

'Trek' fans start camp devoted to Klingon

RED LAKE FALLS, Minn. (AP) — A dozen or so fervent fans of *Star Trek* may truly have reached the final frontier of Trekkiedom: A two-week language camp devoted to the study of "tlhIngan," the Klingon language.

For Trekkies, little explanation is needed. Klingons are the warlike, alien adversaries of the crew of the starship *Enterprise*. Those in other orbits, however, might be tempted to ask how to say, in Klingon, "Get a life."

"That's not fair. We have a life," said camp organizer Glen Proechel. "These are people who are highly trained professionals and this is something they do as a hobby. I think it's a little bit more creative hobby than going bowling or going fishing for the weekend."

Lawrence Schoen, a linguistics professor at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, played a Klingon ambassador in opening ceremonies.

Rich Yempell, a software engineer from Stoughton, Mass., beat his chest with his leather-gloved fist — the Klingon salute — as a gloomy Klingon battle song played.

Acknowledged by his peers as the best non-native speaker of Klingon, Yempell goes by the Klingon name "HoD Quanqor," or Capt. Krankor.

"Maj," he said approvingly and launched into his own solemn version of the Klingon national anthem as a young boy raised the black alien flag.

In the imaginary universe of *Star Trek*, Klingon is a planet whose inhabitants were always fighting with Capt. Kirk and the United Federation of Planets (the original TV series) until an uneasy alliance was formed (the new movies).

In the original *Star Trek* series, Klingons spoke clear, if grouchy, English. But by the time the movie *Star Trek III* was being filmed in the mid-1980s, producers decided Klingons needed a language of their own.

The result was a working language with its own alphabet, syntax and sounds — "as unlike any language we know on Earth as possible," said Proechel, a Spanish instructor at the University of Minnesota at Crookston.

It also captures the essence of the cruel Klingon race. As the inventor of Klingon, Marc Okrand, put it on the audio cassette "Conversational Klingon," "Spitting is quite appropriate."

Donna Herbster, a research instrument maker for NASA, traveled from Cleveland for the seminar.

"My favorite Klingon phrase is 'Jiajbi,'" she said, dressed as a Klingon marine lieutenant. "It means, 'I don't understand.'"

Service told in Klingon

RED LAKE FALLS, Minn. (AP) — The reading at St. John's Lutheran Church told the story of the Tower of Babel — in Klingon, one tongue God didn't include when he confounded the languages.

Klingons are the alien adversaries of those on the *Star Trek* starship *Enterprise*. And they are imaginary, but that didn't stop Glen Proechel from planning a Sunday service in "tlhIngan," the Klingon language.

"Sometimes you have to use fiction to deal with the problems of real life," said Proechel, director of a two-week camp in northwestern Minnesota where the Klingon language is being taught.

About 50 people attended Sunday's service. Proechel translated the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed into Klingon.

The term Holy Spirit presented a problem, because Klingons aren't big on holiness, nor spiritual things. So Proechel constructed the term "honorable alien" — or "Nov Bath," in Klingon — to describe the third person of Christendom's Trinity.

Proechel also translated the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

And there was the story of the Tower of Babel, when God prevented Noah's descendants from building a tower to heaven by confusing languages; and the story of tongues of fire coming down on the heads of the apostles as they spoke in other languages.

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The Rev. Roger Raebel, the Church's pastor who played organ at the Klingon service, was pleased with the event.

"I think it flowed very solemnly. It was a worship service," he said. "As the church, we have to learn to speak the language of the children with the Gospel of Christ."

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