



# Crockett's Spirit

*Impavidus Scribere Veritas — The Brave Write the Truth*



Volume 1, Issue 6

Star Trek 2013 Edition

June 2013

## Message from the VC

by Col Tensa

Since we established ourselves here in the Beta Quadrant, Esprit Starbase has begun to thrive. It wasn't long before we began looking for a few good officers. Now, however, we've gone well beyond looking for just a few. Within the past month, we established the Entertainment and Officer Resources sections within ESB Recreations. Subsequent to that, we posted a substantial number of job listings for all three sections. Our own numbers are insufficient to staff all the positions that need filling (there are fifteen distinct positions, nearly all of which have multiple openings). What we need is an influx of fresh Officer Candidates to increase our population and, for those who would like something to do, to staff all of our sections.

Now it would be great if we had some recruiters but, as yet, we don't have any. So it's up to each of us to do our own "hustling" for personnel until we can hire some actual recruiters. We can ask any friends we have (they don't need to be Trek fans per se) to join ESB and share in the fun we're having. There's no need to worry about whether or not they'll participate fully like we do; most of them will. So far, only one of the people I invited signed up and hasn't been back since. So if you know anybody who might be interested, please see if you can get them to join us.

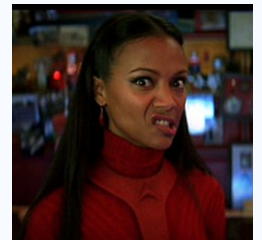
I know that we will be slow in growing, but your efforts and mine can bring steadiness to bear in our growth.

## Star Trek Into Darkness

A grumpy, old-fashioned Trek fan's review  
by Col Y'Wanna

**!!!CAUTION!!! CONTAINS SPOILERS!!!**

Since I am a fan of the old Trek way, and not a big J.J. Abrams fan, I didn't expect to like Star Trek Into Darkness too much. I went to see it without great expectations. Unfortunately, I didn't expect to like it even less than the previous one.



First of all, I despise the complete lack of originality regarding the plot (which might not be the worst part). Abrams gambled on a story that was very popular in the classic Trek. In my non-expert opinion, when you choose something that has been done before, you have to be very careful with many aspects or you might end up with a parody. At times, it seemed to me that I was watching a parody and this is not something I would expect to see in a Star Trek movie! One example (and it's not the only one I've seen) is Spock and Kirk switching roles, compared to the old Trek. In the latest film, Kirk sacrificed himself for "the needs of the many" and died due to exposure to radiations - as the old Spock did - while Spock turned into the alpha male in an instant and went to confront Khan in a very brave and macho manner. How believable is that? At least it was hilarious, just like the relationship between Spock and Uhura, which, in spite of being unusual, still made sense in the previous Star Trek but ended up as a mockery in Into Darkness.

And then, there are the characters... I never liked Pine's Kirk because I always thought he's over-acted in an unpleasant way. I get it that it is a very difficult task to play a legend, but Pine is trying so hard to play a different Kirk. Too hard to be believable, in my opinion. However, since I was disappointed about him in the former Trek, I got used to him and it seemed a little less annoying.

Spock was also a bit disappointing. He was my favourite character in the former Abrams Trek, but now he did not seem so much into the role. It might not be his fault, though. I have a feeling that he was too busy running, jumping, fighting, etc. to have any time left to really act.

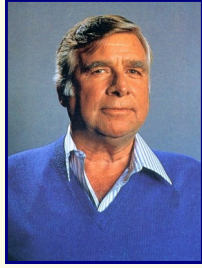
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## Real Star Trek versus the J. J. Abrams Fantasy

by LtCol Two Wolves



Roddenberry



Abrams

Since I'm a member of what is considered The Old Guard, to me "Real Star Trek" is the following:

1. The Original Series.
2. The Next Generation.
3. Deep Space Nine.
4. Voyager.
5. Enterprise.
6. All of the original Star Trek Movies.

The NEW Star Trek started with the JJ Abrams movie (circa: 2009). The reason there was such a great hue and cry was the fact that JJ Abrams "flagrantly deviated" from the standard canon, which was set forth by the past five Star Trek series and movies.

The first JJ Abrams Star Trek movie was intended to be a "prequel". It supposedly showed all of The Original Series – Kirk and Company crew and what their lives were like BEFORE they became Starfleet officers, and their beginning year fresh out of Starfleet Academy.

JJ Abrams was given license to do what he pleased, so he deviated far and wide from standard Star Trek canon. Of course, to some of us Old Guard that was equal to Solomon Rushdie's penning of "The Satanic Verses" and an anathema!

After all, with blatant flubs like blowing up Vulcan...

According to original Star Trek canon, the Vulcans were the ones who originally introduced the human race to the Federation. Hence if you blow up and kill off millions of Vulcans, who...how...? Apparently JJ Abrams didn't bother to explain that he had created a whole new Star Trek timeline.

You can clearly see that caused a great divide in the camp of "Star Trek fans". The Old Guard who love their Star Trek just the way it was, BEFORE the first JJ Abrams movie. Enter the "Newcomers" who absolutely loved the new movie and hence look forward with baited breath to see JJ Abrams next installment. They believe JJ Abrams did the best thing since sliced bread, which helped to inject new life into what was a dying fandom.

Though I am an Old Guard Trekker, and loved the old Star Trek, I watched the first JJ Abrams movie (in fact I bought it on DVD so I could watch it multiple times) with a totally open mind. I enjoyed it because I'm a typical GEEK and love special affects, and CGI stuff. I also love the ships, the battles, and enjoy watching things blow up like a little kid. Yes, I did notice that JJ Abrams went off the reser-

vation in his depictions, plus some other technicalities. But, liked it anyway. Guess what? I'd better not say that too loudly at a SciFi convention! I might be subjected to one of those witch burnings they used to have back in the Dark Ages...

I've heard JJ Abrams has been commissioned to direct the next Star Wars movie. Star Wars fans had better ready their light sabers just in case. ♦

## An Editorial

by Capt Dennis Howard

Recently I was in a bar. This bar is a fun place, there's even a model of a Star Wars TIE Fighter hanging from the ceiling! It's not the Mos Eisley Cantina on Tatooine, but it will do. I'd never had an unpleasant experience there, until now. An older guy (okay, a guy my age) sat down beside me and ordered a beer. The young woman behind the bar brought it to him and he started to hand her his money, then he pulled it back. And laughed. He wanted to make it a game, maybe he would pay her and maybe he wouldn't. Maybe she would have to chase him across the room to get it. He thought it was funny. Apparently he thought that as an old white guy he had the right to treat a young female service worker however he wanted.

This was in the same week that science fiction writing forums all over the internet exploded in reaction to an article in the Bulletin of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA). The Bulletin is a members-only publication for dues-paying professional SF writers. It's intended to help writers with their careers and generally contains business articles, market reports, SFWA member news, etc. In this article two older writers (white men in their 70s) wrote some reminiscences of editors they had worked with over the years. When they talked about female editors, did they talk about books or writing or editing? No. They talked about which of these women were attractive or which looked good in a swimsuit. When people complained online that these sentiments didn't belong in the organization's official publication, these guys did not apologize. Instead they attacked anyone who had complained as advocates of Nazi-style censorship. They're pretty sure that as old white guys they have the right to treat female writers and editors however they want.

And then there's Star Trek. I have been a Star Trek fan since TOS first aired. I love Gene Roddenberry's optimistic vision of the future. Roddenberry may have been a flawed human being himself, but his vision of the future was one where we have worked to become better, to overcome racism, sexism and religious divisions. But now we have JJ Abrams who seems to think that there's nothing philosophical about Star Trek, that it's just a shoot-em-up space war franchise. In Abrams' version the authority figures in the future are still mostly white men (heck, even Khan is white now!). If occasionally there's a woman in a position of authority, men are pretty sure that they have the right to watch when she takes her clothes off.

I want the future I saw in Roddenberry's Star Trek, but it feels as far away now as it did 45 years ago. ♦

## Supanova Melbourne - April 2013.

by Colonel Logan Kale

Well, to start off with, I had an AWESOME time at the Melbourne Convention and it was the first Supanova I have been to. I got a few good Photo Ops and Signatures from the Stars.

On Friday Night, I went up to Melbourne to get my Pass and Photo Tokens for the weekend, which were way different than the ones in the States. Since I was the only one that brought a certain type of Pass, a pass that was subsequently pulled from Sale, I was offered 3 choices. The first 2 were either a full refund of my Pass or a downgrade of said Pass with partial refund. I chose Option 3, which was an upgrade to a VIP Pass, an Invite to the Saturday Night VIP Party and an extra Photo Op included (this was discussed a few weeks before the Convention via Email).

Saturday Morning, after about 2 hours of travel to Melbourne using Public Transport, I had about a half hour wait before I could get in the Convention. Once 9:30 came around, I went in, straight to a stand where I sort of knew the guy from previous Cons. This stand was about the DeLorean from *Back to the Future*. After that I went for a bit of wandering around the stands just to see what was there. It felt good as there weren't many people inside yet. Due to the VIP Pass, I was the first one in. I had a nice look about until it was time for the first Photo Session. It was with Rose McGowan from *Charmed* and she was also in a few Tarantino Films as well. She was very nice and I enjoyed meeting her. After the session I wandered a bit more until the Photo was ready for me to collect and then I had Rose sign it. After some rest, I had my next Photo Session and, this time, it was with Sam J. Jones aka Flash Gordon, also known as the Bounty Hunter named Aris Boch in *Stargate SG-1*. The Session took a little while even though I was first in line. It was due to problems with the back flash so in the end, I had a few free photos. Sam was a really friendly and kind person.



Sam J. Jones and me

Anyhow, since Saturday was such a big day, I'll cut some more trivial events to concentrate on the main ones. For instance, I went to a VIP Exclusive Session with David "The Hoff" Hasselhoff where there were only about 10 people to hear what he had to say. A few of them asked him questions, plus he even talked to a stranger on the phone when someone's mobile started to ring. That really shows how friendly he is. Later in the day I had my newly included Photo Session with "The Hoff" and a replica of KITT - the robotic car in *Knight Rider* - which was awesome. I had the Photo with Sam J. Jones autographed by him and also a poster signed to Myself and My Housemate by David Hassehoff, on which he wrote that it was AWESOME and HOFFTASTIC. I also had the poster signed by the artist Dean Rankine who has worked on *The Simpsons* and *Futurama* Comics as well as various others.

On Saturday Evening was the VIP Party, which was awesome as I really got to chat with Sam J. Jones and "The Hoff"; really down to earth guys. Others I chatted with were Dean Rankine and the Boss of Supanova. The latter ex-

plained to me why I had the choices I mentioned above regarding my Pass, for which I gratefully thanked him. I also talked to other VIP Members and Supanova Staff. I also watched Ray Park - aka Darth Maul - dance and man he was great.



Replica of KITT

I left early since I had to work the next morning but I did come back to Supanova after my shift and a bit of sleep. I arrived at the Con at 12:30 and went straight to a second Photo Session with David Hasselhoff. It was a really fun photo session. I also collected the photo of myself & "The Hoff" KITT from the day before and I waited for a little while until David was finished with photos. Then I had him sign it. I also said hello to Sam J. Jones while I was there. Let's just say both David and Sam knew me by name by the end of the weekend. For the rest of the day I had a Photo Session with Alex Kingston (from *Doctor Who* and *ER*) and also got her autograph. I had a bit more of a wonder around. Then it was time to head home. ♦

## This Month in Star Trek

by Col Y'Wanna

June is the sixth month of the Human year.

The Battle of Pine Mountain was fought during Sherman's March to the Sea in June of 1864. (VOY: "Death Wish")

Roy Orbison first performed the song Ooby Dooby in June of 1956. (Star Trek: First Contact)

The Earth colony ship SS Conestoga arrived at her destination of Terra Nova on June 23rd, 2078. (ENT: "Terra Nova")

Earth reestablished contact with the lost Terra Nova colony in June of 2151. (ENT: "Terra Nova")

Human First Contact was inadvertently made with the Andorians at the monastery of P'Jem by the crew of the Enterprise NX-01 in June of 2151. (ENT: "The Andorian Incident")

In June of 2151 T'Pol confided in Doctor Phlox that she had been arranged to be married, a situation that was causing her some concern. (ENT: "Breaking the Ice")

Also in June of 2151, Archer's Comet was discovered by the crew of the Enterprise NX-01 and named after the ship's captain, Jonathan Archer. (ENT: "Breaking the Ice")

The original launch date of the Columbia NX-02 was in June of 2154; it was pushed back to November due to problems with the ship's engines. (ENT: "The Expanse", "Affliction")

Joseph Sisko met Sarah in June of 2331 in New Orleans' Jackson Square. (DS9: "Image in the Sand")

Annika Hansen was born to Magnus and Erin Hansen in Tendara colony on June 24th, 2348. (VOY: "The Gift")

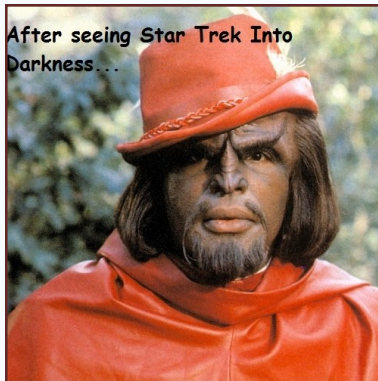
In June of 2373, the Maquis poisoned the biospheres of two Cardassian planets, Veloz Prime and Quatal Prime, with cobalt diselenide, making the planets uninhabitable for the Cardassians. (DS9: "For the Uniform") ♦

Source: [www.en.memory-alpha.com](http://www.en.memory-alpha.com)

(Continued from Page 1)

The same goes with the rest of the characters, I guess. They ran and ran all movie long. They barely had time for anything else. In spite of this, I can say I liked them. Uhura was quite ok. When I first saw Zoe Saldana's Uhura, I thought they made it even better. However, that's not because she's a better actor than Nichelle Nichols, but because she portrays the woman of the 21st century while Nichelle Nichols was the typical woman of the sixties. Anton Yelchin as Chekov was as funny as ever and I liked the fact that I saw more of Scotty (and his hilarious alien friend) than the last time. Bones, on the other hand... Well, I would have liked to see more of him.

As for Khan, the choice of "Sherlock" was probably the best choice for the role. Benedict Cumberbatch did a great job.



After seeing *Star Trek Into Darkness*...

**Sir! I must protest! Those are NOT real Klingons!!!**

less curious as to what he would do to the Borg, or Andorians, or any other species for that matter! Thank God he did nothing to the Tribbles. (Murray is relieved!)

One thing I always appreciate in *Star Trek*: good humour. However, the quality of humour is in decay as well. The humour here is getting more and more puerile. The movie wasn't a complete waste of time for me, since I had plenty of moments to laugh - mostly at ridiculous and embarrassing scenes such as Kirk aligning the warp core by jumping and pushing with his legs, Spock and Uhura's couple issues, Spock acting like a macho man and taking the matter into his fists (literally). Oh, and the above mentioned Klingons. LOL! How could I take this movie seriously?

Regarding the special effects, we were told there would be more compared to the previous one. And there are. Too many, for my taste actually. I had the feeling that I couldn't see the *Star Trek* through the special effects. I don't know about you, but I don't watch *Star Trek* for the special effects. They are welcome, of course, in a proper amount, but they should not be the main characters of a movie. It might seem harsh, but my first impression after the movie was "much noise about nothing." Literally much noise and literally nothing. There was so much noise and at times, the background music was so loud that it covered the characters' voices. All the noise and the smashing visual effects and all the running around was probably meant to cover the "nothing". I mean, nothing of substance, which is the greatest disappointments of all.

I might seem old-fashioned, but I believe that Abrams trivialized *Star Trek*. He surely does know how to make a box-office that sells great. And for a parody, it was quite funny.

Far from being a real *Trek* for me, though. Or should I say, *Star Trek* seems really into darkness, and it's probably going to stay there for a long time, thanks to Mr. Abrams. ♦

## Who is Benedict Cumberbatch? by Col Y'Wanna

**!!!Yellow Alert. Bit of a *Star Trek Into Darkness* spoiler hidden in between the lines of the first paragraph!!!**

Sherlock goes where no one has gone before. Well, not exactly. Actually Ricardo Montalban has gone there before. And as his predecessor, he did a great job as the most notorious *Star Trek* villain. Since his presence is one of the strongest points of *Star Trek Into Darkness*, I gathered some interesting facts about Benedict Cumberbatch:



Cumberbatch

Benedict Timothy Carlton Cumberbatch was born on July 19, 1976 in London. He is the son of fellow actors Timothy Carlton and Wanda Ventham.

His mother wanted him to change his name when he became an actor. To quote Benedict: "What a fluffy old name. I can never say it on a Monday morning. When I became an actor, mom wasn't keen on me keeping it."

If he hadn't become an actor, he would have been a neurosurgeon: "I'd have liked to have been a neurosurgeon. I'm thinking that because of the character in *Saturday* [by Ian McEwan, one of Cumberbatch's favorite authors]," he told *What's On Stage* in 2005. "It would have been nice to have done something useful, responsible, that required a mind-blowing skill, where something really important hangs in the balance."

He has vices, like any human (and most alien species): "I did sort of blow my GCSEs out of the water," he told *Metro* recently. "I couldn't believe it and neither could my teachers. And then there was a lot of pressure on me to achieve an Oxbridge level of brilliance at A-levels. But then adolescence came late and I discovered girls, pot and all sorts of other things, so I got a bit lazy."

In-between being educated at the prestigious public school *Harrow and Manchester University*, Benedict used his gap year to teach English at a Tibetan monastery. Still not impressed?

He was kidnapped and held at gunpoint in South Africa but he managed to talk his way out of it, much like the real Sherlock Holmes would have: "I argued my way out," he told the *Daily Mail*. "I said, 'If you leave me in here, it's not the lack of air, it's the small space. There's a problem with my heart and my brain.' I just tried to explain to them: 'I will die, possibly have a fit, and it will be a problem for you. I will be a dead Englishman in your car. Not good.'"

He finds the fact that he's become a certain sort of icon "hysterically funny." He spoke to the *Radio Times* of disdaining his beauty and success. "I find it hysterically funny, I really do. It's a giggle. I wield it with a massive smile." Wield it however you like, Cumberbatch, so long as you keep wielding it. ♦

**Sources:** [www.digitalspy.co.uk/showbiz/s129/sherlock/news/a256003/ten-things-about-benedict-cumberbatch.html#ixzz2Vko5sAUR](http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/showbiz/s129/sherlock/news/a256003/ten-things-about-benedict-cumberbatch.html#ixzz2Vko5sAUR);  
[moviesblog.mtv.com/2013/05/16/benedict-cumberbatch](http://moviesblog.mtv.com/2013/05/16/benedict-cumberbatch)

## Star Trek Continues

by Col Karen Welkin

Phoenix Comicon lured me to Arizona for the 20th Anniversary of the *Babylon 5* series. Everything else was icing on the cake. The cake was awesome believe me, but the icing: spectacular!!!

What I'm about to tell you is of great significance to all Trekkers worldwide: *Star Trek Continues!* These last three words are the title of a brand new web series that takes off

where *The Original Series* left off. Its very first episode "*Pilgrim of Eternity*" was broadcast at the Phoenix Comicon 2013 in the presence of most of the actors; compassionate enough to freely sign thousands of posters for several hours after the presentation. I was instantly hooked. \*crazy fan here\*

The project leader is actor/director Vic Mignogna who portrays Captain Kirk. As a twelve year-old, Vic used to record *Star Trek: TOS* on audio cassettes and listen to it from underneath his pillow as he went to sleep. He knew every line of every episode. A true fan. More recently, he had the opportunity to direct an episode of the fan-based web series

Photo: 1stLt Lance A. Wilson  
Esprit Starbase



Back row, from left to right: Vic Mignogna as Captain James T. Kirk, Steven Dengler as Security Chief William Cadmus Drake, Larry Nemecek as Dr. Leonard McCoy.  
Front row: Christopher Doohan as Lieutenant Commander Montgomery Scott, Grant Imahara as Lieutenant Hikaru Sulu, Michele Specht as Dr. Elise McKennah, Kim Stinger as Lieutenant Nyota Uhura.

I was absolutely delighted that Montgomery Scott's role was given to Chris Doohan, son of James Doohan who was the original Scotty. The family resemblance is breathtaking, body and voice. Another interesting fact is that Larry Nemecek plays Doctor McCoy. He is famous in the Star Trek Universe as an author, editor, archivist, consultant and producer.

*Trek: Phase II*\* in the sense that it's a non-profit web series created by fans. Both are continuing the five-year mission of the classical Trek with the original characters. But who am I to complain? There's never enough Star Trek out there and the fans understand that more than anyone else. So tune in to Youtube or Vimeo, get your dose of Star Trek Continues and come back to comment in the forums.

*Star Trek Continues* bears a close resemblance with *Star*

\* See LtCol Shayle Carter's article on ST: Phase II on



# STAR TREK PHASE II

## DID YOU KNOW...

by LtCol Shayle Carter

Hello there! I see you have stumbled upon me; how quaint. If you didn't already know, I'm LtCol Shayle Carter and I will be your guide as we travel the vast universe known as Star Trek and beyond. So come with me and venture through time and space as we boldly go where no one has gone before. Let's begin...



*Star Trek: The Original Series* still lives on! That's right, it's still going... In a sense. It's not with the actors we all know and love. Heck not even close. We don't get to see Shatner lose his shirt as Kirk, or DeForest make his infamous southern drawled rants as McCoy at Leonard Nimoy who was our beloved Spock, or Doohan drink an alien under the table as Mr. Scott, but the stories are there and they are going on. How might you ask? Well it's simple my fellow travelers: It's a little thing called a web series.

*Star Trek: Phase II*, also known as *Star Trek: New Voyages*, started in 2003. It has released about seven or eight episodes since its initial launch. New actors have taken up the roles of our cherished characters to finish out the stories that were lost in the last two years of the five year mission. However, since its release there has been some of our old faves that have participated in the project. For instance, the original Sulu played an older version of himself in one of the episodes. Whether the new voyages will continue is uncertain. What little morsel we have now is substantial news enough. If you want to know more about *Star Trek: Phase II (New Voyages)*, check out those funny little things called Google, Wikipedia, Memory Alpha, etc. If you want to catch clips of the web series and its snippets, go to [Vimeo.com](http://Vimeo.com).

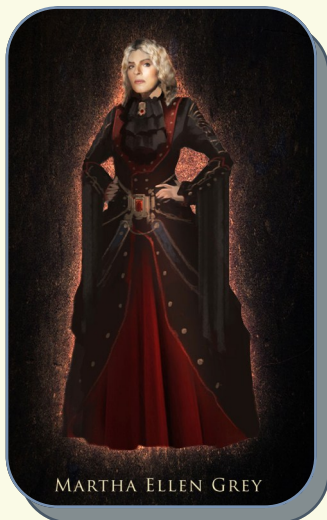
That's all for today, until next time...

Layout by 1stLt Lance A. Wilson

Background from [www.startreknewvoyages.com](http://www.startreknewvoyages.com)

## Lantern City: a tv series in the making

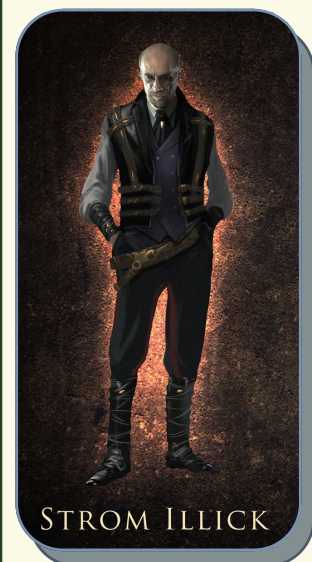
by Col Karen Welkin



In a steampunk world parallel to our own, the segregated populace of Lantern City struggles under the reign of the Grey Empire. Once saviour of the people against invading warlords, the ascension of the Grey family ultimately led the megalopolis into a century of dictatorship and tyranny. Gigantic walls were built to protect the city from outsiders as much as to keep its inhabitants boxed in. Citizens have been stripped of their rights, their scholarship, their homes in order to work countless hours in the fields or factories for the benefit of the ruling class; a small but powerful entity with an iron fist. Consequently, either by choice or misfortune, some workers fled to "the city beneath the city"; an underground rat hole filled with outcasts, smugglers and dissidents.

How would you react if you were accidentally transported in the midst of that world? More precisely, "how far would you go to be with the person you love" and "what lengths would you go in order to survive?" In Bruce Boxleitner's Lantern City, three earthlings will have to deal with these questions, which are the main focus of the forthcoming series.

If you've heard about steampunk, you'll know that it's a fictitious genre influenced by the 19th century British Victorian era and American Wild West; a mixture of elaborate clothing and steam-powered machinery. Never before have we seen a



whole series based on this genre and that's why I'm grateful to executive producer Bruce Boxleitner, a.k.a. Captain John Sheridan of Babylon 5.

Speaking of celebrities, I really look forward to see the Lantern City cast in action for I already know some of them from other series or videogames:

Mira Furlan (Delenn, Babylon 5);  
Raphael Sbarge (Voice of Kaidan Alenko, Mass Effect);  
Tony Amendola (Master Bra'tac, Stargate SG-1);  
John Rhys-Davies (Gimli, Lord of the Rings);  
Gigi Edgley (Chiana, Farscape).



I truly encourage you to visit and "like" their facebook page which you can find here: [www.facebook.com/lanterncitytv](http://www.facebook.com/lanterncitytv). Furthermore, if you wish to get involved in the conceptualization of the series, the creators are looking for any input, comments, designs and such from the fans.

May this project see the light! ♦

Sources:  
[lanterncitytv.com](http://lanterncitytv.com),  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steampunk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steampunk),  
[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

# Fiction

## Bad Command Luck

by MajGen J. Tanner

"What do you get when you cross a tribble with a chicken?"

Lieutenant Caleb Tanner, looked over at Ensign Austin as they rode the turbolift together. The kid was always trying to tell jokes and they were usually cornier than a field of maize. However, Tanner liked the kid and so he rolled his eyes and said, "I don't know, Ensign, what do you get when you cross a tribble with a chicken?"

"Lots of drumsticks!" the Ensign exclaimed and began to laugh.

Tanner blinked and politely smiled. "Huh, maybe, but it's going to make them mighty tough to catch."

"Don't worry, there would be so many you'd just have to reach down and grab one."

Tanner was relieved to see they had reached their destination as the doors to the turbolift slid open to reveal the bridge of the USS George Washington. Tanner shook his head as he followed Austin onto the bridge and watched him take his post at the helm. *The kid has to come up with some better material*, he thought as he continued down to the main chair where Captain Jethro Boone was sitting.

"Here's the intelligence reports you wanted boss," Tanner reported as he gave the captain the PADD with the necessary information.

"Thank you Mr. Tanner," the captain said as he stood up. "Bowie, Travis, Dallas, please join me in the briefing room. Lt. Tanner you have the bridge."

A cold chill ran up Tanner's spine. "Excuse me, sir?"

"You heard me correctly, Lieutenant," the captain stated as he made his way to the briefing room.

Tanner looked at him somewhat dumbfounded for a moment before he remembered to say, "Aye, aye sir." He noticed Admiral MacGyver standing over one of the science stations and made a beeline over to her instead of the command chair. He and the Admiral had a long history together and were friends.

"Mac, is he crazy... leaving me in charge of the bridge. Has he forgotten about my bad 'command luck?'" The truth was that Lt. Tanner was probably one of the oldest Lieutenants in Starfleet. He had been at higher ranks, but bad things had always happened when Tanner was in charge and usually ended up in demotions. Because of this he had deemed himself unlucky at command.

"I doubt Jethro knows anything about what you perceive as your 'command luck' and I have every confidence that you can keep the bridge from exploding for ten minutes," Admiral MacGyver said then turned and

followed the others into the briefing room.

"I wouldn't be so sure of that," Tanner mumbled indignantly under his breath. He should have known complaining to her would get him nowhere. She was always trying to get him to take on more responsibility. This played right into her hand. *Ten minutes, just keep the ship from exploding for ten minutes. Surely he could handle that.*

He didn't feel comfortable sitting in the captain's chair so he sat down in the XO's chair. He swiveled the computer console closer to him. Maybe Commander Bowie had a hidden solitaire game he could play. He tapped away as he began his futile search.

BUZZZZZZZZZZZZT!!!

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!" Tanner yelled as a loud noise and a burst of static scared him and the console he was working on suddenly went dark.

"Are you alright sir?" Austin asked as he turned around from his station to see what happened.

Tanner felt the beat of his heart began to slow as he finally realized he hadn't just blown up the bridge. "I'm fine... I think... what happened?"

"Looks like the console blew. That's strange. I don't think I've ever seen one do that before."

"Have operations come up and fix it," Tanner ordered.

"Aye sir," he said then added. "How many engineers does it take to replace a lightbulb?"

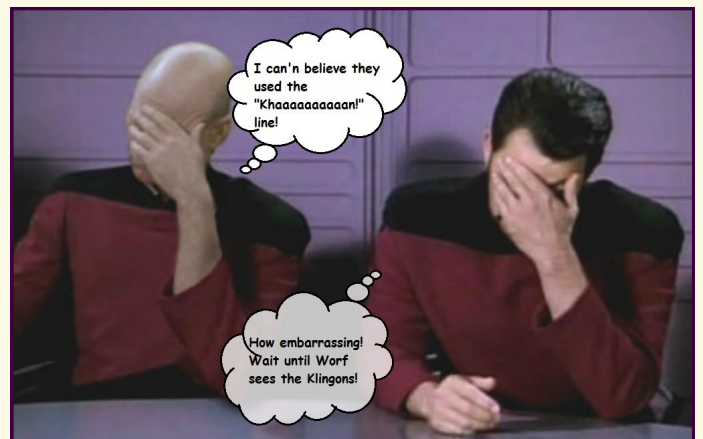
"Don't start!" Tanner put up his finger in warning. He was in no mood for that. He then put his hands behind his head. He wasn't going to touch anything else until he was relieved. He heard Austin snickering at the helm so he decided to stare daggers into the back of the man's head to make him just as uncomfortable as he was at the moment.

He was relieved when the senior officers came back onto the bridge. "Sorry about the console," he apologized as he surrendered his chair back to Commander Bowie. Tanner made his way to the turbolift and saw Mac smile as he went past her.

"What did I tell you, I said you could do it without serious mishap," Mac said.

Suddenly the lights on the bridge went out.

Tanner sighed, "You were saying?"





# Fiction

## Off the Parade Ground - 4

by Col Dreago Tensa

Staring at Sunday's crossword puzzle, Roger Kennison pondered the clue for 63 across. *Ancestry... six letters... starts with O.* As his brain began to search, a seemingly unrelated picture flashed in his mind. His eyebrows went up and his mouth opened slightly. Putting his pencil down, he slowly rose to his feet. He walked over to the closet, removed the rifle case, placed it on the table and opened it. Taking the rifle out, he again examined the targeting scope, focusing on the receptacle at the top. *This is no ordinary receptacle,* he mused. *It's design, indeed its whole configuration is like nothing I've ever seen. This bears further a further look.*

Propping the rifle upright, the young lieutenant made a two-dimensional image of the receptacle. Then he returned the rifle to its case and he placed the case back on its high shelf in the closet. Next, with his computer, he cropped the image so that nothing but the receptacle would be revealed. Then he slipped the image into an envelope and left.

Commander Halleck's residence was a ten-minute walk from Kennison's quarters. The younger officer was there in three. He pressed the door bell. Opening the door almost immediately, the solidly built, six foot tall, brown skinned, gray templated electronics warfare instructor smiled politely and said, "Ah, good morning, Mister Kennison! Just can't stay away from the learning environment, can you?"

"As a matter of fact I can't, sir" he replied. "Good morning to you as well."

"What's on your mind, Lieutenant?"

"Can we go inside, sir," he asked quietly.

"Please." the commander motioned him inside and then closed the door. "Would you like some coffee?"

"Thank you, no. Sir, I'm going to show you something, but I need to ask you for your complete confidence and discretion."

"Knowing you as I do, I don't think that'll be a problem."

Kennison handed the envelope to Commander Halleck, then watched his response.

Halleck took out the image and looked at it, lowered his brows, looked Kennison, then looked at the image again. "I don't suppose you can tell where you got this, can you?"

"No, sir, I can't. I have a question for you though. Have you ever seen a receptacle like the one in the image?"

"No. Never. It's not of Earth, it's not of Vulcan manufacture, or Andorian, or Tellarite. I'm sure it's not Klingon either. It's a complete anomaly," he said, amazement in his voice.

"That's what I was thinking, but I needed the benefit of your expertise. For that, sir, I'm grateful. For bothering you, I apologize."

"You don't need to apologize," he responded with a smile, "but perhaps you can return the favor one day by

answering the one question I have."

"Your question, sir," he asked, matching his gaze.

"Where did that receptacle come from?"

"Good question, Commander," he replied pensively.

"Good question. If ever I'm able to, I'll tell you the answer."

Back in his quarters, Kennison disposed of the image, then picked up and flipped open his clear channel communicator.

"Yes, Lieutenant," the male voice queried in greeting.

"Sir, I took a closer look at the receptacle on the targeting scope. It's pretty well unique."

"How so?"

Lieutenant Kennison recounted what had transpired. When he finished, the male voice announced, "Halleck was the right choice and his question is pertinent: Where indeed did that receptacle come from?"

Kennison replied, "The question is not *where*, sir, but *when!* When in time was that receptacle brought here?"

"Good call, Lieutenant. Keep me apprised."

"Will do, sir." Kennison put his communicator back in its niche, sat down, picked up his pencil and went to his puzzle. At 63 across, smiling, he printed the letters *o-r-i-g-i-n.*

## Star Trek Into...the Wrath of a Fan

by Col Dreago Tensa

The latest Star Trek endeavor is once again vintage Abrams. As egomaniacs are wont to do, he absolutely *had* to put his own signature on and, therefore, desecrate what has come to be known by a good many fans as sanctified Roddenberry ground. Not content to leave the rest of well enough alone after mutating the Romulans to such an extent that they no longer resemble their brother species the Vulcans, he found it necessary to give us mutant Klingons. It amazes me that he left the Vulcans and humans intact. Still, he didn't stop there...

Gene Roddenberry gave us Khan Noonien Singh, the most revered villain in all of Trekdom. J.J. Abrams gave us John Harrison, a.k.a. (an ersatz) Khan Noonien Singh, a mutant whose physiology is quite a bit more enhanced than that of his earlier version to the extent that the ersatz Khan can crush the skulls of those mutant Klingons with his bare hands, and his blood can resurrect the dead as happened to one lucky, formerly deceased tribble and Captain James T. Kirk. Give me a break!

I take exception to the role reversals of Kirk and Spock, especially Spock's inglorious line, "Khaaaaan!" Abrams has failed at originality! He failed too when he changed James T. Kirk from a man of reason into a reckless hotdogger.

Another series that was an ersatz remake of the original was Battlestar Galactica. Like the latest Trek, it was a darker version of the original with many of the characters and the story line changed drastically. Hope, a basic theme of both originals, faded with the remakes. When the Galactica finally reached Earth, the people didn't defeat the Cylons (whom they had created). Instead, they abandoned every form of technology and became Neanderthal-like in their existence. The remakes of Battlestar Galactica and Star Trek have caused me to lose much of the esteem I once held for what were my two favorite shows. ♦

# Brain Benders

## ACROSS

1. \*He sought asylum on the Enterprise D  
6. Sean Connery, for one  
10. After-bath powder  
14. "The Brady Bunch" house-keeper  
15. Boat in "Jaws"  
16. D-Day beach  
17. Cut's partner  
18. Abominable Snowman  
19. Home to some Mongolian nomads  
20. Flee captivity  
22. He was Friday on "Dragnet"  
24. Negative response in Gaspé  
25. First-place  
27. \*She posed as a Vulcan operative to steal the Stone of Gol  
29. Not any more  
33. Mary \_\_\_ cosmetics  
34. Fifty-fifty  
35. Aid and \_\_\_  
37. Wallops  
41. Amscrayed  
42. \*A surgically altered Starfleet officer posed as this Tal Shiar major  
44. Boiling blood  
45. Ancient  
48. Miles per hour, e.g.  
49. Seed coat  
50. Tear  
52. Swede turnip  
54. He demanded the return of 1A
58. Strong-arms  
59. Bauxite, e.g.  
60. Historic periods  
62. Bears out  
66. Annexes  
68. Discontinue  
70. Say "Li'l Abner," say  
71. Leak slowly  
72. Arabic for "commander"  
73. Circumvent  
74. Cafeteria carrier  
75. Curly cabbage  
76. \*She posed as a Vulcan ambassador to spy on the Federation
13. Fine dinner-ware  
21. "Enigma Variations" composer  
23. Give away  
26. Prohibit  
28. Alkaline liquid  
29. \*He commanded the Nerada in two temporal realities  
30. Elliptical  
31. Advance  
32. \*He led a successful hijacking of the USS Prometheus  
36. Actor Ryan's daughter  
38. Old Italian capital  
39. High school math. class  
40. \*This Romulan commander is half human  
43. Abate  
46. Victorian, for one  
47. Christie's "Death on the \_\_\_"  
49. Clear  
51. \*This senator lured Ambassador Spock to Romulus under false pretenses  
53. Goes along  
54. A goner  
55. Command  
56. Euripides drama  
57. Destiny  
61. Sully  
63. Container for potions  
64. Jared \_\_\_\_, actor in "Disaster Movie"  
65. Hunt for  
67. 007, for one  
69. Ante-

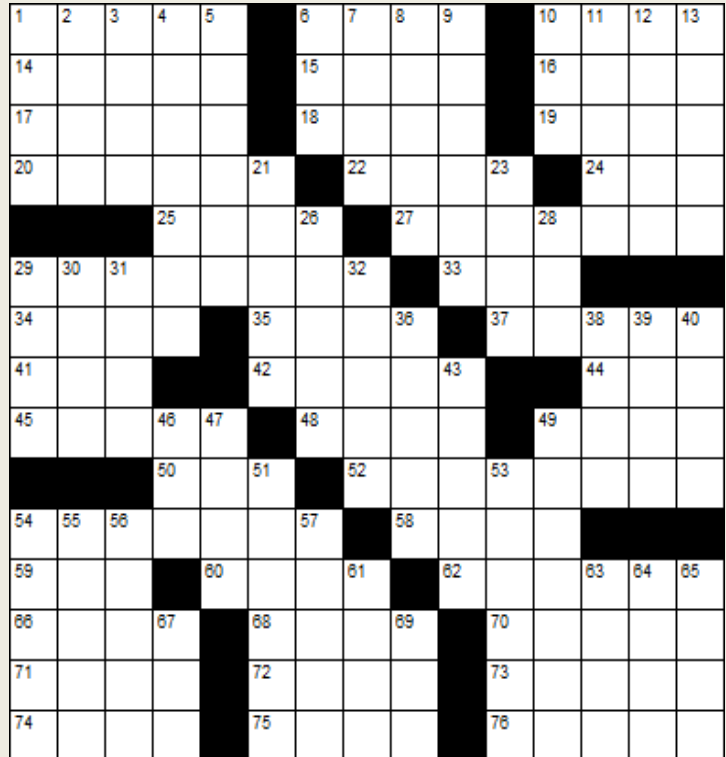


## DOWN

1. Jest  
2. "Ah, me!"  
3. Microprocessor that performs MIPS  
4. 1980 Chuck Norris film, with "The"  
5. Continue  
6. \_\_\_ sauce  
7. Hands  
8. Santa's reindeer, e.g.  
9. \*He brain-washed Lieutenant Commander Geordi Laforge  
10. Harbor craft  
11. Make amends  
12. Toil

## ESB Crockett's Spirited Crossword Puzzle

**\*Romulans - by D. Tensa - June 2013**



## Answers to Previous Puzzle

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



# More Brain Benders

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

June 2013  
 Medium, Non-Symmetrical  
 by Tensa

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

Solution to May's Sudoku Puzzle  
 Easy, Non-Symmetrical

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

## WORD SEARCH

June's Topic: "History's Battles"  
 Look for 32 Epic Clashes  
 by Tensa

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

Solution to May's Word Search:  
 "Star Wars Planets"

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

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## From the Ready Room Discipline

by Col Drego Tensa

There are two kinds of discipline. The earlier form we come to learn about as children is punishment for misdeeds. Depending on the nature of the misdeeds, punishments may range from a mild time out to being grounded or something even more harsh. In the military, disciplinary punishments cover a very broad scope. Even here at ESB, discipline in the form of punishment is possible. A member was banned and his account deleted fairly recently for misrepresenting himself when he joined our community. Thankfully, punitive discipline is a very rare occurrence here; we have a highly principled cadre of officers.

The other form of discipline comes from within. Self discipline begins with training, rigorous training that hones our skills and our reflexes so that we can perform what we trained for because it is ingrained in us. But self discipline is more than just training. Self discipline is desire, dedication and perseverance; it is complete self actualization. One with self discipline does not need supervision. He or she can be relied upon to accomplish a given task simply because good self discipline is in the very core of his or her nature. Thus it is with you, the officers of ESB. This base is flourishing because it is your nature to take your duties to task. Your own self discipline is why ESB runs so well. I thank you all!



First we were given ersatz Romulans. Next came ersatz Klingons. What lies ahead for the Vulcans?