

The DaVinci Pilot

Volume 4 Number 2

AUGUST 1998

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

The first thing I need to do is apologize to the crew for the rather “dry” meetings we have been having lately. I suppose I could put the blame elsewhere but that would not be fair. I am responsible for the content of the meetings, so I am the one to blame. What can be done to liven things up? I have been asking that question at meetings and in conversations with ship personnel. The only ideas suggested are things we are already doing. Things such as trivia contests and the monthly auction of trek memorabilia. These are timed honored traditions on the DaVinci, but even traditions can get old and stale. Now I do not wish to get rid of the trivia and auction, but what I do want to add to the meetings is more a little more spice; something to make the meetings more lively. So, for the hundredth time, put on your thinking cap and give your worn-out Captain some help!

For those of you who did not make it to the Deep Space Nine season finale party, you missed some good times. There were about 20 crew personnel and Klingon guests and all had plenty to eat (even though an un-named Security Chief failed to show up with the paper plates!) Lucky for Zach (oops! It slipped out), the Klingons happened to have some with them. Naturally, this was followed by the inevitable shouts of “saving the Federation once more!” Oh well, what can you expect from Klingons who bring cold Gagh to the party.

The coupon contest is almost over. As of press time the Dunn family is still in the lead with \$5332.15 in coupons donated! In second place is ENS Zach Farley with \$462.28 in coupons clipped. In third is CRMN JoAnn Vazquez with \$335.37 and in fourth is ENS Gisela Stephens with 265.55 in coupons. Someone dropped off \$82.55 in coupons but did not leave a name. If you do the math you will see that the contest has brought in a total of \$6477.90 in coupons for the OCP! Thanks to all who participated.

ENS Gisela Stephens at \$288.45 (\$118.75 food and \$169.70 non-food). In third place is ENS Zach Farley with \$237.56 (\$99.30 food and \$138.26 non food). Maybe the next time we do this, the Dunns might consider giving handicaps to the rest of the crew! Anyway, it appears as if no one will be able to catch the leaders, so congratulations Randy and Deniece!

Sorry I missed the last meeting but my work took me to Seattle, WA for a few days. Had I been there a couple more days, I would have been able to attend a convention starring Kate Mulgrew and Garrett Wang! There were some questions concerning the Parisses Square tournament I have been mentioning for quite a while. I have mentioned our plans to several ship Captains but have heard nothing back. I am planning on e-mailing each ship in the Region. Right now it looks as if it will be sometime in November.

FCPT Freddy Heller

SCIENCE STATION

Frozen Klingons found in the Antarctic!

I've noticed a few science-related stories in the news recently, and thought you might find them interesting. One was that researchers have found Klingons in the Antarctic, frozen for half a million years! Proving, that extra-terrestrial life exists (or at least existed at the time). Proving, that Klingons were traveling the galaxy at the same time that Humans were just discovering fire. Proving, once and for all, that Klingons rule!! What am I saying? This is highly illogical, and I am a Vulcan.

Actually, researchers working in the Antarctic have found microorganisms buried 1,200 meters deep in the ice. These organisms are about 400,000 years old (in archeology depth means age), and include fungi, algae, bacteria, and diatoms (tiny shelled organisms). Some of these have strange shapes, and researchers have nicknamed them the Klingon, Mickey Mouse, the porpoise and Swiss

cheese. Scientific (and logical) names are to be developed later.

The organisms are suspected to have arrived on Earth from cosmic dust, maybe from Mars. Teamed with the discovery of ice and slush on Europa (one of Jupiter's moons), evidence of water on Mars and on Earth's Moon, leading scientists are rethinking the possibilities of life elsewhere in the universe.

Daystrom would be proud.

I'm sure you have heard about the new super-user-friendly computer software being developed by researchers. The software is designed to recognize and respond to changes in the emotions of computer users.

One researcher explains that the new technology will make "cars react to a driver's temperament, VCRs that fast-forward automatically when a viewer

gets bored, and digital tutors that respond to a student's level of engagement." Sounds a little too much like the M-5 computer to me, but what do I know. I find equally interesting the fact that one of the researchers is Rosalind Picard, no doubt an ancestor of the famous captain.

Science Station Out.

LJG Michael S. Walker

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

There will be a trek convention in Greensboro, NC on the 15th and 16th of August. Guests will be Robert Picardo, Denise Crosby, and a special guest to be named at the convention. I will be going, so if you want to tag along make sure you let me know. This is an over night trip leaving on Friday and returning on Sunday.

The Vulkan convention scheduled for mid November in Atlanta has been canceled. No word from Joe as to the alternate date. As soon as it is announced I will let you know. However, it should be sometime in the Spring

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE ON THE 20th OF AUGUST AT 7:00 P.M. PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN.

SICKBAY

Bite Me

I have had some dental work done this past month, including a trip for an extraction of one of my wisdom teeth (yes, OUCH!!!!). Your teeth play a vital role in the proper digestion of food for your body. They crush the food bits that enter your mouth and allow the small bits of food to pass on their way to the stomach to be further processed into nutritious fuel for your body.

Teeth, if properly cared for, will last a lifetime. However, as I have learned, if your choppers are not brushed and flossed every day, your teeth will eventually decay, and will either fall out by themselves, or will have to be pulled by a dentist. Proper care is necessary for your teeth to be as healthy as they can be.

Some tooth care tips, as provided by Dr. Donald Busby, DDS, Lafayette, Alabama (my dentist):

- 1) Brush and floss every day, three times a day, after meals and sugary sweets;
- 2) Visit your dental professional at least once, if not twice, a year;
- 3) You should use an ADA approved soft-bristled toothbrush on your teeth and gums;
- 4) Mouthwashes and pre-rinses, such as Plax, are excellent in fighting tooth decay and plaque;
- 5) Don't use your teeth as tools (for example, as I have done, don't pull a nail out of the wall with your incisors).

Take care of your teeth now, so you won't have to wear "falsies" or dentures, and I assure you will...LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!

LTJG Steve Gordon

NEXT DaVINCI NIGHT OUT WILL BE AT CASTELLO'S ON THE 280 BYPASS IN PHENIX CITY (BETWEEN BIG LOTS & WAL-MART) ON AUGUST 3RD AT 7:00 P.M. Y'ALL COME!!

TREK BUZZ

In the latest issue of Star Trek Communicator, Rick Berman says, "Although Jadzia may be gone, Dax certainly has a future ahead of it. Let's just say that we haven't seen the last of Dax."

A revamped version of the original Star Trek is being brought back to TV this fall, complete with commentary from William Shatner (Kirk), Leonard Nimoy (Spock) and other cast members. The Sci-Fi Channel announced recently that a special 90-minute version of each of the classic program's 80 episodes is being digitally re-mastered with original footage restored. Nimoy will share his memories of each episode in its first run, beginning September 1st at 7:30 P.M EDT (Mondays through Fridays), and Shatner will take over for the second run.

Paramount recently announced that they will be releasing products, including movies, in DVD format.

Max Grodenchik will reportedly have a cameo role in "Star Trek 9," although not in his usual role as Rom on Deep Space Nine.

Teaser trailers for the next Trek film will appear with the movies "The Truman Story," and "Godzilla."

The "Starfleet Academy" computer game, released by Microprose, was recently nominated for the first-ever Interactive Achievement Awards by the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences in several categories:

Personal Computer: Simulation Game of the Year

Craft Awards: Outstanding Achievement in Sound and Music

Craft Awards: Outstanding Achievement in Software Engineering.

"Reading Rainbow," LeVar Burton's PBS series, won honors as "Outstanding Children's Series," at the 1998 Daytime Emmy Awards. Burton was also up for "Best Performer in a Children's Series," but lost to Bill Nye of "Bill Nye, The Science Guy."

Patrick Stewart (Picard) did not win at the Helen Hayes theater awards in Washington, where he had been nominated for his role in "Othello."

At this year's Saturn Awards on June 10th, Kate Mulgrew was honored with the Best Genre TV Actress award. Tim Russ (Tuvok) accepted the award on Kate's behalf. Oddly enough, the Best Genre TV Actor award went to another Star Trek

veteran, Stephen Weber (Colonel Day in DS9's "The Siege") for his work on the TV miniseries The Shining (Sci-Fi Wire).

Thanks to "Transwarp" and "Dateline:Starfleet" for the information!

MOVIE REVIEW

Attack of the killer asteroid!

My family recently saw the movie Armageddon, and found it mildly disappointing. The special effects were certainly special, and the action scenes were certainly packed. But maybe that was the problem: all the action scenes seemed to be in fast-forward. Not only were our heroes put in a difficult position to begin with (mining in outer space and trying to blow an asteroid in half), but every time they turn around, another crisis develops (the government tries to blow the bomb early, the mining equipment breaks down, one guy gets "space sickness" and shoots up the place, and even the asteroid itself starts to "attack" them near the end). With all this action, it seemed, somehow, boring. Conversely, Apollo 13, was much more slow-paced, but kept me on the edge of my seat (of course, it was a true story).

Additionally, why did the shuttles have to fly "through" the asteroid to land. I don't mean all the debris trailing the main asteroid, but all the overhanging, crystalline stuff that they had to fly and crash through to land and take off. It seems it would have been just as exciting to have them try to maneuver realistic shuttles through realistic debris (I

suppose, on the other hand, that a giant asteroid could be anyway it wants to be).

Finally, what miner wearing a space suit would stand a couple meters away from a drill bit chewing its way through "six feet of pure iron" (or whatever it was)? Surely, there would be all sorts of chips and other space-suit-puncturing debris flying all over the place.

In conclusion, however, Armageddon is a fantasy with great special effects. While it is no Star Trek, it is a good adventure.

LJG Michael S. Walker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Many happy returns to the following DaVinci personnel and Star Trek celebrities and events who are celebrating birthdays in August!

Michael Okuda (Art Supervisor)	6 th
Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko)	7 th
LTJG Steven Gordon	8 th
Matt Jeffries (Set Designer)	12 th
CADET Chantel Billingsley	13 th
Harve Bennett (Producer)	17 th
Gene Roddenberry (Great Bird of the Galaxy)	19 th
Jonathan Frakes (CMDR William Riker)	19 th
Diana Muldaur (Dr. Katherine Pulaski)	19 th
CADET Hannah Walker	21 st
Jennifer Lien (Kes)	24 th
ENS Frazier Smith	27 th
Gates McFadden (Dr Beverly Crusher)	28 th

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Opening Balance	208.88
Printing	14.98
Postage	35.20
Postage	9.00
Postage	3.78
Deposit	45.21
Closing Balance	191.13

CMDR Connie Heller

ACCOLADES TO:

ENSs Michael and Jean Walker on the birth of their daughter Grace Lorene, born on 9 July at 5:54 P.M Weighed in at 8 lbs, 2oz and was 19 inches in length. Congratulations!! Welcome to the DaVinci, Cadet Walker!

PROGRAM SCHEDULES

All listings are tentative and based on the Paramount schedule. Check local listing.

Deep Space Nine:

01 August	Wrongs Darker than Death or Night (R)
08 August	In the Pale Moonlight (R)
15 August	His Way (R)

22 August	The Reckoning (R)
29 August	The Valiant (R)

Voyager:

05 August	Omega Directive (R)
12 August	Unforgettable (R)
19 August	Living Witness (R)
26 August	Demon (R)

Babylon 5 (All Repeats)

05 August	Strange Relations
12 August	Secrets of the Soul
19 August	Day of the Dead
26 August	In the Kingdom of the Blind

DaVINCI STAFF ROSTER

Commanding Officer Freddy Heller 562-TREK

Executive Officer Joe Perry 327-5888
Finance Connie Heller 562-8735
Community Service Josh Ainsworth Unlisted
Publications Freddy Heller 562-8735

Science Officer Michael Walker 214-5179
Counselor JoAnne Vazquez 563-9185
Holodeck VACANT
Medical Steve Gordon 864-2607

Engineering Officer Deniece Dunn 291-0150
Communications Karen Baker 323-4217
Quartermaster Randy Dunn 291-0150
Security Zach Farley 682-6911

Co-Cadet Corps Cmdr Dana Ainsworth Unlisted
Co-Cadet Corps Cmdr Marilyn Gordon
(334) 864-2607

SR Chief Petty Off VACANT

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THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE ON THE 20th
OF AUGUST AT 7:00 P.M. PLEASE
COME IF YOU CAN.**

CARGO BAY 1 - BUSINESS

The following businesses will give DaVinci crew personnel a 10 percent discount on purchases. Make sure you let them know who you are.

COLLINS CARDS & COLLECTIBLES

4728-A Warm Springs Road 569-5353

COLUMBUS BOOK EXCHANGE

6440 W. Hamilton Park Drive,
Suite B 324-2559

CYBER EXCHANGE

5256 Armour Rd. 320-9711

EXTREME GALAXY

3554 Hilton Ave. 317-2500

EXTREME GALAXY II

2901 University Avenue, Suite 42 569-5939

DUGOUT

1033 Broadway 653-9060

PREFERRED COMPUTERS

4405 Armour Road, Suite C322-3225

CARGO BAY 2 - THE CREW

WANTED: Star Trek fan material. In need of trading cards that came in pre-recorded videos of original series episodes. Call Freddy at 562-TREK.

FOR SALE: Cards, action figures, and a whole lot more! Both Star Trek and Star Wars! Call Freddy at 562-TREK.

FOR SALE: Star Trek toys and memorabilia. See Patty at the meeting. "I have what you need!."