

# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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The Official Newsletter of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk ♦ NCC-1659

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Leonard Nimoy 1931-2015

Lived long.

Prospered.

Sparked the imaginations of a generation.

-- Randy Bish





# THE WRIGHT STUFF

## Volume 26 - Number 2

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Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
Editor ..... John Troan



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**TOOL BOX:** Dell E6530; Lotus WordPro; Adobe Acrobat.

### IMAGES - Title Banner

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

### IMAGE - Featured Front Page

Leonard Nimoy as Spock in four *Trek* incarnations: TOS (top left), the TOS movies (top right), TNG (bottom left) and “the reboot” (bottom right). All pictures from [memory-alpha.org](http://memory-alpha.org).

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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First I would like to thank everyone who made it to the UNC-TV telethon earlier this month. It is always so nice to see everyone together pulling in the same direction. We really need to get serious about recruiting for the ship as it has been several years since we actually had 20 people on the set and had an opportunity to talk about STARFLEET. The other side of that is we still do not have people in uniform for this or any other event. Uniforms make a big visual impression on people that can be

very positive. Crystal Coast Con was a good example of that. Developing good programs that can be presented at these events (while in uniform) is something else to be undertaken.

While I was not at the recent event in Raleigh, I hope there will be a lengthy report/article on what transpired there and our role in it. *[Editor's note: the article is on [page 9](#).]* Things like that need to be addressed early on and independent of other organizations.

Warm weather is going to be with us soon and hopefully this year we will have some volunteers to host a cookout or two.

Keep up the good work with the scripts and recordings. I truly look forward to hearing the entire program one day soon. Everyone should be giving some thought to writing articles for our newsletter. Especially department heads.

With all that we do have going on, I think there should be a push to get more members into uniform. For some of us it might be as simple as losing a few pounds so that the old ones actually fit again. It would be nice to have a crew picture at my retirement with everyone in uniform. ☺

*Esse Quam Videri*

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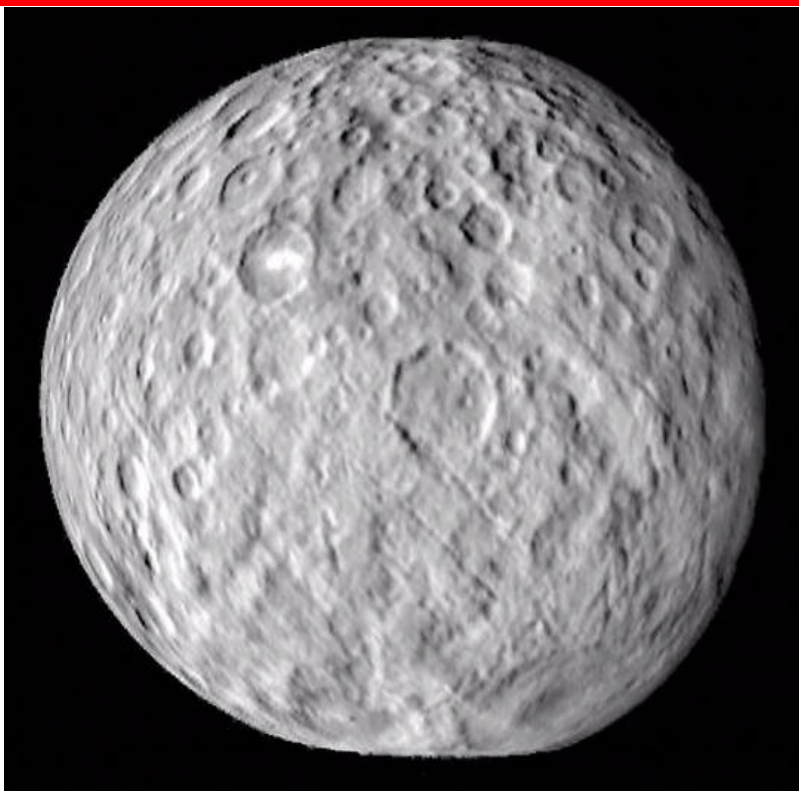
## Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

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Back in early and mid-February, I was already starting to think about what I was going to put on the front cover. I usually use something from current NASA events. What had caught my attention was [Dawn entering orbit around the dwarf planet Ceres](#) and I figured NASA would have some great pictures, with at least one of them being eye-catching enough to land on our front cover this issue. (The image I would've used is instead included in here.)

Then the news broke on Feb 27 of Leonard Nimoy's passing and I knew that I immediately needed to



*The surface of Ceres as seen by NASA's Dawn probe. From NASA/JPL-Caltech.*

weeks, I was inspired by an editorial cartoon my grandfather had sent me. The quote was perfect and was quickly chosen for the front cover. To give full credit: Randy Bish's work appears in the (Pittsburgh) *Tribune Review* and while I can't reprint the original work in the newsletter, I did [find it on-line](#). (As you'll see in the linked page, there's a noticeable reason that I didn't try to use it on our front cover.)

In making this a fitting tribute, I thought about who could write a nice piece about Nimoy, which led to a quick call to Brad McDonald, with the idea of asking if he could write

something for the newsletter. He beat me to the punch -- an article was already well underway. Many, many thanks to Brad for [writing about his encounters with Nimoy](#). Thanks also go to Larry Cox who, unknowingly, added to the Nimoy tribute with his selection of images to use in this [month's article about Star Trek On-Line](#).

In looking at [StarFleet's web site](#) for various things, I got sidetracked in looking at the list of membership benefits -- which does include discounts on Trek uniforms and related items from [CosplaySky](#) and [CosplaySupplies](#). In checking out both web sites, the prices look fairly decent. CosplaySky lists the "monster maroon" from movies II to VI at a hundred bucks for the jacket and pants, which isn't bad considering what's included. They hand-make either standard-sized uniforms or custom-fit to measurements that have to be included in the order. CosplaySupplies appears to have only standard sizes, and was running low on most uniforms when I looked. Either way, though, this give us a possibility of buying a uniform without having to get a loan to afford it.

Showing how late I'm running with this issue, I can mention [the recent launch of the next crew to the space station](#). While this is a standard three-person crew, two of them (an astronaut and a cosmonaut) will spend a full year on the station to study the effects of extended weightlessness on the human body. The astronaut's twin brother -- who recently retired from the astronaut corps -- is also participating in the research. NASA will compare the twins to see how the year in space affects the human body. Most of the effects of simply aging should be able to be "negated" with having one twin in space and the other on the ground.

Farther out, [Opportunity has just finished a marathon](#) -- 26.2 miles -- in its travels on the Martian surface during the last eleven-plus years. Not bad for a rover that was "supposed" to last only three months.

Looking at NASA's work on getting humans to Mars (and beyond), [a major test for the Space Launch System \(SLS\) was successfully completed](#) in the first half of March. (Side note: [check out another viewing angle](#) and look at how strongly they had to anchor the booster to the test stand during the test fire -- it's got a *lot* of power.) The booster planned for use as part of the SLS is a beefed-up version of the shuttle's solid rocket booster, with an extra segment added to provide additional thrust. This latest test was a full two-minute burn, which matches what the boosters will do during launch. There's one more test to perform, then pieces for two boosters will be shipped to Kennedy Space Center for the first SLS flight.

I did a little research on the local "Comic Con" events since there were several with that banner. I found the other two that I'd heard about. One appears to no longer use "Comic Con" -- the [Oak City Comic Show](#). It runs semiannually, with the next one in mid-August. The other is [NC Comicon](#) in mid-November. From what I read in comments about Wizard World's event, these other two are likely cheaper.

I also went back to the web page for [Wizard World's Raleigh appearance](#) and discovered that the dates have been changed -- and now indicate a 2016 return, with specific dates TBD.

As for the just-held Comic Con, I'm saving of my tales for [elsewhere in this issue](#). However, there is one bit of confusion to clear up in this space: *Star Trek*

*New Voyages: Phase II* is now a separate group from (*Star Trek*) *Axanar*. I think we've all been blending the names together -- I certainly have. What I heard at Comic Con was that one of the people leading the *Axanar* work used to work with *New Voyages*, but has split-off to work only on *Axanar*. Both are definitely high quality productions and I think it's good that they can both work on different parts of the general TOS time frame and each group can focus its attention on the story lines they've chosen.

The *New Voyages* folks are planning to film their next episode this coming July in upstate New York, which is where the executive producer has built all the sets. In a recent news update they've sent me, they're having to recast the Uhura role. (This is common due to the cast members getting paying jobs that take priority.) From their call sheet for Uhura --

It is shot in upstate New York, and the Executive Producer is looking for someone to come on as a regular and for the upcoming shoot in July.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please forward this post and have them contact [Mark Edward Lewis](#) or [James Cawley](#) directly via Facebook.

Just so we're clear, this isn't for money -- it's for your love of Gene's IDIC world. You'll get IMDB credit of course, and work with some great folks and even the odd guest star. If you love how Hortas are sentient, that bridge proximity alert is NOT Red Alert, and that the character whose middle name is Tiberious likes to shoot first and ask questions later... Please send a HEADSHOT, and REEL to James Cawley or Mark Edward Lewis.

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# My Memories of Leonard Nimoy

## By Brad McDonald

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The recent passing of Leonard Nimoy has prompted me to reflect on my personal experiences with him.

We met twice, both times at N.C. State University. The first meeting occurred while I was a graduate student in 1977. One of the three part-time jobs I was holding at the time was at Stewart Theater on campus. They offered many types of entertainment from movies to stage productions and even guest lectures. When Mr. Nimoy was scheduled to be a guest, I was already known as a die-hard Trek fan by everyone. So everyone was kind enough to let me take the position of stage manager during his appearance. In that position, I would take care of the talent (Mr. Nimoy), be sure that all was well with the arrangements for refreshments, stage equipment, sound, lights and to be with him before and after the performance. Basically, I was to be a personal assistant for the evening! I know, it was a tough job, but somebody had to do it, right?

My good fortune didn't end there. I found out that I had also been selected to be part of the official reception committee.

This meant picking him up at the airport and taking him to the hotel, then spend the evening touring the town and campus!

However, the experience of a lifetime started out on a bad note. In the entire history of commercial aviation, we had a first. The flight arrived thirty minutes early! The reception committee arrived with transportation and couldn't find the guest! In those days, airport terminals wide open to anyone, so we looked everywhere! Then we had him paged. It was rather humorous to watch the reactions of people after hearing, "Paging Mr. Leonard Nimoy."

After much running around, we finally located him, sitting in a limousine, waiting patiently. We told him we'd give him a free ride but he was already loaded up and ready to go. At this point he didn't want to bother transferring his luggage and self. We told him we'd meet at the hotel, the Velvet Cloak Inn in Raleigh, which was close to the campus. So he took the limousine and we left in our state-supplied van; not much of a choice after all I suppose.

At the Velvet Cloak, my luck turned even worse. We lost

him again. The room he was assigned to wasn't up to spec and when we went to find him, he was gone. After a brief hunt we found him in another room. He laughed about the multiple mix-ups and it was there that I learned about his infectious laugh and wonderful sense of humor.

Once inside the room, he asked to skip the planned tour. I was disappointed, but understood. He was probably tired from his trip and just wanted to relax. Instead, he asked if we would mind sitting with him while he watched *Roots*. He was supposed to be in the movie, but his busy schedule would not permit it. However, he wanted to see the movie due to a genuine interest in the project.

Accordingly, we watched the movie for the next few hours. During commercial breaks, he made numerous calls to family, friends, producers, agents and so on. We tried not to listen, but during one call he began laughing out loud. After the call, he explained that Paramount was thinking about making a *Star Trek* movie but wanted Paul Newman and Robert Redford to play Kirk and Spock! We all got a laugh out

of that but that wasn't the reason he was amused. Flip Wilson had contacted Paramount and wanted to be in the movie. For those of you who don't know who Flip is, he was noted for his comedy show and a number of characters, including Geraldine, a very hip lady. Flip wanted to play Uhura! We had an even bigger laugh at that, but I think our committee became some of the first people to learn of the proposed *Star Trek* movie.

After *Roots* concluded, we went out to eat at a nearby restaurant, Darryl's. During dinner, we told Mr. Nimoy about RTP, NC State, Raleigh and North Carolina in general. After some time, he told us how impressed he was with the area and then complemented us and the people of North Carolina. He had been recognized while there and many people had stopped by to talk or for an autograph. He explained that, usually when introduced, people would generally ask where his ears were. Not a single person had done so since arriving in Raleigh. He was so impressed that he picked up the tab for all of us!

On the way out the door, a few rowdy drunks were coming in. One of the waitresses yelled out, "Hey you guys, that's Mr. Spock from *Star Trek*!"

One of them eyed Mr. Nimoy through glazed eyes and commented, "Oh yeah, where's his ears?"

Turning back to me, he just shrugged his shoulders and commented, "Oh well, it was nice while it lasted."

The next evening at the theater, before the show, we spent a lot of time talking about mutual interests such as poetry, photography, *Star Trek*, *Mission Impossible* and just about everything else. I showed him some of my work and he was very complementary and encouraging. This is when I found out how really great the man was. He didn't play the "big star" with little time for fans with questions about their work. Instead, he took the time to read a few items and smiled warmly, "Keep up the good work, and don't get discouraged."

The second meeting didn't last as long, but was just as memorable. I was a teacher at the time and had a Science Fiction Club for the students who were interested. When I learned that Mr. Nimoy was returning to Stewart Theater, I arranged a field trip for the club.

It was great! We reconnected briefly after his lecture and he remembered me. Considering how many people he had met between our

two encounters, I thought that was quite remarkable. I told him I wasn't much of an author as I was still unpublished.

He admonished me slightly by pointing a finger at me and saying, "You are an author whether you're published or not and don't forget it."

I never have.

I kept writing and still do. I'm still unpublished, other than the *Kitty Hawk* newsletter, but I don't mind. Now, I just write for personal enjoyment and as a means of relaxing.

However, I always remember the words of encouragement from my favorite Vulcan. A very nice person and a gentleman in every sense of the word; I have no doubt that he will be missed greatly by a remarkably large number of people all over the world.

And he will live long and prosper, in our hearts and minds.

# Star Trek On-Line Gaming

By Larry Cox

The new season of STO went live in October with "Delta Rising". This new expansion introduces many elements from the Voyager series, around 30 years later; locations, species and characters among them. Joining the cast for Delta Rising are now - Admiral Tuvok, the EMH "Doctor", Seven-of-Nine, Neelix, and Harry Kim.



USS Thunderchild preparing to exit the Jenolan Dyson Sphere into the Delta Quadrant.

With the discovery of an Iconian gateway on the resettled New Romulus travel between the Alpha and Delta quadrant has become easily manageable via the

Jenolan Dyson Sphere. After the invasion of Species 8472 through the gateway, a joint alliance between the Federation, Klingons and Romulans was formed

(allowing players from each faction to participate) to journey to the Delta Quadrant to investigate the current situation.



Ambassador Spock memorial on Vulcan



*Ambassador Spock memorial on New Romulus*

Upon entering the Delta Quadrant, a myriad of options are available for Captains to participate in, with many continuing story lines that originated in the *Voyager* series with familiar locations and characters.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *STO* in January, a special episode was

introduced which brought together Ensign Kim and his “alter-ego” character. With my bicycle accident, the holidays and one thing and another (including technical glitches in-game) I've not spent a great deal of time in this quadrant but look forward to getting more involved.

Also included in the new season are more options for character development including enhanced R&D development, character traits and skills as well as more crew options, both for bridge and duty officers.

The late Leonard Nimoy contributed his voice acting to the early stages of *STO* in the character of Ambassador Spock. With his death last month, the game developers have honored both the man and his character with permanent

memorials to Ambassador Spock on Vulcan and New Romulus.

Also in conjunction with his death, the developers have also added a memorial on Earth Station to those actors from *TOS* who have already left us; a very touching tribute.



*Memorial on Earth Station to many involved in Star Trek's history and development.*



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# Doin' the Con Thing Again

By Larry Cox, Brad McDonald, Diane Ripollone, John Troan

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[Editor's note: this is a mix of reports from four of us who were at Comic Con, with everyone's comments merged in mostly chronological order.]

**John:** This being my first Comic Con -- and my first con of any sort in many years -- I wasn't exactly sure of what to expect. Sure, I've heard about the big Comic Con every year in San Diego. This one in Raleigh certainly lived up to that in one respect -- there were characters from all across the swath of SciFi, fantasy, gaming, cartoons, and (naturally) the comics. I've included a couple of pics here, but the full set will be posted to the [photo archive on the Kitty Hawk web site](#) as my time permits in April.

We teamed up with the *Star Trek New Voyages: Phase II* folks to help them out. They ran a panel on Saturday afternoon and showed their latest episode at the Marbles IMAX on Sunday. They gave the *Kitty Hawk* three of the free passes they got for running the panel, which allowed Brad, Larry, and me to do some recruiting.

Unfortunately, we all found out at nearly the last minute that Wizard World wouldn't give a complementary booth for running the panel. This limited our visibility at the Con and ended up scaling back the time we put in. (Had we had a booth, I would've been there the whole time. In the end, I did just most of Saturday and the IMAX screening on Sunday.)

**Brad:** I attended Friday night with Larry Cox and we shared a ride, wise considering the \$7.00 parking fee. Attendance was fairly light on the first day which gave Larry and I an excellent chance to scope out the vendors, schedules and set up. After resolving a bit of a mix-up on our passes, we went in and did a 'tour of the tables.' Ironically, since it was a 'comic con,' there were only three vendors selling comic books. However, there were many art and t-shirt vendors and a few 'unique boutiques'. It was well organized; obviously they have done this before. After less than two hours, we had pretty much seen it all, as there were



no panels or special features that we were interested in (or could afford), we left.

**Larry:** I enjoyed going. Of course the free pass helped greatly. But that notwithstanding, I think with the regular admission price I'd still consider it an enjoyable experience. But not the celebrity events, which are way out of my budget.

I attended Friday, shortly after the opening so the crowd wasn't huge, which is good and bad; good in that the crowd wasn't huge: bad because a lot of costumed attendees weren't there.

I would certainly consider attending in the future; having an event like this in Raleigh is nice and I'd like to continue to support it.

**Brad:** Saturday, John Troan and I shared a ride and, thanks to my daughter's warning, we left extra early and avoided a traffic problem. Somebody had scheduled the con and

St. Patrick's Day parade on the same day. Downtown Raleigh had barricades on many of the main arteries, which caused a problem for a number of attendees. John and I had planned for this and he did some reading while I worked on the next story for the newsletter. By the time we did get in, there was a rather large crowd and people kept coming in all day. We walked through and 'snagged' anyone in a *Star Trek*-themed uniform or costume. Hopefully, with the number of pep talks and sign-up forms we gave out, we'll see some new members. I had a



budget for the event and stayed fairly close. My expenses were limited to parking, eating and two autographs. While I could not afford Shatner or Tennant, and I didn't know the majority of the other celebs, I was happy to meet Hercules and Elvira. Both were very friendly and since there weren't many other people seeking them out, I had extended conversations with both. (More on that at the next meeting.)

**Diane:** I think the most impressive thing about the Comic Con was the comic book artists and illustrators. When you stopped to talk to them, they were more than willing to talk and show off their work. I had the opportunity to talk to Michael Golden an artist for "The Walking Dead" Comic. It was a great talk and I came away with an understanding of the his process.

**Brad:** John and I met a lot of friendly fans and all went fairly well. Attendance at the *Star Trek Phase II* panel wasn't as large as I had hoped for, but the people were friendly, informative and made a good presentation.



The Star Trek New Voyages panelists.

**John:** In talking with my main contact for *Star Trek New Voyages*, the panel was cut down in size a little due to some unique circumstances in setting up the panel attendees. We did hear some interesting nuggets during the panel:

- They operate purely on a volunteer-and-donations effort. They can't make any money for their production -- no one else can either -- to stay in Paramount's good graces. All of the cast and crew are doing this at personal cost and time.

- Executive producer James Cawley started his "professional" *Trek* career with an internship at *TNG* under William Theiss. When Theiss passed away, Cawley was bequeathed the entirety of Theiss' *Trek* collection. Cawley was also the first to play Kirk in the series, but has since stepped aside. (Small foot note, Cawley earns a living as an Elvis impersonator -- and definitely looks the part.)
- They have the only set of *TOS* blueprints known to still exist and are using them to build the entire collection of sets as they existed on the Desilu sound stage in 1968 -- including a 360° bridge and the full two-level engineering set.
- Several *Trek* alumni have appeared on screen (Walter Koenig, George Takei, Grace Lee Whitney) or contributed off-screen (Doug Drexler, D.C. Fontana, David Gerrold) during the series' run thus far. (I double-checked against IMDB to be sure I had correctly remembered the names, and found a few other *Trek* alumni listed, too.)

One interesting thing during the panel was the two video clips they showed: *Going Boldly* (their fourth vignette) and the first few minutes of *Mind-Sifter* (the ninth full episode). We got just enough of a "teaser" whet our appetites for the full episode on Sunday morning at the Marbles IMAX.

**Brad:** Sadly, I had to miss the Sunday show at Marbles due to family obligations. Overall, I'd say it was

good. The only criticism [about Comic Con] came from just about everybody: way too expensive!

**John:** *Mind-Sifter* was really good. Seeing it on the IMAX was incredible. Other than having new people in the familiar roles, it could've been part of *TOS* season 4. I found the story to be very believable. In chatting with the *New Voyages* folks afterwards, they were very happy with the turnout for a 9 a.m. start (about 60-some people) and how it looked on such a huge screen. (They [posted some pictures on the event's Facebook page](#) showing just how *big* this IMAX screen is. Six-foot-tall people are *tiny* when standing in front of the screen.)



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# ST: TOS -- *Living with the Past*

By Brad McDonald

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## ACT TWO

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

The ship is moving at warp six.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

All officers are at their posts and there is much activity.

KIRK'S VOICE

Captain's Log, Star Date 4734.2. We are en route to a first contact mission which promises to be... interesting.

UHURA

Captain, incoming from Starfleet. It's a data download, sir.

Kirk turns to Spock.

KIRK

Spock?

SPOCK

Downloading now, Captain. It's the final report on the M-5 incident.

Kirk rises from his seat and steps up to the science station. Spock hands a data tape to Kirk who hands it back after studying it a beat.

KIRK

Go ahead, Spock; main viewer.

Spock reinserts the data tape and the two turn to see it.

ON MAIN VIEWER

We see lists of dead and wounded, damage reports from ships and estimated repair times.

NEW ANGLE – VIEWER AND CREW

CHEKOV

Those numbers can't be right, can they, Captain?

SULU

Bad enough if it were Klingons or Romulans, but this is like shooting yourself in the foot.

Kirk is visibly affected.

KIRK

I knew there were a lot of casualties, but this...

ON SPOCK

He reads off his station viewer.

SPOCK

Excalibur, 265 dead, another 169 wounded and injured. Lexington, 78 dead, 16 wounded. Potemkin, 119 dead, 89 wounded. Hood, 12 dead and 79 wounded and injured. Those plus our own Mister Harper.

WIDE ANGLE

SCOTT

A good engineer and friend.

CHEKOV

A total of 475 dead...

UHURA

...and 353 wounded or injured.

SPOCK

354, Lieutenant. Don't forget Doctor Daystrom.

The bridge is quiet for a moment.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Uhura, see that the summary is made available to all crewmembers. I'm sure there are a few friends among the casualties.

He turns to see Uhura's reaction.

ON UHURA

She is a bit emotional and notices Kirk and nods in understanding.

UHURA

Yes, sir.

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

KIRK

Viewer normal, Spock. The ramifications of the M-5 incident will be felt for a long time to come.

(beat)

How long until we reach our assignment, navigator?

CHEKOV

Uh... six hours twenty minutes, sir.

KIRK

Spock, you have the Conn. I'll be in my quarters.

Spock moves to take Kirk's place as Kirk rises.

SPOCK

Aye, Sir.

Kirk moves to the turbolift and exits at a clip. The bridge is quiet except for the sound of active electronic circuits.

KIRK'S CABIN – WIDE ANGLE

Kirk is studying his viewer when the door chime sounds. He is reluctant to respond.

KIRK

Come.

The door opens and McCoy enters. He is subdued but friendly and sympathetic.

MCCOY

Hello, Jim. I heard about the M-5 report. You reading it now?

KIRK

Going over the names, Bones. I knew a number of these people.

McCoy sits nearby and listens to his friend.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

KIRK  
(continued)

First Officer on the Hood, Mark Carey, fellow academy student. Captain Claire Bouchet of the Excalibur. Then there's the Science Officer on the Potempkin, the Security chief on Lexington... it's a long list Doctor.

McCoy's voice is quiet.

MCCOY  
I know. The Chief Surgeon and his wife, who was also the head nurse on the Excalibur, were friends of mine. I'm still not sure how many other friends I've lost.

Kirk looks at McCoy, puzzled.

KIRK  
How's that?

MCCOY  
I stopped reading. I just couldn't... continue.

Kirk loses interest in the console.

KIRK  
I know how you feel.  
(beat)  
So what brought you here?

McCoy looks guilty.

MCCOY  
A call from Spock. I think he's worried about you.  
(beat)  
And so am I.

KIRK  
I'm okay, Bones, really.

MCCOY  
Wanna bet? I think you're still carrying a lot of unnecessary guilt. My orders are to stop.

KIRK  
(smiling)  
Is that so? Actually, I'm doing much better since talking to Uhura.

MCCOY  
To Uhura? I'd like to discuss that over dinner.

Kirk is now relaxed and amused by McCoy's effort.

KIRK  
You buying?

MCCOY  
Absolutely!

EXT. SPACE – MELANA III – A BRIGHT BLUE PLANET

Enterprise is orbiting the Earth-like planet.

INT. ENTERPRISE –  
TRANSPORTER ROOM – WIDE ANGLE

Kirk, Spock, Uhura, McCoy, Sulu and Chekov are present, KYLE is at the controls.

KIRK  
Miss Uhura, you have the lead on this mission, so lead on. I'll expect regular reports, so don't get lost in your work.

UHURA  
Yes, sir. Chekov, Sulu and Doctor McCoy and I will transport down and establish first contact with the...

SULU  
(smiling)  
...the Elan. I hope you don't make a mistake like that planet side.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

SPOCK  
You will do just fine, Lieutenant. I can think of no one better qualified.

KIRK  
I agree.

MCCOY  
Don't worry, Jim, I've been on hundreds of these missions, we'll be fine.

SPOCK  
I believe the saying is, 'Famous last words.'

McCoy, Uhura, Chekov and Sulu step up to the transporter platform. Uhura nods her readiness and Kyle activates the controls. The team fades in the effect.

ON SPOCK AND KIRK – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

The two head for the transporter room exit.

SPOCK  
(moving)  
I am curious, Captain.

KIRK  
(moving)  
About what, Spock?

They exit the transporter room and enter the corridor.

SPOCK  
(moving)  
Our absence from the current mission.

CORRIDOR – CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

KIRK  
(moving)  
How else will my junior officers get any experience? From what we know, our new contacts are very easy to deal with and wish to become part of the Federation. Just minor details to work out and few chances for failure. However, I think Uhura would do well regardless.

SPOCK  
(moving)  
Agreed, but there is always the unexpected.

KIRK  
(moving)  
That's why McCoy is there.

Spock stops abruptly and Kirk follows his lead.

SPOCK

As I have stated, there is always the unexpected.

KIRK

In other words, Murphy's Law.

SPOCK

It has been my experience that Mister Murphy was something of an optimist where Doctor McCoy is concerned.

Kirk smiles broadly.

KIRK

Spock, that was a joke!

EXT. MELANA III – MIDDAY – TOWN PLAZA

McCoy, Uhura, Sulu and Chekov appear in an open plaza with a very modern town in the B.G.

SULU

We heard about their medicine, but no one said anything about their architecture or engineering.

UHURA

It's beautiful.

Chekov is engrossed in his tricorder.

CHEKOV  
(off tricorder)

Just as Mister Spock said. Perfect oxygen/nitrogen mix, ambient temperature 74 degrees Fahrenheit, humidity 20 percent, gravity 95 per cent of Earth normal. If the temperature were 40 degrees cooler, it would be paradise.

TWO SHOT – UHURA AND SULU

The two share a smile at Chekov's comment.

SULU

Only a Russian thinks 34 degrees is paradise.

UHURA

It's lovely. I could live here and be very happy. Reminds me of home.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

Chekov is still working his tricorder as Sulu looks on.

CHEKOV

I read multiple humanoids...  
(pointing)

... in this direction, 110 degrees relative.

UHURA

Let's go.

The group heads off towards a collection of buildings when the Elan approach, including LACARA and DULAN.

MCCOY

Okay, Nyota, you're on. Just be yourself and you'll do fine. You wouldn't be here if the Captain didn't think you could handle it.

NEW ANGLE

The Elan woman, Lacara, moves forward to greet the landing party.

LACARA

Are you the Federations?

Uhura suppresses a smile.

UHURA

We are from the Starship Enterprise and we represent the United Federation of Planets.

LACARA

Are you typical of their people?

UHURA

The Federation represents many life forms, people and cultures; but I suppose you could consider us typical.

LACARA

You are a woman and the leader, is this also typical?

UHURA

We... take turns in contact missions like this, but we do believe in equality, if that's what you mean.

The Elan male, Dulan, steps forward.

DULAN

I am called Dulan.

He indicates Lacara, then:

DULAN

(continued)

She is called Lacara.

UHURA

I am called Uhura, this is Sulu...

(indicating Sulu)

... and this is Chekov...

(indicating Chekov)

... and this is Doctor McCoy.

McCoy steps forward to greet the aliens.

LACARA

McCoy, you are a... healer?

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

Yes, it is my main function on board our ship. However, I do participate in other activities such as first contact missions like this.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

DULAN

We are interested in your methods of healing and your technology.

ON UHURA

UHURA

If I may suggest, Doctor McCoy would be happy to speak to you on the subject of medicine. Sulu will answer your questions about our technology, I will assist you with your request to join the Federation. And Mister Chekov will help you...

She smiles to herself.

UHURA

(continued)

... with anything else.

The Elan seem delighted with the idea and they move off into separate groups.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Apr</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>Articles due for May/Jun newsletter</b>
<b>Jun</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville</b>
		<b><i>CON!</i></b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Oak City Comic Show North Raleigh Hilton</b>
<b>Oct</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Crystal Coast Con Cape Carteret (NC)</b>
<b>Nov</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>North Carolina Comicon Durham Convention Center</b>

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS**

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***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
**U.S.S. KITTY HAWK**  
**5017 Glen Forest Dr.**  
**RALEIGH NC 27612**