

# And to the REPUBLIC

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The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371

A Chapter of STARFLEET, the international Star Trek Fan Association--Atlanta, Georgia



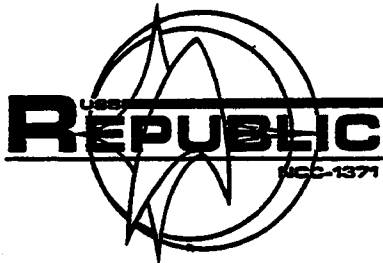
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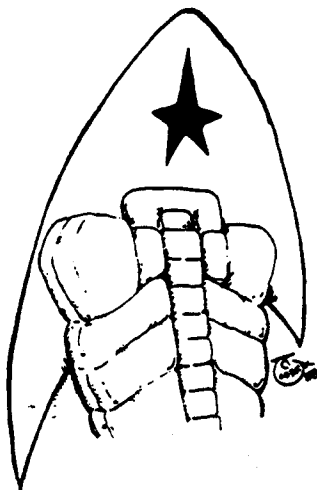
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## **FROM THE CENTER SEAT**



by Captain Kelly Hilliard

Well, the summer's winding down finally, and none too soon. This year's con season has really been a busy one. By the time you read this, I imagine Vulkan Atlanta will be over and we'll be able to catch our breaths.

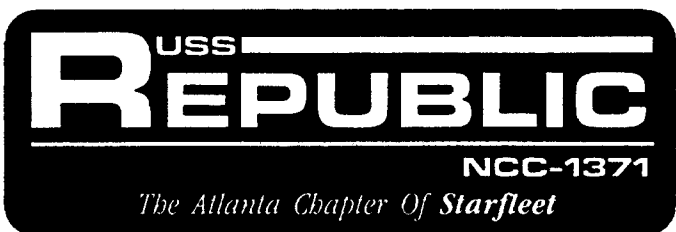
SciTrek has decided to postpone our debut until December during the Festival of Trees. There we will help advertise the coming of the Star Trek exhibit from the Smithsonian in January. Uniforms are a must for most of these activities. So, if you're interested, you might want to find or make up a uniform. However, we will be doing the Halloween parties for the kids right before, so for all those of you who have uniforms, I hereby put out the call for volunteers for this worthy cause. Call me at my home and leave a message (587-4669).

A special note of appreciation goes to those members of the Republic who responded to Gail Fuller's recent request for dry foods and baby foods for shipment to Florida to help the folks caught in Hurricane Andrew.

As of late, participation in club activities has been down. I don't know why, though. If there is anything we are doing wrong, please let us know immediately. If there is something you'd like to do, by all means let me know and we'll see what we can do. Remember, people--this is your club.

I'd like to welcome the Fishers, Erwin Cox, and Christine Hodgson to the Republic. I hope you enjoy our activities and I look forward to meeting all of you. I'd also like to take the time to thank Jeff Kirkland for sending in stamps for the Stampede. And finally, I'd like to thank all the people who work so hard for this club. Without you, none of this would be happening.

Thanks everyone!



## First Officer's Report

by

*Cmdr. Dawn Williams*



Nuqneh!

Greetings, crew. I have a few things to update you on. The first was the MDA telethon on Labor Day. Gail Fuller of the MacLeod worked hard and organized over several months to contact the various Trek groups here in Atlanta to assist with the telethon. Many people turned out for the event, including members from Starfleet, IFT, KLAW, and Starfleet Headquarters. The telethon was successful and they appreciated our participation. We have been asked to return next year. Good work, Gail!! Next year, let's try to have a larger turnout of members for this good cause.

Thanks to all for your participation in the various events at Vulkon. Shane Shadrix, Jeff Kirkland, Deborah and Jay Leafey, and Jesse Feldberg (among many others--you know who you are!) helped staff the Republic's recruiting table, and Jesse took part in our Klingon skit for the talent contest ("Shut up, Wesley!"). Capt. Hilliard drew double duty at the table and as part of con security.

In the last two weekends of October (October 23, 24, 29, and 30), the Chattahoochee Nature Center is having their annual Halloween Hikes. This is a non-scary alternative for kids for Halloween that also educates about native wildlife, plants, and the environment. They need volunteers for these evenings. This would include helping sell tickets, guiding groups, entertaining crowds, etc. If anyone is interested, please contact me (396-4742).

The Republic has T-shirts and badges for sale. These shirts were made by a local artist and they look great! We will be selling these at Vulkon and other events. We have shirts with the Republic logo and Klingon Embassy shirts. We are selling them for \$13 each. If you would like to purchase a shirt, contact

Capt. Hilliard or me.

This fall, we would like to plan some special events. What do you want to do? Let us know--let's plan something fun. I would like to plan a camping trip to the mountains. Please let me know if that sounds good.

Long live the Empire!  
Be'Ghargh H'Nter

## Communications

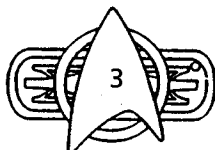
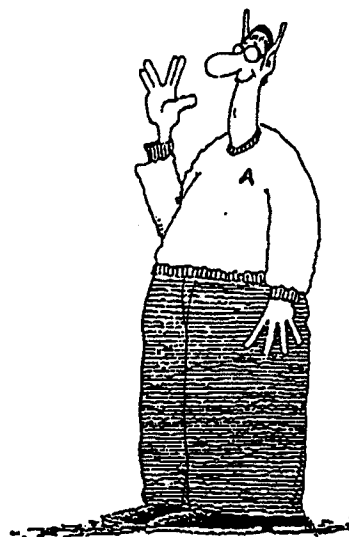
by

*Lt. Cmdr. Edmund Trafford*



As Capt. Hilliard noted in his report, "Vulkon has come and gone" and another con season is history. The Communications Department can look back with pride on some of the things accomplished this year--new recruiting materials, a table at the Fox for STVI, a ship's pennant produced, history of the Republic prepared--plus the regular newsletter you are now holding (thanks, Dan!). The next major project will be to follow up with Alacrity in Memphis about a joint literary/newsletter/fanzine/something that I mentioned in a previous column. That should keep us busy for awhile!

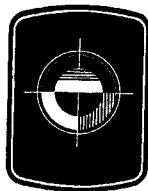
I want to echo Capt. Hilliard again, "this is your club," and so I encourage everyone to take part--submit articles, stories, columns, reviews, anything to show that you are out there and that you care.



# Tactical-Security

by

*PO1 Shane Shadrix*

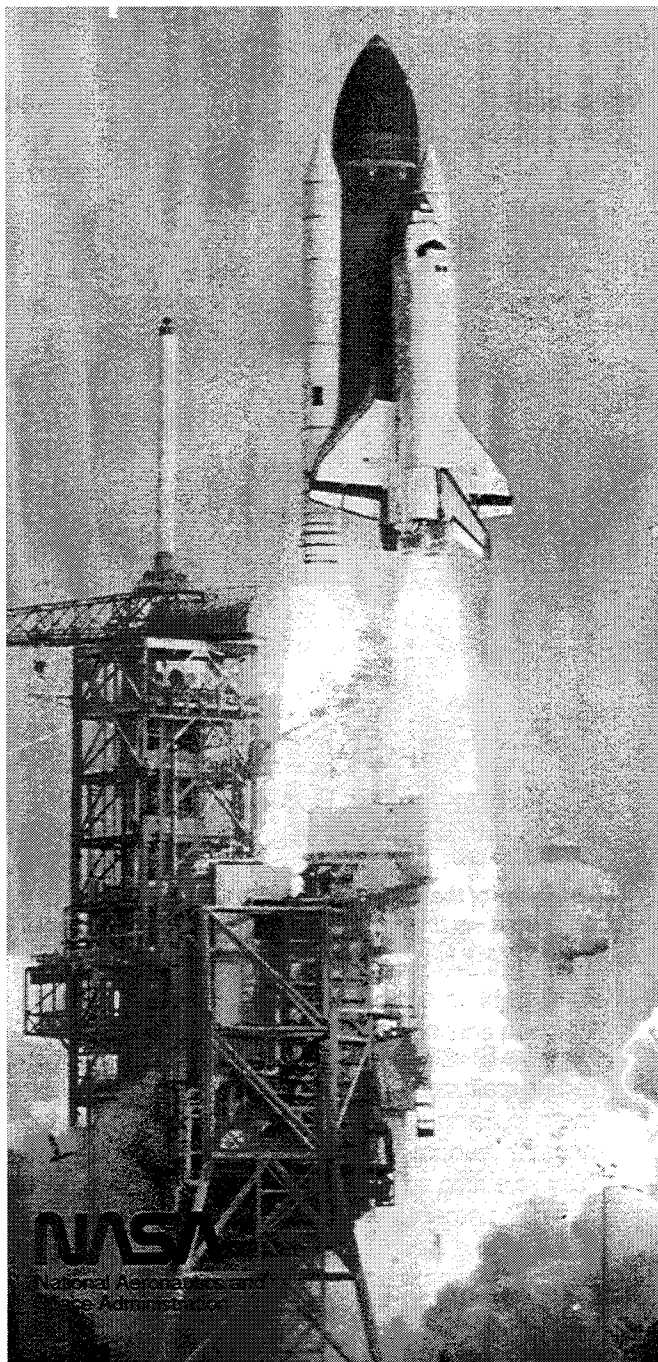


On September 12, an away team from the Republic met with an away team from the Shuttle Alacrity from Memphis at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The overnight trip cost \$40 per person and was well worth it. It included admission to the movie, museum, and bus tour; two meals; a room at the Marriott; and a T-shirt. The first day, we saw a movie filmed by the astronauts, in Omnivision, called "The Dream is Still Alive." The film was taken almost entirely in orbit, and the views were breathtaking. After the film, we ate supper and checked into the hotel. After everybody settled into their rooms, we had the choice to go play putt-putt or go to a movie. The second day, after breakfast at the space center, we walked through the museum. The museum contains various mockups and pieces of aerospace history, and outside the building there is a collection of rockets and the space shuttle Pathfinder, riding atop its external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters. Although the Pathfinder is something to see, it pales in comparison to the Saturn V. Its size alone is enough to make someone stop and take notice. What makes it so special to me is that others just like it took men to the moon. After we finished looking through the museum, we rode the shuttle liner, a shuttle mission simulator, and the space walker, a low-gravity simulator. Next, we took a bus tour of the Marshall Space Flight Center, at the Redstone arsenal, where we saw the neutral buoyancy simulator; mockups of space station Freedom, which looks very much like a corridor on the Enterprise; the spacelab simulators; and the Redstone rocket test site. We did not get to walk through Mission Control because they were handling the Endeavor shuttle flight.

When we returned to the Space Center, we headed for the centrifuge, which simulates 3Gs, the same force of a shuttle launch. The

ride was very comfortable until you tried to move--then it was very hard. Afterwards, we went out to eat, then left for home. I have to say that I had an excellent time and would highly recommend the trip to anyone. Before I sign off, I would like to thank Deborah and the crew of the Alacrity again for inviting the Republic. Hopefully, we will see you again soon. Until then, long life and prosperity.

Petty Officer Shadrix signing off.



# SPACE TIME

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THE TRIMBLES: Both John & Bjo Trimble have been well known in Science Fiction fandom for 40+ years: they founded the WorldCon Art Shows, spearheaded the "Save Star Trek" campaign, named the Enterprise Shuttle & for many years chaired EQUICON, fondly remembered as one of the best media cons ever! They have guested at cons & served on many committees. Members of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) for 26+ years, they set up a kingdom newsletter, Caidan Collegium & headed SCA committees.

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# OVERHEARD AROUND THE FEDERATION

by Capt. Kelly Hilliard

## ST:VII

Paramount has approved a seventh movie! William Shatner has already turned in a script. However, no decision has been made of a script as of yet. If you would like to see a continuation of Capt. Sulu's voyages, you need to let Paramount know NOW. It is the current belief that the fans won't accept a ship other than the Enterprise and a captain other than Kirk. Don't wait too long or Shatner may get his way!

## TNG:VII

Paramount has also signed on for a seventh season of ST The Next Generation. It will be running concurrently with the new Deep Space Nine series.

## Bjo Trimble

While at Magicon in Orlando over the Labor Day holidays, I was lucky enough to meet Bjo Trimble. We met while waiting for the opening ceremonies and sat together during them. I must say I was in total ignorance of who she really was at the time. But I found her one of the most charming ladies I've ever had the honor of meeting. In my opinion, Bjo is the First Lady of Star Trek Fandom. She has been with the movement since its beginning and was the one who helped organize the initial letter write-in campaign to keep Star Trek on the air during the show's original run. She has been involved in Star Trek ever since. She and Gene were close friends and she carries on the torch that he left in the area of fandom. She currently puts out a newsletter (The Space Continuum) which includes information on accurate Star Trek news. This newsletter is a must for those who want up-to-date information. I highly recommend it. For those interested, it's only \$8. See me for an application. In closing, I can only say that I hope she is invited to a convention here in Atlanta soon because even though I just met

her, I miss her wit and zeal in a time when too many people take things way too seriously.

## DS9 UPDATE

*(The following is a synopsis of a talk given by Majel Barrett Roddenberry concerning the Deep Space 9 series on August 1, 1992. Much of it is drawn from the DS9 Writer's Guide.)*

### Background

After over a hundred years, the Cardassian Empire has finally tired of fighting Bajoran terrorists and guerillas and has withdrawn unilaterally from Bajoran space and the Bajoran homeworld. Before they left, however, the Cardassians stripped the planet of most of its usable resources and left only scorched earth behind. The planet is only beginning to recover, and rebuilding will be a long, hard journey indeed.

At about the same time, a stable wormhole has been discovered in the Bajoran star system. It's similar in many ways to the wormhole in the TNG episode "The Price" except that this one really is stable. The wormhole has given Bajor the chance it needed to rebuild by becoming a center of commerce and trade.

Bajor has hired the Federation to administer the wormhole and given the assigned Starfleet unit an old Cardassian space station. The station is a wreck; the Cardassians stripped it before leaving, and there's very little left that works. The Starfleet unit's first responsibility is to get the station operational, but in fact there's little chance all the problems will ever be worked out. (Translation: Mechanical breakdowns will be a frequent complication in many stories.)

### Main Characters

**CAPTAIN BENJAMIN SISKO:** Commander of the space station. He's an old Starfleet hand who lost his wife in the Battle of Wolf 359. Thereafter, he worked for some time at the Utopia Planetary Shipyards repairing and rebuilding the fleet. He wanted to return to Earth after that but was instead



posted to DS9 along with his young son. He has buried bitterness toward Jean-Luc Picard because of his wife's death in battle with the Borg.

**JAKE SISKO:** Captain Sisko's son. About 10 or 12 years old, a classic "army brat" who has grown up moving from post to post with his parents. As a result of his frequent moves, he's become very shy about forming personal friendships--he's seen too many of them broken by another move. He has NO special technical skills of any kind (there was a loud cheer when Majel read that).

**ODO:** The Security Officer. A shapeshifter. He is from an unknown race; he was found alone on a derelict spacecraft. He hopes someday that a ship will come through the wormhole whose crew can tell him who and what he is. At night, he must revert to his native form, a shapeless mass of jelly. He usually goes about in human form, but because he isn't very good at forming a human body, his man-shape looks "unfinished, rough around the edges."

**KIRA NERYS:** The Bajoran liaison officer. An ex-major in the Bajoran underground, a tough military hand who is having trouble adjusting to peace. She's a strong, dominant personality, and she is frustrated by the way in which the Bajoran leaders are frittering away valuable time by endlessly debating what their next move should be. This part was originally written to be Ro Laren, but Michelle Forbes declined the role. The character has been renamed but is otherwise the same.

**MILES O'BRIEN:** Chief Engineer of the space station, newly transferred from the Enterprise. He's sorry to leave the Enterprise but pleased at the promotion. He and his staff have their hands full and more than full operating the space station.

**QUARK:** A Ferengi who runs the main bar on the space station's promenade. The promenade is a collection of bars and shops of all kinds (even a holographic house of ill-repute), populated by a collection of aliens from across the galaxy. (Think of the Star Wars cantina times ten.) The Ferengi runs the main bar and several other concessions and is willing to help the station's crew--as long as there's something in it for him. His son NAAM is aboard with him.

**THE BAJORAN PLANETARY LEADER:** This gentleman is a sort of cross between president and religious leader. The Bajoran culture has always been deeply spiritual and philosophical, and this man is well-equipped to lead it. There are hints that he has some strange mental powers, which may or may not be explored in the series.

**DR. JULIAN AMOROS:** Chief Medical Officer of the space station. Late 20s, just about right out of med school, this is his first major assignment. He's young, confident, very gung-ho, and also rather naive. He expected to be assigned to a starship, to be out on the frontier where the action is. He did not expect to be assigned to a broken-down space station in a just-recovering ex-war zone.

**JADZIA DAX:** Science Officer. A Trill, which is an insectoid symbiont inhabiting a humanoid host. Odon in "The Host" was a Trill. This particular Trill is currently inhabiting a young, very attractive female host. The symbiont lives about four times as long as its hosts generally do, so one Trill will have several hosts in its lifetime. Captain Sisko has encountered this Trill before, at which time it was a teacher/mentor figure to him; however, at that time, it was in the body of an old man. Now he's met the same Trill in the body of a very attractive woman, which causes him some deep psychological conflicts. Meanwhile, the Trill symbiont is a rather cold personality with little use for sex, so when it's in control, it's not very interested in a "relationship." However, the host's biochemistry can override the symbiont's desires, so every now and again Jadzia's emotions get the better of her, despite the symbiont's best efforts to the contrary.

#### Recurring Guest Characters

**KEIKO O'BRIEN** will appear from time to time. There will also be occasional crossovers by TNG characters. And (drum roll, please) **LWAXANA TROI** will be a recurring guest on DS9. Apparently, she visits the station at some point and develops a liking for Odo, the shapeshifter Security Officer. The fact that he isn't human and reverts to his native form every night doesn't dissuade her. (Sample dialogue: ODO--"But you don't understand. I turn into a pool of jelly at night!" LWAXANA--"I can swim.")





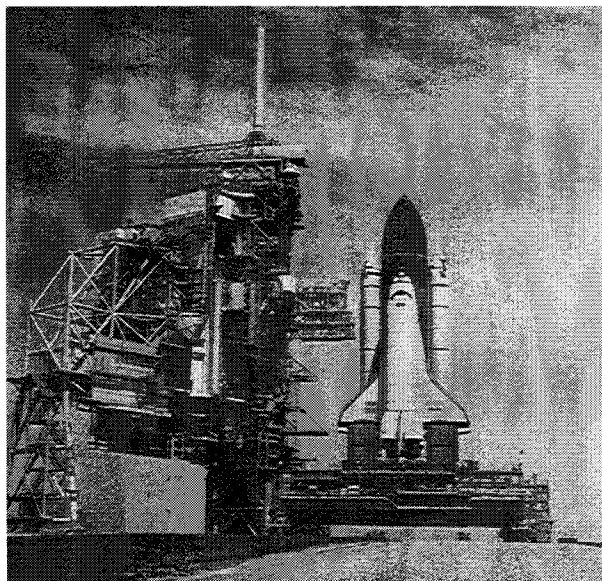
## Production Details

They are scheduled to start shooting on August 18 and be ready for a January '93 premiere. There is no set cast yet, but Majel said she expected there to be a cast by early August. There are, however, several sets already built and waiting on two sound stages on the Paramount lots. The studio has already sunk \$3,000,000 into the sets alone, so Paramount is obviously betting big on DS9 to be a success.

One of the permanent sets is the Station Operations Center, a huge circular set with several levels, all full of control stations for operations, tactical, defense, life support, and such. Majel has seen this set and says it's very impressive.

Majel seemed to say that DS9 will be somewhat less "cerebral" and more "action-adventure" oriented than TNG. The series background, premise, and character sketches were carefully written to allow vast possibilities for stories. They've assembled a good team of writers, producers, directors, etc., and Majel thinks it's going to go fairly well.

(Ed's notes: A couple of cast members have been signed since the writing of this article: Avery Brooks ["Spencer: For Hire"] will play Captain Sisko and Rene Auberjonois ["Benson"] will play Odo.)



## THE "GOD" PLANET FROM STV

by Lt. Cmdr. Edmund Trafford

(The following article was a "speculation" on the nature of the "god planet" in the fifth ST movie. It was written as part of the planetology research requirement for a degree in archeology/geology from Starfleet's Vulcan Academy of Science.)

### Background

The planet is situated at 0.0'0" galactic coordinates. Galactic coordinates are frequently subject to a small correction factor to allow for "drift," but for all practical purposes, the planet is actually located at "the center of the galaxy." Due to its unique location, the planet has been invested by many cultures with an almost mystical significance as representing the "source" or the "center" of metaphysical power. Vulcans call the central star and its planet "Shakaree," Romulans call it "Vorta Vor," and Klingons, "Qi'Tu." To many Terrans, the planet represents "Eden," the fount or beginning of humankind. No one has yet suggested an entirely suitable name for it, representing as it does the aspirations of dozens of intelligent races in the galaxy, and so it is usually referred to simply as the "God planet."

### Energy Barrier

The "God planet" and its star are encased in an energy sphere the nature of which is still not well-understood. There is strong evidence that the centers of many galaxies, which exhibit staggering energy readings, seem to consist of massive black holes. However, if the example of our own Milky Way galaxy is normative, then other galaxies must possess similar energy shields or barriers surrounding the central environs of the galactic disk. Within this barrier, other star systems can be presumed to exist. Such energy barriers can account for the energy readings observed in other galaxies without having to assume the corresponding presence of a black hole.

*(continued on next page)*



## Stellar System

The star around which the "God planet" revolves is a white dwarf. In the absence of "blown-out" stellar material, the assumption is that the star is not the remains of a catastrophic supernova but rather the naturally occurring last stage of a main-sequence star. It is a matter of observed fact that the oldest regions of star formation are around the central disk of any galaxy, and the regions of youngest star formation are in the spiral arms. Therefore, it can be safely conjectured that the stars in the central region, including this white dwarf, represent some of the very oldest stars, if not the original stars, formed at the beginning of galactic condensation. (This fact gives further encouragement to those who wish to believe that all life must have originated here, among the most ancient stars in the galaxy, before spreading outward.) If this dwarf star dates to the formation of our galaxy out of the cooling plasma produced by the "Big Bang," its age must be estimated in the vicinity of 12 billion to 15 billion years. (In comparison, our own sun is no more than 5 billion years old.)

## Surface Characteristics

The distance of the "God planet" from its star is approximately 24 Terran solar astronomical units. This distance is consistent with the assumption that it is all that is left after the red giant stage of the star consumed any inner planets that may once have existed before shrinking into a white dwarf. The planetary appearance suggests that it is no more than a remnant of the rocky core of a gas giant whose layers of light methane and ammonia were mostly swept away, evaporated into space by the red giant star phase, with the remainder reduced to a breathable atmosphere comprised of the denser elements of oxygen and nitrogen and some trace gases. The rocky core has, through eons of erosion, developed a gravelly, rubble-strewn crust comparable to that of Mars (or Sol IV in the standard Federation nomenclature). The erosive patterns indicate extensive weathering by wind and temperature but no identifiable erosion due to the presence of water. (The wispy clouds seen high in the atmosphere are extremely tenuous, and what precipitation may from time

to time condense out of them seems negligible.) The silicates in the resource-poor crust bear no measurable traces of minerals, metals, or gemstones.

There are no major topographical features: no water bodies (there is no precipitation to speak of and no indication of underground water tables), no mountain ranges (what may once have passed for mountains have eroded into little more than low, rolling hills), and no valleys (such depressions as may once have existed have been filled with drifted sand, pebbles, and other debris).

Though the "God planet" is slightly smaller than Terra, with a diameter of 7,318 miles, it is denser due to the fact that its solid, rocky composition is not the result of natural formation but is in fact the leftover core of a much larger planet. Accordingly, surface gravity is higher than Terra, at 1.263g.

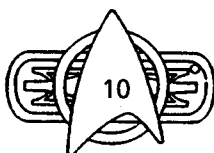
## Climate

The original form of the planet, an icy gas giant, inhabited the outer reaches of the star system. When the star entered upon the "red giant" phase of its stellar career, and before shrinking back to less than its original size, it heated the solid core of the planet significantly. Current ambient temperatures in the comfortable range of 70°F are caused by the slow release of the interior heat. The heat is remarkably evenly distributed throughout the planet; thus, despite the 19° inclination from the plane of the ecliptic and the 63.4-year annual period, there are no "seasons" to speak of. As mentioned above, though clouds are not an uncommon atmospheric feature, the surface is quite arid, and the humidity index is comparable to that of Death Valley.

## Other Facts

There is no "night" on the "God planet." It does rotate on its axis over a period of 18.35 hours; however, the billions of stars clustered at the center of the galaxy provide a blazing "night" sky that has to be experienced to be appreciated. Illumination on the planet's surface during the dark cycle has been photometered at nearly 8 times that of an ordinary full moon. (The "God planet" possesses no satellites of its own.) This

*(continued on the next page)*



spectacular view of the galactic center is obscured from our own vantage point by the intervening dust and gas between us and the center. The dim glow we see in the general direction of Sagittarius gives only the barest hint of the unobstructed glory at the center of the galaxy. However, the extraordinary density of stars combined with the effects of the energy barrier produce an extremely high level of background radiation ("solar winds," microwave radiation, X-rays and gamma rays, and other "hard" emissions) which seems to have inhibited or prevented the development of life, at least as we would recognize it. (This fact was a huge disappointment to those who expected to discover a lush and verdant paradise--"Eden" by any other name.)

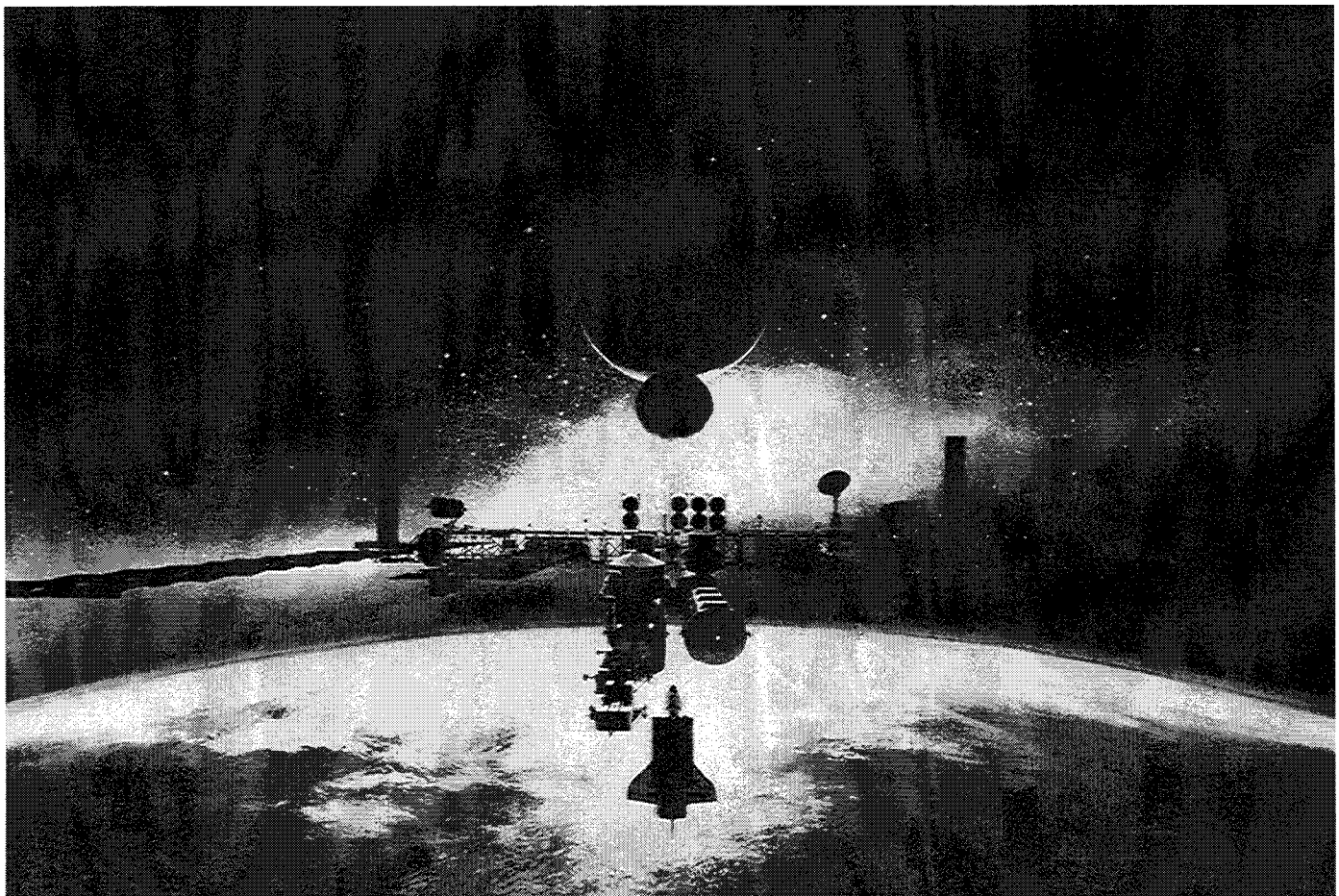
In summary, the "God planet" is technically a Class M planet with gravity, atmosphere, and ambient temperature suitable for Terrans, but the designation of Class M is marginal at best due to the arid and resource-poor conditions.

## STARDATES

\*October 17-- General Meeting at Dawn Williams' house. 7:30 p.m. See below for directions.\*\*\*\*

\*November 7-- General Meeting at Fernbank Science Center. 12 Noon.

\*\*\*\*I-285 to Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Go north (outside I-285). Take the Winter's Chapel exit and go under the bridge, north on Winter's Chapel. After the white church on the right, take the second right onto Sumac Dr. Go straight through the first 4-way stop. At the second 4-way stop, turn left onto Womac Ct. Turn right onto Ridgemoor Dr. It is the third home on the left, #6745. Dawn's phone number is 396-4742.



**USS Republic**  
**120 The 5th Green Ct.**  
**Atlanta, GA 30350-1628**