

THE MIGHTY MAX

DECEMBER 2008

**Admiralty Board:**

Inspector General
VADM Greg Dunn

ADM Elaine Jackson

RADM Charles Connor

Tribune

CDRE Chris Stephenson

**Command Staff:**

Commanding Officer
CPT CJ Biro

First Officer
CMDR Lisa Lombardi

Records Officer
LCDR Babs Magera

Ship's Purser
CMDR Erica Stanley

Mighty Max**Editorial Staff:**

Editor-In Chief
CMDR Susan Moran

Assistant Editor
CMDR Lisa Lombardi

This month's Newsletter Designer
CMDR Susan Moran

The Mighty Max is the monthly newsletter of the U.S.S. Maximillian (NCC-74997) Sci-Fi Fan Organization. This is only a fan publication, not to infringe on any rights, or licenses

EDWARD CULLEN: THE HOTTEST VAMPIRE IN RECENT MEMORY

SEXIER THAN YOU SINCE 1918



The character, Edward Cullen, has taken the literary world by storm via *Twilight*, the first novel of author Stephanie Meyers. The book, released in 2005, instantly rose to the New York Times Best Sellers list as it invaded a more diverse readership than initially projected. Not unlike *Harry Potter*, it went well beyond the Young Adult Reader capturing the hearts of many mother / daughter pairings. Edward Cullen is iconic in his role as the elegant hero who happens to be a vampire. Unlike vampires of the gothic tales of old, Edward and his family are cultured and upstanding members of the community, albeit, they tend to keep a low profile. That is until Bella arrives. Then Edward starts breaking all the rules and the adventures that ensue create a world well worth exploring.

(Continued on page 8)

FIRST OFFICER REPORT
 CMDR LISA LOMBARDI, FIRST OFFICER

Aloha crewmates,

Hope everyone is staying warm and dry as the weather turns nastier. It's hard to believe its December already, and another whole busy year has passed. It was just about a year ago that I got elected to this position, and I hope I haven't disappointed anyone. My goal was to clean up the Max's image while keeping her running smoothly behind the scenes and I think I've done a fair job of that. We've had just as many events as any other year, and we really impressed people at Marcon with our table, skit, costumes, and overall good-natured members, a far cry from many clubs with elitist attitudes or bitter, burned-out members ready to ditch the fandom scene entirely. We have a crew who is not only knowledgeable and enthusiastic about all manner of sci-fi and fantasy, but is willing to share that with strangers, guests, and new crewmates and make everyone feel welcome. I'm proud of my ship and the accomplishments we've had. I hope we continue to grow in the future and never take for granted that we are the "premier independent sci-fi fan organization in Central Ohio." I for one love having the Max as my home base and will continue to help guide our mission of exploration, fun, and random wackiness to the final frontier and beyond.

First Officer out.



FROM THE COMMAND CHAIR
 CPT CJ BIRO, COMMANDING OFFICER

A whole year since I won the election, and what a year it's been! The challenges have come fast and furious, and I, and the crew, have risen to the

occasion time and again! The coming year will be no less busy than we already have been in 2008, and I am looking forward to all the fun, and memories yet to be had. The Max is my second family, and I am grateful to have been able this year to contribute to it's success. I encourage you all to look back over the last year, and find the places where you too have

helped to make things fun and successful. Enjoy the December party, and the memories of a year of success. We have a lot ahead of us in 2009, and I'm looking toward you, the crew, to help make 2009 even better than 2008!

Captain out.



I encourage you all to look back over the last year, and find the places where you too have helped to make things fun and successful.

SECURITY REPORT

CMDR NATHAN COBAUGH, SECURITY OFFICER

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from your security chief. Hope everyone has a good holiday. I know I will. This is the time of year when weight starts piling on and I sometimes find myself having to say that it is not necessary to eat that much. But all those sugary sweets. YUM! Gotta love it. Good times. The Mighty Max Adventures are going to be full of excitement and action. Definitely looking forward to next month when I finally finish this story line that has been going on for almost the better part of this year. I sincerely hope that everyone has enjoyed this story as much as I have had in putting it together.

Although I am kind of sad now that I found out that David Tennant will be leaving Doctor Who along with Russell Davies, I really enjoyed the past two seasons and I can understand the need to get some fresh ideas and new blood on the show. Tennant really made Doctor Who successful these past couple of seasons and I will be sad to see him go. In my honest opinion whoever gets cast as the new Doctor will have some big shoes to fill in the absence of Tennant. But you never know, in the universe of Doctor Who, anything is possible. Until next month!



Copy
-right
5/25/
2004
Skrit
web.
com

“OF DOLLARS AND CENTS”

CMDR ERICA STANLEY, SHIP'S PURSER



Season's Greetings, everyone. Here are the totals after the November meeting. The expenses to report at this time are for the mailing of the newsletters. If it wasn't due to the fact that we have a lot of memberships coming due this would have been a very short article; yes, your eyes are not missing anything, there were no new or renewed memberships for last month.

Total Balance: \$791.68
General Fund: \$748.14
Charity Fund: \$43.54
Expenses: \$14.00

New Memberships

None

Renewed Memberships

None

Memberships Due within 3 months (2009 unless noted)

- Catherine Biro-February
- CJ Biro-February
- Danielle Biro-February
- Rachael Biro-February
- Paula Dunn-February
- Isa Gunther-January
- Susan Moran-February
- Erica Stanley-January
- Mike Stanley-January
- Richard Summer-December 2008

Memberships Past Due (2008 unless noted)

- Belle Bushman-July
- Craig Bushman-July
- Lee Highfield-November
- Brandy Jackson-November
- Randy Jackson-November



MEETING MINUTES

LCDR BABS MAGERA, RECORDS OFFICER / CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Hello, and welcome to the November 2008 meeting of the USS Maximilian! Today we have....TREATS! Well, auction-y treats. But that will commence after the meeting! After everyone introduces each other, we begin!

Beginning with Captain CJ, So far things are good. Membership's up, events are minimal, and of course if anyone has any issues, by all means talk to him or Lisa! With that, we move onto Lisa!

First officer Lisa says that there are no open positions save for Charity Operations. So if you want it, by all means apply! Newsletters for October and November are now available though October is in limited supply. November was done by Cathy and Susan will do next month's letter. Department heads will be beheaded should they not submit. SO SUBMIT OR DIE! The website has been updated with Dragoncon pics, all 480 of them!

And now..OVERLOAD!
First off...THIS (superior!) android is engaged to former member Zen Fox! He proposed on Sweetest Day (October 19), and I have a nice diamond ring as a result! How I love him! :)
In other news, yeah. NKOTB concert. I liked it. 'Twas fun. Understatement, sure, but I have a reputation of being cool to uphold. :)

Right Databit? *pets*

Erica then gives the treasury report. It's going well! \$805.00 is the total, being divided up into the general (\$762.14) and charity funds (\$43.54). There are various members also due up, so check the newsletter for the facts and figures and pay up if you're due!

Crew reports:

*Tribune DROID has the writer's Bible given to him by Admiral Kitty. He plans to update, retype, and digitize it. If you have any detailed profiles of your character give it to him. There will also be a Wikipedia type database where crew can go in and edit or add information.

*Ralph may be Captain of the Asgard should things go well!

First off...THIS (superior!) android is engaged to former member Zen Fox! He proposed on Sweetest Day (October 19), and I have a nice diamond ring as a result! How I love him! :)

Admiralty:

*Elaine's birthday is this week, and she's 4 years older than her husband.

*Admiral Kelvok's been enjoying his month off and he has a replacement ribbon thanks to Erica! He's also been getting a kick out of Mork and Mindy (and who doesn't)?

Old business:

*Cheesy as the Moon Movie marathon will be at the Captain's Abode from November 15-16 from noon to noon. There will be awards for whoever can stay up for the whole thing. Bring your own food, and pizza may be or-

dered. Any further questions, talk to CJ!

*Bowling League is still going on. If you wanna join, Melody's the lead co-ordinator and if you talk to her on the Max list she'll get back in touch with you!

*Christmas Pot Luck will be at the Whetsone Library in December, and we'll have the Ferengi Gift Exchange once more!

*TV Night will be at Lisa's and there will be much food and fun shows to watch! If you wish to offer your place for TV night, you must be able to seat at least 10 people and a DVR is preferable.

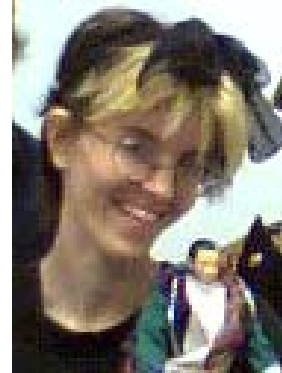
New Business:

*Upcoming movie releases include the new James Bond flick...which includes the new Star Trek movie trailer. There's also a new Punisher movie coming out...and Twilight. *watches Critch vomit android things* Heh. Twilight. *watches more puke*

:D

*Marcon time is only 7 months away! And we plan to do the group rate again. Get your money in December, to get in on that. People are also needed to man the table so by all means volunteer! And finally, start thinking up ideas for the Masquerade. We'd like a script hammered out by January/February. If you have any ideas, contact CJ and start brainstorming. *Monthly dinner will be moved up a week, and will be at the Bag of Nails on Nelson Rd.

That said, the meeting is closed, and now....AUCTION TIME!! Woot!!



FROM STARTREKONLINE.COM:
 SUBMITTED BY CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Another chapter in the continuing history of the future, leading up to launch of "Star Trek Online!" 2381

Starfleet is monitoring the deteriorating state of the Romulan Star Empire, which appears to be moving toward open civil war. Federation ambassadors are consulting with representatives of the Klingon Empire and other Alpha and Beta quadrant powers about a proposed course of action to either bring peace to the Romulans or control any conflict that spills out of Romulan space.

The imperial forces led by Tomalak have skirmished repeatedly with Reman ships in the space between their two worlds. The Romulan blockade of Remus is holding for now, leading to concerns that the Remans are suffering from shortages of food and supplies. The United Federation of Planets has offered humanitarian aid to both Romulus and Remus.

While Ambassador Spock has returned to Federation space, the unification movement he founded continues to grow on Romulus. Xiomek of the Reman Kepeszuk Battalion has allied with the Unification movement, seeing the underground organization as an-

other population that has been exploited by the Romulan government, although the two sides disagree on how best to reach their goals. Xiomek is promoting a military solution to force the Romulans to accede to the Remans' demands, while the Unification movement is calling for a nonviolent, diplomatic alternative.

On stardate 59480.33, Spock presents a formal request for aid for the Unification movement to the Federation Council, which agrees to take the matter under consideration.

With the blockade of Remus and upheaval at home, Praetor Tal'aura has insufficient forces to stop Commander Donatra, who rallies the breakaway military forces under her command to conquer several agricultural worlds in Romulan space. With these planets under her control, Donatra declares herself the first empress of the Imperial Romulan State and establishes a capitol on Archenar Prime. Tal'aura vows to retake the territory by any means necessary.

A coalition of planets led by Bajor demand that members

of the Cardassian government and military stand trial for crimes against sentient beings for actions taken during the Occupation of Bajor and the Dominion War. The Cardassian government refuses any request to surrender its citizens for prosecution, so the coalition appeals to the Federation Council and the Klingon High Council to join them in seeking justice for past crimes.

Following increased activity by the Borg in the Alpha Quadrant including the possible recreation of a Borg Queen, Starfleet appoints Captain Jean-Luc Picard to lead the defense against the renewed threat. He calls on Seven of Nine to research ways to use technology brought back from the Delta Quadrant by Voyager to either directly combat the Borg or to give the Federation an advantage in the coming battle.

But not all of Starfleet's energies are directed toward military concerns. On stardate 58839.03, Starfleet celebrates the start of construction of the USS Stargazer-A at the San Francisco Fleet Yards. The Stargazer-A and her sister ships will be the first of a new class of starships designed for scientific research and exploration.

While Ambassador Spock has returned to Federation space, the unification movement he founded continues to grow on Romulus.



James and Edward — the ballet studio

WING COMMANDER REPORT

CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Another month, another entry, and you can't tell but this one was actually submitted punctually! Coming to you from the wilds of Azeroth, I have been on-and-off working on the latest iteration of the writers' bible, which will be a fully-online Wikipedia-like edition. I was also hoping to get another full-fledged anthology out there, but it now looks like there just isn't the interest. Pending the outcome of the next meeting, we may just issue a slightly edited version of the original anthology and a short new thing I added.

I have to admit a little disappointment. One of the cornerstones of the Maximillian when it was started was that a full history was part of it. Back stories and personas were plentiful and bountiful, and it was largely because of the personas created during that time that I was able to put together the first book. We don't really have too much of a problem with the command staff and personas, but I would like to see more of the crew come up with their own back stories and submit them so that in future stories and novels they can appear as part of the crew in a more true-to-trek format, making us, while non-canon, a part of the universe we love enough to dress up and act goofy in all the time.

I would like to recognize a couple of people for their persona work and writing, Commander Erica Stanley and Petty Officer Tommy Haire. Erica has created Commander Sarah Williams to round out the Command Staff. And every month Tommy puts in a story for us to enjoy. I'm looking forward to seeing how Commander Williams

is fleshed out, and I'm always happy to see more stories, especially as PO Haire is doing pretty much the same thing I was doing when I started out, at essentially the same rank no less. Hopefully this writers bible will help him and others out that wish to write but don't feel comfortable asking questions to everyone.

Here is the current schedule for Maximillian fiction, always subject to change because hey, it's me!

JANUARY 2009 - Relaunch of Journey Toward the Stars: Maximum Edition
 - Short short story: Looking Ahead (The Launch of the next Maximillian!)
 - Writers Bible Wiki Online

SUMMER 2009 - Star Trek Maximillian: Order of the Sword (Sequel to Beyond the Final Frontier!)

Of course, to get a head start, you could go out RIGHT NOW to pick up Beyond the Final Frontier! People that have read it have said it's "Fantastically written!" and "An epic read that kept me up way too late the first night and then just as late the second!"

Pick it up today at
<http://www.lulu.com/content/3419545> -- Hardcover \$23.96
<http://www.lulu.com/content/3419547> -- Paperback \$13.19

The Hardcover is STILL cheaper than 99% of hardcover books you'd buy at a bookstore!

See you in the funny pages,
 Commodore Stephenson/Starblade



**Candidates still
 needed for the
 following
 Ship Position**

Charity Events Coordinator

Submissions for the January
 2009 edition of the Mighty
 Max are due on
Jan. 1, 2009. Submit to
Maxsubmissions@gmail.com
 or 614-284-4962

SHIP'S LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

ENS AMANDA HOFFELT, SHIP'S LIBRARIAN

*Gets up on a stool, hangs a sign above the door of a previously unused—somewhat out of the way—storage closet that says:

SHIP'S LIBRARY

Fatts Climbs down. Carefully.*

At a previous meeting of the Maximillian's crew, I accepted the post of ~~Hell's~~ Ship's Librarian. I was recently informed that all personnel who hold positions within the ship are required to submit something to the monthly newsletter. Hmmm. Something. This could get interesting.

Rummages in desk drawers, pulls out a small hedgehog. It is quite alive, and not at all happy.

"How did that get there? Never mind."

Rummages some more.

"Lessee. Swedish fish. Glycerin. Several bad bad poems that crawled away to die. A red stapler. Keys to castles, hearts, and handcuffs. Oops. Wrong fiction.

I thought I had a pen in here somewhere. Guess not. Gee, good thing I have a computer.

font=Bad Scottish Accent
"Computer?"

pause

"Oh, computer?!" */font*

I see my linguistic skills aren't any better than Montgomery Scott's, and my accent isn't

any worse. But oh look! A keyboard. How...quaint. Now, if I just knew what to type.

Some news:

I'm now heading the committee for Hall Tables at Marcon, so getting a good venue for the Max will be easy. I'm also heading the committees for Gophers and Information, and looking for input on all three. Any thoughts, ideas, suggestions will be most welcome.

I will collect the Max's Library eventually, organize it, and make it accessible to the Max's members. When I have it in some semblance of working order, I'll bribe or cajole someone who knows how to post a file to the website, detailing what materials are available and procedures for checking them out. These

will be fairly simple. Tell me what you want to borrow. I'll bring it to the next meeting, or we can make other arrangements for ~~transport~~ transfer. Sign in ~~blood~~, return it in functional shape, or be prepared to lie in an entertaining way about why you can't. I hope to have this done by the January meeting. In the meantime, if you have materials to donate (blood will be collected at MarCon) or something you'd like to see become part of the ~~collective~~ collection, let me know. I'll be here in the corner, playing 3-D chess with the computer, and losing. Badly.

Ensign Mandy
Ship's Librarian

Rummages in desk drawers, pulls out a small hedgehog. It is quite alive, and not at all happy.

THOUGHTS PRESIDENTIAL

CMDR JOHN CHUBB, CHIEF OF ARMORY

"It's morning in America"

That was a key quote from Ronald Reagan during his two terms as President of the United States. The highest office of the land, which will soon be occupied by Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

President-elect Obama, soon to be President, will be the first black President in the history of America. All eyes are on this man who has promised to bring change to America. And just by being elected he has. Hell, I caught a little of his press conference just now and he's even taking the President-elect title seriously as he had on the podium he spoke on 'The Office of the President-Elect'.

No one else has done that have they?

At any rate, getting back to topic, I remember the first President I became aware of. It was Jimmy Carter. I was born in 1972 so I think I was born in either Lyndon Johnson's last year, or Richard Nixon's first year. I hardly knew of Gerald Ford. It was Jimmy Carter where I became aware of U.S. Presidents and the world of politics.

Mostly because he had done a lot of 'Special Reports' on T.V. and about world events. Most of these reports involved some world affair or another. And Carter's name was in the thick of it.

And every time a Special Report seemed to be done it interrupted a show I was watching. Me being a kid then, watching TV was a major thing for me. And if someone interrupted....even if it was a President well....

Let's just say, in a 3rd or 4th grade election I cast my vote for Reagan. I wanted Carter gone for interrupting my television. Hey, I was eight at the time. My priorities were whacked.

Reagan took office, but the Special Reports didn't end. For a while I was upset with him about that. But over time I found myself listening to more and more of what was said. And I was listening to Reagan as well.

My growing up years were done in the years of Reagan. He was not the best president in terms of the economy as we were left with a mounting deficit that would haunt us for years. A deficit Reagan regretted as he mentioned in his farewell address. I was watching when Reagan was

(Continued on page 10)

OPEN WIDE . . .

CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

Happy Holidays! The following was taken from stress-doc.com.

The Stress Doc makes a key existential distinction between holiday blues and holiday stress and provides clever strategies and verse for tackling "The Four 'F's of Holiday Friction: Fantasies, Family, Food and Finances." **Holiday Stress: Fact or Friction**

While many associate the holidays with Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, and its theme of gaining and sharing the holiday spirit, the opening lines from A Tale of Two Cities may have even more relevance:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of time it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness... It was the spring of hope; it was the winter of despair.

Like Dickens, I too have tried to capture the complexity of the holidays; if not through a great novel, then with my one classic holiday joke. I realized with all this talk of pressure during the holidays,

I needed to distinguish between "Holiday Blues" and "Holiday Stress." Now holiday blues is the feeling of loss or sadness that you have over the holidays when, for whatever reason, you can't be with those people who have been or are special and significant. And holiday stress...is when you have to be with some of those people!

Now here's some light-hearted, seasonal verse I wrote years ago for my radio feature, "Stress Brake." It's called "Cruisin for a Bluesin": The holidays may bring you down And you just sing the blues. To turn those soured tones around Just play these "don'ts" and "dos."

When you're cruisin on the town Don't charge away the blues. If you card the credit crown Your spouse may blow a fuse.

For fussy dad the streets you'll pound To find the perfect muse. He might as well be tied...and bound He'll never change his views. If you're alone, don't be house bound Or cuddle up to booze. Go ahead. Drown a

frown with tears And folks who can amuse. Why not try that choral sound Spread some joyous news. For when the voices do resound Then notes you can abuse.

This year don't play the tragic clown Be bold in how you choose. You too can prance above the ground Put on those dancing shoes.

So now we've come full circle round More lines I must refuse. Just know when love and friends abound The blues have many hues.

(c) Shrink Rap Productions 1997

Despite this good advice, we know that when you are with some of those people (or if they are just in your head), real sparks can fly. Here are "The Four 'F's of Holiday Friction: Fantasies, Family, Food and Finances."

1. Fantasies. First, the idyllic image of the holidays portrayed by the media seems so out of touch with reality, it's enough to make you overload on eggnog (with or without the alcohol).

Another pressure is the inter-

(Continued on page 9)



EDWARD CULLEN: (CONTINUED)

CMDR SUSAN MORAN, SCIENCE OFFICER

(Continued from page 1)

The Twilight universe is an interesting place where vampires not only walk among us, but could be a co-worker or fellow student. Carlisle Cullen, Edward's "father", sees himself and his "family" as an evolved species that has something valuable to offer to the community. This moral undertone is central to the story and colors the progression of the love story between Edward and Bella.

The first book was brought to life on the big screen this November. On opening day it made \$70 million, twice as much as it cost to make it. It has been out for three weeks and its ranking has been 1st, 3rd and 2nd, respectively (Boxoffice Mojo). The movies sudden rise to #1 its first week was mostly due to the large fan base for the books, but

it continues to have a strong showing. (most likely due to people like me, repeat viewers)

Robert Pattinson (front cover) does an excellent job of portraying Edward Cullen. He wasn't exactly how I had imagined him when I read the book, but he has captured the essence of the character. As an exercise in character development Rob even wrote letters to his "fictional father", Carlisle, asking him why he turned him. The book has elements of humor and the movie did a good job of bringing that to life. The humor is subtle, but well used.

The movie, like the book, is first and foremost a romance. This fact seems to elude some critics who say the vampires are not "vampire-y" enough. One friend complained that during the fight scene in the ballet stu-

dio that all the "action" was in the background while they focused on "saving Bella". Again, I say, the focus of the story is the relationship between Edward and Bella. The action sequences are a side story.

I have seen the movie, in the theatre, twenty-one times, so far. I know that is a bit excessive. That is one of my character flaws, obsessive-compulsive. What draws me to this story is the romance. I am also a hopeless romantic, but I'm working to become a hopeful romantic. I am looking for my Edward. Someone who will be devoted to me, who wants to protect me and take care of me. I'm looking for that one person with whom I can share all the love I have in me. But isn't that what we are all looking for; someone to share our life with? This story is a nice diversion while I continue my search.

OPEN WIDE . . . (CONTINUED)

CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

(Continued from page 8)

nalized memories we carry around. I recall my friend Linda, a single parent at the time, berating herself because she couldn't keep up with the holidays - the cooking, the shopping, the house decorations, etc. - the way her mother had. Of course, Linda's mom did not work outside the home. I also recall Linda observing that, as a successful professional, she now has the money but lacks the time for the season. Previously, when she wasn't working, she had plenty of time and no money. The "Holiday Catch-22." And, finally, this season turns most of us into sentimental jelly fish, just waiting to get entangled in the arms of that "true love." Hey, I'm not say-

ing that Mr. or Ms. Holiday Hopeful is as possible or as real as Santa Claus. (My motto: "I no longer count on nor discount any possibility.") Just don't let childhood and childlike longings transform your internal memories and voices into a frantic, salivating, love-crazed inner child. The key to managing this friction: gently embrace, don't cling, to magical memories. Discover a blend of magical realism that helps you balance love, work and play in the present.

2. Family. There are so many permutations in families these days, it's got to get a bit confusing. For separated families, a poignant question: which parent (or grandparents) will we be with for Thanksgiving, for Christmas, for New Years? I vividly re-

member an eight year old boys lament: "Why can't we just be one family again?" Another common family issue is when a holiday gathering turns into a competitive arena for sibling rivalry, along with a desire for long-standing recognition and approval. And if you find in these family therapy sessions, I mean holiday reunions, that you can't resist trying to change the attitude and behavior of the parent (sibling or child) that "makes you crazy," patterns which have resisted influence attempts for decades...maybe there's only one solution. Have you thought about getting far out of town for the holidays?

3. Food. The holidays turn most of us into bingeaholics. Running helter skelter, not

The key to managing this friction: gently embrace, don't cling, to magical memories. Discover a blend of magical realism that helps you balance love, work and play in the present.



Edward breaking all the rules.



THOUGHTS PRESIDENTIAL (CONTINUED)

CMDR JOHN CHUBB, CHIEF OF ARMORY

shot by John Warmock Hinkley and rushed to the hospital. I watched him give his speech on his condolences for the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger. I also saw him give his re-election speech when Walter Mondale was going to make a run for the Presidency. A run that didn't end well for Mondale as Reagan won by what looked like a country wide landslide.

I don't know, do you think Mondale's pledge to raise people's taxes had something to do with it? Or was it because he was Carter's Vice President during Carter's only term? Incidentally, around the 80's the word 'taxes' seemed to go hand in hand with some democrats. Especially with then Governor Dick Celeste of Ohio who had ordered a 90% income tax hike at the time.

Reagan however seemed to come off like a kind old grandfather looking after things. He had strength of character that seemed to match his optimism. He made one see that no matter how bleak things got there would be better days yet to come tomorrow. And better days were always something to look forward to.

Once Reagan's term ended his health was starting to go as he was being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He saw his presidency through the end though, and George Bush then moved into the office beating Michael Dukakis. And for your information this is Bush senior not the Bush so many have come to know and loathe. He comes later.

Bush only served one term, mostly due to a poor economy that he was blamed for. But he was also a wartime president. As Saddam Hus-

sein took it upon himself to invade the small nation of Kuwait the Kuwaitis requested help, and America answered the call to help liberate their homeland from the dictator.

The war was called Operation: Desert Storm. A war with a just cause. A war that ended quickly, much to Bush's credit.

It wasn't enough though as Bill Clinton was elected next to be President.

Bill Clinton was....interesting. Mostly he is known for his affairs in the White House. Most notably with White House intern Monica Lewinsky during his second term. He was impeached, but he was not removed from office. I found it interesting to learn that impeachment and office removal didn't mean the same thing.

What interested me the most about this affair was Hillary's reaction to it as she FORGAVE her husband. FORGIVE HER HUSBAND?! ARE PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?! I ask with sarcasm.

Usually the drill is supposed to be husband cheats on you, divorce him, sue him for every penny he's got, and then humiliate him publicly. Obviously Hillary is a different breed of woman.

His big emphasis was trying to get a bill passed on Health care and the economy. Matters overseas did not get as much focus as they had under Reagan and Bush. For Reagan it was the Soviet Union. For Bush it was Desert Storm. Clinton seemed to throw out a few references that Saddam Hussein was apparently disarmed according to the U.N., but that was about it. Iraq didn't seem to be that much of a priority.

Some would call that a mistake. Note I said 'some'.

At the end of Clinton's second term the election between Al Gore and George W. Bush came into play. For some the election didn't seem much to sneeze at. I didn't get any sense from Bush, and Gore didn't exactly win much in terms of confidence either. To be honest I didn't remember who I voted for during this election-only to be absolutely sure I didn't vote for either Bush or Gore.

Out the gate, when Bush was named the winner in a close contest there was controversy. It had been said that votes weren't counted in Florida. Votes that were specifically for Gore. It had gone through several officials, including I believe the Supreme Court, all of which said Bush had won.

Nevertheless the dispute continued on until Gore decided he was withdrawing. Bush had the job. Bush had the job, but confidence was undermined from the beginning.

Starting out it didn't seem like much was happening, until the September 11, 2001 attacks. Attacks I will remember as I was heading to my college job after I had interviewed for a substitute teaching position with Columbus City Schools. Columbus was blocked off, and everyone was watching the T.V. monitors. When I got out of my car and heard the World Trade Center had been destroyed over someone's car radio (I never turned my radio on-saved on the battery I thought) I knew I had to get to a screen to see what was going on.

I watched in the OSU commissary. Everyone's eyes



Reagan however seemed to come off like a kind old grandfather looking after things. He had strength of character that seemed to match his optimism.

A WHISPER, PERHAPS, FROM THE UNIVERSE'S DARK SIDE

SUBMITTED BY LT TODD MCDANIEL, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

By Dennis Overbye

From the New York Times, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008.

Is this the dark side speaking?

A concatenation of puzzling results from an alphabet soup of satellites and experiments has led a growing number of astronomers and physicists to suspect they are getting signals from a shadow universe of dark matter that makes up a quarter of creation but has eluded detection until now.

Maybe.

"Nobody really knows what's going on," said Gordon Kane, a theorist at the University of Michigan. Physicists caution that there could be a relatively simple astronomical explanation for the recent observations.

But the nature of this dark matter is one of the burning issues of science. Identifying it would point the way to a deeper understanding of the laws of nature and the Einsteinian dream of a unified theory of physics.

The last few weeks have seen a blizzard of papers trying to explain the observations in terms of things like "minimal dark matter" or "exciting dark matter", or "hidden valley" theory, and to suggest how to look for them in particle accelerators like the Large Hadron Collider, set to begin operation again outside Geneva next summer.

"It could be deliriously exciting, an incredibly cool story," said Nima Arkani-Hamed of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., who has been churning out papers with his colleagues. "Anomalies in the sky tell you what to look for in the collider."

On Thursday, a team of astrophysicists working on one of the experiments reported in the journal *Nature* that a cosmic ray detector onboard a balloon flying around the South Pole had recorded an excess number of high-energy electrons and their antimatter opposites, positrons, sailing through local space.

The particles, they conceded, could have been created by a previously undiscovered pulsar, the magnetized spinning remnant of a supernova explosion, blasting nearby space with electric and magnetic fields. But, they say, a better and more enticing explanation for the excess is that the particles are being spit out of the fireballs created by dark matter particles colliding and annihilating one another in space.

"We cannot disprove that the signal could come from an astrophysical object. We also cannot eliminate a dark matter annihilation explanation based upon current data," said John P. Wefel of Louisiana State University, the leader of the team, adding, "Whichever way it goes, for us it is exciting."

The results came on the heels of a report earlier this fall from Pamela, a satellite built by Italian, German, Russian

and Swedish scientists to study cosmic rays. Pamela scientists reported in talks and a paper posted on the Internet that the satellite had recorded an excess of high-energy positrons. This, they said, "may constitute the first indirect evidence of dark matter particle annihilation," or a nearby pulsar.

Antimatter is rare in the universe, and so looking for it is a good way of hunting for exotic phenomena like dark matter.

Another indication that something funny is happening on the dark side of the universe is evident in maps of the cosmic background radiation left over from the Big Bang. Those maps, produced most recently this year by the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe satellite, show a haze of what seem to be charged particles hovering around the Milky Way galaxy, according to an analysis by Douglas Finkbeiner of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Adding to the mix and mystery, the European Space Agency's Integral satellite detected gamma rays emanating from the center of the Milky Way, suggesting the presence of positrons there, but with much lower energies than Pamela and Dr. Wefel's experiments have seen.

What all this adds up to, or indeed whether it all adds up to anything at all, depends upon which observations you trust and your theoretical presumptions about particle physics and the nature of dark matter. Moreover, efforts to calculate the background level of high-energy particles in the galaxy are beset with messy uncertainties. "The dark matter signal is easy to calculate," Dr. Kane said. "The background is much harder."

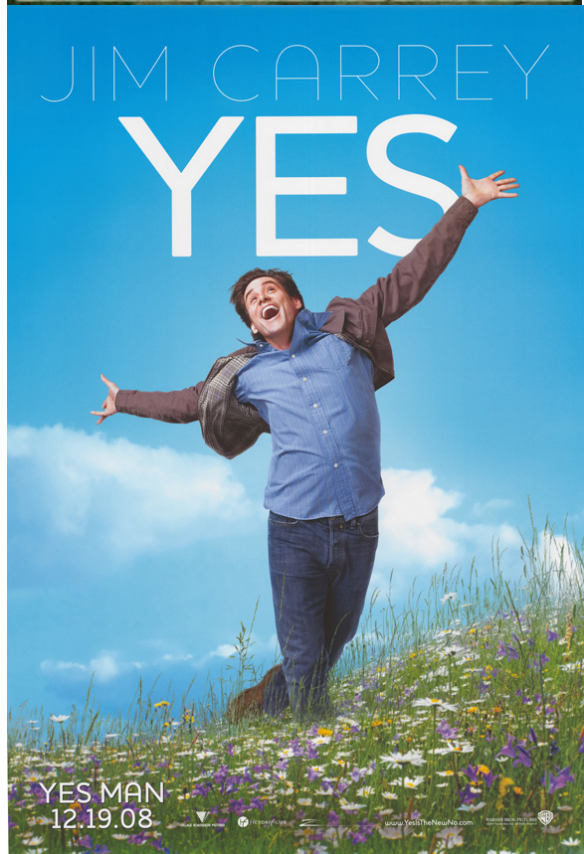
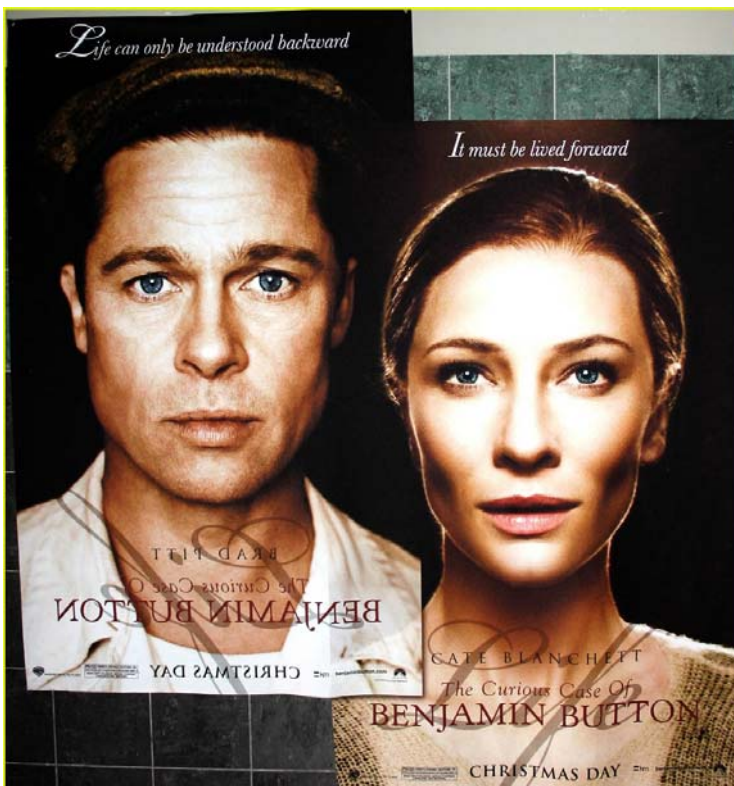
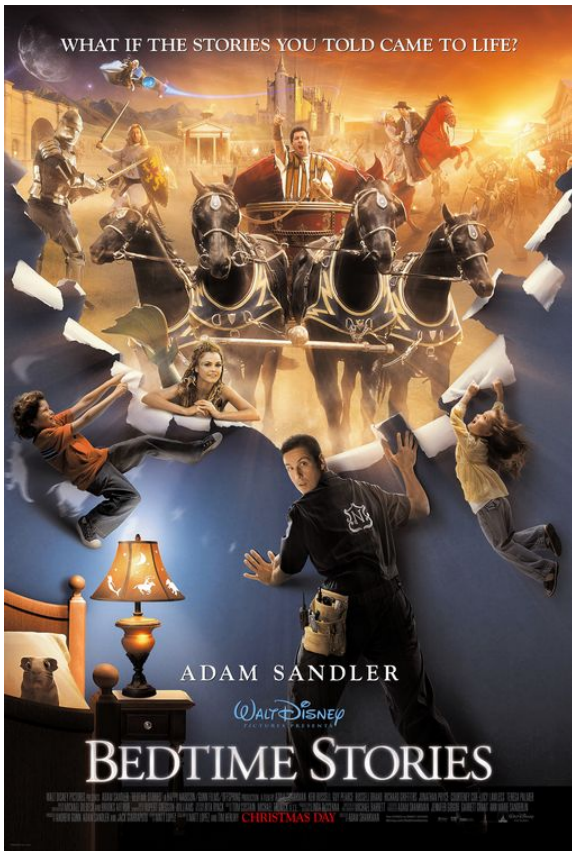
Dark matter has teased and obsessed astronomers since the 1930s, when the Caltech astronomer Fritz Zwicky deduced that some invisible "missing mass" was required to supply the gravitational glue to hold clusters of galaxies together. The idea became respectable in the 1970s when Vera C. Rubin of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and her collaborators found from studying the motions of stars that most galaxies seemed to be surrounded by halos of dark matter.

The stakes for dark matter go beyond cosmology. The most favored candidates for its identity come from a theory called super symmetry, which unifies three of the four known forces of nature mathematically and posits the existence of a realm of as-yet-undiscovered particles. They would be so-called wimps—weakly interacting massive particles—which feel gravity and little else, and could drift through the Earth like wind through a screen door. Such particles left over from the Big Bang could form a shadow universe clumping together into dark clouds that then attract ordinary matter.

The discovery of a super symmetric particle would also be a boost for string theory, the controversial "theory of everything", and would explicate the nature of a quarter of the

"With so many experiments, we will soon know so much more about all of this," Dr. Weiner said. "In a year or two, we'll not be talking about this idea at all, or it will be all we're talking about."

(Continued on page 14)



OPEN WIDE . . . (CONTINUED)

CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

(Continued from page 9)

stopping for lunch, overdosing on the cookies and chocolate that a colleague has brought to work. And discipline at a party is a contradiction in terms. (Just ask the Democrats.) This caloric chaos is not surprising considering the biggest role model of the holidays looks like he hasn't met a single gram of fat in two hundred years that he doesn't love. Hey, Santa Claus hasn't been doing his Jane Fonda workouts either. But wait...Appoint a designated nagger, who will gently remind you when you are overdoing it. Don't chat hovering around the buffet table. Take reasonable portions and move away. Now replace food with some food for thought.

And face it, no matter what you do, or don't do, you are likely to add some pounds on the holidays. So go to the malls and walk briskly for thirty minutes before you start the shopping splurge. You'll spend less and, probably, will eat less as well.

4. Finances. The holidays heighten our monetary consciousness – from the end of the year financial and psychological accounting (did we meet our financial/family security and career goals?) to the never-ending list of holiday gifts. And as the great Russian novelist,

Doestoyevsky, noted: "Consciousness is depression!"

For the first issue, seek a budget counselor, a CPA, a career counselor or even a mental health specialist. For the last, "just say no" to your child's "toy lust." Give your child choices; explain why there are limits. Try this holiday mantra: "Presence precedes presents." This season, invest time, not just money.

For big families, be creative. Divide up the gift list with other relatives. You shouldn't have to buy something for everyone. Making a gift definitely adds a personal touch. And, finally, don't overlook a very important person. Get a special gift for yourself. So the holidays may be a stressful time; a time of feelings of loss and sadness. But with a little higher power humor it also, can be a source of creative expression and sharing. Here's my gift to you:

Double-Edged Depression
Waves of sadness Raging
river of fear Whirlpooling
madness Till I disappear Into
the depths of primal pain
Then again...no pain, no gain.
Depression, depression Is it
chemistry or confession?
Depression, depression Dark
side of perfection!
Climbing icy spires Dancing
at the ledge The phoenix only
rises On the jagged edge In a
world of highs and lows Hey,

the cosmos ebbs and flows.
Depression, depression It's
electrified obsession High
flying depression Exalted
regression?

So I'm pumping iron And
Prozac, too What else can A
real man do In a life of
muted dreams How about a
primal SCREAM?

Depression, depression Even
inner child rejection Depres-
sion, depression Hallelujah
for creative expression!

(c) Mark Gorkin 1994 Shrink
Rap Productions
Just remember, for the holi-
days and beyond...Practice
Safe Stress!

Mark Gorkin, "The Stress
Doc," Licensed Clinical Social
Worker, is a national
speaker and trainer on
stress, communications,
team building, creativity and
HUMOR. He is the "Online
Psychohumorist" (TM) for the
major AOL mental health
resource, Online Psych and
for AOL's Business Know
How. Mark's writings are also
featured in such internet
newsletters as Perspectives/
Mental Health Net and Finan-
cial Services Journal Online
and in national publications
as Professional Counselor
and Paradigm Magazine.
And, the "Doc" is a critical
incident specialist for a vari-
ety of EAPs. Check his web-
site - recently featured as a
USA Today Online "Hot Site" -
at: www.stressdoc.com or
email Stress Doc@aol.com



A WHISPER, PERHAPS, FROM THE UNIVERSE'S DARK SIDE (CONTINUED)

SUBMITTED BY LT TODD MCDANIEL, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

(Continued from page 11)

universe. But until now, the dark matter particles have mostly eluded direct detection in the laboratory, the exception being a controversial underground experiment called Dama/Libra, for Dark Matter/Large Sodium Iodide Bulk for Rare Processes, under the Italian Alps, where scientists claimed in April to have a seasonal effect of a "dark matter wind" as the Earth goes around its orbit.

The sky could be a different story. Dark matter particles floating in the halos around galaxies would occasionally collide and annihilate one another in tiny fireballs of radiation and lighter particles, theorists say.

Dr. Wefel and his colleagues have been chasing sparks in the sky since 2000, when they flew an instrument known as ATIC, for Advanced Thin Ionization Calorimeter, around Antarctica on a balloon at an altitude of 23 miles, looking for high-energy particles known as cosmic rays raining from space.

In all they have made three flights, requiring them to spend the winter at the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station, which Dr. Wefel described as very pleasant. "It's not bad until a storm moves in. You put your hand out till you can't see it. Then you go out and start shoveling snow," he explained.

The Nature paper includes data from the first two balloon flights. It shows a bump, over theoretical calculations of cosmic ray intensities, at energies of 500 billion to 800 billion electron volts, a measure of both energy and mass in physics. One way to explain that energy bump would be by the disintegration or annihilation of a very massive dark particle. A proton by comparison is about one billion electron volts.

Dr. Wefel noted, however, that according to most models, a pulsar could generate particles with even more energy, up to trillions of volts, whereas the bump in the ATIC data seems to fall off at around 800 billion electron volts. The ATIC results, he said, dovetail nicely with those from Pamela, which recorded a rising number of positrons relative to electrons, but only up to energies of about 200 billion electron volts.

Reached in China, where he was attending a workshop, Neil Weiner of New York University, who is working with Dr. Arkani-Hamed on dark matter models, said he was plotting ATIC data gleaned from the Web and Pamela data on the same graph to see how they fit, which was apparently very well.

But Piergiorgio Picozza, a professor at the University of Rome and the Pamela spokesman, said in an e-mail message that it was too soon to say the experiments agreed. That will depend on more data now being analyzed to learn whether Pamela continues to see more positrons as the energy rises.

Moreover, as Dr. Kane pointed out, Pamela carries a magnet that allows it to distinguish electrons from positrons—being oppositely charged, they bend in opposite directions going through the magnetic field. But the ATIC instrument did not include a magnet and

so cannot be sure that it was seeing any positrons at all: no antimatter, no exotic dark matter, at least at those high energies.

But if he is right, Dr. Wefel said that the ATIC data favored something even more exotic than super symmetry, namely a particle that is lost in the fifth dimension. String theory predicts that there are at least six dimensions beyond our simple grasp, wrapped up so tightly we cannot see them or park in them. A particle in one of these dimensions would not appear to us directly.

You could think of it as a hamster running around on a wheel in its cage. We cannot see the hamster or the cage, but we can sort of feel the impact of the hamster running; according to Einsteinian relativity, its momentum in the extra dimension would register as mass in our own space-time.

Such particles are called Kaluza-Klein, after Theodor Kaluza and Oscar Klein, theorists who suggested such an extra-dimensional framework in the 1920s to unify Einstein's general theory of relativity and electromagnetism.

Dr. Wefel's particle would have a mass of around 620 billion electron volts. "that's the one that seems to fit the best," he said in an interview. The emergence of a sharp edge in the data, he said, "would be a smoking gun" for such a strange particle.

But Dr. Arkani-Hamed said that Kaluza-Klein particles would not annihilate one another at a fast enough rate to explain the strength of the ATIC signal, nor other anomalies like the microwave haze. He and his colleagues, including Dr. Weiner, Dr. Finkbeiner and Tracy Slatyer, also of Harvard, drawing on work by Matthew Strassler of Rutgers, have tried to connect all the dots with a new brand of dark matter, in which there are not only dark particles but also a "dark force" between them.

That theory was called "a delightful castle in the sky" by Dr. Kane, who said he was glad it kept Dr. Arkani-Hamed and his colleagues busy and diverted them from competing with him. Dr. Kane and his colleagues favor a 200 billion-electron-volt super symmetric particle known as a wino as the dark matter culprit, in which case the Pamela bump would not extend to higher energies.

Dr. Wefel said he had not kept up with all the theorizing. "I'm just waiting for one of those modelers to say here is the data, here is the model," he said. "Fit it out. I'm not sure I've seen it yet."

Dr. Picozza said that it was the job of theorists to come up with models and that they were proliferating.

"At the end of the story only one will be accepted from the scientific community, but now it's too early," he said in an e-mail message.

Sorting this all out will take time, but not forever.

Pamela is expected to come out with new results next year, and the first results from the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, launched last summer, should also come out soon. Not to mention the Large Hadron Collider, this will eventually smash together protons of seven million electron volts. It is supposed to be running next summer.

"With so many experiments, we will soon know so much more about all of this," Dr. Weiner said. "In a year or two, we'll not be talking about



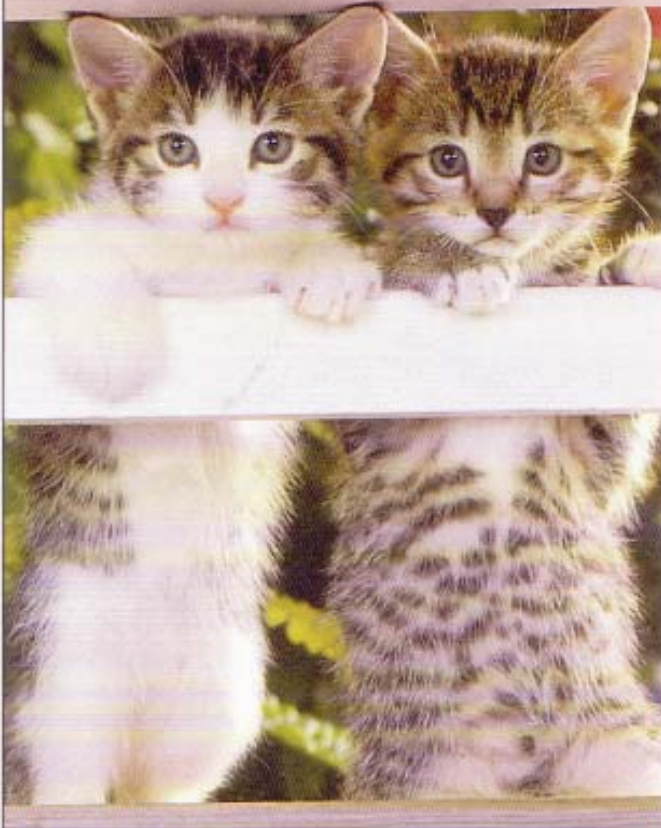
OPERATION AC PROJECT COMPLETE
 CMDR SUSAN MORAN, SCIENCE OFFICER

With the charitable funds from the 2006 auction we decided to purchase a virtual care box for a member of the armed services through Operation AC. August of this year I purchased the items in the care box wish list for SGT Michelle Armstead, an Ohio resident serving in Afghanistan. The items she requested were a uniform (top and pants), boots and a 2GB flash drive. We were able to purchase all of the items on her list for \$224.

In October I receive a thank you letter from Michelle. I have scanned the card and letter and am including it in the newsletter for your review. It was quite gratifying to complete this project and make this contribution to a member of the armed services who literally risk their lives so that we can remain free.

We are free, because of the brave.

Joy comes from being with a friend.



*Thank you to all of my
 sponsors through Operation AC.*

*Michelle
 SGT Armstead*

"A friend loves at all times...."
 PROVERBS 17:17 NIV

Dear Susan,

6 OCT 08

By the time you read this,
I should be in Ohio on my
midtown leave wearing my new
ACU's + boots!! Thank you and
everyone involved in supporting me.
It was such a surprise and awesome
package to receive. You even got me
the pin drive. Everyone in my office is
jealous. I got 18 days before I have
to come back here. I have to check
on my house in KY also but I should
be able to spend the majority of
my time in Columbus with my
family. This has been the better of
my deployment. I was in Mosul Iraq
in 2006 and I will tell you that
living conditions are
better here in Afghanistan.
I had guard duty 2 weeks



THOUGHTS PRESIDENTIAL (CONTINUED)

CMDR JOHN CHUBB, CHIEF OF ARMORY

(Continued from page 10)

were glued to the smoking image of the Trade Center. More attacks were reported at the Pentagon, and one in a Pennsylvania field. That fourth plane was reportedly heading for the White House. Hours later images of the Trade Towers crumbling filled the screens. Much to our shock and horror.

Everything stopped, and we as a people rallied together. Our better angels seemed to show in the darkest of tragedies. It was later reported that the terrorist group Al Qaida was responsible for the attacks working with the ruling body of Afghanistan called the Taliban.

Bush announced we were at war. Not just against terror, but against evil.

News reports showed terrorist threats ranging from Anthrax to other items with messages saying 'Death to America' and 'Allah be praised'. Jihad was declared. Al Qaida wanted every American dead. That was the message declared. A message received loud and clear.

So when the order came for war against Al Qaida and the Taliban, Afghanistan was attacked. A war that is still going on to this day. Nothing like the war Desert Storm was under Bush senior. Maybe W. was doing something wrong?

Regardless the big issue came with war with Iraq. A war that led to a lot of questions, and hazy answers.

Reports were that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction in his country. The UN had declared that Saddam was disarmed.

Links to Al Qaida and the Taliban were being brought forth. Links that were also disputed by others. It was a debate going on and on with no clear evidence from the UN.

Resolution 1441 was passed to allow weapons inspectors back in provided the resolution not be used as a basis for war. None were found, or rather there were some materials unaccounted for supposedly, yet Bush believed his intelligence was sound and he used 1441 as his war basis proceeding only with England and Spain as allies.

The show of international support seemed to have come to an end. We were invading a country people were wondering gave us any provocation.

With Afghanistan there was no doubt. It was a foreign nation that had a ruling body declare war on us. With Iraq, there was plenty of doubt. Our best moments in history came when someone attacked us and we stood strong against our enemies, or when a smaller country asked for our help against a bigger giant like Saddam had done against Kuwait back during Desert Storm.

By this time everyone seemed to be pursuing their own self interests. The unity we had post 9/11 fell apart as everyone seemed to look out for themselves. Bush's popularity kept going down...down....down....down.. ..

No I'm not going to sing comma comma down doobie do down down. Comma comma down doobie doo down down. Oh wait, I just did.

Our view in the world seemed to dim. Gas prices were going up as 'record setting profits' were being recorded by leading oil companies. War was happening on two fronts. War and oil-something that the Bush family went hand in hand with. My mother once said 'whenever there was a war the Bush's profit'.

Perhaps W. made a killing on both fronts.

Regardless morale took a nosedive in our country. Our institutions seemed to be out for themselves including the entertainment industry as it seemed to look out for their own agendas. Another story for another time.

As for the WMD's, well it was reported that the intelligence was flawed. Saddam Hussein only looked like he had them in the eyes to some. As such the intelligence community, and the Bush administration, was left with figurative egg on their face. In a state of the union address one night Bush indicated that the materials for weapons of mass destruction were located.

After he said that line the camera turned to Ted Kennedy seated in the stands shaking his head as if saying 'No there aren't.' I will admit a suspicious camera switch there.

I won't say we didn't do some good in Iraq. We did depose Saddam Hussein. I remember the image of the statue toppling and that brought a smile to many faces. Horror stories were being revealed about Saddam's regime (one comes to mind of a soccer team that lost and Saddam brought them to a stadium to be executed. Shocking and

(Continued on page 23)

Bush announced we were at war. Not just against terror, but against evil.

ago. The interpreter that sat with me talked to me about the missions he did with our Special Forces.

They have the Taliban on their toes. We are doing great here.

In Iraq, I used to always hear explosions going off. Our base here has not had hardly any attacks.

I feel that I am as safe as I possibly could be here. Our unit has served 10 months. We have been told that almost all of the unit will be home for Christmas. Only a few will have to suffer for New Years Eve. It is fine cause we were on orders for 15 months. God is good.

I can't wait to hit up an OSU game.

I will even make it home in time to see my HS. (Colo East) homecoming game.

TTYL,

Michelle



January 2009

"Reach for the Stars, and Grab the Future."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year Newsletter Submissions Due	2	3
4	5 TV Night 8:30pm	6	7	8	9	10 USS Maximilian Meeting, 5pm
11	12 Squirrelly Wilmoth's BD TV Night 8:30pm	13 Natalie Ryan's BD	14	15	16 Nathan Cobatagh's BD	17 USS Columbus Meeting, 5pm
18	19 TV Night 8:30pm	20 Danielle Biro's BD	21	22	23	24
25	26 TV Night 8:30pm	27	28 Monthly Dimmer @ Pig Iron BBQ, 7:30pm	29	30	31

USS Maximilian

Captain CJ Biro
279 Marjoram Drive
Gahanna, OH 43230
E-mail: cbiro@wideopenwest.com



MIGHTY MAX Adventures

by **3**bit

THIS MONTH:

The Doctor's Gambit part 1

Previously, the Max discovered that the Daleks were after The Doctor.

Okay, crew we are going to distract the Daleks so the Doctor can take care of this.

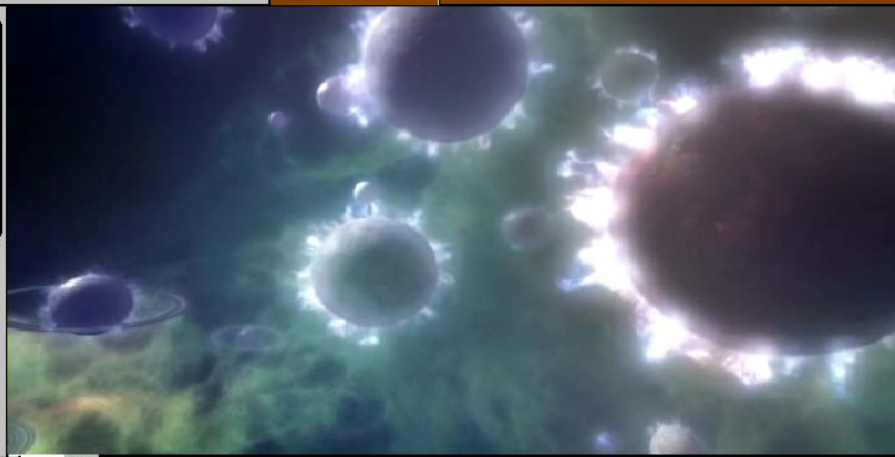
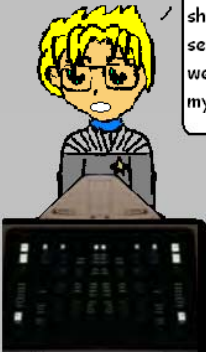


Set course to rendezvous with The Doctor, Luna, and go to Yellow Alert!

Aye, aye, Captain. Setting course now, Maximum speed at the helm, Overload.



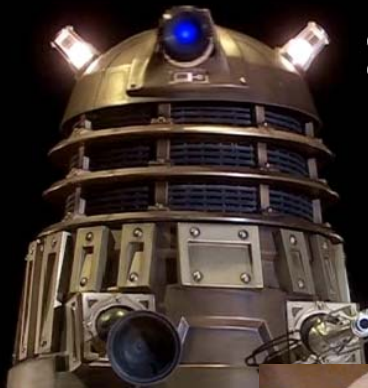
Coming up on the coordinates now Commander should be any second now that we can see... Oh my circuits!



There is something you do not see everyday. How often do you see a gathering of planets that close together?



Surrender yourselves to the Great Dalek Empire! You will join us or die! Hail Davros the great leader of the Daleks!



The Editor-in-chief of The Mighty Max Adventures hard at work... and, yes it is going to the dogs



Not if I have anything to say about it. I give you this one last chance!



We will never surrender to you. Daleks are supreme beings. Behold our power!



This is not looking good. Blobbin is not in a very good mood right now. I am getting mad!



The eve gat

Well, let's see. A Dalek Empire run by an old cranky guy who has got more wrinkles than the Emperor. How could it possibly get any worse than that?



okay, so it just got worse...

Tune in next month for the exciting conclusion!

FALL 2008 BOWLING LEAGUE...WHAT A SUCCESS!

MELODY SENTER, GEMINI MAX LEAGUE COORDINATOR

It seems like yesterday that we just started our third season of the Gemini Max bowling league. This year we added a twist though- a handicap league! What that means is that people that usually aren't that great bowling still have a chance to be #1! Now some

players liked it and some people wish we could've went back to our old way but it still was a lot of fun!

Since this is the holidays, some people are pretty busy! Our two season veterans Retired Admiral Matt Morris and his lovely lady Sandi Burbank had to pull out at the beginning of the season due to work obligations. We had one new bowler play with us for four weeks as well! We always welcome new bowlers.

Our returning players were Alfredo Chavez, Steve Pompa and Chris Stephenson – as well as myself! But I am sure everyone is wondering who came in first and that person is Chris Stephenson. Chris has been in both second and third place but never has held the top spot; he finally was able to do it this year! Maybe he'll write about it in his next book! In a very close second was Al Chavez- who was behind Chris by two points in both handicap and normal scores. Al has been the first place champion in both seasons prior. Will he take back the spot next season? And last but definitely not least Steve Pompa was our third place winner with an average of 191! Steve has been bowling with us off and on since the first season, but this is the first time he has been able to commit entirely. We are glad to finally have him on the team!

Congratulations to all of our players!

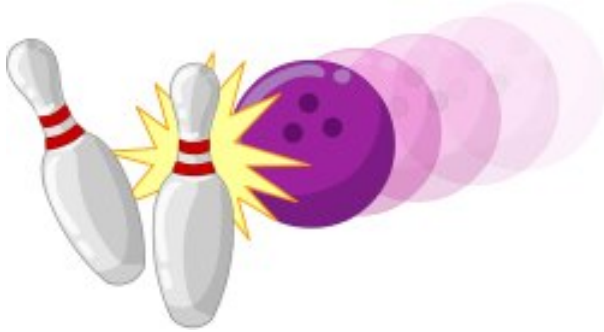
1st Place – Chris Stephenson
197

2nd Place – Al Chavez 195

3rd Place – Steve Pompa
191

By popular request our bowling trophies are back! This year we are handing them out at the December Max meeting and heading to dinner afterwards. If you are interested in winning one of these trophies next season- make sure to see me at the meeting! We are always looking for new bowlers- you don't even have to know how to bowl!

Once again, I want to thank all of our players for continuing to make this bowling league a success. Getting to hang out with great people every Sunday is a big **strike** in my book!



Getting to hang out with great people every Sunday is a big strike in my book!



Bella and Edward— the kiss

THOUGHTS PRESIDENTIAL (CONTINUED)

CMDR JOHN CHUBB, CHIEF OF ARMORY

horrific.), and reports indicated that many were glad Saddam's reign of terror was over. Or was it?

Attacks still persisted from Ba'ath party loyalists, as well as other reported terrorists. Al Qaida's name did come up here and there. But the question still persisted. Should we have invaded Iraq in the first place? A question still being asked despite any good that was done.

Should we have been asked for help from the Iraqi population? I doubt Saddam would have let a call go out, even one in the Kurdish region.

Regardless there was no hope. No inspiration. Paparazzi were spending time hunting teenage pop stars for dirt and scandal (more so than not it seemed). Politicians were pointing fingers. Gas prices were climbing. The country was in a funk, and people were afraid. At least that's what it seemed to me.

The better angels that once shone through were being taken to a back alley, and beaten within an inch of their lives leaving the worst aspects running rampant to party hearty.

Now we've had another election. One of great importance with Democratic nominee Barack Obama and Republican John McCain.

McCain was an old school war hero. Flew in Vietnam, came from a military family. He seemed to come as the noble warrior who ran for president in 2000, only to lose the nomination to Bush. Reports said that the Bush campaign placed accusations that McCain was a Manchurian candidate that would turn on the country with a whispered word. Also attacks from the religious right didn't help either. He also had the history of the Keating scandal behind him. He was cleared of those charges.

Obama was a senator from Illinois who seemed to have a rapport with the people he was supposed to represent. He was also seen as a rising star within his party, although there was the question of his lack of experience and his choice of education referencing from Marx to Malcolm X. There was also concern about comments made by his pastor Reverend Jeremiah Wright.

But Obama seemed to want to be different than those who he read about and associated himself with. Instead of being a hatermonger he seemed to want to be a 'hopemonger' as Newsweek once called him. In a country where hope seemed to be in short supply we as Americans were definitely in need of some. Especially with the economy in a worse downturn it seemed than when Bush senior was in charge.

This election was going to be unprecedented. Especially since Obama became battle tested facing Hillary Clinton in 54 primaries. I don't think a democratic primary went THAT high in terms of primaries. Basically EVERY state and territory got involved in the Democratic ticket. On McCain's front he was nominating the first female vice presidential running mate in Sarah Palin. A governor from Alaska.

First black democratic nominee from Hawaii. First female vice presidential nominee from Alaska. States that have not had high profile nominees until now. This would definitely be an election to tell the grandkids.

At the end of the day, Obama won. People cheered. People wept. And even some cursed. But do you know what? I'm actually hoping Obama delivers on what he's promising. I remain guarded about him, but I like what I'm hearing about him.....so far.

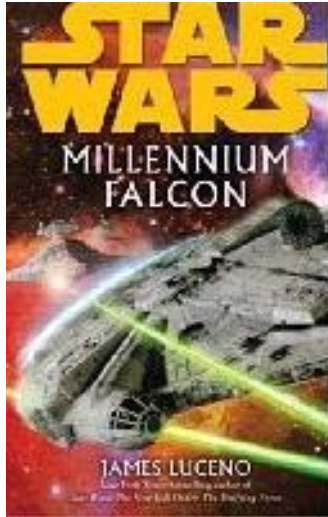
Sure there's cause for concern with him bringing in Clinton era advisors including Hillary herself, but there are others being brought in as well. Obama is putting his cabinet together. We'll see how well he's done come January 20. Looks like he's getting ready to get to work right out of the gate.

To paraphrase Otto Frank in 'the diary of Anne Frank', "For the past eight years we have lived in fear. Now we can live in hope."

The better angels that once shone through were being taken to a back alley, and beaten within an inch of their lives leaving the worst aspects running rampant to party hearty.

MILLENNIUM FALCON BY JAMES LUCENO

REVIEWED BY CMDR NATHAN COBAUGH, SECURITY OFFICER



The YT class, Millennium Falcon starts off with a unique beginning straight out of the shipyards. Over the course of several decades the Falcon starts a colorful history ranging from a freighter, smugglers' ship, and much more. The Falcon's history is explored by Allana, daughter of Anakin Skywalker, son of

Leia and Solo. Not to be confused with Anakin (Vader). Allana is curious to learn about the history of the Falcon when she discovers a device onboard that Solo has never noticed, mostly due to the fact that Solo is not Force sensitive and the device has been hidden presumably by a Jedi. Basically, that is the whole premise of the book, to discover the history of the Falcon and to uncover the real intentions of the device that was hidden aboard the Falcon decades

before Solo or Lando ever acquired it. Overall, the story is decent and a somewhat enjoyable read. There are sections that run a bit slow here and there. Good book, but uncertain as to whether I would buy the hardcover at full price. If you are interested in seeing the history of the Falcon this might be a good book to read. Not to worry, there is no sequel for this as the story itself is typical of a one-off. If you like to read your average Star Wars novels, you will enjoy this.

If you are interested in seeing the history of the Falcon this might be a good book to read.

TWILIGHT SAGA: A BOOK REVIEW

CMDR SUSAN MORAN, SCIENCE OFFICER

The second book in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Saga is *New Moon*. This book documents Edward's attempt to "do the right thing" to keep Bella safe. He leaves her, for her own good, but it is soon apparent that this was not the best choice for either of them. Edward is not actually in much of this book, which is one of the reasons why it is my least favorite. I understand the necessity of this book to advance the story line, but I still don't like it.

Meyer's does an amazing job of describing the devastation that Bella experiences once Edward leaves. It was so convincing that I recalled my own bout of depression after my first boyfriend left me. While Edward is gone Bella begins a true friendship with Jacob Black, the son of Billy Black, a Quileute tribal leader and best friend of her father, Charlie. This friendship is the main source of conflict throughout the remainder of the saga. When Edward re-

turns in the final chapters there is fast paced action and suspense. I don't want to reveal too much, but in the latter part of this book you are introduced to what can be called the "royal family" of vampires. For obvious reasons this is not my favorite book in the series, but it is still well written and an absorbing read. I couldn't put it down because I was anxious to find out what happens. I give this book 6 out of 10 Q's.



Edward in the parking lot

STAR TREK ON-LINE INTERVIEW

SUBMITTED BY CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP

November 18th, 2008 |
Published in Gaming Inter-
views, Gaming News

Recently I had the chance to speak with Craig Zinkievich, Executive Producer, Cryptic Studios about the pending Star Trek Online MMOPG. I had done an interview for the game a few years ago that was picked up by PC Gamer when the game was first in development at another studio, and I want to thank Craig, Danitra, and Jerry for setting up this interview.

GVK: How did the idea for the

the Star Trek Universe, could you resist the temptation to come up with your own vision? We couldn't.

GVK: Which of the Star Trek televisions series have been your favorite and why?

CZ: I'd have to say Star Trek: The Next Generation. I'm a fan of all of the shows, and I've watched the original series since I was a kid, but TNG was the first show that really hooked me on Trek.

GVK: What is the mix between planet, ship, and station missions, and will players have to be a certain level

Federation are no longer allies and the universe is a much more volatile place. We will be revealing the story of what has happened in the Star Trek Universe leading up to 2409 in a series of updates on our web site. So check out www.startrekonline.com to learn more.

As far as the gameplay goes, there is both story-based episodic content within the universe and open-ended exploration content.

GVK: Will anyone from the series of films show up and provide voices?

CZ: In 2409, most of the major characters have retired or moved on. We're exploring ways to involve some of the actors from the films and series in the game, but they might not be playing "their" characters.

GVK: How do players figure into ship departments, and how is the ship captained? Will players man science and medical stations and work as a team? Will NPCs come into play, or will command decisions be assigned to players?

CZ: You are the captain of your ship. You have customizable bridge crew pets to help you, and you can increase the skills of those crew members during play. But as far as the direct flying and commanding of your ship goes, it's in your hands. Being in command doesn't limit your role. You can choose from a variety of careers such as engineering, tactical, medical, science, etc. Your career path will affect your skills and how you command your crew. Think about characters like Jean-Luc Picard, Beverly Crusher, Worf and Kathryn Janeway. Picard was an archeologist and diplomat, Crusher was a doctor, Worf was a security and tactical officer, and Jane-

(Continued on page 26)



game come about and what can you tell us about what has changed since you obtained the game from Perpetual?

CZ: The Star Trek Universe is an obvious choice for an MMO. It has an incredibly deep, rich history with forty years of fantastic stories to draw upon, and one of the most vocal and loyal fanbases of any intellectual property.

When we received the license for the game, we started from scratch. Perpetual had a lot of concept art, and we're using some of that. But in terms of game design and in-game assets, we're creating all of it. If you were given the chance to create a game in

before they can board a ship?

CZ: About fifty percent of your time will be spent in space, and the rest of the time you will be exploring planets, boarding other ships, visiting space stations or performing tasks aboard your own ship. We get you on the ships right away – you'll fly your first ship during the tutorial, and from there the starships just get bigger and better.

GVK: What is the story for the game and is it open ended or story based gameplay?

CZ: Star Trek Online begins in 2409, which is about 30 years after the events in Star Trek Nemesis. In that time, technology has advanced, the Klingon Empire and the

Star Trek Online begins in 2409, which is about 30 years after the events in Star Trek Nemesis. In that time, technology has advanced, the Klingon Empire and the Federation are no longer allies and the universe is a much more volatile place.

STAR TREK ON-LINE INTERVIEW (CONTINUED)

SUBMITTED BY CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from page 25)

way was a scientist. They all became ship captains, but what they had done before influenced their command style.

GVK: What sort of graphics engine is the game using?

CZ: We are using Cryptic's proprietary game engine and technology. The engine has done a great job of rendering awesome customizable ground-based gameplay in the past, and the space gameplay we're making with it now is pretty awesome too.

GVK: How are commerce and combat set up in the game? And how will players gain experience and level?

CZ: Combat on away team missions is fast-paced, "run and gun" fighting that involves ranged weapons like phasers, hand-to-hand weapons and martial arts. Ship combat is paced and more strategic. You'll have to think about positioning, transferring power to boost weapons or shields, and how to best exploit your opponent's weaknesses.

For commerce, you will get much of your currency through rewards and trading. You will get new technology from races you meet or you can create new items with resources you gather or trade for and information you learn as you complete missions. There's also a chance of discovering technology or resources in salvaged ships or on planets.

There are a variety of ways you can increase your abilities – mission rewards, exploration and completing tours of duty are just a few.

GVK: How will player deaths be handled in the game?

CZ: We're not ready to provide exact details, but the defeat penalty won't be harsh. I think we're past the days of outrageous death

penalties in MMOs. People want to play and have fun.

GVK: What weapons and ships will players be able to select from and how will players go about upgrading their weapons? Can they make their own weapons?

you explore the universe, you'll find points of interest that can lead to a new adventure or problem to solve.

GVK: What races will players be able to select from, and what character classes?

CZ: There will be a selection



Lisa Lombardi and Spock on a bridge scene. The chair was built by a fan and has been signed by many Star Trek actors at conventions.

CZ: Players will start with a basic starship, and as they progress through the game they will have the opportunity to upgrade to another ship or improve the abilities of the one they have. Some ships are more general purpose and some are more specialized. Your ship and the equipment you outfit it with help define the role you play in combat.

You will be able to craft or trade for items that improve and customize the combat, science and engineering capabilities of your ship.

GVK: How will missions and tasks be assigned, and will command characters be based on player level?

CZ: There are a variety of ways you will get missions and tasks. You may receive hails from ships in distress or planets that need help or you could have a task assigned to you by Starfleet or the Klingon Defense Force. And as

of races that players can choose from – Human, Vulcan, Andorian, Klingon, Orion and several others.

For players that don't want to play one of those, we have the alien creator. There are a lot of episodes in the series that add a new race to the Star Trek Universe, and we want players to have the freedom to add new races to STO. Players will be able to customize the appearance of their new race, name it and choose racial abilities from a pool of bonuses.

Careers follow what you've seen in the series: engineering, tactical, science, etc.

GVK: Will the Borg or known enemies from the past series be in the game?

CZ: Definitely! You'll see many of the familiar races from the series. It wouldn't be Star Trek without trying to figure out how to penetrate the shields on a Borg cube or

You may receive hails from ships in distress or planets that need help or you could have a task assigned to you by Starfleet or the Klingon Defense Force.

STAR TREK ON-LINE INTERVIEW (CONTINUED)
 SUBMITTED BY CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from page 26)

what to do to stop a Romulan plot.

GVK: Is ship navigation and combat in real-time?

CZ: If you mean instead of turn-based, then yes. If you mean "true to life," it's not exactly like that. We don't want you to have to spend 16 hours warping from one system to another. That's not fun.

GVK: The scope of the game sounds amazing. What are some of the biggest obstacles you see in creating the game, and what are your biggest goals for the game?

CZ: We don't want to focus on making an MMO so much as bringing the Star Trek Universe to life. The biggest obstacle may be reaching the incredibly high bar that we, as Trek fans, have set for ourselves. I'm confident that the talented, dedicated team

we have working on Star Trek Online is up to the task.

GVK: Will players be able to pilot shuttles in the game and use transporters? If so, how will this work?

CZ: Most of the time, you and your away team will use the transporters. You'll be beaming all over the place! There will be some content that you need a shuttle to reach, but you won't be manually flying the shuttle through the atmosphere and landing on the surface of a planet.

GVK: How do you address the issue of players dropping out of game during ship missions, as I can imagine losing your helmsman or tactical officer during a firefight could be tough?

CZ: In space, each player is the captain of their own ship. So if they drop connection, it's like a player logging out of any MMO. On an away team, if a player drops out of your team you can replace him or

her with one of your bridge officers.

GVK: Final question how do you plan to address player waits during travel times between destinations and how many planets will be open for players to explore and travel to?

CZ: Players will have a lot to do during travel. They'll be outfitting their crew for upcoming adventures, chatting with their teammates and looking for new places to explore. We don't want to make travel between systems onerous.

Exploration is almost endless! Players will be visiting major Trek locations like Vulcan and Deep Space Nine, but they'll also be beaming down to the surfaces of unexplored planets and making first contacts with new civilizations. Cryptic has developed some really cool technology that allows us to generate exploration content that is compelling and complex. I don't know of another game that's taken it to this level.

Most of the time, you and your away team will use the transporters. You'll be beaming all over the place!



"George Lucas" from "Saving Star Wars" has fun showing us how to use foam to make props and costume pieces. — Starbase Indy



CJ Biro and Spock on the bridge set.

We're on the web! www.maximillian.org

Yahoo.com/groups/max74997

USS MAXIMILLIAN

Captain CJ Biro
279 Marjoram Drive
Gahanna, OH 43230



E-mail: cbiro@wideopenwest.com

"REACH FOR THE STARS,
AND GRAB THE FUTURE."
-CHRISTA MCAULIFFE, 1986



Bella and Edward — Saving her life for the second time