

# SUBSPACE CHATTER





# SUBSPACE CHATTER



OUR 44TH YEAR • ISSUE 2 • NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

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We aim to highlight the interests of our diverse membership. Make suggestions or contribute to Subspace Chatter. Email us today!

## THE UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX

The United Federation of Phoenix (UFP) is the Southwest's oldest *Star Trek* and science fiction fan organization, continuously operating since 1975. The club meets bi-weekly at various locations around the Phoenix metropolitan area. As a group we have picnics, go hiking, watch movies, play games, take trips, and are active in the volunteer community. You are about to read "Subspace Chatter," our official bi-monthly publication which highlights science fiction and fandom events, spotlights our members, and provides a resource for all things UFP. If you are in the area and would like to attend one of our meetings, **please email us at [info@u-f-p.org](mailto:info@u-f-p.org)**

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# MISSION LOG

## SCIENCE WITH A TWIST

Pictured above, the newly-elected officers of the UFP gather to plan events. From left to right: Dianna Hopkins (Secretary), Walt Bartlow (Treasurer), Kim Smith (Captain), Annette Sexton-Ruiz (First Officer)

Captain's Log, stardate 201812.4. The UFP stormed **Science with a Twist**, the 21+ Friday night event at the AZ Science Center, on October 19th. After dinner and drinks, we watched the *Stranger*



*Things* Laser show in the planetarium. Then we toured the center with other adults playing just like kids would. First there were glowing scorpions, then the disgusting sounds of the giant



stomach. The bed of nails was a big hit as was the desert weather experience complete with wind, heat lamps, and rain. Then Dr. Dave, Dr. Kim, Annette, and Dianna could not put the body back together, so Jeff George had to come to the rescue! Metal ring puzzles kept us entertained for a while with Kim



and Dianna solving puzzles. Dancing metal shavings and



floating balls were also amusing. Kevin, Walt and the rest enjoyed the wheelchair races and we were the last group to leave the center. Way to go UFP!

*Dr. Kimberly Smith*

- Dr. Kimberly Smith, UFP Captain

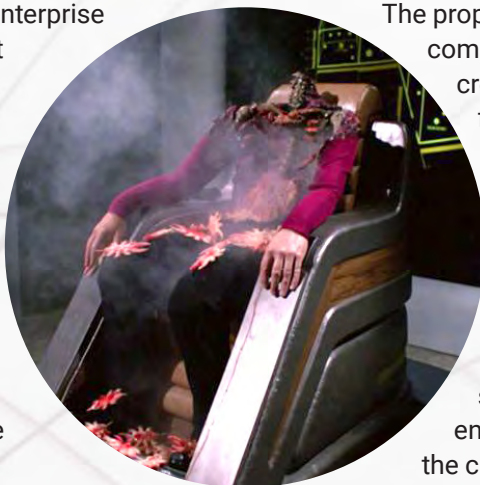
# THE VISUAL EFFECTS OF CONSPIRACY

BY DAVID STIPES | VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR | UFP MEMBER

**T**he crew of the starship Enterprise must overcome Starfleet Command officers who are infected by an alien parasite. This is the plot of "Conspiracy," the 24th episode of the first season of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. This episode has the dubious honor of having one or more shots censored as "violent images" by the BBC in England. It is reported that the episode required a warning before airing in Canada.

The story required that the parasite climb the leg of an officer then later climb out of the mouth of another fallen human host and attempt to escape.

Visual Effects Supervisor Dan Curry approached my visual effects company in April of 1988 with the project. Animating the parasite bugs for the episode was my first work on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.



The property master, Alan Sims, had commissioned another company to create the bug. They had done a fine sculpting job but I realized we would have to re-build it for the stop motion animation required for the shots.

The creature was cast in a dense silicone material and was very stiff. The legs were small nubs that were not long enough to reach the floor to propel the creature along. We set about re-sculpting the creature and giving it longer legs and defining the body segments a bit more. A plaster mold was made and fitted with a simple wire armature and the creature was cast in rubber.

We scheduled the animation time, then were told by Dan Curry that the date we were to animate was actually the date they needed the work finished. We scrambled to get the animation set up. Dan had provided frames of the woman opening her mouth so we could line up the parasite's animation with the actor's performance. I asked Dan if we could have a bloody slime trail from the woman's mouth



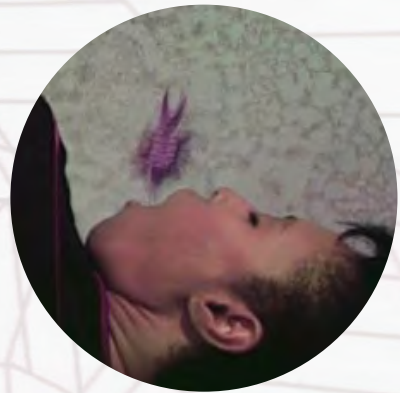
Visit David Stipes at [davidstipes.com](http://davidstipes.com)  
This is an informative publication only, and is not for profit, for sale, or for commercial use. All "Star Trek" titles, associated names, and imagery are the sole property of Paramount Pictures. Star Trek is a registered trademark of CBS Corporation. Credit: Frame captures are from a video by Greg Stone.

but he didn't think the producers would like it. I thought it would help sell the horror of the situation but, disappointed, we moved on.

Dan has also provided a 4ft x 8ft piece of hard Formica flooring to match the set. It was so big I had to place it on a sheet of Celotex board on my studio concrete floor and animate on my hands and knees. The surface was tough so I could not directly pin the model to the floor for the animation

legs. After a couple of scenes were done, the armature wires broke and the body segment with the last two legs fell off the puppet! I finished the shot by animating the now two body sections along and making them appear as one creature.

As I worked, on another stage my assistant, Stephen Lebed, animated the parasite climbing the leg of the main host, Lt. Commander Remmick. Stephen faced his own challenges as the creature



process. I had to drill through the hard Formica then drive a pin through the parasite's foot into the Celotex insulation board below. This prevented the feet from sliding around as I animated the body.

I animated the creature along by twisting the parasite's body segments in sequence with the

was difficult to attach and animate effectively on the pants cloth.

It was a challenge but it was fun, and the creature scenes from "Conspiracy" continue to get comments. This episode is often included on lists of *The Next Generation's* greatest moments.



**David Stipes is a visual effects consultant, artist and composer.**

In 1992 David joined the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" team, and two years later received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Visual Effects. Embracing the change from physical models to computer effects, David championed the use of CGI in several Star Trek series over the years. Recently David has lent his talents to productions filmed right here in Arizona. As a member of the United Federation of Phoenix, David offers his unique insights from his professional life to fellow fans through his contributions to this publication.

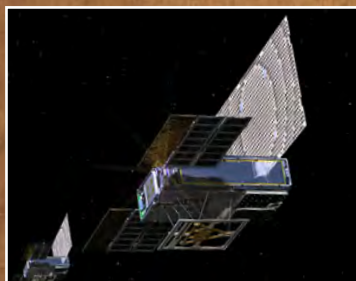
# The Next Step in Mars Exploration

DAVID A. WILLIAMS | ASSOCIATE RESEARCH PROFESSOR | UFP MEMBER



Monday November 26th, 2018 saw the beginning of the next steps in the exploration of the planet MARS with the successful landing of NASA's InSight spacecraft. InSight stands for "INterior exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy, and Heat Transport". This \$814

million stationary lander's purpose is to study Mars interior, to determine whether it has a liquid or solid core via seismic waves produced by marsquakes, to determine the heat flow out of the interior, and a radio experiment to determine perturbations in Mars rotation axis, that might indicate the presence of a core.



The spacecraft contains a French seismometer and a German heat flow probe, the latter of which will drill down 5 meters (16 feet) into the crust for better measurements. Both the seismometer and heat flow probe will be placed on the surface by a robotic arm equipped with a camera. The landing site, in Mars Elysium Planitia, is "as flat

as a parking lot", and was chosen to avoid a rocky surface so that the instruments can obtain the best measurements.

This solar-powered lander will operate for one Mars year (two Earth years) plus 40 Mars days (or "sols"),



until November 24, 2020. Most likely it will be able to function in an "extended mission" for some time afterwards to gather more data.

InSight was accompanied to Mars by the first planetary CubeSats, MarCO-A and B. Mars Cube One (A and B) are the size of shoeboxes, and were used to transmit telemetry information from InSight while it was landing. They successfully demonstrated that CubeSats can be used to support planetary exploration and bode well for future planetary CubeSats, such as Arizona State University's Luna-H Map, which will be launched with the first Space Launch System (SLS) test flight in 2019.

## Fan analysis:

By UFP Member Dave Williams

# SHORT TREKS

This fall Trek fans have been given a brand new treat. For the first time, during the hiatus of a first-run Star Trek TV series, CBS is providing a series of four, 15-minute short stories to 'tide us over' until the next season begins. I am referring to **Short Treks**, taking place in the prime universe in and around the adventures of the current series, **Star Trek Discovery**, all airing on CBS All Access, CBS's streaming channel. So far, two of the four **Short Treks** have aired, although the third, "The Brightest Star", will be released soon, on Thursday, December 6. Here are some thoughts on the first two episodes:

**Runaway**, released October 4, 2018: This story takes place between the Season 1 finale and the Season 2 premiere, and finds Ensign Sylvia Tilly (Mary Wiseman) talking via hologram with her overbearing mother (Mimi Kuzyk) about the Command Training Program. Tilly soon encounters a young, wounded stowaway, Po (Yadira Guevara-Prip), a teenage girl from Xahea. Tilly heals her injury and they strike up a friendship, as Po helps her deal with her feelings about her mother, and Tilly helps Po prepare for her new role (next stage of evolution) as Queen of Xahea (and protector of the

planet's dilithium resources)! It's a fun story where we learn more about Tilly and another world/race in the Star Trek universe. Wiseman continues to show her comedic skills in this enjoyable short.

**Calypso**, released November 1, 2018: We meet a new human character,



Craft (Aldis Hodge), rescued from an escape pod and distant conflict by the self-aware USS Discovery, 1000 years in the future!! The 33rd century!! We don't know where the Discovery's crew went, but the ship has been waiting for them for a thousand years (Crossfield-class ships are tough!) Maybe this is why we never heard of the Discovery in the future. This story,

written by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Michael Chabon, is full of mythological themes and become a love story between Craft and the Discovery AI (Zora) as he misses his family, wants to return home, and Zora (Annabelle Wallis) is conflicted with enjoying his company and wanting to send him home. This episode is unlike an Trek produced before, well worth viewing, and perhaps indicates some of the storytelling themes we can expect from Chabon, as he is a writer/producer on the upcoming 'Picard Show'.

## The Brightest Star

to be released on December 6, 2018: This is intended to fill in some of the backstory of Commander Saru (Doug Jones), first officer of the USS Discovery. Expect to gain insight into the nature of the Kelpians, his prey species and their home planet, and how he got into Starfleet.

We will review the remaining two Short Treks in the next issue! Remember: Star Trek Discovery Season 2 will premiere on Thursday, January 17th, 2019. The UFP will co-host a Watch Party in the Marston Exploration Theater in the School of Earth and Space Exploration at ASU in Tempe that evening. Stay tuned!

# SF Tube TALK

WITH LEE WHITESIDE

**I'M RESURRECTING** my column *SF Tube Talk* for *Subspace Chatter*. I'll try to feature news about upcoming science fiction and fantasy TV shows of interest to UFP members. *SF Tube Talk* was a regular feature in the *Connotations* newszine published by *CASFS* for over 20 years.

The TV landscape has vastly changed since I last wrote this column. With various streaming services, broadcast and cable, the amount of genre programming has greatly expanded. It is also pretty easy to catch up with current series via online streaming as well. So, I'll be reporting on a variety of genre stuff, some immediately upcoming or recently available to stream.



**DOCTOR WHO** Fans won't have to wait long for another episode of *Doctor Who*, with the season finale airing December 9th. However, this year, the wait will be a bit longer since for the first time since the show returned in 2005, there won't be a new *Doctor Who* episode on Christmas Day. Instead, they will have a new episode on New Year's Day. As is the usual

pattern for the BBC, there's not much known about the episode, no title and not even any guest stars have been announced.

The BBC describes the episode with "As the New Year begins, a terrifying evil is stirring from across the centuries of Earth's history. Will the Doctor, Ryan (Tosin Cole), Graham (Bradley Walsh) and Yaz (Mandip Gill) be able to overcome this threat to Planet Earth?"



Needless to say, BBC America will still be running lots of *Doctor Who* on Christmas Day as well as the week leading up to the New Year's Day special.

Going back in time a bit for the season finale on December 9th, there will be an all day marathon of all Season 11 episodes leading up to the season finale *The Battle of Ranskoor Av Kolos*. "On the planet of Ranskoor Av Kolos, lies the remains of a brutal battlefield. But as the Doctor, Graham, Yaz and Ryan answer nine separate distress calls, they discover the planet holds far more secrets. Who is the mysterious commander with no memory?"

**SUPERHEROES** For superhero action, the annual crossover episodes for The CW's "Arrowverse" is featuring a three night reality bending "Elseworlds" event spanning episodes of *The Flash*, *Arrow* and *Supergirl* starting Sunday December 9th through Tuesday December 11th. In addition to Barry "Flash" Allen and Oliver "Arrow" Queen switching places for some unknown reason, we will be introduced to Batwoman (a relatively recent addition to the *Batman* mythos) in a Gotham City with a missing Batman, a Monitor (first seen in the



comics as part of *Crisis on Infinite Earths*) who monitors the multiverse, the first appearance of Lois Lane (we've seen her sister Lucy, but she's only been an off-screen character so far), a return appearance of Superman (as well as a possible black clad doppelganger from another reality), and John Wesley Shipp appearing as The Flash he played on the 1990's TV series (although he has played the Jay Garrick Flash as well as Barry Allen's father). There will likely be other surprises as well. Note that the other DC based shows, **DCs *Legends of Tomorrow*** and ***Black Lightning*** are not participating in this crossover. But be sure to check them out, especially *Legends*, which is the most fun you can have with a superhero series. The crossover will serve as the mid-season finale for the 3 shows, all of which will return in mid-January.

New on The CW on Tuesdays starting Jan 15 will be ***Roswell, New Mexico***. It is effectively a reboot of the original *Roswell* TV series but the aliens have kept their origins secret into their mid-20s, so it will be a more adult take on the aliens and their friends taking on a government conspiracy.



**NIGHTFLYERS** For Sci Fi with a heavy dose of horror, check out ***Nightflyers*** currently running over a two week stretch on the SYFY. It is based on a George R. R. Martin novela, and Syfy is making it available via all of its outlets: website, streaming, app, and broadcast. The show "follows a team of scientists aboard The Nightflyer, the most advanced ship ever built, as they embark on a journey to find other life forms. Their mission takes them to the edge of the solar system, and to the edge of insanity, as they

realize true horror isn't waiting for them in outer space - it's already on their ship."



**THE ORVILLE** After over a year ***The Orville*** returns for it's second season on FOX with a special Sunday night debut followed by weekly airings on Thursday night. According to FOX, "In Season Two, Ed and Kelly's relationship will take a new turn, while the ship's crew will meet never-before-seen aliens, face old adversaries the Krill, make first contact with a new civilization and revisit the planet Moclus." Look for a slightly more serious take on the show and more emphasis on the science fiction plots in the new season.

**GOTHAM** Also on FOX will be the fifth and final season of ***Gotham***, which is subtitled "Legend of the Dark Knight." It starts on January 3rd and will wrap up the series with twelve episodes with more development of Bruce Wayne as well as introducing to the series villains such as Bane.

**THE PASSAGE** In mid-January, FOX debuts ***The Passage***, a series based on the novel of the same name by Justin Cronin. "It focuses on Project Noah, a secret medical facility where scientists are experimenting with a dangerous virus that could lead to the cure for all disease, but also carries the potential to wipe out the human race. When a young girl is chosen to be a test subject, a federal agent is tasked with bringing her in, but ultimately, becomes her surrogate father, determined to protect her at any cost - even as Project Noah's work threatens to unleash an unimaginable apocalypse."

# INCOMING TRANSMISSIONS

NEWS FROM THE EDGE OF THE FINAL FRONTIER

## NEXT: THE BRIGHTEST STAR

In the next **Short Trek** "The Brightest Star," Saru (Doug Jones) lives a simple life on his home planet of Kaminar with his father and sister. Full of ingenuity and a level of



curiosity uncommon among his people, young Saru yearns to find out what lies beyond his village, leading him on an unexpected path.

CBS All Access: December 6th.

## UPDATE: CETI ALPHA V

Acclaimed **Star Trek** director Nicholas Meyer recently said "I was commissioned to write a 3-night event called **Ceti Alpha V** and I don't know the current status. It's been up in the air. Partially, there was a

lot of confusion between CBS, and there were big upheavals at CBS and while they sort of didn't know who was in charge, they also didn't know what they were going to do with **Ceti Alpha V**. I'm not exactly sure what's happened, I haven't heard from them in some time."



## RUMOR: SECTION 31 SERIES

Deadline is reporting that CBS is in talks with actress Michelle Yeoh to lead a new Star Trek TV series. First appearing in **Star Trek: Discovery's** 2-part pilot where her character of Captain Georgiou was killed off, Yeoh still returned a number of times during the first season, most notably playing Georgiou's Mirror Universe counterpart.

The CBS plan would be for Yeoh to play her Emperor Georgiou character,

in her capacity as an operative for Section 31. Yeoh is already set to appear in the second season of Discovery and was featured in the NYCC trailer in her Section 31 outfit. According to the report, the Yeoh Star Trek show is in the early planning stages, but "looks likely to focus on a



continuation of her **Discovery** Season 2 adventures in Starfleet's Section 31 division."

## GOODS: SCOTTY'S SCOTCH

The new **Star Trek scotch** was bottled in Glasgow at a multi-award-winning distillery. It is exceptionally smooth, with a slight smoky note, and is the fourth product in a line of Star Trek-branded spirits from Silver Screen Bottling Company. Pre-order it online at [MontgomeryScottScotch.com](http://MontgomeryScottScotch.com), or sign up for mailing list updates.



## CROSSWORDS OF TIME

A C R O S S

D O W N

- |    |                                |   |                             |
|----|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 4  | Second Short Treks episode     | 1 | Picard as a Borg            |
| 5  | Lt. Uhura's first name         | 2 | Enterprise D mom and son    |
| 9  | TNG season 1, episode 24       | 3 | Current UFP Comm Officer    |
| 10 | Nine-fingered TOS actor        | 4 | Troi's favorite food        |
| 11 | Lee's column is "SF ____ Talk" | 6 | Discovery uses a ____ drive |
| 12 | City with big Creation 'con    | 7 | NASA Mars lander            |
| 13 | Sulu's primary position        | 8 | Fox sci-fi comedy show      |
| 14 | Picard has an artificial ____  | 9 | Pilot episode of Voyager    |

# THE UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX

## OFFICIAL BRIEFING AND CLUB ACTIVITIES



### UFP CHRISTMAS ANGELS

The UFP has always had a tradition of service to the community. One such long-standing annual event is the UFP Christmas Angels. Members gather to a shopping mall in Arizona, pool their resources, and make the dreams come true of families or individual children in need. The family is selected from the tree and members comb the mall like a scavenger hunt

to procure the gifts. The holidays are also often celebrated at one of our homes, where we welcome in the club to partake in games, such as the white elephant gift exchange, eat, drink, and be merry.

The next meeting of the UFP will be Dec 8th at Paradise Valley Mall to engage in this year's Christmas Angels event. If you would like to donate money towards this, but can't attend, please contact us.

### WRITE FOR US!

Thanks for reading our magazine. Now you can help make **Subspace Chatter** even better. Email me with suggestions for content you'd like to see, or author an original article on the subject you care about most.

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### UFP CALENDAR FALL 2018 - WINTER 2019

FRI OCT 19	6PM	Science with a Twist (for adults) at AZ Science Center
SAT NOV 3	6PM	Halloween Party at Annette's, Central Phx
SAT NOV 10	1PM	Hike & Wine and Cheese Tasting at Dave and Kim's, N Phx
SAT NOV 24	- - -	See "Fantastic Beasts 2" at Harkins Theater TBD
SAT DEC 8	NOON	Lunch & Biz followed by Christmas Angels at PV Mall
SAT DEC 22	4PM	White Elephant Christmas Party at Walt's, Glendale
MON DEC 31	8PM	New Year's Eve Party at Annette's, Central Phx
SAT JAN 5	2PM	International Potluck & Short Treks at Steve's, Glendale
SUN JAN 13	NOON	Free Tour of Phoenix Art Museum, Dinner After
SAT FEB 2	- - -	Tour Nat. Guard Museum, Dinner After, Biz at Annette's
SAT FEB 16	- - -	Road Trip: Tucson Gem & Mineral Show
SAT MAR 2	- - -	Baseball Spring Training Game and Meal, TBD
SAT MAR 16	2PM	BBQ and Bat Walk at Dianna & Kevin's, Scottsdale
SAT MAR 30	11AM	Hike & To Boldly Draw Game at Dave and Kim's, N Phx
SAT APR 13	- - -	Calendar Planning for Second Half of Year, TBD

### LOCAL FANDOM EVENTS IN ARIZONA

FRI JAN 11 - SUN JAN 13	10AM	<b>ACE COMIC CON</b> (Gila River Arena - Glendale, AZ) Guests: Alexa Bliss, Charlie Cox, Charlotte Flair, Lilian Garcia, Tom Hiddleston, Roman Reigns, Krysten Ritter, David Tennant. Events, showcases, and more!
SAT JAN 19	6PM	<b>LIBCON</b> (Chandler Hamilton Public Library) 9th Annual LibCon event for teenage fans of comic books, manga, anime, role-playing (cosplay), gaming, and other fandoms! Maker panels & K-Pop shows.
SAT JAN 26	TBD	<b>LIBRARY FANCON</b> (Tempe Public Library) Tempe Public Library Comicon is a free pop culture convention in Tempe run annually by the public library. 2016 attendance was 2,500 with 40 vendors.
FRI FEB 22 - SUN FEB 24	TBD	<b>LADY DEATH FIEND FESTIVAL</b> (Mesa Marriott) Hosted by comic book writer Brian Pulido, creator of Lady Death, initially as a way to celebrate the opening of his museum and the Coffin Comics Store.



ON THE COVER: UFP member Dave Williams leaps through *The Guardian of Forever*.

## THE UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX

Welcome to the Southwest's oldest *Star Trek* and science fiction fan organization, continuously operating since 1975. The UFP is a collective of like-minded men and women from all walks of life who get together to have fun, engage in activities, and celebrate our shared love for *Star Trek*. Inside these pages is "Subspace Chatter," our official monthly publication, which highlights science fiction and fandom events, spotlights our members, and provides a resource for all things related to the UFP! If you are into Sci-Fi and are in the Metro Phoenix area, consider attending one of our meetings. We would be glad to meet you. Drop us a line at [info@u-f-p.org](mailto:info@u-f-p.org) for more info.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF SUBSPACE CHATTER

The UFP storms the AZ Science Center for a night educational fun with a twist. VFX Supervisor David Stipes goes hands-on in the creation of a memorable *Star Trek: The Next Generation* creature. Dave Williams celebrates the landing of NASA's latest Mars mission: InSight. Lee Whiteside rejuvenates his long-running *SF Tube Talk* for a new audience. The club plans our next Christmas Angels event. We highlight the latest *Star Trek* news, rumors, and so much more!



### The United Federation of Phoenix

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