

THE MIGHTY MAX

The Mighty Max
The Official Newsletter of the USS MAXIMILLIAN, A Star Trek Fan Association

Volume 8, Issue 4

April 2001

Free to paid members



HELLO

Hi, from our new friend K'smiley

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Max Fund Raiser At Local Fuddruckers is Great Success



Pictured above left to right: Manny Medina, Jeremy Highfield, Matt Morris, Sidley Howard, Terry McPherson, Marcus Owens, Steve

Thursday March 15, 2001 marked the second time the Max had a fund raiser at the local Fuddruckers Hamburger Restaurant. There many crew members present for this away mission, they were ADM Morris, CAPT Howard, LCDR Medina, LCDR

McPherson, and LT Marcus Owens. We would like to send our thanks to the management staff and in particular Steve for letting us set up a table and have a raffle.

This time we raised almost \$72 for our charities. Again we have been invited back to the establishment for more fund raisers. Steve would like to have us there once a month.



MAX Delivers \$200 Check to Local JDF

On Friday March 16, 2001 LCDR Connor and CAPT Howard presented Andrea Pearson of the Mid-Ohio Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation with a check in the amount of \$200. The

money was raised during several events through out the year, the biggest being the charity auction last April and the first fundraiser held at Fuddruckers.

The JDF was very grateful for the small donation. In return for their gratitude they have graciously donated 4 of the STTNG CCG tournament edition sets for us to auction off at this years charity auction. We in turn are grateful for those



CAPT Howard with Andrea Pearson of the Mid-Ohio Chapter of the JDF



CAPT Howard and LCDR Connor with JDF volunteer Audrey at the check presentation in March

wonderful items. We also expressed our interest in helping them out with their annual walk-a-thon which will be held this fall (more info to come).

Top Ten Most Popular Classes at Starfleet Academy

10. Command 302: Winning in a No-Win Situation
9. Communications 101: Opening Hailing Frequencies
8. Space Law 206: Avoiding Court Martial
7. Navigation 101: Standard Orbits
6. Philosophy 203: Why All Major Systems Fail at the Same Time
5. Command 255: Choosing Minor Landing Party Members Who Will Die
4. Astrophysics 199: Recognizing Unknown Phenomenon
3. Command 309: Creative Obedience to Starfleet Orders
2. Engineering 422: Making Radical Technological Advances Under Time Pressure

And the most popular class offered at Starfleet Academy is....

1. Space Law 499: The Prime Directive and How to get Around it

Admiralty Board

Commissioner
(COMMAX)
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Morris

Assistant Commis-
sioner of Personnel
(ACOMPERSMAX)
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Howard

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CDR Manny Medina

RECORDS
OFFICER
LCDR Charles
Connor

TREASURER
LCDR Erica
Sherman

Editor

CAPT Sidley Howard

The Mighty Max is the
monthly Newsletter of
the USS MAXIMIL-
LIAN NCC-74997 Star
Trek Fan Association.
This is a fan publica-
tion.

Submissions to the
Mighty Max are due
on the 1st of every
month.

Send submissions to
squidtrek@msn.com
or

Sidley Howard
3603 Kirkwood Rd
Columbus, OH 43227
614-237-4258

Sound Advise

Yo, Ferengi,
How much wood could a woodchuck
chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
Spocko (DON'T CALL ME A "HEW-MON")
Dear HEW-MON,
Okay, so I get, say, nine letters a day from
you HEW-MONS with that clever little wood-
chuck line. Please stop. Please. I'm not from
your planet. I don't know how much wood a
woodchuck would chuck if a woodchuck
could chuck wood, I don't even know what a
woodchuck looks like. Okay, HEW-MON?

Dear Pelgar,
Who slit the sheets for the sheet slitter's
daughter when the sheet slitter's daugh-
ter slit sheets?
Just wondering.
Cheliz Dacht (A Klingon/Hew-Mon hybrid)
Dear Hew-Mon,
Again, I have no idea and your letters hurt
when I try to read them out loud.

K'PLETT
What are your views on the Klingon Chan-
cellor?
Romulan Tal'Shiar
Dear Romulan Tal'Shiar,
If I am working, my view of the Chancellor
comes from behind the podium, slightly to
the left. If I am watching on a viewscreen,
then my view is what the camera operator
chooses.

WEB LINKS

www.starbase1.com

www.sfedora.com

www.fandom.com

www.scifi.com

www.startrek.com

www.trekweb.com

www.trektoday.com

www.treknation.com

www.sfsite.com

www.ds9promenade.com

www.fanmedia.com

www.decipher.com

www.siscom.net/~mmeece/trekdirectory

http://excelsior.ifcommand.com

www.desktopstarships.com

www.stisv.com

TREK TRIVIA

1. Who was the only person be-
sides Data who Spot Liked?
2. What is Praxis?
3. Name the 4 officers who
helped Picard move the Ba'ku
into the mountains in *Insurrec-
tion*?
4. In what city did Joseph Sisko
live?
5. Who are Gods to the Vorta?
6. Approximately how many light
years was Voyager flung from
Earth?
7. A single Borg is referred to as
a _____?
8. What was Janeway's dog's
name?
9. On what planet was Worf
raised on by his foster par-
ents?
10. What agency investigated the
USS Defiant's accidental trip to
the 23rd century?

BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Grace Lee Whitney
April 19	George Takei
April 29	Kate Mulgrew
Apr 7	Charles McGinnis
Apr 20	Karlie Trudell
Apr 29	Dyhalma Trudell
May 14	Christine Cullison
May 22	Doug Foulk
May 22	Richard Watson
May 25	Monica Trudell
May 30	Matt Morris

Renewals

April	May
Charles Connor	John Chubb
Christine Cullison	Sidley Howard
Charles McGinnis	
Chaz McGinnis	
Jacky Roach	
Richard Watson	

Patch Update



Date: Thu, 29 Mar
2001 08:50:28 -
0800

Hi Sidley,

It's in the works.

Jon

K'Pinky Follod again as he Tries to take Over the World



There is no story
here I just wanted to
share this with you.

This is a perfect ex-
ample of somebody
who has way to much
time on their hands.

If you would like to
see the whole epi-
sode you can view it
at

www.hotink.com/HST/kp01.html

Take your time be-
cause it is absolutely
hilarious.



Greetings Earthlings

CAPT Sidley E. Howard
CAPT S'Qid sutal Septaric

Greetings Earthlings,

Welcome to our April meeting and Annual auction. Thanks to everyone who donated items and or money to our cause. I will be sure to announce the total taken in from tonight.

I can't wait that con season is starting. Dover then Women of Voyager Wooooo Hooooo!!!

I just purchased a scanner for my computer so I am now able to enter any and all photos into the newsletter and other publications.

We are still working on filling in for Colin and the web site. I have found some programs



and other web sites to help me along with this process.

My vacation home to Iowa was uneventful but nice. I got to see a lot of old friends and family members during my journeys.

I am still taking stories and pictures for the memorial issue of the Mighty Max. Come on folks don't make me beg for stuff, I know you people have stuff to show.

Well I got promoted back up to Supervisor at my job, so things are looking good financially and hopefully I can keep the schedule going too. Until next time

Same Trek time

Same Trek Channel

CAPT Sidley "Squid" Howard

Memorial Issue Update

I am still taking submissions for the Memorial Issue of the Mighty Max. I will take submissions until May 10th. I still need photos and stories, stories mostly. It is looking nice so far I have pictures back as far as 1997 and would like some more from 96 and earlier. Please if you have any photos send them to me ASAP (I will send them back) along with an anecdote that may accompany the photo.

THANX!

CAPT Sidley Howard

SCA in Mid Ohio

SCA is the Society for Creative Anachronism, a non-profit education organization that has chapters worldwide. It's focus is the re-creation and study of the history and arts of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, primarily focusing on Europe but also encompassing cultures from the Middle East, Far East, and the New World. The website for the SCA is <http://www.sca.org> The Midwest area of the SCA is known as the Middle Kingdom. There are chapters in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba and Ontario. The website for the Middle Kingdom is [http://www.](http://www.midrealm.org)

[midrealm.org](http://www.midrealm.org)

The Central Ohio group is known as the Barony of Middle Marches. It has groups known as shires or cantons in Columbus, Lancaster, Athens, Marietta, Gambier, and Portsmouth. The web site for the Barony of Middle Marches is <http://www.midrealm.org/midmarch/>



For further information, contact Lisa Browne at elisee@sewingcentral.com. She is the March of Tirenwydd's chapter president. There are many SCA events that happen on the weekend at various locations including churches, camps, schools, and parks.

The Columbus-area chapter is known as the March of Tirenwydd. It meets on Ohio State's campus on Thursday evenings on 7:30 p.m. at Royer Commons There is a general business meeting, followed by rattan-based combat practice and rapier practice. There are also arts workshops that also happen following the meeting. The website for the March of Tirenwydd is <http://www.midrealm.org/scacolumbus>.

Thank you to Ginny Claphan of the IKB Scorpion and SCA March of Tirenwydd for supplying us with this information.

Next month Babylon 5
'How do you pronounce your name again?'



NEWS FLASH.....

Comm Channel 3016
Open:

Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Owens here, I have very little to report this month, have been busy just not with club business.

I'm working on a surprise for Dover, something special for Joe.

Also I hear the following:
Macron has publicity out (check Star Base) I'll bring the flyer I have so you can see. And this year going to be fun,

instead of volley ball players, we will be sharing the hotel with a group from the Christian ministries.

For those people on the Columbus, remember next week crew photo's come dressed and pressed.

I've not much else and I'm running last for work, so I'll see you there (Bring Money) and let the auction begin...

-Comm Channel 3016 Closed:





Hailing Frequencies Open

LCDR Charles Connor

Hailing Frequencies open

Incoming subspace transmission

From: USS MAXIMILLIAN

Subject: Officer Report

LCDR Charles Connor reporting:

Hello Everyone April is here already the year is nearly half way through and I will have my six months in at lucent and then I will get my vacation part of which I plan to use during Marcon.

Well me and Capt Howard went to the



JDF where we met and presented a check to them. I attended Sit Long And Prosper the Star Trek movie marathon sponsored by the Lynx Kitty hawk task force. The movies

were of course great. and it was a real thrill to see those classic old films on the big screen again.

I hope the auction goes well I plan on bringing some change with me so be prepared for a bidding war. but i will draw the line on bidding \$6.00 for an eraser. even if its Enterprise-D The D&D gaming sessions are still on.

as of April The sessions will be held at my Apt on the 2nd and last Sundays of the month. The doors will open at 5:00 pm and the game will start between 6 and 7 depending upon the number of people who show up. game sessions will end between 9 to 9:30 refreshments will be served. well that is all for now LCDR Charles Connor out.



Hello Crew

Not much to report here.

I hope everyone finds something they

like and purchase here at the auction, I know I will.

I just learned that Bill Blair will be the guest at Dover this year, don't ask me who he is I haven't figured it out yet.

I am going to miss being at Marcon this year, but I've allowed myself to be excused from it this year only because Kate Mulgrew will be in Cleveland.

That's about it for my report. Hope you have fun, that's why we are all here.

CMR Manny Medina

Celebrate Earth Day: Save the Planet

OSU Earth Day Festival 2001 Description of event This is a festival promoting awareness and respect for our earth. The event will include informational booths from community and student organizations, eco-friendly technology and products, food and merchandise, speakers, local bands, and tours of



the OSU recycling facilities. *Type of event* Fair/festival/expo *Start date* 4/20/01 *Starting time* 1 p.m. *Ending time* 7 p.m. *Location or address* Mirror Lake and Browning Amphitheater on OSU Campus

Own Land on Mars Only £25

Is there really life out there? - A question that has vexed man from the very beginning. ...The rocky Martian Surface is considered the most similar place to Earth in our Solar System, and the place, thought by many, to be the most likely to have harbored life. Was there ever life on Mars? Is there still? When will Man finally go there? - We may know the answers to many or all of these questions in the very near future...

In 1980 an American named Dennis Hope became the first man to exploit a poorly worded clause of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which allowed him to lay claim to Earth's Moon, Mars, and all Nine other major planets in our Solar System. Since that time parcels of land on the Martian landscape have been available for sale to the

general public. One day man may set foot on Mars, and we may even discover other life forms have beat us to it. Either way, that historic moment shall take place on somebody's property ...maybe yours...

As the leading re-seller of celestial property, plentyofspace.com are able to offer a 1-acre plot for only £25!

Including...

- Martian Deed of Ownership
- Map of the Location of Your Plot
- Copy of Hope's original 1980 Declaration of Ownership
- Certificate outlining the mineral rights to your plot
- Inclusion of your details on the plentyofspace.com Martian Property Owner's Register

- All postage & packaging
- 10-day money back guarantee* (see [terms & conditions](#))

Not this Mars



This one

Conventions

April 27 - 29, 2001
CAMP DOVER PEACE CONFERENCE
Days Inn - New Philadelphia, Ohio

May 25-27, 2001
Women of Voyager Con
Renaissance Hotel
Cleveland, OH

May 25 - 27, 2001
MARCON 36
Sci-Fi/Fantasy Convention
Hyatt Regency
Columbus, Ohio

June 29, 30 - July 1, 2001
EMPIRE UNION
Holiday Inn-Toledo West
2340 South Reynolds RD.
Special Guest - Mary Kay Adams
"Grilka"

July 20 - 22, 2001
TORONTO TREK 15
Regal Constellation Hotel
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
GOH: Andreas Katsulas "G'kar" from
B5

July 28,29,30 2001
SCAPERCON
Cincinnati, OH
Guest: TBA
Marriott North
513-874-7335

August 17 - 19, 2001
SERENITY CON 2001
Ramada Inn - Dayton, Ohio

October 5 - 7, 2001
MAQUIS GRAS 2001
Ramada Inn - Portage, Indiana
219-762-5546 or 1-800-437-5145
Reservations due by September 1,
2001
Special Guest Stars:
Gweneth Walsh - B'tor Duras from Star
Trek:TNG
Robin Curtis - Lt. Saavik from Star Trek

III-Search for Spock
For more info contact Cindy at 219-759-
2272

October 5,6,7 2001
Context XIV
Info :
PO Box 163391
Columbus, OH 43216
614-889-0436

October 26,27,28 2001
Ohio Valley Filk Fest XVII
PO Box 20125-0125
Columbus, OH 43220
614-851-0936

NEW RELEASES

Mar 20 SciFi Channel's version
of Dune on DVD
Apr 1 Star Trek Away Team
PC
Apr 3 6th Day
DVD
Apr 3 The Twilight Zone 40th
Anniversary DVD
Apr 17 Space Cowboys

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5 Reynoldsburg High
School After Prom Party
12mid-4am
May 12 Max Anniversary Dinner
@ Whetstone Library
5pm-?
June 9 Max Olympics
10 am-?
Max meeting
5pm- ?

Movies coming soon

May 4 The Mummy
Returns
May 11 A Knights Tale
June 15 Tomb Raider
June 29 A.I.
July 13 Final Fantasy
July 18 Jurassic Park 3
July 27 Planet of the Apes

Special Greetings From Iowa

Hello!
We recently received a letter from your Captain,
Sidley E. Howard, inviting our Star Trek Club, U.S.
S. Cedar Valley--Deep Space Iowa, to join your
newsletter exchange program. Unfortunately, we
will not be able to participate. Due to the untimely
death of our Captain, Mary Jensen, our small
group will disband and we will not be producing
any more newsletters. This was a regretful deci-
sion, but one that was necessary. I'd appreciate it
if you relay this information to your Captain and
other crewmembers. Also, I'd appreciate your reply
to this message so that I know that you received it.
Our Captain was the heart and soul of our group
and our few crewmembers are not able to keep the
club going. We, along with Mary's family were
honored to hear that Leonard Nimoy and John de

Lancie will be graciously dedicating to her their per-
formance of "Spock vs. Q" at the Grand Slam
Star Trek Convention in Pasadena, CA, March 31 &
April 1st. Mary previously worked with Nimoy and de
Lancie on their "Alien Voices" website and developed
a friendship with them.

Thanks for your understanding. If you have any
question, feel free to
reply to this email.

Live long and prosper!
Elaine Gartelos,
U.S.S. Cedar Valley
Deep Space Iowa

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Barclay
2. A Klingon moon
3. Data, Troi, Crusher, Worf
4. New Orleans
5. The Founders
6. 70,000
7. Drone
8. Molly
9. Gault
10. Federation Department of Tem-
poral Investigation



TREK NEWS

03.15.01 Dispatch: Star Trek Alums at the Daytime Emmys

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has announced its nominations for the 28th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards, and members of the *Star Trek* family are right in the mix.

Earning himself two nominations and even more for his show, LeVar Burton (Geordi La Forge on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and *Reading Rainbow* could go home with six Emmys. Burton was personally nominated for Best Performer in a Children's Series and as Executive Producer (with Twila C. Liggett) in the category of Best Children's Series. *Reading Rainbow* also grabbed nominations for Single Camera Photography (Film or Electronic), Directing in a Children's Series, Single Camera Editing and Writing in a Children's Series.

Another TNG acting alum nominated as Executive Producer is Whoopi Goldberg ("Guinan"), nominated in the category of Best Game/Audience Participation Show for the *Hollywood Squares*. Goldberg Executive produces along with John C. Moffitt and Pat Tourk Lee.

Finally, Alfre Woodard is up for Best Performer in a Children's Special for her performance as Clara Collier in "The Wishing Tree." Woodard appeared as Lily Sloane in *Star Trek: First Contact*.

The Daytime Emmy Awards will be handed out on May 18 in New York.

03.14.01 Dispatch: Final Airdates for Star Trek: Voyager

And the magic number is...seven. With only seven more new episodes to air in the U.S., *Star Trek: Voyager* hurtles closer and closer to the end of its momentous seven-year journey. Below are the UPN airdates for the final seven episodes of the final season:

3/21/01 "Critical Care" (R)
3/28/01 "Inside Man" (R)
4/04/01 "Body and Soul" (R)

4/11/01 "Q2"
4/18/01 "Author, Author"
4/25/01 "Friendship One"
5/02/01 "Natural Law"
5/09/01 "Destiny"
5/16/01 "Renaissance Man"
5/23/01 Series Finale (2 Hrs)
(R) = Repeat

03.08.01 Science Roundup: Lightship, Pioneer 10, Space Amoebas,

According to the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* episode "Explorers," Bajorans began exploring their solar system about 500 years ago using solar-sail vessels that were propelled by light pressure from the sun. It appears humans are about to catch up. A test flight is scheduled next month for Earth's first solar sail craft, with a full orbital mission planned for later this year.

The Planetary Society has collaborated with Russian space groups to create a solar sail spacecraft that will utilize the Sun's energy as its primary form of propulsion. A sail 30 meters in diameter, divided into eight triangular blades, will be pushed through space by the continuous

thrust of photons from the Sun, carrying the payload at its center with navigation made possible by pitching the blades.

The private space group believes the solar sail craft could pave the way to the other planets and even travel to other stars. "It's the most efficient system we can imagine for transport around the solar system," said Andre Bormanis, science consultant for *Star Trek: Voyager* who is also a consultant with The Planetary Society. "We need new forms of propulsion, and the solar sail will help us get colonies on the Moon and on Mars much more cheaply than current technology will allow." Current spacecraft like the Space Shuttle are inefficient by comparison because chemical fuel adds so much to their weight.

As the ancient Bajorans discovered when they landed on Cardassia, the solar sail could also make interstellar travel practical, according to Bormanis. When a solar sail craft gets beyond the influence of the Sun's energy, a powerful space-based laser—which would also be solar-powered—would continue pushing the vessel toward the next star. "The solar sail can achieve accelerations up to 10 or 15 percent of the speed of light. That would reduce a trip to Alpha Centauri to within the span of a human lifetime," he said. Bormanis is also a writer for *Voyager*, having written or contributed to several episodes including this week's "Human Error." (Painting by Michael Carroll, © 2001 The Planetary Society)

The solar sail ship is dubbed Cosmos 1, named after the principal financier of the project, Cosmos Studios, a science-based entertainment company co-founded by Ann Druyan, widow of the late astronomer Carl Sagan. The test, a sub-orbital flight to deploy two solar sail blades, will take place between April 19 and 24. The actual flight into Earth orbit by the full eight-blade craft is planned for a launch window between October and December.

03.08.01 Dispatch: First Star Trek



Film Gets Wise DVD Treatment

One look at the library of *Star Trek* DVD's currently on the market and one omission leaps out. All of the *Star Trek* films are available on DVD, with the exception of "*Star Trek: The Motion Picture*," the first *Star Trek* film, released in December of 1979, over 20 years ago.

This omission is soon to be rectified, and the result will be more than a standard transfer from VHS to DVD. Paramount Home Entertainment has been working with Robert Wise on the "Director's Edition" of the initial *Star Trek* film, which was created by Robert Wise Productions, and which will feature the visual effects work of Foundation Imaging.

Along with remastering the picture and sound, certain sequences are undergoing enhance-

ment with modern special effects technology to deliver a film-watching experience to the Director's standards. In the original release, time and budgetary constraints prevented Wise from getting his ultimate desired outcome, something the new DVD will rectify.

The enhancements being worked on include cleaning up some of the late 70's special effects by touching up the matte lines on layered shots, replacing shots that were excised from the original due to cost or time constraints, and even adding ambient sound during certain sequences. One of the more exciting aspects of the Director's Edition is the inclusion of newly created imagery.

For example, the establishing shot of the landscape of Vulcan has been re-imagined based on original, unrealized designs for the desolate and arid world, resulting in the panorama pictured at left, with a larger version available here. Foundation also created a new completely digital rendering of the refitted U.S.S. *Enterprise*, beginning with a wire frame version and then adding the considerable detail in the next step (both shots below, or click here for a larger combined view).

In the film, years have passed since the Original Series, and the crewmembers of the *Enterprise* have all moved forward in their lives and careers. When the Federation and Earth specifically are threatened by a mysterious, gigantic, non-corporeal cloud-entity that cuts a destructive path towards Earth, the *Enterprise* is the ship selected for the mission. Admiral James T. Kirk (William Shatner) recognizes the impending peril and convinces Starfleet to return Kirk to the Captain's chair of the *Enterprise*, replacing Captain Will Decker (Stephen Collins).

As Kirk re-assembles his old crew and the threat grows ever closer, an accident in the transporter room kills two, including Sonak, the intended Vulcan Science Officer. After the *Enterprise's* refit is completed, the ship is re-launched back into space from dry dock. After a near miss with a wormhole, a ship makes a rendezvous with the *Enterprise*, delivering a replacement Science Officer, Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy).

As the *Enterprise* with her crew encounters the strange entity known as V'Ger, a number of stunning effects sequences unfold, and the Director's Edition DVD will be making the best use of today's technology to enhance these sequences.

The Director's Edition DVD of "*Star Trek: The Motion Picture*" is due to hit stores some time later this year. In the meantime, episodes of the Original Series are being regularly released by Paramount Home Entertainment, with plans underway to bring *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and *Star Trek: Voyager* to home video in the increasingly popular DVD format.

FARScape

Fridays 9pm on


 THE FUTURE IS NOW
SCIFI.COM

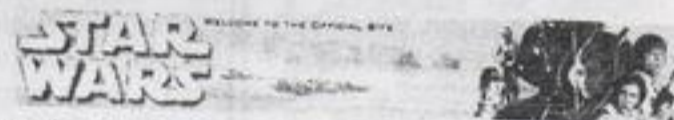

Chiana's happiest when she has the opportunity to show off her scoundrel skills; she's a thief, a liar, a seductress and a drama queen. But beyond that, she's a very young woman, and often conceals her fears under blustery pseudo-confidence that's plausible maybe fifty percent of the time. Her talents for subterfuge have proved useful on more than one occasion for Moya's crew, but her tendency to be contrary makes her an unlikely team player in crisis situations. Chiana doesn't do what Chiana doesn't want to do, and as a general rule, that's anything that would risk her hide, ruin her reputation, or tear her clothing. Unless of course that's what she was going for.

Standing all of 26 inches tall, when he deigns to stand at all ... Rygel is the royal sovereign to over 600 billion loyal subjects. Unfortunately for him, none of them is aboard this ship! The victim of a coup by his evil cousin, Rygel has been a prisoner now for over 250 years.



An 812 year old 10th-level Pa'u (a priest), Zhaan was imprisoned for the murder of another Delvian priest - her lover - who she suspected was using his power to lead Delvia astray. Delvians are flora, not fauna, and therefore Zhaan, a plant-evolved being, has extreme reactions to solar energy, and has experienced photogasms - intensely pleasurable experiences - when exposed to solar flares. Additionally, Zhaan knows herbs and herbal medicine intimately, which often gives her the responsibility of doctor and healer aboard Moya.

Star Wars Episode II



March 15, 2001 -- Making the biggest *Star Wars* splash at the 2001 American International Toy Fair were a series of amazingly detailed busts of Episode II characters. The sculptures of Hayden Christensen, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Samuel L. Jackson, Christopher Lee and Temuera Morrison were astonishingly accurate. They were the product of Gentle Giant Studios, a rapidly growing company based out of Burbank, California.

"For Episode II we came to Australia and we brought an arsenal of scanners," explains Karl Meyer, President of Gentle Giant Studios, "including a head scanner, an object scanner, a full body scanner and also a scanner that is specific to scanning large objects like speeders or spaceships or sets." Gentle Giant uses laser scanners to digitally record the geometry of real world objects -- faces, bodies, props, and more. Once recorded as digital information, those features can be reproduced in a variety of forms. The polygonal shapes can be used to create video game models, virtual stand-ins for visual effects sequences, or-- of greatest interest to collectors-- exact likeness and detail for toy figure sculptures and accessory molding.

"Once we get the three-dimensional information into the computer we can import it into different types of programs," explains Meyer. "We can create a Stereo Lithography file -- an STL file -- which is sent to one of our rapid prototyping machines. That can build the piece at whatever size we tell it to build." Gentle Giant Studios is at the forefront of this innovation, being one of the only companies offering this increasingly common tool in

filmmaking. "3-D scanners have been used and applied to filmmaking many times in the past," says Meyer, "but this is the first time that a dedicated team with as many scanners as we've brought came down to do a data collection that serves the licensed product people and also works as an archiving process."

Gentle Giant landed the Episode II contract after a successful demonstration of their capabilities at Lucasfilm's headquarters.

"We actually came out to Skywalker Ranch and drove out there in our Scan Van," explains Meyer. "It's a big purple Winnebago that's all decked out inside and has several scanners onboard."

One of the test subjects taken inside the Scan Van was the President of Lucas Licensing, Howard Roffman.

"After doing our little dog and pony show, we came back and made Howard Roffman action figures and sent them back up, just to show as proof of this whole process," says Meyer. "The results were incredible, and warranted us coming down to Australia."

"One day a box arrived with perfect reproductions of my head on Luke Skywalker and Obi-wan Kenobi figures, both 4-inch and 12-inch," recalls Roffman. "I think I felt a little bit like Luke when he cuts off Vader's head in the cave on Dagobah and sees himself! This was clearly the future and we had to be there with *Star Wars*."

The digital information gathered by Meyer's scanners can be used to build models of various sizes, from full-scale reproductions down to the 3-3/4 inch scale action figure collectors are used to.

"I think somebody that is a stickler about accuracy or authenticity is going to really appreciate this process, because it's the 3-D equivalent of taking a photograph of something as opposed to painting an interpretation of what you see," says Meyer. "When we scan, say, Christopher Lee and then output the scan as a sculpture, it's going to be a perfect miniature."

"Instead of having a Podracer toy that you can tell is a toy, you'll have a Podracer toy that looks more like the visual effects model," offers Gentle Giant Technical Specialist Steve Chapman. While a mass-produced toy may never match the intricate details found in a handcrafted model, the capability now exists to get even closer than ever before. Such digital innovations -- which seem commonplace in *Star Wars* productions -- often spark concerns from those more traditionally minded. For instance, what does the future hold for traditional toy sculptors?

Meyer brushes off such concerns; he points out that Gentle Giant Studios has tripled the amount of sculptors on staff since their move to digital scanning. "These scanners are really just another set of tools," he says. "It's the equivalent of Adobe PhotoShop or Illustrator to a graphic artist. It just heightens your speed and ability to do certain things. There's always going to be a need for human hands, and everything that we do is touched by human hands. Computers aren't creative and they don't put flair into things. That's the beauty about having this equipment: we can capture the foundation and structure of reality, and then put it into somebody's hands and take it anywhere we want to go with it."



THE MIGHTY MAX

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USS
MAXIMILLIAN, A STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION

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This issue is dedi-
cated to our late
founder and friend
FADM Robert S.
Lyon.

We miss you Rob.

*"Reach for the stars, and
grab the Future"*

RUSH: DATED MATERIAL

