

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

ATTENTION ALL HANDS: NOW HEAR THIS:

Last month's attendance for the Duke telethon was absolutely terrible! Only six members of the crew showed up to man the phones! Fortunately, I was able to draft the Shadow Players to fill the vacant seats in order to avoid total embarrassment! Not only did we fail to meet our staffing goal but we also failed to raise the usual \$250.00 for the Duke jar! However, we did still give a check for \$250.00 to the telethon, but in a different manner.

We sent a check by mail, in a special program being offered this year by the state's logging association. They agreed to match, dollar for dollar, every donation sent in under this program. So, we will have helped raise \$500.00 for the Duke Children's hospital. Let's not get behind in our fund raising next year.

July Meeting: Our July 3rd meeting will be at the Fisher home and will be a cookout. We will furnish the burgers and hotdogs; you bring the sides, desserts, drinks and snacks. Please bring your families and let's make this a fun evening! If the crew wants to schedule laser tag for the fourth we will decide that at the meeting.

July Convention: Plans are set for the Fab 4 event on July 17 and 18 at the North Raleigh Hilton. Mr. Scott has requested six security people per day. One of Saturday's people will have to work Sunday as well, because of a request by one of the guests to have the same assistant both days. Two people will work the doors of the presentation room and the others will assist with guest relations.

Those people working Saturday will get free admission and autographs on Sunday; Sunday workers will get the free day on Saturday. This is an eight hour commitment! It is important that you be able to donate your weekend for

this convention and we need our very best people on this job.

We will also have a table (probably in dealer's room) which we will man. However, these people will not have access to the convention proper. In other words, no free ticket or autographs. I don't really know how to work this yet as it does not seem fair for people to not even get a chance to enjoy the convention, but we will work out something between now and then. PLEASE sign up with me this weekend. Mr. Scott will select the volunteers for their duties. We will not have a chance to meet with him or any of his staff until that Saturday morning and I don't want to be begging for volunteers that late.

August Meeting: At this time, we are not scheduling a meeting for August as that seems to be the time many of the crew take their vacations. Also, STARFLEET's international conference is scheduled for that first weekend in August in Charlotte and there is no need to conflict with that. In fact, we would like to propose that we travel to Charlotte for the weekend and attend that conference! How about we take the train over on Friday morning (arriving about noon), spend the weekend and return by train Sunday evening? If you have never been on a train trip, this is a great one. We did this several years ago and had a great time. The food was good and trip and train were very nice. A really wonderful experience. We will talk on Saturday the third and see how many people are interested in this.

1999 Dues: There may be some misunderstanding regards our club's membership rules and we need to clarify that. We are a chapter of STARFLEET. That means that our members, especially officers, need to maintain a current membership in our parent organization. This means paying your annual dues to STARFLEET and turning in your membership card to the captain. Then there is the local chapter, U.S.S.

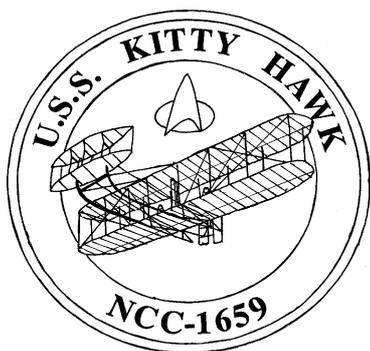
Kitty Hawk. We set our dues at \$24.00/year (calendar year) and this goes to pay the postage, printing etc. of newsletters and notices we mail out over the course of the year, as well as to cover memorials for family members and shortfalls for charity events, like the Duke donation. If you live where it is inconvenient to come to meetings but wish to receive the newsletter and be kept abreast of our current activities, then you may subscribe to the newsletter for \$12.00/year.

A significant number of you have not paid your dues or subscriptions for 1999, and this has resulted in a decline in the treasury. Our balance as of 5-28-99 was \$3,914.66. Since then we have written the Duke check and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. We would greatly appreciate your paying your dues if you have not done so. Those of you not paying will receive no further notice or publication; you will be dropped from the role.

I truly hate to spend my time and the newsletter's space on this subject, but we need your support in all aspects of the ship's activities, all year round, and this is one area which always seems to lag behind. We don't want to lose even one of you, but it is not fair to the rest of the crew for anyone to not contribute their share and still receive the benefits.

Perhaps in a year when we have had one of our greatest successes, we need to re-evaluate our mission and our goals. We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in December; will it be our last? Do we no longer have the Wright Stuff? The time to decide is now. Come to the July 3rd meeting!

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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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THE WRIGHT STUFF

VOLUME 10

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THERE'S TRIBBLE IN THE COLLECTIVE

By Jeff Cohn

Part III: Trials and Tribble-ations

Coldly, methodically, the newly arrived Cube advanced to fulfill its objective. Beams of pure anti-proton laced through the inky blackness of space, piercing deeply into the Cube's "infected" sibling. Ionized clouds of atmosphere and debris escaped from the stricken vessel. It rotated, slowly bringing an undamaged section to face its attacker. Two beams leapt in response, the first an identical anti-proton beam which, with surprising speed, carved a large circular wound in the center of the second vessel. Simultaneously, a tractor beam emanated from an associated weapons array. Rather than locking onto the second cube, it reached deep within its damaged hull. The silence of the resultant explosions failed to mask their intensity. As the beam withdrew, it pulled into the vacuum of space what looked to the stunned crew of the *Redoubtable* to be some sort of computer core. Roughly diamond-shaped, perhaps 4 meters tall and radiating the soft green glow of a firefly's light, the device was held in a firm grasp.

"What is that device they pulled out of the second Cube?" Frustrated, not expecting an answer, Commander Lawrence pounded one hand into the other with quiet intensity as he stared at the main viewscreen. "Unknown Commander," responded Satrel. "It appears to be part of the central communications processor, though that does not answer the

question of why it has been extracted." "Commander," reported Lieutenant Nephila, "The first Cube is aiming a particle beam at the object." "Is it trying to destroy it?" "I don't think so sir, a faint transporter signature is being carried along the beam. It's aimed at the center of the object."

"A transporter signal? Curiouser and Curiouser. Lieutenant, can you determine what they are doing with that beam?" Pausing a beat, Nephila replied "Only that it appears something is transporting *into* the object rather than being pulled out. Wait... Sir the object is being moved again." On the main viewscreen, the tractor beam slowly placed the object back within the Cube. The attacks ceased once this item had been removed. They failed to resume upon its return. The two Cubes drifted now, motionless relative to the Federation vessel. "Fascinating Commander", interjected Satrel "Clearly the processor is critical to the internal functioning of the Borg vessel. It must have been highly shielded, necessitating its removal prior to the injection." "Injection, Sir?" "Yes, Lieutenant Nephila, I believe that is an accurate analogy. I have a hypothesis, however we will need a closer look at the second Cube to confirm it." "I don't want to risk any other crewmen on unknowns, Satrel. Let's send a Digger probe into the Cube and see what it can tell us." "Very well Commander. Lieutenant, set the probe for a 20 minute sortie, with manual control once it enters the Cube." "Aye Sir."

Lieutenant Nephila punched several keys on his station panel. He was rewarded with a slight shudder as the *Redoubtable* released the probe.

The Digger, or Class 8b probe, is designed for conducting geological surveys. Able to punch deep within the crust of a planet or other body, it then collects samples for return to the mother ship. This particular probe was programmed to enter the second Borg Cube through the gaping wound created by the first ship's attack. It did so without attracting any attention. Once inside, control shifted to the Bridge of the *Redoubtable*, where the probe was expertly steered by Ensign Nephila. It passed several Drones at eye level, periodically adjusting its orientation to permit the Bridge crew an accurate assessment of the vessel's status. Carefully, under the Vulcan's direction, Nephila brought the probe into the central core.

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The Borg Queen detached from her wearisome humanoid torso. Retreating to her regeneration chamber, she pondered the current difficulties less the distraction of countless administrative demands. Drawing upon the knowledge of those Drones whose latent memories included contact with the creatures, she evaluated the danger that they posed. Not just to Unimatrix 005, but to the Collective as a whole. Despite the threat, the dichotomy of thought regarding these creatures intrigued the Queen. The

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FIRST OFFICER'S LOG

By Carey Muse

Summer is here and Deep Space Nine is gone.

I hope everyone will have a safe and enjoyable summer and that all of your plans are successful. Although we are not volunteering to the Special Olympics, I hope each of you will take the time to attend at least one or more events and encourage and root the Special Olympians on. As I write this we still have a convention coming up for July and Fleet Captain Fisher has the details on the convention and our participation in the convention.

At the writing of this column, I have not seen the final Deep Space Nine episode. It has been a good season with some changes up to now. Although I think this war has gone on

for too long, I am happy with the way the season has gone and I think it has been a well done season.

Voyager on the other hand has had a so-so season. Some of the stories were very good; others were not so good. With this being the only Star Trek show next season, perhaps there will be some changes made to improve this show. In my opinion, one thing needed is: Harry Kim needs to be promoted, everybody else, except the Captain, has either been promoted or demoted except for Harry.

I finally saw Star Wars: Episode I and I enjoyed it a great deal, however, I would rank this one 3rd out of the four movies to date. Call or

see me if you want to know the rest of the list.

No Collector's Corner this time because there is not really a lot of information out there. Insurrection is available on video FOR RENTAL ONLY. If you wish to add this to your collection it will be reduced in price in November and be available for sale then. Also, on the Star Trek front I don't see anything on figures except at Target. They have exclusive figures in the 6" figures as well as the 12" figures. That is all I have seen as far as figures go right now.

Again, I hope everyone has a great and safe summer!!!!

SCIENCE REPORT

By Elaine Pischke

The news in the science world is ominous. Asteroid 1999 AN10, though not an immediate threat, has the potential to cause a great deal of trouble at some point over the next several hundred years. Astronomers predict that when it passes Earth in 2027, there is a chance it could pass at just the right distance for Earth's gravity to deflect it into a path that could bring it back 12 years later, for a cataclysmic collision. The chances of it hitting Earth in August 2039 are only one in a billion, but researchers believe it will spend at least the next 600 years in an orbit that repeatedly crosses Earth's path, so it will remain a long term threat.

We've all imagined that there are billions of stars out there with solar systems like ours. Now astronomers have discovered that the star Upsilon Andromedae indeed has

three Jupiter-sized planets, the first known system of multiple planets around a sun-like star other than our own. And what about the possibility of life? Unlikely on the planets themselves, as they are most likely giant balls of gas. However, one of them is on the edge of the "habitable zone", and if it has moons that could hold an atmosphere, they could contain liquid water.

Finally, on a lighter note, here is a clue for Data to use in his search for that elusive human trait, a sense of humor. Try looking in the right frontal lobe of the brain. Okay, I know Data doesn't have a human brain - but there must be some equivalent. Then again, maybe there isn't, and that could be the problem. Recent research has shown that people with damage to the right frontal lobe just can't understand a

good joke. Although they responded to slapstick, they could not comprehend a more sophisticated joke. They had not lost their ability to reason, because they could pick out the most logical ending to complete a story. But they failed to choose the ending that would turn the story into a laugh.

So here's a test: Do you find this funny?

If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you explode?

Someday we'll look back on this and plow into a parked car.

I'm having an out-of-money experience.

I have kleptomania and, when it gets bad, I take something for it.

A day without sunshine is like night.

If marriage were outlawed, only outlaws would have in-laws.

OPERATION'S REPORT

By Larry Pischke

Ah, the lazy, crazy, hellishly hot days of summer. Give me air conditioning any day.

I hope that everyone who came to the house for the last

meeting had a good time. I was able to see a few smiles through all of the hamburger smoke. And the last episode of DS9 wasn't too bad. Too bad all we have left to carry the torch is Voyager. Ugh.

Late-breaking sad news. A fond farewell to DeForest Kelley, who apparently passed away on Friday, June

11. I haven't heard all of the details, but I've been told that the 79 year old actor never fully recovered from a recent illness. I will miss him.



MEDICAL REPORT

By Amy DeJongh

Updates from the World of Medicine

- ◆ A magnetic coil used to stimulate the brain appears to ease some patients' severe depression with few side effects, and may eventually replace electroconvulsive treatment, according to researchers in Israel. Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation focuses a small current produced by a strong magnetic field only on one area of the brain. The procedure, which involves placing an electromagnetic coil on the scalp, can be done on an outpatient basis and causes only a slight headache in a small number of patients.
- ◆ Preliminary trials of a male contraceptive pill have been successful. A regular progesterone tablet to stop sperm production combined with a testosterone skin patch to preserve sex drive and avoid side-effects was given to 23 volunteers in the UK. Divided into three groups, given low, medium and high doses of progesterone, two-thirds of the men in the high dose group and 60 per cent of those in the medium group produced no active sperm after three months. When they stopped taking the pill, their sperm counts gradually returned to normal.
- ◆ Preoperative medical care aimed at improving breathing and circulation in patients about to undergo surgery could substantially improve their chances of survival, and may even reduce overall hospital costs, according to the results of a British study. Researchers

examined whether or not a "package of preoperative interventions" aimed at improving oxygen levels in patient's blood would improve survival in patients who were at increased risk of surgical complications. They found that patients who received preoperative care -- a combination of monitoring, fluids and the administration of either adrenaline or dexamethasone, two drugs that improve oxygen delivery -- were significantly more likely to survive surgery than patients who did not receive this care prior to surgery.

- ◆ 'Hot spots' of high temperature in fatty deposits on coronary artery walls may point to areas that may soon rupture, blocking the artery and causing a heart attack, according to researchers. Techniques such as thermography that can identify the vulnerable plaque -- one that may rupture and cause a heart attack -- may be used in the future as a way to help physicians predict which individuals are most likely to have a heart attack.
- ◆ Canadian scientists are questioning whether a gene inherited from mothers influences men's sexual orientation in a study that attacks U.S. researchers' hunt for a "gay gene." Scientists still can't explain what determines a person's sexual orientation, although many studies have suggested that it is biology and not choice. The first such evidence came in 1991, when researchers discovered that identical twins

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SECURITY REPORT

By Spring Brooks

WARNING! WARNING! USS KITTY HAWK personnel!

A new and menacing threat has appeared in the Star Wars universe. And while it has not yet reached our StarTrek worlds, its evil is so great that its very existence is reason to fear it. I speak, of course, of JarJar Binks! Just tell us how you feel, Spring? No need to since others have spoken already so eloquently:

"Since George Lucas' "Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace" opened May 19, the Internet has been afire with messages -- and several entire Web sites -- calling for no less than the annihilation of the creature, Jar Jar Binks. "The tally so far is running about 10 to 1 in favor of having a festive Jar Jar-B-Q," said a Web site called Jar Jar Must Die. By Thursday, the Web site deja.com had amassed 15,000 messages just about Jar Jar, with many saying they couldn't stand him. Jar Jar, a computer-animated character dropped into the frames next to the actors, is a bumbling sidekick who steps in animal dung and says things like "yousa" and "meesa" for "you" and "me." To some, his speech sounds like Caribbean-accented pidgin English, and his ears suggest dreadlocks. With his bellbottom pants and vest, Jar Jar looks to some like the latest in a long line of black stereotypes in movies. (Critics have also complained of Asian and Italian stereotypes in other characters.) Film critic Joe Morgenstern of the WallStreet Journal described Jar Jar as "a Rastafarian Stepin Fetchit on platform hoofs, crossed annoyingly with Butterfly McQueen."

<http://members.xoom.com/joelrevs/>

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ENGINEERING REPORT

By Brad McDonald

Today I have returned from my vacation to be greeted with some sad news. De Forest Kelley died today. I had always liked the man, even thought he's the one original Star Trek cast member I had never met. So why did I like him so much? Simply, no one ever had a bad thing to say about him. In all the other biographies and behind the scene books written about the show, each person had fond memories about Mr. Kelley. In fact, I had always hoped he would write his own personal story. Since he was in Hollywood under the old studio system, I figured he had many unique stories to tell. Sadly, most of those are now gone. I can only hope that someone will still write his story. I got the impression he was a kindly soul, the epitome of what being a Southern Gentleman should be. All of the interviews I saw of him, he always spoke in a gentle and understanding manner, rarely, if ever, raising his voice or contradicting what others had said. He also seemed genuinely interested in others and what they had to say.

The old actors saying is, "If it ain't on the page, it ain't on the stage." And while Gene Roddenberry may have created the character, Mr. Kelley breathed life into him. I doubt anyone could imagine another person as Doctor McCoy. No matter how great the actor, there was something of Mr. Kelley, the person, that was an inseparable part of the character. The many exchanges of barbs, the side comments and the constant comparisons "I'm a doctor, not a ... whatever", are fixed in our collective Star Trek memories.

As a parting note, I just want to say, he will be missed greatly. The Star Trek universe has lost a gentle soul and an irreplaceable member of its family.

Several weeks ago, a few of us visited a junior high in Chapel Hill and in preparation for that visit, I prepared a few notes on the difference and similarities of Science Fiction and Science Fact. As the remainder of this report, I include it here. Hope you enjoy it.

Fact and Science Fiction in Star Trek

The difference between science fiction and science fact can be slight or great, but generally it doesn't last forever. In fact, the gap between science fiction and science fact has been shrinking steadily over the centuries. The story of Icarus and Daedalus told of achieving flight two thousand years before the Wright Brothers made it happen. The writings of Copernicus were considered science fiction, and even heresy, when he postulated that the sun, and not the Earth, was the center of our solar system and universe. It took several hundred years to become accepted fact. When Jules Verne wrote about atomic powered submarines and trips to the moon, it took almost a hundred years to become reality. Arthur C. Clarke wrote about geosynchronous orbit satellites providing communications to earth in 1945. In two decades, 1965, early bird satellite was doing just that. When Star Trek premiered, they showed automatic pocket doors which were actually operated by off

camera stage hands. Within the decade, most every grocery store in the country had them, without the stage hands.

The list of what is fact or fiction changes constantly. The world was thought to be flat until it was proven to be round by Columbus. After satellite pictures and computers analyzed pictures of Earth it was discovered to be more pear shaped, three miles narrower above the equator and three miles wider below the equator.

Many of the ideas of Star Trek that were thought to be science fiction then, are fact now. Besides the pocket doors, the flip out communicator are now common cell phones. The data discs shown in "All Our Yesterdays" are better known as CD ROMS. The work consoles of Spock and Kirk, we now call PC's. There's also electronically monitored hospital beds, operational tricorders, even ion engines are in use in NASA's latest space probe. But the most striking example is the transporter, a device that nearly everyone said could probably never become reality. Two years ago in Switzerland, a very basic version of the transporter was demonstrated. And so it goes.

There are constant arguments against the possibility of faster than light speed. But remember, the same thing was said about the possibility of flight, or going faster than the sound barrier, and escaping earth's orbit or trips to the moon. Faster than light speed is just another hurdle, not a permanent barrier. 200 years from now, who knows what mankind (and even

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physiological responses obtained from certain assimilated species indicated an attraction for the organisms. Repetitive tactile contact and exposure to their vocalizations produced a significant tranquilizing effect on certain humanoid neuropathways. In contrast, other species reacted with significant aversion, producing a similarly antagonistic response from the normally placid creatures. In part because of these fascinating characteristics, the most efficient course of action was unclear. Species 52339, as it has now been designated, was inherently a non-aggressive species. Left alone, the infested cubes could simply drift, until life support and food supplies ran out. Nevertheless, stochastic analyses indicated a small but significant probability that a more aggressive adaptation may result from the fusion of Borg nanoprobes with DNA from species 52339. Such a result would pose a substantial danger that could not be ignored. Nevertheless, should a confluence of random elements prove favorable, the unexpected situation may prove the catalyst for additional successes in this Sector. The Queen knew of the conflict underway in this region. It was inevitable that the Borg would assimilate this novel and highly promising species with which it seemed the entire Quadrant was warring. *Perhaps, she thought, from this crisis may come opportunity.* This entire process took several milliseconds, a tremendous investment of time and energy. The Borg Queen was satisfied with the decision however, and set her plan in motion.

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The Digger probe functioned well. As it entered the central

core, Ensign Nephila brought it about in a slow pan. When the glowing diamond-like device came into view, the probe stopped and focused its attention upon it. The Borg's damage control and autorepair systems seemed fully functional, as the device was already returned to and properly seated upon its mount. There were few signs of its earlier removal, other than the large hole reaching out to the surface of the Cube. "This is certainly the Cube's primary communications center. Its output is nearly identical to interlink signals detected during previous encounters with the Borg. It is used to communicate throughout the Collective, one of many hubs located on Borg vessels and their worlds. There is something peculiar however. I am reading a secondary signal emission on a concurrently modulating wavelength." "A piggy-back signal?" asked Ensign Nephila. "I believe that is what I said, Ensign." answered the Second Officer. The computer chirped. Looking at the readout, the Second Officer nodded in affirmation. "Co-Fourrier analysis is complete. It is a transgenic carrier wave." Commander Lawrence stood up from the Command Chair. "Who's receiving it?" "The Borg on the second Cube, Commander" answered the Vulcan. "Ensign, initiate a broad-spectrum scan of that device." After two or three minutes, Ensign Nephila looked up from his console. "The Digger has completed its scans, Sir. There are high concentrations of nanoprobes within the device. Microresonance imaging indicates that they are reworking the communications net within the device." "Fascinating. Ensign, rotate the probe 160 degrees on the horizontal. The probe responded immediately and stopped again,

its visual imagers now aimed at a group of nine Borg. The Drones stood passively in a row. About their feet, large tribbles slowly shuffled. A solid white one ambled up to the first Drone. Two appendages emerged from the top of its body. The first, a laser beam, focused on the thigh of the Borg. The second jabbed itself into the Borg's flesh. The Drone did not flinch, but slowly dropped to the floor. Other tribbles attacked the remaining Borg in a similar manner. Soon all were on the floor. "No reaction on their part." observed Lawrence, "It's as if they were resigned to it." "Or they are being instructed to resign themselves to it" added Ensign Nephila "... Sir."

"I believe the Ensign is correct," added Satrel, supportively. "The tribbles' influence has clearly managed to alter both Borg communications hardware, and the instructions sent out by the device. At the current rate of assimilation, this second Cube will come completely under Tribble control within 2.36 standard hours.

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Within two hours, slightly ahead of the Vulcan's estimation, no humanoid Borg could be detected on either Cube. They drifted in a strange ballet with the *Redoubtable*, whose Digger probe returned to each Borg vessel several times collecting additional data. The images indicated a gross restructuring of the vessels. Food replicators were being assembled at regular intervals; they dispensed continuous cascades of grain onto the passageway floors beneath them. Borg-Tribbles scuttled along, eating their fill, giving birth to another litter of ten cybernetically enhanced fur balls

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of gay men were much more likely to also be gay than were fraternal twins. In 1993, a study claimed that one such gene resides in a region of the X chromosome, one of the microscopic structures that carry genes. Men inherit that chromosome from their mothers. Although the researcher never identified the gene itself, his research suggested its location by finding that 33 of 40 pairs of gay brothers shared certain genetic "markers" that heterosexual brothers didn't. But in a recent report, Canadian scientists said they tried to reproduce this study and found no link.

◆ The widespread use of blood pressure drugs over the past half-century appears to have sharply reduced dangerous hypertension and potentially deadly enlargement of the heart's main pumping chamber. Since hypertension drugs became available in the 1950s, high blood pressure and enlargement of the left ventricle have been cut in half among men in an ongoing study. Among women, both conditions were reduced about 70 percent.

◆ A controversial surgery which implants fetal cells into an adult's brain have helped many Parkinson's patients improve brain function and move better. Parkinson's, which is characterized by stiffness and tremors, destroys the brain cells that produce dopamine, a chemical that influences many parts of the brain. The cells from aborted fetuses are used to replace them. Over the year following the operation, more than half the patients who received fetal cells had a significant increase in levels of dopamine. Many patients were also able to

reduce or stop taking medication. But how long the improvements will continue is still under investigation.

◆ The chance of a transplanted organ being rejected can be reduced sharply if the patient also is given bone marrow from the same donor, doctors at a leading transplant center have found. Immune cells from the donor seem to condition the recipient's system not to attack the new organ. The effect was most dramatic in recipients of new hearts and lungs.

◆ The outlook for tiny newborns isn't as bleak as previously thought. Among full-term babies, only the smallest 3 percent face a significantly increased risk of death or life-threatening illnesses in their first few weeks, a study published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine found. Obstetricians have long believed that the smallest 10 percent were in danger. For premature babies, the study didn't find a clear cutoff point. But the risk of respiratory distress, life-threatening bloodstream infections, seizures and death increased the smaller and the more premature they were. Babies at the 3 percent mark weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces, compared with 7 pounds, 7 ounces, for the "typical" baby. The smallest 3 percent of full-term babies were three times more likely to die and at least two times more likely to have major illnesses than average babies. Still, only three of every 1,000 of those tiniest babies died.

◆ Concerns that a new smallpox vaccine might be needed to combat a future terrorist threat led President Clinton on Thursday to reject appeals

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- Jar Jar Must Die ! - sounds, great graphics, Kill Jar Jar song by DanmNation, questionnaires, comments - "It will take years and brilliant minds to form committees, symposiums, and think-tanks to try to find a solution and undo the damage that this (Lucas) man has done." Poetry - "Let me tell you what I think. Phantom Menace really stinks. I'd rather see Titanic sink, Than watch that stupid Jar Jar Binks." Emails - "My husband took advantage of the presence of Jar Jar on screen to note all the special effects in the background that one usually misses because of looking at the main characters. He is a better person than I am, as I burned with hatred for Jar Jar." (I feel your pain.)

Other sites:

<http://jarjar.iscool.net/> - Jar Jar Hate Page + Jar Jar Hate Webring
<http://members.xoom.com/joelrevs/> - Jar Must @#\$\$^ Die !

<http://www.JarJarMustDie.com/> - International Society for the Extermination of JarJar Binks

<http://www.jarjarsucks.com/> - JarJar Sucks Page - graphics, e-mails, multimedia , quotes - "Messa a stoopid assa!"

<http://www.dropclaw.com/jarballs> - Jar Jar Binks Ate my #\$\$%: graphics

<http://www.dailymovies.com/news/1702.html> - Story of Jar Jar mutilations - Videos

Still not convinced he's truly evil? He actually says "Exsqueeze me" and also says "How rude" 4?! I'm still waiting for the Shadow Players to come up with a JarJar costume. Luckily it will take a long time. I should have my BarBQ pit ready by then.



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before approaching another nearby replicator. The Cubes' autorepair functions seemed in perfect order, as the damage incurred during the brief battle was nearly restored. The structural alternations noticed during exploration of the vessels' interiors continued and accelerated externally as well. Ensign Nephila noticed it first, pointing out to Commander Lawrence that the outward appearance of the Borg vessels had changed. A short-range scan quickly confirmed that the Cubes were, according to Satrel, "metamorphosing into oblate spheroids, profiles reminiscent of the gross anatomical structure of a tribble."

Back in the Conference Room, the interrupted strategy conference resumed. "Alright," continued Commander Lawrence, "Now there are *two* vessels filled with tribbles. In fact, the vessels themselves look like they are *turning into* tribbles. Clearly, the Collective is aware of and quite concerned about the situation. It is also clear that these ships CAN defend themselves. Is there anything we can do to make use of this situation?"

"It may yet be possible to destroy the vessels, if we beamed quantum torpedoes into the core of each" suggested the Tactical Officer; a young Bajoran named Behran Nahtul. Lawrence

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from scores of nations to destroy one of the last caches of the deadly virus. World Health Organization officials had recommended that the remaining stores of smallpox be destroyed in 1996. The United States and Russia are the only two nations with known smallpox stocks, but the administration fears the virus could have fallen into other hands, raising the threat of bioterrorism. Smallpox is highly contagious and kills about 20 percent of those afflicted. Clinton concluded that the virus samples must be maintained to develop new drugs and vaccines to treat or prevent the disease

- ◆ Balancing costs against medical outcomes, researchers conclude that cardioversion -- the administration of shocks to heart -- is a more cost effective treatment than drug therapy for patients with the common, irregular heart rhythm disturbance called nonvalvular atrial fibrillation.

nodded. "That would likely work Ensign, however I'm more interested in creating a strategic advantage. Can we induce the Borg-tribbles to say, go on the offensive against the Collective, or the Dominion for that matter?"

"An interesting proposal, Commander. While it is unlikely that we can assert direct control over them we may, if we access their central processor, influence the hive mind to our benefit. An incursion by billions of hungry tribbles into Dominion space would certainly require a response. It could cause the Founders to shift resources away from where they are needed..." "Leaving the Federation with some additional breathing room and possible a tactical opportunity to exploit", concluded Commander Lawrence. "I like it. Lieutenant Satrel, Ensign Behran, I want to see a proposal complete and on my desk in two standard hours. OPS, maintain continuous Long Range sensor scans. Let me know the second you detect any additional Borg Vessels." A chorus of acknowledgements responded "Aye Sir." Lawrence left the Bridge on his way to Sickbay. He needed to check up on Ensign Kenney, presently munching (a very small amount) of replicated quadrottricale behind the Level 6 Force Field.

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alien kind) may achieve?

By definition, good science fiction merely takes given facts or science and extrapolates them to the next level or possibility. Does Star Trek follow this definition? Mostly, but it does stray occasionally for the benefit of a story line or a dramatic effect. For example, the Enterprise making a whooshing sound while traveling through space. The ship's tractor beams being used to more other ships without moving itself. (Remember the old law, for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction.) Visible phasers in the vacuum of space, try that with an ordinary laser pointer. And there are more, two entire books have been written about the science and metaphysics of Star Trek.

Perhaps the most obvious aspect of Star Trek's Science Fiction aspect, is the presence of aliens. That always meets with a certain amount of skepticism. But look at the statistical possibilities. There are approximately 100 billion galaxies in our universe with more or less 100 billion stars in each one. If only 1% of those stars have planets, that gives us 100 billion planets. If only 1% have life, then that gives us 1 billion possibilities. And if only 1% of them have intelligent life, then that gives us 10 million possibilities for intelligent life. Scientist have reason to believe that several nearby stars have planets orbiting them. This has been proved by the influence of the stars rotation and the interruption of the star's radio signals and light. Like the character in the movie 'Contact' said, "If there isn't anyone else out there, then it's a terrible waste of space." Mankind refused to believe that Earth wasn't the center of the universe when Copernicus first suggested it, now we know that it isn't. Who's to say that there aren't other being out there?

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