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March - April 2003



USS MALVERNE  NCC-2205

# THE PHOTOPP

## FARPOINT 2003



The CO digging out the Ops Chief's car.  
Where was she? Who do you think took  
the picture? <G>

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# The View from Vulture's Row

## Admiral Tony Rowley

*"Being a stealth pilot is one of the most labor intensive and time constrained types of flying that I know. We have very strict timing constraints: to be where you are supposed to be all the time, exactly on time, and that has to be monitored by the pilot. For example, during a bomb competition in training in the US, I dropped a weapon that landed 0.02 seconds from the desired time, and finished third!" -- Lt. Col. Miles Pound, USAF*

Well, we survived the Blizzard of '03 - our Ops Chief and I were marooned at 'Snowpoint' for a couple of days longer than planned. 'Survived' isn't quite the word I'd use - for the most part being marooned at a con was a good time, so it was a bit more fun than simply enduring the experience. Of course, some times were more fun than others... I'll leave the real tale-telling to those who do it better than I, but a few tidbits follow:

- "Oh [expletive]" - half-whispered first impression of the blizzard at 0700 Sunday
- "Behold, the Mug of Doom!" - very large Tennessee Vols thermal mug wielded by Yours Truly
- "This is the con that never ends..." - sung by more than a few, exact origin unknown

I strongly recommend Farpoint next year, whether or not it snows. The BS quotient was very low all weekend; only one major tantrum was observed and that was from one of Starfleet's denizens who chronically needs a diaper change anyway.

Speaking of diaper changes, there are a few folks at various echelons within the organization for which I'd like to dispatch the Clue Fairy on a priority mission - life's too short for the petty nonsense that goes on. Like shrieking monkeys in a zoo cage, there are a few folks in Starfleet who take the whole thing way too seriously and spend a measurable percentage of their time flinging dung and doing whatever other objectionable things zoo visitors see caged primates do. Perhaps William Shatner was only doing a 'bit' on Saturday Night Live a long time ago when he shouted 'Get a life!', but there's a lesson in that shout that most of us have learned and some never will. We can still hope, however, that somewhere some understanding is gained that we don't want their titles and gew-gaws and we don't want their 'territory' - truth is that we don't need it, never did. It's not about that sort of thing.

*"Never stop being a kid. Never stop feeling and seeing and being excited with great things like air and engines and sounds of sunlight within you. Wear your little mask if you must to protect you from the world but if you let that kid disappear you are grown up and you are dead." -- Richard Bach*

Spring is finally here in this part of the world, even as the storm clouds of war roll in on other continents. At present two members of the Malverne 'family' are elsewhere in the service of Uncle Sam. Past 41MSG OIC Jason Phipps is deployed in preparation for a peacekeeping stint in Kosovo and Flight Ops Officer Joe Kelly is deployed overseas helping provide aeromedical support for Operation Iraqi Freedom [Belated congrats as well on the arrival of a little one to Jason and his wife Heather - Colin Thomas Phipps]. When I have additional information on what we can do to help them out, you'll get it ASAP. In the meantime, those of us with the leisure to do so should start brainstorming [if the process hasn't started already]... what do we want to do this year aboard the Malverne? The mailbox is never full and the door is always open, so let's hear from you. The listserve is a good place for discussion, so post 'em there if you like as well.



Right after Spring comes Summer - it's not too late to make plans for Shore Leave, so by all means get on it and avoid the rush and resultant headaches. Summer's a busy time all over Fleet; as always, we'll forward items of interest to the Malverne list or mention 'em here.

That's all I have for now - see you next issue [if not sooner]!



Spring break was waaaay too short. My article this month will be short, since I've got a lot going on. I'm just looking forward to the R1 Summit in April. It should be very interesting.

Matt

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The "Hot Wired" crew is lucky enough to play with some amazing new technology. Lately, the devices coming through the studio doors have a lot to do with the war in Iraq. Take, for instance, the ChemBio Decision Aid software and the Medical Reachback kit developed by the Center for Emergency Response Technology, Instruction, and Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology.



These are tools for first responders -- firefighters, police officers, HazMat teams -- who do not have a medical background. The ChemBio Decision Aid software runs on Pocket PC-powered handhelds -- in this case, a Compaq iPaq. Should a first responder arriving on the scene of an emergency suspect there's evidence of a chemical attack, he or she could diagnose a person's symptoms using the software.

The program asks for basic information -- sex, age, weight -- and basic symptoms: How is the person breathing? Is he or she sweating? Are the pupils dilated? Based on this information, ChemBio Decision Aid offers up possible scenarios and treatments.

The iPaq also has a wireless modem and GPS capabilities, allowing this information to be sent back to the command post in real time, and other data to be transmitted to those on the scene. Floor plans and pictures can be sent, for example, while GPS helps those outside the building keep track of crews on the scene.

The ChemBio Decision Aid is currently being used on a pilot basis by Atlanta-area Fire Departments. The Medical Reachback is a portable kit that includes a wearable computer, a webcam, and medical instruments and can be used with the ChemBio Decision Aid software. The components of the kit are connected via a wireless network that emergency response personnel can use to transmit data about possible chemical attack victims to off-scene medical professionals for further diagnosis and treatment instructions.

Dr. Tom Bevan, director of the Center for Emergency Response Technology, Instruction, and Policy, said there are very few doctors in the world who have treated patients for chemical or biological agents. This scenario would allow those doctors to weigh in on the diagnosis and treatment over a secure, real-time Internet connection.

The entire kit, as it is assembled now, carries a price tag of between \$2,500 and \$3,000 dollars. However, Bevan notes the center bought all of the components for the kit at regular retail prices. He says the Reachback could be less expensive, if equipment were purchased in bulk or directly from the manufacturer.

When will the Reachback make it into the field? According to Bevan, it's possible it could be on the scene within the year.





# Hailing Frequencies

## Lieutenant Commander Morgan Kirby



It's that time again. Time for me to try and remember last month and what I've got planned for the next one. Several things happened, but the most fun was taking a road trip to meet up with our CO, Tony. Early on Saturday, March 15th, Kristen, Mom and I got in the car and headed up I-81. After stopping at Mom's favorite truck stop/Wendy's for lunch, we went on to Staunton. Traffic held Tony up, so we had to wait about an hour in the parking lot for him. After checking in, we went up to our room. There was a cute little rubber ducky in the bathroom, which we all fought over. Mom took care of that and got us more from the maid later.



After fixing up, we went to the Staunton Mall to do some shopping before the movie. It was so funny watching Mom try to get pictures of Tony shopping in Claire's. Next we went to the theater to watch "Chicago", thanks to Tony. It was so good that I went back to see it again in Kingsport.



Back at the hotel we decided to try out the pool. After going to all that trouble to find one with an indoor pool, ours had a broken heater. Kristen got in and right back out, but Tony braved it a while longer. I sat on the side. <G>



Even being around a pool makes you hungry. While waiting for Domino's to deliver, we looked over what all we had bought at the mall. Tony tried out the new blanket that we bought him. Now we all have one!



The next day we did some sightseeing. Staunton is an old town and has lots of pretty old houses and buildings. We saw the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson, too. One thing we had to see was the Jumbo Museum, since Tony is a fireman. "Jumbo" is a 1911 Robinson Chemical Fire Engine completely restored by the City of Staunton Volunteer Fire Department. It is the only surviving fire truck of its kind in existence. This truck was the first motorized fire truck of its kind to be used in the State of Virginia. The fire department itself is one of the oldest in the State, organized in 1790. There was a wall of patches, which one was from Bristol, VA! We go to Bristol all the time.

Our next trip will be to the R1 Summit in Pigeon Forge, TN. Mom and Matt are the only ones of our crew that has been before. Kristen and I are going to wear our Asian dresses to the Saturday night dance. Finally, a place to wear them! See you next issue!





## Science Lab

### Lieutenant Kristen Hawkins

#### **Solar cells less pricey, more efficient**

Every minute, the sun bombards Earth with enough energy to supply its power needs for a year. Yet only two one-hundredths of a percent of all the electricity fed into the U.S. grid originates from sunlight. The world still largely relies on diminishing supplies of environmentally unfriendly and politically destabilizing fossil fuels.

Despite decades of research, it's still cheaper to burn coal than get power from the sun. But photovoltaic technology is improving efficiency and lowering costs for solar power, and experts believe the development will in the next few years drive solar adoption far faster than any government incentives or environmental concerns.

"Today, if solar energy were available in a quantity and at a cost comparable to fossil fuel, it would be a revolutionary change," said Stephen Empedocles, business development director at Nanosys Inc. The Palo Alto, California-based startup is working on photovoltaic cells so small and cheap that they can be sprayed or even painted onto surfaces.

Solar power research is proceeding on two fronts: Making cheaper versions of crystalline silicon cells that comprise 80 percent of the solar market, and creating less expensive photovoltaic technologies with the reliability and efficiency of crystalline silicon.

All the research is built on semiconductors, which absorb the sun's photons. Electrons are bumped along a predictable path by those photons until the current flows into something useful, such as an appliance. This photovoltaic effect, first noticed in 1839, is the same way the flow of current is manipulated in computer logic and memory chips.

In fact, moneysaving advances in the chip industry, such as increasing the size of silicon wafers and perfecting how they are sawed from ingots, are now being exploited in photovoltaics, said Dan Shugar, president of PowerLight Solar Electric Systems.

Since the 1950s, the uses for solar power have exploded. It's no longer limited to such specialty uses as satellites, remote cabins and highway call boxes. "Now, it's cost effective against grid power for homes and businesses in states that have the incentives," Shugar said.

Yet manufacturing costs remain relatively high, making solar power as much as five times more expensive than energy from fossil fuels -- before tax credits and other incentives that states such as California offer.

To lower costs, companies and researchers are trying different types of semiconducting materials, including amorphous silicon and gallium

arsenide. These materials are also more flexible than crystalline silicon. Rather than being grown as crystals in high-vacuum chambers, they can be deposited in flexible thin layers, making bulk production cheaper.

But there's a catch: Such photovoltaics harness about 8 percent of the total energy in sunlight, compared with about 15 percent for crystalline silicon. "You basically get half as much electricity from the same amount of sunlight," said Thomas Surek, program manager at the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo.

Ways to boost efficiency include layering photovoltaic cells so they capture a wider portion of the sun's range of energy. Another involves using lenses and reflectors to concentrate more sunlight on each cell.

These techniques do raise the overall cost, but the Boeing Co. subsidiary Spectrolab, which makes solar power systems for satellites, has used them to reach a record efficiency of more than 34 percent -- in the lab. Researchers found sunlight can be concentrated as much as 500 times.

The most futuristic approach involves arranging nanosize semiconductors in a matrix of plastic-like materials that are expected to be less expensive to produce. Nanosys is working on nanorods that are just 7 nanometers by 60 nanometers in a polymer.



*Dr. Stephen Empedocles of Nanosys sits by a transmission electron microscope at his company. In the foreground is a bottle containing nano composite solar material in liquid form before being integrated into active solar material.*

Because of their size -- a nanometer is about 10,000 times narrower than a human hair -- nanorods are arranged by chemical reactions.

"The manufacturing of nanocomposite solar cells is more like the production of photographic film, which is done in extremely high volumes ... with miles of precisely engineered materials per day at extremely low costs," Empedocles said.

The efficiency should be on par with crystalline silicon within three years, he said. But there are doubts over how quickly such technology might be on the market. "That is an interesting technology to watch but today it is not a viable technology," said Nasser Karam, director

of advanced programs and optoelectronics for Spectrolab. "I would suspect with a lot of government funding, the feasibility will probably show in three to five years." Though some are skeptical about the future technologies, companies that sell today's solar-power systems note that traditional photovoltaics are dropping in price and eventually pay for themselves even at today's costs. PowerLight even touts some of its systems as added protection for roofs. "Those other technologies are really interesting and I hope they succeed, but we don't need those to succeed for us to succeed," Shugar said. "We're not betting our future on one technology horse."



## 41st MSG "An Fianna"

Kimberly Brooks, Senior Flight Surgeon

Our MSG is growing, with a total of 12 members at this time, all reservists. One sub-group is gathering hard to find items and treats to send to Joe Kelly while he's overseas. If you would like to include something, or have any suggestions, please let me know.

I have found out that the Acting 6th BN OIC is not acting anymore. Major Sonny Wright has been officially appointed, and we hope to hear from him soon. His email is SovsBorg@aol.com if anyone needs to reach him.

We've had some activity with the SFMCA recently. Matt Brooks has taken two SU courses, while I've taken the last IN one. There a rumor going 'round that a member of the 41st is going to apply for a position within the marine academy.

What problem does the 7th BDE OIC have with our Unit? We never miss a report, our unit is growing, we participate in everything that we can, even contribute to the 7th's newsletter. Never mind that it wasn't included. An oft-repeated offense is Matt Brooks being removed from the 7th BDE list. When questioned by the 4th BN OIC, MCPT Ricky Bruckman, Marty Lessem said, "I don't recognize him as DOIC, or even a member of the 7th BDE." Apparently, he holds it against Malverne members who live outside Region 7. Never mind how SFI feels. Funny thing though, I wasn't removed from his list, yet I live in the same house as Matt. Go figure \*that\* one out.

Meanwhile, the 41st is going to do their thing, and see what happens on the battalion and brigade level. Maybe things will pick up, though its hard to follow a leader when he's not there or has another agenda.

Marching on...







## Operations Commodore Kimberly Brooks

I survived Snowpoint, had a wonderful time, got to meet several of my favorite authors and had them sign their books (thanks to Alex), saw some old friends, and made some news ones. It was a blast! Check out my page at [www.geocities.com/visual\\_logs/snowpoint-03.html](http://www.geocities.com/visual_logs/snowpoint-03.html) for lots more pics from this event.



*Outside our hotel room early Sunday morning.*

Next up is the R1 Summit. Since it is practically in my backyard, I want to go. Tony will be there, and is bringing along new buddy Ricky Bruckman of the Avenger. We're going to represent R7 with a party in our room on Friday night. The Malverne will be well represented, with Rani, Chris, Matt, Morgan, Kristen, Tina, Tony and me all there.

### **USS Malverne Anniversary**

This April the Malverne is 13 years old. Going by the date of commissioning, that is. She's been around a long time, and plans on staying for many, many years.

### **New Crew Member**

Though he's been part of the Malverne for some time, Owen Swart is now officially a member of our crew. He's been given the SFI rank of Commander, and will serve as the Command Attaché to the CO. Owen will still be captain of his ship and crew, the USS Inkosi.

### **R7 Awards**

Tony has put several of the crew in for awards. Personally I've submitted *The Photorp*, USS Malverne, and Tony for Newsletter, Chapter, and CO of the year respectively.

### **USS Malverne Shuttles**

Besides our first shuttle, which is now the USS Banting, we have fictional shuttles aboard the Malverne. After polling the crew, the following names have been submitted:

**Haruko**  
**Trinity**  
**Boone**

**Morning Star**  
**Haven**  
**Crockett**

**Budo**  
**Dakota**  
**Resolute**

**Sulacco**  
**Rowley**  
**Sacajawea**

### **R7 Holiday Party Bid 2003**

The Malverne, Sovereign, and Richtofen are working together on a bid for this party. If we're successful, it will be held at the Hyatt at Penn's Landing. Cross your fingers!





# Ship Services

## Lieutenant Rani Good

### Crew Birthdays

#### March

3rd - Morgan Kirby  
3rd - Sheila Iserman  
9th - Joe Kelly

#### April

27th - Bill Iserman



### Crew Fave Sites

#### **Spike's Star Trek Site**

<http://www.st-spike.de/>

**Baen Free Library** - [www.baen.com](http://www.baen.com)

**Daystrom Institute Technical Library** - <http://www.ditl.org/>

**Starship Schematics** - <http://www.shipschematics.net/>

**NASA: Exploring Mars and Beyond** - <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/mars/>

**The X Prize** - <http://www.xprize.org/>

**Commander Tomalak's Trek Animations** - <http://members.tripod.com/CmdrTomalak/>



### Conventions & Events

#### **4/25-27**

R1 Summit

Contact: Kimberly Brooks - [kimi@chartertn.net](mailto:kimi@chartertn.net)

#### **5/4**

MS WALK - Philadelphia Art Museum

Contact: Susanna Reilly - [operations@ussthagard.net](mailto:operations@ussthagard.net)



#### **6/7**

USS Triton Picnic

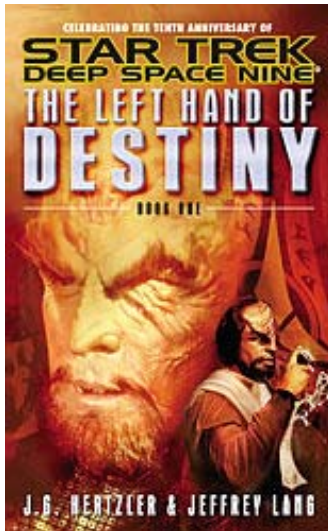
Contact: Gary Ensey - [gmensey@aol.com](mailto:gmensey@aol.com)



# Left Hand of Destiny - New Books Out

It has been seven years since J.G. Hertzler was first cast as the warrior's warrior, 'General Martok' on DEEP SPACE NINE, and three years since Pocket Books first approached the actor who brought the character to life about writing the story of Martok's return to Qo'nos as Chancellor of the Klingon Empire, following the Dominion War. Despite a few hitches along the way, this two-part saga is about to see the light of day. Co-authored by Jeffrey Lang, STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE: THE LEFT HAND OF DESTINY, Book One hits bookstores this April, with Book Two following in May.

## Book I



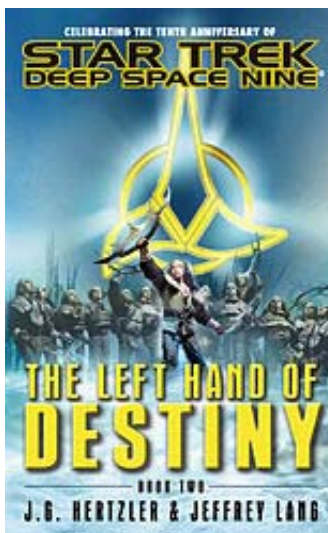
*"The Klingon Empire is dying...and I think it deserves to die."*

With those words, Lieutenant Ezri Dax propelled Lieutenant Commander Worf to the most fateful decision of his life -- to vanquish Klingon leader Gowron in honorable combat and install in his place a lowborn, one-eyed soldier of the empire who might lead their people back to the path of honor.

Under the weighty mantle of chancellor, General Martok led the forces of the empire to victory in the final Allied assault against the Dominion. Now, with Worf at his side as the newly appointed Federation ambassador to Qo'noS, Martok at last is coming home, bringing with him the hope of a bright new future for his people.

But the new chancellor's triumphant return to the Klingon homeworld is met by treachery and upheaval. As the demons of the general's past rise up, so too does a usurper to the Imperial Throne, one who knows exactly how to crush Martok and all who stand with him - and who won't be satisfied until they are ashes under the foundation of a new Klingon Empire.

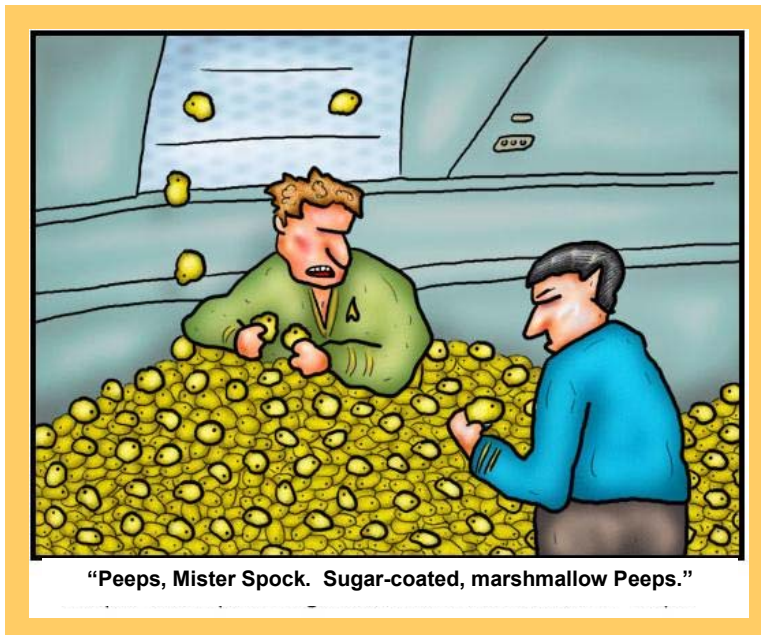
## Book II



*"The true test of a warrior is not without...it is within."*

Sins of the past collide with hopes for the future as Martok fights for the right to lead the Klingon Empire. With the secret of his usurper exposed, the ousted chancellor and his ragtag band of followers embark on a desperate plan to retake the empire.

But while Worf, Ezri Dax, and the crew of the IKS Rotarran go in search of the Klingons' most revered icon of power, Martok is dealt the most crushing blow of all -- driving him to make his final stand on the ice-strewn cliffs of sacred Boreth. As that frozen world reverberates with the song of armies and bat'leths clashing, the mystery of Martok's past, and the future of the Klingon Empire, is revealed.



# "Judgment"

## Enterprise Episode Review

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Great heroes need great antagonists to confront and oppose. TOS created two great antagonist races, the Romulans and the Klingons, which every TREK series has continued to use and which, arguably, none have improved upon. But even though the Klingons were key antagonists for the original Enterprise crew, ENTERPRISE until now has been stuck with a TNG-era view of the pop culture foe: somewhat troublesome allies, not ruthless conquerors and slavemasters. This is probably because the show's producers date back only to TNG. The Klingon Empire in "Judgment", however, is shown as a true empire complete with the enslaved races that were there in TOS and seemed to have been forgotten about by the 24th century. "Judgment" does not entirely upstage the TNG view of the Klingons but it comes closer to the TOS view, which is a vital necessity if ENTERPRISE is to retool itself into a better TV series

Where during ENT's previous Klingon encounters, the ridged-ones could mostly be talked around to the human view of things ("Unexpected," "Sleeping Dogs") or dismissed as rogue elements ("Marauders"), "Judgment" is the first Klingon-centered episode where they don't do the reasonable thing by the end of the episode and instead take a decidedly hostile course of action by sentencing Archer to life in an arctic Klingon gulag. Whether this will translate into a change in how the Klingons relate to humans in future episodes, when Archer has become a fugitive from Klingon justice, depends on whether or not the producers will choose to uphold series continuity or not. "Judgment" itself, though, is certainly full of TREK continuity references, from 'Captain Duras' suggesting a relationship to Worf's antagonist to major elements of ST VI, including the tribunal set design and the dilithium mines of Rura Penthe complete with abusive guards and a variety of alien scum.

Captain Archer himself is also closer to Kirk in this episode than he's ever been thus far. He displays courage and determination rather than the impulsiveness and obtuseness that have so often characterized Archer. Former Martok actor J.G. Hertzler also creates a better character in the form of 'Kolos', an aging and disaffected gruff Klingon lawyer out of place in the new order. Of course Kolos' speech about the warrior class having taken over Klingon society is rather dubious at best since the Klingons are not the Romulans or the Cardassians. The warrior class hasn't taken over their society; violent confrontation is the basis of their society, culture, and biology from the times of 'Kahless' to the 24th century.

Even Klingons who were part human or raised by humans like 'Worf', 'K'heylar' or 'B'Elanna' inherited it. That speech along with Archer's clichéd homily about the human past smacks of an attempt to humanize Klingons into just another yet-to-be-civilized culture along human lines like the Cardassians or Ferengi.



These days UPN seems to bill just about every ENT episode as an ENT Event, but "Judgment" is one of the few episodes that are worthy of the name. Everything from the direction to the actors is just right with an episode that appears to cover a lot of ground and with each character, no matter how minor, making a distinct impression. The visual effects and production design departments have outdone themselves again. Money was clearly spent on this episode and it shows in the FX of the exteriors of the Tribunal and the Klingon ship and the Tribunal interior, which does its best to reproduce the original and unique Klingon set design of ST VI, from a courtroom that's narrow but sweeps high upwards to the Klingon judge's alien gavel.



Overall "Judgment" is the series' first solid Klingon episode. Where prior TREK spin-offs produced filler Klingon episodes to boost ratings with the appearance of a popular race, this episode has a decent grasp of continuity, a viewpoint and a message. It has its flaws. Archer's rescue is more originally accomplished and plausible than a standard starship rescue might have been, but its abruptness and lack of build-up with an offhand comment by T'Pol makes the conclusion seem rushed. Had "Judgment" seen Archer captured and put on trial for any of his prior negative Klingon encounters, it would have boosted continuity and freed up more time for a heartier conclusion to the episode which, like many TREK episodes, now suffers in the reduced running time (39 vs. 44 minutes) that UPN has provided.



# Visual Logs - Snowpoint

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

# MATRIX RELOADED

In the second chapter of the Matrix trilogy, freedom fighters Neo (Keanu Reeves), Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) and Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) continue to lead the revolt against the Machine Army, unleashing their arsenal of extraordinary skills and weaponry against the systematic forces of repression and exploitation. As their quest unfolds, Neo learns more about his super-heroic abilities, including the ability to see the codes of the people and things around him.

Simultaneously, now, more humans are waking up out of the Matrix and attempting to live in the real world. As their numbers grow, the battle moves to Zion--the last real-world city and center of human resistance. In their quest to save the human race from extinction, they gain greater insight into the construct of The Matrix and Neo's pivotal role in the fate of mankind.