



Crockett's Spirit

Impavidus Scribere Veritas — The Brave Write the Truth



Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2013

A Nugget

from Col Logan Kale

Did you know that for the movie "Star Trek: Generations" that The command chair or Captain's Chair was not intended to be replaced for this film but had to be, after the production staff discovered – fifty hours before filming – that it had been stolen. With time running out, shop crews labored for a straight eighteen hours to craft a new chair. They fashioned the replacement out of fiberglass molded over foam built on an old frame from the first season. The thief had left behind, fortunately for the production crew, the chair's cast-iron base, so that was also used. (This was mentioned in the book Star Trek: The Next Generation Companion 3rd ed., p. 312)

Source: [Memory Alpha](#)



Enterprise D Command Chair Picture circa 2365

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A Message from the VC

by Col Drego Tensa

Major General Tanner and I both have been beset with real life issues that have impinged upon our ability to be online. For that reason, we have had very little time to spend on base and many of our duties have suffered. As a result, promotions and this very newsletter, among other things, are exceedingly late. For what it's worth, we offer our apologies and we will do our best in the future to be on time with those tasks that are in our charge.

ESB News and Happenings

by Col Drego Tensa

**Department Advancement,
ESB Recreations:**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Stardate</u>	<u>Officer</u>
Deputy Chief	101913	LtCol Shayle Carter

A Letter from the Editor

by Col Drego Tensa

For this issue of Crockett's Spirit, I received exactly one fiction article and one "Nugget." What that means is that only two people contributed articles for this issue. I realize of course that those who write for CS are faced with the same real life issues that all of us are, yet I cannot help but be discouraged by such a lack of participation. I contemplated for quite some time whether or not to publish. I very nearly did not. Fortunately, I was able to find enough material to fill six pages (I would have preferred to fill at least eight). I've decided that I'll publish Crockett's Spirit every month no matter what. I've been late many times but I've never missed an issue and I don't intend to start. December's issue will be late but it *will* be published, and I intend for January's issue to be on time.

Fiction

The Alfor Encounter - 2

by Col Two Wolves

The words "We have been expecting you.." reverberated in Commander Shara's mind like an echo chamber.

"Explain." she prompted.

"This planet is one part of two. The one planet is tropical is considered a tourist attraction and tropical getaway and is visited by all. The other planet is us. No one visits us because of our..." Qwan started.

"...planet's harsh climactic conditions." Shara finished. She'd heard of racial and species prejudice, but planet prejudice?

"Our people once were all ice dwellers, but when technology advanced and space travel was developed, a split occurred when some chose to stay here while others left," Qwan continued as he settled into a semi-lotus position on the floor by her bed.

"Why haven't you and your people left?" Shara inquired.

"The Tribes like our ancestors are strict traditionalists and raise our children on the ice. Now when they reach maturity they have a choice to stay or leave. Some leave and never return, others leave and return after having their fill, and many stay simply because of the cats," Qwan replied, as he scratched a kit's head.

The small replica of Kiki had crept in and and climbed into Qwan's lap. Shara gazed at the kit and understood. There was a symbiotic relationship between Qwan's people and these beautiful, intelligent creatures. This was much more valuable than mere environmental comfort.

"What of my crew?" The Commander asked.

"Only four beside you survived. The injured have been tended to and are resting comfortably," Qwan explained.

Despite being Vulcan, Shara felt as though she'd been kicked in the chest by a mule. The Valkyrie was a small ship with only twelve crew members. This meant she'd have to send out condolence packets to seven families.

"We brought the bodies back and they are stored in our burial cairn." Qwan took note of Shara's somewhat distressed expression and continued.

"You should not blame yourself for their deaths. Your ship split in two like a Grafuli egg on impact. It is miraculous that any of you survived. It is also fortuitous that we found you before the storm season started. Once the big storms blow in we will be snow bound for weeks."

"How did your tribe happen to be at that location at that particular time?"

"We were having the traditional Final Hunt when we saw your ship crash."

"Thank you." Shara said appreciatively as she simultaneously thanked her own deity.

"You are welcome." Qwan replied.

"I would like to see my crew." Shara said. In response Qwan called one of the women in a singsong dialect. After a brief conversation with Qwan, she left them returned with a hooded fur robe and booties for Shara to wear.

"I will take you to them after you dress." Qwan said. Shara quickly donned the items.

"I am Shara." She said. Inwardly horrified she'd forgotten her manners, in a first contact situation of all places.

"I know. Kiki told me." Qwan said as he smiled and nodded in response. Apparently there was no offense taken.

"Fascinating." Shara thought as she followed Qwan from the room.

To be continued...



NOMAD

SEE THE UNIVERSE, MEET
INTERESTING PEOPLE, AND KILL THEM.

Encore Fiction

Terra in a Bottle

by Col Drego Tensa

The Red Alert sounded and the entire bridge crew jumped. When the captain commanded, "On screen," the image displayed before them...the two images...filled them with awe. "All stop," commanded USS Ranger Captain Theo Goss. "This bears looking into!"

Displayed immediately before them was an enormous panorama of landscape that had no place in space. It was as if an immense piece of paradise had been carved from the surface of a planet and placed inside a gigantic glass egg. And beyond the land mass lay a seemingly familiar looking vortex opening to...to points unknown.

"Looks like the entire Los Angeles Basin from Earth orbit," mused Helmsman LuAnn Arden. "It's beautiful!"

"Does resemble L.A. a little, and it is a sight to behold," said Commander James Butcher.

"Jimmy, you scan the land form. Velas, the vortex."

The solid First Officer and the petite Vulcan Science Officer, Velas, both went to work.

"Sir, this is unprecedented. The vortex is not a temporal rift or a wormhole. It opens, not to another time or another region of space, but to someplace else entirely! So it must be dimensional, opening to another universe. There may be more, but scans are yielding little."

"Keep on it," The lanky captain advised. "Got anything yet, Jimmy?"

"Ya know how, when you're in the desert, the mountains are so much farther away than they look?"

"Yeah...what about it?"

"Well, here's a twist. That land form's a lot closer than it looks." Butcher was clearly puzzled. "And ya know what that means!"

"Yeah, it's also a lot smaller than it appears to be."

"Right! About a twentieth the size we'd expect!" And get this! Except for external dimensions, my sensors can't get any clear readings! It's like they're out of sync with the object! Cap, I'd like to go out and take a look."

"Sir," Lieutenant Velas interjected, "that might explain what I'm seeing through the vortex. I can't get any definitive readings from beyond the portal, but it wouldn't surprise me to find that there is a universe there more compact than our own. Sir, I'd like to accompany Commander Butcher."

"Very well. When you go for E.V.A. tether yourselves to each other and to the shuttle. Anything goes wrong, I'll tractor the shuttle."

"Aye, sir," two voices responded in unison.

Velas arrived at the object first, the commander a few seconds later. She touched the "shell" with her thickly gloved hand. She wished she could actually feel it; to know and be able to fathom its texture. With a sigh, she activated her tricorder.

"You scan and I'll take a look-see." Butcher took out his optical scanner, maximized its magnification and began peering at the Earth-like surface below. Minutes passed before he again spoke. This time there was emotion in his voice. "Captain, this is incredible! That's not just a land mass down there, it's an island surrounded by water! Why, it's a whole

encapsulated world! And get this! There are buildings! There are surface vehicles, air vehicles; I can even make out bipedal human-like beings on the surface! And everything moves at a much accelerated pace! Captain, it's a world unto itself!"

"Well done, Jimmy!" Theo Goss was ecstatic. "Velas, what are your scans telling you?"

"Scans are mostly confusing, sir, but I can say unequivocally that every object below, bipedal humanoid included, is almost exactly one-twentieth the size of everything we're accustomed to. And, Captain, I have two theories. First, the miniaturized nature of what we are examining here carries all the way down to the subatomic level. The atoms and molecules in the realm below are one-twentieth the size of the atoms and molecules in our realm. Second, this "island in space" came from the other side of the vortex."

"Understood. Keep me..." Goss began.

"Wait a minute," Butcher cut in. "I think we're being approached. A shuttle craft is coming our way."

Velas instinctively touched the shell once again, with the fingertips of her right hand. Almost in a whisper, "They want desperately to communicate with us. I can hear one's thoughts." Then, mere seconds later, she yelled, "There's no time! Velas to engineering! You've got to set the tractor beam on repulse and send that thing back where it came from! Now!"

Captain Goss barked into the Comm, "Do it!"

Velas and Butcher hurried back to the shuttle and moved quickly out of the way.

The Ranger, impulse engines and repulse beam engaged, began gently pushing the object back toward the vortex, gaining speed and momentum as she went. With but a hundred meters to spare, she veered off. All eyes watched as the "island in space" returned to its place in the grand scheme of things, in just barely enough time before the vortex closed in on itself.

Back aboard the Ranger, Velas enlightened captain and crew. "What we encountered is a resort city housed in a virtually indestructible transparent composite shell. Called The Aerie, it orbited the centrally located planet Daron. People from many worlds vacation on The Aerie, entering and leaving via transporters not unlike our own.

"A few hours ago, a stellar core fragment ventured close enough to Daron to dislodge The Aerie from orbit. The difference in charge between Daron and the fragment created a powerful static discharge that opened the vortex between our two universes and sent The Aerie through. Thrusters now disabled, The Aerie was dead in space. The people there knew that the vortex was about to close. Their matter, being incompatible with ours, would eventually have decayed. They had to go back."

"Well done, everyone," the captain proclaimed, "Well done indeed! Bar's open 'til 2200!"



Brain Benders

ACROSS

1. Common theater name
6. *Mathesar: "On, ___! On!"
9. Santa ___, Calif.
13. Argus-eyed
14. Bauxite, e.g.
15. Preserves, as pork
16. Feudal lord
17. Conger, e.g.
18. Dark
19. *Mak'Tar alien member of the crew (holds a title)
21. *Member of the reprised show, Jane doe as ___
23. Mother Teresa, for one
24. Swig
25. J.F.K. overseer
28. Antares, for one
30. *Pilot of the NSEA-Protector and the Protector II
35. "The ___ Ranger"
37. Persia, now
39. New or fresh, as a concept
40. Bacchanal
41. Like composition paper
43. Peddle
44. Charger
46. Sixth Jewish month
47. Scottish Gaelic
48. *Creepy evil alien
50. Kind of exam

52. Longing
53. ___ Barbara Allen
55. Kind of wheels
57. *His motto is, "Never give up, never surrender!"
61. *Computer-echoing series heroine
65. Knight's "suit"
66. Clavell's "___-Pan"
68. Candidate's concern
69. Camelot, to Arthur
70. Infomercials, e.g.
71. "South Pacific" hero
72. Beach, basically
73. * ___ Ingersoll
74. Exodus commemoration

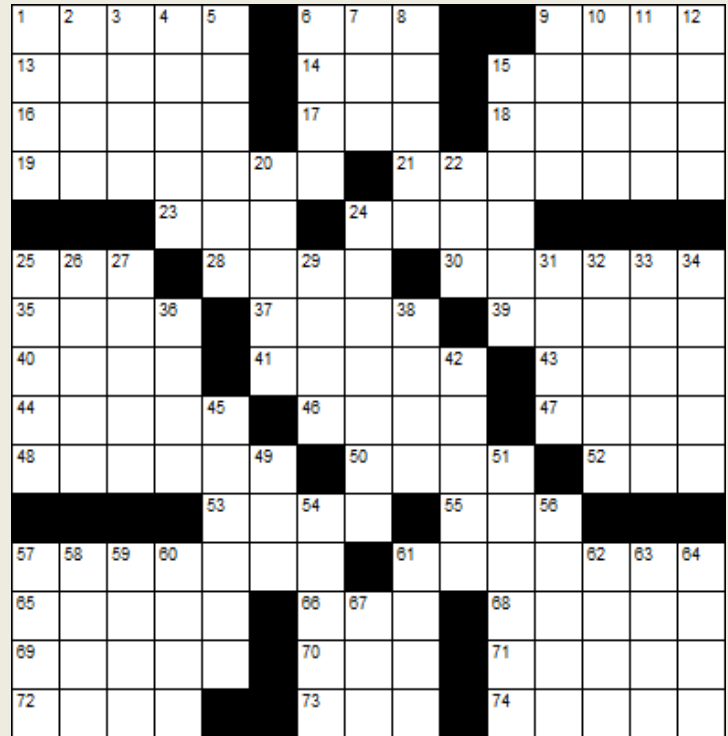


DOWN

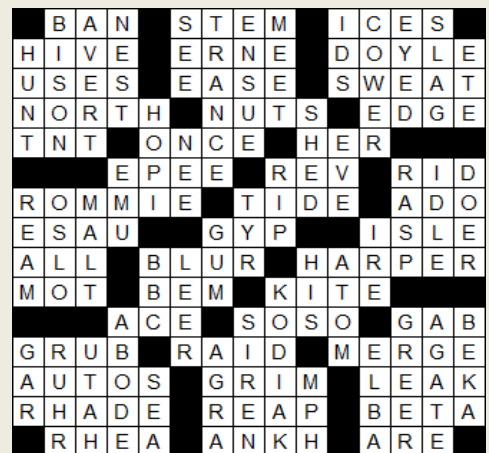
1. Event attended by Cinderella
2. Hip bones
3. "Holy mackerel!"
4. Liver or kidney, e.g.
5. Womb
6. "Little pig-gies"
7. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
8. ___ Starr
9. Renegade Time Lady, with "the"
10. ___ podrida
11. Ado
12. ___ Spumante
15. Mideast potentate
20. Sammy Kaye's "___ Tomorrow"
22. "Is that ___?"
24. *Geek fan
25. Dentist's advice
26. Heart line
27. Inflame
29. Diva's solo
31. Amble
32. " ___ Heart-beat" (Amy Grant hit)
33. Thickheaded
34. Bygone
36. Observer
38. Approach
42. Excitement
45. Render harmless
49. ___ Gawain
51. Lords and ___
54. Rose petal oil
56. "Mine!"
57. Old salts
58. Length x width, for a rectangle
59. F.B.I. operative
60. Olympian's quest
61. Catchall abbr.
62. Stated
63. Eye up and down
64. At no time, poetically
67. "Much ___ About Nothing"

ESB Crockett's Spirited Crossword Puzzle

*Galaxy Quest - by Col Tensa - November 2013



Answers to Previous Puzzle



More Brain Benders

SUDOKU PUZZLE

November 2013
Hard, Symmetrical
by Tensa

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

Solution to October's Sudoku Puzzle
Medium, Symmetrical

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

WORD SEARCH

November's Topic: "Vulcans"
Look for 42 Pointy-Eared Ones
by Tensa

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

Solution to October's Word Search:
"Romulans"

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

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From the Ready Room

Departmental Hierarchy

by Col Drego Tensa

Promotions here at Esprit Starbase are scheduled to take place on the last Friday of every even numbered month. The latest promotions were due to be awarded on October 25th, but real life issues involving staff have caused them to be delayed. They will nevertheless be awarded and they will be made retroactive to October 25th.

Officer candidates need only to visit the base on a regular basis and participate actively. They can be promoted to 2nd lieutenant as early as a week after joining.

The ranks of 1st lieutenant through captain can be earned by no more than active participation. Membership in a department is desired but not required.

Promotions to major and above require membership in a department. Senior officer positions depend on demonstrations of increasing initiative, teamwork, coordination with immediate superiors, and leadership.

For more detailed information regarding promotions, click on the promotions tab and visit the Promotions Criteria Page.



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