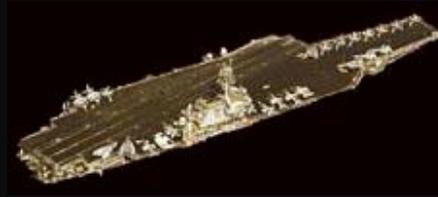


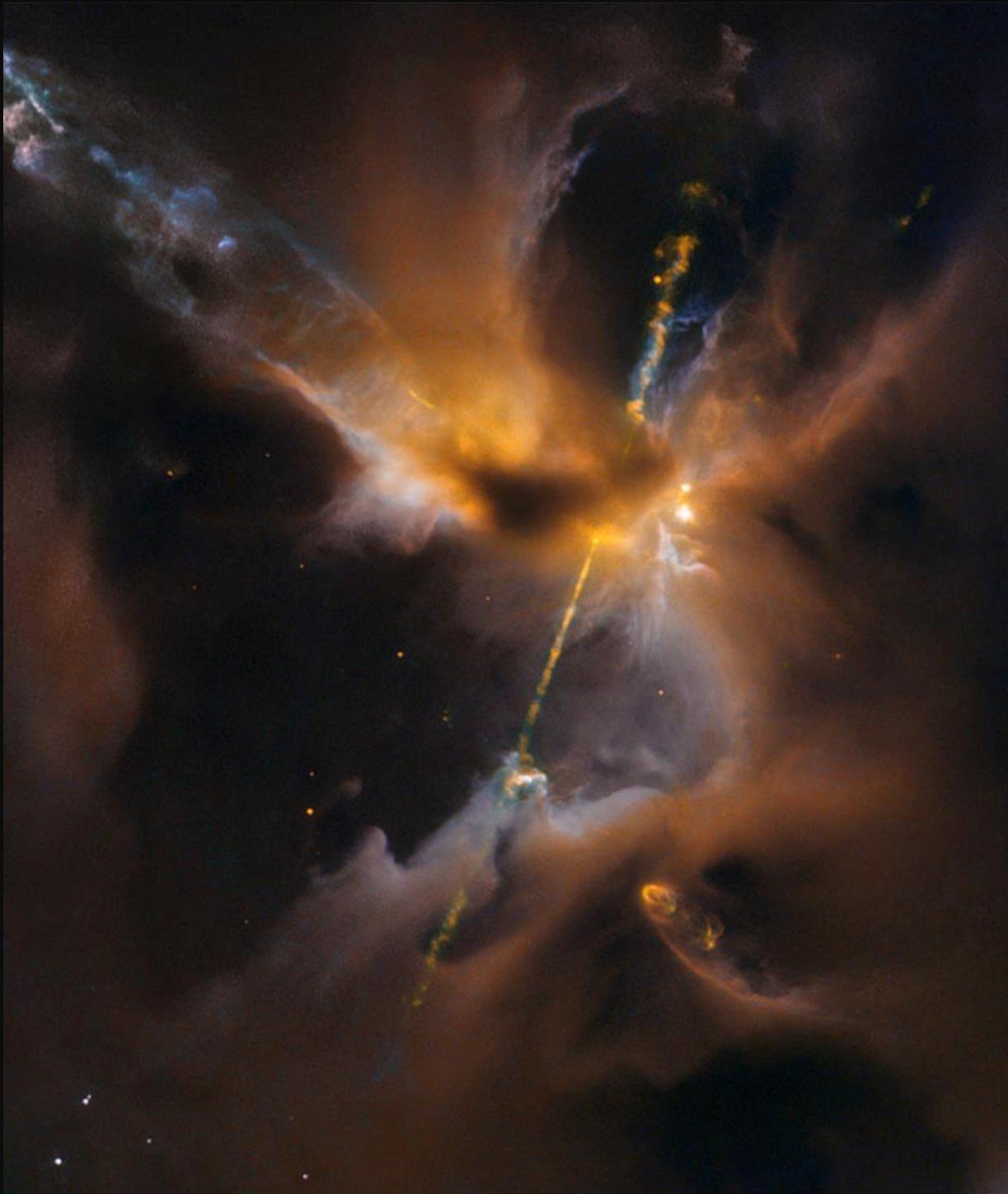
THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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IMAGES - Title Banner

Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from navicp.navy.mil; *Constitution* class cruiser from gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk.

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

The Force Awakens in a Newborn Star: This celestial lightsaber does not lie in a galaxy far, far away, but rather in our home galaxy, the Milky Way.

<https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iotd.html>



Extra Note from the CO: Mea culpa time.... As much as I tried getting the newsletters back on schedule in late 2021, it was ultimately unsuccessful and I fell even further behind in getting things unstuck as the process wound across my desk. Part of this was owing to work increasingly overwhelming me—but it turns out that's also when I began to sink into a period of severe anxiety and depression that deepened through much of 2022. I even had to take 3-4 months of leave from CO duties to help right the (mental) ship. I am now pulling out of it, with the help of regular therapy and a small mix of medications from my doctor.

From a Kitty Hawk perspective, I'm slowly starting to get caught up on everything. However, it's gonna take a while since I did fall so far behind on, well, everything for the last year and half. I'll provide more updates in next issue's Center Seat column.

The Center Seat

By John Troan

We're trying something different with this issue, simply to attempt to get us back on schedule. The Jul/Aug issue is still in my hands for proofing, but I'm going ahead with writing my Sep/Oct articles before completing the prior issue. (My articles are also going to be fairly short so that I can get things turned around faster.) Hopefully, this actually works and the Nov/Dec issue will be out on time. ☺

We're continuing our food and toy collections at November and December meetings. The websites for the [Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC](#) and [Toys for Tots](#) have a way to do a virtual collection (i.e., monetary donation)—and you might be to designate it's on behalf of the U.S.S. *Kitty Hawk*. (If you do, please include our website URL so they'll know it's us and not the U.S. Navy carrier)—<http://www.jt-sw.com/kittyhawk>.)

As I write this, we have a virtual dinner and gaming evening/night planned for Oct 23. We did this as a half step toward eventually doing in-person game nights. Unfortunately, I don't know yet when we'll be able to do them again.

I'll close with quick reminders that we have [Hallmark Trek ornaments for sale](#) and our quartermaster has some T-shirts still in stock. (Please contact me if you're interested in either of these.)

Esse Quam Videri and Stay Safe!

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

The [website](#) is mostly up to date now, but I do need to include the new Region One URL (r1.sfi.org) on the webpages. By the time this issue is published, I hope to have the next installments of the [latest on-line story](#) posted.

And no Comp Ops Report is complete without a few NASA updates)—

- [The James Webb Space Telescope is being readied for its December launch.](#)
- [Perseverance collected its first Martian rock sample.](#)
- [Ingenuity captures a 3D view of a Martian rock feature.](#)
- [InSight finds three "big" Marsquakes.](#)

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

Boeing's *Starliner* is having problems, again. The latest capsule on the launchpad was removed in an attempt to locate a problem. The problem concerned multiple valves that remained closed even after being 'commanded' to open. According to Kathy Lueder, who is in charge of NASA's exploration missions, another launch this year now looks doubtful. Also, NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel has concerns, and they are working with Boeing. The canceled mission makes two that had to be scrubbed, and *Starliner* has yet to complete its commercial crew program safety flight without crew members. Boeing has not released any further updates on its launches.

NASA's *Psyche* spacecraft is set to receive a new form of propulsion. No, not warp drive, not yet, anyway; it's solar electric thrusters. The thrusters use electromagnetic fields that cause xenon gas atoms to accelerate and, when expelled, produce thrust. The thrust is moderate but eventually the spacecraft will reach 200,000 miles per hour, to make the 1.5 billion mile voyage in 3.5 years. This will include an out of the

way journey that will allow the craft to gain speed with planned flybys. The craft is designed to explore the asteroid with the same name, Psyche. It's thought to be a core of a destroyed proto-planet from early in the solar system's formation.

SpaceX has managed to 'land' another \$152 million NASA contract to launch multiple weather satellites. Those satellites will be part of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-U or GOES-U Mission. The satellites will relay advanced visual and atmospheric measurements of weather, ocean, and the environment. Also, it will provide more accurate monitoring of solar activity and the mapping of lightning activity.

Astra Space, Inc., experienced a failure during its test launch. Saturday, August 28, the Air Force test payload was launched from the Pacific Space Port in Alaska. However, it did not reach its expected orbit. No word on what went wrong or when another attempt will be made.

On September 6, the first two samples were taken on Mars by *Perseverance*. These samples will be returned to Earth by a future mission. It's a first for NASA and unmanned missions. While samples have been returned from the moon or asteroids, this is the first to be returned from another planet.

Megan McArthur is currently serving as a NASA astronaut and spoke frankly about the idea of 'space tourists.' She gave them a stern warning and insisted that space travel and life aboard the space station "...is uncomfortable, risky, and requires grit. Orbiting Earth isn't all fun and games." Her list includes not being able to do laundry, not showering (sponge bath only), sleeping in bags, and more. Spaceflight itself is 10,000 times riskier than a typical commercial airline trip.

As I previously reported, the International Space Station has a finite life, and NASA is stating that its demise may be as early as 2024. Furthermore, NASA is not interested in building a new unit and said it will rely on independent contractors outside of the space agency. Sierra Space and Axiom Space have both begun work on commercial space stations. The current station has been experiencing a number of small air leaks. None are life-threatening, but they are a general indication of its age and the need for a new facility. Commercial crew and commercial supply programs will cost NASA \$30 billion to build a new station. The current space station cost \$150 billion, of which NASA paid the largest portion. Also, it costs \$4 billion a year to operate. Axiom says it can build a new station module for \$1 billion. The cheaper cost is accomplished by using existing technology and methods. It took 40 missile launches to get the current space station ready. The new agencies say they can be ready in just two missions. Money formerly spent on the space station by NASA will be used on future moon and Mars missions.

ULA (United Launch Alliance) is closing down production of the Atlas V rocket. The first step in this decision was ceasing purchases of the RD-180 Russian-made main engine. Starting in 2002, the expendable launch vehicle was the most widely used unit and its customers included NASA, the U.S. military, and Amazon. However, following Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014, Congress ordered a halt to using the Russian-made rocket motors. The company has been working toward that goal and only a few launches of the Atlas V remain. Afterward, they will transition to the new launch vehicle, the Vulcan rocket. (I like that name!) The Vulcan rockets will use BE-4 engines from the Blue Origin Group.

Boca Chica National Park has a number of unique types of wildlife, including sea turtles, many birds, and ocelots, of which there are only about 60 in the United States. On March 30, one of the *Starship* prototypes blew up, and it took three months to clean up. Regardless, the launches are disrupting the nesting habits of the birds and, where there were once hundreds of nests, now there are only a few. The launch schedules include permission from the state to close area roads for a maximum of 300 hours. However, the local Fish and Wildlife Service has noted over 1,000 hours of closings.

The 300-hour limit has been violated in 2019, 2020, and this year as well. This situation was featured in a report on *60 Minutes Plus* and as of writing this, no solution has been proposed.

A new aircraft company, Hermeus, has begun work on three prototype hypersonic aircraft called *Quarter-horse*. The contract will include pilotless or remote piloted aircraft that are capable of mach-five speeds. More importantly, the work will project the feasibility of civilian airliners. That will mean New York to Paris in 90 minutes! The power will come from a TBCC engine, (Turbine-Based Combined Cycle). That's a dual-function engine that works like a standard turbine but has a ramjet component for higher speeds. That eliminates the need for two different engines. The aircraft will have the capability of speeds averaging 3,836 mph!

The *Airlander 10*, nicknamed the 'Flying Bum,' is getting close to regular service. It's a cross between an airship, a helicopter, and an airplane. It will be capable of transporting 100 passengers on short hops but with a major difference: lots of room and no cramped seating, with first-class treatment for all. Artist renderings show living room-type seating, and it's being called a flying mansion. The best part of the aircraft is its ability to land anywhere, even on water! It's basically a cruise ship in the sky. It can be easily reconfigured in many ways to suit needs and purposes. While not as fast as a conventional airplane, it will be a much more relaxed and enjoyable way to travel. As a bonus, it will emit 90 percent less CO2 than a conventional aircraft. Currently, the *Airlander* is in testing and must complete 200 incident-free hours of travel before being certified. By the way, the name 'flying bum' is a reference to it looking like someone's butt.

Spirit Innovation is the name of a test airplane for Rolls Royce. However, it is not a jet aircraft, it's electric. It's a one-seat airplane with a 6,000-cell battery pack. It has an expected speed of 300 mph. Rolls Royce is working with Technam and the ultimate goal is an electric airplane, but it's a difficult task because of the weight of the batteries. The present means of electrical energy storage is not the solution, so a new system is needed. Therefore, research and testing continues.

Soar is another new electric aircraft, an eVTOL, liquid hydrogen fueled unit. The Paragon Company has made a new aircraft that looks like a combination of an airplane and a helicopter. What's most impressive is its range of 300 to 800 miles, depending on loads. Since it's not entirely dependent on batteries for power, the range is better than most electric aircraft. The fuel cell option is good since it's proven technology and easy to maintain.

The newest version of Boeing's 787 *Dreamliner* will not be delivered until late October. The reason? The FAA has stated that it will not inspect them! The company has about 100 undelivered 787's that FAA inspectors tagged as needing various repairs and fixes before delivery can occur. The FAA will continue inspections once it receives updated documents from the company regarding in-house inspection methods and procedures.

Approval to continue flights has been given to Virgin Galactic by the FAA. A safety investigation was initiated when *Spaceship Two* left its authorized airspace during landing. Virgin Galactic did not report the variance and the FAA made it very clear that all changes must be communicated to ensure public air safety.

Aerion Supersonic Aircraft Company had to close its doors permanently owing to money problems. The company, operating out of Melbourne, Florida, had hoped to build a Mach 4 passenger aircraft. It's a shame, as the company had planned to employ 675 workers. Right now they are not sure if existing assets will be sold intact or piece by piece. Each AS2 airplane was to be priced at \$120 million and the company had projected \$11.2 billion in sales.

Locally, RDU Airport is looking to create a new runway and has posted the plans publicly as it seeks permission to begin work. The Airport Authority says the new runway is necessary as the current one is getting old. (It was built in 1986.) Also, it is only 10,000 feet long and a new one will be 11,500. The added length is needed for international flights. (Most airports with international flights have 14,000 foot runways.) RDU is looking at expanding its international flights, including China as a destination! Public review of the plans is available, and there will be open meetings. By the way, runways are not just 'wide highways,' they have to be able to support 300,000-pound airplanes and therefore are built with five feet of fill and pavement. The fill will come from recycled concrete from previous demolition projects.

The first battery-powered freight train made an appearance in Pittsburgh, on Friday, September 17. Wabtec and Carnegie Mellon University teamed up to create the prototype. Five hundred lithium-ion battery modules replace the usual diesel engine. The new system is known as the FLXdrive Battery Electric Locomotive. Eventually, the engine will include hydrogen fuel cells. What the new system will mean is 300 million tons of emissions can be eliminated worldwide.

General Motors issued a recall of all Chevy Bolt EV cars built from 2017 to the current models of 2021. Battery packs were made with a defect that causes fires. Some of the cars have two such defects, which increases the risk of fires. The recall will mean replacing all defective battery packs, which will cost about \$1 billion to repair the 73,000 cars with the problem. If you have one, contact GM or Chevrolet immediately.

Tesla is promising a new type of car, the Model 2, with a projected base price of \$25,000, sometime in 2023. Musk still insists that, at the same time, he will be premiering a fully self-driving car. His idea went so far as to suggest that a car can be built without a steering wheel or pedals. Of course, he's said this before when he showed pictures of a car equipped that way. At the time, he said such a car would be ready in just two years. Well...when you predict the future, you take chances. Also, a Tesla on autopilot ran into a police car in Orlando, Florida, launching an investigation into

eleven such cases since 2018. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration called for the investigation and will run it independently of Tesla. Although no one died in that particular accident, seventeen people have been injured previously, and one person did die. By the way, Teslabot, a humanoid robot, is being developed with artificial intelligence. The prototype will be available next year, but experts say it will take some time to perfect.

A follow-up on the reconstruction process of the Notre Dame Cathedral project includes a somewhat delayed effort owing to COVID-induced suspension of work. However, some work has resumed and progress is being made. Current focus centers on removing the remaining 300 tons of scaffolding that was in place during the fire and was heavily damaged and weakened. A major decision was made to completely restore the building exactly as it was before the fire. Therefore, no modernization or alterations will be made. That will include the wooden spire and all original materials will be used as well. This seems to be a good decision as it was well received by all concerned, including the general public. The interior has been completely cleaned, and the grand pipe organ has been dismantled and removed. Work has been steady but so much needs to be done, and the COVID outbreak isn't helping any. However, all the vaults and towers have been reinforced and the building is now ready for reconstruction. Next in line will be the awarding of more than 100 contracts for various types of work. The most intricate and difficult of these involves the restoration of the enormous pipe organ. It was struck by falling debris and filled with lead contaminants from the roof. In any event, the church will be open to the public in 2024, which will be in time for the French Olympics. However, the restoration process will be far from complete.

Air conditioning is now being considered as the #1 contributor to global warming, more so than cars and other vehicles. Why? When A/C refrigerants were banned by laws passed in 1987, CFCs were replaced to reduce damage to the ozone layer. It worked, but their replacement, HFCs, are heat trapping greenhouse gases, thousands of times more dangerous than CO2. If you're not sure how much of a problem this is, consider this. At current rates, ten A/C units will be sold every second for the next thirty years. That rate will undoubtedly increase as the temperatures rise, owing to the global warming created by the A/C units!

While walking the Crabtree Valley Mall, I noticed a sad milestone. The Think Geek store has closed. I went there several times while I was still working. After my retirement, the visits stopped, because of Covid issues and my cancer treatments. The store's closing was marked by posting of a humorous cartoon with Dr. McCoy commenting, "It's dead, Jim."

That's all for now.

ST: VOY - "A Fair Price"

By Brad McDonald

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

VOYAGER – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

KIM

Captain? I have a signal from the Malorans. It's Chancellor Benel's aide, Damar. Audio only.

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

Well I suppose it had to happen sooner or later. Looks like Benel is sending his hatchet man to do the dirty work. I'll take it here.

DAMAR (V.O.)

Captain. I've just finished reading the report concerning the death of our worker.

JANEWAY

Here it comes. Open a channel, Kim.

(beat)

Most regrettable. My engineer has informed me that he died while saving one of my people. A commendable and brave action.

DAMAR (V.O.)

We agree. Just so you know, we harbor no ill will toward you and your people. We understand that accidents do happen. No one is to blame. Chancellor Benel asked me to relay this to you as he is with The Great Unifier. Perhaps he will have a decision regarding your ship.

JaneWAY is greatly relieved and encouraged by the news.

JANEWAY

Thank you, Damar. We look forward to your next communication.

DAMAR (V.O.)

As do I, Captain.

A NEW ANGLE

KIM

Transmission ended, Captain.

JANEWAY

That was a lot easier than I thought it would be. Maybe these people are what we've been looking for.

TUVOK

Perhaps it is an indication of our changing fortunes.

PARIS

A Vulcan who believes in luck?

JANEWAY

Now I've seen it all. Maybe Neelix and Seven will have some more good news for us.

ENGINEERING – TWO SHOT – TORRES AND GREY

Grey enters, moving slowly. Torres is busy and continues to work as they speak.

TORRES

Mister Grey! I'm surprised to see you. I thought you were still in sickbay.

GREY

Just got out. I'm not 100 percent yet, but I thought I might be needed. I heard you were taking a rest under captain's orders.

TORRES

I'm okay now. Klingons can get by with less sleep than humans.

GREY

Does that mean your human half is still tired?

TORRES

(smiling)

No, it's preoccupied and can't sleep.

GREY

Maybe I can help.

Torres stops working and studies Grey.

TORRES

Maybe you can. I want to review the temporary repairs we made.

GREY

I can't do any heavy work, but I'll do what I can.

TORRES

All right. First of all, we have to do some basic repairs to help solve our mystery. Let's get started.

EXT. SPACE - MALORAN SPACE DOCK AND VOYAGER

INT. VOYAGER — CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM – WIDE ANGLE

Neelix and Seven are giving a report to Janeway, who seems preoccupied. Neelix is enthusiastic and doesn't notice her mood at first.

NEELIX

We've already made an arrangement for an exchange of foods to help provide us with a variety.

JANEWAY

Sounds good. Anything else?

ON NEELIX

NEELIX

It looks like I'll be able to sell some of my recipes as well. When I requested some food items for trading, Mister Paris made a few suggestions. Right now, he's making a deal with the Maloran merchant. He's attempting to set up a 'vendor's stand' in the market.

When Janeway fails to respond, Seven becomes concerned.

SEVEN

Captain? Are you well?

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

Sorry, I was thinking about an earlier incident. Your report sounds encouraging. While Torres was conducting a needs assessment tour, a Maloran was fatally injured.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

SEVEN

Wasn't the Doctor able to save him?

JANEWAY

The Malorans refused treatment.

NEELIX

Yes, we noticed that attitude on their home world. A resignation to their condition, right, Seven?

TWO SHOT - SEVEN AND JANEWAY

SEVEN

At first I thought it had something to do with their form of government, autocratic and almost oppressive. But it seems to have something to do with their medical science, which is very primitive. I saw a lot of suffering, but we didn't want to do anything until we reported to you.

JANEWAY

From what you could see, were the circumstances unusual?

SEVEN

No, just simple burns, broken bones, cuts, and general poor health.

Janeway jumps up, caught up in a thought.

JANEWAY

Do you think our doctor could treat these people?

SEVEN

Probably, most seemed treatable with basic first aid.

JANEWAY

Maybe they are resigned to their 'fate' simply because they don't know any better. It may be why the injured Maloran was allowed to die. With our advanced medical skills, we may have something to bargain with after all. We may be able to give them their leader!

BRIDGE – ANGLE ON ENTRANCE

Janeway enters with Seven and Neelix.

JANEWAY

(moving)

Kim, get me a channel to Chancellor Benel. I think we may have a bargaining chip after all.

KIM

Channel open, Captain. Chancellor Benel is responding.

ON JANEWAY - ANGLE FAVORING MAIN VIEWER

The image of Benel appears, and he remains formal.

BENEL

Captain, if you are calling in regard to your request...

JANEWAY

Actually, I believe I may have a way to resolve the issue. Talan, The Great Unifier, is very ill, and since we have many techniques for saving the life of --

Benel now develops a stern look and cuts off Janeway.

BENEL

You would introduce foreign substances into his body and even cut him open! This will not happen, Captain! The body is unique, a living temple. Its uniqueness will remain untouched. No, Captain, you may not 'help' us. Since you are unfamiliar with us and our ways, I will forgive you just this once. But I did warn you that our ways are different, and if anything like this happens again, you will be 'asked' to leave.

The transmission is cut off abruptly.

NEW ANGLE

JANEWAY

They allow their people to suffer and die without treatment?

TUVOK

The practice is not without precedent in the Alpha Quadrant.

CHAKOTAY

Even on old Earth. Captain, we better warn our shore parties. If one of our people should attempt to render first aid...

JANEWAY

Agreed, Commander, notify all our people. Neelix, I'd like you and Seven to continue your informal exploration of this unusual culture, but be careful!

NEELIX

Of course, Captain. Shall I continue with my arrangement to trade foods?

Janeway turns to Chakotay and Tuvok.

JANEWAY

Opinions?

TUVOK

I believe that had it been a forbidden practice, the merchant would not have been so open or willing to comply. However, I would recommend proceeding with caution.

CHAKOTAY

I agree, but it might be wise to limit the shore parties further.

TWO SHOT – JANEWAY AND SEVEN

JANEWAY

We don't have too many people on leave as it is. With so much repair work and injuries...

SEVEN

It may be a good idea, Captain, at least until we learn a little more about the Malorans.

JANEWAY

Very well. Commence rotation of shore parties ahead of schedule and limit the size of the groups.

Neelix and Seven exit.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

I hate waiting, though. I wish we could procure the materials, make our repairs, and leave. I have a bad feeling about this place.

ANOTHER ANGLE

CHAKOTAY

Don't worry, Captain. We're making some progress on repairs. We can use a bit of healing time ourselves. According to the Malorans, it's a long way to the next repair facility. Besides, out in space, we could be a target again.

TUVOK

We may still be. It is possible the aliens would prefer to attack while we are in a depleted state and trapped in port.

EXT. MALORAN HOME WORLD – AFTERNOON – CITY OPEN MARKET ON NEELIX AND SEVEN

Neelix is giving a cooking demonstration to some of the locals. Seven is watching him and observing the Malorans.

NEELIX

So you see, the secret in the spices is not only in how much you use, but the way in which you use them.

Seven now notices a nervous looking young girl, AURELIA, who is moving further into the small crowd.

NEELIX

(continuing)

Once you've blended the spice, let the dish simmer a bit longer, but keep stirring, like this.

As Neelix continues his demonstration, Seven notices the girl remains focused on Neelix and is getting closer.

NEELIX

(continuing)

Now, while that is going on, have your vegetables nearby. You will have to add them at just the right moment.

Neelix is so caught up in his work, he is unaware of the girl. Now Seven notices the girl has something in her hand. Seven becomes worried it may be an attack, and she moves to intercept.

NEELIX

(continuing)

You will notice that my vegetables are already diced...

Seven reaches Neelix's side just as the girl does. Neelix is still oblivious to what is happening.

NEELIX

(continuing)

...and coated in a light oil.

TWO SHOT – SEVEN AND AURELIA

Seven quietly escorts the girl to one side and confronts her, angrily.

SEVEN

What are you doing?

The nervous girl is now clearly terrified of Seven.

AURELIA

I...was just trying...to talk to the voyager...

A skeptical Seven reaches inside the girls tunic and grabs her hand, revealing the device.

SEVEN

Then what is this?

AURELIA

It's a communication unit.

Seven relaxes her hold and her attitude.

SEVEN

Why did you want to talk to Neelix? Has he violated one of your laws?

AURELIA

Oh, no, not at all. I just wanted to meet the captain of the ship. I thought he could take me. I may be able to help you and your crew.

Seven relaxes further, but is still skeptical.

INT. VOYAGER – BRIDGE – ANGLE ON ENTRANCE

Aurelia and Seven enter the bridge; conversation is in progress.

SEVEN

(moving)

We can check all systems from here, and the ship is capable of fully automated service if necessary.

Janeway approaches, smiling and friendly.

JANEWAY

Is this our visitor?

SEVEN

Yes, Captain. This is Aurelia; she is most anxious to meet you.

TWO SHOT – JANEWAY AND AURELIA

JANEWAY

I understand you wish to help us.

Aurelia is genuinely surprised and awed by Janeway.

AURELIA

You're a woman! I had no idea.

Janeway is a bit amused by the 'revelation.'

JANEWAY

Why, yes. But then, so is my chief engineer, and Seven, here, is a valuable crew member as well. It's part of our basic belief that all beings are equal, no matter who they are. Now, what was it you wanted to help us with?

Aurelia is timid and nervous.

AURELIA

It's about my father. I want you to help him.

JANEWAY

And how will that help us?

AURELIA

Because my father is Talan, The Great Unifier. And if you help him, I will guarantee that you will receive the help that you need.

Janeway and the others are shocked by her revelation.

JANEWAY

But what you are asking is a direct violation of all your beliefs. How could you ask us to do this?

Now the girl becomes very emotional and nervous.

AURELIA

You don't understand. If my father dies, I become the next leader! I can't do that! I don't know how! I can't lead all of my people. I wouldn't know where to begin.

JANEWAY

But surely you have been trained for your --

AURELIA

(interrupting)

No! All my life I've been tended to and pampered. I have people to work for me and think for me. I've never had to do anything. Now they expect me to lead them. I can't do it!

ANOTHER ANGLE

SEVEN

Perhaps your father will recover on his own--

Aurelia is still frantic about her situation.

AURELIA

(interrupting)

No! He will die! I've been with him today; he won't live unless you help!

TUVOK

Surely you must understand our predicament. If we assist you, the Chancellor will force us to leave before our repairs are completed.

CHAKOTAY

We cannot go back into space without those repairs, it would leave us defenseless, and it would take us forever to make it to another port capable of rendering assistance.

AURELIA

You don't understand! I'm not giving you a choice! Either you agree to help me or I will have the Chancellor order you out of our space, now!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

SPECIAL REPORT: *ST IV: TVH* **By Brad McDonald**

On Thursday, August 19, a few local theaters screened the 35th anniversary of *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. My family informed me and bought tickets for all of us. When I told John, he posted the showing on the *Kitty Hawk* website and bought a ticket for himself. Reservations were made well in advance. Unfortunately, the rise in the delta COVID variant made me think twice about attending. I did come up with a solution, though; I would use an N-95 mask like the ones used by medical professionals.

The showing we chose was at 3:00 p.m. and the family took separate vehicles, but John rode with me. John and I arrived first and, after showing our tickets, we declined concessions so that the mask could stay on. (I didn't want to take any chances.)

We had arrived early, before anyone else, found our seats and relaxed. My sisters and brother-in-law arrived soon afterward, and we read the trivia items on the screen. Soon, the introduction played, which featured several interviews I hadn't seen previously.

Finally, the movie started, but there was a very big surprise — we were the only people in the theater! That was true for the entire movie, so I eventually took my mask off.

My younger sister hadn't seen the movie before, but even as a non-*Trek* fan, she enjoyed it. Now she'll understand some of my *Trek* references.

Even though I have seen *Star Trek IV* many times, it was a good experience. Seeing the movie on the big screen was great, and it was good to get out of the house.

Upcoming Events

2021

Nov	6	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville (Zoom TBD)	4 P.M.
Dec	4	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville (Zoom TBD)	4 P.M.

2023

Jul	1	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville, 4 p.m.
	27-30	GalaxyCon Raleigh — Raleigh Conv Center
Aug	5	Meeting at Texas Steakhouse in Morrisville, 4 p.m.
	11-13	STARFLEET VIC — https://vic23.sfi.org

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

THE WRIGHT STUFF
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