

THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

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Publisher J.R. Fisher
Editors Jane Fisher
John Troan



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

IMAGE - Featured Front Page
Kennedy Space Center launch complex 39, with both pads occupied -- Atlantis on 39A in the foreground and Endeavour on 39B in the background. (Endeavor will move to and launch from 39A after being cleared from potential-rescue duties.) From nasa.gov.



A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher



I am writing this after our September meeting at Loco Lu's coffee house on Saturday the sixth. There were nine of us present and we discussed the usual

books, movies, science, conventions and trek related events.

I hope everyone had a great and safe summer and all are ready to get back to school and work. It is fall and we start planning for all of the Kitty Hawk events for the rest of the calendar year.

It has been brought to my attention by Starfleet that our ship's membership has dropped to the minimum of 10 needed to stay a commissioned starship. This means that quite a few of you have let your memberships lapse. If this is intentional and you no longer wish to be members, please let me know so that I can adjust our roles. If you intend to stay with the Kitty Hawk, please pay your Starfleet dues as well as your Kitty Hawk dues as soon as possible.

Trinoc-coN X is tentatively scheduled for the Fourth of July weekend next year and at the North Raleigh Hilton. We hope to get back to the typical convention format. Any of you that would be interested in volunteering to help out would be most welcome as we hope to be adding new tracks this year and will need new people. If you ever wanted to learn how to run different aspects of a convention, this would be a great opportunity to do so.

The State Fair is coming up in October and we could plan a trip out to it as a group. Halloween falls on Friday this year, so it might be a good time to give a party. I have long wanted to do a scene or event on our front lawn as our neighborhood does decorate and entertain the children. We have a large cauldron and a fog machine and think we could have some fun. If you have any ideas, give me a call. It could be a lot of fun.

As always, we need to start looking towards our holiday/anniversary party of December 17th. Please be thinking about

what type of party you want and where. We have had the luxury of the hospitality of the Kanki for many years, thanks to Tom and Skip and Brad. If that is where you would like to go again, please let us know. We have to clear it with them well in advance.

If you know of other events or places of interest that you feel the Kitty Hawk members would enjoy, bring it to our attention by phone or at the meetings. We have had a pretty good year and we will finish off the fall in typical fashion. Your participation is necessary to your having a good time. Whatever we do, be a part of it. I remind the department heads that they are required to send in reports to the newsletter. Filing reports with the Region I department chiefs is an option. Most of you are far too lax about this. Write those reports. *The Wright Stuff* is only as good as you make it.

Esse Quam Videri

Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

Gasoline prices are on everyone's mind right now, despite the fact that the cost for a gallon of gas has dropped approximately 50 cents since the beginning of the summer. A lot of people are clamoring to lift the ban on off-shore drilling, but even if that ban were lifted today, that fuel would not have an effect on gas prices for at least 10 years, and even then the effect would be negligible. We're talking pennies per gallon, at most. At what cost? It is almost inevitable that there would be irreparable damage done to the environment. Oil spills can cause economic devastation by harming fishing, tourism and recreation areas. They can harm coral reefs, which are already under severe stress. A recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has affected air quality along the Louisiana coast, devastated wildlife, and contaminated the Mississippi River. I would say the plan is penny wise and pound foolish, except that it's not even penny wise. Except for the oil companies, of course. Because, as

soon as they can get their hands on that oil, what do you expect them to do with it? Sell it to the highest bidder, of course. It may come as a surprise to many, but not all of the petroleum pumped and/or refined in this country stays here. There's a lot of talk about becoming less dependent on foreign oil, but the fact is, much American oil ends up overseas. I've heard anywhere from 9% to 50%, depending on how the numbers are crunched. And the number is rising. There was a 33% increase in the amount of refined petroleum exported in the first quarter of 2008. The bottom line is, a significant amount of American oil is leaving the U.S. because oil companies can get a higher price for it overseas. There is no reason to believe they wouldn't do the same with any oil found by drilling offshore.

Of course, what we need are alternatives to petroleum-based fuels. I personally think it is just a matter of time before we have electric cars and fuel cell vehicles. Another potential energy

source is helium-3. The most daunting obstacle to using helium-3 to power fusion reactors is that there is very little of it on Earth. However, the moon seems to have an abundance of the stuff. Mining the stuff from the moon could produce 300 times more energy than it takes to get it (including the costs of getting to the moon and getting it back), which makes it a lot more energy efficient than coal, which returns only 15-20 times the energy it takes to harvest it, according to Gerald Kulcinski, director of the Fusion Technology Institute at the University of Wisconsin. Kulcinski says that getting the helium-3 is not the biggest problem, though. Finding an efficient way to burn helium-3 is a bigger problem. He estimates it will be at least 30 years before fusion reactors will burn helium-3 as a fuel. But the technology has potential, and it is one reason China, Russia and India have all set their sights on voyaging to the moon.

DEEP SPACE NINE - "A Second Opinion"

By Brad McDonald

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The Blue Horizon is still in port

INT. SICKBAY - OPERATING ROOM

Bashir is working on his father. There are several N.D. medical technicians assisting him or standing nearby. Bashir is concentrating on his work and oblivious to anything or anyone else.

BASHIR
(working)

I think I've just about got the bleeding stopped... one more blood vessel to seal...

NURSE
(reading tricorder)

Blood pressure low but steady. Respiration is also low, but within acceptable limits.

BASHIR
(working)

Very well, keep me updated. And I want a complete analysis of all readings and findings as soon as I conclude this procedure.

NURSE
Yes Doctor

The nurse begins scanning with a tricorder, pausing from moment to moment to review her work or change settings and locations.

NEW ANGLE - SICK BAY

We can see Dax watching the procedure through a glass partition. She is concerned for Albert and Julian, and her face

reflects this concern. Her thoughts are interrupted by the appearance of Sisko.

SISKO
Any news yet?

Dax does not divert her attention. ON SISKO

DAX
(emotional)

Not yet. Julian is still working. From what the nurses are saying, Albert has a good chance, the injuries were not as bad as we thought, but there could be further complications, especially considering Albert's age.

Sisko nods in understanding, then studies Dax carefully.

SISKO
Is there something else?

ON DAX

She turns to face Sisko and he sees her look of concern

DAX
(quietly)

I'm worried about Julian. He's under a lot of stress. Almost five hours of work, without a break...

SISKO (V.O.)
(o.c.)

He's done that before, even longer.

DAX
True, but those situations didn't involve the added stress of having his father as a patient.

She turns back to watch Bashir operate and continues.

DAX
(continuing)

He's not his usual confident self. He's too tense, nervous and...

SISKO
(finishing)
...too involved?
(beat)

You think he'd accept any help, even if it were available?

TWO SHOT - SISKO AND DAX

Dax turns to face Sisko again and smiles.

DAX
(smiling)
I suppose not.
(beat)

But I'm still worried about his physical and mental health.

Sisko understands her concern.

SISKO
(smiling)
Understood. Let me know how things turn out, will you?
(beat)

I have to go to the brig, there's another matter to attend to...

(as an afterthought)
He'll be fine, they'll both be fine.

Dax smiles, only half believing. Sisko then exits, and Dax returns to her vigil.

SECURITY - ODO'S DUTY OFFICE - WIDE ANGLE

As Sisko enters the area he's greeted by three grim and determined faces; Odo, Kira and

Worf. He knows that something's amiss.

SISKO
(tentative)
Something wrong?

Worf rises from a sitting position. Odo remains seated and grim, while Kira paces, nervously.

ODO
(sarcastic)
In a word...

KIRA
(moving, angry)
We let Redik make his one call for legal assistance...

WORF
He contacted the Bajoran Provisional Government, Bureau of Natural Resource Management. They want him.

ON SISKO

Sisko is obviously stunned by Wort's revelation.

SISKO
(surprised)
The Management Bureau wants him?
(beat)
Why on Earth --

ON ODO

Odo is thoroughly disgusted

ODO
It seems that his claim of being here to work for the Bajorans is true. He is supposed to conduct a mineral resource study for the Provisional Government.

ON WORF

Worf seems exasperated by the situation although he is showing admirable restraint.

WORF

They want him so that he may continue the work they contracted him for, regardless of his actions here on the station.

ON KIRA

She is not as 'restrained' as Worf and barely under control.

KIRA
(pacing)

Can you believe that? We've received an official 'transfer of prisoner request' from them.

(beat)
They want him transferred by tomorrow, as soon as the paper work is complete.

She stops her pacing and folds her arms across her chest as if she is demanding that Sisko take action.

WIDE ANGLE

The four officers are now gathered close together near Odo's duty desk. Sisko is deep in thought as the others wait his orders. It's fairly obvious they want Sisko to take some action to defy the request.

SISKO
(to Odo)
Is the request legal?

ODO
It is in order. They claim jurisdiction by right of eminent domain.

Sisko nods in understanding.

WORF
Since the station is Bajoran, they do have the right.

Kira is not impressed or convinced.

KIRA

(contained)

What about the fact that a Starfleet officer and a Federation citizen were injured? One may even die.

They all react to Kira's blunt statement

SISKO

Actually, Ensign Walker is doing quite well and Julian's father just might make it after all --

KIRA
(very angry)

So that excuses his actions? Odo tells me he may have been involved in the death of a Bajoran, and they still don't care. I'm embarrassed to be a Bajoran right now.

SISKO
It doesn't excuse anything.

(beat)
But maybe Kira has a point. Both victims are Federation citizens. Could we use that angle somehow?

Worf is shaking his head in thought.

WORF

It is doubtful. The consideration of eminent domain is still solid. I doubt we could make a valid case to the contrary.

ODO
I agree. If the Provisional Government insists... they have the right and the law on their side.

(beat)
We are stuck with a bad situation...

CUT TO:

SICK BAY - BASHIR'S DUTY OFFICE

Bashir is pouring over various reports and test results pertaining to his father's injuries. Dax enters the office quietly and almost reluctantly, as if she's afraid of disturbing him. At first he does not see her.

BASHIR
(to self)

Why are the oxygen levels so low?

(beat)

The transfusions are only a marginal success, he should be fine.

Dax moves in a bit closer

DAX
Need some help?

ON BASHIR

It is now evident just how tired and stressed he is. He looks up at Dax, weary and agitated.

BASHIR
(quietly, joking)

I may be beyond help.

When the attempt at humor fails, he becomes serious.

BASHIR
(continuing)

See if you can make any sense of these test results. Maybe I'm just too tired, but I can't figure it out.

He reaches out, handing the two data padds to Dax.

TWO SHOT - DAX AND BASHIR

Dax accepts the padds and begins to review the data. Her face reflects her deep concentration.

DAX
(reading)

Looks like all of the injuries have been taken

care of... internal scans show normal... everything looks fine Julian.

BASHIR
(tired)

Look at the blood oxygen levels... can you see any correlation between the injuries and those readings?

Dax continues to scan the two padds, thinking out loud.

DAX

No liver damage, no lung injuries...

(beat, to Julian)

I'm just a science specialist, but it seems to me the low oxygen levels are incongruent with the rest of the information we have. Bashir sighs from both relief and frustration.

BASHIR

Well at least I know it's not just me, I was beginning to doubt my own abilities.

(beat)

The staff is running a complete series of tests, just in case I've missed something.

(beat)

I'm so tired, it's possible that the answer has gotten past me...

Bashir leaves the sentence unfinished and stares off.

DAX
(sympathetic)

You need some rest, Julian. Why don't you get a few hours sleep, I'll keep an eye on things around here. If the tests show anything interesting, I'll let you know.

When Bashir hesitates, Dax pleads with him.

DAX

Julian, you can't be very effective if you're exhausted. You can do your father and me a favor, by getting some rest.

(beat)

I've heard it said that sometimes, if you walk away from a problem, the solution can present itself.

She smiles after finishing the 'words of wisdom'

DAX
(smiling)

Now get out of here before I have you 'hailed off in irons'.

Bashir throws up his hands in mock surrender

BASHIR

All right, I give up. I must admit the thought of some rest does have a certain appeal...

He stands and walks to the exit. Dax follows and puts her hand on his shoulder in reassurance.

DAX

Don't worry about a thing, I'll stay here while you rest.

CUT TO:

SISKO'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON VIEWER

Sisko is engaged in conversation with a Bajoran official. Sisko is not in the best of moods.

SISKO

I can't believe you're defending Redik's actions. He nearly killed two people on this station. Also, Constable Odo says he was a primary suspect in the murder of a Bajoran

citizen during the Cardassian occupation. How can you justify turning a blind eye to this?

DANOR
(defensive)

I'm not 'turning a blind eye' as you put it, but Bajor has need of his unique abilities. We must get our mining industry back in operation if Bajor expects to become truly independent and self sufficient.

SISKO
(unimpressed)

His talents aren't so 'unique'. The Federation would be happy to provide Bajor --

DANOR
(interrupting)

Bajor can't go running to the Federation every time it needs to take care of a little problem. We found Redik, he was the only one willing to handle Bajor's desperate situation.

(beat)

Once he serves his usefulness, then we will deal with his alleged crimes.

Sisko is outraged and doesn't bother using his usual diplomatic charm. He is very angry.

SISKO
Mister Secretary, I was present at his alleged crime! It was also witnessed by all of my senior staff including Major Kira and Constable Odo, your own people!

(beat)

Take my word for it, he did it! And he does have a reputation, but not for

mining. He's a first class trouble maker!

Danor is weary of Sisko's attacks and warnings, he now summons all of his presence to brush aside all of Sisko's arguments.

DANOR
Captain! This is a Bajoran matter. We have made our decision and it will stand! If you have a personal problem with this situation, I suggest you take it up with the Federation Council!
Danor out!

ON SISKO

Sisko is outraged. He can't believe the attitude of the Bajoran bureaucrat. He is also frustrated as well. When his comm badge sounds, he nearly 'bites the head off' of the person calling.

SISKO
(tapping comm badge)
Yes?!

DAX (V.O.)
Benjamin? You okay?

Sisko realizes his shortcoming and addresses Dax in a more civil manner. He softens his tone and continues.

SISKO
Sorry Dax, I just had a run in with a most unpleasant 'gentleman'.
(beat, quietly)
What did you want?

ON DAX

Dax is obviously troubled by something and, given Sisko's state of mind, she's reluctant to tell him.

DAX
I'm still in sick bay, covering for Julian. He

needed the rest, but... something's come up.

(beat)

Are you ready for some bad news?

Sisko's voice sounds weary and tired.

SISKO (V.O.)
Today's the day for it

DAX
I just got back the detailed test results on Julian's father.

(beat, hesitant)

It seems he has Simpson's Disorder, a fatal blood disease.

ON SISKO

Sisko's face reflects shock and surprise.

SISKO
(tentative)
Does Julian know?

DAX (V.O.)
No. I thought maybe you might want to tell him...

Her voice falls off, leaving the incomplete sentence speak for itself.

SISKO
(quietly, resigned)
You're right, Dax. I'll handle it.

(beat)

Let him finish his rest period, though. He'll need it. Sisko out.

Sisko is thinking about the revelations, his face reflects his emotions.

Off Sisko's reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|------------|----------|--|
| Oct | 4 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting Loco Lou's Cafe |
| Nov | 1 | 4 p.m. Ship Meeting Loco Lou's Cafe |

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR *KITTY HAWK* DUES, PLEASE DO SO ASAP

THE WRIGHT STUFF
U.S.S. KITTY HAWK
P.O. BOX 52112
RALEIGH NC 27612-2112