

# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

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**IMAGE - Featured Front Page**

Shuttle *Discovery* liftoff from KSC Pad 39B on mission STS-114. This was the first Return to Flight mission, delivering supplies to the ISS and testing inspection & repair techniques. (NASA photo)



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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Summer is over and the kids are headed back to school! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Talk about a long hot summer; well, this was definitely one of those.

I hope everyone survived the last three months without any lasting bad effects. I don't remember it being this hot this long in my entire life. Hope this is not a glimpse of the future.

While everyone was suffering through the summer, many of you did not keep your membership up to date with us or with Starfleet. I hope by now, or at least after reading this, that you will take care of the situation. To renew with Starfleet, go online and either print out the renewal form and mail them a check, or do it electronically. We actually dropped below the required minimum this summer and if we don't get the numbers back up quickly, we will face decommissioning; which would be ridiculous with 31 members. Please take care of this immediately. If you have already renewed thank you, and be sure your Kitty Hawk dues are current as well.

Trinic-con was held again in Durham and several of us attended. There seems to be an entire new group of people running the show and they seemed interested in having us join them for next year when they move the convention to Raleigh. While they had a lot of guests, there was no Star Trek influence anywhere. I think we would do well to at least engage in discussions with them, as I doubt that any other conventions will be headed our way in the foreseeable future. Besides, it could be fun. By the way, they had some great bargains.

Our next meeting is on September 3rd (Labor Day weekend), here at the Fisher house. Accordingly, we will have a cookout with us furnishing hot dogs and hamburgers, etc. You must bring the drinks, side dishes, chips, snacks and desserts - that is if you want any of them. Time is 4 p.m., as per usual.

We will talk about the summer events and try to plan our fall schedule, Halloween, state fair, anniversary, etc. We will be celebrating our 15th year anniversary of our commissioning in October, and we need to decide what we want to do for that. Do we have a cookout,

perhaps at a park, or find a restaurant and have a real sit-down meal? Lots of questions; what will your answer be? Oh, and do you want to meet on October 1st or wait and combine our meeting with our anniversary on October 7th or 8th? It would really be nice to try and get a lot of our old members together again.

One of the nice things about the summer is that the sci-fi channel has new shows on Friday nights. It has really been a great season for them and all of their fans. Also, the theaters have had a few good movies for us this year and I am looking forward to seeing *Serenity*.

One last thing; Starfleet, Region 01, is asking for everyone's join date and I have never kept that information in my files. Please check your records and let me know just when you first joined STARFLEET.

That is about it for me from the center seat this time. I look forward to your input on the 3rd, as we gear up for another mission. I am sure everyone has some interesting stories to tell and I look forward to hearing them.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

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I'm sure you all saw *Discovery* land safely. Congratulations to NASA on a successful mission.

My thoughts on science lately have mainly focused on the state of science education in America. As you may be aware, science education is under assault. Under pressure from fundamentalist religious groups, several states are again considering allowing religious doctrine to be presented as 'scientific theory' alongside real Scientific Theories such as evolution. Just to refresh your memory of the scientific method,

which most of us were taught in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I'd like to attempt to clear up a common misconception about the use of the word 'theory'. A scientific Theory is not just a guess. A hypothesis, based on observation, is a possible explanation for something. It is tested and tested over and over, and when after a sufficient amount of testing no one can prove the hypothesis to be wrong, it becomes a Theory, or the best explanation. The Theory of Evolution has been put to the scientific test for 146 years and has yet to be proven wrong. Creationism and 'Intelligent Design'

are not scientific theories. I'm not here to disparage anyone's religious beliefs. Religion and science ask different questions. Science asks 'how?', 'where?', 'when?' 'what?', and religion asks 'why'? They need not be in conflict. It's no secret that Americans have fallen behind other countries in science education over the last couple of decades. I believe the reluctance of educators to stand up to political pressure is part of the reason. I think it's time for those of us who want science to be taught in science class, and not religion, to stand up and be counted.

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# Security Report

## By Spring Brooks

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### Implanted chip ID tags are getting under the skin (RFID)

The radio frequency identification, or RFID, technology that VeriChip employs has revolutionized manufacturing, retail and security businesses. The microchips act as wireless bar codes, receiving and transmitting data via radio waves, tracking goods from assembly line to store shelf, verifying passports and security codes, and tracing the movements of livestock and pets. Unbeknownst to most Americans, RFID chips are already prevalent in everyday life. Some 1.8 billion tags have been sold to date; by 2015, that number will exceed 1 trillion, according to industry consultant IDTechEx. Meanwhile, the tags are used to speed passage through toll booths, track inventory at Wal-Mart and take attendance at school. New U.S. passports will be chipped by next year, and some states are considering following suit with driver's licenses. The U.S. military, which already uses RFID tags to track basics like food supplies, has talked with VeriChip about implanting dog tags under soldiers' skin.

Because it's imbedded in the flesh, the tag can't be stolen or lost. "It is always there when needed," chip designer Dr. Richard Seelig told a federal panel last January. VeriChip is the first tag patented and marketed for use in humans. Doctors certified by the company purchase, resell and administer the microchips, which are the size of a grain of rice. The procedure involves a quick syringe injection and costs about \$200.

Some 1,000 people have been implanted with the device worldwide, the chipmaker, VeriChip, says. Implants are intended to track easily disoriented Alzheimer's patients, give the chronically ill quick access to complex medical records and restrict entry to high-security areas. To date, most of VeriChip's customers are outside the United States, particularly from Latin America, where the chip could deter kidnappings. Officials in the Mexican attorney general's office have been implanted with the device to access high-security areas. Meanwhile, chipped VIPs at a Barcelona nightclub can pay for drinks by waving their hands under a scanner.

The next fashion accessory for some inmates at the Los Angeles County jail will be a radio frequency identification

bracelet. The country's largest jail system has launched a pilot project with Alanco Technologies to track inmates using the technology. The first phase will involve setting up an RFID system in the 1,800-inmate east facility of the Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic, Calif., by fall 2005. If it succeeds, and funding can be obtained, the county will spread the system throughout its prison facilities. In prison networks with such technology, RFID readers are planted throughout a jail in such large numbers that bracelet-wearing inmates can be continually tracked. When an inmate comes within range of a sensor, it detects his or her presence and records the event in a database. Thus, if an assault occurs at night, prison officials can look at the RFID logs and identify who was at the scene at the time of the incident. Tampering with the bracelet sends an alarm to the system. The system can also warn of gang gatherings. Orwellian as tagging sounds, inmate violence has declined in prisons where similar RFID systems have been installed, according to Alanco. Guards also wear RFID tags in these facilities.

Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson announced that the government will begin testing RFID technology at border crossings by midsummer. Weeding out potential terrorists, drug dealers and other criminals from shoppers, truckers and tourists who regularly pass through border crossings takes time. The RFID technology is designed to reduce the wait while giving authorities more information on who's coming into the country and who's leaving. "We do not keep track of who enters this country," Hutchinson said while standing in an inspection booth at a crossing that is used each year by 5.4 million pedestrians and 3.9 million vehicles. "We need to have a comprehensive system, and that that's what our pilot (test) will do." Currently, foreign visitors at the 50 busiest land border crossings in 10 states are fingerprinted as part of the government's new screening system. The system, called US-VISIT, scans photographs of the visitor's face and index fingers into a computer, which are matched with federal agencies' criminal databases. With RFID technology, people or objects are identified automatically and swiftly. The chip with the identifying information would

be placed in a document, such as the State Department-issued border crossing cards for those who regularly make short trips across the Mexican border. Unlike bar codes, the RFID chip doesn't need to be oriented before a scanner for reading but need only be within transmission range, or 18 and 30 feet in this case. "The present system has not worked for 20 years," said Maria Luisa O'Connell, president of the Border Trade Alliance, which promotes trade among the United States, Canada and Mexico and has long advocated using RFID technology to relieve the crossing logjam. Simulation of the system will begin this spring. Officials said that by July 31, testing is expected to be under way in Nogales, Alexandria Bay, N.Y., and Pacific Highway and Peace Arch in Washington state. Tests are expected to last through spring of next year. Nogales and Alexandria Bay were chosen in part because the government wants to find out if the technology can work in extremely hot and cold weather.

U.S. passports will soon be read remotely at borders around the world. The State Department hopes the addition of the RFID chips will make passports more secure and harder to forge, according to spokeswoman Kelly Shannon. "It's yet another layer beyond the security features we currently use to ensure the bearer is the person who was issued the passport originally." Diplomats and State Department employees will be issued the new passports as early as January, while other citizens applying for new passports will get the new version starting in the spring. Countries around the world are also in the process of including the tags in their passports, in part due to U.S. government requirements that some nations must add biometric identification in order for their citizens to visit without a visa. Current passports (which are already readable by machines that decipher text on the photo page) will remain valid until they expire, according to a State Department spokeswoman. The RFID passport works like a high-tech version of the children's game "Marco Polo." A reader speaks out the equivalent of "Marco" on a designated frequency. The chip then channels that radio energy and echoes back with an answer. But instead of simply saying "Polo," the 64 Kb chip will say the passport holder's name,

address, date and place of birth, and send along a digital photograph. While none of the information on the chip is encrypted, the chip does also broadcast a digital signature that verifies the chip itself was created by the government. Security experts said the U.S. government decided not to encrypt the data because of the risks involved in sharing the method of decryption with other countries.

But privacy advocates decry the device as a forerunner to "Big Brother," and on the Internet, several fundamentalist Christian groups have lambasted the chip as "the mark of Satan." Some researchers worry the system is hackable. At the Johns Hopkins University Information Security Institute, Dr. Avi Rubin last year led a team that cracked the security code encrypting a similar device in remote-control car keys. Rubin fears the stealthy abuse of human chipping. "Imagine you had a spouse you didn't trust, and you managed to implant one of these in them when they were sleeping," he said. Install a chip-scanner near where you believe your spouse is having an affair, and a pager could alert you every time your spouse appeared. Travel privacy expert Edward Hasbrouck argues that identity thieves are not the only ones with an interest in recording the data remotely. Commercial travel companies, including hotels, will capture the data to create commercial dossiers when people check into hotels or exchange currency in order to up-sell their customers, he argues. While there are no laws in the United States prohibiting anyone from snooping on someone's passport data, Roy Want, an RFID expert who works as a principal engineer for Intel Research, thinks that the possibility of identity theft is overblown. "It is actually quite hard to read RFID at a distance," said Want. A person's keys, bag and body interfere with the radio waves, and the type of RFID chip being used requires readers equipped with very large -- and obvious -- coils to capture the data, according to Want. Still, he concedes that a determined snooper could create a snooping system. "In principle someone could rig up a reader, perhaps in a doorway you are forcing people to go through. You could read some of these tags some of the time," Want said. But Want thinks that overall the chips will help cut down on passport fraud. "The problem with security is there is always a possibility of attack," Want said. "RFIDs are not going to solve the problem of passport forgery, but people who know about printing are not going to learn about RFIDs."

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# Medical Report

By Amy DeJongh

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## Reflexology: Keeping You on Your Feet

Are you tired of taking an aspirin with every headache? Is your tennis elbow still hurting after years of physical therapy, or are you simply looking for something that may help manage your diabetes? Could it be time to look to your *feet* for some relief?

Reflexology, an ancient practice used in Egypt and many other cultures throughout history, is based on the idea that applying pressure to certain regions of the feet and hands can relieve ailments throughout the body. In the 1930's, Eunice Ingham, an American physical therapist, redeveloped this ancient technique based on modern knowledge of the human body. And while the practice is still widely questioned by the medical community, there is little to lose by trying it in conjunction with more traditional treatments.

**Reflexology seems like a fancy name for a foot massage. How is it different?** Reflexology is a science that deals with the reflex areas in our feet and hands that correspond to every organ, gland and other part of our body. It's absolutely different altogether from a foot massage.

A foot massage is just massaging the feet, while reflexology focuses on pressure points. You can't just massage these points to get the benefits, because some of them are

very deep. Sometimes the angles at which you hit them are very important. And while a massage can always relax no matter where you rub, reflexology works by trying to hit the reflexes in exact precise angles with more pressure than just a deep massage.

### Why is reflexology beneficial?

It helps in three ways. First, reflexology sessions can help to relieve stress and tension. Secondly, stress acts like a tourniquet around the body systems, so by releasing this stress, you can also improve the nerve and blood supply to every organ and gland in the body. Thirdly, it helps the body to maintain homeostasis, or to regulate itself. What makes reflexology very unique is that it really it can't hurt you in any way. There is no evidence that it's bad for anybody. (Naturally, if you have a broken foot or something, you can't work on that.)

**How long does it take to feel the improvement?** Some improvement is felt immediately, but you don't usually feel instantly better.

**What should someone look for in a reflexologist?** Unfortunately, today, there are a lot of people that are claiming to do reflexology and they're not qualified. Be sure to ask if your reflexologist is certified by the American Reflexology Certification Board or the International Institute of Reflexology.



International Space Station as seen from shuttle *Discovery* during STS-114. NASA photo

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# A Spectacular Test Flight

## From NASA.gov

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This is the mission summary from [spaceflight.nasa.gov](http://spaceflight.nasa.gov) for STS-114, the first flight "Return to Flight" mission for the shuttle program. The second mission, STS-121, is tentatively scheduled for March 2006 and is subject to change based on additional analysis of the external tank foam problems. While viewed as an overall success, the loss of a 0.9-pound chunk of foam is a major problem that is to be corrected before the next flight. (NASA reported that internet traffic for the web site and NASA TV feed were high during the mission.)

After a two-and-a-half-year wait, everything finally came together on July 26, 2005.

The weather was perfect at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where Space Shuttle Discovery stood on its seaside launch pad. At 10:39 a.m. EDT, Discovery's twin white Solid Rocket Boosters thundered to life, carrying a crew of seven explorers on one of the most complicated and closely watched missions in history.

"Liftoff of Space Shuttle Discovery, beginning America's new journey to the Moon, Mars and beyond," exclaimed launch commentator George Diller.

During this test mission, NASA accomplished a variety of goals while also learning some important lessons. At liftoff, a large piece of insulating foam broke off the External Tank. Now, NASA engineers are working to determine what caused this and how to prevent it from happening in the future.

The first of two Return to Flight missions, STS-114 included breathtaking in-orbit maneuvers, tests of new equipment and procedures, a first-of-its-kind spacewalking repair, and phone calls from two world leaders.

Using the new Orbiter Boom Sensor System, Discovery crewmembers took an unprecedented up-close look at the orbiter's thermal protection system. This collection of new data was expanded on flight day

three, when Commander Eileen Collins guided Discovery through the first-ever "rendezvous pitch maneuver" as the orbiter approached the International Space Station for docking.

The slow-motion back flip allowed Station crewmembers John Phillips and Sergei Krikalev to snap high-resolution photos for mission managers to use to ensure Discovery was in good shape to come home.

During the first of three spacewalks, Mission Specialists Stephen Robinson and Soichi Noguchi tested new repair techniques for the outer skin of the Space Shuttle's heat shield and installed equipment outside the Station. They also repaired a Control Moment Gyroscope. Two days later, Robinson and Noguchi again ventured out into the vacuum of space to replace a failed Control Moment Gyro. Their efforts put all four of the Station's gyros back into service.

When two thermal protection tile gap-fillers were spotted jutting out of Discovery's underside, astronauts and other experts on the ground pulled together to devise a plan to ensure the protrusions would not cause higher-than-normal temperatures on the Shuttle during atmospheric reentry.

Ground controllers sent up plans to the Shuttle-Station complex for Robinson to ride the Station's robotic arm beneath the Shuttle and, with surgical precision, pluck out the gap-fillers.

Work on the Shuttle underbelly had never been tried before, but with Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence and Pilot Jim Kelly operating the robotic arms, Mission Specialist Andy Thomas coordinating and fellow spacewalker Noguchi keeping watch, Robinson delicately completed the extraction during the third and final spacewalk.

"Okay, that came out very easily," Robinson said after carefully removing one of the fillers. "It looks like this big patient is cured."

The crew received phone calls from President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who offered congratulations and appreciation for the astronauts' hard work.

Together, both the Discovery and Station crews paid tribute to the astronauts of Columbia, as well as others who gave their lives for space exploration.

With the mission drawing to a close, the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module Raffaello was removed from the Space Station and reinstalled in Discovery's payload bay.

Raffaello arrived at the Station with more than 12,000 pounds of equipment and supplies and carried about 7,000 pounds of Station material on the trip back to Earth. After nine days of cooperative work, Discovery undocked from the International Space Station Aug. 6 and parted ways.

The STS-114 crew was given an extra day in orbit Aug. 8, when the first attempt to land at Kennedy Space Center was foiled by uncooperative weather. But even though cloudy skies reappeared at the Shuttle's home port the next morning, NASA was ready with a backup plan: a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in the high desert of California, where the weather was perfect.

Discovery touched down at 5:12 a.m. PDT on Aug. 9 at Edwards.

Landing commentator James Hartsfield marked each milestone as the orbiter rolled down runway 22 in the pre-dawn darkness: "Main gear touchdown. Drag chute deploy. Nose gear touchdown... and Discovery is home."

Capsule Communicator Ken Ham congratulated the returning crew on a spectacular test flight. "Stevie Ray, Soichi, Andy, Vegas, Charlie, Wendy and Eileen -- welcome home, friends."

Those words, Collins said, were great to hear. "We're happy to be back, and we congratulate the whole team for a job well done."

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# DEEP SPACE NINE - "A Second Chance"

By Brad McDonald

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## CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

### SISKO'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON THE VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Sisko is speaking with Command, the conversation is in progress and Sisko is business-like but tired.

SISKO

Admiral, the Cardassians seem peaceful and willing to resolve the issue through legal means. However, they arrived in a new ship. It's a lot bigger than their other ships.

NECHAYEV

Well, at least they're appearing to live up to the peace treaty and they didn't shoot first. So I'll send a negotiating team to assist you.

(beat, thoughtfully)

I'd like to see some information on that ship.

SISKO

(smiling)

Already in the works, Admiral. I'll forward everything we can find as soon as it becomes available.

NECHAYEV

Very good. How are the Bajorans reacting to the situation?

SISKO

So far, with admirable restraint, but it won't take much to tip the delicate balance.

NECHAYEV

Understood. One more thing, I don't want the wormhole jeopardized in any way. If it comes to it, you're not to fire a shot. If the Cardassians want the station, let them have it.

Sisko is stunned by her orders.

SISKO

(angered)

You can't be serious!

Nechayev is taken aback by Sisko's reaction.

NECHAYEV

(firm)

I am. Starfleet can't afford another war with Cardassia, and that's an order, Captain.

As the view fades, Sisko heaves a sigh of exasperation.

### SISKO'S OFFICE - WIDE ANGLE

Sisko is about to rise when Kira enters. She is mad and barely under control.

KIRA

(moving)

We have to talk!

SISKO

Oh? What about?

(beat)

Did you see the delegation safely to their quarters?

Kira stops just in front of Sisko's duty desk.

KIRA

Yes! Do you realize you've put me in charge of protecting Bakat and his cut-throats? Bakat was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Bajorans!

SISKO

(firmly)

Sit down, Major.

Reluctantly she complies, sitting hard. She is ready to do battle.

KIRA

We should be arresting him, escorting him like a hero!

SISKO

He's a member of a Cardassian diplomatic delegation. If I had him arrested it could touch off another full-scale war. Would you want that?

Kira's anger is somewhat dulled and redirects it.

KIRA

Then I want a different assignment.

### ON SISKO

SISKO

(quietly)

I can't do that, you're the best person for the job. I'm not insensitive to Bajor's losses or suffering by Bakat. But right now, the Cardassians are attempting a peaceful solution to a potentially volatile issue. I have to give them the opportunity, and I'm under orders to that effect. To that end, you're staying on your assignment.

Kira is silent, so Sisko continues by explaining.

SISKO

(continuing)

Major, did you ever think that maybe the Cardassians picked Bakat on purpose? Perhaps they want us to start trouble and use that as an excuse to "restore order".

Sisko relaxes somewhat and smiles slightly.

SISKO

(continuing)

I picked you for this assignment for a reason other than your outstanding abilities as an officer. I felt that a Bajoran officer watching over a Cardassian delegation makes the strongest statement possible. That the Bajorans are an equal partner in the operation of this station. And it might just be a little unsettling to Bakat to have a Bajoran body guard. No sense in letting them play all the psychological games, right?

### TWO SHOT -SISKO AND KIRA

Kira smiles upon hearing the combined complement and strategy insight.

KIRA

(relaxed, smiling)

So, I should be so nice that it just about makes him crazy, right?

SISKO

(smiling broadly)

Now you're getting into the spirit of the moment, Major! Enjoy yourself, won't you?

KIRA

(smiling)

Count on it, Captain!

### SISKO'S OFFICE - WIDE ANGLE

Kira realizes Sisko's attention is diverted and looks over her shoulder to see ado waiting to enter. Sisko waves him in and ado enters, hesitantly.

ODO

(moving)

Am I interrupting?

SISKO

Not at all, Odo. The Major and I discussing psychological warfare.

ODO

As it relates to Cardassians, no doubt. Speaking of them...

Odo takes a seat next to Kira and continues.

ODO

(continuing)

...I didn't get on their ship, but I did learn the identity of their special passenger.

Sisko leans forward with interest

SISKO

And who would that be?

ODO

(simply)

Arnen-Gul Torkin.

At the mention of Torkin's name, Kira reacts visibly.

KIRA

Torkin?! Are you sure?

ODO

Absolutely. They've got a special guard for him, Bornet and Territt. It's also the reason they're using the new ship, maximum protection in decidedly unfriendly space.

Sisko doesn't understand why Torkin's name has caused Kira to react so, or why he is so important to the Cardassians.

SISKO

(confused)

I guess I'm not completely familiar with Cardassian rank or title. Just what is an Arnen-Gul?

KIRA

(unsettled)

The Cardassian equivalent of a Field Marshall or a Grand Admiral. The rank doesn't translate to Starfleet or Bajoran equivalents. He's one of a kind, absolute power over all of the military!

ODO

He's rarely seen outside Cardassian space, so his presence represents a departure from tradition and common sense. They must feel this situation is very important.

(beat)

Back on Cardassia, the people worship him.

KIRA

Odo's leaving out the reason for his questioning their common sense. Torkin is the one who ordered the invasion and occupation of Bajor!

Sisko slumps visibly with realization. Whatever problems he may have had before, have just been compounded.

Off Sisko's reaction.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE AND MORD'AN

The large Cardassian ship is docked to the station.

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE - MEETING ROOM

Sisko enters while Quark is still busy with the details of setting up the room. Quark is happy to see Sisko.

QUARK

(smiling)

Captain! Now tell me, isn't this exactly what you had in mind?

Quark indicates the arrangements with a wave of his arm, Sisko grudgingly gives him his due.

SISKO

Not bad, Quark. Now one more thing.

QUARK

(enthusiastic)

Name it. If it's not already on the program, for a modest cost I could --

SISKO

(serious)

No cost, just stay out of the way.

Quark begins to protest in an excited manner.

QUARK

(gesturing)

But who will serve the food? Take care of the drink orders --

SISKO

Okay, okay, but stay out of the way.

(beat, curious)

The Cardassians will be here soon, what sort of drinks will you serve?

Quark is more cordial and relaxed, a business question.

QUARK

Oh, Romulan ale, Saurian brandy --

SISKO

Non-alcoholic, please. This meeting must be a productive one, not a drunken free-for-all.

Quark exits in haste, mumbling about what to serve. O'Brien enters with a tricorder in hand.

O'BRIEN

Captain? I've got that report.

SISKO

Give me a quick summary, Chief.

TWO SHOT -SISKO AND O'BRIEN

O'Brien activates the tricorder and, reading, gives an enthusiastic report.

O'BRIEN

(reading)

It has double the power output of other Cardassian ships, the weapons potential is also doubled in both numbers and energy--

Sisko whistles softly and in appreciation to the reaction, O'Brien's enthusiasm fades a bit.

O'BRIEN

Shield protection is up thirty percent over previous designs, engine efficiency is up fortyper cent.

(beat, to Sisko)

I'd say it's an even match for a *Galaxy* class starship.

Sisko seems remote, contemplating what he's heard.

SISKO

Damned peculiar, Chief

O'BRIEN

(confused)

How's that, Sir?

SISKO

Why show us that ship? It would have given them a real edge in a battle. Why risk exposure now?

(beat)

They know we've been scanning the ship, why would they allow that?

O'BRIEN

Beats me, maybe they want to scare us into returning the



station without a fight. Anything else?

SISKO  
Concentrate on your redistribution of power and have Dax forward that report to Admiral Nechayev.

O'BRIEN  
(nodding, smiling)  
Right away, Captain.

O'Brien exits, leaving Sisko in thought.

CUT TO:

#### QUARK'S BAR

Quark is busy preparing drinks for the meeting. He is engrossed, Rom and a few N.D. workers are helping him. Garak enters and takes a seat close to Quark. Sensing a customer, he turns to serve.

QUARK  
(moving)  
What can I get for you, Garak?

GARAK  
Synthale and some information.

Quark prepares the drink quickly and presents it.

QUARK  
The drink's on me, the information will cost you. Rule of acquisition number seventy-two, give the customer what he wants, not what he needs.

He serves the drink with a flourish and a devilish smile.

GARAK  
I heard that a Cardassian ship has docked and several Cardassians have come aboard to... conduct business?

QUARK  
(working)  
Well, everyone knows that, but...

Quark gets closer and uses a low, conspiratorial voice

QUARK  
(continuing)  
...but they don't know is, the Cardassians are here to reclaim the station.

Garak nearly chokes on his drink.

GARAK  
You're joking. The Bajorans would be in open warfare if that were true.

Quark returns to his work, turning his back on Garak.

QUARK  
(working)

Not this time, they're going to negotiate, a lot less messy. No matter what the outcome, I'll --

He turns back to continue, but Garak has disappeared

QUARK  
(to no one)  
Oh well, I'll collect later

SISKO'S OFFICE - THREE SHOT -  
SISKO, WORF AND ODO

Sisko is in a meeting with Worf and Odo. Sisko's at his desk and the other two are seated opposite.

SISKO  
Odo, is there any law that helps us?

ODO  
Possession is nine tenths the law, beyond that... most of my experience comes from small cases, but I'll try.

SISKO  
Brush up on Bajoran law, then pick someone to act as a Bajoran council. The provisional government will no doubt assign someone, but I don't want a 'political' choice.

ODO  
Of course, Captain.

WORF  
What does Starfleet recommend, Sir?

SISKO  
We're to begin negotiations and do our best to find the basis of their claim. An official diplomatic party is en route to assist us.  
(beat, thoughtfully)

The Cardassians hinted at using Federation and Bajoran laws. What would cover something like this?

ODO  
(thoughtfully)  
They could request an arbitrator. Routine for their minor disputes, I usually got the job. Facts relating to the case are presented by both sides and the arbitrator decides.

SISKO  
Who do you think they'd accept as an arbitrator?

WORF  
(matter-of-factly)

Not Odo, he is now associated with Bajor and Starfleet.

SISKO  
We can try. Whose choice is it?

ODO  
If we're being challenged, we do.

WORF  
(to Odo)  
They might accept you, but they can challenge you under Federation law.

Sisko now changes the direction of the conversation. Leaning forward, he questions ado.

SISKO  
Odo, what is the general mood of Bajoran people?

ODO  
As expected, not very friendly. A lot of talk about revenge. If they find out what's really going on...

Odo leaves the implication statement speak for itself.

SISKO  
Worf, for the time being I want you in Ops. Keep current on the situation and monitor communications. Keep me informed.

WORF  
Understood, Sir. I am troubled by something, suppose there are other Cardassian ships just beyond our sensors?

Sisko is surprised by the suggestion, but agrees.

SISKO  
Good point. If we had the time and personnel, I'd take the *Defiant* out.

WORF  
What about the Bajorans? They could cover this sector in a few hours.

Sisko is enthusiastic and stands.

SISKO  
(rising)  
Good Worf, I'll contact General Morlin. Let's get started on our assignments. We've only got ten minutes until the meeting begins.

CUT TO:

DOCKING BAY SIX - ENTRY

Garak approaches with a mix of confidence and arrogance. Following orders, Ensign Wright challenges Garak, blocking his path and irritating Garak.

WRIGHT

Excuse me Sir. Do you wish to visit the Cardassian ship?

GARAK

Why else would I be here?

WRIGHT

(determined)

Sorry, unless you have approval from Captain Sisko or Gul Bakat

--

Garak doesn't like the challenge and gets belligerent.

GARAK

Please stand aside and tell your associates to do likewise.

Wright pulls his phaser and activates it

WRIGHT

Please stand back. I can not --

GARAK

(forced smile)

I am here at the *request* of the Cardassians! Check, if you wish.

Wright is doubtful, but opens the air lock and calls to the Cardassians, keeping a watchful eye on Garak.

WRIGHT

(to Cardassian guards)

Guards, come here please.

The senior Cardassian responds, he is very suspicious.

WRIGHT

(indicating Garak)

He claims he's invited, will you admit him?

The guard looks beyond Wright to Garak and is amiable.

CARDASSIAN GUARD

Yes! He is to be admitted!

Wright motions Garak in, then once the air lock is closed, Ensign Wright resumes his post.

MEETING ROOM

Odo and several N.D. security people are present Sisko enters and heads straight for Odo.

SISKO

(smiling)

Good news, Odo. Norlin is starting the patrols as we speak. Everything ready here?

ODO

Yes, armed guards inside and out. A double guard will escort the delegation to this room. Once inside, a security barrier will be activated.

SISKO

Good, you better get started. Will you assist the escort team? Kira is probably going to need some help.

ODO

On the way.

Odo exits, Sisko now directs the security personnel.

SISKO

(pointing)

Take your positions, all weapons set to heavy stun. Once the delegation is inside, no one enters without my personal approval, any questions?

Security remains silent, nodding in understanding.

SISKO

(continuing)

Very well, positions.

The security detail snaps to attention and moves to their posts. Quark enters with a large tray while Sisko's back is turned.

QUARK

Where do you want this, captain? Main table or the buffet?

Sisko turns quickly and gets mad.

SISKO

You're not supposed to be here until the first recess!

QUARK

(business-like)

That's the full meal, this is just a little something to help the --

SISKO

(impatient)

Just get it ready and leave! Don't forget our arrangement.

CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE GUEST QUARTERS

Odo, Worf, Kira and security team are pushing through a crowd. Bajorans are shouting insults and threats.

WORF

(to N.D. security)

Watch the crowd, not the delegation!

The delegation forces its way through the crowd and makes headway along the main promenade.

KIRA

(tapping comm badge)

Kira to Sisko. Alert your security detachment, we're almost there!

MEETING ROOM

Sisko's face is showing concern as he can hear the commotion over Kira's comm badge.

SISKO

Understood, Major!

(to security)

Stand by on weapons and barrier!

The security team jumps to action. Outside the room the noise level rises significantly.

CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE MEETING ROOM

Odo is now leading the group, guiding them past the last of the hecklers. Kira is acting as a rear guard.

MEETING ROOM

Sisko is at the entrance to help bring the delegation in. He must use bodily force to do so. Once inside, the security barrier is activated.

SISKO

I'm glad to see everyone made it.

From now on we'll try an alternate method of movement.

Sisko turns to Bakat and continues his observations

SISKO

(continuing)

A shame you built this station with so many transporter blocks.

BAKAT

Necessary, considering the constant threat of Bajoran terrorists.

The Cardassian delegation has taken only a few steps when Bakat halts their progress.

BAKAT

(arrogant)

Before we begin, there is a matter we must resolve.

SISKO

(surprised)

Oh? What would that be?

BAKAT

Both Federation and Bajoran law provides for an arbitrator. It's your choice, but we will exercise our right of refusal if need be.

SISKO  
(innocently)

How about Odo, I understand he worked for you under similar --

Bakat is shaking his head in disagreement.

BAKAT  
(interrupting)

Since he wears a Bajoran uniform and works for you, I prefer another choice.

Sisko thinks quickly, then, smiling, points

SISKO  
(pointing)

There's your man, totally neutral and only interested in his business.

Everyone turns to Sisko's focal point, Quark! Quark's 'sixth sense' causes him to turn. With everyone staring, he becomes nervous.

QUARK  
(nervous)

Me? What did I do? The drinks may be watered down a little...

SISKO  
Congratulations Quark! You're going to be our official arbitrator!

Quark's face registers shock and fear  
Off his reaction..

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

### *NASA Images on this page*

Top: Shuttle *Discovery* as seen from the station while on-orbit, prior to docking.

Middle: *Discovery* is towed to the shuttle mate-demate device in preparation for the journey from California back to Florida.

Bottom: *Discovery* finally arrives at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, courtesy of one of the SCAs (Shuttle Carrier Aircraft).

Next up for *Discovery* is post-flight processing for STS-114 and preparation for STS-121 next year.



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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Sep.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b><i>Enterprise</i> Season 3 DVD set released</b>
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>1 or 8 (TBD)</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home Other activities possible</b>
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b><i>Enterprise</i> Season 4 DVD set released</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Fisher Home</b>

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