

Newsletter of the U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun*

CON*STELLATION IS HERE AGAIN!

Con*Stellation XIV: Monoceros, a “general interest science fiction and fantasy fandom convention” will be held November 3-5 at the Tom Bevill Center. The Guest of Honor is Rick Shelley, Toastmaster is Roland Castle, Artist Guest of Honor is Ruth Thompson, and Fan Guest of Honor is Adrian Washburn. NASFA, the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, is the organizer.

Some of Con*Stellation’s festivities include the featured guests, multi-track programming, masquerade contest, spades tournament, regular or live-action role-playing games, 2500 square foot dealers’ room, 2200 square foot art show/print shop, computer room, video room, art auction, nightly dances, filking, and a con suite. The masquerade has a \$100 cash prize and the con suite is legendary for its bountiful and delicious food offerings. A t-shirt is available with a design by David O. Miller.



Also in this issue:
Upcoming Movies
Sci-Fi TV Episode Guides
Mortal Kombat Review
(and maybe more)

Admission for children ages 0-3 is free, ages 4-10 is \$10, and the adult rate for everyone else is \$30 at the door. The Tom Bevill center

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Subspace Static

October 1995

Editor: Richard L. Trulson

“Constellations on the horizon.” issue or
“Oh my God! There’s another one.”

Subspace Static (SS) is the monthly (theoretically) newsletter of the U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* (WVB). All opinions expressed herein are those of the author only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, other contributors, WVB members, or STARFLEET members. It’s in print, so it’s got to be true. See the inside back cover for more fine print information about SS, WVB, STARFLEET and the IRS.

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U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* Information

(The people featured on *America’s Most Wanted*)

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------|
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| Communications | CAPT Richard L. Trulson | 423-6638 |
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| Engineering | CMDR Henry Vaughn | 830-5536 |
| Finance | CMDR Chyrstal Kimbro | 350-7789 |
| Historian | Bill Baker, Jr. | 830-4496 |
| Marines | Lt. Col. Jim Martin * | 534-2028 |
| Medical | CMDR Kalira Rael Isbell | 851-9746 |
| Science | CMDR Stephanie Osborn | 895-9454 |
| Security | CMDR Dustin Williams | 533-9132 |
| Ship’s Services | CMDR Dallas Vinson | 883-4132 |
| * Executive Officer | | |

The U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* is a chapter of STARFLEET, the International *Star Trek* Fan Association. STARFLEET’s general purpose is to create a social organization of *Star Trek* fans that work to fulfill Gene Roddenberry’s dream: a future where mankind has learned to work through its differences and problems to live in harmony. The *Wernher von Braun* accomplishes this through a variety of social and community service activities.

For more information about the U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* or STARFLEET, contact:

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Subspace Static

Submissions for each issue are due by the 20th of each month. Please send them and all other comments about SS to:

Richard L. Trulson
28825 Airport Lane
Ardmore, AL 35739
E-mail: RichLT@Companet.Net

Preferred submission format is on PC disk or E-mail. Contact me before you submit something to make sure I can import your file. Plain text files are guaranteed to work. If you mail a disk, please include a printout just in case the disk gets damaged. Hand-written materials (typed is preferred) can be mailed as well.

Any ship or science-fiction related submission is acceptable. This includes reports, interviews, cartoons, artwork, reviews, poetry, short fiction, etc. We will also accept other genres. If you wish your submissions returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Overall, *Mortal Kombat* receives a rating of B-. If you enjoy fight/action movies of this genre, you'll love this movie and it deserves a better rating. However, if you prefer the fighting only if integral to the plot, *Kombat* is much too violent. I recommend going to see it in a theater with good sound, but during the day to get the discount matinee price.

-CAPT Richard Trulson

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did on the originals. I'm not sure if this is due to the copier resolution or the paper quality. If it was the copier, future newsletters should turn out better.

Another problem is stylistic in nature and isn't exactly a problem. I had planned on sprinkling numerous pictures and other graphical elements to help break the monotony of the bland text-only pages. However, the software version I was using couldn't import the graphic images I had. With my new system, that won't be a problem and future issues will look much more pleasing to the eye.

I've also been informed that there were numerous spelling and grammar errors. Spell checkers can only help me so much since correctly spelled words may be used wrong. Therefore, I need someone to be a full-time designated proofreader. You don't have to be an English teacher to take this position either. Simply having someone read through the final draft will catch most mistakes. If you're interested in doing this, please let me know.

-CAPT Richard Trulson

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- Patrick Steward had, and still has an "open invitation" to direct for Voyager, but other projects have not allowed him to do so yet. He would like to direct an episode sometime.
 - Robert Beltran will be in Oliver Stone's new movie, *Nixon*, with Anthony Hopkins.
 - Voyager ranked 95th for the 1994-1995 TV season, which is not bad, considering it had only been on for about half of that.
- (All information is cleaned from the internet and may not be true. Take with heavy sedation and don't call in the morning.)*

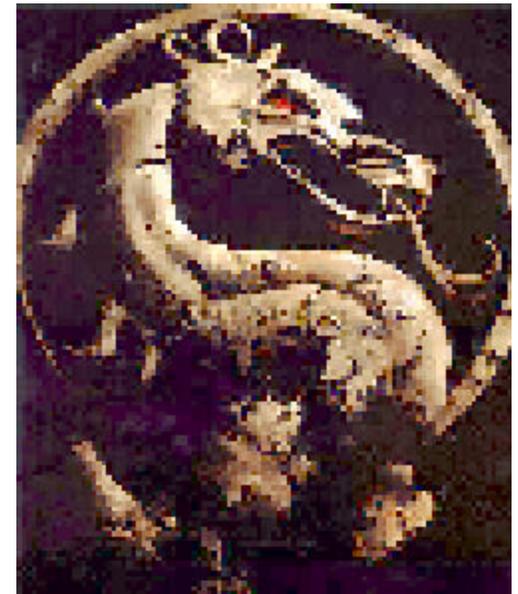
MORTAL KOMBAT

Violent arcade game attacks the big screen!

Mortal Kombat is probably one of the most violent arcade games ever made. Considering the game features decapitations, impalings and other grisly deaths, I was somewhat queasy at the thought of it morphing into a big screen extravaganza with killer special effects and big budget to be even more grisly. However, when the movie teasers began, it was exactly that which made me interested: The special effects looked awesome. I was still somewhat leery of the violence that I knew would be there, but I decided to grab an airline barfbag and brave it.

The plot revolves around a fight that occurs once in every generation. People from all over the world gather to see who's the best combatant among them. The movie opens with the introduction of our heroes, Liu Kang (Robin Shou), Johnny Cage (Linden Ashby), and Sonya Blade (Bridgette Wilson). They end up aboard a spooky ghost ship right out of ancient Chinese folklore. Here they discover that the *Mortal Kombat* isn't just among humans; it spans across other dimensions as well. Should any particular dimension win ten consecutive combats, the ruler of that dimension will rule over all dimensions.

The evil sorcerer and ruler of the desolate Outworld dimension is Shang Tsung (Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa). He has a powerful four-armed adversary who has won nine victories for Tsung. Earth, however, has Christopher Lambert as its mighty Thunder God Raiden to guide and protect it. Raiden does his best to instruct his three champions to victory.



They have an ally in the beautiful princess Kitana (Talisa Soto), who was once the ruler of Outworld before Tsung took over. However, Raiden's champions must overcome personal challenges before they can win in *Mortal Kombat*.

Thankfully the movie is not as violent as the arcade game. There are plenty of fight scenes (and I majorly understate that) with plenty of injuries and deaths accented with appropriate bone crunching sound effects. If you're squeamish about such things, don't see this movie. On the plus side, the really violent actions are either not shown directly or aren't even done, like decapitations. However, this is a movie about mortal combat, so appropriately, you have to have fighting. Since I'm not a karate/fighting movie type of person, I grew bored with it very quickly.

The reason I went to see this movie was the special effects, which were very nice. Another good aspect is the character development. Granted, it may be a little lopsided leaning toward one specific trait if each character, but at least it prevents the characters from being completely one-dimensional. Also, they use humor wonderfully to lighten up the mood. Raiden has some vicious one-liners as does Cage, though he is more stereotypically slapstick humorous. Also, if you like dance/techno music, you'll love the soundtrack. I haven't wanted to move my body like that in a long time.

Obviously, comparison must be made between Lambert's Raiden character and his Conner McCloud *Highlander* character since both are immortals.



Actually, I even overheard someone describe *Mortal Kombat* as a karate version of *Highlander*. This would be an good comparison, though maybe not fair. After all, "there can be only one" *Highlander*. (::waits for you to stop groaning in agony:: Yes, I've been waiting to pull that one.)

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Ruth Thompson's work appears on Magic Ice Age cards, *Dungeon* magazine, and more.

Adrian Washburn was born February 4, 1951, and has lived in Birmingham, AL since three. "Like most kids growing up I've watched more than my share of science-fiction movies and television shows. The earliest movie I remember was *Battle in Outer Space* when I was in the third grade. The earliest book I read was *The Time Machine* for a 7th grade book report.

"I discovered fandom as a result of a fanzine review called 'The Club House' in the August 1973 issue of *Amazing*. I requested a fanzine [called] *Huityloxyptl* #8 by Meade and Penny Frierson. Meade wrote back and mentioned that he ran out of the zine but gave me a copy of *The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*. I bought a membership to the SFC (\$1.00 a year at that time) and in 1975 a local *Star Trek* club run by Steve Ashley was able to discover my existence and invited me to join... My first convention was Kubla Khan 3 in 1975."

(All quotes and information are taken from the Con*Stellation WWW page. SS does not take responsibility for the accurateness.)

For more information about Con*Stellation or hotel reservations (Be sure to mention Con*Stellation), contact the following people care of:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Con*Stellation | Tom Bevill Center |
| P.O. Box 4857 | 1100 North Loop Road |
| Huntsville, AL 35815-4857 | Huntsville, AL 35816 |
| or e-mail: constell@iquest.com | (205) 721-9428 |
| or WWW: http://iquest.com/~ssmith/ | |
| General: | Sam Smith (205) 883-4493 |
| | Randy Cleary (205) 464-6665 |
| Dealers: | Nancy Adams (205) 536-3594 |
| Program Book: | Mike Kennedy (205) 883-5922 |
| Artists: | Rhett Mitchell (205) 883-9106 |
| Publicity: | Ron Lajoie (205) 961-4832 |
| Costumes: | Sue Thorn |
| Gamers: | Rich Garber |
| Video: | Walt Gultrie |

(No collect calls please.)

Continued from page 1

has a \$44 flat rate (+ 10% hotel tax = \$48.40/night). Although the Tom Beville center is a no smoking facility, a smokers lounge will be provided. (For hotel reservations, see the address at the end of this article.) As always a few policies must be observed: No smoking except in smokers lounge. No weapons unless approved by the staff as part of costume. Dealers may sell weapons but once purchased, they must be taken immediately to purchaser's room or off hotel property. The con suite will not be serving alcohol (but room parties may).

Rick Shelley grew up in Kankakee, Illinois with an early interest in science-fiction since he realized that a Shelley had written Frankenstein. "The 50's were a great decade for sf movies (mostly of the paranoid variety). And there was a television show, even before *The Twilight Zone*, that captured—and held—my attention. That was *Science Fiction Theater*, with Truman Bradley... Once I learned to read, I also read all of the science fiction I could get my hands on." After serving in the army for three years after high school, Shelly worked at various jobs. Although he started writing fiction in high school, it wasn't until the early 80's that he started writing seriously. After a brief period of unemployment, Shelly made his first sale in January 1984.

The books Shelly has written are the Varayan Memoir fantasy series (*Son of the Hero, The Hero of Varay, The Hero King*), the Seven Towers fantasy series (*The Wizard at Mecq, The Wizard at Home, When the Bell Was Rung*), the Lucky 13th military science fiction series (*Until Relieved, Side Show, Jump Pay*), and *The Buchanan Campaign*. He has also had several works published in *Analog, Space & Time, Unique, Aboriginal, SF Review*, and *Science Fiction Age*.

Roland Castle says he was a "science fiction fan from birth but a TRUE science fiction fan since the first time [he] attended Con*Stellation... I opened up a hole-in-the-wall shop to raise the money and found out that there was a demand for such shops. Working at comic conventions helped supplement the shop's income." Deciding to host his own convention, he enlisted the help of Sunn Hayward to start Magnum Opus Con.

COMMUNICATIONS

Impressions of the last issue.

Greetings! This report is being written on my new Gateway 2000 Pentium 120 system. Suffice to say, I am very happy. The gory details: 16 MB EDO RAM, 1.6 GB hard drive, Matrox MGA Millennium graphics card with 2 MB WRAM, Sound Blaster A.W.E. 32, 4 speed CD-ROM, speakers, 3.5" and 5.25" drives, Microsoft Natural Keyboard (No, it did not get melted in the sun.), Trinitron 17" monitor, 28,000 bps fax/modem, and a 600 dpi laser printer. Yes, I'm swimming in debt now; however, part of it was a late graduation and birthday present from my parents. So hopefully, now I won't have annoying resource problems when I go to publish the newsletter.

Speaking of which, I'm not getting much support with this monstrosity. No one is submitting anything. While I can manage to pump out a few issues of nothing but my own writings and information I glean from the nets, that isn't my intention. This newsletter is suppose to have involvement from everyone! It needs to represent the entire crew. So please submit something, anything, whether it be a departmental report or short fiction. If I don't start getting support for this soon, I may stop doing it. I need your help to make the *Subspace Static* wonderful.

Next issue, I plan on devoting my report on ways to help department heads write reports. Future reports will detail ways to help people write event summaries, short fiction, editorials and more. Some of the plans I have for the SS include broader coverage of the ship events, greater feature articles, regional level interviews, and much more. However, your help, comments, critiques, and—most importantly—your submissions are greatly appreciated.

I'd like to take this opportunity to review last issue. Structurally, it's one of the most correct newsletters I've ever done. However, a few things didn't turn out as well as I had hoped. First, the gray-scales used in graphics, like on the cover and at the bottom of the pages, didn't turn out as nicely on the copies as they



Continued on page 14

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of September 10, 1995 meeting.

- Rigel 7 has been moved back to the original dates of June 14-16, 1996. It was felt that Dragon*Con events were different enough from what we were doing to not draw from our audience. We also discussed guests we'd like to have.
- Communiqués are in.
- **Operations:** Members will need to fill out new membership applications so the ship's records can be updated with current information.
- **Services:** Do you want to return to our monthly socials? We'll see if we can find a location.
- **Security:** Another Trek-O-Rama fell through.
- **Engineering:** No one came to the monthly meeting.
- **Communications:** The first issue of the *Subspace Static* has been completed and was handed out at the meeting. Remaining issues will be mailed to the members. Some of the graphics did not turn out as well as I hoped. Deadline for future issues will be the 20th of each month. Thanks go to Dallas for his help with this issue. Give Richard some feedback about what you think of the SS. Also, please contribute to it.

LAST MINUTE INFO:

Thanks to Dallas for helping me with the last issue. I really appreciate your help.
Our regular meeting locations have changed to the Town Council meeting room at the Madison Municipal Complex on Hughes Road. They are still at 2 PM on the first Sunday of each month.
November's meeting will be at Con*Stellation.

Upcoming Novels:

Novel #4: *Violations*,
by Susan Wright

Under the guise of helping the crew find a way home, a group of aliens board the U.S.S. *Voyager* and then steal the main computer. To get it back, Captain Janeway is forced to negotiate with the thieves—who are from a consortium of planets where thievery is a way of life.



Novel #5: *Incident at Arbuk*,
by John Gregory Betancourt

Tracking a shuttle's distress signal to the nearly deserted Arbuk system, the U.S.S. *Voyager* crew encounters an unusual weapon a thousand times more powerful than anything on the starship. Soon, Captain Janeway and the crew are attacked by a group of mysterious starships with an obvious interest in acquiring the powerful weapon.

Other News:

- A sequel to *The Next Generation's* "Interface", the ship with Geordi La Forge's mother will be discovered in the Delta Quadrant.
- Deanna Troi is in the "Mirror, Mirror" universe and the *Voyager* encounters her there.
- The *Star Trek Omnipedia* CD has been released and includes an offer for a free upgrade to include information about *Star Trek: Voyager*. Keith Halper, editor of the *Omnipedia*, stated that on-line upgrades will keep you current "on whatever direction *Star Trek* takes. Garrett Wang and Taylor (unknown last name) became engaged some time in May. There is no date set for the marriage, but, according to Taylor, "Since it will have to be on his hiatus, it will either be next year or the year after."
- Robert Duncan McNeill and another *Voyager* actor/actress are scheduled to direct episodes this season.

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VOYAGER NEWS

Lost in Space information:

| EpNum | Date | Num | Episode Title |
|-------|----------|------|-------------------------|
| 24 | 10/23/95 | 124 | "Persistence of Vision" |
| 25 | 10/30/95 | 125 | "Tattoo" |
| 26 | 11/06/95 | 126 | "Cold Flame" |
| 27 | 11/13/95 | 127 | "Maneuvers" |
| 28 | 11/20/95 | 128 | "Death Wish" |
| 29 | 11/27/95 | 129 | unknown |
| | 12/04/95 | 120R | "The 37's" |
| | 12/11/95 | 121R | "Initiations" |
| | 12/18/95 | 117R | "Projections" |

"Persistence of Vision"

An alien causes the crew to hallucinate in order to acquire *Voyager* and steal it for scrap metal. B'Elanna is involved in a love scene with another of the crew.

"Death Wish"

Q will visit the *Voyager*. This will apparently be directed by Jonathan Frakes, as reported by him at a convention. This rumor has been confirmed by Rick Berman in *Entertainment Weekly*: John de Lancie will be visiting *Voyager* in the near future.



MOVIE NEWS

Brief synopsis of upcoming movies.

All information was taken from the MovieWeb WWW page.

Strange Days 20th Century Fox

Los Angeles, December 30, 1999: the eve of the Millennium. In the digital underground of the violent and chaotic city, human experience is bought and sold as the newest form of illicit entertainment. Lenny Nero is a street hustler, ex-cop, and panhandler of stolen dreams. As the world spins toward the last midnight of this century, he finds himself drawn into a vortex of paranoia and murder. All he needs to do is get the woman who loves him to help him save the woman he loves. And somehow survive the night alive.



United Artists

Ian Fleming's James Bond is back with Pierce Brosnan as Agent 007. *Goldeneye* is set firmly in the present day, with swiftly changing political patterns turning

old opponents into new best friends... and old allies into deadly enemies. No James Bond adventure would be complete without its



October:

- 13 *Copycat*
- 13 *Strange Days*
- 20 *Les Miserables*
- 27 *Fair Game*
- Vampire in Brooklyn*

November:

- 3 *Bottle Rocket*
- 10 *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*
- 10 *Money Train*
- 17 *The American President*
- 17 *Goldeneye*
- 17 *Jumanji*
- ?? *Lucky Break*

December:

- 25 *Dracula: Dead And Loving It*
- 29 *Mary Reilly*

old opponents into new best friends... and old allies into deadly enemies. No James Bond adventure would be complete without its leading ladies: Famke Janssen and Izabella Scorupco prove a formidable match for the super secret agent. The outstanding cast also includes English film stars: Sean Bean as Alec Trevelyan, once Bond's colleague and friend; Robbie

Coltrane as Valentin, a former KGB controller turned ruthless arms dealer; and Alan Cumming as Boris, a Russian computer wizard. Jon Don Baker also stars as 007's cynical American CIA contact Jack Wade. Desmond Llewelyn once again reprises his role as the ingenious Q, Samantha Bond appears as the beloved Miss Money Penny, and Judi Dench becomes the first woman to portray Bond's superior, known only as M.

Jumanji TriStar Pictures

Robin Williams stars as Alan Parrish, who, after 25 years, is finally freed from the spell of an ancient magical board game named Jumanji. The two children who freed him, however, have also unwittingly unleashed a group of wild and exotic creatures from the game, forcing the long-lost Alan to save his hometown from destruction or risk being exiled back into the game... forever.



Dracula: Dead And Loving It

Columbia Pictures

Dracula, the Prince of Darkness, lives again, under the direction of comic genius Mel Brooks. Leslie Nielsen stars as the Count. He's dead and he's loving it, but he's also in for some ego-puncturing problems and horrific surprises never encountered by Bela Lugosi or Gary Oldman.

Top movies as of September 24:

1. *Seven*
2. *Showgirls*
3. *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Neumar*
4. *Dangerous Minds*
5. *Clockers*
6. *Unstrung Heroes*
7. *The Usual Suspects*
8. *Hackers*
9. *Babe*
10. *Braveheart*
11. *Mortal Kombat*
12. *Angus*
13. *A Walk in the Clouds*
14. *Apollo 13*
15. *Last of the Dogmen*
16. *Desperado*
17. *The Brothers McMullen*
18. *The Prophecy*
19. *Under Siege 2*
20. *Nine Months*

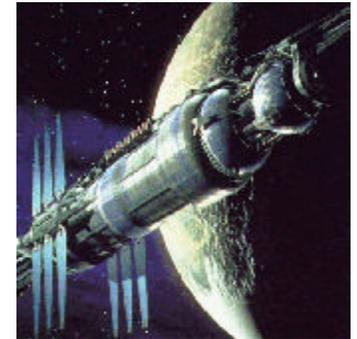
TV SHOW NEWS

Babylon 5

| Week Of | Ep# | Prod# | Title |
|---|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 10/15/95 | 41 | 220 | "Divided Loyalties" |
| 10/22/95 | 42 | 219 | "The Long, Twilight Struggle" |
| 10/29/95 | 43 | 221 | "Comes the Inquisitor" |
| 11/05/95 | 44 | 222 | "The Fall of Night" (season finale) |
| Season Three ("I am become Death, destroyer of worlds") | | | |
| 11/12/95 | 45 | 301 | "Matters of Honor" |
| 11/19/95 | 46 | 302 | "Convictions" |
| 11/26/95 | 47 | 303 | "A Day in the Strife" |
| 12/03/95 | 48 | 304 | "Voices of Authority" |

"Divided Loyalties"

Lyta Alexander, the station's first telepath, returns with a warning that one of Babylon 5's officers is an operative for a top-secret government organization. A long-held secret of another Babylon 5 officer is revealed.



"The Long, Twilight Struggle"

The Narn-Centauri War reaches a turning point. Sheridan is contacted by a powerful ally, who offers assistance.

"Comes the Inquisitor"

G'Kar tries to rally the Narn on Babylon 5. Kosh tests Delenn's allegiance by summoning an ancient inquisitor.

"The Fall of Night"

As the Centauri war escalates, a Narn cruiser seeks help from Babylon 5. Earth takes a position in the war. Keffer makes a terrifying discovery. Kosh takes a drastic step to save a life.

Lois and Clark:

The New Adventures of Superman

| Number | Date | Title |
|--------|----------|------------|
| 3.5 | 10/20/95 | "The List" |
| 3.6 | 10/27/95 | "2Shy" |
| 3.7 | 11/3/95 | "The Walk" |

