara")\*

Tensions culminated in November 2154, when Tucker decided to transfer to the Columbia. He realized his feelings were jeopardizing his work. When Trip came back aboard Enterprise, T'Pol persuaded him to stay, sealing her plea with a kiss (a possible indication that she wished to continue their relationship). Afterward, Trip explained to her that he'd already asked Captain Erika Hernandez to return to Enterprise. (ENT: "Affliction", "Bound")\*

In January of 2155, T'Pol discovered that her DNA, as well as Tucker's, had been stolen by extremist organization, Terra Prime to create a baby (also named Elizabeth). (ENT: "Demons") After rescuing her, with the help of Tucker and Archer, Phlox discovered that the child was dying, due to genetic engineering mistakes. (ENT: "Terra Prime")\*

Soon after their daughter's death, T'Pol and Tucker ended their relationship. Six years later, Tucker sacrificed his own life to save Archer and possibly others aboard Enterprise. Prior to his death, he and T'Pol discussed their relationship for the first time since they had broken it off, with T'Pol admitting that she would miss him when she moved on to other assignments. Following Trip's sacrifice, T'Pol received comfort from Archer as the two of them mourned their mutual friend. (ENT: "These Are the Voyages...")\* ♦

Source: [Memory Alpha](#)

## The Vulcan High Command - Part I

by **CDR SF Warp**

IPR Section Leader, BA Editor

The Vulcan High Command was the most powerful governmental body on planet Vulcan during the early 22nd century, and was its de facto military government.\* It was in fact a somewhat totalitarian regime.



The High Command was responsible for overseeing military and civilian organizations, as well as Vulcan's space fleet, diplomatic missions, and scientific research.\* Its existence can be traced as far back as Earth year 1957.

The Vulcan High Command was instrumental in hindering Earth's Warp propulsion program by holding back development of their warp five engine. As a result, Henry Archer, codeveloper of the engine died before it was completed and was thus never able to experience it in flight. For this reason, Captain Jonathan Archer, Henry's son, mistrusted the Vulcans for many years.

The very first mission that Starfleet assigned USS Enterprise, to return Klaang to the Klingon homeworld, was objected to by the Vulcan High Command. They had objected to Humans returning Klaang out of fear that a perceived provincial attitude and accompanying volatile nature of Humans would complicate Human contact with the Klingons so soon. In addition, the High Command insisted that the Vulcan, T'Pol, be assigned to Enterprise as Executive Officer and Science Officer obligatorily in exchange for supplying the Enterprise with the Vulcan star charts. Vulcan objections and interference in general reinforced the idea that the Vulcans had deliberately withheld information from Earth, holding the Humans back, for over a hundred years.\* Ultimately, the mission proceeded with Captain Archer at the helm and was an unqualified success. (ENT: "Broken Bow")

After the discovery that the Vulcan monastery on P'Jem was serving as a base for spy activity against the Andorians, it was destroyed in an attack by the Andorians. In response to this, the Vulcan High Command called for an end to joint Earth-Vulcan fleet operations and requested the transfer of T'Pol off of Enterprise.\* They dispatched a ship to rendezvous with Enterprise so that T'Pol could be returned to Vulcan. In the interim, Captain Archer decided to spend a last few hours of quality time with T'Pol in a visit to a planet in the Coridan system, a planet governed by friends and allies of the Vulcans.

As Archer and T'Pol were approaching the planet, their shuttle pod was fired upon, disabled, and crash landed. They were then taken hostage by dissidents. A rescue effort was soon mounted by some of the Enterprise crew and, while on planet, they encountered and joined forces with some Andorians who were also attempting a rescue. Meanwhile, the Vulcan ship arrived and its captain, Sopek, mounted a rescue effort of his own. A firefight ensued and the dissidents were either killed or knocked out. The dissident leader came to briefly and took aim at Captain Sopek. T'Pol noticed this, jumped between the shooter and the captain, and took the shot meant for Sopek. Later, Captain Sopek reluctantly agreed to intercede on T'Pol's behalf with the Vulcan High Command. T'Pol was subsequently allowed to remain aboard Enterprise. (ENT: "Shadows of P'Jem")\* ♦

Source: [Memory Alpha](#)

## Battle of the Omarion Nebula - Part I

by CDR Tre'gok of Mirtak

Senior PR Correspondent

Greetings, fellow members of OSB. Last month, my series on the History of the USS Voyager came to an end. Now I have a new series lined up. Over the coming months I'll be bringing you various articles on major battles in Federation History. To kick it all off this month, I shall tell you about the Battle of the Omarion Nebula.

The Battle was part of the Dominion Cold war, fought in late 2371 in the Omarion Nebula. It ended with a Decisive Jem'Hadar victory, the Fall of the Obsidian Order and the Crippling of the Tal Shiar. It was fought between the combined forces of the Obsidian Order and the Tal Shiar commanded by Enabran Tain and the Dominion, commanded by the Changeling Lovok. The Obsidian Order and the Tal Shiar had a combined force of 5 Romulan Ships and 15 Cardassian Ships, whilst the Dominion had a force of 150 Jem'Hardar ships. The losses were: for the Obsidian Order and the Tal Shiar, all ships and many personnel whilst the Dominion suffered only light losses. \*

The Battle of the Omarion Nebula was the first major conflict between forces of the Alpha and Beta Quadrants, and the Dominion, as well the only large scale conflict to happen in the Gamma Quadrant. In the Battle, the Combined forces of the Cardassian Obsidian Order and the Romulan Tal Shiar Fleets attempted to launch a preemptive strike on the Founders home-world in the Omarion Nebula, only to be ambushed and completely destroyed by the Jem'Hardar. \*

This disastrous defeat, sometimes likened to the Federation defeat by the Borg at the Battle of Wolf 359, proved to have far-reaching consequences. The Cardassian underground quickly seized control as the Obsidian Order crumbled, and the Dominion would soon step up their destabilization of the Alpha Quadrant powers that led to the Dominion War. \*

The year 2371 was an anxious time for the various powers of the Alpha and Beta Quadrants as the threat posed by the Dominion on the other side of the Bajoran Wormhole loomed even closer. The Jem'Hadar offensive of 2370, which had claimed amongst others the colony of New Bajor, the Federation starship USS Odyssey, and the subsequent encounter between the USS Defiant and the Founders, had revealed a ruthless, technologically advanced enemy determined to impose their version of order on the chaotic galaxy. Although a full-scale invasion did not follow the initial appearance of the Jem'Hadar as was feared, war seemed to be only a matter of time. (DS9: "The Jem'Hadar", "The Search, Part I", "The Search, Part II") \*

Immediately, the Federation and the Klingons began preparations for a Dominion Incursion, including, fortifying DS9 and the investigation of methods on how to combat Changeling infiltration. The Romulan, ever cautious, loaned the Federation a cloaking device, (installed on USS Deviant), in exchange for Starfleet intelligence gathered on the Dominion, but refused to send ships of their own to the Gamma Quadrant. The Cardassian Union, occupied by its own internal and external concerns, also remained relative-

ly uninvolved. (DS9: "The Search, Part I", "Visionary") \*

At the time, the Cardassian, Enabran Tain was living out his retirement on Arawath, as the only head of the Obsidian Order to survive long enough to do so. Frustrated by the Central Command's complacency in the face of the Dominion Threat, and wearied by his three year absence from power, Tain drafted a plan to destroy the Dominion in a single decisive move. To accomplish this, he contacted the Romulan Tal Shiar, and proposed a joint venture, executed independently of either organization's parent government. However, unbeknownst to him, his contact in the Tal Shiar, Colonel Lovok, had been replaced by a Changeling. The Founders saw in Tain's plan their own opportunity, and did everything they could to carry it forward. \*



Tain and the Lovok Changeling

Through the Romulans, Tain had access to all the information they had on the Dominion that Starfleet had gathered over the past several months. He learned of the Founders control over the Jem'Hardar via their addiction to Ketracel White, and the location of their home-world in the Omarion Nebula. Tain concluded accurately that a massive attack directed toward the Founders home-world, eradicating the Founders and with them the supply of white, would cripple the Dominion irreparably. \*

In great secrecy, Tain began assembling a fleet of Kelvin class warships in the Orias system, even though Cardassian law strictly prohibited the organization from operation military spacecraft of any kind. The fleet was equipped with cloaking devices, supplied by the Tal Shiar, which had been modified to avoid detection by Dominion scanners. Meanwhile, the Tal Shiar assembled its own force of several D'deridex-class warbirds. Both fleets were crewed by combat veterans of both organizations. Numbering 20 ships altogether, their combined firepower would be enough to obliterate the crust of the Founders planet in one hour, and the mantle in five. Apart from those directly involved in the operation, the only individuals who knew of Tain's plan were Elim Garak and Odo who had been captured and held aboard Tain's flagship while investigating the deaths of several Obsidian Order members. \*

In late 2371 the combined Romulan-Cardassian fleet left the Orias system and headed toward the Bajoran Wormhole. As they passed Deep Space nine, the fleet decloaked and sent parallel messages to their Governments. In the Cardassian message, Tain said that his motives were for the good of Cardassia's defense. He advised the Cardassian Fleet to be on alert for any Dominion retaliation. Both Governments denied any involvement in the attacks, and despite the possibility of open war, they elected to wait and see if Tain would succeed or not.

Starfleet also decided not to interfere with the attack, admitting that Tain's plan had a fair chance of succeeding. Vice-Admiral Toddman ordered the Civilian evacuation of DS9 and sent a task force of nine starships to reinforce the Bajoran system. Meanwhile Commander Benjamin Sisko disobeyed direct orders, and took the Defiant to the Gamma Quadrant to rescue Garak and Odo. \* ♦

Source: Memory Alpha



## Episode Review

ST TNG: "The Inner Light"

by **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader, BA Editor

The USS Enterprise-D, on a magnetic wave survey in the Parvenium system, encounters an unknown space probe. It begins emitting a low level nucleonic beam at Jean-Luc Picard, rendering him unconscious. When he awakens, a strange woman is calling him "Kamin". To his dismay, he is not on a holodeck simulation and he is no longer on the Enterprise. In fact, none of the people he is now with has even heard of the Enterprise.\*

Picard discovers, over the next few days, much about his "new" existence. His name is Kamin, he has a friend named Batai, the woman he first met is his wife Eline, and he is an ironweaver who enjoys playing his flute. Finally, Picard learns that he now lives in the community of Ressik on the planet Kataan.\*

On Enterprise, meanwhile, Picard falls into a coma and Riker calls sickbay for help. Beverly Crusher arrives and discovers that Picard is undergoing tremendous neurological activity. The alien probe has appear so have locked itself onto Picard, so Dr. Crusher advises against destroying the probe for fear that the Captain could be injured, so they wait.\*

Five years have passed on Kataan now, and "Kamin" seems to have become integrated into his new society. He suggests to the visiting administrator that atmospheric condensers are needed to survive the extended drought they are currently experiencing. His ideas are rejected, but Batai notes that it is the first time Kamin has spoken as a member of the community in years. Later that evening, Kamin and Eline plan for a family.\*

Back on Enterprise, La Forge has launched a probe to follow the alien probe's ion trail back to its source. Data has determined a method of disrupting the beam, and plans are made to implement Data's idea.\*

Once again, several years have passed on Kataan. Kamin and Eline are in the middle of a "naming ceremony" for their second child, named Batai (for their late friend). Right after the ceremony, Kamin suddenly collapses. On Enterprise, an attempt has been made to sever the beam from Picard, severely destabilizing him. Dr. Crusher tries in vain to once again stabilize Picard. Data reestablishes the beam, which stabilizes Picard's condition.\*

Ten years have passed on Kataan. Kamin, together with his adult daughter Meribor, have found that the sun's radiation has sterilized the soil making it incapable of supporting life. The soil is dead.

La Forge has traced the alien probe's path back to the system of Kataan. There are no longer any habitable planets as the star went nova about a thousand years earlier.\*

Many more years have passed on Kataan. Kamin is now visibly old. He has discovered with his telescope that the drought will continue indefinitely, and the planet may be doomed. He argues with a government administrator, who tells him in confidence that the government scientists came to the same conclusion two years earlier. Kamin pleads

with him that an evacuation, even of a handful of people, must be attempted, but the pained administrator points out to Kamin that they simply do not have the technological capability for spaceflight of that magnitude, having only recently started launching unmanned probes into orbit. Reluctantly, the administrator shares with Kamin that there is an effort underway to save "some" piece of the civilization, though he will reveal no more about it. Later, Eline dies a natural death, and Kamin grieves.\*

Years later, an extremely old Kamin is playing with his grandchild, Meribor's son. He laments that his grandson deserves a long and full life, but like the rest of their world he will not survive. Kamin goes along with everyone else to view "the launching", which only he seems not to know about. Kamin asks, "What is it they're launching?"

His daughter, Meribor: "You know it, father. You've already seen it."\*

"Seen it? What are you talking about? I haven't seen any missile."\*

Batai: "Yes, you have, old friend. Don't you remember?"\*

Kamin turns to see his old friend, Batai, but in the prime of his life. Batai explains, "You saw it just before you came here. We hoped our probe would encounter someone in the future – someone who could be a teacher, someone who could tell the others about us."\*

"Oh... oh, it's me... isn't it? I'm the someone. I'm the one it finds. That's what this launching is – a probe that finds me in the future!"\*

"Yes, my love..."\*

Stunned, Kamin turns and sees Eline, glowing in youthful beauty, with the rest of his family. She says, "The rest of us have been gone a thousand years. If you remember what we were...and how we lived...then we'll have found life again."\*

"Eline..."\*

As the missile launches...\*

"Now we live in you. Tell them of us...my darling..."\*

Picard regains consciousness on the bridge of the Enterprise as the alien probe breaks contact. After the initial disorientation, he discovers that he has lived an entire lifetime in the course of 20 to 25 real-time minutes. Riker orders the probe loaded onboard the ship for further study. As Picard approaches the entrance to the turbolift to accompany Dr. Crusher to sickbay, he instinctively raises his right hand to touch the door mechanism he remembers from Ressik.\*

Later, Riker delivers to Picard a small box found inside the alien probe. Picard opens it to find the flute which he still vividly remembers from his life as Kamin. Once Riker leaves, he plays the tune he had played at his "son's" naming ceremony.\*

Personal note: this is one of the most endearing episodes I've ever seen. ♦

Source: Memory Alpha



## Command Relationships

Capt. Kirk, Mr. Spock & Dr. McCoy  
Part 1 - The Corbomite Maneuver



by **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader, BA Editor

While mapping stars in a previously unexplored region of space, the Enterprise is confronted by a strange cube. The cube blocks the ship's path and prevents the ship from going around it. Attempts to communicate with the cube fail. When the Enterprise tries backing away, the cube pursues her and begins emitting increasing amounts of some form of radiation, endangering the crew. When all evasive maneuvers fail, Captain Kirk orders the cube destroyed. He now considers his next move.

**SPOCK:** Nothing, Captain. No contacts, no objects in any direction.

**KIRK:** Care to speculate on what we'll find if we go on ahead?

**SPOCK:** Speculate? No. Logically, we'll discover the intelligence which sent out the cube.

**KIRK:** Intelligence different from ours or superior?

**SPOCK:** Probably both, and if you're asking the logical decision to make

**KIRK:** No, I'm not. The mission of the Enterprise is to seek out and contact alien life.

**SPOCK:** Has it occurred to you that there's a certain inefficiency in constantly questioning me on things you've already made up your mind about?

**KIRK:** It gives me emotional security. Navigator, set a course ahead.\*\*

Kirk then orders the navigator and helmsman to conduct a series of drills to improve their previously sluggish performance. During their encounter with the cube, the newly promoted navigator, Lieutenant Bailey, had become more and more rattled and was slipping at his duties.

Alone with Kirk, McCoy mentions how tired the crew is.

**MCCOY:** I'm especially worried about Bailey. Navigator's position's rough enough for a seasoned man.

**KIRK:** I think he'll cut it.

**MCCOY:** Oh? How so sure? Because you spotted something you liked in him, something familiar, like yourself say about, oh, eleven years ago?

**KIRK:** Why, Doctor, you've been reading your textbooks again?

**MCCOY:** I don't need textbooks to know you could've promoted him too fast.\*\*

A much more massive object approaches now and the Enterprise slows to warp two. The object, a gigantic sphere locks the ship in a tractor beam and the engines come to a full stop. Uhura's efforts to communicate with the object fail, but Bailey picks up a message on his navigation beam. It is from Balok, Commanding officer of the Fesarius, the flagship of the First Federation. Balok accuses Enterprise and her crew of not having peaceful intentions since they destroyed a warning buoy. He is considering destroying the Enterprise. When Captain Kirk tries to explain what happened, extremely powerful sensor probes invade all the ship's systems. Balok then threatens to destroy Enterprise if any moves are made. Enterprise dispatches a marker beacon, which Balok immediately destroys. Balok then gives the crew ten minutes to make death preparations. Kirk's makes another attempt at communication resulting in the loss of all engine and weap-

ons power. Spock manages to get a visual of Balok, a formidable looking individual. For now, though, they must wait.\*

**SPOCK:** Jim.

**BALOK** [over the comm]: Four minutes.

**KIRK:** What's the matter with them out there? They must know we mean them no harm.

**SPOCK:** They're certainly aware by now that we're totally incapable of it.

**KIRK:** There must be something to do, something I've overlooked.

**SPOCK:** In chess, when one is outmatched, the game is over. Checkmate.

**KIRK:** Is that your best recommendation?

**SPOCK:** I'm s, I regret that I can find no other logical alternative.\*\*

McCoy enters the bridge.

**MCCOY:** Assuming we get out of this, Captain

**KIRK:** Nobody's given up yet.

**MCCOY:** Well, then about Bailey. Let me enter it in my medical records as simple fatigue.

**KIRK:** That's my decision, Doctor.

**MCCOY:** And your mistake. You overworked him, pushed him, expected too much from him.

**KIRK:** I'm ordering you to drop it. I have no time for you, your theories, your quaint philosophies.

**MCCOY:** I intend to challenge your actions in my records. I'll state that I warned you about Bailey's condition. Now that's no bluff.

**KIRK:** Any time you can bluff me, Doctor.

**BALOK** [over the comm]: Three minutes.

**KIRK:** All right, Doctor. Let's hope we have time to argue about it. Not chess, Mister Spock, poker. Do you know the game? Ship to ship.

**UHURA:** Hailing frequencies open, sir.\*\*

Kirk tells Balok that a substance aboard all Federation vessels called corbomite, undocumented in the Enterprise records, will destroy any attacking ship. Kirk then dares Balok to attack, saying the Fesarius will be destroyed by the corbomite. While they're waiting to see if the bluff will pay off, a calm Bailey returns to the bridge, apologizes to Kirk and asks to return to his post. The captain agrees. Sulu counts final ten seconds down to zero.\*

**SPOCK:** A very interesting game, this poker.

**KIRK:** It does have advantages over chess.

**MCCOY:** Love to teach it to you.\*\*

The ten minutes gone, Balok now tells them Enterprise's destruction was "delayed." He demands proof of the corbomite, but Kirk refuses. Balok announces that a small ship will tow them to a nearby First Federation planet. Their ship will be destroyed, the crew interned. Under tow, Kirk has the Enterprise gradually resist. When the Enterprise breaks free, the alien's ship appears heavily damaged. Uhura concludes that its crew is not likely to be rescued. Kirk decides to rescue Balok despite the risk of trickery.\*

Kirk, McCoy and Bailey transport to the escort ship where they spot the fearsome-looking dummy they had thought was Balok. They meet the real, child-like Balok. He heartily welcomes them and offers tranya, a drink. He explains that everything was a test to determine their true intentions. Balok then suggests a cultural exchange, and Bailey offers to remain to learn more about them.\* ♦

Source: [Memory Alpha](#)

Source: <http://www.chakoteya.net/>

# Recreations Department's Fortnightly Story Competitions

14 November - 28 November 2011

## Carylon IV

by CDR SF Warp  
Internal PR Section Leader,  
BA Editor



Chance and Brack awoke to a spectacular sight, a sight rare even for the California desert. The sun was only just peeking over the hills to the east. Rays tapering outward from the sun shone through a veritable ocean of greatly billowed clouds in a near perfect fan, with nearly every cloud outlined in silver. The sky was ablaze with the most vivid lavenders, reds, oranges and golds, looking like a freshly painted Delacroix. Neither man said a word for several minutes; both were transfixed. Chance finally spoke.

"I never fail to be awed by Dame Nature's manifestations. Be it a sunrise such as this one, or the great blazing sea of stars on a moonless night in the wilderness, I can't help but be touched to the core by their awesome beauty and absolute wonder. She's a very humbling lady."

"I can't argue with that," Brack said quietly, "and the timing of this sunrise seems like a good omen. At the very least, it's a great start to the day. Saddle up! We're going for a ride...off planet!"

"Any place in particular?"

"You'll have to wait and see," Brack taunted.

Gear and supplies were stowed. Shiloh and Cassiopeia were accommodated rather nicely in their own adjoining, stall-like compartments.

"Near as I can tell, everything's packed," Chance said as he took a last look around.

"Then it's off we go," Brack announced buoyantly.

The little space craft was well outside the Earth's atmosphere in a matter of minutes, yet there was no sensation of motion. Chance Munro occupied himself peering out a view port. Watching the Earth recede filled him with even more awe than the sunrise did earlier. "Amazing," he muttered to himself.

"Prepare yourself, my friend. You're about to see things that no inhabitant of Earth has ever seen, or will ever see for generations to come." Brack, the traveler, was in his element. "Next stop: Carylon IV!"

\*\*\*\*\*

The fourth planet from the star, Carylon, looked pretty much like Earth. The continents were smaller, making the oceans larger. The polar ice caps were somewhat smaller than those on Earth. "Does this planet have a name?"

"I'll tell you after we land." Brack remained circumspect. "I can tell you this," he said with a grin, "You

won't need a jacket."

Brack set the ship down in a fenced in clearing on a small equatorial continent. Chance was first out, then Brack. The heat and humidity were oppressive; like nothing Chance had ever experienced.

"Are you all right," Brack asked.

"This soupy air'll take some getting used to, but it's nothing I can't handle."

"Good. Come with me."

They climbed the steps up to a wooden tower. Brack looked through a pair of binoculars for a few seconds, then handed them to Chance. "Tell me what you see."

Chance was silent for several minutes. Then, "Oh my," he said softly. "Is that some sort of dinosaur? I've seen a few sketches in a science book, but I never would've believed..." Incredulous, he was looking at a biped similar to Tyrannosaurus Rex.

"Yes. It's called a megalosaur. This continent is called Saurasia. This planet is a sanctuary for animals from many worlds, including Earth, where they once thrived but are now extinct. Chance Munro, welcome to Menagerie!"

30 November - 12 December 2011

## Hold Dear

By CDR Erin O'Connor  
Security Officer, Engineer

Books are safes for valuable words. Little treasures that weave themselves into stories, facts, emotions, knowledge, where reality and fantasy mingle freely, giving birth to a singular being whose power is to teach, to entertain, to mirror, to make one dream.

With a snap, Captain Picard closes the leather binding before the dream becomes a little less stargazing and a little more hope, sealing within the wealth of feelings and secrets hidden between those words, the tiny spaces where he poured something of himself to fill in the blanks. It is foolish to try to describe the shape of what is thus locked inside, to let this precious creature become physical. Yet it will not be tamed and remain only an illusion.

It is both real and unreal, and it will have to remain so for the sake of the past and the present, both tangible, and the future, the immaterial of what could be. A delicate balance, a fine line he walks upon through time, afraid that one false step will make him tip over. Because one possibility is too desirable, the other is unthinkable.

To have her, or not to have her. That is the question to which there will never be an answer.

# Fiction

## All I Want for Christmas...

by **CDR Kira Marys**

Senior PR Correspondent / Feature Writer

This story takes place aboard the USS Enterprise NCC-1701-E circa 2376, after "Insurrection," before "Nemesis."

"Captain, vessels are approaching fast!" "Who's are they, Number One?" "Can't tell! They're jamming sensors! Looks like three though, Captain. They're powering up weapons! Captain! They're already on top of us!" "On screen!"

The bell chimes within the captain's ready room. "Computer freeze audio archive," grumbles Picard. Silence fills the room. The high-pitched voices of the commanding officers formerly assigned to the USS Farragut echo inside his mind. Jean-Luc leans back in his chair and exhales deeply. "Come!"

The door to his office opens to Commander Deanna Troi. Picard forces a smile. "You don't have to pretend with me Captain," advises the half-Human, half-Betazoid in a warm, straightforward tone.

Jean-Luc reflexively lowers his defenses. "Right you are Commander. What can I do for you?"

"Is something troubling you Captain?"

"I was just reviewing the Battle of Ajilon Prime for the Federation Council's hearing next month."

Deanna looks into the man's eyes and deliberately pauses before pressing onward: "I feel it's more than that Sir."

Jean-Luc holds her gaze for a brief moment then swivels toward the window. He rises and walks over to the viewport, folding his arms across his chest, lost in contemplation. "You see these stars Counselor Troi?" he finally asks, gesturing with his hand. "They remind me of snowflakes." Another silence ensues in the course of which Deanna, feeling empathy for the captain, holds back. "It's winter now in La Barre, France. I recall our family reunions with Robert, Marie and..." His voice trails off. His grief betrays him.

"And your nephew René," finishes Deanna.

Picard nods, eyes closed, recalling that it was René who called him "nephew" as a pleasantry between the two of them. "He wanted to become an explorer. Now he would have been of age."

Picard heads for the sofa. "Have a seat Counselor," he offers. Sitting next to her, Jean-Luc bends forward, resting his elbows on his knees. "When I was trapped in the Nexus a few years back, I had this most lucid dream. We were celebrating Christmas." Picard glances at counselor Troi.

"I've heard about this religious celebration," remarks Deanna.

Jean-Luc continues: "My family held on to that tradition throughout the ages: the lights, the pine tree, the gifts but most of all, the happiness. So in that dream, I was with my beautiful wife and children, rejoicing around the Christmas tree. A large table had been dressed. René was there with us... Nothing felt more important than this. It didn't feel like a dream really. It felt real. As real as you and I talking together at this very moment." Jean-Luc falls silent once more.

"And now that we get closer to that holiday..." ventures Deanna in the hope that Jean-Luc will finish the sentence with: "I'd be grateful to have someone in my life, a family of my own". It doesn't quite come out this way though.

"I'll manage," declares Picard, getting to his feet. "Thank you Counselor. Was there anything I could do for you?"

"Yes Captain," she replies while standing. "Live out your dreams, it's never too late. Will and I are living proof of that. I wanted you to be the first one to know... We're engaged!"

\*\*\*

Some five weeks later, a Starfleet shuttle lands on the Ba'ku homeworld. Picard strolls down the landing platform in civilian clothing, a traveling bag tossed over his shoulder.

"Welcome back to our world," greets Anij with a shy, genuine smile.

"It feels good to be back," acknowledges Picard.

"I'm glad that, since your last visit, it didn't take me another 300 years to see a bald man."

"Any bald man?" inquires Picard, making the woman's cheeks turn red. "Anij, would you happen to know what an offlander can do around here with 318 days of shore leave?"

"Why don't I show you?" replies Anij, graciously holding out her hand.

"I wouldn't want it any other way," confirms Picard, gently squeezing her hand in his.

"Happy holiday Jean-Luc!"



**ACROSS**

1. Wild blue yonder
4. \*Dishonored leader of an honorable house
8. Veg out
12. Scorch
13. Brainchild
14. Dickens's \_\_\_ Heap
16. Boor
17. Lecherous look
18. Christopher of "Superman"
19. Summer mo.
20. John \_\_\_ Passos
21. \_\_\_ de deux
23. \*Kang's son who was named after his godfather
24. Gather
26. Fall behind
28. "Wheels"
30. Quick swim
32. Conceal
36. "Hold it!"
39. Grad
41. 1984 Peace Nobel
42. Aged
43. \*Her namesake was born on Voyager
45. La Brea goo
46. Film part
48. Ditto
49. Moonshine ingredient
50. Pedal pushers
51. "\_\_\_ alive!"
52. Addis Ababa's land: Abbr.
54. "60 Minutes" network
56. Observe
60. \*He met Kirk in a standoff on Organia
63. Big bird
65. Years \_\_\_

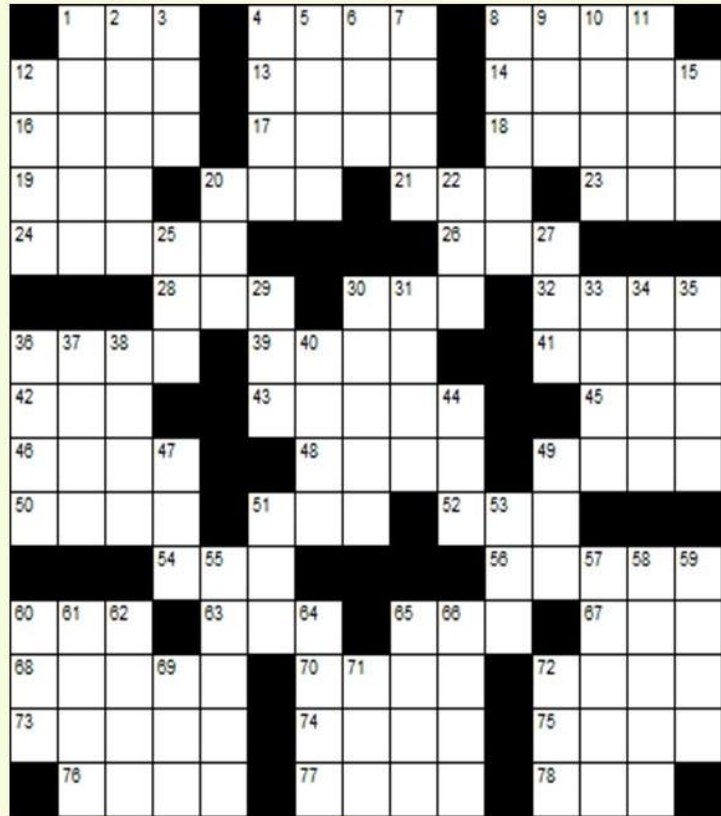
67. "... \_\_\_ laughs last, ..."
68. Native Canadian
70. Barely beat, with "out"
72. Thailand, once
73. Funny-car fuel
74. Branch headquarters?
75. Clearasil target
76. Romanov ruler
77. \*He prosecuted Archer on Narendra III
78. Cribbage piece



**DOWN**

1. 1988 Olympics site
2. \*He commanded the Bird-of-Prey that became HMS Bounty
3. Thus far
4. Venus de \_\_\_
5. Poetic tributes
6. "Wow!"
7. Dwell
8. \*The mastermind behind her family's fight to head the Klingon Empire
9. Lode load
10. Emulated Pinocchio
11. Magma gone topside
12. Smelting waste
15. Spell
20. Modern courtroom evidence
22. Swiss peak
25. Do something
29. Battering device
30. \*He had the Khitomer colony betrayal blame shifted from his father to 4A
31. Mosque V.I.P.
33. Mercury or Saturn
34. Antares, for one
35. \*The first cha'Dich of 36D at a Mek'ba before the Klingon High Council
36. \*The older of two sons of 4A
37. \_\_\_ vera
38. Like some chatter
40. "Schindler's \_\_\_"
44. Linda \_\_\_, Supergirl's alias
47. And so forth
49. Half a dance
51. Suffix with ideal
53. "\_\_\_ and a Half Men"
55. \*The sister of 8D and 30D
57. "... \_\_\_, three times a ..."
58. \*The conspiratorial general who liked Shakespeare
59. "Where the heart is"
60. Kith and \_\_\_
61. "Step \_\_\_!"
62. Dead-end jobs
64. "Do \_\_\_ others as..."
65. Away from port
66. Nerd
69. A Gershwin
71. Bobby of hockey
72. Easy mark

**Online Starbase's Blue Alert Crossword Puzzle Klingons\* - Edited by Warp - December 2011**



**Answers to Previous Puzzle**



SF Warp



# Puzzle Maria

## WORD SEARCH

**December's Topic:**  
**Look for 24 "Rivers of Earth"**  
**by SF Warp**

N	X	Q	Y	E	L	L	O	W	H	R
I	J	U	B	A	N	G	I	K	U	H
G	E	L	J	O	R	D	A	N	D	O
E	E	U	P	H	R	A	T	E	S	N
R	H	I	N	E	M	S	H	W	O	E
S	O	M	M	E	U	A	L	K	N	N
C	N	S	V	D	R	Q	U	E	O	H
O	I	E	N	B	R	Y	X	Z	N	U
N	L	I	P	P	A	R	A	N	A	A
G	E	N	O	S	Y	M	O	V	G	N
O	D	E	R	D	A	N	U	B	E	G

**November's Word Search:**  
**Planets in the Star Trek Universe**

P	L	N	P	O	L	L	U	X	V	G	3	R	I	R
L	A	Y	S	Y	K	N	P	N	J	1	D	A	A	O
A	N	O	S	A	U	Y	A	S	1	D	I	Z	A	M
N	D	Y	O	I	M	R	A	M	U	R	A	N	M	U
E	O	E	L	B	A	I	M	U	M	L	A	T	L	
T	R	R	A	D	R	A	Y	L	A	X	E	V	S	U
Q	K	Z	I	N	S	V	E	N	D	O	R	D	H	S
O	O	E	S	O	U	K	A	R	A	H	A	V	E	N
K	M	M	V	T	N	M	M	O	N	A	C	I	V	N
O	C	E	A	V	O	I	R	T	O	K	H	Y	A	A
T	B	A	G	N	O	R	P	I	N	V	E	A	I	R
A	A	Y	E	A	U	G	A	I	A	L	R	R	I	V
T	J	V	V	R	S	I	E	D	A	K	O	R	M	A
I	O	K	E	I	E	T	I	X	V	E	N	U	S	L
T	R	O	Y	I	U	S	U	I	C	O	N	I	A	J

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

**December 2011**  
**Level of Difficulty: Medium**  
**by SF Warp**

						6		
6		3						5
			9	3			7	2
5	2				1		9	
4				9				6
	6		2				1	4
9	5			7	2			
7						4		3
		2						

**Solution to November's Sudoku Puzzle**

1	6	9	2	8	7	5	4	3
5	2	7	6	4	3	1	9	8
3	4	8	1	9	5	7	2	6
9	7	6	3	1	4	2	8	5
4	8	1	5	2	9	6	3	7
2	3	5	7	6	8	4	1	9
7	1	4	8	3	6	9	5	2
8	5	2	9	7	1	3	6	4
6	9	3	4	5	2	8	7	1

Visit our Public Relations Homepage at:

<http://onlinesb.proboards.com>

then, click on Public Relations!



RADM Jade  
Starbase Commander

CAPT Marshall Crockett  
Starbase Vice Commander

CAPT Matt Foard  
Starbase Executive Officer

CAPT Yu'Wanna  
Chief, Public Relations

CDR StarFinder Warp  
Internal PRP Section leader  
Blue Alert Editor

CDR Kira Marys  
Senior PR Correspondent  
Feature Writer

CDR Logan Kale  
Senior PR Correspondent

CDR Tre'gok of Mirtak  
Senior PR Correspondent

CDR H. Diosas  
Entertainment Correspondent

CDR Shaharazod  
PR Correspondent

LCDR Khan Noonien Singh  
PR Correspondent

## On Command

by **CDR SF Warp**

Internal PR Section Leader, BA Editor

Hello my fellow officers. Officers? When we step aboard this starbase, we are indeed officers, just as if we had been trained at Starfleet Academy. Everyone who is active here serves Online Starbase, whether by working in a department, by posting a contribution of knowledge in one of the forums, or by communicating positively in the chat box. Ultimately, everyone here contributes to the overall betterment and welfare of this base and everyone on it. That is the stuff officers are made of.

When any one member interacts with another here, each pays the other the appropriate amount and manner of respect. Interestingly, a member who outranks me in another realm, is a junior officer here and quite respectfully calls me sir. All of OSB's members are respectful of all others, and the newer members pick up on that right away. This is the stuff officers are made of.

I'm quite amazed at how young some of our members are, here at OSB, but even the very youngest port themselves thoroughly professionally, precisely as officers.

So, when I greet you as "my fellow officers," I am addressing you accurately. You are officers and you have earned the right to be recognized as officers.

### ATTENTION OFFICERS!!!!

If you were a staff officer in OSB's past, please contact LCDR Cottingham with your office, dates and historical recollections. The Public Relations Department's History Section needs your input for Online Starbase's newly established Historical Archives.

The Blue Alert is a publication created and distributed for the entertainment, education and informational use of its members. All statements and articles herein are the opinions of the author and in no way are to be considered official statements of the Online Starbase command staff or the OSB commander.