

VOLUME I, ISSUE THREE

MAY/JUNE 1999

The Official Newsletter of CHATTAHOOCHEE STATION, SFR-201 —Atlanta, Georgia

A Chapter of STARFLEET, the International **STAR TREK** Fan Association

“Moon—June—Croon . . .” Satellites of the Solar System



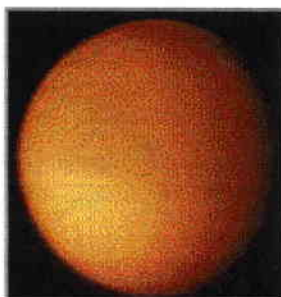
Deimos (Mars)



Titania (Uranus)



Europa (Jupiter)



Titan (Saturn)



Luna (Terra)



Triton (Neptune)

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Edmund Trafford
Chief of Communications

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Departmental Reports

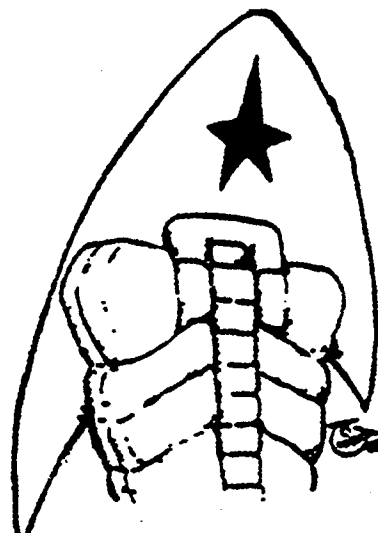
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FROM THE CENTER SEAT



by Fleet Captain Kathryn Webster

Hello Everyone!

We have a very busy time the next couple of months. With DS9 ending party and Dragoncon we will be very active.

Mike and Kelly have invited us over to their place for a DS9 ending. Dragoncon is set for the first weekend in July. We are going to need help on the Starfleet table. Monty Strickland has agreed to handle scheduling for the table. I'm sure he will be getting in touch with you about the table. Due to Dragoncon being on the 1st Saturday of the month, our business meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

At that time, we need to start voting on our by-laws. The XO in charge of the Republic, Mike Henigan has promised to send out by email a proposed set of bylaws. Please read these and think about them. This is just a starting point. They are not "set in stone." If you have not received your copy of the

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proposed by-laws by June 15th, please contact me and I'll get you a copy.

One issue that I feel we need to think about is how we handle the elections of the two XO's in charge of each ship. Please think about this and give me your ideas.

Hope to see you soon. ★

FROM THE RIGHT SEAT

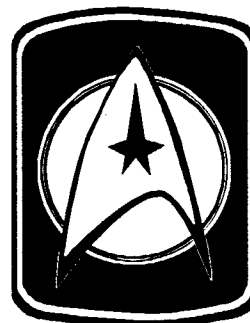


by Leon Lord
Executive Officer, MacLeod

Greetings one and all. Our ships have merged and no trouble at all. This shows that through all the years of working together as friends, we can still be friends and shipmates working together to a common goal. The future will be bright as we go forth to the 21st century. At the stores now are next week's TV Guide with DS9 crews. There are four covers with different people. I picked up two for my collection. Enjoyed the trip to Ren Fest and the Star Wars movie. The movie was much better than the critics say it was.

I have card protectors. They will go on any collectible cards and the card games, a bargain of \$4.25 per box containing 100 sleeves. ★

SECURITY



by Captain Tonya Spanks

Greetings, Chattahoochians.

We have certainly had a busy time since our last newsletter. Fleet Captain Kathy and I ventured out to the Renaissance Festival on opening day (as per tradition) and we were treated to a few new sites. One of the food courts has been built up to a more level ground and covered benches have been added so that you can have a little shade while dinning. There have been a few more shops added and of course, there is not enough money in my pockets to fully, fully enjoy myself (I would need about \$100 spending money). Another nice addition are the new FLUSH PRIVIES (pause for Ahhs of joy)!!! Unfortunately, the heat was so terrific that Kathy and I could not really enjoy ourselves and we departed shortly after noon. Another group went to the Festival the weekend of the 23rd as I had free passes. Note anyone wishing to go the Spring Festival is certainly welcome as I get free passes from the office and usually can get enough for 10 to 12 people. We had the pleasure of being joined by Martha and her granddaughter Lori. This time I got to see the Great Cats of the World Show which was entertaining as well as educational. Although these "cats" are beautiful, they make terrible pets. The heat was bearable but the rain drove us

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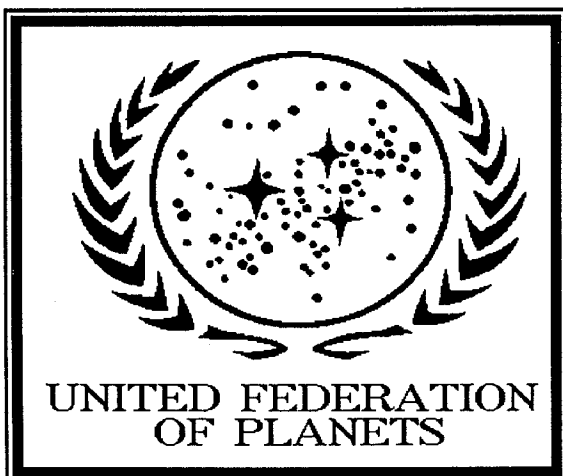


away this time. Maybe next season we will get to enjoy the entire day.

Between Ren Fest. Visits, the new Star Wars movie was released, and being the sci-fi fans we are, we went. I for one was not overly impressed with the movie. The special effects were good and the fight scenes were pretty good; however, without giving too much away for those who have not seen it, during one of the fight scenes, IN MY OPINION, had there been LESS dancing and MORE fighting it would have been over in less time. It was a good movie and I plan to see it again.

DragonCon approaches and I hope to see as may people there as possible. I will have two main focuses; Frank Grorshwin and the TenForward. The Klingons are hosting a beauty pageant (of sorts) and I think it just might be worth catching.

Our fund raiser isn't doing too well, folks. Word has been out for quite some time for recipes and so far I have received zero. If we don't want any funds for the station or the crew wants to do something else, tell me now so I can stop wasting my time. ★



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT



Lt. Monty Strickland

Greetings from the Medical Department. I'd like to report on the progress of the suggestions that I made in the last nexus. The Academy month has been postponed until later in the year since we had a very busy April and May as will have been reported elsewhere in the Nexus. I look forward to this being rescheduled and will give everyone plenty of notice so that they can be involved. As to the suggestion that we consider having care groups, it was decided to postpone consideration of this suggestion until the basic elements describing the Station have been agreed upon.

Elsewhere in the Nexus I hope to have an article which displays the form for the medical information that the Station requests be available to the Commanding officer in the case of an emergency which occurs while the station is on an "away mission." A duplicate copy will be maintained by the Medical officer to be used in case the CO's copy is unavailable. All information will remain confidential and will only be revealed to medical personnel in the case of an emergency. I will email the form which can be returned to me by email by those members that I have an email address for. If you have not received any email from me in the past and

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would desire a form emailed to you please send email to montine@charter.net with your current email address and I will email a copy of the medical form to them.

The Medical Department is seeking an interested crewperson to assume the duties of Station Councilor. This person would initially be part of the medical department. Upon completion of OTS and by proper approval that person might have their own department. If the suggested care groups become reality then it would be logical that the Station Councilor help with them. For the purposes of the station no actual counseling experience is needed in order to be Station Councilor. In order to be successful, all that is needed is a caring heart and some spare time to devote to this. If you'd like to be Station Councilor please contact me either by phone at 770-252-4153 and leave voice mail or by email at montine@charter.net I welcome any comments about the Station Councilor and the activities that person could help within the station. I anticipate that the Medical Department will work closely with the Station Councilor both as a part of the department and in the event that the Station Councilor becomes another department.

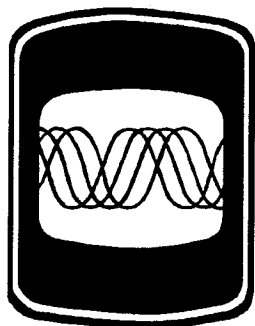
I have been asked to coordinate the station's table at Dragon*Con. Upon seeing the schedule of events for Dragon*Con I intend to divide the time that people stay to watch the table to correspond to the interval which Dragon*Con panels are scheduled. 2 years ago that interval was 1.5 hrs and it worked well to have the interval to coincide. I will make the schedule available for Dragon*Con to all interested crew members and also ask people to sign

up on the table schedule to be at the table. Hopefully since everyone's tastes are different and some panels and speakers are repeated we will have people willing to be at the table at the assigned times and everyone will have a chance to enjoy Dragon*Con. In the past, one or two people spent most of their time at the table and were unable to enjoy anything at Dragon*Con. Depending on the response if everyone will plan on being at the table for two or three sessions then the table will be covered without putting the burden on any one or two people. Since Dragon*Con is July 4th weekend, I expect both the session schedule for Dragon*con and the Table schedule to be available soon. Look for it via email and at meetings and social meetings between now and then. I want to thank you all in advance for the cooperation that I know that I can expect from everyone on the station.

As busy as we have been in the past, I can't be sure when each of these initiatives will happen except for Dragon*Con which will be July 4th weekend. Please email or turn in your medical information to me or the CO as soon as is possible because we'd like to have this information available for any trips or events we attend as a station. Thanks again for all your help and cooperation. This concludes the medical department report for this Nexus. ★



COMMUNICATIONS



by Commander Edmund Trafford

PLEASEPLEASEPLEASE NOTE: All submissions for the July/August issue are due by July 31, no excuses, no exceptions, no extensions!! ★



William Shatner made a guest appearance in the season finale of *Third Rock From the Sun* as the heretofore unseen "Big Giant Head" on May 25, 1999.

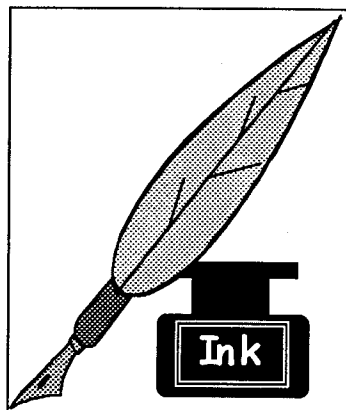
Jonathan Frakes, who directed the two previous Paramount STTNG flicks, will direct an independent picture for Beech Hill Films according to an article for the *Hollywood Reporter* filed from Cannes, France. *Pork Pie* is a story set during the "jazz era" (post-WWI/1920s) and stars Alfre Woodard (directed by Frakes in *First Contact*) and Loretta Devine (*Waiting to Exhale*). ★



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Ravings From the Editor . . .



Without yet having seen the finale (the ultimate final last TV season closer *forever* finale) of DS9, I can't help but speculate about what will happen regarding the

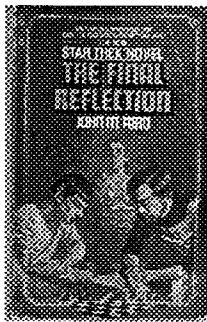
ethical and moral crisis of the Federation's having devised and planted the plague (through an unwitting Odo) that is slowly destroying the Founders. It would seem to be the absolutely right thing to do to share the cure with the Founders, particularly since the Federation (in the form of the thoroughly amoral Section 31 agents) spread the disease in the first place. But in the interest of basic self-preservation, wouldn't it be the height of foolishness to give your worst enemy a prize that would only strengthen them, and doubly strengthen their resolve to continue trying to conquer you, especially when they found out that you had tried to commit genocide? If we gave the Founders the antidote in the perhaps naïve belief that such a deeply trusting and sincerely honest and selfless act would convince them of the Federation's basic decency and commitment to justice, would Federation idealism (i.e., Roddenberry's deep optimism in a bright and humanistic future for the galaxy) turn out to be the very thing that would destroy us, leaving us defenseless and open to domination by the renewed Founders?

Well—what would *you* do? ★

Books Books Books

BOOKS Books BOOKS

These Are A Few of Our Favorites . . .



My all-time favorite novel is John Ford's *The Final Reflection*, which fleshes out beautifully the world of the "classic" Klingons, before the movies and the subsequent television series totally rewrote

them. For instance, all the original Klingons had names which began with "K": Kang, Kor, Koloth, Korax. (and in STIII, we have Krug.) Ford explained this as an honor earned by Klingon warriors; the privilege of using a "K" name was bestowed only after the warrior demonstrated sufficient bravery and courage. In the book, Klingons Vrenn and Gelly subsequently become known as Krenn and Kelly. I thought this was a wonderful—and believable—insight, a fan solution to a practice which, after all, was already clearly established in the "canonical" episodes. Years ago, when TNG first hit the airwaves, I waited eagerly for Worf to perform some particularly notable act of heroism and to be rewarded by the Klingon High Council with the honor of being thereafter called "Korf." But of course, this was not to be. I love ST, but I have always thought that the "official" writers had (and continue to have) a terribly patronizing attitude toward the fans and fan fiction that borders on arrogance; they ignore concepts that have taken on a significance for us merely because they didn't think of these things first.



This is also true in *Uhura's Song*, one of Tonya's favorite books. This is the first fan source ever which established a given name for Uhura: her name is "Nyota," which means "Star." In Swahili,

"Nyota Uhura" means "Star Freedom," a name which certainly suits this beautiful and capable woman who "boldly goes" where others fear to tread. Nearly all subsequent fan fiction accepts her name as "Nyota," but the "official" writers have never recognized this. Every other original character has a first name—but not Uhura! *Uhura's Song* combines her communications ability with her musical talent as she "solves" an ancient riddle by "decoding" a folk song. This is one of the best original ST novels. (Another excellent novel featuring Enterprise's favorite communications officer is *Tears of the Singers*.) Tonya's other favorites include *The Vulcan Science Academy Murders* ("the first one I ever read") and *The IDIC Epidemic*.

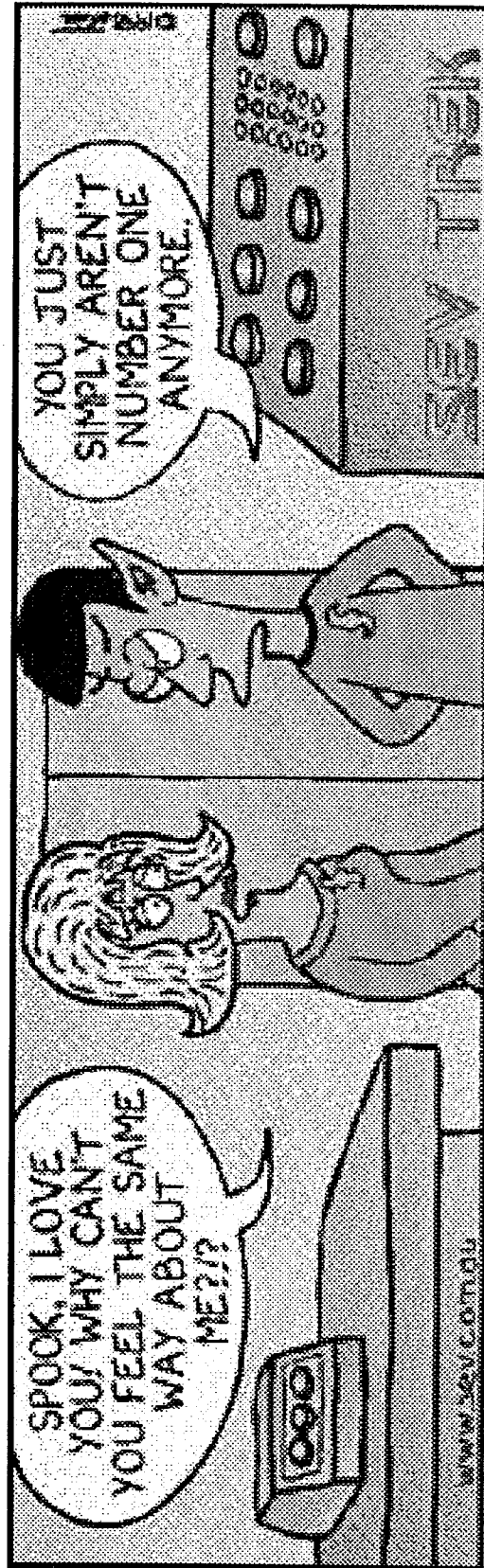
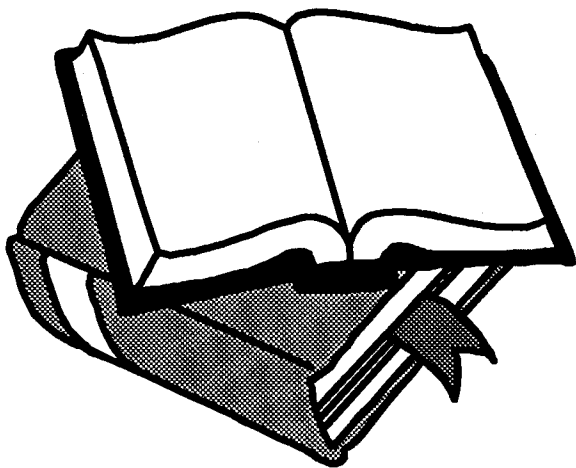


One of Dawn Benton's favorite books is *The Wounded Sky* by Diane Duane. Duane's books remain the benchmark for nearly all other ST authors and pseudo-authors (of whom there are entirely too many . . .).

She is a literate, insightful, sensitive, and accomplished writer. (I especially like *My Enemy, My Ally*.) Dawn's other favorites include *Ishmael*, *Memory Prime*, *Prime Directive*, and *The Three Minute Universe*. Although Dawn mentioned one or two TNG novels, she commented that "I guess you can tell which series was my favorite."

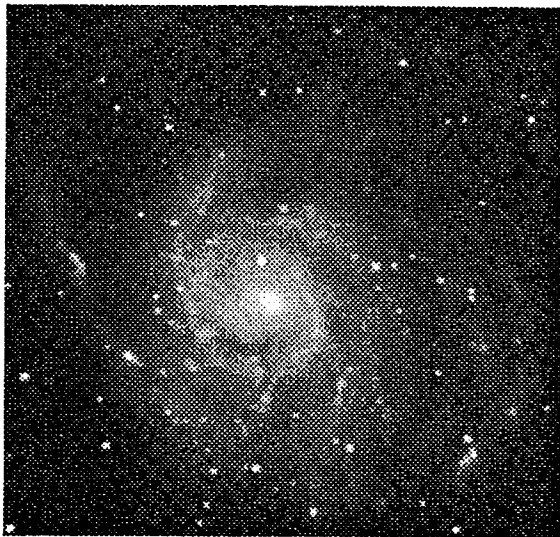
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And Dawn's comment neatly summarizes both Tonya's and my own choices: The early books in the original series novels were, are, and remain the best ST writing available. They were written with love by talented authors rather than cranked out on a monthly deadline by hacks. They began coming out years after the close of the original series, so the original characters had already become well established and had a personal depth and a body of shared experiences to draw from even before the writers dated to create new adventures. The Pocket Book novels began to go badly downhill some years ago with the start of TNG—novels began appearing even before the characters and the personalities and motives had been clearly established and embraced by the fans. Writers with no "feel" whatsoever for the ST universe began developing characters and creating situations totally unrelated to where the series was ultimately headed. Subsequently, the same is true of DS9 and Voyager. Aside from the incredibly poor writing, the first novels in each series are inconsistent and therefore nearly worthless because they were based on nothing at all, before each series developed internally. ★



Keeping an Eye on the Universe

THE "DISCOVER" COLUMN ("Archaeology, Environment & Medicine") in the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* for Sunday, April 18, 1999 carried a small feature on "hypernovas" — stellar explosions even more colossal than the more common supernovas. The article reports that "Scientists from Northwestern University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign used the Hubble Space Telescope to examine the remains of two huge explosions in a galaxy called M101 — the 'Pinwheel Galaxy' — 25 million light years from Earth. . . . The blasts are 100 times more powerful than a supernova, which happens when a star collapses on itself and explodes. Scientists aren't certain what causes hypernovas, but such blasts are thought to occur perhaps once every million years."



M101 — the aptly nicknamed "Pinwheel" Galaxy

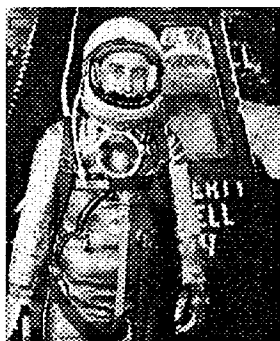
AN ARTICLE IN THE *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* on Sunday, April 11, 1999 was headlined "All-Female Space Crews Seen in Two Years." Although some studies have shown that under certain conditions the fairer sex can be harder than males, there

are few space medicine studies of the effects of off-planet environment on women. With particular reference to weightlessness, which is known to cause bone loss in astronauts in of both sexes, weightlessness is especially worrisome to scientists concerned with women's health issues, since women alone are subject to the condition known as osteoporosis. This condition affects some women primarily as a result of advancing age, but the condition itself — loss of calcium in the the bone mass which causes the body frame to shrink and subsequently produces a "hunched-over" appearance — could be triggered by the effect of prolonged weightlessness on a long space voyage. Accordingly, NASA is considering space shuttle missions comprised of all-women crews to expand its knowledge of how the female anatomy reacts to and/or adapts to space travel. This "gender-specific" research will have a significant impact on the crew make-up of interplanetary manned missions in the next century. NASA officials hasten to preclude any "sexist" intent in conducting this research. "Men and women are biologically different, and that is a simple fact of life," one scientist said. "It would be irresponsible to ignore these differences and deliberately expose women to known hazards without the benefit of additional inquiry."

A REPORT CARRIED IN THE *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* on Sunday, April 25, 1999 stated that an old Mercury capsule will be sought on the bottom of the Atlantic. On July 21, 1961, astronaut Virgil I. ("Gus") Grissom completed America's second "suborbital" spaceflight, a 15-minute and 37-second hop as part of Project Mercury. After re-entry, the escape hatch blew prematurely, flooding the capsule and imperiling Grissom, who nearly drowned in his heavy spacesuit. "Gus" survived, but

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the capsule sank—three miles down into the Atlantic, deeper even than the legendary *Titanic* wreck.



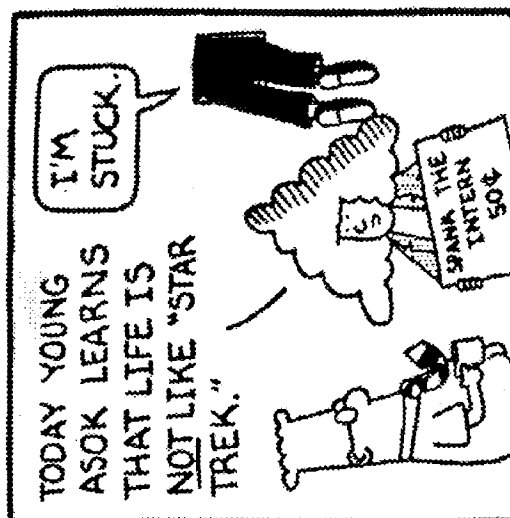
Astronaut Grissom before boarding the Liberty Bell 7 Mercury spacecraft on July 21, 1961.



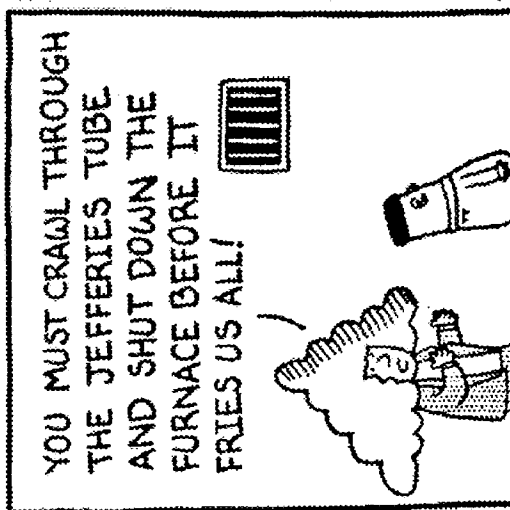
The capsule sinks after splashdown.

Now, according to NASA spokesman Bruce Buckingham, a deep dive team (using recent undersea exploratory technology like that which was used to discover *Titanic*) will attempt to salvage the lost capsule, not only for posterity but also to discover if possible (after a lapse of almost 40 years) what design flaw or operational problem caused the nearly fatal situation. Buckingham said very simply, "We'd just like to know what happened." ★

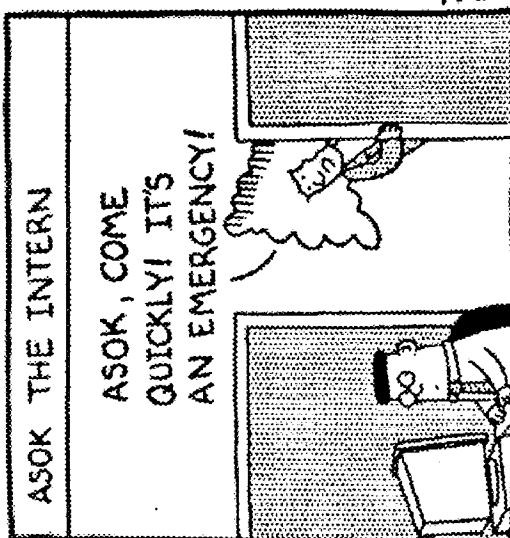
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... **TODAY!**



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S. Adams



EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM (This form is also available electronically at http://delphi.com/nexus_online)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Emergency Contacts

No. 1:

Name _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

No. 2:

Name _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Medical Specifics

Blood Type _____

Allergies _____

Food _____

Medication _____

List all prescribed medications, amounts, when taken and for what reason

Medication Amount When Taken Reasons

1, _____

2, _____

3, _____

4, _____

5, _____

6, _____

Physicians:

No. 1:

Name _____

Office Address _____

Office No. _____

Beeper/Pager _____

No. 2:

Name _____

Office Address _____

Office No. _____

Beeper/Pager _____

Surgeons:

No. 1:

Name _____

Office Address _____

Office No. _____

Beeper/Pager _____

No. 2:

Name _____

Office Address _____

Office No. _____

Beeper/Pager _____

Satellites of the Solar System

*Here's a trivia question sure to stump your friends:
How many moons are there in our solar system?**

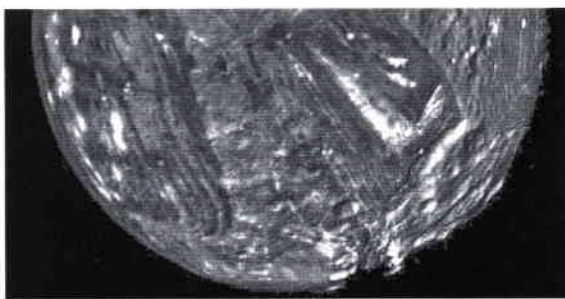


Callisto (Jupiter)



Charon (upper r.; Pluto, lower l.)

Actually, the poetry of discovery is not entirely absent from the steely-eyed scientific observer. Most planetary moons have romantic or literary names borrowed from traditional mythology and from Shakespeare. The names fall musically from the lips: Pandora, Ophelia, Juliet, Atlas, Ariadne, Leda, and so forth.



Miranda (Uranus)



Janus (Saturn)

Several of the moons are fascinating and provocative on their own merits. For example, Saturn's largest moon, Titan, is the only satellite with its own atmosphere. With a diameter of 3,193 miles, this "moon" is larger than either Mercury or Pluto. (Robert A. Heinlein's novel *The Puppet Masters* featured Titan as the home of an alien race invading Earth.) Jupiter's moon Europa has been compared to "an icy cueball," and indeed, its surface appears to be scarred with what look like giant ice fissures. Scientists speculate that under the ice, a planetwide ocean may harbor primitive life. (Europa also features in SF: Arthur C. Clarke's *2060* (third in the series of four "Space Odyssey" books—2001 is the most famous). And Uranus' moon Miranda has a surface geography that looks almost as though it were crudely thrown together from several other leftover planetoids during the formation of the solar system.

*and 69