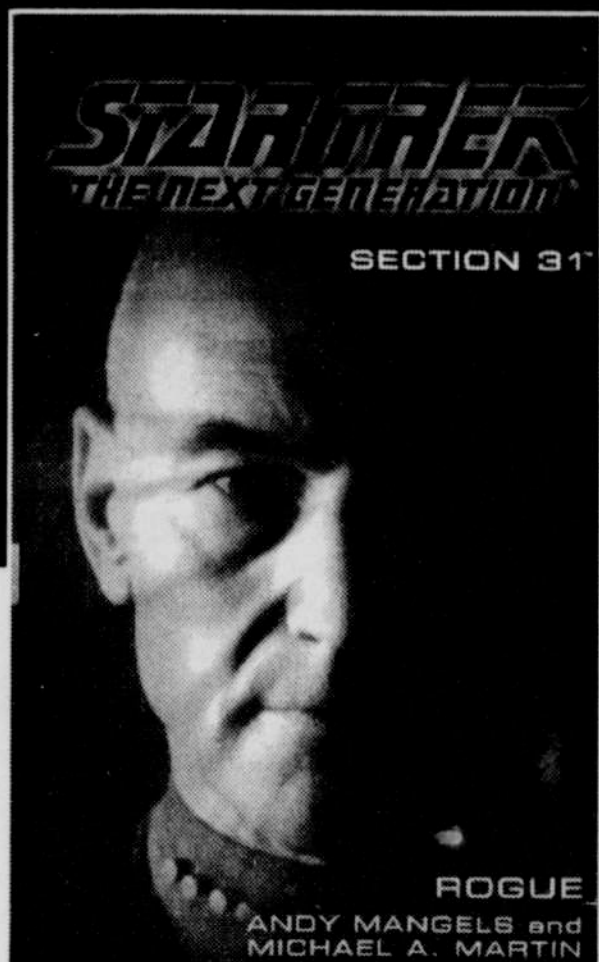


BOOKS



Where no man has gone before

Portland writers warp science fiction to a new dimension BY PETER ZUCKERMAN

One scene features Hawk and his partner talking in their bedroom. He wishes he could discuss the decision he must make—a decision that will affect the fate of his ship, a world and possibly the universe itself. The novel also includes wiry, triple-jointed aliens wielding Samurai swords.

The high-tech thriller hooks you from the start. Picard, staring out the window at Earth, thinks to himself, "Population approximately 9 billion...all Borg."

Mangels treats homosexuality the way it should be treated in the future. Hawk's same-sex attraction is not the focal point of the character but a defining piece of a complex personality.

"Through the character of Hawk, readers will see how the concepts of duty, loyalty and love are universal in their essence, as are the ways these qualities are tested in every individual," Mangels explains. "In this year of *Star Trek's* 35th anniversary, we're immensely proud to be able to offer in our novel not only a story of action, adventure, intrigue and heroism but

SECTION 31: ROGUE
by Andy Mangels and Michael A. Martin.
Pocket Books, 2001; \$6.99 softcover.

Although few science fiction novels hinge on queer characters, beam over to a major *Star Trek* convention and you probably will have to choose which gay fan club you want to join. Our community has embraced this genre—we relate to the aliens and outsiders who come from other planets and don't fit into the known world.

The original 1960s *Star Trek* television series helped missile through social prejudice when it featured an interracial kiss in prime time, and the recently concluded *Voyager* featured a female captain. However, despite galactic letter-writing campaigns and petitions, this purportedly socially progressive show has suffered a stratospheric subspace distortion: Queers do not seem to exist in the future.

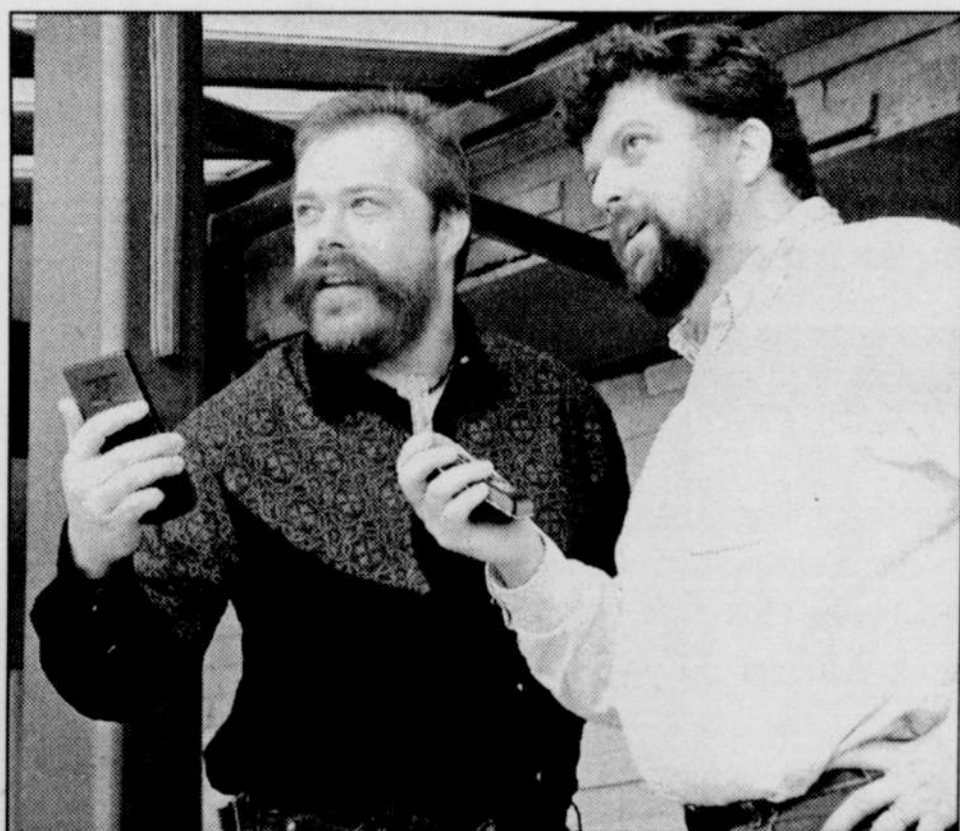
Gene Rodenberry announced in a 1991 interview with *The Advocate* that the fifth season of *The Next Generation* regularly would feature identifiably gay and lesbian characters. But after he died a few months later, his heir Rick Beman apparently had no intention of keeping this promise.

Tons of Internet sites and newsgroups on the Internet have long lists of PG- to NC-17-rated *Star Trek* love stories written by fans, many of which are queer and some of which have won awards. But queer content has failed to surface from the *Star Trek* underground and into the mainstream.

Until now.

Just Out contributor Andy Mangels has co-authored a *Next Generation* pivotal thriller. *Section 31: Rogue* pits Capt. Jean-Luc Picard and his crew against the futuristic version of the Navy SEALs, the covert protectors of the Federation. The thriller transports readers back six months before the Starship Enterprise battled the Borg for the fate of Earth.

The novel introduces Lt. Hawk, a young homosexual officer. When a diplomatic conference goes awry, he becomes entangled in a web of revelations, conspiracies and betrayal.




Andy Mangels (left) and Michael A. Martin beam down a good story

also one that continues *Star Trek's* lifelong celebration of human diversity and the power of the human heart."

Mangels is a veteran of science fiction writing and *Star Trek*. He has written for *Star Trek Monthly*, *Star Trek Explorer*, *The Advocate*, *Outweek* and *The Mercury*. His comic book writing has been published by DC and Marvel Comics, and he was editor of the award-winning *Gay Comics* for eight years. He also has written licensed material for Lucasfilm, Paramount, New Line, Universal and Warner Bros.

His co-author, Michael A. Martin, also wrote with Mangels at Marvel Comics. They recently signed contracts to produce a second collaborative *Star Trek* novel for Pocket Books, this one with characters and situations from the original series.

Even if you don't know your Borgs from your Klingons, you still can enjoy *Section 31: Rogue*. For lots of great info and links, cruise over to www.andymangels.com/section31. 



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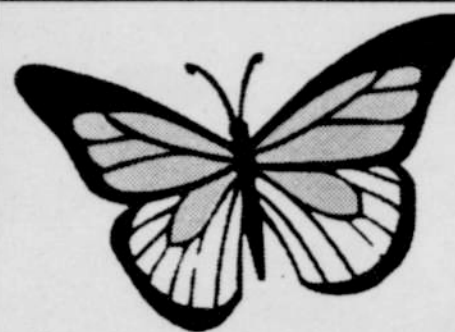
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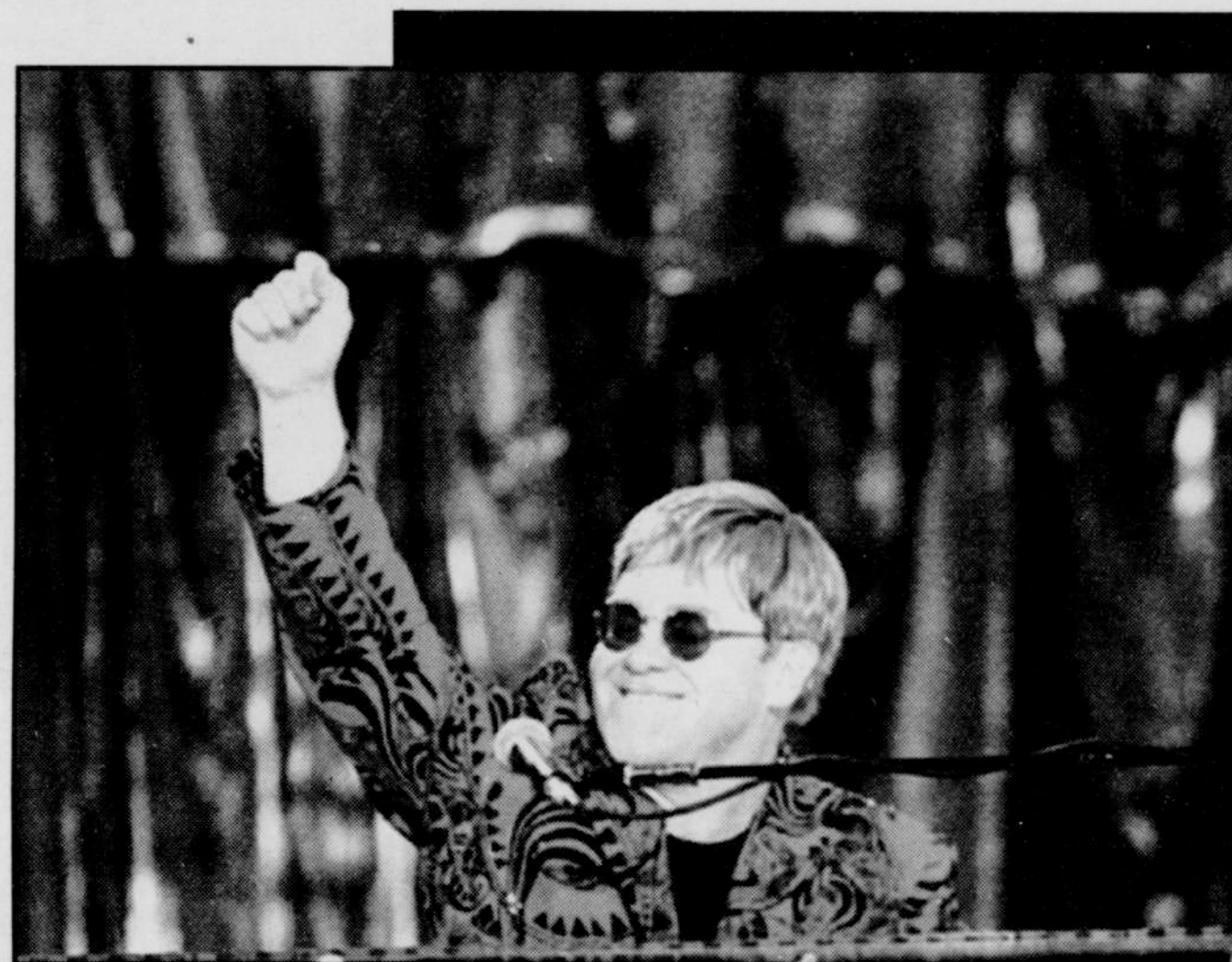
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