

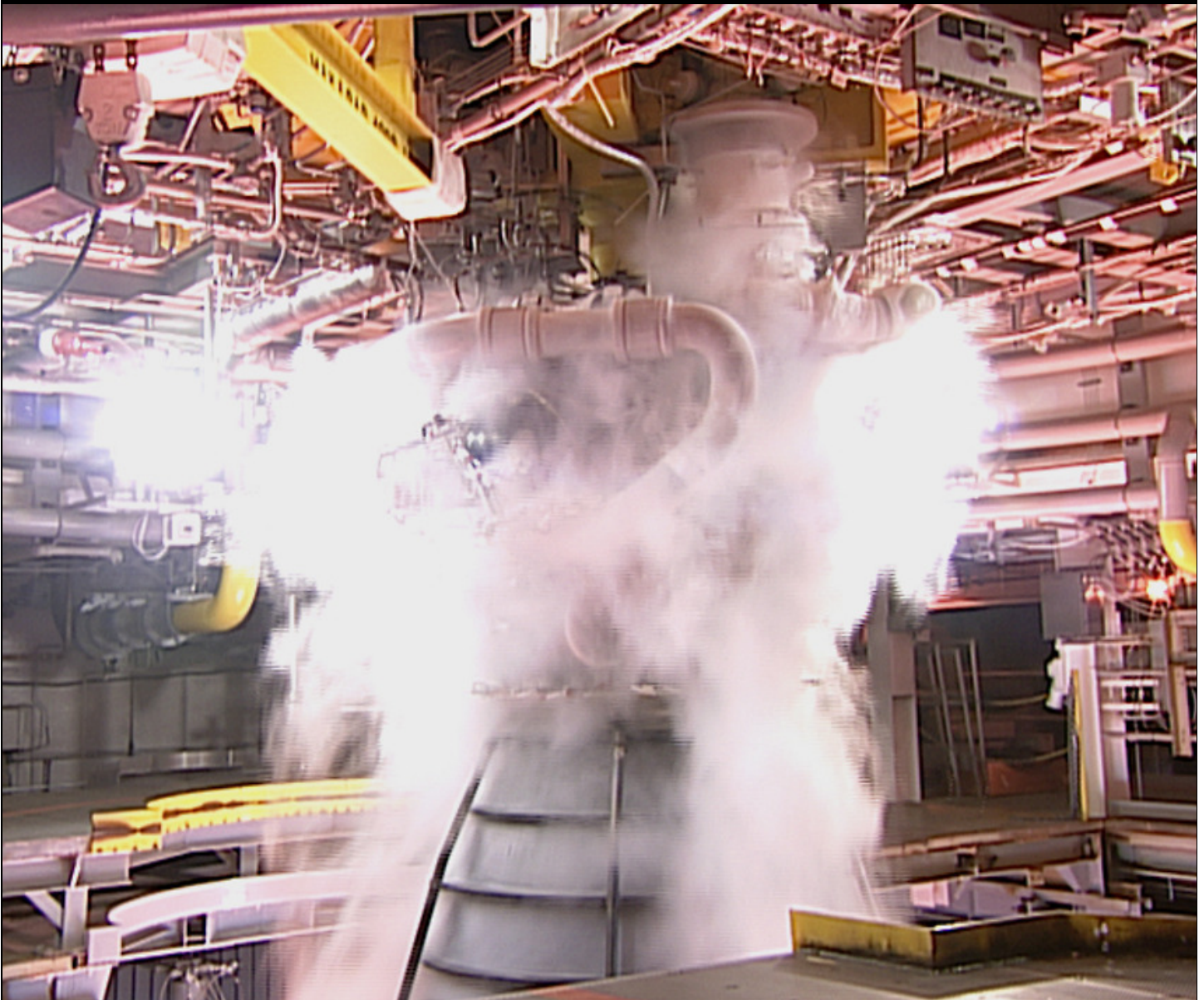
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

## Volume 26 - Number 1

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Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
Editor ..... John Troan



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**TOOL BOX:** Dell E6530; 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

Close-up view of an RS-25 engine during the first test firing in this engine's development.

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## A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Twenty-five years and one month ago, the shuttle *Kitty Hawk* came into being. It was launched in my living room with about 6 of the 12 members present. We celebrate our launch date because it was the anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk, NC, in 1903, December 17th. In the years since our launch, we have tried to celebrate as close as conveniently possible to the 17th, with frequent moves to January because of the excessive celebrations around the holidays.

I wish more of you could have been at the Kanki in Crabtree this weekend but I understand that there are conflicts. We had a great meal and show, but with so much noise I decided not to "speak".

Thus we have this article for this issue of *The Wright Stuff*. The *Kitty Hawk's* crew has accomplished many, many great things in the past twenty-five years and I hope to see it accomplish many more. However, I am spending most of my time in Washington, NC, working on the house and feeding my mother's cats. I only occasionally get to Raleigh for appointments and meetings. This is not in the best interest of this or other clubs to which I belong. Therefore, it is my intention to step down from the Captain's chair (Catbird's seat) at the anniversary of our commissioning in October of this year. Maybe I will make Admiral

by then. It will be up to the crew to elect a new captain at that time. He or she must be a member of STARFLEET in good standing and be OTS and OCC qualified. They must also have the time, energy, money and desire to take this ship into the future. Only STARFLEET members can vote on this. If you want a say in who the next captain will be, renew and/or keep your dues paid. I will have more to say about a lot of things between now and then, so don't think I am gone just yet.

It would be in the club's best interest if each of you would contribute an article to the newsletter each month, not just your department reports which seldom get done. Perhaps department heads could contact the regional departments and participate on the regional level.

Mostly, I am suggesting that everyone become more involved with the ship. The recordings have gone very well and I look forward to more of them. Brad has written some excellent stories and John is doing an outstanding job putting these recordings together. I really look forward to the finished product.

Don't forget about Comic-Con on March 13-15, on which more details are forthcoming.

Also, put on your schedule UNC-TV, March 7th at 6 p.m. after our meeting. Always fun.

Hope to see everyone in February.

*Esse Quam Videri*

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## Science Report

By Elaine Pischke

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Here's a little weird science news you may have heard about. In 2003, the European Space Agency launched the *Mars Express* spacecraft on a mission to orbit and study Mars. The *Mars Express* continues to carry out this mission. However, on Christmas Day 2003, it launched a small British-made probe called *Beagle 2*. *Beagle 2* was supposed to land on Mars and deploy four solar panels that would allow it to communicate its findings with scientists on Earth. However, once launched, it was never heard from again and presumed to have crash landed on Mars. Now, HiRISE cameras on NASA'S *Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter* have captured images of what appears to be the *Beagle 2*, intact. It appears that upon landing, some of the solar panels did not deploy. The scientists on the team that worked on *Beagle 2* are excited and frustrated by the news. The fact that *Beagle 2* had a successful landing and did not crash is good news. Knowing that it has been sitting out there out of reach for 11 years and knowing that one of the key architects of the program passed away last year, not knowing what had happened to *Beagle 2*, makes the discovery bittersweet.

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# Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

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First, the (good) news about our podcast -- Act I has just been posted to the [media archive section](#) of the [Kitty Hawk web site](#). I'll start editing Act II in the next couple of weeks. With all of the vocals completed and in excellent condition, the rest of the acts should roll out a little faster.

For those who don't know the full story on the podcasts.... One of our crewmembers (Brad) has written a large number of original stories for several of the *Star Trek* series, laid out as a TV script. (Several have been published in the newsletter over the years and can be read from [the archives](#). This issue starts the next story, and we have a tentative publishing schedule through 2018.)

We decided last year to make another attempt at creating a radio play (or podcast) from one of the scripts, but with a few changes this time around. One of the huge breaks

was the discovery of a couple of free-to-use on-line audio archives -- including one with a ton of *Trek* stuff. I've gotten feedback about Act I from some friends and family members that the audio effects help the recording feel like it could be from one of the real episodes.

If anyone would like to participate in our next podcast -- yes, we're already starting early work on it -- we'd love to have you join us. Several parts are still available, with mostly shorter appearances this time around. Send an e-mail to [usskittyhawk@jt-sw.com](mailto:usskittyhawk@jt-sw.com) and we'll get back to you. The recording sessions haven't been scheduled yet, so there's not a rush.

Comic Con will be in Raleigh on March 13-15. I've been swapping e-mail with the (*Star Trek*) *Axanar* folks about doing a joint appearance. Any StarFleet members not part of the *Kitty Hawk* are also welcome to join

us. (Please contact us at the e-mail address in the previous paragraph to let us know of your interest.) Once I have more information to share, I'll forward it to the crew and everyone else who's helping out that weekend.

This month's cover photo is a close-up view of the [RS-25 rocket engine during its first test](#) for the development of NASA's SLS rocket. Formerly used as the space shuttle main engines, [the RS-25's are going to be used in the core stage of the SLS](#). However, the operating conditions will be different -- more pressure and colder temperatures than with the shuttle -- which leads to some changes and lots of testing.

One recent NASA headline that caught my attention was about the *New Horizons* probe. Although the closest approach to the Pluto system is still about six months away, [the exploration is now starting](#).

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## J.O.urnal

By Babs Freeman

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After promising to include an article in our next newsletter timely, I drew a blank on a topic. Sure I can write about my experience going back to school or how to shop without frustration or even how to organize a closet efficiently (something I am good at) but I woke up thinking about our favorite subject: *Star Trek*.

I have often pondered about whether or not to have a favorite among the different series or even a favorite among the movies, but it is simply easier for me to say I have favorite episodes within each series. Two from *The Original Series* come to mind and may have been a bit of an inspiration for my pursuing courses in Political Science. The two are *Bread & Circuses* and *The Omega*

*Glory*. The fact that Uhura has the coup de theatre after announcing the truth about the "Sun/Son" worshippers is a favorite scene. And the Yongs versus the Coms with all that Americana in it is too sweet. I also enjoy the horta and those silly tribbles.

But I was pondering over favorite actors and characters and predictably found I like many of the non-Earth folks who were popular across fan-dom. When I ponder the bad guys, I gravitate easily to the Borg. The mixture of living creatures with technology is both fascinating and creepy. One thing I like most about them is their assimilation of species (save one) and lack of bias when doing so. While they tend to come across as drones per the hive connection, they seem to have the least amount of inequality and

have zero prejudices (save for that one ornery species). They are not the easiest to look at though with the mottled skin tones and stuff.

In the *Next Gen* series, the episodes with Hugh and in *Voyager*, the evolution of Seven of Nine (and later the kids) are bits I particularly enjoy. My happily-married brother had a crush on Seven for obvious reasons but I just enjoyed watching her battle with her humanity.

And so I don't leave out the other two series, I have had a fascination with shape shifters for years including lycanthropes so Odo is way cool to me. As for *Enterprise*, my favorite species is the Andorians as I like watching their antennae move. I'll leave out the animated series as I don't remember it very well.

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# ST: TOS -- *Living with the Past*

## By Brad McDonald

---

Of all the original series stories, none was more troubling to me than *The Ultimate Computer*. The basic story is good and I enjoyed the character Doctor Daystrom. It's a good human interest study and a nice 'what if' premise. What if Einstein or Edison had burned out at an early age? Everything about the episode was enjoyable, except the ending.

According to the story line, we just witnessed the near destruction of four starships and the loss of several hundred crewpersons. Yet at the end of the story, everything is okay and the reduced crew of the Enterprise is on their way back to the starbase to have a 'cold one'.

What?!!! Wait a minute! How about dealing with the consequences of M-5's rampage and those damaged starships and the wounded or dead crews? So while I enjoyed the story, I thought the ending needed a major redo. Since I couldn't rewrite the story, I added to it.

Therefore, I now present *Living with the Past*, or if you prefer, *The Ultimate Computer II*. Here I deal with some of those 'loose ends' and give an alternate, if not more complete ending. If you find fault with my story, at least please understand my motivation.

Without giving away any part of the story, there is a subplot which involves Uhura. This came directly from a story told by Nichelle Nichols at one of the conventions regarding her conversation with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., about her role in the series. If you've heard the story, you should pick up on the reference.

Please note that there are several inconsistencies concerning what damage has been done to the attack force. If you review the episode, like I did, you'll understand what I mean. For instance; Sulu and Chekov recite the order of battle including the phaser hits: First was on the *Lexington*, where it is noted that engineering was damaged. Second, *Excalibur* is hit. Third, *Lexington* is hit again. Fourth, *Excalibur* is hit again. Fifth, the *Potemkin* is hit. When Wesley

reports, he states there are 53 dead on *Lexington* and 12 dead on *Excalibur*. However, later he states all ships have been damaged in the attack, the Captain and First Officer on the *Excalibur* are dead and there are many casualties. Then Sulu states that *Excalibur* looks dead and when Kirk tells M-5 to scan *Excalibur*, M-5 reports no life aboard. So what actually happened is up to interpretation. Maybe Sulu and Chekov missed a few hits or M-5 was wrong, or Wesley was. I decided to 'wing it' made up my own damage report. Please don't fault me for that as it was the only way to complete the story.

In any case, please read *Living with the Past* and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did writing it.

-----

### TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - CLOSE ON ENTERPRISE

Enterprise is stationary. In the B.G. we can see four other starships also motionless; damage is evident.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's personal log. We have returned to the site of the M-5 disaster site with our full crew to render assistance.

INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY - WIDE ANGLE

We see many casualties and injured, several N.D. medical staff are busy treating them. KIRK enters and studies the activity. MCCOY enters and goes to work, Kirk follows him.

KIRK

Bones, how is it going down here?

ON MCCOY

He doesn't look up, concentrating on his patients.

MCCOY  
(working)

Open up more visitor's quarters. We have another group of casualties on the way from the *Lexington*. Rescue teams are finally getting to some of the badly damaged decks.

McCoy continues to work, moving from one patient to another. Kirk studies his friend closely.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Already on it; we got a call from Commodore Wesley. He's also transferring his flag to the Enterprise.

MCCOY (O.S.)

How's Scotty doing on the *Potemkin*?

KIRK

He restored power, which helped the rescue operations considerably. Now he's on the *Lexington*, helping Spock.

TWO SHOT - KIRK AND MCCOY

Looking about, Kirk is very moved. McCoy notices; finds another patient and continues work.

MCCOY  
(working)

I still can't believe all these casualties and even more are on the way. I keep telling myself it was M-5 and not the Enterprise.

KIRK

Are you holding up? Can I get you anything?

MCCOY  
(rubbing neck)

Another hundred nurses, two dozen more surgeons and about an hour's worth of back rubs.

KIRK

Done. The hospital ship  
Repose is on the way and  
should be here soon.

McCoy turns to Kirk and smiles  
slightly.

MCCOY

That takes care of the staff  
shortage, what about the back  
rub?

KIRK

Sorry, you're on your own, but  
when Repose gets here, you  
take a rest. Captain's orders.

ON MCCOY

He is friendly, but firm.

MCCOY

As soon as all the casualties  
are recovered and treated and  
not before, Captain Sir. My  
back can wait.

Before Kirk can protest McCoy gets  
serious; he understands his friend's  
feelings.

MCCOY  
(continued)

We're doing everything we  
can, Jim. Return to the bridge  
and do what you do best,  
command. Help with the  
rescue operation. Contact  
Starfleet and have them send  
anyone who can assist us.  
This mess is their fault, not  
ours. They had M-5 installed,  
they set up the war games  
and now they need to deal  
with the consequences, too.  
Don't you take on the guilt, it's  
not your fault.

ON KIRK

He's reflective and subdued.

KIRK

I knew M-5 wasn't right,  
remember? I told you I  
thought having a computer in  
charge was wrong. It was  
dangerous and I had a  
'personal red alert'. I should  
have done more to prevent all  
of this.

He looks again at the casualties.

KIRK'S POV

We see many injured crewpersons,  
some with severe wounds. The N.D.  
medical staff is busy working on the  
injured.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

MCCOY

Not now, Jim. Let's deal with  
the rescue effort first. We  
can get command to own up  
later.

The intercom sounds.

UHURA (V.O.)

Sickbay? We have another  
group of casualties on the  
way.

McCoy steps to the intercom and tabs  
the call button.

MCCOY

McCoy here, on my way to the  
main transporter room.  
Inform triage teams one, three  
and five to meet me there.

UHURA (V.O.)

Will do, sir. Is the Captain  
there?

MCCOY

Affirmative, Lieutenant.

UHURA (V.O.)

Commodore Wesley requests  
his presence on the bridge.

Kirk nods to McCoy.

MCCOY

He's on the way, Lieutenant.

WIDE ANGLE

McCoy tabs the intercom off and turns  
to Kirk. An N.D. medical person hands  
McCoy a tricorder then exits. He  
reads it quickly, hands it to Kirk and  
waits for the reaction.

ON KIRK

He is angry and frustrated.

KIRK

More casualties discovered  
on the Potemkin.

(beat)

When does it all end Bones?

MCCOY (O.C.)

I have my job; you have yours.

KIRK

Understood, Doctor.

(beat)

I'll contact Repose and get an  
update on their ETA. Keep  
me posted and call if you  
need anything else.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY -  
MEDIUM

MCCOY

You'll be the first to know.

(beat)

Now get out of here, you're in  
the way.

KIRK

Understood, Doctor.

Kirk turns and exits quickly. McCoy  
returns to work.

CORRIDOR – ON KIRK

He is grim and determined.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

Enterprise is stationary, there are four  
more ships in B.G. also motionless  
with obvious damage.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE –  
WIDE ANGLE

UHURA is at her post, other stations  
are filled by N.D. crewpersons with  
much activity. WESLEY is at the  
science station when Kirk exits the  
turbolift with a tricorder in hand.

KIRK

Reporting as ordered,  
Commodore.

Wesley turns to greet Kirk.

WESLEY

Relax, Jim, it's still your ship.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND WESLEY

KIRK

Thank you, sir.

WESLEY

We have a class one disaster here and Enterprise has been invaluable with the rescue and repair operations. I just wanted to get an update, Jim.

KIRK

Spock's teams are still recovering casualties on the Excalibur.

WESLEY

So, not everyone died as M-5 had reported; that's a bit of good news.

Kirk refers to the tricorder viewer and reads.

ON KIRK – MEDIUM SHOT

KIRK

(off tricorder)

I've assigned a number of my people to act as a temporary crew for the Excalibur. You'll have DeSalle as the C.O., Riley in engineering, Palmer at communications, Chekov as Science Officer, Doctor M'Benga as ship's surgeon and Kyle as First Officer. Those plus another forty crewpersons to man her.

Kirk looks up to face Wesley.

KIRK

(continued)

Once Spock and his teams have finished, the Excalibur can return to Earth for permanent repairs.

WESLEY (O.C.)

It's good to hear we won't have to scrap her.

KIRK

According to Mister Scott, she can be back in service within ninety days, sooner if Starfleet provides enough resources.

(beat)

What about the Lexington, sir?

AS BEFORE – TWO SHOT – KIRK AND WESLEY

WESLEY

I lost most of my engineering staff so Commander Scott is doing the repairs as we

speak. By the way, he's the reason I'm here. He said I was 'in the way'. Regardless, I'm recommending you and your crew for a commendation.

Kirk is uneasy, he puts the tricorder down and gets closer to Wesley.

KIRK

(quietly)

Commodore, I'm sorry but I don't feel that I should be... rewarded for what happened here.

ON WESLEY

WESLEY

From what I've heard, you did everything you could, including being injured while trying to turn M-5 off. Recommendation stands. I'll debrief your crew after we get things sorted out. In the meantime, I need you here, on the bridge.

UHURA (O.S.)

Captain, I have a few updates.

Wesley nods to Kirk, as if to say I told you so.

ON UHURA

KIRK (O.S.)

Go ahead, Lieutenant.

UHURA

Lieutenant Sulu just reported from the Hood. His teams are handling most of the repairs and medical emergencies and he's compiling a list of damages and casualties. Mister Chekov is completing similar duties on the Potemkin. Mister Scott will be done within the hour. His teams are in the process of restoring Lexington's major systems.

(beat)

I've sent two more rescue teams to assist Mister Spock as they have discovered more casualties.

ON WESLEY

WESLEY

Nicely done, Lieutenant.

(to Kirk)

You have a fine crew, Jim.

ON KIRK

KIRK

A captain is only as good as the people he works with. That's what makes the Enterprise a great ship.

WESLEY (O.S.)

Maybe I should transfer a few of your people to the Lexington.

KIRK

(smiling)

You do and I'll file a complaint with Command or better yet, set a phaser on heavy stun with you as the target!

BRIDGE – WIDE ANGLE

WESLEY

(smiling)

Noted, Captain. Meanwhile, I need to update Starfleet Command. I'll be in the main conference room.

Wesley turns and exits into the turbolift. Kirk moves to the command chair and sits hard.

ON KIRK

He eyes the M-5 tie-in unit. Annoyed, he turns to Uhura.

KIRK

Lieutenant, as soon as Mister Scott returns, have him remove the M-5 tie-in unit, here and at the science station.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

The ship is orbiting Earth.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO – STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS – MIDDAY

INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

Board of inquiry is in progress. KIRK, MCCOY, SPOCK and SCOTT are standing. Seven board members are

seated opposite with N.D. security in B.G. at the entrance. The board CHAIRPERSON is reading from a document.

CHAIRPERSON

Captain Kirk, after reviewing the testimony heard by this board and based on Commodore Wesley's recommendations, we find that you did your best to take control from the M-5. Furthermore, during the rescue operations you and your crew acted in the finest tradition and we hereby award the Enterprise, The Fleet Commendation, First Order.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Thank you, sir. However, with all due appreciation, we respectfully decline the citation.

ON REVIEW BOARD

There is confusion as they speak quietly to each other.

CHAIRPERSON

All of your officers agree with this?

KIRK (O.S.)

Yes, sir.

There is more conversation between board members.

CHAIRPERSON

Very well, if that is your choice.

(beat)

We find that you and your crew are not responsible for what transpired and we hope you all continue to serve Starfleet with your usual standard of excellence.

(beat)

This inquiry is concluded. Captain, you and your officers are dismissed.

CORRIDOR – OUTSIDE  
CONFERENCE ROOM – WIDE  
ANGLE

Kirk and the others file out of the conference room. CHEKOV is waiting nervously and Kirk is surprised.

KIRK

Pavel! What are you doing here?

CHEKOV

Sorry, sir, orders. Commodore Wesley sends his complements. He's waiting on the Enterprise.

KIRK

New orders already?

CHEKOV

It would seem so. He was quite... anxious to see you.

Kirk is resigned to the task, but not enthusiastic.

KIRK

Okay, people, time to get back to work.

CHEKOV

Mister Sulu already issued the recall order and has begun preparations for getting underway.

McCoy and Spock move forward to Kirk.

THREE SHOT – KIRK, MCCOY AND SPOCK

MCCOY

Spock and I would like to visit Doctor Daystrom.

SPOCK

I believe a mind meld may help.

MCCOY

Jim, it's essential that Spock be allowed --

Kirk holds up his hands in mock surrender.

KIRK

(interrupting)

It's okay, Bones. Take care of Daystrom and then report to the Enterprise as soon as you can.

McCoy and Spock exit quickly as Kirk pulls his communicator and opens it.

ON KIRK

KIRK

(continued)

Kirk to Enterprise.

UHURA (V.O.)

Captain! How did it go with the board?

KIRK

Later, Lieutenant. Two to beam up.

UHURA (V.O.)

Aye, sir.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

The ship is in orbit around Earth.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – TWO SHOT – KIRK AND WESLEY

The bridge is active as Kirk enters, Wesley is waiting.

WESLEY

Jim, I've got a great assignment for you. It's a real creampuff.

KIRK

(skeptical)

Are you setting me up? The last time you told me that, I got the M-5.

Wesley looks a bit guilty.

WESLEY

Don't worry, it's easy, Starfleet owes you -- I owe you.

Kirk relaxes a bit and listens patiently.

WESLEY

(continued)

It's a first contact mission. Melana III. From what I understand, they can't wait to meet a Federation representative. All you have to do is put out the welcome mat.

KIRK

Okay, Bob, I'll go. But if this turns out to be a 'surprise party'...

WESLEY

I promise, Jim, no surprises.

KIRK

Okay, anything else?



WESLEY

I gave everything we have to your communications officer, she seems to run the ship anyway.

Wesley smiles as he moves to the turbolift, enters and the doors close.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE

The ship is moving at warp speed.

INT. MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM – WIDE ANGLE

KIRK SPOCK, MCCOY, CHEKOV, UHURA and SULU are present.

KIRK

Uhura, since you have all the details, will you brief us on our new contact mission?

ON UHURA

UHURA

Yes, sir. All indications show they are very friendly and open to contact from other worlds and cultures. Early communications show they're also quite advanced, at least in some ways.

CHEKOV (O.C.)

How so?

UHURA

Limited technology but very advanced in medicine, almost miraculous.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

McCoy perks up and takes a special interest.

MCCOY

Really? Maybe I should be part of the first contact mission.

KIRK

Count on it, Doctor. Please continue, Lieutenant.

UHURA

They call themselves the Elan and their home world Lanar. They are very human-like with no unusual customs or taboos. From our reports, they treat guests like royalty. No problems reported during any prior visits. Technology is

unremarkable; they have no warp drive capability.

SULU

I'm surprised the Federation Council agreed to a contact mission. Usually warp drive is a minimum requirement.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Not always. There have been a few exceptions. I suggest the Council overlooked the usual prerequisites in order to ascertain if their medical advances are as good as they are believed to be.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

The Federation Council has been sitting on this one for a while, maybe it was just time for an official visit.

ON KIRK

KIRK

Very well. Lieutenant Uhura, I want you to put a list of recommendations together for the first contact. I'll expect your report by 1600 hours. Sulu and Chekov will assist you as needed. Dismissed.

AS BEFORE – WIDE ANGLE

Uhura, Sulu and Chekov exit; Kirk indicates for Spock and McCoy to remain. After the others leave, then:

MCCOY

What's wrong, Jim? Don't you think they can handle the mission?

SPOCK

I believe the Captain is curious about Doctor Daystrom's condition.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

Of course; Spock's mind meld helped, but Daystrom hasn't improved much and it's my fault.

KIRK (O.S.)

How so?

MCCOY

I was preoccupied with casualties in sickbay when Daystrom's sedative wore off and he saw...

AS BEFORE - WIDE ANGLE

KIRK

(nodding)

What he had done.

SPOCK

What M-5 had done, Captain.

MCCOY

Same thing in his mind, since it was his brain engrams in the M-5.

SPOCK

Quite true, Doctor. I stand corrected.

McCoy is stunned by Spock's admission of error.

MCCOY

You agree with me, Spock?

SPOCK

It would be illogical not to.

McCoy rolls his eyes; Kirk is still waiting.

KIRK

And...?

SPOCK

Doctor Daystrom is beyond the reach of the mind meld's healing powers.

MCCOY

Traditional methods can't help either. I'm afraid unless we can come up with something else...

KIRK

(smiling)

Like our new contacts?

Realization hits McCoy and he is stunned.

MCCOY

You mean Command had this in mind from the start?

SPOCK

The Federation Council has been holding this contact for some time; why now?

MCCOY

Well, I'll be...

SPOCK  
There are a number of M-5 casualties who would benefit, Doctor.

KIRK  
Exactly. Command is feeling guilty and got the contact mission approved regardless of prerequisites.

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE – AT WARP SPEED

KIRK'S QUARTERS – WIDE ANGLE

Kirk is at his duty desk when the door chime sounds.

KIRK  
(absently)  
Come!

Uhura enters cautiously; Kirk rises to face her.

KIRK  
(continued)  
Lieutenant, do you have a question about your mission?

She is subdued and tentative.

UHURA  
Not exactly.

Kirk indicates a chair and the two sit opposite the desk.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

UHURA  
(continued)  
I wanted you to know that I've decided to leave Starfleet.

Kirk is surprised but recovers, using humor to mask his reaction.

KIRK  
Did you get a better offer from Commodore Wesley?

UHURA  
No, sir. I'm just... not sure I want to... continue.

Kirk gets serious and leans forward.

KIRK  
Why Nyota? What's happened?

UHURA  
M-5.

KIRK  
(confused)  
What about the M-5?

CLOSE ON UHURA

UHURA  
We've faced all types of dangers, sir; hostile aliens, disease, crazy people, time traveling, parallel worlds, even tribbles...

(beat)  
...but M-5. Of all the senseless things and all those casualties... so many people lost.

ON KIRK

He senses there is something else.

KIRK  
Lieutenant, so many people? Any one in particular?

AS BEFORE – ON UHURA

She becomes emotional and nods.

UHURA  
Yes, sir. Commander Patrick N'Komo on the Excalibur.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

KIRK  
(understanding)  
And Enterprise killed him, right?

UHURA  
I couldn't do anything to stop it.

KIRK  
Wrong and right.

Uhura is confused.

ON KIRK

He is firm but sympathetic to her feelings.

KIRK  
Wrong; M-5 killed those people, not Enterprise or the crew. And right, you couldn't do anything; or myself, Spock, Scott, even Doctor Daystrom. We all tried.

(beat)  
It wasn't our fault, even Command and the board of inquiry agreed. They even

tried to give us a medal, remember?

AS BEFORE – TWO SHOT – KIRK AND UHURA

UHURA  
(quietly)  
Yes, sir.

KIRK  
Nyota, why don't you take some time to think about this? Let's complete our current assignment first, then we can talk some more.

He tries to change the subject and redirects her thinking.

KIRK  
(continued)  
Are you getting enough help from Chekov and Sulu?

UHURA  
(surprised)  
Uh... yes, sir. Our report is in the computer. Mister Spock has already reviewed it.

(beat)  
If that's all, sir...

NEW ANGLE

She rises as does Kirk. Uhura heads to the door. Kirk watches as she exits, dismayed. He reflects on his words to Uhura.

KIRK  
(to self)  
It wasn't our fault.

It's a moment of understanding. He's surprised and smiles weakly.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

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## Upcoming Events

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Feb	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting - with another script reading Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville
Mar	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville
		6 p.m. UNC-TV Studios, RTP <a href="http://www.unctv.org/content/directions">www.unctv.org/content/directions</a>
	13-15	Comic Con, Raleigh Convention Center
	21	Articles due for Mar/Apr <i>Wright Stuff</i>
Apr	4	4 p.m. Ship Meeting Triangle Factory Outlet, Morrisville

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS**

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***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
**U.S.S. KITTY HAWK**  
**5017 Glen Forest Dr.**  
**RALEIGH NC 27612**