

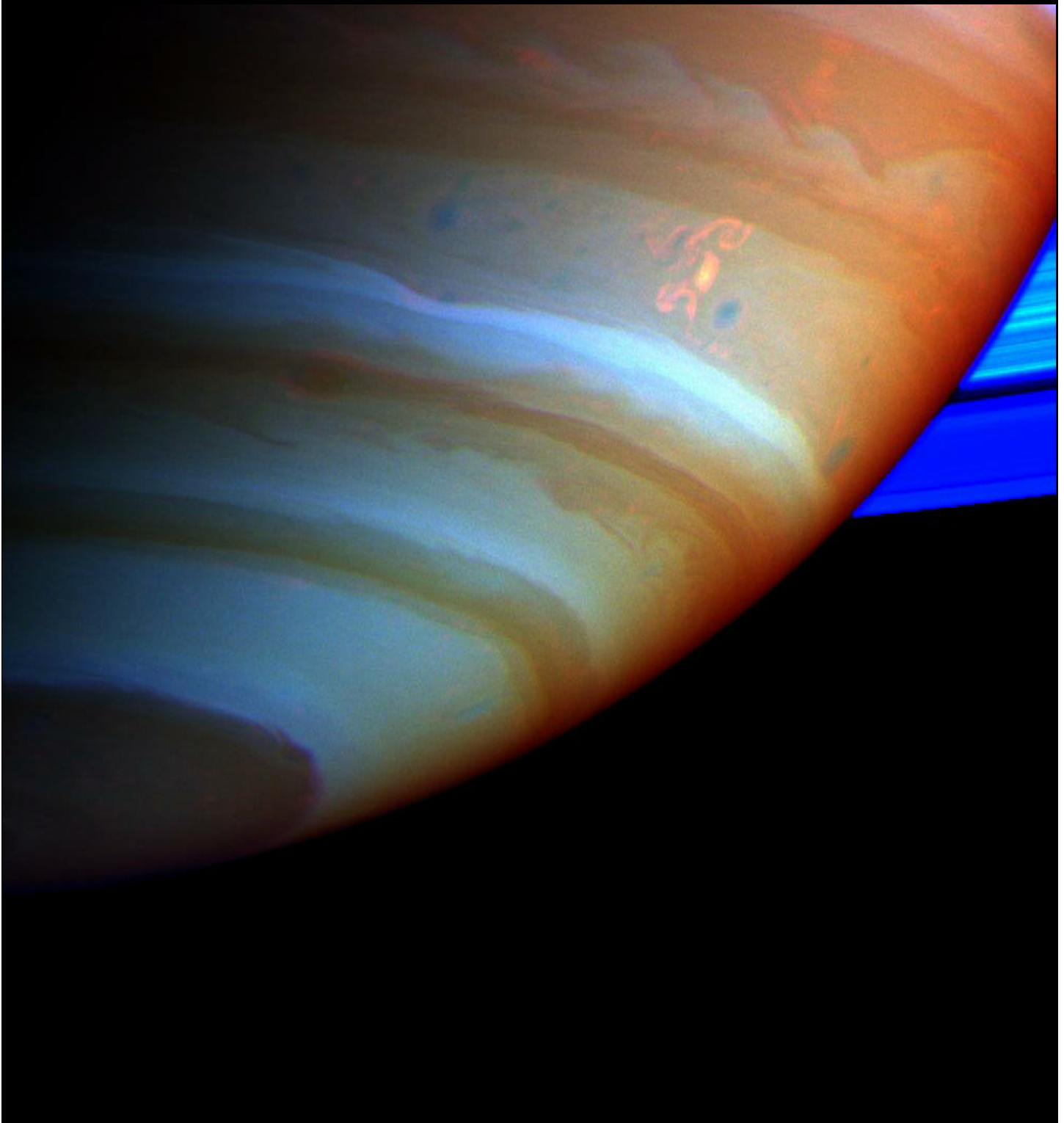
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XVI ♦ No 1

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

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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 16 - Number 1

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Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
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## CONTENTS

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT .....	3
J.R. Fisher	
ORIGINAL CAPTION RELEASED WITH IMAGE ON FRONT COVER .....	3
NASA / JPL / Space Science Institute	
MEDICAL REPORT .....	4
Amy DeJongh	
SCIENCE REPORT .....	4
Elaine Pischke	
SECURITY REPORT .....	5
Spring Brooks	
COMPUTER OPERATIONS REPORT .....	6
John Troan	
BOOKS-A-MILLION OPENING .....	6
ORIGINAL CAPTION RELEASED WITH SATURN IMAGE .....	6
NASA / JPL / Space Science Institute	
SATURN IMAGE .....	7
NASA / JPL / Space Science Institute	
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	8



**TOOL BOX:** Pentium IV-3.0GHz; HP LaserJet 1200 & DeskJet 722C; 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**

False-color image of Saturn, taken by *Cassini*; from [jpl.nasa.gov](http://jpl.nasa.gov). (See page 3 for details.)

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Here it is the end of February; the year is one-sixth gone. March will be a busy month for us as the meeting day, the 12th, is also the first of our two Saturday nights at the PBS telethon at UNC-TV at 6:30 p.m.

You will be interested to know that they have all new equipment for us now. More comfortable chairs, new modern telephones with headsets and caller ID, and for the computer inclined, screens and keyboards to expedite the information!

The nineteenth is our second night this year so we will be sharing that night with the Moose. Please don't laugh or make fun of them in their funny costumes if they should happen to be wearing them. As far as our own dress is concerned, you may wear a uniform to either night if you choose to; if you have a *Kitty Hawk* shirt, it would be nice to wear, but if you don't, please wear a solid color top. The food will be good as always. Please call me and let me know by March 10th if you will or will not be coming to these two events.

Check your e-mail for a list of things to do this spring, put together by Spring. Bring your calendar and let's see when we

can get together to do some of these before the weather gets hot.

Don't forget that we are planning a massive yard sale for late spring at the State Fairgrounds with the proceeds going to the Raleigh Battered Women's Center. Save up all those things you are cleaning out of your closets and cabinets and garages and let's have a great weekend.

Also, an effort is being made to have a blood drive for the crew. If you can give blood, let's plan a day when we can all go and make a donation together.

The April meeting will return to the first Saturday.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Original Caption Released with Front Cover Image

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A large, bright and complex convective storm that appeared in Saturn's southern hemisphere in mid-September 2004 was the key in solving a long-standing mystery about the ringed planet.

Saturn's atmosphere and its rings are shown here in a false color composite made from *Cassini* images taken in near infrared light through filters that sense different amounts of methane gas. Portions of the atmosphere with a large abundance of methane above the clouds are red, indicating clouds that are deep in the atmosphere. Grey indicates high clouds, and brown indicates clouds at intermediate altitudes. The rings are bright blue because there is no methane gas between the ring particles and the camera.

The complex feature with arms and secondary extensions just above and to the right of center is called the Dragon Storm. It lies in a region of the southern hemisphere referred to as "storm alley" by imaging scientists because of the high level of storm activity observed there by *Cassini* in the last year.

The Dragon Storm was a powerful source of radio emissions during July and September of 2004. The radio waves from the storm resemble the short bursts of static generated by lightning on Earth. *Cassini* detected the bursts only when the storm was rising over the horizon on the night side of the planet as seen from the spacecraft; the bursts stopped when the storm moved into sunlight. This on/off pattern repeated for many Saturn rotations over a period of several weeks, and it was the clock-like repeatability that indicated the

storm and the radio bursts are related. Scientists have concluded that the Dragon Storm is a giant thunderstorm whose precipitation generates electricity as it does on Earth. The storm may be deriving its energy from Saturn's deep atmosphere.

One mystery is why the radio bursts start while the Dragon Storm is below the horizon on the night side and end when the storm is on the day side, still in full view of the *Cassini* spacecraft. A possible explanation is that the lightning source lies to the east of the visible cloud, perhaps because it is deeper where the currents are eastward relative to those at cloud top levels. If this were the case, the lightning source would come up over the night side horizon and would sink down below the day side horizon before the visible cloud. This would explain the timing of the visible storm relative to the radio bursts.

The Dragon Storm is of great interest for another reason. In examining images taken of Saturn's atmosphere over many months, imaging scientists found that the Dragon Storm arose in the same part of Saturn's atmosphere that had earlier produced large bright convective storms. In other words, the Dragon Storm appears to be a long-lived storm deep in the atmosphere that periodically flares up to produce dramatic bright white plumes which subside over time. One earlier sighting, in July 2004, was also associated with strong radio bursts. And another, observed in March 2004 and captured in a movie created from images of the atmosphere (PIA06082 and PIA06083) spawned three little dark oval storms that broke off from the arms of the main storm.

Two of these subsequently merged with each other; the current to the north carried the third one off to the west, and *Cassini* lost track of it. Small dark storms like these generally get stretched out until they merge with the opposing currents to the north and south.

These little storms are the food that sustains the larger atmospheric features, including the larger ovals and the eastward and westward currents. If the little storms come from the giant thunderstorms, then together they form a food chain that harvests the energy of the deep atmosphere and helps maintain the powerful currents.

*Cassini* has many more chances to observe future flare-ups of the Dragon Storm, and others like it over the course of the mission. It is likely that scientists will come to solve the mystery of the radio bursts and observe storm creation and merging in the next 2 or 3 years.

The *Cassini-Huygens* mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. The *Cassini* orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The imaging team is based at the Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colo.

For more information about the *Cassini-Huygens* mission, visit <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov> and the *Cassini* imaging team home page, <http://ciclops.org>.

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# Medical Report

By Amy DeJongh

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Insomnia is rarely diagnosed as a disorder in its own right, so its impact on our society is not fully noticed. Insomnia is generally seen as part of some other disorder. Chronic insomnia can decrease productivity at work, impair concentration and attention, and may cause accidents while driving or operating machinery. Insomnia affects twenty to forty percent adults. Women and elderly are more likely to be the victims of insomnia.

There are three types of insomnia:

- ◆ "Initial" insomnia - after turning out the lights, it takes longer than 30 minutes before one can fall asleep.
- ◆ "Middle" insomnia - after going to sleep, one has difficulty in maintaining sleep and remains awake for more than 30 minutes before the morning waking time.
- ◆ "Late" or "terminal" insomnia - premature awakening in the morning with less than 6.5 hour of sleep.

A minimum of 6.5 hours of sleep is considered standard requirement because two thirds of adults report between 7 to 8.5 hours of sleep per night. However, some people may need more or fewer hours of sleep. One third of adults are either "short sleepers," needing 4 to 5 hours of sleep or "long sleepers" needing 9 to 10 hours of sleep.

Insomnia is treated inadequately and generally limited to a prescription of sleeping pills.

Sleeping pills work for a short time as the patient develops a tolerance for the pills and requires more and more medication. Other factors, such as, a physical or a mental disorder; family, health, and work-related stress; divorce; separation; and grief, may cause insomnia, and need to be dealt with first.

If you are suffering from insomnia (short-term or long-term), the best place to start is with giving up faulty sleeping habits and developing good sleeping habits.

Faulty habits that contribute to insomnia:

- ◆ Going to bed when you are wide-awake and your body and mind do not want to do anything with sleeping.
- ◆ Staying in bed awake too long, even though you can't fall sleep. Occupying the mind with problem solving, thinking, worrying, etc. , makes the mind more awake.

- ◆ Lying in bed awake and trying harder and harder to go to sleep only increases anxiety and frustration that makes the sleeping problem worse.
- ◆ Oversleeping in the morning hours on weekdays or weekends may not be a problem for others but it has a harmful effect on a person with insomnia.
- ◆ Reading a book or watching TV in bed induces sleep in some people, but if you do not fall asleep in 30 minutes, it can make your sleep problem worse.
- ◆ If you fall asleep in places, other than bed, you get out of the habit of sleeping in bed.

Good sleeping habits induce sleep:

- ◆ Avoid caffeine and alcohol in any form, four to six hours before bedtime.
- ◆ Avoid nicotine near bedtime and upon awaking during night.
- ◆ Avoid a heavy meal in the evening. On the other hand, a light snack before bedtime may be sleep-inducing.
- ◆ Avoid vigorous exercise within 3-4 hours of bed time. On the other hand, regular exercise in the late afternoon may deepen sleep.
- ◆ Minimize noise, light, excessive temperature during sleep by using ear plugs, window blinds, electrical blanket/ air conditioner, etc.
- ◆ If you must take a daytime nap, keep it less than an hour and complete it before 3 p.m.
- ◆ Go to bed only when sleepy.
- ◆ Get out of bed when unable to fall asleep for more than 30 minutes and return to sleep within 30 minutes. During this time, do only a manual activity or count your breaths while breathing abdominally.
- ◆ Repeat this procedure as often as necessary.
- ◆ Arise at the same time every morning.
- ◆ Practice relaxation techniques.
- ◆ Do not use your bed and the bedroom for non-sleeping activities, such as eating, paying bills, talking on phone, etc. Bed/bedroom should be used for sleeping purposes only.

Making small changes such as these now may improve your health in the long run.

Be safe, be happy, be healthy!

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# Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

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The most tantalizing of space related ideas – the possibility of life on other planets – is again the topic of discussion, this time within the European Space Agency. Scientists there say the evidence for life on Mars is getting stronger. A large ice sea near the equator, the presence of methane and formaldehyde all point to the possibility of some form of life existing on Mars in the past, and possibly even bacterial life still there today. The Europeans would like to launch another mission to Mars to explore these possibilities. At NASA's Johnson Space Center, a poll of 250 scientists at a conference revealed that 75% believe there has been life on Mars, and 25% believe there is still life to be found there.

Meanwhile, back here on Earth, in an effort to keep greenhouse gases from turning our planet into another Mars, the British are spearheading an effort to tackle the global climate change crisis by enlisting 100 cities in 60 countries, including the United States, to focus on practical measures for reducing pollution. The project is called ZeroCarbonCity. Since cities are often areas of concentrated pollution, reducing carbon emissions on the city level should make a significant difference.

*Cassini* continues to make discoveries on it's journey around Saturn and it's moons. The Spitzer Space Telescope is taking pictures of whole galaxies previously hidden by large clouds of dust. There's lots of stuff going on in the space around us. For more info, check out [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov).

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# Security Report

## By Spring Brooks

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### **Star Trek campaign 'raises \$3m'**

#### Star Trek: Enterprise

Fans want to raise enough money to fund a fifth series of *Enterprise*

A campaign to save *Star Trek* spin-off show *Enterprise* says it has received a \$3m (£1.6m) donation from anonymous figures in the space flight industry.

TrekUnited, which is trying to raise money to make another series of *Enterprise*, says it has a "legally binding pledge" from three donors.

TrekUnited said the donors were "some of the main entrepreneurs in the commercial space flight industry".

They did not want to be named but said they had been inspired by *Star Trek*.

In a statement on the campaign's web site, the three donors said *Star Trek* had inspired at least half of their colleagues to work in the space industry.

*Enterprise* needs to be renewed... for bringing imagination and hope for a better future to our homes

#### Anonymous donors

A month ago, TV channel UPN announced that it was canceling the show after four series.

*Enterprise* stars former *Quantum Leap* actor Scott Bakula as Captain Archer and is set before the original 1960s *Star Trek* series.

The donors said: "*Enterprise* needs to be renewed for the sake of fan loyalty, for being quality TV, for bringing imagination and hope for a better future to our homes.

"But over all that for inspiring us so strongly that we have fought all our adult lives to bring that future closer to our children and to us."

#### Global rallies

A TrekUnited spokesperson said they knew the identities of the benefactors and they were satisfied they were genuine.

The spokesperson said it would take just under \$30m (£15.7m) to pay for a new series and they were trying to raise as much as it took to allow a broadcaster to keep the series alive.

Campaign supporters have already staged rallies around the world in an attempt to convince UPN's parent company Paramount to reconsider its decision or persuade another media company to take over the show.

The campaign's fighting fund stood at \$3,072,685 (£1,606,845) at 1700 GMT on Wednesday.

### **Star Trek fans in Israel protest**

#### Star Trek: Enterprise

*Star Trek: Enterprise* is due to end in the US in May after four series

*Star Trek* fans are holding a rally in Israel in a bid to save US television series *Star Trek: Enterprise*.

The Tel Aviv University event is the first rally in a campaign to persuade TV executives not to scrap the show, due to end in May after four series.

Thursday's Save *Enterprise* event will feature screenings of episodes, with further rallies planned in the US on Friday and in London on Saturday.

Earlier this month fans put a protest advert in the Los Angeles Times.

#### 'Cultural icon'

Fans around the world paid for the advert, which had the headline "Save *Star Trek*" and described the *Star Trek* franchise as a "cultural icon".

It asked the US Sci-Fi Channel to pick up the series from US creator UPN and urged fans to join protests outside Paramount studios in Los Angeles, and BBC and Channel 4 buildings in London.

*Enterprise* stars former *Quantum Leap* actor Scott Bakula as Captain Archer and is set before the original 1960s *Star Trek* series.

The fourth series averaged 2.9 million viewers per episode - half the audience it drew in its first series.

*Star Trek: Enterprise* began in 2001 following other *Star Trek* spin-off series *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager*.

### **Trekkies Unite to Save Enterprise**

Loyal Trekkies -- er, make that Trekkers -- beamed across the globe Friday to express their discontent over UPN's decision to ax *Star Trek: Enterprise*.

Earlier this month, the network announced the show's impending demise at the end of its fourth season, leaving *Enterprise* devotees facing the prospect of network television devoid of a *Star Trek* series for the first time in almost 20 years.

Aghast at the realization that the show had reached its final frontier, viewers galvanized a plan to keep *Enterprise* alive by attempting to raise \$32 million dollars to fund the cost of a fifth season and alerting the powers that be to the show's committed fan base.

On Friday, Trekkies held "Save *Enterprise*" rallies at the Paramount lot in Los Angeles, the offices of CBS and the Sci-Fi channel in New York, the Fox affiliate

in Washington, D.C., the offices of the BBC and Channel 4 in London and at Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Tim Brazeal, a systems administrator from Knoxville, Tennessee, who is spearheading the project, said that three people have pledged \$3 million toward salvaging the show, while fan site [TrekUnited.com](http://TrekUnited.com) had raised \$49,410 by Friday afternoon.

According to chatter in fan forums such as [TrekUnited.com](http://TrekUnited.com) and [SaveEnterprise.com](http://SaveEnterprise.com), the L.A. rally drew the most participants, with an estimated 200 to 400 *Trek* enthusiasts voicing their support for the show.

Rather than channeling their inner Mr. Spock, participants were urged to come dressed in normal attire, as a statement on [SaveEnterprise.com](http://SaveEnterprise.com) advised, "Although we think that coming in dress would be great, we also think this would stereotype us all as 'Hardcore' Trekkers and would hurt more than help. Please wear your daily wear."

Most of the rally attendees complied with the dress code, though some could not resist donning Vulcan ears for the cause.

*Enterprise*, a prequel to the original 1960s *Star Trek* series, currently draws about 3 million viewers a week, about half the number who watched its first season, and way down from the 12.5 million who tuned in for its 2001 premiere.

As of now, its final episode is slated to air on May 13.

Efforts to save shows headed for cancellation typically fail, though dedicated fans managed to breathe life into past struggling shows such as the WB's *Felicity* and *Roswell* and ABC's *Once and Again* through Internet campaigns.

If the Trekkers fail in their mission to keep *Enterprise* on the airwaves, money will either be refunded to donors or donated to tsunami relief, Brazeal said.

However, even if *Enterprise* bites the dust, there's still a bright spot on the horizon for *Star Trek* fans.

Earlier this week, *Variety* reported that scribe Erik Jendresen (Band of Brothers) has been hired to pen the script for *Star Trek XI*, the latest installment in the long-running sci-fi franchise.

The project was reportedly shelved in January, but production is apparently back in motion, though Paramount has not yet set a release date for the film, which is rumored to focus on the Romulan War, which took place before the original series.

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# Computer Operations Report

## By John Troan

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As most everyone knows -- or should know -- by now, this is *Enterprise's* last season. (See Spring's Security Report for recent efforts to save the series and try to at least get a fifth season produced and aired somewhere.)

Based on a little research in the *Star Trek Chronology* (written by the Okudas), the Earth-Romulan war would possibly have started in season six. There's also a pretty good chance that events leading up to the war would take place in parts of season five. If only.....

According to [StarTrek.com](http://StarTrek.com), there are six episodes left, with back-to-back one-hour episodes scheduled to air on May 13. Here's the list of remaining episodes and a few of my comments:

4/15 Bound -- As a gift for negotiating with the Orion Syndicate, Captain Archer receives three Orion Slave Girls. (This episode was originally scheduled to air March 15, but that was before the cancellation announcement.)

4/22 In a Mirror, Darkly -- In the mirror universe, Commander Archer mutinies against Captain Forrest in order to capture a future Earth ship found in Tholian space.

4/29 In a Mirror, Darkly (Pt II) -- In the mirror universe, Archer commandeers the 23rd-century *Defiant* from the Tholians and uses it in a nefarious power grab. (Reading through the production report and the date given above, this *Defiant* is probably the one from the original series' *Tholian Web* episode.)

5/06 Demons -- A xenophobic faction of humanity threatens to undermine talks to form a new coalition of planets.

5/13 Terra Prime -- A human isolationist leader threatens to destroy Starfleet Command unless all aliens leave Earth immediately.

5/13 (Series Finale) -- no information has been posted yet and I strongly suspect that very little will be released until after the episode airs. (There is a report in *TV Guide* that Riker and Troi might possibly be appearing in the finale.)

About the only upside I see to the "short" run of *Enterprise* is that the series DVDs will all be released this year. The Season 1 set is scheduled to be released on May 3 and the Season 4 set is due out in December.

In other *Trek* DVD news, the *First Contact* special edition is out now and the

*Insurrection* special edition is scheduled for a June 7 release.

In NASA news, shuttle *Discovery* is being prepared for a mid-May launch to the space station with much-needed supplies that the Russian *Progress* capsules couldn't carry. Also in the mission schedule are tests of shuttle inspection and repair techniques.

Elsewhere, *Spirit* & *Opportunity* are continuing their work on Mars and *Cassini* is comparatively just getting started at Saturn, returning some beautiful images.

Books-A-Million is opening a new store in Falls Village and has invited the *Kitty Hawk* to attend their grand opening in costume. The grand opening is March 11 - 13. They say they will provide a table for us. The store is open on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Is anyone interested in participating? Let the Fishers know what you think.

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## Original Caption Released with Saturn Image

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While cruising around Saturn in early October 2004, *Cassini* captured a series of images that have been composed into the largest, most detailed, global natural color view of Saturn and its rings ever made.

This grand mosaic consists of 126 images acquired in a tile-like fashion, covering one end of Saturn's rings to the other and the entire planet in between. The images were taken over the course of two hours on Oct. 6, 2004, while *Cassini* was approximately 6.3 million kilometers (3.9 million miles) from Saturn. Since the view seen by *Cassini* during this time changed very little, no re-projection or alteration of any of the images was necessary.

Three images (red, green and blue) were taken of each of 42 locations, or "footprints," across the planet. The full color footprints were put together to produce a mosaic that

is 8,888 pixels across and 4,544 pixels tall.

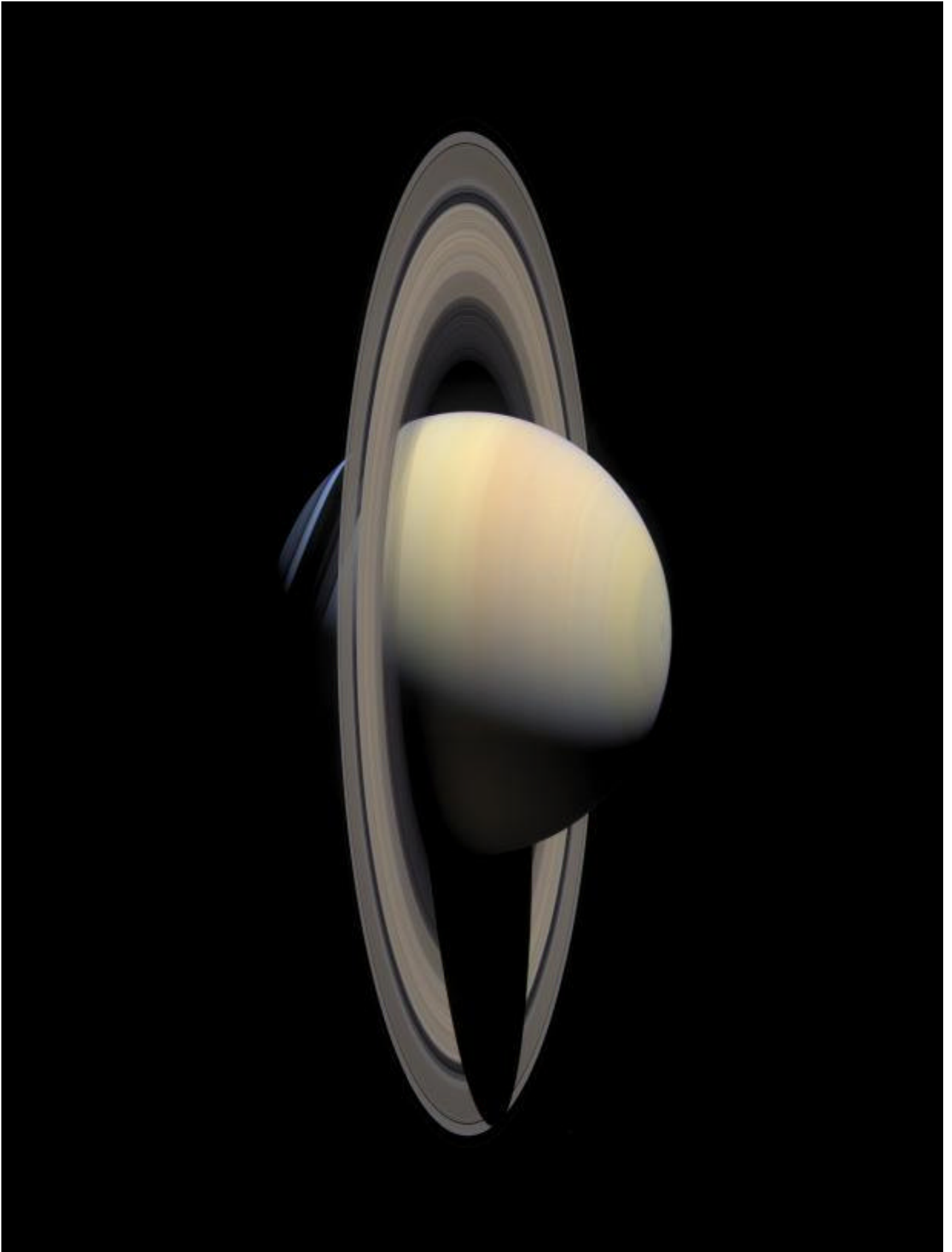
The smallest features seen here are 38 kilometers (24 miles) across. Many of Saturn's splendid features noted previously in single frames taken by *Cassini* are visible in this one detailed, all-encompassing view: subtle color variations across the rings, the thread-like [sic] F ring, ring shadows cast against the blue northern hemisphere, the planet's shadow making its way across the rings to the left, and blue-grey storms in Saturn's southern hemisphere to the right. Tiny Mimas and even smaller Janus are both faintly visible at the lower left.

The Sun-Saturn-*Cassini*, or phase, angle at the time was 72 degrees; hence, the partial illumination of Saturn in this portrait. Later in the mission, when the spacecraft's trajectory takes it far

from Saturn and also into the direction of the Sun, *Cassini* will be able to look back and view Saturn and its rings in a more fully-illuminated geometry.

The *Cassini-Huygens* mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. The *Cassini* orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The imaging team is based at the Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colo.

For more information about the *Cassini-Huygens* mission, visit <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov> and the *Cassini* imaging team home page, <http://ciclops.org>.



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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Mar.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b>
		<b>Also scheduled for UNC-TV in the evening.</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Scheduled for UNC-TV in the evening.</b>
<b>Apr.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>3</b>	<b><i>Enterprise</i> Season 1 DVDs released</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b><i>Enterprise</i> Series Finale</b>

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