

First Star Trek movie merely misunderstood

by Scott McCullar

Battalion Staff
With "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan" doing so well at the box office now is a good time to re-examine "Star Trek: The Motion Picture," especially since both the movie and the TV series are being reshown.

For those unaware of background details behind "Star Trek," here are some which may make "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" more enjoyable.

First, Paramount Studios completely owns Star Trek and has total creative control and responsibility for it. Gene Roddenberry, Star Trek's creator, no longer has authority over his creation — as he did during the first two seasons of the series — which explains a lot of the film's problems.

"Star Trek: The Motion Picture" seemed doomed from the start, for it was bound to disappoint audiences no matter what story it told. If too much like the TV version, it would be condemned for being television on the big screen. If too ambitious, it would be unfaithful to the old series.

The first Star Trek movie probably had to fail in order for Star Trek to grow, even as the pilot episode for the series. "The Cage," later reworked and expanded into the "Enterprise" episode, "The Motion Picture" was rejected by network officials. But from these rejections the Star Trek concept grew stronger.

Gene Roddenberry's novelization of "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" is a more satisfying version of the story — it supplies subplots and explanations left out of the film due to running time restrictions.

ABC will be showing "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" this season and it may contain some of these missing subplot scenes:

●Kirk and McCoy had a major falling out when Kirk accepted a promotion to admiral. McCoy and Spock both know that Kirk is best suited to be a starship commander and is wasted doing anything else — a point brought out again in "The Wrath of Khan." Kirk's denial of this to himself served to touch off Spock's and McCoy's departure from Starfleet.

●Kirk is a hard-nosed character in the first half of "Star Trek: The Motion Picture." But this is for a reason. He has found out that Starfleet Command promoted him to make use of his image as a legendary starship captain.

The fury he feels from years of wasted potential make him, as McCoy observes, use the Voyager emergency to get the Enterprise back because he truly needs to command a starship to be complete.

The fact that he finally realizes this makes his reunion with McCoy in the transporter room that much more enjoyable.

●Kirk had an affair with a female fellow staff member while in the admiralty which helped him accept his role of administrator somewhat. She is one of the two people killed in the transporter malfunction on board the refurbished Enterprise.

●The navigator, Lt. Ilia, is a Deltan. Deltans of both sexes emit subliminal scents — pheromones — which attract humans of the opposite sex. Deltans in Starfleet, however, are sworn to celibacy, because their race is so highly evolved sexually

that they can cause neurophysiological damage to a human should they mate with one.

Dr. Chapel refers to this subliminal effect when she mentions that the Ilia-probe has duplicated the real Ilia even down to the exocrine system — including the pheromones.

●Mr. Spock's attempt forever to rid himself of his human emotions, and Voyager's search for its creator go hand in hand. Voyager searches for its creator because it wants to know the reason for existence.

The living machine beings that found Voyager 6 discovered that it had something they lacked — purpose — in the form of its programming. During Voyager's journey back to earth it realizes that all the knowledge in the universe is worthless without a purpose for its use, something Voyager decides it can only get by joining with its creator.

For Voyager simply to transmit its accumulated knowledge would afterward leave it with no purpose for further existence. Voyager and Spock are linked empathically with the realization of the importance of human emotion.

Spock learns he was wrong to try to rid himself of his emotions, that his pure logic would lack reason without them. Although he is neither truly Vulcan or human, he is a being with the best traits of both races.

He seems to be truly comfortable with this realization in "The Wrath of Khan."

"Star Trek: The Motion Picture" is called a failure as a film. I like to think it is merely misunderstood, which would not be the first time for Star Trek.

Play of Ninfa's life in Houston

United Press International
HOUSTON — People familiar with the struggle of Ninfa Lorenzo in parlaying a floundering tortilla factory into a million-dollar chain of restaurants have been singing her praises for years.

Now, it's being done on stage. "Ninfa," opened Friday at Miller Outdoor Theater and the \$300,000 production, which stars Dolores Wilson as Ninfa, will run through July 24.

Show officials believe the musical about the widowed Hispanic mother of five who became a multimillionaire and owner of a successful growing restaurant business has potential for Broadway.

"It's like a trip down Memory Lane for me," said Lorenzo, the chairwoman of the board of Ninfa's Inc., a corporation operating 13 Mexican restaurants in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

Last year the company had sales in excess of \$30 million. More restaurants are planned for California and Nevada.

At the age of 23, Ninfa Rodriguez of Harlingen married Tommy Lorenzo, an Italian Jewish man and couple opened a small tortilla and pizza dough factory in Houston's barrio in 1948.

They worked around the clock for almost 20 years, aided

frequently by their children.

But Lorenzo, whose dream was to open a Mexican restaurant, died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1969.

Laurenzo told her children the family was going to carry out their father's dream. She mortgaged her home, opened a restaurant and the six of them went to work.

The business grew and in 1976 they opened a second Ninfa's in Houston. Three years later the family ventured into San Antonio and in 1980 opened three restaurants in Dallas and two more in Houston.

"She is a great American success story," said lyricist Jim Ber-

nard, who with artistic director Frank M. Young wrote the play. Show officials hope to obtain financial backing to present the musical on Broadway.

Laurenzo, a friendly woman who usually has a smile on her face, said she is "a mother first and a businesswoman second."

"I wear many hats, but I have to decide when to be a mother and when to be the chairman of the board," she said.

She said Bernhard and Young interviewed her many times before they wrote the script, and although she had never thought before her life was material for a production, "I guess it has all the ingredients."

Circus is coming to the Superdrum

For entertainment appealing to all ages, nothing beats the circus.

And for the 111th year in a row The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus has been thrilling young and old alike.

This summer Texas residents can see the magic of the circus at the Frank E. Erwin Center in Austin July 30 through Aug. 1.

Known for ages as "the greatest show on earth" the cir-

cus promises to have tigers, chimpanzees, bears and elephants — a regular performing zoo.

Also appearing will be daredevils, acrobats, clowns and showgirls.

And for even more adventure, an aerialist who recently performed the incredible quadruple somersault for the first time in public will be featured.

For ticket information call (512) 477-6060.

Play at Backstage

The one-act play "Where Have All the Lightning Bugs Gone?" will be presented at the Backstage Restaurant and Bar Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Written in 1971 by Louis Caron, a professor of theater at William and Mary College in

Virginia, the play is about a boy and a girl who meet in a park and try to start a relationship by being honest with each other about their feelings.

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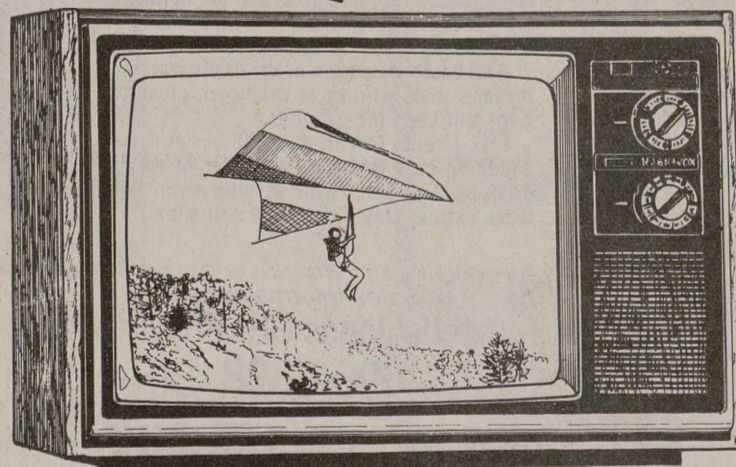
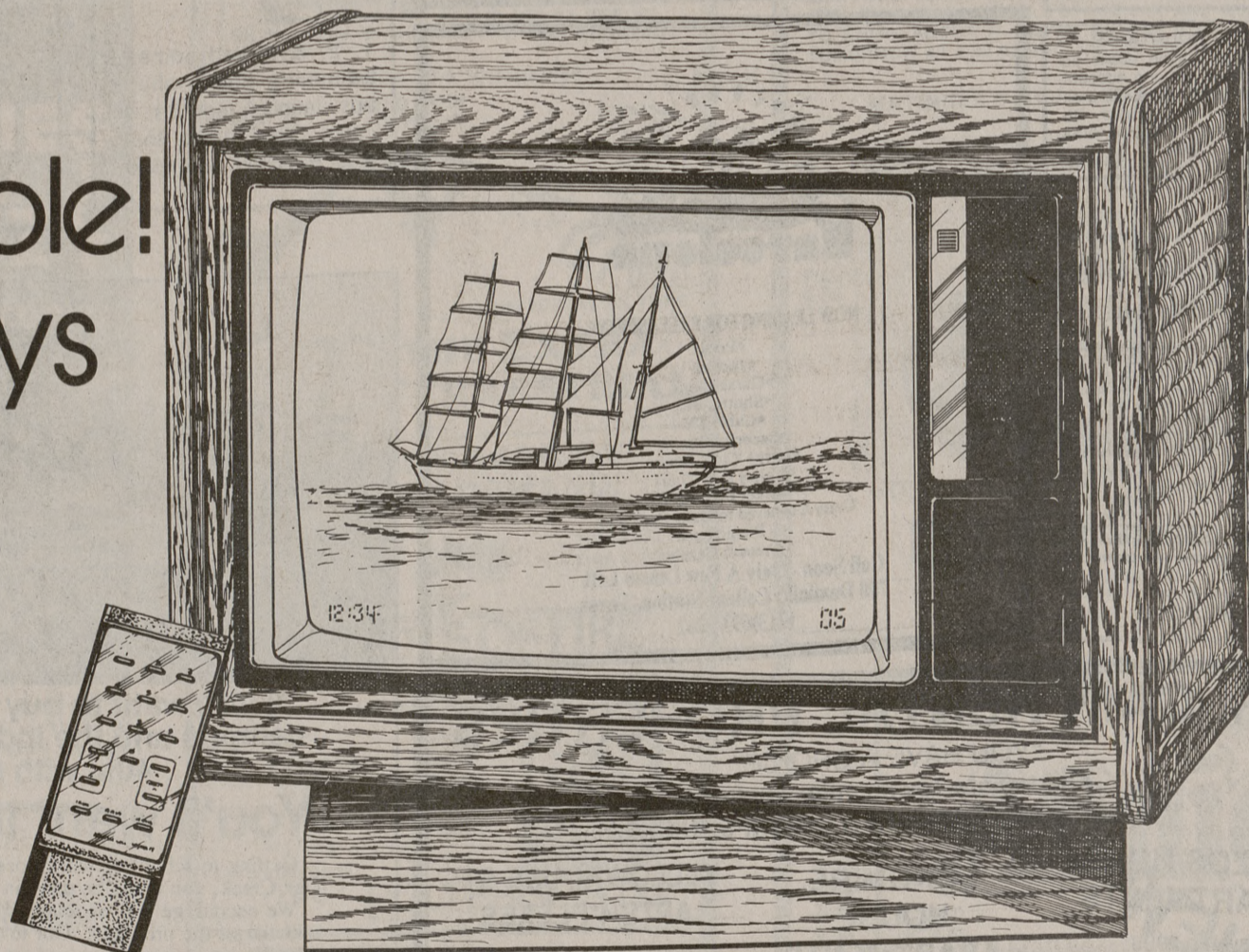
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