



USS MAXIMILLIAN



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 10

THE MIGHTY MAX

OCTOBER 2008



The Dragon*Con Edition!

FIRST OFFICER REPORT

CMDR LISA LOMBARDI, FIRST OFFICER

Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter. Inside you'll find goodness from the world of Max members, video games, science, and more. But most importantly, there is a section purely devoted to that most wonderful of conventions, Dragon*Con!

I'd also like to say on my own behalf, that I'm really happy with the way things have been going lately, with tons and tons of events and more and more fan groups getting to know us and wanting to work with the Max in the future. I see good things coming! Stay tuned for all the excitement in the months to come.



Candidates still needed for the following Positions

Strategic Ops

Charity Events Coordinator

FROM THE COMMAND CHAIR

CPT CJ BIRO, COMMANDING OFFICER

Ten months into 2008. It has all gone by so quickly.



This year has been full of many, many events and outings, and it has been an incredibly

busy year. You'd think that with the year mostly done, that things would be winding down, but oh no, not on the USS Maximillian! This October marks the beginning of the 3rd bowling

league season, and we are now well into the 2nd year for TV night. October 17th is the Halloween Trip to the scarily decorated King's Island. (Tickets online are available for 19.99 for access to the whole park all evening!). November's meeting is our annual charity fund raiser. If you have any items, fandom related or not, that you wish to donate, please bring them to the November meeting. November 15 & 16 are the dates for the "Cheesy As the Moon" Maximillian Movie Marathon. A selection of movies we all know and love, along with contests, prizes, and awards for

those who attend! December is our Christmas party and pot luck, so be sure to bring your appetite along with a dish to share, as well as for those that wish to participate, the return of the popular Ferengi Gift Exchange! Only a few meetings left in the year, but oh so much activity to be enjoyed! I look forward to seeing you at the events, and to many more successful outings!

Captain Out

"You'd think that with the year mostly done, that things would be winding down, but oh no, not on the USS Maximillian! "

SECURITY REPORT

CMDR NATHAN COBAUGH, SECURITY OFFICER

Happy Halloween everyone! Studying hard at school finally completed MCP cerification, and now going into Server 2003...YAY! Don't you just love Microsoft? jk. Not too much going on other than working at the bookstore. Picking up some extra hours now that the holiday season is coming up. Missing not being able to hang with the Max crew. Unfortunately, strapped for cash and budgeting out what I can to manage with all the crap that the economy is going through. Not going to get all political, but suffice it to say, I honestly hope that things get better. At times, like this, I can only think of the Shepard's prayer, Alan Shepard of course. "Dear Lord, please don't let us screw up."

In regards to the Maximillian, I

think that CJ and Lisa have been doing a great job running the ship into... THE GREAT EXPANSE! Definitely, expanding outward and showing no signs of stopping. I think too often it is easy to get lost on focusing on the faults and at times like this when the whole economy and everything is in flux, we need each other. Nice to see how the Max gels together as a cohesive force where everyone can have a great time.

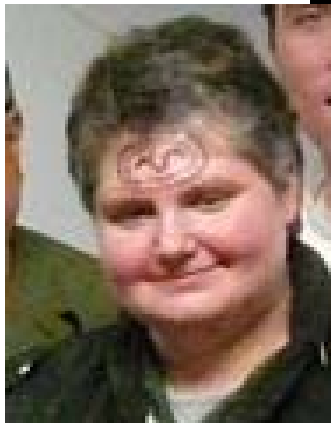
Even though I know I myself have some trouble getting to the meetings and events, come what may, I only hope to share some of the appreciation I have for the Max by at least being a contributing force to the

success of the ship by keeping up on submissions and the news of the crew. To quote Spock, 'Angels and ministers of grace defend us'

Security Chief Skrit signing off....

**"OF DOLLARS AND CENTS"**

CMDR ERICA STANLEY, SHIP'S PURSER



Hi, all. Here are the totals after the September meeting. The expense to report at this time is for the printing of the September meeting agendas. Since I missed a birthday for last month because I had no record of it, Happy Birthday

wishes to Jackie Roach who had a birthday on September 17.

Total Balance: \$805.68
General Fund: \$762.14
Charity Fund: \$43.54
Expenses: \$2.31

Renewed Memberships

John Chubb
Nathan Cobaugh
Richard Watson

Memberships Due within 3 months

John Friedrich-October
Lee Highfield-November

Brandy Jackson-November
Randy Jackson-November
Lisa Lombardi-October
Richard Summer-December

Memberships Past Due

(2008 unless noted)

Sean Adrian-August
Belle Bushman-July
Craig Bushman-July
Kristin Bushman-July
Carol Conquest-July
Nicole Reiter-July
Jasmine Rice-July
Natalie Ryan-July
Melody Senters-July

October Birthdays

Paula Dunn-20th
Chris Stephenson-23rd
Todd McDaniel-28th

November Birthdays

Randy Jackson-12th
Elaine Jackson-13th

MEETING MINUTES

LCDR BABS MAGERA, RECORDS OFFICER / CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

And now we have the September 2008 meeting of the USS Maximillian! Since Squirrely's computer isn't in Hibernate the meeting AND the notes can start on time!

Starting off we introduce the crew and guests and then get to the MEAT in MEETING (which is trying to be kept short since Chris needs to read his book to us.)

Captain's report: **DRAGONCON ROCKED!** The con was huge and it was awesome! We're getting new members, the ship is getting bigger and the status report is that it's doing fine and everyone's happy!

Moving on we have First Officer Lisa! **AND THAT WAS HERS...**whatever it was, and she wants to make sure she sits beside ME! (I feel so wanted!) Strategic Ops and Librarian are still available, as is Charity Coordinator.

The newsletter is graced by Chris' new book cover and once more if anyone else would like to learn how to work on the newsletter, bug Lisa a few times and **MAYBE** she'll teach you! On a similar note, the website is slowly being updated with photos, and the next newsletter will be centred on **DRAGONCON!**

And now we have awards ribbons and certificates given out to people who, well...didn't get them the

first few times they were awarded because they hadn't been made yet or the people awardees weren't there at the time to accept them. But that's all fixed now, since the ribbons are made and the crew are here!

And then **OVERLOAD!** Trans Am Nationals were awesome and I can't wait until next year so I can take Matilda again! In the meantime there's nothing Trek related, and absolutely **NOTHING** going on in early October. Nope, not with this android, absolutely nothing. Nuh uh.

...What New Kids on the Block concert??? I'm not going to any stupid New Kids concert on October 3rd in Cleveland with my best friend. That would be silly. So there's nothing to see here, move along!!

Erica says Treasury is going well, and the account is at \$777.99. General fund has over \$754.

\$200 donation was made to the Red Cross so the Charity fund is lower, down to \$43. Costs this month are monthly reg and maintenance fees for the website. Of course we have various members that are due up so get yer cash in if you want to still remain a member!

Department heads:

*Security Skrit! On Dec. 13 there will be a fan film release and he'll email up to get more info!

*Shuttle Ops Droid says that Journey to the Stars will be reworked and rereleased, so if you want to be a part of it, contact Chris! The deadline is Dec. 1st. The release will be in early 2009 with a new cover and new publishing company.

Admiralty:

*Only Admiral is Kitty!!!! That's alright though. Kitties are delightful and Kelvok is no exception. :) But Kelvok doesn't know what he's talking about so he talks about awards and ribbons instead! Let Erica and the Command Staff know if you are owed a ribbon, and we'll make sure it gets to you. And if you want to display your ribbons, Kelvok knows where to find display racks and boxes to put your ribbons in!

*Commodore Critch puts to a vote a refit of the Maximillian Ship to a Luna Class ship, which is more exploratory, and not a warship like the Sovereign class. the vote results: The Luna!!

Guests:

*Only guest is Dawn. She likes stuff!

Old business:

*HHPH (Harry Potter Halloween Party) is scheduled



(Continued on page 8)

COMIC CON 2008 REPORT

LCDR ISA GUNTHER, COUNSELOR

This past weekend marked Comic Con, 2008. I've never been to Comic Con before, as my fandom was *Star Trek* and little else. I'm one of those people who can only handle one or two fandoms at a time. So this year, due to the writer's strike and my involvement in the *Heroes* fandom, I decided to forgo both DragonCon and the Vegas *Star Trek* convention, and go to Comic Con to see the rebirth of *Heroes*, among other things. And the verdict is in. I'm going to hold back what I thought, and just let the reader decide if this is cool or not. Over one hundred thousand people attended, so if you don't like crowds, this is not the place for you. Here's an idea of what a hundred thousand people looks like:



The scary thing is: that's just the line for the *Heroes* panel. More on that panel in a bit.

Comi Con was a singularly unique experience. I was lucky to have a friend or two who had been there before. If I hadn't I think I would have been overwhelmed. It's huge, and there are so many people, stars, network execs, etc... It definitely takes a plan to get there and get around. And it also helps to have a

few goals in mind to focus one's thoughts and energy. I had only five goals, all *Heroes*-related, because that's what I was there for.

1. Meet Michael Green (writer)
2. Meet Christopher Zatta (writer)
3. Meet Cristine Rose (actor)
4. Meet Adrian Pasdar (actor)
5. Get a smile out of Milo Ventimiglia (actor)

Thursday morning, first official day of the con. First thing in the morning was the panel for a new NBC show called *Kings*, which will have its debut in February of 2009. The show was created by Michael Green, one of my writers, so of course, I was going to the panel that would launch it! Added bonus, the panel was hosted by Greg Grunberg, another *Heroes* actor. The panel was far too short, but it went well. The first twenty minutes of the new show were screened, then there was a Q&A session with the creator, director, and some of the lead actors. This is going to be a show to watch. And you heard it here first. After the panel, I did, in fact, get to meet Michael Green. First goal accomplished.

Directly after the *Kings* panel was a combined *Doctor Who/Torchwood* panel. My friend Kate and I sat in on it, along with about a thousand other people. Executive producer Julie Gardner and writer Stephen Moffit were on hand for the panel. Russel T. Davies was supposed to have been there, but he couldn't make it as he was chained to his desk writing *Torchwood*. The panel was more of a banter session between the panelists and the fans. At one point, one fan complained that he had to watch certain episodes from behind his couch because the episodes scared him that much. Moffit's only response to that was "TOUGH." Also offered was a showing of a trailer for this year's Christmas special. All I have to say about that is "Return of the Cybermen." My friend mentioned to me that John Barrowman, the lead actor of *Torch-*

"It reminded me a what fandom should be: people sharing their love for their show, watching each others' backs, meeting new people, and generally having a good time. "

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COMIC CON 2008 REPORT

LCDR ISA GUNTHER, COUNSELOR

(Continued from page 5)

wood, has also done musical theatre, and that she was “totally going to ask him to sing something at the Q&A.” Then Barrowman mentioned that he and Naoko Mori (Tosh) had known each other from before *Torchwood* because they had sung together in the musical *Miss Saigon*. They opened themselves up with that one. I suggested to my friend that she ask them to sing “Sun and Moon” from *Miss Saigon*, and she did. The two of them singing is generally considered to be the highlight of the panel by those who were there. It took all of about twelve hours for videos of the duet to be posted on YouTube—just go to YouTube and search for “Torchwood sings Miss Saigon.” More banter followed the singing, during which Barrowman stated that “there is a lot of John Barrowman in Jack Harkness.” The third panelist, Gareth David-Lloyd (Ianto) piped up with “there’s a lot of Ianto there, too.” Gareth also promised that we would find out more about Ianto in Season 3.

Friday was also the day that I got some personal goals accomplished, I found out that Larry Nemeck, author of the *Star Trek: the Next Generation Companion* book was also going to be there and doing a signing. I got to meet him, told him what a huge resource his book has been to me, and he signed the book. I also got into a discussion with him and his friend about the true origin of Zephram Cochrane.

Saturday is typically the high point of the con. This particular Saturday, for me, started at about ten thirty the night before. That’s when I got in line for the *Heroes* panel. Yes, twelve hours early. And we were about the fiftieth people in line. My partner in crime, Jen, and I met up with some members of Syla’s Army and hung out with them. We had brought blankets to sit on, and food, and we shared both with the SArmy people, as well as some people from the DSC (Milo’s other project), and some people from the 9th Wonders fan boards. We were also joined briefly by a drunk guy who turned out to be an associate producer on “Attack of the Show” on G4TV. He sat down with us, more like plopped down, really, and we gave him some food so he wouldn’t get sick, and we let him rant on about *Heroes*. He loved the show, but didn’t remember much about the second season. When we prompted him, his assessment of the season was “that s*** was f***ed up!” We were more than a little inclined to agree. I got about two hours of sleep, but that’s what comes from sleeping on the concrete outside the convention center

with a bunch of other fans. It reminded me a what fandom should be: people sharing their love for their show, watching each others’ backs, meeting new people, and generally having a good time.

The panel: imagine a room full of over six thousand fans who haven’t seen a new episode of their show in over seven months, who have spent the night sleeping (or not) on the concrete outside the convention center. Now, imagine the entire cast of their show coming out onstage. Then the show’s creator and executive producer join the cast. And the creator pulls out the DVD of the first episode of the next season. Imagine the crowd’s reaction and the level of emotions and energy in that room. It was intense, to say the least. They showed the episode at the panel. The best part was that the audience was not just watching, but interacting with the show, cheering the first appearance of their favorite characters, commenting on the actions of the characters: “don’t go in the closet...well, *that* was stupid” and laughing at the show and each other’s comments. That’s all I was able to do on Saturday. Sunday was quiet, as the Con was shutting down for the year. There were a few panels left, which some of my friends went to, but I had neither the strength nor the commitment.

Overall assessment is that this would be a good convention for the Maximillian to attend. It has something for everyone—the Ghost Hunters from the Sci-Fi channel were there, superheroes were there. There was information about upcoming movies and T.V. shows, and lots of free goodies, most of which were both huge swag-bags and billboards for TV channels or shows. Old-school TV shows and cartoons were there, but I think that had more to do with the new Masters of the Universe movie coming up. I do have one warning: it can be overwhelming for the virgin con-goer. There are so many people there, and so much to do that one can quite literally get a sensory overload. But it is well worth the time and effort. Also, it helps to get there early and to go with friends who have been there and who know what to expect. I was with a group of five people, three of whom had never been to Comic-Con before. Those who have been to the con before are generally very helpful to those who haven’t. It is huge, and there is enough there for everyone.

THE MAX ZOMBIES

PTY OFC 3RD TOMMY HAIRE, AUXILIARY SERVICES

THE MAX ZOMBIES part one.
Dead by the Dawn of The Dead.
a story by Tommy Haire.



Petty officer 3rd class reported to the bridge of the USS Maximillian, simply just walking around the ship checking up on thing. same old same old. Captain Captaining, Skrit running down the hall with a phazer. "probably going to go kill some loose Xenomorph loose in the cargo." he thought to himself paying little mind. Databit wrestling a venus fly trap monster. BOURING! same old, same old, for Tommy.

suddenly over the intercom, "TOMMY HAIRE PLEASE REPORT TO INTERIGATION ROOM, STAT!" echoed through the hall. Tommy reported as soon as he could, sprinting down the hall.

he soon found his way to the interrogation room, where he came face to face with someone he believed he'd met somewhere.

"have we met? Tommy asked the alien monster.

"I--I think..." replied Tomoid.

"--being an expert on both slashers and Kaiju we believe you will prove most helpful on the predicament." said one officer standing behind Tommy.

"where'd you come from?" Tommy asked.

"well I was just chilling around this thing called a Star-Gate after a run in with the legendary howler-mummy of Venus 7 and suddenly I see this switch thing...with buttons and--" Tomoid twitched and moaned.

"nobs...I looooves me some buttons and nobs! so I decided to play with it and suddenly I am transported onto your ship....which happens to be the ship I'am on...my name is Tomoid the KaijuSlasher! at your service!" Tomoid explained.

Tommy was not surprised.

"your from an alternate galaxy...this explains a lot...you are my mirror image, you could say...your me. and I'm you." Tommy said then cracked his neck.

"we get you suckers all the time...last week these zombified super heroes got into our universe and tried to eat everyone on our ship...we sent packing using a magic book called the Necronomicon."

"TO THE SHIPS LIBRARY!" Tommy exclaimed.

cue the batman music! nananananananana BATMAN!

"we here." Tomoid said. knocking down a pile of books.

"me so sorry!" Tomoid yelled.

"shut up! we're in a library and--" before Tommy could finish his sentence he was shooshed.

Tommy pulled out the necronomicon and read a passage. thinking it would send Tomoid back.

"--Being an expert on both slashers and Kaiju, we believe you will prove most helpful on the predicament. "

MEETING MINUTES

LCDR BABS MAGERA, RECORDS OFFICER / CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 4)

on Oct. 20th, and either Oct or November is the "Cheesey as the Moon" Marathon, which is the 24 hour Marathon at The Captain's Abode.

*King's Island Halloweek-ends trips start Sept 26. You can get tickets online at a lower price. Tentative date: October 18.

*State Fair was a lot of fun.

9 crewmembers showed up and overall a good time was had. The animals were gone since it was the last day of the fair. But next year we'll try to go earlier.

*Fall season of the Max Bowling league starts Oct. and goes from 6 pm onward.

*Quidditch had us come in third this year, but we were close to being second! Last game of the season is at

Sharon Woods Sept 27th at 12 noon.

*TV night still happens at Chris & Lisa's at 8 pm! Shows being watched right now are: Sarah Conner Chronicles, the new season of Heroes and various DVD choices. If anyone can temporarily host TV Nights while both Chris and Lisa move, that would be a plus!

*Dragon*Con was awesome, being the largest

away mission the Max has ever done! There were costumes everywhere and tons of panels, guests, and nonstop activity!

*RenFaire Trip takes place on Sept 20th. That morning, we'll meet at the Stringtown Rd. location.

*And now we have Will's Bargain Basement! This month, Will presents eve-

*(Continued on page 23)***A NEW VIEW OF OUR UNIVERSE: ONLY ONE OF MANY**

LT TODD MCDANIEL, CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

Dennis Overbye
The New York Times

Astronomers have gazed out at the universe for centuries, asking why it is the way it is. But lately a growing number of them are dreaming of universes that never were and asking, why not?

Why, they ask, do we live in three dimensions of space and not 2, 10, or 25? Why is a light ray so fast and a whisper so slow? Why are atoms so tiny and stars so big? Why is the universe so old? Does it have to be that way, or are there places, other universes, where things are different?

Once upon a time (only a century ago), a few billion stars and gas clouds smeared along the Milky Way were thought to encompass all of existence, and the notion of understanding it was daunting---and hubristic---enough.

Now astronomers know that galaxies are scattered like dust across the cosmos. And understanding them might require recourse to an even broader canvas, what they sometimes call a "multiverse".

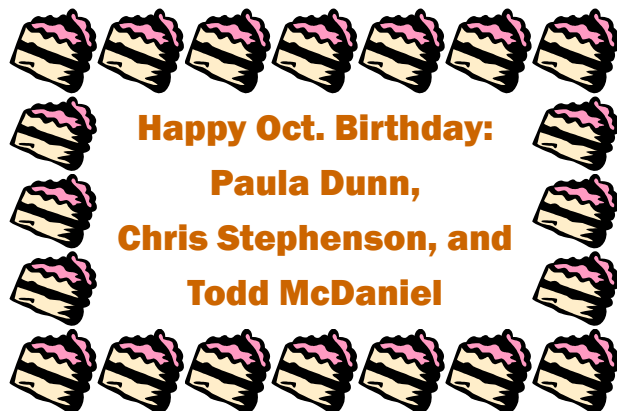
For some cosmologists, that means universes sprouting from one another in an endless geometric progression, like mushrooms upon mushrooms upon mushrooms, or baby universes hatched inside black holes.

For example, Dr. Max Tegmark, a University of Pennsylvania cosmologist, has posited at least four different levels of universes, ranging from the familiar (impossibly distant zones of our own universe) to the strange (space-times in which the fundamental laws of physics are different).

Dr. Martin Rees, a University of Cambridge cosmolo-

gist and the Astronomer Royal, said contemplating these alternative universes could help scientists distinguish which features of our own universe are fundamental and necessary and which are accidents of cosmic history.

"It's all science, but science for the 21st century, to seek answers to these questions,"

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Happy Oct. Birthday:
Paula Dunn,
Chris Stephenson, and
Todd McDaniel



A NEW VIEW OF OUR UNIVERSE: ONLY ONE OF MANY

LT TODD MCDANIEL, CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

(Continued from page 8)

Dr. Rees said, adding that he is often accused of believing in other universes.

"I don't believe," he said, "but I think it's part of science to find out."

Some cosmologists now say the realm we call the observable universe---roughly 14 billion light-years deep of galaxies and stars---could be only a small patch of a vast bubble or "pocket" in a much vaster ensemble bred endlessly in a chain of big bangs.

The idea, they say, is a natural extension of the theory of inflation, introduced by Dr. Alan Guth, now at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 1980. That theory asserts that when the universe was less than a trillionth of a trillionth old it underwent a brief hyperexplosive growth spurt fueled by an antigravitational force embedded in space itself, a possibility suggested by theories of modern particle physics.

Because inflation can grow a whole universe from about an ounce of primordial stuff, Dr. Guth likes to refer to the universe as "the ultimate free lunch". But Dr. Guth and various other theorists---including Dr. Andrei Linde of Stanford, Dr. Alexander Vilenkin of Tufts and Dr. Paul Steinhardt of Princeton---have suggested that it may be an endless one as well. Once inflation starts anywhere, it will keep happening over and over again, they say, spawning a chain of universes, bubbles within bubbles, in a scheme that Dr. Linde called "eternal inflation"

"Once you've discovered it's easy to make a universe out of an ounce of vacuum, why not make a bunch of them?" asks Dr. Craig Hogan, a cosmologist at the University of Washington.

In fact, Dr. Guth said, "Inflation pretty much forces the idea of multiple universes upon us."

TO BE CONTINUED
IN PART (2).

OPEN WIDE . . .

CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

Fall Allergies

Though the flowers are no longer blooming and the air has turned crisp and cool, many allergy sufferers get no reprieve during the fall months. The allergy triggers might be slightly different, but they can be just as misery-inducing as the flower pollen that fills the air in the spring and summer.

What Causes Fall Allergies?

Male plants release tiny

cells called pollen into the air in order to reproduce. When these pollen or other allergy triggers get into the noses of certain people, their immune system mistakenly sees them as foreign invaders and releases antibodies -- substances that normally identify and go after bacteria, viruses, and other illness-causing organisms. The antibodies attack the allergens, which leads to the release of chemicals called histamines into the blood. Histamines

trigger the runny nose, itchy eyes, and other [symptoms of allergies](#). During the fall season, ragweed is the biggest allergy trigger. Though the yellow-flowering weed typically begins pollinating in August, it can linger well into the fall months. About three-quarters of people who are allergic to spring pollen-producing plants are also allergic to ragweed. Ragweed pollen can travel

(Continued on page 18)



OUT OF THE BELLY OF THE DRAGON

CMDR ROBIN GOLDBLUM

Dragon Con was a truly huge experience. It is the current winner as largest out-of-state away mission for the Maximilian, even beating out the 40th anniversary Las Vegas con. The con encompassed four hotels, which were luckily pretty close together. Every aspect of fandom seemed to be represented and there was no way to do everything offered.

I was very happy to indulge my various fandom interests, attending panels and activities related to Star Trek, Torchwood, Firefly, Terminator, Buffy, Dr. Horrible, Neil Gaiman, and literature. I was sad to miss panels about Eureka, Reaper and Dr. Who but it was overwhelming having to pick and choose. The number of actors present was enormous, including Hayden Panettiere, Lance Hendrickson, Sean Astin, Matt Lewis, Robert Picardo, Michael Dorn, Nathan Fillion, Alan Tudyk, Jewel Staite, James Marsters and David Gareth-Lloyd. I have to say that Nathan Fillion was hilarious, using his phone as sound effects during the Firefly panel.

However, I have to say I was

most inspired to see Peter Beagle. He wrote "The Last Unicorn", which I started watching religiously as a child. Only "The Wizard of Oz" was watched more. I believe "The Last Unicorn" significantly influenced my life and to me, Peter Beagle is a legend. Not only did I get 2 of his limited edition books, I went to a panel called "A Chat with Peter Beagle". His stories were enthralling and the hour flew by. I even asked about the episodes he wrote for ST:TNG.

On a non-Con note, my brother and I also went to the Atlanta Zoo and Georgia Aquarium. Highly recommended for all to take an extra day and go see these places. We also ate at Morton's Steakhouse. Very expensive but best steak ever! If you can save up for it, the filet mignon was totally worth it.

Not sure if I will make it back next year due to finances (my air conditioner just broke!), but I am going to try my hardest! Hope to see more of you there also!



Lisa, Robin, CJ, and Lee during Friday night parties.

DCTV

One of the best features of Dragon*Con was the TV available during the con. Not only were the larger panels broadcast so you could watch them from the comfort of your room, but original programming and fan productions were played to provide entertainment in the off-hours. You can watch some of these videos on these websites:

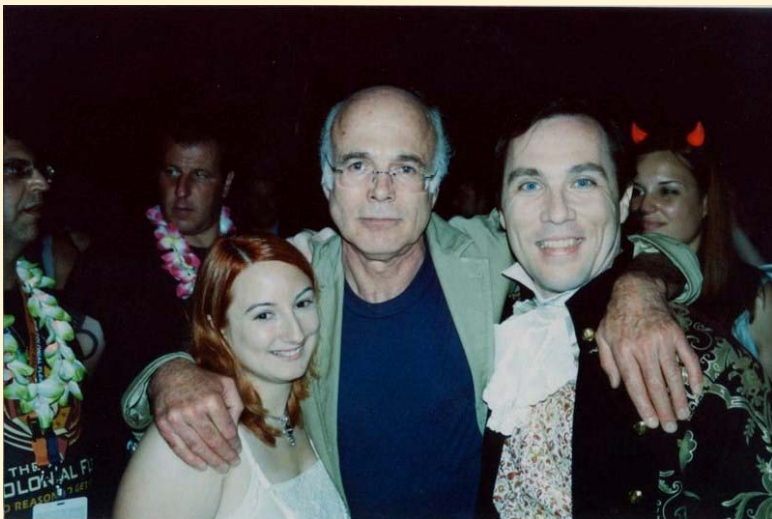
<http://web.dragoncontv.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/DragonConTV>



Lisa and Kate play in the fountains at Olympic Park, site of the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, Georgia.





Saturday night offered a ton of parties to attend. The Browncoats from the Firefly ‘verse threw a “Mighty Fine Shindig” which everyone donned their best for. Down the hall was the Battlestar Galactica party, where the actors for Admiral Adama, Colonel Tigh, Helo, Tom Zarak (original Apollo), and others appeared to have fun and party with their fans. Lisa got a picture with Edward James Olmos (Adm. Adama) but sadly it can’t be located just yet. There was also a “Pern” gathering and a Dark Fantasy dance.

DRAGONCON REPORT

CMDR JOHN CHUBB

Since this letter was supposed to be about Dragon-Con and out experiences there. I figured I'd better add my two cents.

I had been curious about Dragoncon and wanted to go. One reason was it being in Atlanta, and I had never been there. I can now say that I've been to Atlanta, even though I've been mostly around the area of the con. I heard C.J. and Lisa toured the Coca Cola bottling company out there. Shame, I would have liked to go.

For the most part I attended a few panels, and went to the

dealer's room. Got a few t-shirts and DVD's. Mostly Doctor Who theme related. The DVD's were of independent Sci-Fi films which I hope to watch when my busy schedule permits.

I also attended the Galactica vs. Star Trek panel, and left after five minutes. If I stayed in there I would have been angry as it seemed to me from the early going the point was to build up....Ron Moore's show at the expense of Star Trek. To me it was like they were tearing down Gene Roddenberry's vision of a positive future to build up

Moore's.....perspectives.

It seems like Ron Moore's show can't say how great something is without tearing something down. At least that's what it seems like to me. The only consolation I saw was that when asked if Ron Moore's show should keep going slightly less than half the people in that room raised their hands. Emphasis on the word 'slightly'.

I also attended Richard Hatch's panel. This was a personal mission on my part. I had to see what I would do if I was in the same room with him after all was said and done with his Galactica ef-

(Continued on page 13)

Ron



Bjorb, a Bjork/Borg mix

David as Captain Hammer

Lisa as Penny

CJ as Dr. Horrible

Beth as a groupie



DRAGONCON REPORT CONTINUED**CMDR JOHN CHUBB***(Continued from page 12)*

forts, and the stances he took on them. Would my emotions get the better of me as they had several times in the past? Or what?

Well the answer to that was 'what'.

I found that despite everything Richard Hatch was still very much the same guy that he was at Marcon when he came there. He saw fans as people, and always tried to approach the positive approaches to life. An approach I find myself looking to take more times than not at this stage in my life, mostly due to me being surrounded by so much negativity, shaftings and screw jobs and having nothing to show for it. I also found that I had nothing to say to the man that hasn't already been said before (and in quite a few cases disregarded) so at the end of the day, I found myself walking out.

I'd like to say that brought me a measure of peace after everything, but it hasn't. Not totally. This may

take yet a while.

My biggest highlight however was the British Viewing room located in the Sheraton. There was quite a bit of British Sci Fi that I found enjoyable. I saw an episode of Torchwood, also the original Doctor Who episode 'An Unearthly Child' with William Hartnell. Now if it involves Hartnell you know it's old.

I also won a book on Hartnell's tenure as the Doctor. A very interesting read as it seems like his episodes aired in so many countries. I think it even mentioned Hartnell's episodes aired in Iran.

Iran? The BBC will have a hard time getting episodes from there if they have them.

I also saw an episode of an old Sci Fi show from Gerry Anderson, UFO. I had heard about this show, but I had never seen it before. A very

interesting show involving a New York cop heading up a department looking to stop extra terrestrial infiltration and annihilation. There was a rumor that this show was the prototype to Space:1999. Be interesting if it is.

All in all a good time, and it ran me into so much debt it will take me a while to pay it back. I'd love to go next year, but I don't think I'm ready to plan that far ahead. Time will tell. If not next year, then probably the next.

Oh wait, next year I'm looking at San Diego Comic Con. That's one I'm really looking forward to.



DRAGON*CON 2009

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I understand that access to all Convention functions requires a Convention badge worn in plain sight, and that there are no replacements for missing, stolen, or lost badges.

Signature _____



DRAGON*CON: A SURVIVAL GUIDE

CPT CJ BIRO

Dragon*con is arguably one of, if not the biggest fandom conventions in the country if not the world. Taking this convention on is something you want to be prepared for, and this guide should help you through some of the basics, with some tips and tricks to help you avoid some common pitfalls.

1. Planning:

I can't stress this enough. You are going on a four to five day trip. Pre-planning now is essential to making things smooth for you down the road. The earlier you start your planning, the better off you are going to be. A little effort now will make things so much simpler when you are busy and won't have the time or flexibility to adjust as quickly or have as many options.

First and foremost on your list of things to do ahead of time: Get you

membership, and reserve a hotel room or find a place to stay. The earlybird registration for Dragon*Con cuts off about mid November. This is the best rate you'll get. If you can get together with a group of 10 or more people and mail all your registrations in at the same time, you can save an additional 5 dollars off the registration price, which, as of this writing was 60 dollars. (55 after group discount). On the plus side, you will save 30 to 40 dollars by pre-registering. However, you will have a long wait in line to get your badge, along with the thousands of other people who registered early. If it's worth the extra cash to you, consider paying the full door price of about 100 dollars, in order to skip the lines.

Next, is the hotel. Dragon*Con

officially is spread out amongst 4 Hotels. Most of the big action and parties and panels are in the Hyatt, and the Marriott. The rooms sell out quickly at those hotels. Really, by the end of September, or first week of October, you should have your room reserved. For the most part, what room you get on arrival is going to be dependant on when you get there. Earlier arrivals get the most options for rooms, like double beds, or particular locations/floors in the hotel. There are several hotels near the convention that are less expensive, and considering that you'll have to walk between hotels anyway for the various events, it's not a bad idea to consider one of these non-official hotels, if you

(Continued on page 16)

DRAGON*CON: A SURVIVAL GUIDE CONTINUED

CPT CJ BIRO

(Continued from page 15)

can't book a room at one of the main four. The only major downside to booking someplace not part of the main four hotels is the loss of Dragon*Con TV. More on that later. Staying at the main hotels will cost you at this point about 150-180-ish dollars per night. If you stay four days, and have 4 people in the room, simple math, set aside 150-180 dollars for lodging. If you go with a non-official hotel, your rate will probably be a bit less. If you have 5 people in the room, you have to do a little math, but essentially, adding a 5th person drops the per person costs by 20%.

Travel: This is the part of the guide that is going to be most dependant on your location and your preferences. Some people prefer to fly, some to drive. I live about 9 hours drive from Atlanta, so I opted to drive. Flying is expensive, and if you have access to a vehicle with some passenger and cargo space, it greatly increases your options for travel and what you can do at the convention.

If you want to get there as cheaply as possible, I recommend a large car, crossover, or station wagon. A vehicle that can comfortably hold 4-5 people, and their luggage is ideal.

My distance to Atlanta is about 600 miles, or 4 tanks of gas to get there and back, considering most cars have an approximately 300 mile range per tank of fuel. With 4 people in the vehicle, everyone buys one tank of gas, and presto, that portion of the expense sharing is done. The other vehicle related expenses are tolls, and parking. I didn't have to deal with toll roads, so that is not something I will cover, but honestly, split the costs per rider, and move on. One other option some people will explore is to rent a vehicle. Pricing varies wildly, but you can probably add on 40-50 dollars a day for the rental of something with some carrying capacity, which means an additional 40-50 dollars per person who's traveling with you, if it's 4 people. That's something you and your travel partners will have to discuss. Arriving on Thursday, and leaving on Monday means 4 days of parking. This too is conveniently handled by having 4 people in your travel group. There are two ways to handle parking. Valet parking, at about 25 dollars a day, with unlimited In/Out privledges, or go about 1 – 2 blocks down the road to one of several parking garages with a 10 dollar per day max, with no

in-out privledges. Honestly? You're not going to need to drive anywhere, and 100 dollars vs. 40 bucks? That's a lot of savings. Again.. 4 days, 4 people, easy math.

When you set off for Atlanta is up to you, but try to time your arrival for later in the morning on Thursday. You miss the rush hour traffic, and you arrive soon enough to get the room of your choice, and if you need to pick anything up, you have ample opportunity to do so before you park. Make sure to set aside money for the guys who offload your car onto a baggage cart, and a tip for the bellhop who takes your stuff up to your room. I know you're here on a limited budget, but some things you are only going to make yourself look cheap about if you try to sidestep or weasel out of them. Don't do it. You're there to have fun, not count pennies. Once you are checked in, and have your things in your room, you're ready to start your convention of fun.

Next installment. Panels, Parties, People, Places, and Photos.



OPEN WIDE . . . (CONTINUED)

CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

(Continued from page 9)

for hundreds of miles on the wind, so even if it doesn't grow where you live, it can still make you miserable if you're allergic to it. Mold is another culprit, because its spores can easily get airborne. Mold thrives in damp areas, both indoors and outdoors. The piles of damp leaves that line yards and streets in the fall are breeding grounds for mold, as are damp basements and bathrooms at home.

Dust mites -- microscopic, spider-like insects -- are yet another common indoor allergen. They are most prevalent during the humid summer months, but can get stirred into the air the first time you turn on your furnace in the fall. From the air, dust mites can make their way into your nose,

triggering sneezes, wheezes, and runny noses.

Children and Fall Allergies

For children, the start of a new school year can also mean the beginning of fall allergy symptoms. Dust mites and mold both flourish in schools. Add to that chalk dust, which can get airborne with the bang of an eraser and trigger wheezing in children with [asthma](#). Considering all of these potential allergens, it's not surprising that researchers have noted a sharp spike in [asthma symptoms](#) among children during late September and early October.

[Food allergies](#) are also an issue during the fall. Going back to school means sharing a cafeteria with children

who are eating peanut butter, eggs, milk, and other foods that can be irritating -- even life threatening -- to kids with allergies. Even Halloween becomes more trick than treat for kids who are allergic to the nuts and other candy ingredients.

What are the Symptoms of Fall Allergies?

Allergy symptoms caused by ragweed, pollen, or mold are called [allergic rhinitis](#) (hay fever). These symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Watery eyes
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Itchy eyes and nose
- Dark circles under the eyes

People with allergies to ragweed can also develop an itchy throat and mouth --

"The piles of damp leaves that line yards and streets in the fall are breeding grounds for mold"

a condition called oral allergy syndrome (OAS) -- when they eat banana, cucumber, melon, or certain other [fruits and vegetables](#).

Airborne allergens also can trigger asthma, a condition in which the airways narrow, making breathing difficult and leading to coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath.

Food reactions can lead to hives, abdominal cramps, nau-

(Continued on page 23)

NASA WANTS PERMANENT MOON BASE

LT TODD MCDANIEL, CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

From Diane Hawkins-Cox

CNN

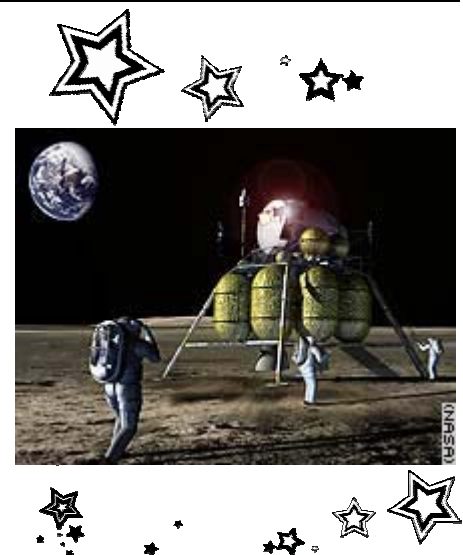
HOUSTON, Texas (CNN) - NASA's plans for returning people to the moon - an objective called for by President Bush in 2004 - includes establishing a permanent outpost that would be used to prepare for a manned trip to Mars.

The moon base would be either at the north or south pole of the moon, NASA Deputy Administrator Shana Dale said during a news conference Monday at the

Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Increased sunlight at the poles would allow better use of solar energy to power the outpost she said.

NASA's lunar architecture team decided it would be better to establish a base than to conduct individual missions to the moon, as in the Apollo program of the 1960s and 1970s, she said. Team scientists believe astronauts could use the moon's natural resources to maintain the outpost, and could use the base to prepare for the trip to Mars, an objective also set



THE MAX ZOMBIES
PTY OFC 3RD TOMMY HAIRE, AUXILIARY SERVICES



(Continued from page 7)

"Clatta! Unyawanga! supeuynko!" Tommy exclaimed. a puff of smoke circled around Tomoid and soon engulfed him.

the smoke cleared and a figure was still standing where Tomoid was.

Tomoid now wearing a floppy hat and a trench coat breathed in heavily.

"I LIVE!" he exclaimed.

"y-your not Tomoid!" Tommy yelled.

"but yes...yes I'am. you made me the way I am...its so good to be bad. I should thank you. here."

Tomoid grabbed Tommy by the neck and picked him up. Tommy's body became stiff, his skin decayed. his eyes turned red. Tomoid dropped.

Tommy looked at the humans in the library.

".....BRAINS!" he exclaimed running at them. the alarm went off around the ship. The monsters ran down the hall way. now there were 12 officers infected by the new zombie virus.

Tomoid was last seen disappearing in smoke holding the necronomicon, most likely back to his own universe to spread the gospel of the zombie virus. for the Universe HE came from was no universe. of Maximillian

that was a universe of...

THE MAX ZOMBIES.

Tommy stumbled down the hall way zombified. he fell being so stiff...the effects soon wore off all who were infected on the ship after 10 minutes. no deaths occurred. the Tomoid of the other dimension obviously only saw this universe as a food source. and didn't want anyone to get infected. he only let Tommy experience what he thought to be perfection...but what Tommy felt was extreme hunger.

to be continued...

Submissions for the
 November 2008 edition of the
 Mighty Max are due on
November 1, 2008. Submit
to Maxsubmissions
@gmail.com

A note from the author:

I'm a huge fan of zombie movies and anyone who read Marvel Zombies and enjoyed it will enjoy Max zombies. don't worry if you don't want your persona a flesh eating zombie then your in luck, I won't be even mentioning any other characters on the ship except my own whom I've created. though I did use some personas that are not mine in this story I'm very sorry.

:(however if you DO want your persona in this story email me at seasidesearch@aol.com

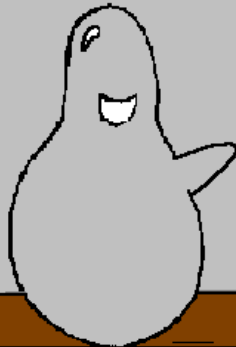
;) anyways about the story I will clarify. don't worry Zombie Tomoid is from an alternate universe not from the same that the Maximillian that my normal stories reside but in another...a Zombie'verse if you will.

MIGHTY MAX Adventures

by **3kint**

THIS MONTH:
Under the
sea...

We have got to help the Doctor fight these Daleks. I need everyone to be ready to do their part.



This is the Doctor, they are after me, specifically because they believe that they can harness the power of a super giant machine that is beyond anything you would find possible.



Inconceivable! Is that even beyond theoretical physics?



Communications

Insert your advertisement here...

So far beyond that even Starfleet is entrusting Blobbin to work with the Doc.



Main engineering



We are going to need all the luck we can get.



At times like this, luck has nothing to do with anything. Has everything to do with timing...



Captain Nilrathi reporting all hands general quarters!

Tune in next month for another exciting adventure of THE MIGHTY MAX ADVENTURES!

forth by Bush.

NASA WANTS PERMANENT MOON BASE CONTINUED

LT TODD MCDANIEL, CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

Sorties to other locations on the moon could also be carried out from the outpost, Dale said. Deputy Associate Administrator Doug Cooke said one promising location is the Shaker Crater at the south pole. In addition to having an area that is permanently sunlit, it is adjacent to a permanently dark area that might yield water ice.

NASA Associate Administrator Scott Horowitz said the goal is to conduct the first manned missions by 2020, starting with short stays by four-person crews that would establish the outpost. He estimated that perhaps by 2024 there might be a continual presence on the surface, with crews rotating in and out, as is done with the international space station.

Before the manned missions, NASA plans a series of robotic missions. The first of these, using the lunar reconnaissance orbiter, is scheduled in 2008. The orbiter is designed to create high-resolution maps, look for good landing sites and search for water ice and other resources. NASA said an important component of the moon mission will be international participation.

The space agency will reach out to other nations to determine how they would like to take part.

STAR TREK ONLINE FUTURE HISTORY

CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP—WING COMMANDER

To prepare for next year's (hopefully) release of Star Trek Online, www.startrekonline.com has started "Filling in the blanks" storywise as the game will take place 80 years from Nemesis. The game will allow you to customize your own crew and ship, and undertake missions for either the Federation or the Klingon Empire to start out with. Here is the years 2379-2380.

Following the death of Praetor Shinzon at the Battle of Bassen Rift, the Romulan government fell into disarray. Tal'aura, one of the few remaining members of the Romulan Senate and a former ally of Shinzon, declares herself the new Praetor, supported by Fleet Commander

Tomalak as the new leader of the Imperial Defense Force.

However, Tal'aura's leadership is opposed by Commander Donatra, who with the support of Commander Suran and former Admiral Braeg retains control of the majority of the Fifth and Third fleets. Any hope of a reconciliation between the two sides ends

after the execution of Braeg, and Donatra vows never to accept Tal'aura's rule. Donatra's rebellion is not Tal'aura's only concern. The Remans, led by General Xiomek of the Reman Kepeszuk Battalion, demand control of either a continent on Romulus or a planet with sufficient natural resources to maintain self-sufficient settle-

(Continued on page 23)

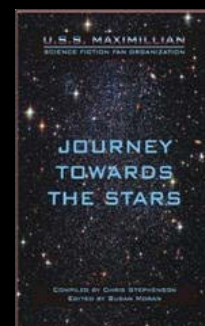


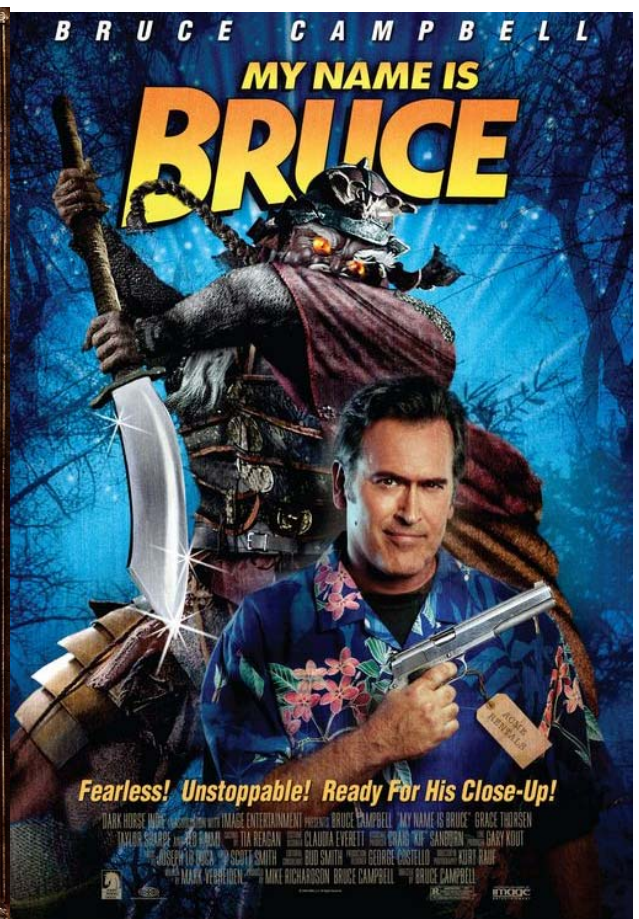
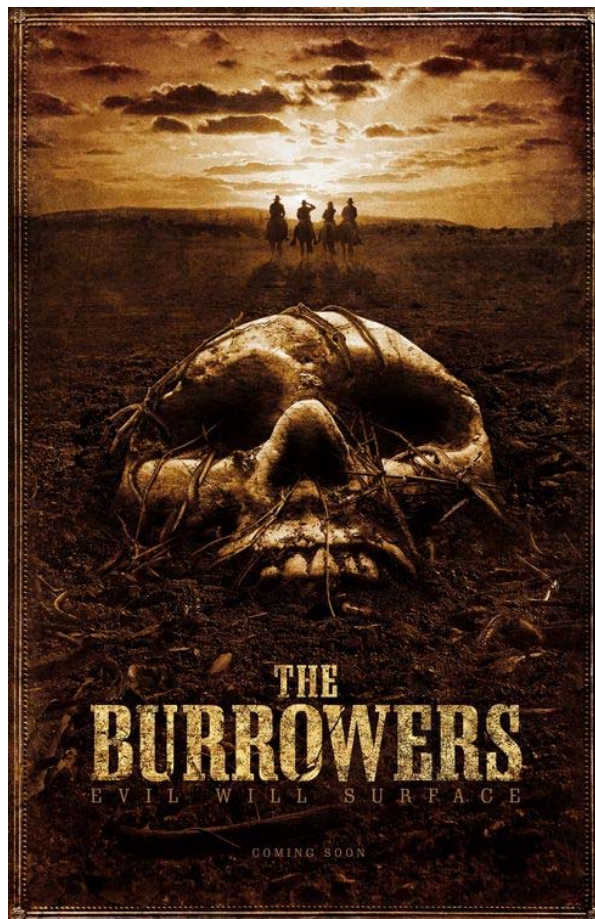
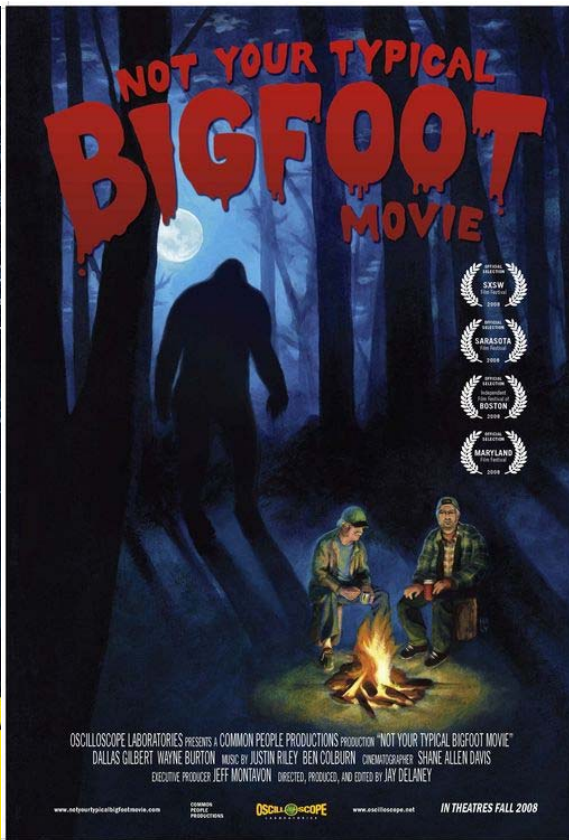
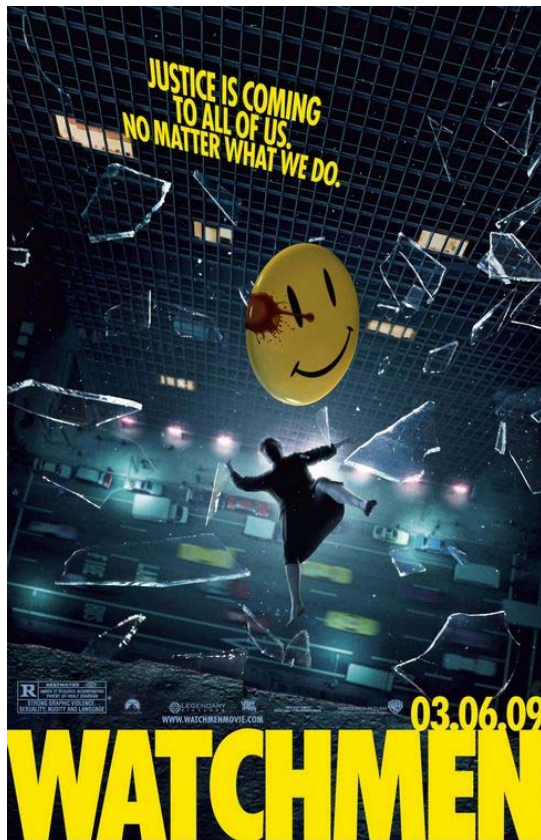
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STAR TREK ONLINE FUTURE HISTORY

CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP—WING COMMANDER

(Continued from page 21)

ments as reparations for hundreds of years of slavery and exploitation. In response, Tal'aura cuts shipments of food and needed supplies to Remus and commands Tomalak to blockade the planet. In Federation space, the USS Enterprise-E undergoes a major repair and refit and resumes its mission of exploration. About half of her crew transfers to other posts during the months-long overhaul, including senior staff officers William T. Riker and Deanna Troi, who are posted on the USS Titan, and Chief Medical Officer Beverly Crusher, who briefly serves as head of Starfleet Medical before returning to the Enterprise.

Two trials are of note during this time.

(Continued on page 24)

**Rich and Hydy meet Wil Wheaton
at ComicCon**

OPEN WIDE . . . (CONTINUED)

CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

(Continued from page 18)

sea, vomiting, [diarrhea](#), and coughing. Severe reactions -- called [anaphylaxis](#) -- can cause the lips, tongue, or throat to swell and make breathing difficult.

How are Fall Allergies Diagnosed?

A visit to an allergist can help discover the trigger for your watery, itchy eyes and runny nose. After looking into your medical history and asking you about your symptoms, the allergy specialist will likely do a skin test, which involves scratching the skin with a tiny sample of the allergen, or injecting it just under the skin. If you're allergic to the substance, the area will turn red and itchy. This means that your body is producing antibodies to the allergen.

Another option for [diagnosing allergies](#) is the radioallergen sorbent test (RAST) -- a blood test that detects antibody levels to a particular allergen. These types of tests can also be used to check for the source of food allergies.

How are Fall Allergies Treated?

To treat a runny nose, watery eyes, and itchiness, you can try one of these medications:

*(Continued on page 24)**(Continued from page 8)*

rything from framed X men pics, various Computer things and action figures to Pez dispensers and games.

New Releases:

*Upcoming movie releases include James Bond in November, but since we're at a dead zone for movies at the moment, we'll discuss that next month.

*Next year's away mission is down to Dragon*Con for 2009!!
WOOT!!!!

*Max meeting pot luck at Whetstone and that'll be for Christmas!

Now, the weather's deceiving me, and I think it my thunder and my shuttlecraft is parked outside. So I'm gonna stop the meeting minutes and run outside to get home before it pours!!!!!!

...only not really cos apparently there wasn't any thunder and it's sunny outside. Odd. o.O

Come on Databit. Let's go down to the Battle Bar and beat Critch at arm wrestling again.

(Continued from page 23)

OPEN WIDE . . . (CONTINUED)
CPT MIKE STANLEY, CMO

- Prescription corticosteroids, usually given in the form of a nasal spray, reduce inflammation in the nose.

Antihistamines reduce sneezing, sniffing, and itching by blocking the action of histamine (the substance produced during an allergic reaction) in the body.

Decongestants clear mucus out of the nasal passageways to relieve congestion and swelling.

- Antihistamine/decongestants combine the effects of both drugs.
- Antihistamine eye drops block the histamine that leads to the allergic reaction.

Allergy shots expose your body to gradually increasing doses of the allergen until you become tolerant to it. They can relieve your symptoms for a longer period of time than oral and nasal allergy medications. Although they don't work for everyone, in people who do see a response, allergy shots can hold off symptoms for a few years.

Even though you can buy some allergy medications without a prescription, it's a good idea to talk to your doctor first to make sure you choose the right medication. Some antihistamines can make you feel sleepy, so you need to be careful when taking them during the day (although non-drowsy formulations are also available). Read the packaging label -- some of these products are only meant to be used for a few days.

Managing Fall Allergies

Here are a few tips for easing fall allergy symptoms:

Stay indoors with the doors and windows closed when pollen is at its peak (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) to avoid being exposed to your allergy triggers. To keep track of the pollen count in your area, visit the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology web site (www.aaaai.org).

- Before you turn on your heat for the first time, have your heating ducts cleaned. Particles of mold and other allergens can become trapped in the vents over the summer and will fill the air as soon as you crank up the furnace.
- Use a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in your heating system to remove pollen, mold, and other particles from the air.
- Use a humidifier to keep your air at between 35 and 50 percent humidity.

Wear a mask when you rake leaves to avoid inhaling mold spores.

To avoid food allergies:

- Pack lunch for children with allergies, and tell them not to share food with their friends.
 - Inform the school about your child's allergies, and if the allergy is severe, leave an epinephrine pen with the school nurse.
- Don't let kids eat any Halloween candy until you've first checked it for allergy triggers.

**STAR TREK ONLINE FUTURE HISTORY**
CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE
MEMBERSHIP—WING COMMANDER

(Continued from page 23)

On stardate 56867.84, the Founder known as the Female Changeling is sentenced for crimes committed against sentient beings during the Dominion War and committed to the Federation maximum security facility at Ananke Alpha. And on stardate 58370.4, Ro Laren surrendered to Starfleet custody. A former member of Starfleet who defected to the Maquis in 2370, Ro plead guilty to charges of desertion and was ordered to report to a penal facility on Earth for rehabilitation. Federation analysts continue to monitor the deepening economic crisis on Cardassia Prime. The Cardassians were devastated by Dominion bombardment in the final days of the Dominion War, suffering more than 800 million casualties. Large portions of Cardassia Prime remain in ruins and the Cardassian government does not appear to have the resources to recover, although it has rejected most Federation aid. A notable exception to this stance is the Andak project, a Federation-funded program intended to restore Cardassia Prime's

(Continued on page 25)

STAR TREK ONLINE FUTURE HISTORY

CDRE CHRIS STEPHENSON, TRIBUNE OF THE MEMBERSHIP—WING COMMANDER

(Continued from page 24)

agricultural base. Led by Keiko O'Brien, the Andak project initially faced stiff resistance from xenophobic groups such as the True Way and Gul Macet's conservative bloc of the government. Only the influence of Cardassian governmental adviser Elim Garak, a supporter of the fledgling democracy movement, allowed the Andak project to proceed, and work is now in progress to make the barren desert climate of Cardassia Prime support sufficient crops to feed its population. Experts at the Daystrom Institute predict that without more successful projects like the Andak initiative, the Cardassian Union could fall in as little as three years.

In non-Trek Online news, I'm undertaking 2 jobs in the real world, working on Journey towards the stars: Maximum Edition, and a special story commemorating the upcoming launch of our new ship! As a reminder, if you have a story you'd like to see in print, Maximilian related or not, please submit it to critchstarblade@gmail.com before December 1, 2008!

Thanks!

Wing Commander Chris Stephenson
Commodore Tribune

November 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 TV Night | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Auction meeting |
| 9 | 10 TV Night | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Movie Marathon |
| 16 Movie Marathon | 17 TV Night | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23/30 | 24 TV Night | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

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- CHRISTA MCAULIFFE, 1986

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I KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T
FEED THE TROLLS, BUT
SOMETIMES THEY JUST
PROVOKE ME TO WHERE
I CAN'T HELP REPLYING.



YEAH, ME TOO. YESTERDAY THIS
GUY KEPT SPAMMING "FIRST!"
SO I GOT A SET OF ACTUARIAL TABLES
AND SPENT TWENTY MINUTES TELLING
HIM WHEN ALL HIS CHILDHOOD
HEROES WOULD LIKELY DIE.



REMIND ME NEVER
TO UPSET YOU, EVER

2038: LAST OF
THE ORIGINAL
STAR WARS
CAST DIES.



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