



Questions & Answers



Was it like a bombshell for you, or more like the death of a terminally ill loved one—long expected, but still

bringing a pang of loss?

I'm talking, of course, about UPN's Feb. 2 cancellation of *Enterprise*. The word came down as we were almost to press, but as I write this days later, all kinds of new questions—and ramifications—are starting to sink in. Beyond the short-term fate of *Enterprise*, what does this move and the recent turnover at Viacom and Paramount mean for the entire franchise?

As Rick Berman says in one of our most frank "Updates" ever, even the pending movie is simply in the regular development track at the studio, at two to five years away—at least.

Of course, at presstime many fans were vying not to go down without a fight. The ongoing email/letter/fax campaign was stoked, and rallies were even being planned for Grand Slam convention weekend March 11-13 at UPN and Paramount Pictures sites, according to Tim Brazeal of *SaveEnterprise.com*. As I type this, that group and *EnterpriseProject.com*, uniting as *EnterpriseFans.com*, were fund-raising for an ad in the *Los Angeles Times* in a last-ditch effort to spike ratings and win a reprieve—fearing the fate of *Enterprise* signals an end to all future *Star Trek*.

Regardless of those longshot labors of love, I'm betting that the power of *Star Trek*'s universal appeal will always be found profitable on the business side; in a Hollywood that loves a familiar franchise, it will hardly be abandoned forever by its corporate parents. The Paramount/Viacom execs will bet on a breather, a fallow time where fandom can retrench and then grow hungry once again for new adventures, just as in the 1970s. The only question is, how long? And in which medium?

So, you young whippersnappers who've only come aboard since that bald English captain had a Klingon in his crew, welcome to a world with no active *Star Trek* in production. Never fear: We've been here before, and it's not the end of the world!

In fact, now is the perfect chance for fans to "take back" their favorite universe—reinvent it, reexamine it, view it through the lens of the burgeoning 21st century. No one *but* fans will be driving the show for a while; grass-roots fanzines, local clubs, conventions and fan films can really mean something again. Of course, it's not a total '70s *déjà vu*; this time around there's the Internet and 'way more quality goodies than we had back then. Not to mention 746 hours of *Star Trek* on DVD—not just 79 hours in syndication that you still had to catch live, in the pre-Betamax days.

Yes, the silver lining of this dark cloud means it's a time to stop, catch your breath and go back to the roots of the optimistic, outreaching future vision Gene Roddenberry gave us. And to recall why you and your family or your buddies enjoy revisiting it in various venues, over and over again.

Meanwhile, count on this: There *will* still be collectibles, the Pocket Books novels, *startrek.com*—and of course your Official Fan Club and *Communicator* magazine. After 25-plus years, we're not going anywhere—and neither is *Star Trek*.

What are you planning to do in the new "Era of the Fan"? Drop us a line at steditor@decipher.com and share it—and be sure to say hi at Creation's Grand Slam in March. And look for much, much more on all this in upcoming issues!

Larry Nemecek

MANAGING EDITOR