

# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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School is out and summer is upon us with all the associated heat. Conventions will be almost every weekend for those of you who wish to travel and see your favorite authors and stars. Good luck but please drive/fly with care.

And speaking of stars, at our June meeting at Loco Lu's, we had a nice turnout. No doubt because we were beginning to read for our radio play authored by our own Brad McDonald. He has chosen a *Voyager* script he penned several years ago for the TV series and rewrote and reformatted it for radio. Anthony Dowling is coordinating and producing this effort and we hope that we can finish recording before the end of July.

We had only ten members present so we had to have a few of them do double duty on the voices. Also, several people switched roles to characters with whom they were more comfortable. Janet Williams rejoined us after many years of absence and is reading the Janeway part. Since she is returning to England shortly, we will try to get her recorded solo before she leaves.

Speaking of new members, Billy Matt Mitchum has taken a job in Alabama close to his

family and has moved back there. He promised to stay in touch and onboard as an away team member. And Barbara Freeman, whom we met at the *STAR TREK* movie, signed up on STARFLEET and is our newest member of the *Kitty Hawk*. She promises to meet with us as soon as her schedule allows. Please welcome her and make her feel at home.

We will have had a second reading of the play (June 14th) by the time you are reading this, but I wanted to let all of you know that we will be doing more of Brad's scripts and if you don't get a role in this episode, but want to participate, many of the other scripts have many more characters and you will definitely get a role in some of them.

Those of us at the June meeting had great fun reading the script and decided that even if we did not record any more of them, we would still like to make group readings a part of our meeting several times a year. For that, Brad may not even have to rewrite them.

I am asking each member to bring one can of food to each meeting over the summer months to donate to the NC Food Bank. We collected \$25 for them at the movie premier and I would like to continue to raise support for them over the

summer. Anything you can contribute is appreciated.

Speaking of support, many of you have not paid your *Kitty Hawk* dues for 2009. You voted to continue the current rate at the beginning of the year, so we expect you to pay them.

Back to the movie: Suncoast contacted me about us coming to the Cary Towne Center to promote the release of the movie on DVD in the fall; probably October but maybe September. We would have a table in the store or in the mall outside the store and can solicit donations for the Food Bank. When they give me a date, I will pass it on.

I truly hope that everyone will participate as much as possible in these new endeavors we are undertaking. They should be fun and they may even produce other results as well.

If for any reason we don't see you over the summer months, please be careful in all you do and check in with us from time to time. Remember, you have the Wright Stuff; what you do with it is up to you.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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# From the Kitchen

## By Lynn Stone

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The *Enterprise* had a chance to visit an M class planet in the Beta Quadrant. The terrain was so reminiscent of Earth and in particular South America that Captain Archer ordered shore leave for much of the crew. Chef, in particular, was eager to go in order to search for interesting sources of new foods. The trip was not only pleasurable but quite fruitful (pardon the pun). The ingredients gathered provided the inspiration for a Southwestern dish that won rave reviews on board the ship.

### **Black Bean Taco Salad**

- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Dash of salt
- 3/4 cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained and/or 3 ounces cooked, diced chicken breast
- 3 cups shredded romaine lettuce
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 10 tortilla chips, crushed
- 1/4 avocado, chopped

This salad is tossed with just enough crushed chips to offer a nice texture contrast to the creamy avocado and tender black beans. This dish is flexitarian because chicken can be substituted for or added to the black beans.

Whisk together lime juice, oil, cumin, garlic and salt. Toss with the rest of the ingredients. Makes 1 serving.

TIP: The lime juice, oil, cumin, garlic and salt dressing can also be used to marinate fish before cooking.

It was a picnic! Finally the *Enterprise* had found a Class M planet with a wide range of vegetation. Chef gathered a wide array of wonderful herbs and veggies and created the following dish that became a favorite especially with the children:

### **Zesty Squash, Zucchini and Pasta**

- 3 cups orzo pasta or 2 cups bow-tie pasta
- 1 medium zucchini, thinly sliced (1 1/4 cups)
- 1 medium yellow summer squash thinly sliced (2 cups)
- 1/4 cup finely chopped shallots
- 1 1/2 tablespoons margarine
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons finely shredded Parmesan cheese

Cook the pasta in a large saucepan according to package directions, add zucchini and yellow squash in the last 3 minutes. Drain and return to saucepan.

Meanwhile, cook shallots in hot margarine in a small saucepan until tender. Combine broth, lemon juice, cornstarch, honey, dill weed and salt in a small bowl; add to shallots. Cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Pour over pasta mixture, toss gently to coat. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese before serving.

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# Security Report

By Spring Brooks

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## It Came from Planet Velvet!

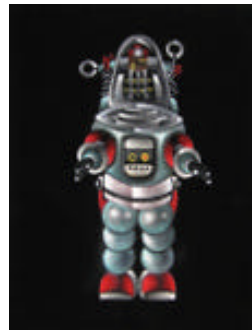
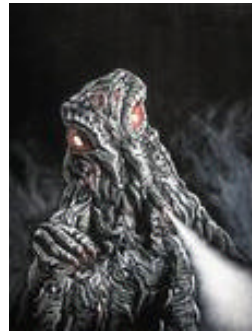
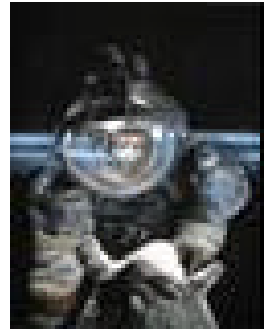
Opening June 12th at Wootini, 7 - 10 pm. Show duration is June 12th to August 11th.

Bruce White and Jonas Britt are local artists with an obsession for classic science fiction movies and television shows. They have chosen to channel this admiration for iconic sci-fi characters by bringing them to life in the medium of black velvet. It is the high contrast between the dark fabric and the reflective paint that attracts these artists to this kind of painting. They use the negative space of the velvet to convey the feeling of outer space or of the darkest night.

When pressed on 'Why Velvet?' Bruce had this to say, "I decided to do something simple. We don't really have an agenda, you know? We are dorks who grew up watching sci-fi and horror movies and TV. And we think these things look really cool on velvet. [We] make paintings that are fun to look at. You know... stuff that we'd like to have hanging in our house."

When they are not painting, or watching movies, Bruce and Jonas work as tattoo artists at Tattoo Asylum in Durham, NC. To see more of Bruce's work, visit <http://brucewhite.deviantart.com>.

Here's a sampling of what's in store --



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# Computer Operations Report

## By John Troan

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I chose this month's cover photo to note the launch of two new lunar missions. The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) were launched from Cape Canaveral on June 18.

LRO entered lunar orbit on June 23 and is expected to return more data than any previous lunar mission. Some of the main targets for exploration are the moon's deep craters, portions of which are in permanent sunlight or shadow. Also planned is a high resolution 3-D mapping of the surface at visual and other wavelengths. All of this is geared toward gathering data for future lunar exploration, including eventual manned missions.

LCROSS had a flyby of the moon on June 23 and is now in an extended orbit around Earth that also passes by the moon. The primary goal is a search for water ice, partly through a planned double impact on October 9. A dedicated impactor will hit first, followed a few minutes later by the second section after it's collected & relayed data from the first impact's plume. The second plume kicked up is expected to be visible from Earth using 10- and 12-inch (or larger) telescopes.

The Constellation program is moving steadily toward the first test launch in August. All of the Ares I-X pieces are now at Kennedy Space Center. Pad 39B has also been officially transferred from the shuttle program and stacking operations should begin in July. The upcoming test launch will use test hardware for much of the stack to simulate the size and weight of a full stack for launch.

With all the different names being mentioned with the Constellation program, here's a summary of them to hopefully clear up which name goes with what part.

- **Constellation.** The name of the overall program. Similar in usage as the "shuttle" or "Apollo" programs.
- **Ares I** (below left). The rocket used to put people into Earth orbit. This will be used for the U.S. post-shuttle flights to the space station.
- **Ares V** (below right). The rocket used to put cargo into Earth orbit. Also contains a "third" stage for flight beyond Earth orbit. This is still being developed, with the first test launch targeted for 2018.

- **Orion.** The manned capsule that sits atop the Ares I. It can take up to six people to the space station or a smaller crew to the moon or eventually Mars.
- **Altair.** The lunar lander, capable of putting four people on the lunar surface. It will launch atop an Ares V and be joined in Earth orbit by a succeeding Orion / Ares I launch.

Several parts of the Ares rockets are current hardware or are upgraded versions of hardware already used. Some new sections are also being developed from scratch to meet the more unique needs of the Constellation program, in both the short and long terms.



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# VOYAGER - "Dealer's Choice"

By Brad McDonald

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## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER  
(OPTICAL)

The ship is motionless inside the nebula.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

They are making final preparations to exit the nebula.

JANEWAY

Are we ready Commander?

CHAKOTAY

Just give the word.

Tuvok seems anxious to speak; Janeway picks up on it.

JANEWAY

(to Tuvok)

You have something?

TUVOK

Captain, we have been afforded a unique opportunity to learn much about the Borg. Perhaps we could determine a way to alter the signal and misdirect the Borg. We may never have another chance like this again.

Janeway smiles at the suggestion.

JANEWAY

Relax, Tuvok. It just so happens I agree. Are you sure you can't analyze the beacon from a distance?

TUVOK

No. It will be necessary to inspect the equipment which controls and generates the signal. It should prove... fascinating.

JANEWAY

Seven? Can you suggest another method of study?

SEVEN

Regrettably, no. Tuvok is correct.

JANEWAY

Let's take a closer look. I'd like to know more about the Borg's presence in this sector. We thought we had put them behind us. Perhaps we will run into them again, if so, I want to be prepared.

TUVOK

It would be a logical step. After all, we know where they were and we know they have been in the Alpha Quadrant. There is no reason to assume they will not be discovered between those two points.

JANEWAY

Lay in a course, Mister Paris, warp two.

(to Tuvok)

Watch your readings carefully, if a Borg ship does appear, we leave this sector immediately.

TUVOK & PARIS

Aye Sir.

Chakotay seems uneasy with the decision.

CHAKOTAY

Captain, I advise caution. I'd hate to tangle with the Borg under any circumstances, but alone and under power...

JANEWAY

Very well, we'll resume red alert.

CHAKOTAY

I'd prefer going in the opposite direction, but red alert will do.

Janeway moves quickly to the command chair and activates the ship wide intercom.

ON JANEWAY

JANEWAY

Attention all hands! We have detected a signal beacon which is part of Borg technology. We are going to investigate. It may be

possible to alter this beacon's signal and disrupt Borg activity or even eliminate the Borg threat altogether. Red alert, Captain out.

BRIDGE - NEW ANGLE

Lighting changes to reflect the red alert. There is also increased activity.

PARIS

Now we see if this isn't just part of an elaborate trap.

NEELIX

(to no one)

Pleasant thought.

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, engage.

ENGINEERING - WIDE ANGLE

Engineering is a beehive of activity, Torres is working at the main engineering panel with SMITH nearby.

TORRES

(working; to Smith)

Let's see if we can get another ten percent boost to the shields. Check the converters and monitor the main reaction chamber, I want constant updates.

SMITH

Aye sir.

TORRES

(to self)

Now, if we don't hit any bumps...

Smith is working nearby and offers a suggestion.

SMITH

Sir? I have an idea.

TORRES

(distracted)

What is it?

SMITH

Why don't we cut power usage by eliminating all unnecessary use? Running lights, turbo lifts, food

processors, just in limited areas.

Smith notices that Torres is thinking about the idea.

SMITH  
(continuing)

We could pick up another four percent power boost beyond the cuts you've planned.

We can see Torres is mentally reviewing the plan.

TORRES

Give me a complete list of the recommended systems, I'll let the Captain decide. Good thinking.

BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Janeway is pacing the bridge, nervously.

KIM

Captain? I've got more information on that beacon.

She moves quickly to his side, hopeful that it does not mean bad news.

JANEWAY  
(moving)

What is it?

KIM  
(working)

The beacon is located on a class M planet not too far away. It was our next candidate for deuterium.

CHAKOTAY

Is the signal reacting to our approach?

KIM

No Sir, but I am starting to sort out other readings.

TUVOK

No ships, but there are energy sources emanating from the planet.

PARIS

Should I alter course?

JANEWAY

Stay on course for now, but have an escape vector plotted, just in case.

PARIS

Already on the board Captain, just give the word.

It is quiet for just a few beats.

KIM

Uh oh!

JANEWAY

I'd appreciate a more helpful declaration Mister Kim.

Kim works his controls a bit more then looks up.

KIM

Sorry Captain. I'm picking up more energy readings scattered all over the planet. I'd say that's a fully developed world ahead.

JANEWAY

Inhabited? Tuvok?

TUVOK

I can detect no life signs of any type; animal, insect or humanoid.

CHAKOTAY

Planet wide technology for a single beam and no intelligent life?

JANEWAY  
(to no one)

A mystery within in a riddle wrapped in an enigma.

(to Paris)

Got an orbital plot, Mister?

PARIS

Of course, 'Always anticipate your Captain's needs.'

JANEWAY

What this captain needs is answers. Standard orbit.

(to Chakotay)

Care to lead an away team?

CHAKOTAY

If I can pick my team.

JANEWAY

Of course.

CHAKOTAY

Tuvok, Paris, Kim, Torres and Seven.

JANEWAY

(thinking)

Tuvok for security, Kim for science, Torres to analyze the

technology, Seven for her Borg knowledge and Paris... for what?

CHAKOTAY

(smiling)

I hate odd numbers.

Janeway looks at Paris; he's not amused.

JANEWAY

As good a reason as any. You can have him.

EXT. SPACE - BORG WORLD (OPTICAL)

Voyager is in a standard orbit about the planet.

INT. VOYAGER - TRANSPORTER ROOM

The away team is gathered on the transporter pad, Janeway is giving them a send off. An N.D. TECHNICIAN is standing nearby.

JANEWAY

We'll keep a constant lock on you. Leave your communicator on Commander, I want to monitor your progress at all times. If you get into trouble, give us a yell, I'll have you out of there before you finish the call.

Chakotay seems slightly amused by Janeway's 'maternal' arrangements, but grateful never the less.

CHAKOTAY

I'll do my best to stay out of trouble.

He nods to the N.D. technician, who activates the controls.

TRANSPORTER ROOM - NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The transporter effect begins and the team fades out.

EXT. BORG WORLD - MORNING (OPTICAL)

The away team arrives, in the B.G. we can see a planet of decayed technology and civilization. The team is in awe of what once was a great civilization.



KIM  
Wow. Whoever built this place knew what they were doing.

TORRES  
Incredible technology, even now.

PARIS  
Somehow it doesn't look very Borgish.

Seven is affected and speaks as if she's half conscience.

SEVEN  
It seems like... home.

The others stare at her for a moment, then begin studying using the tricorders.

TUVOK  
Commander, I have confirmed there are no life signs, virtually no fauna what so ever.

PARIS  
Flora is limited to a few species, but moderately abundant. I'd say just enough for oxygen levels to be tolerable.

KIM  
A carefully engineered environment?

TORRES  
Probably, but it doesn't look like anyone has been here for a while.

(off tricorder)  
Several hundred years, maybe more.

CHAKOTAY  
Ties in with Seven's impressions. Signal source?

SEVEN  
(pointing)  
Oh nine five relative, two hundred seventy four meters. I'd say in the larger structure over there.

Chakotay looks at BUILDING #1, visible in the B.G. and directs his team.

CHAKOTAY  
Tuvok, you and I will lead, then Kim, Seven and Torres.

Paris, you will take rear guard.  
Everyone nods in acknowledgment, then the group heads for the building.

NEW ANGLE - CAMERA FOLLOWS ACTION

CHAKOTAY  
Are you reading my signal, Captain?

JANEWAY'S VOICE  
Just fine, Commander. You found the source of the signal?

CHAKOTAY  
Affirmative, but I'm not sure if we will maintain a signal. These buildings all have some type of natural shielding.

JANEWAY'S VOICE  
Understood. What's it like there?

Chakotay looks about at his surroundings.

CHAKOTAY  
(moving)  
At one time, this planet must have been quite a sight. Unbelievable technology, architecture, you name it; but no life forms. We're approaching the building now.

NEW ANGLE - AWAY TEAM AT BUILDING #1 ENTRANCE.

Tuvok gives the building a once over with his tricorder.

TUVOK  
(off tricorder)  
A simple entry. No security force fields, not even a locking mechanism.

PARIS  
Trusting lot, aren't they?

TORRES  
More like plain arrogance. They can't conceive of anyone with enough nerve or power to interfere.

In the B.G. we can see that Seven is 'uncomfortable'.

KIM  
There's another possibility. Maybe it is protected, just undetectable.

TORRES  
You really can throw a monkey wrench into the gears at times. Still, you might just be right.

TUVOK  
We could open the door from a remote location and see what transpires.

PARIS  
I like that idea.  
Paris turns to Seven and notices she's troubled.

PARIS  
(continuing)  
Is something wrong? Do you feel all right?

Seven is rubbing her forehead as if she has a headache.

SEVEN  
I'm picking up on a lot of pain.

CHAKOTAY  
From where?

SEVEN  
No specific source.

Paris reacts with surprise and rechecks his phaser.

JANEWAY'S VOICE  
I heard that. Are there other Borg down there?

SEVEN  
(struggling)  
I'm not sure. It's a faint impression, not from any one being, but many.

The away team stares at Seven, not wanting to believe her statement and readying their weapons.

Off their reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

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## Upcoming Events

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<b>Jul</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>No Meeting -- Happy Fourth!</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 p.m. Ship Meeting -- Location TBD</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Articles due for the next <i>Wright Stuff</i></b>

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS  
IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR *KITTY HAWK* DUES, PLEASE DO SO ASAP**

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