



"When we grow up... man, we're going to be something!"  
- Gene Roddenberry

THE HILL VALLEY  
**Alert Nerdian**



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Priceless and/or Free

**TREK '08: PREFACE**  
by Matt Springer

<http://tinyurl.com/2dqsl3>

Paula.

Not the prettiest name for a high-school crush. Because of the opening "P," it sort of explodes from the mouth in an unappealing way, then becomes the verbal vomit of the "-aula," so it makes a sound like someone spitting in your face, then barfing on your shoes.

Nevertheless. Paula was a crush, my crush, during the spring of my sophomore year in high school, when our all-boys institution finally satisfied the desires of ten of its gayest students and started a drama club. Our debut production was *West Side Story*, and Paula was a dowdy, blousy Maria with not a speck of hispanic blood in her body. Seriously—she was PAINTED SLIGHTLY YELLOW USING MAKEUP.

Which naturally has you thinking, "What does a young Matt see in such an odd choice for a crush?"

That's an easy one. The day I first saw her, she was wearing a *Star Trek* T-shirt. Not any old *Star Trek* T-shirt, but one depicting the cast of the 1966-69 series, or The Original Series, as most nerds know it.

And that was literally her only virtue, as it turned out. Of course, this took me months to figure out, during which time I fantasized about us cuddling together on a couch in some imaginary living room or den, our heads touching tenderly as we thrilled to the exploits of Kirk, Spock and Bones on the flickering television before us.

It's not that I didn't like, y'know, HOT CHICKS as a teenager. It's just that to my tiny and fragile mind, the idea of a GIRL who liked *STAR TREK* trumped everything else. The mere concept was literally unimaginable to me, like a horse piloting the space shuttle.

It was not the first idiotic situation *Star Trek* got me into, nor would it be the last

More Trek '08 @ [AlertNerd.com!](http://AlertNerd.com)

**FANBOYS IS AIRWOLF**

by Chris Stewart

As a premise it is both wonderful and odd. In *Fanboys*, four friends make a road-trip to steal and see a not-yet-released Star Wars Episode I before one of them dies from his terminal cancer. Fantastic!

Now here's the odd part. Conceived nearly ten years ago when George Lucas first announced his epic prequel, the time period the film references has come and gone, making it a geek period piece.

Screenwriter Ernie Cline began production of the film himself, tapping into the Austin independent film scene (the only way the film was ever likely to hit a screen around the same time as *The Phantom Menace*), but the script soon found its way into industry hands, and *Fanboys* went from indie-geek to Hollywood chic. I can't believe I just typed that.

This led to years of waiting as development slowed to a crawl, until the film was acquired by a freshly minted Weinstein Co. and everything caught fire. A hot young cast, the thumbs-up from George Lucas, and cameos by everyone from Kevin Smith and William Shatner to Billy Dee Williams and the world's most patient fanboy, Cline himself. Now everyone is poised for the world's first Star Wars dramatic-comedy (not counting the *The Ewok Adventure*.)

The only question now is when will *Fanboys* find a safe landing zone in a genre heavy 2008 ("Cloverfield incoming! Break right!")

While you wait, why not read up on Mr. Cline in an interview *Alert Nerd* conducted in the Spring of 2003! No, we can't believe it either.

More Ernie @ <http://tinyurl.com/297ore>

**GEEK CV: JON COLLINS**

by Sarah Kuhn

<http://tinyurl.com/3e4wr3>

Have you ever had one of those D&D games? You know the ones. Someone refers to someone else as "just a stupid elf" and suddenly the character sheets are awash in sensitive elven tears. Or a particularly temperamental druid gets all pissed off at the DM for hogging the last piece of pizza (because the DM always gets the last piece of pizza) and it ends with everyone cursing everyone else's immortal souls to eternal damnation (ie, "As long as we both shall live, you will never be invited to my apartment for *Farscape* night EVER AGAIN").

Not that those things have ever happened to me or anything. Ahem.

But for those of you who have intimately experienced the glorious highs and excruciating lows of all things RPG, well, Jon Collins feels your pain. Jon is an awesome geek actor who executive produced and stars in the nerd-friendly flick *Fellowship of the Dice*. The film is a funny and affectionate look at nerd life and features Jon as Larry, a talkative gamer/aspiring actor with a penchant for yoga.

*Alert Nerdian*: Please share your geek CV.

Jon Collins: Gamed when I was younger. Had a ton of action figures — still do. I have every season of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* on DVD, but for



the longest time, I taped them when they aired and I had them in specially-made boxes that a friend of ours put together. [My partner and *Fellowship of the Dice* writer-executive producer] Tom surprised me [with that] as a birthday present one year. They were labeled and had different pictures of the cast on them. I have the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* board game. I play the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* role-playing game. I have 150 comic books at home. We have a lot of different types of role-playing game books at home. We have *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Champions*, *Silver Age Sentinels*, *Aberrant*, *Trinity*, *Tunnels and Trolls*. We have a ton of board games. My idea of an ideal New Year's Eve is having a bunch of people over with some drinks and we play board games all night and have a bunch of movies playing, usually with a theme — one year we did superheroes, one year we did all the *Lord of the Rings* movies, including the animated *Hobbit*. So, total nerd and proud of it.

More Jon Collins @ [AlertNerd.com!](http://AlertNerd.com)

**redshift  
awesome!**



- Stephen Fry and his *QI* quiz show.
- James Marsters snogging John Barrowman on *Torchwood*.
- The homestretch to *Trek*-style datapads Via MacBook Air / iTouch.

**blueshift  
boring.**



- American Gladiators. Again. Call us when they get knives and/or Richard Dawson.
- Record companies fiddling while Rome burns and movie studios rosining up.
- "\_\_\_\_\_punk".