

THE WRIGHT STUFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S.S. KITTY HAWK NCC 1659

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT

By J.R. Fisher



2001 is off to a rapid start and I need for you to read this carefully: PBS telethon will be **March 3rd**, 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

following our 4 p.m. meeting; and **March 31st**, 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. It is very important that as many people as possible make the telethon on the 31st. For both shows please wear your uniforms (at least tops) or Kitty Hawk shirts. Please stay for the entire shift. If we haven't talked and you can do either night, please give me a call. We really need to have a good showing this year.

It is time to renew your membership in STARFLEET, if you have not already done so, as it is a requirement to being a member of the crew. It is also your responsibility to notify them and me of any changes of address or phone numbers. The new renewal application is available.

Likewise, it is a new calendar year, so your dues to the Kitty Hawk are also due. Individuals and families are \$24.00/year. Subscription to the newsletter, or associate dues, are \$12.00/year. Please, send or bring your check to the March meeting. If you are on an away mission, please mail a check as soon as possible.

To all of those hearty crew members who braved the cold on New Year's Eve, a warm "well done". Sales were absolutely horrible, mostly due to the weather and our location in the overall scheme of layout. Still, First Night sent us a check for \$200.00 (the minimum) for our efforts and a warm thank you.

I don't know if we will do this again next year, but if we do, there will have to be some changes made for our comfort. Those who were there did have a good time, which is really why we do it. But it was

COLD!

Sometime over the next few months, I would like each of you to contact me and give me your e-mail address. I have initiated a similar project in another club. I would like to explore the possibility of sending the newsletter out to all the members with e-mail by that means and only mail copies to those who don't have it. This would save us a goodly amount of money over the course of the year.

Spring and Jeff have two web sites up for our use. I believe we have reached the point where we **have** to start using them. That means all department heads will have to maintain their pages on the sites (or site) and communicate with those crew in their respective departments.

We have had the good fortune to almost always have an ongoing fan fiction story in our newsletter. We have not shown the authors the appropriate amount of appreciation over the years. Please, tell Jeff and all the other writers how much you have enjoyed their efforts! Better yet; why don't you try your hand at doing a piece for The Wright Stuff? It doesn't have to be an ongoing story; how about a poem, a puzzle, a drawing, or a review of a book or seminar that has sci-fi connections? Give it a try.

If you haven't been to the last two meetings, then you don't know if you have been promoted or not.

Promotions—1/6/01

Alastair Browne to PO/2
Janice Campbell to CPO
Alexa DeJongh to PO/2
Elizabeth DeJongh to PO/1
Skip Lanoza to CPO
Sally Lanoza to PO/2
Judy McClaskey to PO/2
Tom Mukoyama to CPO
Graeme Pischke to CPO

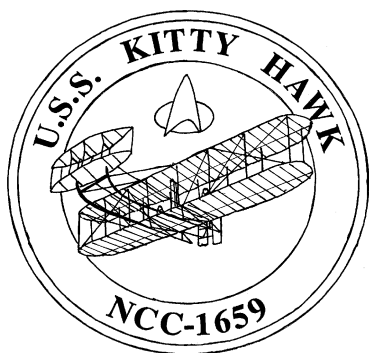
Galen Pischke to PO/1
Amber Whitley to PO/1
Melissa Whitley to PO/1
Mary Whitley to PO/1
Alex Williams to PO/1
Nicholas Williams to CPO
Katy McDonald to PO/2
Spring Brooks to Ltjg
Barry Jackson to Ltjg
John Troan to Lt
Amy DeJongh to Lt
Margaret Hale to Commander
Libby West to Lt. Commander

Also, you were not present when we named our "Crewperson of the Year" for 2000. This is really our highest award on the Kitty Hawk and it is always desirable to have as many of the crew present as possible when we make this announcement. This person stands above the rest of the crew for the year, in the devotion to their duty, doing what they say they will do, and doing more than they said they would. This is the goal every member of this ship shoots for, which is what makes this the best ship in the fleet with the best crew.

This year's winner of the "Crewperson of the Year" is Spring Brooks. Along with her award and certificate is a one grade promotion to Lieutenant. Congratulations, Spring!

I thank all of you for your hard work this past year and ask that you double your efforts in 2001. Each of you has the Wright Stuff; focus and execute. See you on the 3rd!

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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 12

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THERE'S TRIBBLE IN THE COLLECTIVE

By Jeff Cohn

Part XIII: Each Night I Ask The Stars Up Above.... Why Must I Be A Cybernetically Enhanced Tribble In Love?

...The Gathering... Time... Sated... Instinct... Too close... That one... Strong... Others close... Defend... Advance... Display... Caution... Larger... Withdraw... Other... Approach once more... Display... Rival... Mark... Advance... Assert... Pursue...

The probe left by the *Redoubtable* could not detect, let alone decipher, the inner thought processes of the tribble collective. The sheer volume of communications occurring within and between the countless numbers of vessels precluded any sort of systematic analysis. The probe did note, however, that the swarm of tribble-assimilated Borg vessels had stopped cutting up and devouring the iron-rich asteroids and planetessimals inhabiting the Kuyper belt surrounding the Burnham star system. Ceasing its drift amongst the debris, the vast cloud of vessels now moved as a single super-organism, slowly accelerating towards the inner star system. Within the cloud, individual tribble-ships interacted, in a seemingly random manner. The probe relayed this information to the *Defiant*-class gunship while maintaining a close watch amongst swarm. The *Redoubtable's* tactical computer evaluated the data; 2.5 milliseconds later, a response was sent instructing the probe to commence a broadband scan of known Borg communication frequencies and other emissions. Per their programming, the biogenic processors within the Federation craft's tactical systems would tease out patterns in the resultant data and conduct multiple simulations. The outcomes of these exercises would then be presented to the crew for a more "human" analysis.

Unfortunately, the amount of data being generated was far beyond the capacity of this class of probe to collect and relay. Several billion Triborg craft were each emitting bits of information at rates of terraquads

per second. The overtaxed probe, drifting amongst this electromagnetic maelstrom, finally shut down its collection routines, unable to keep up with the volume. Fortunately, what data it handled prior to this were successfully transmitted to the *Redoubtable*. First Officer Satrel, halfway through his third consecutive duty shift, noted an imminent overflow in the tactical system's data buffer. Anticipating the consequences, he quickly cross-linked the station with the astrometrics processors and their more ample storage capacity. The additional computing power proved adequate, and the incoming data stream was appropriately routed and evaluated. Preliminary results indicated that the majority of signals emanated by the Triborg were the results of sensor scans, inter- and intraship communications, course adjustments, weapon locks, and, most curiously, antiproton emissions. These emissions were not directed high-focused weapons fire as during previous confrontations, but were instead plasma releases diffusing into normal space about the cubes. Satrel initiated the QUE SERA (Quantum Emission Systematic Evaluation and Response Analysis) sensor protocol, which revealed the occurrence of accelerating rates of little matter-antimatter explosions as individual antiprotons collided with their normal counterparts in the imperfect vacuum of space. The resulting release of energy facilitated other collisions in a series of chain reactions, whose by-products enhanced the voluminous amount of signals that forced the shutdown of the *Redoubtable's* probe. Studying the holographic data display, Satrel's right brow raised, then furrowed deeply. Although the Vulcan would never admit it, any human watching would identify his expression as betraying deep concern.

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Captain's log Stardate 49302.8

Dr. Fisher has returned with us to the Redoubtable, and is assisting in our attempts to understand the behavior of the Triborg ships. We

hope such an understanding will enable us to exercise some sort of control over events. Recent data have indicated that the destruction of asteroids and other bodies near this star system have ceased, however, we have no indication as to when or whether it will start again. The entire swarm of several billion cubes is now moving towards the inner region of the Burnham system. It is imperative that we find a way to access the communications systems within this mutated collective. Burnham notwithstanding, we are close to a densely populated sector of the quadrant. Should the vessels resume multiplying like... tribbles, there is little we will be able to do to prevent the consumption of vast numbers of planetary systems. I cannot imagine where things could eventually lead. - Commander out.

"Good to see you too, Admiral." Lawrence shook hands with the photonic version of the Commander of 3rd Fleet, to which the *Redoubtable* was attached. *There's a lot of brass here*, he thought, joining the large group sitting around the holographic table. *At least they recognize the seriousness of the situation.* The Holo-VID conference included himself, Professor Fisher, and Satrel in the small holo-suite on board their ship. They were joined by three other Federation Admirals, several ambassador-level diplomatic representatives from nearby worlds, the colonial governor of Burnham IV, senior scientists from the Institute of Exobiological Research, and a Klingon Captain from the K'hartoo'n, a Heavy Cruiser on detached service to the 3rd Fleet. Real-time Holo-VID conferencing was new, and proving to be a convenient way to interact with individuals scattered across the sector.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you've had time to review the briefs and are aware of the background. My XO, Lieutenant Satrel, has obtained some additional information that will have an impact upon the discussion. Lieutenant?" "Thank you Sir." The Vulcan activated a control, and a three-dimensional representation of

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SCIENCE REPORT

By Elaine Pischke



MEDICAL REPORT

By Amy DeJongh

Another milestone in science fiction history is upon us. 1984 turned out to be a lot like and even more different from the book. How will 2001 measure up? For one thing, our space program is less ambitious than predicted, but still hanging in there. One of the new, scaled-down projects currently in play is NEAR, which has been orbiting the asteroid Eros for the past year. NEAR has been a success, relaying 160,000 images of Eros to Earth and should vastly increase our knowledge of asteroids. On February 12, NASA will attempt to land NEAR on Eros. It is hoped that NEAR will have a soft landing and continue to transmit, but the landing will be tricky and odds for a crash landing are high.

Meanwhile, our quest to answer those age old questions "where did life come from" and "are we alone?" has turned up some interesting data. Scientists have determined that the molecules necessary for life to develop are not only found abundantly in space, but they have also determined that they can spontaneously form the membrane-like structures necessary for life when exposed in a cold vacuum to ultraviolet radiation such as exists in space. In other words, the building blocks for life could have been formed in space and brought to Earth during the first few million years after the planet was formed. It is also speculated that if the elements of life are plentiful in space (and astronomers have confirmed that they are present around distant star systems), then certainly life could exist on other worlds.

And finally, closer to home, comes encouraging news about helping to keep our planet livable. A common plant known as the brake fern has been discovered to be a natural filter of arsenic. Arsenic in drinking water is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. The brake fern could potentially be cultivated in water and act as a natural arsenic filter. While other plants have been discovered to be natural filters for toxins, no other has been found that can concentrate the toxins as strongly as the brake fern. Also, the brake fern concentrates the toxin in the fronds rather than the roots, which makes it easy to harvest. Scientists said more work is needed on how to dispose of the plants after harvest.

Fundamentals of Yoga

Developed in India, Yoga is a mental and physical discipline with a 5,000 year history. Today, most Yoga practices in the West focuses on the physical postures called "asanas," breathing exercises called "pranayama," and meditation. However, there's more to it than that, and the deeper you go the richer and more diverse the tradition becomes.

The word "Yoga" means union. Linguistically, it is related to the Old English "yoke." These days the focus is often on the more down-to-earth benefits of Yoga, including improved physical fitness, mental clarity, greater self-understanding, stress control and general well-being. Spirituality, however, is a strong underlying theme to most practices.

What's the difference between Yoga and just plain stretching and normal exercise? Traditional exercise is goal oriented: *How many push ups can I do? Can I touch my toes? I'm going to do 10 more crunches today than I did yesterday.* Yoga is a process. The idea is to focus your awareness on what you are doing and how you feel as you perform the postures. In exercise, you fail if you miss your goal. In Yoga, you succeed by trying. There's also a difference on the physical level. Weight training, for example, makes you stronger by breaking down and rebuilding muscle tissue. It's this breaking down and rebuilding that results in the bulky muscle look. Yoga increases strength by toning the muscles.

How do you start? Many Yoga teachers have classes geared toward the beginner, with instruction regarding the postures and the "whys" of Yoga. Many people also begin with one of the many videos now available. Whatever route you decide to take, remember to be kind to yourself when you practice yoga. Go slowly, especially in the beginning, and listen to your body. It knows what it can do. If it says "stop," stop. Don't push it. Yoga is not a competitive sport.

The beauty of Yoga is in its versatility, allowing practitioners to focus on the physical, psychological or spiritual, or a combination of all three. Many benefits can be derived from Yoga, including headaches (especially those due to stress), blood pressure, and PMS.

If you do decide to try Yoga, have a great time! Mixing relaxation with exercise can be a wonderful way to begin your day. It may also change your life.

Be safe, be happy, be healthy.

OPERATION'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

Welcome everyone, to the new millennium! To the second month of the new millennium, to be precise. And to the first newsletter. Woo hoo!

Well, now that we know where we are, we can get down to the task at hand – the writing of this newsletter.

We of the Operations department held our annual meeting in December, at the Kanki Japanese restaurant, and as usual, we were gracious enough to allow all of our fellow crewmembers to attend. I hope all had a good time; I know I had fun, despite recovering from an

illness.

Well, the meeting time is drawing near, so I should wrap this up. There really is nothing more to report, since the year is just beginning. We haven't done anything yet! I know we are busy planning things, like the PBS telethon, so I'll wait until something definite comes from that.

SECURITY REPORT

By Spring Brooks

Cable Modems & xDSL Security

High-bandwidth Internet connections make accessing the Web a more pleasant experience than using dial-up links. But these persistent connections present a greater opportunity for security breaches.

If you're on the Internet via digital subscriber line or cable modem, you're especially vulnerable to hackers. Even if you use dial-up access, your PC can be attacked, particularly if you leave it connected for a long time.

Cable Modems are no more secure than any other type of

connection to the Internet. Although there's been an increase in security concerns, the major issue remains the fact that home users often don't even realize their systems are not secure, and that permanent broadband connections become more popular every day, exposing people to hackers for extended periods of time, unlike dial-up connections. If you are not running a LAN, and your PC has "File and Print Sharing" turned off, there is no reason to worry much about security. If, however, you decide to run a Proxy, or any type of Server applications, if you use File and Print Sharing, or if you are not even sure what this document is about, please, make sure you take the time to read and understand the issues at hand.

File & Print sharing

Don't use File and Print Sharing if you don't need it. You can

check if it's turned on in "Control Panel > Network > File and Print Sharing". If you have a LAN and need to share files, follow the guidelines below:

Unbind File and Print Sharing and Client for MS Networks from TCP/IP - you will need to check all TCP/IP Entries in "Control Panel > Network".

Install NetBEUI and bind File and Print Sharing to it.

Turn access on just for the necessary directories/drives and make it read-only.

Use strong passwords for all your shares.

Proxy / NAT software

If you're running Proxy or NAT software on your PC, make sure you have all the security holes covered. Don't start a Proxy server, unless

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ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

ENGINEER'S REPORT 1-6-01

Remember my last report? It seems I wasn't the only person who was upset by the closing of the Wright Museum at Kitty Hawk. It's been reopened, sort of. The replica flyer is back in place, but the bookstore and artifacts display remain closed. That's it, no further details available as of this writing. They still haven't decided what the permanent solution is going to be, so stay tuned.

A quick note on First Night, COLD!!! I had the whole family there from 3:45 till 11:00. No, we didn't make it to the midnight show, but the other half wasn't feeling too good. At 3:00 in the morning, we found out why, flu! Oh well, maybe next year.

This year promises to be a great one for sci-fi film fans. First, the re-release of 2001 : A Space Odyssey; no word on whether it will be the original 156 minute version or the current 139 minute edited one. Ei-

ther way, it should be a treat back on the big screen. My only concerns center around the 'limited release' promo. (Does that mean a short duration in many theaters or released only in the 'big markets'?) And, since the original was shown in Cinerama, a true 70mm film, will it be shown the same way or reengineered to fit current theater technology?

Also on tap for this year, the long awaited remake of The Planet of the Apes. Actually it's loosely based on the original, their words, not mine. Since the original is a classic, the remake (of sorts) will be under close scrutiny. The budget was big, but as we all know, visual effects can't carry a weak story, poor acting or bad directing.

Speaking of remakes (sort of), Jurassic Park III is due for the summer. If II was a basic rehash of I, so it follows III will be a rework of II, or is it I? Whatever, maybe I'll be wrong, I hope so. With so much potential, it should be obvious to anyone, even those inside Hollywood, to come up with a non-formula story line.

While I'm on the subject, take a trip to the N.C. Science Museum and see the Jurassic Park expo. It's from the film producers, so there are nice film clips, photos, story boards and so on. Not a bad display of skeletons

and such too, they even include a pronunciation guide!

Perhaps the most eagerly awaited feature is the newest attempt to make a feature film of the J.R.R Tolkien classic, Lord of the Rings. Three features were shot at the same time at a cost of \$270 million, making it the most expensive project to date. Part one will be released this year, subsequent parts to come. (No definitive schedule as of yet.) I saw a few stills and the Orc's look great!

Also eagerly awaited, is the production of Spiderman. After years of yes it's on and no it's not, we finally get a look at a serious attempt to put "old Spidey" on the big screen. The producers seem confident as they signed the principle actors to multi-film contracts. Particular attention was paid to the web effect to get it right. I hope they spent enough time on the rest of the film as well.

Finally, there's A.I. (Artificial Intelligence). Based on a Stanley Kubrick outline (Same guy responsible for 2001: A Space Odyssey.) and headed by Steven Spielberg, it's the story of a boy who isn't. He's a robot. A lot of secrecy surrounded the production, an early indication that there is either something seriously

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SHORT STORY CHALLENGE

By Jeff Cohn

In the eight or so years I've been a member of this group, The U.S.S. Kitty Hawk newsletter has usually had at least one ongoing work of fan fiction. The current serial will be ending soon, and I thought it would be interesting to issue a challenge to all crew members. Each member (this includes you too, JR) would write a brief original tale set in the Star Trek universe, in any of the time periods reflected in the television and movie series (or perhaps one not yet addressed, such as the era of the Enterprise "C"). The difference is, the work you create will have nothing to do with Starfleet or other traditional settings. Rather it will focus on the average human or other sentient life

form living in that timeframe. What is life like for the average household on 23rd-24th century Earth? Not everyone is a brilliant, attractive, physically fit specimen just waiting to get accepted into Starfleet academy. What do Klingon families do at their children's birthday parties? What does it mean for the average Federation citizen if everything you want can be replicated or obtained with a transporter? Is there really no "Third World" during this time? No poverty-stricken little region in Africa or Asia or the Ferengi home world? Is the average sanitation worker on Vulcan as brilliant, controlled, and dedicated to logic as Spock or Tuvok? I think you get the idea.

This needn't be a major effort. Maybe a single page? A poem? Perhaps a drawing (one that would scan easily for the newsletter)? These topics have been explored lightly in the occasional TV episode, but always in conjunction with the Starfleet characters that interact with that world. I think this would be great material for the Kitty Hawk's newsletter, as well as providing a wealth of material for the web site.

Hmm, maybe if we had enough, we could "publish" them like we did the puzzle book and sell the collection at conventions as a fundraiser?

Well, there's the challenge. What do you think?

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the Burnham star system appeared above the center of the conference table. The inhabited fourth planet was highlighted in blue, and at the perimeter, a translucent green cloud represented the approaching swarm of Triborg ships. "I have concluded my analysis of data obtained by one of our probes placed near the center of the swarm. As a group, the swarm is moving at a velocity of approximately 0.1C towards Burnham IV. At this rate, we anticipate an encounter within 36 standard hours. We have, of course, no information as to whether this current velocity will remain constant. Moreover, within this assemblage, the individual vessels are moving independently and interacting with each other. This is the issue which I, with the assistance of Dr. Fisher, would like to discuss. Dr. Fisher?"

"Thank you Lieutenant. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to show you some images I recorded on Burnham IV two days ago." Pressing a button, the lights in the room dimmed a bit, and a two-dimensional film was shown to the group on a wall-mounted viewer. Lawrence recognized the scene; he had witnessed it himself. Before the large group, thousands of tribbles writhed, fought, mated, died. Huge wriggling masses slowly moved as single entities, crossing back and forth across

the open fields. As the masses moved, hundreds of individuals were left, unmoving, in the flattened vegetation. Most were dead, some injured; those that could did their best to catch up and rejoin the orgy of activity that had moved on.

"This, people, is the climax of the reproductive cycle of *Triventer gerroldii*, or the tribble, as it is commonly known." Heads turned at the sound of a disgusted groan that came from the general direction of the Klingon Captain. Suppressing a small grin, the biologist terminated the film and continued. "Tribbles gather over many months. They return to a particular geographic location to breed, as salmon do on Earth. Once in the general area, they emit powerful pheromones. These chemical cues initiate violent mating clusters made up of hundreds to thousands of individuals. The result of the frenetic activity you have just witnessed is population crash, followed by a slow recovery. I believe that we are witnessing a similar process underway among the swarm of altered Borg vessels heading towards the planet."

Rising from his chair, Satrel continued the presentation. "Within the swarm of vessels, we have detected high levels of antiproton emissions and remnants of large numbers of matter-antimatter collisions. Analyses indicate that the antipro-

tons are being emitted in large diffuse clouds by the Triborg vessels. Rate, frequency, and other characteristics of these emissions suggest to both Dr. Fisher and myself that we are seeing an analog to tribble phenomenal activity. The billions of Triborg vessels are following these 'pheromone' trails, closing in on each other as normal tribbles would. Dr. Fisher feels, and I agree, that this analogy will be maintained, and that a similar "mating cluster" will ultimately occur as the swarm reaches orbit about Burnham IV. The difficulty is, of course, the reactions that occur as the antiprotons encounter their normal counterparts. As the ships draw closer and closer, the rate of matter-antimatter collisions will increase until eventually..." "Until a critical mass is reached", interrupted one of the exobiologists. "Exactly, Sir", continued Satrel, "Given the combined mass of the swarm of ships, the effect would be the same as if a star of 0.21 solar masses went nova."

The silence that followed this declaration reached across the light years separating the conference participants. Admiral Hiroshi Yamato, Commander, Attack Group 2, Federation 3rd Fleet, stood and tapped a button on his PADD. Three points of light were illuminated on the 3-D map. "With the exception of *Re-*

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doubtable, these are the locations of the nearest Starfleet vessels. They make up the bulk of the Second and Fourth Battle Groups currently under my command, and gives us the capability of evacuating up to... 15,000 individuals. We can assemble these squadrons and reach the planet in time, but it *will* leave the front open to exploitation by Dominion warships. And of course, they can remove only a small fraction of the total population" "So what you are saying is, the colonists are essentially on their own, and the remainder of the Sector will be spared when the tribbles self-immolate in an anti-matter explosion." The graveled voice of Rear Admiral Harry Steinberg, CINC Federation 3rd Fleet, quieted the disturbed chatter that had briefly filled the room. "Yes Sir," replied Satrel. "If the current chain of events continues as predicted without intervention." "Then, as regrettable as this is, we need to plan for what happens next. There will need to be a plan in place to deal with the military and political fallout. Benjamin, I'll ask you to..." "Sir, if I may," interrupted Satrel. Steinberg grew quiet and looked impatiently at the Vulcan. The *Redoubtable's* First Officer looked briefly from the Admiral to Dr. Fisher, who nodded and smiled. Satrel nodded back before returning his gaze to the Admiral and continuing.

"Forgive my interruption Sir, but there may be a means of preventing the destruction of Burnham IV." The noise level in the conference rose again before being waved off by the Commander of all Federations forces in the region. "You said earlier there was nothing that could be done." "No Sir, I said that such would be the

case without intervention." "Very well then. Explain." "Admiral, I would prefer to wait until the Professor and I have completed several additional analyses. We have not yet had the time to..." "TIME?" the Admiral suddenly thundered. "TIME is what you said we don't have!. There are two and a half million people on that planet that have no idea they're about to be blown to hell by God-knows-how-many tribbles riding along in 5 billion mutant Borg cubes! Is this a solution based on fact or speculation? Do you have a way to prevent this or not?"

The Vulcan was somewhat taken aback by the emotional outburst, but recovered quickly. "Sir, I..." "Admiral, with your permission." Commander Lawrence, quiet throughout the presentation and the current exchange, rose and stood next to his First Officer. Admiral Steinberg grunted in accession and gestured for him to continue. "Sir, as you undoubtedly know, Vulcans are usually loath to commit to a course of action until they can obtain all the facts. At least as many facts as possible. Despite this, I have learned, over time, that Lieutenant Satrel will occasionally indulge in what you or I might call speculation. If the solution he wishes to propose falls under this category, then I would propose indulging *him*, as I have found his speculations to almost always be borne out in the end. Lawrence glanced at Satrel and nodded. Satrel responded with a raised eyebrow before turning back to Admiral Steinberg.

"How much time do you need to complete you evaluation and present a plan?" "Approximately 1.42 hours, Sir." "Very well. We will reconvene in 2 hours. In the meantime, Hiro-

shi, have your Battle Groups make their best time to Burnham. Benjamin, maintain your surveillance, gather whatever information you feel may be helpful. Governor, I wish we had a better situation, but this is the hand we've been dealt. Contact your people, make what plans you can. Hopefully we'll have better news in a little while. Dismissed. Commander, Lieutenant, please wait." Lawrence and Satrel remained as the others left the room or disconnected from the Holo-VID. "Lieutenant. I apologize for my outburst. I spent several summers on that planet and took my first astronomy courses while my father was stationed there. The place holds fond memories for me." "No apologies necessary Sir, it was an understandably... human response." "Alright then, you'd better get to work." "Yes Sir."

Admiral Steinberg winked out of existence, as his connection was broken, leaving the two Officers alone in the holo-suite. Lawrence smiled at his friend, and noticed the curious look he received in response. "Satrel? A problem?" "I... *indulge* in speculation?" "I was just trying to defend you in front of the Admiral." They approached the exit to the holo-suite, which opened obligingly before them. "Do you often defend your friends by insulting them?" "Insulting?" "Twice. You said I indulged, and that I speculated. Both are human characteristics with which I have had little personal experience." The doors to the holo-suite whooshed shut. Their voices gradually faded into the distance. "I see. And so the time you speculated about the young lady on..." "That was NOT speculation..."

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you know what you're doing. NAT (Network Address translation) is generally more secure than Proxy, because it assigns private IP addresses to the clients on your LAN, acting as a firewall, however leaving the Server exposed.

Firewalls

Firewall is basically software that filters all network traffic and blocks ports in order to protect your

PC or LAN from unauthorized entries. Some firewall solutions include additional functionality that allows you to detect and gather information about any intrusions.

Computers with Cable Modem, DSL or similar broadband connections to the Internet have mostly static IP addresses and are on-line much longer than those with dial-up connections, which by itself increases the security risks and justifies installing a firewall for protection.

Here are some good choices:

- BlackICE
- ConSeal PC Firewall
- SyShield
- Tiny Personal Firewall
- Zone Alarm
- Norton

IRDP Security Vulnerability in Windows

The ICMP Router Discovery Protocol (IRDP, RFC 1256) comes

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enabled by default on DHCP clients that are running MS Windows95 (with Winsock 2), Windows 98/98SE, Windows ME, and Windows2000 machines. Using router discovery, clients dynamically discover routers and can switch to backup routers if a network failure or administrative change is needed.

However, by spoofing IRDP Router advertisements, a potential attacker can remotely add default route entries on a remote system. The default route entry added by the attacker will be preferred over the default route obtained from the DHCP server on Windows 9x/ME systems. The problem is not in IRDP itself, but rather that MS platforms use it even when DHCP is enabled and the DHCP setup specifies router information. To disable this vulnerability, you need to add the following entry to the Registry. Contact Microsoft and have them talk your way to disabling the protocol.

----- by Brian McWilliams, PC
World News Radio, October 31, 1997

Yesterday we reported on

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wrong with it or they want to hide a really nifty story, any bets?

A few more thoughts on 2001: A Space Odyssey (referred to as 2001 from now on). A lot has been said about how wrong the film was in its predictions. Chiefly among these is our lack of progress as shown in the movie. While we don't have computers capable of human emotions or responses and, we don't have permanent moon bases and routine moon flights, we are better off in some respects. 2001 did not show common computer use, chiefly laptops. Wouldn't the head of the Space Agency have his own laptop with him during his trip to the moon? Instead, all we see is one giant mainframe (HAL), obsolete by today's standards and ridiculous in space travel. Half the ship's space is taken up by HAL and half the fuel to get to Jupiter was probably needed for the oversized computer! Also, the mission was basically an all American show. A leftover of the cold war philosophy, and financially impractical. Even with the past 10 years of booming

security holes in @Home Network's cable-modem Internet access. It was discovered that some @Home customers have their Windows 95 settings configured in a way that gives other users of the service full read, write, and delete access to their hard drives and other resources.

Well, today, we learned that @Home users are not the only ones vulnerable to this problem. Steve Ringley, a subscriber to Time Warner's Road Runner service in Columbus, Ohio, told NewsRadio that soon after he signed up last month, he got a little visit from a hacker.

"Some guy came along and left a text file in my startup group over one weekend..." said Ringley.

Ringley says Road Runner was of little help in tracking how the hacker got to his computer. But on his own, Ringley determined that Windows 95 was to blame, having automatically bound his network card to both Microsoft Networking and TCP/IP when the card was installed. Unbinding networking closed the security hole.

While @Home Network says its installers ensure that Windows security is configured properly on

economics, a ship that size would be impossible for one country to build. Little was shown of what life was supposed to be like on Earth, that was done in the sequel 2010. Time will tell how close they came, but already they have one thing wrong. The story centers on a confrontation between the U.S and the Soviet Union.

We do have a permanent space station, not as big or as fancy as the one in 2001, but a station, none the less. As far as the permanent moon bases are concerned, I'm betting they won't happen in my lifetime, certainly not before a mission to Mars and that is a long way off in itself. Space exploration will not become important until we get some space exploitation. Once private enterprise gets the word that there is money to be made, then we'll see action. I'm not being a pessimist here, but a fiscal realist. There has to be a motivating factor to go 'out there'. In the sixties, it was beat the Russians. Now the Russians can't even beat themselves. It may take a new vision by a political leader, like Ken-

subscriber's PCs, Ringley says Road Runner's technician didn't seem to have a clue.

"I specifically asked the guy if there was anything that I needed do to my machine to make it secure from this and he said no there wasn't. It was virtually impossible; somebody would have to know what your dynamic IP was and it changes once every hour . and he said there was nothing I needed to do," said Ringley.

Besides having Windows configured properly, the type of cable modem used also appears to play a factor in security. Some will pass only TCP/IP data, while others are designed to use several protocols, which makes it more difficult to properly configure Windows 95's networking security. So if you subscribe to a cable-based Net access service, or if you're considering it, be sure to ask your service provider about the proper settings for your installation.

EDITED FROM: http://www.speedguide.net/Cable_modems/cable_security.shtml

nedy's dream to put a man on the moon, but I don't see that coming from D.C. any time soon. Most politician's 'visions', come from the polls.

While 2001 was a milestone in many respects, its portrayal of the future was actually inconsequential. Its real importance centered on the respect that Science Fiction movies were finally given. Along with this respect came the budgets they required in order to do the job right. Again, no amount of money can make a bad movie good, but so many times a good movie suffered from a lack of proper funds, if it got made at all. Also, 2001 set a new standard for how a film should look. It was visually stunning and impressive, but mostly believable. Most of the effects, style and quality we have today, can trace their roots back to 2001.

The story of 2001 is still debated to this day. Arthur C. Clarke related a story concerning his story, The Sentinel, which was the basis for 2001. Entering England, on a tour to promote another book, a customs

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official 'threatened' him. "I will not stamp your entry visa until you tell me what the ending of 2001 means." Clarke did not say what his response was, but in the past it usually has centered on individual interpretations. "You see what you want to see." Regardless, it was the first attempt to portray intelligent life off Earth. We finally got away from the bug eyed monsters, robots, life threatening stereotypes and paranoia of the fifties films. Also, 2001 gave a major shot in the arm to the sagging sci-fi film industry of the time.

Oops! I got long winded again! Hope to see you in the theaters this summer and as usual, long live and prosper.

ENGINEER'S REPORT 2-12-01

It's been an interesting year so far. The battle over who gets to use the "First in Flight" motto on their state quarter has concluded, so to speak. In typical government fashion, we got a non decision, decision. Both North Carolina and Ohio get to use the slogan. Since North Carolina's quarter will be issued first, maybe our first in flight will be viewed as more correct.

In a related topic, the Wright Memorial is still only partially opened. Neither fully restored or rebuilt, it has only the duplicate flyer on display. The bookstore and museum remained closed for the time being. Still no announcement on a permanent solution.

TNN has announced that it now has the broadcast rights on all series,

except the original, and the first five films. Next Generation will begin this fall, DS9 in 2004 and Voyager in 2006. Total cost, \$364 Million.

Speaking of movies, #10 is on again, but the announcement may be academic. It looks like Hollywood will be locked up due to a combined writers and actors strike. If so, a release for this year may be next to impossible. No official word on plot, but so far, only Patrick Stewart and Brent Spiner are involved.

On another movie note, the re-issue of Star Trek the Motion Picture has been postponed indefinitely. No reason why, but since they missed the original release date of 1-7-01 (clever, huh?), I suppose they decided to take their time and do it right. We can only hope. In any case, there is no new release date.

Series V (as it's being called), is a go, but there are a lot of unanswered questions. Chief among these is, who gets it? Will it be UPN, syndicated, NBC, CBS or other? One welcomed announcement is that it will be centered on a ship doing exploration duty. Back basics again. Again, the specter of the strike may postpone the premier considerably.

Away from the entertainment world for a moment. The Russians have a passenger for their next trip to the International Space Station. A millionaire paid about \$25 million for the ride. Russia is very happy as this helps pay for a large piece of the cost for the launch. Mister \$ gets a dream of a lifetime, to travel into space. It still has to be reviewed by the International Space community. Many have doubts about an untrained civilian on board a space sta-

tion. What will he do or not do? Assist in operations? Sit and watch? What?

Does anybody know what happened to the new book from the folks at Paramount? On my 2001 Star Trek calendar, it states that a special coffee table book on the Ships of Starfleet was due in January. So far, no word. There's not even a prepublication date. I checked B Dalton and Waldenbooks.

Last of all, is a complaint. I know those who read this have no control over what Paramount does, but here goes anyway. Over the past year or so, Paramount has released all of the Trek films on DVD. Now, if you're a DVD owner, you know the many advantages of the format. Besides the crystal clear picture, you have perfect sound, instant access to any part of the film, the option of wide screen or standard on the same disc, and so on. Most important though, are all those extras. An abundance of behind the scenes footage, additional scenes, commentary by cast and crew, still photos and 'making of' specials.

So why on Earth (there's a joke in there somewhere) did Paramount release these films, sans extras? Here was a perfect opportunity to include the extra footage shown in The Wrath of Kahn, when televised on ABC network. Also, the laserdisc version (which I have) had lots of extras on The Voyage Home. So why didn't they make it to the DVD? If anybody has a logical answer, I'd love to know.

As always, long live and prosper.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
		6 p.m. UNC-TV Festival, RTP
	16-18	StellarCon, Greensboro, N.C.
	31	6 p.m. UNC-TV Festival, RTP
April	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
	27-29	Region I Summit, Greensboro, N.C., Holiday Inn, Airport
May	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
	?	Charleston, S.C. trip
June	2	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home
	3	Duke Children's Hospital Telethon?
July	4	Party?
	7	Ship Meeting
	13-15	Shore Leave, Hunt Valley, MD
Sept.	28-30	Slanted Fedora, Durham, N.C.

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