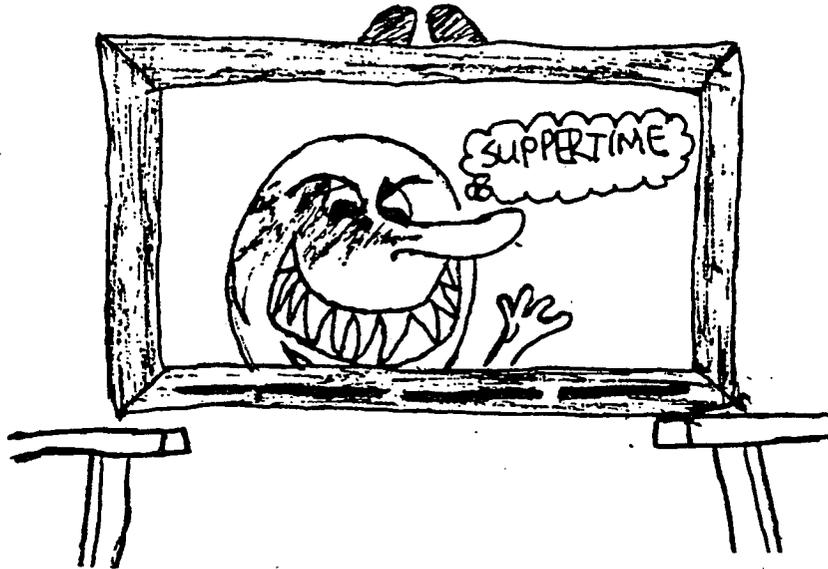


# STAR TRIP:IMPROVISE à la carte

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illustrated by David Newton  
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Space, the last place anyone would want to go...these are the voyages of the staship, *Improvise*. Its five year mission: to explore bizarre new worlds, to confuse audiences...to boldly go nowhere we've been before...

*On the other side of the universe, where time and space converge, where black holes are known as green holes, exists one force, more evil than any other in the entire universe: Horace the Talking Planet...*



## CHAPTER 1

*Captain's Log, Stardate 3624.34*

*The Improvise has just passed through a black hole. Science Officer Spruk believes that it was a Vulkan black hole because it was green in color. Before us now is a planet. Spruk believes that if we fly through the aperture below a large mountain that we will return to our universe.*

Scotchy was on the bridge when the planet first appeared, with a bottle of scotch. "Cap'n, -hic- that planet looks like a face -hic-."

Spruk remarked, "That is illogical, Engineer; planets do not have faces."

"Zulu, give me Warp Factor Eight; full speed ahead," quickly ordered Captain Jerk.

"The ship won't take it, sir!" cried Zulu.

"Well, after flying this thing for eleven years, I guess that you know best. How about Warp Factor Two?"

"Okay?" said Zulu as he pressed the buttons.

-BURP-

"What was that?" asked Jerk.

"I don't know, Jim. I...I...I just don't know," replied Doctor DeCoy.

Checkoff calmly sat in his chair conversing with Zulu on the Communist ideology. "Comrade Zulu, surely you can see that Soviet Communism is superior to Chinese Communism?" He was waving his copy of *Das Kapital*.

Oh, noooooo!" cried Zulu in a Mister Bill-like voice, while waving his copy of *Mao's Little Red Book*. "In China, we share everything."

"Except Mongolia," countered Checkoff.

Jerk quickly ordered, "Delay that, Zulu." Quickly turning to Sprok, he asked, "Bones, what does that mean?"

"I...I...I...don't know, Jim. I...I...I just don't know."

Scotchy blurted out, "It looks like we've been swallowed by that face I saw on the T.V. screen."

Zulu replied in a Mister Bill voice, "Oh, noooooooooo!"

Jerk quickly asked, "What do you think, Bones?"

"I don't know, Jim. I...I...I just don't know!"

Jerk quickly turned to his Science Officer, "Well, what do you think, Mister Sprok?"

"I concur with Doctor Decoy; I don't know either Captain,"

"Know what?!!!"

Sprok replied, "Why I signed up to do this series, Captain."

Lt. O'Horror gracefully pivoted in her chair and eloquently said, "Captain, honey, sugah, ah hear dis liddle, biddy voice comin' outta dis roun' thing that's hanging outta mah eah. Honey, sugah, tell me what dis means, would'ya cutie pie?" She turned to the side and winked at him while waving.

Captain Jerk asked, "What does the voice sound like, Slutenant?"

"Well, Cap'n, honey, sugah, it soun's ta me like: Be, Beep, Bop, Be, Bid, Be, Bobby, Bip, Beep, Beep, Boop, Bippy, Be, Boppy, Soo, Shoo, Soop, Boop, Shop, Shoop, Bee, Diddidy, Bi, Bop, Boop, Bah." During her 'translation',

Chekoff and Zulu tapped their feet to the beat. "Be, Beep, Dee, Bidy, Be, Dum, Dee, Dumm, Dummm, Um Pah."

"What on Earth does that mean, Bones?"

"I don't know, Jim. I...I...I just don't know."

Sprok turned. "Assuming that Slutenant O'Horrors rendition of the message is correct, it means that our engines are about to explode."

"What does that mean, Bones?"

"I...I...I don't know, Jim. I...I...I jsut don't know."

"It means, Captain, that this episode's first half is over."

"My God, Bones, will it never end?"

"Well, Sprok, this is the second half of this episode. Where are we now?"

*Captain's Log, Stardate 3624.35*

*We're still here. Just before the engines exploded, everything went really blurry and there were some nifty special effects. But, that leaves us with a new question: Where are we now?*

## CHAPTER 9

"Obviously, Captian, since we are in Chapter Nine and we haven't had Chapters Two through Eight, yet, we are lost in a time warp."

Scotchby, who was obviously drunk, said, "Who are ye callin' warped, lad?" He stumbled and fell on the deck.

Lt. O'Horrer daintly turned to Jerk. "Cap'n, Honey, sugah, I heah anudder voice commin' from dis roun' thing in mah eah."

Captian Jerk quickly ordered, "Audio, Slutenant."

"Aye, Cap;n, honey, sugah. Switching ovah," she eloquently said while pressing the buttons.

"...and Xtromosb goes out for a pass on the thirty meter line. He makes the catch and is dropped by number five-seven-nine-thrace-ace-duce-pi-square-squared-radians, Smith," said the voice with the overtones of a Polish Calculus teacher.

"Oh, noooooo!" cried Zulu. "It's the 40-Eridani/Alpha Centaurus play-offs!"

"What on Earth does that mean, Bones?"

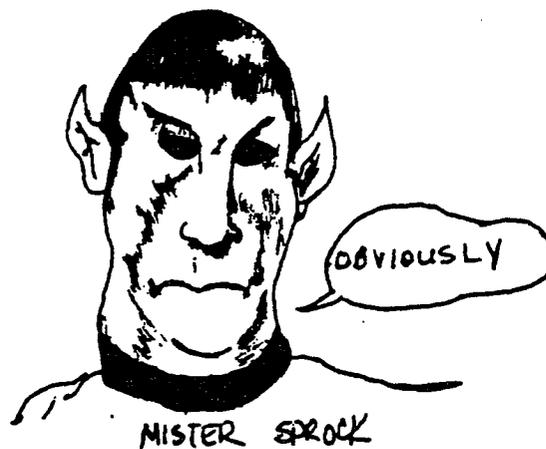
"I don't know, Jim. I...I...I just don't know. I'm a doctor, not a sports announcer, dammit!"

"And that's it for the first half. Coming onto the field is the 40 Eridani marching Band!!!"

"Main screen on, Slutenant," ordered Jerk rather quickly.

When the screen faded in, Checkoff, Zulu, DeCoy, Jerk, and Scotchy had an increase in their pulse, blood pressure, and temperature. Their mouths dropped open and their tongues were no longer confined to their mouths. On the viewscreen was the 40 Eridani drill team.

Sprok knew all was lost unless he acted. "Slutenant, O'Horror, turn off the viewscreen."



The image faded and Jerk quickly recovered. "They're a threat to the galaxy! Prepare to fire the Zapp guns!"

"Oh, noooo," cried Zulu who had obviously not recovered.

"You heard my orders, Helmsman. Fire main Zapp guns!"

-ZZZZZZZZZ AAAAAAAA PPPPPPPP PPPPPPPP !!!!!!!!!!!-

The screen flared brightly, and everyone was temporarily blinded by the explosion.

#### Epilogue

"Well, Captain, that just about concludes this episode."

"Good thing I didn't leave earlier. Now I get to take all the credit for leaving the galaxy." He turned to his medical officer. "Well, Bones, what do you think? We're always supposed to have a witty conversation here every episode."

"I don't know, Jim. I...I...I...I...I...I..." Jerk quickly slapped the

Chief Medical Officer on the back. "...I just don't know, Jim. I'm a doctor, not a writer or director, dammit."

Sprok raised an eyebrow. "You're not much of an actor, either." He turned to Jerk. "Well, Captain, which posed the greatest danger to us: Horace the Talking Planet or the 40 Eridani Drill Team?"

"I think it was the drill team, Mister Sprok; our overpowering desires are the greatest dangers to peace."

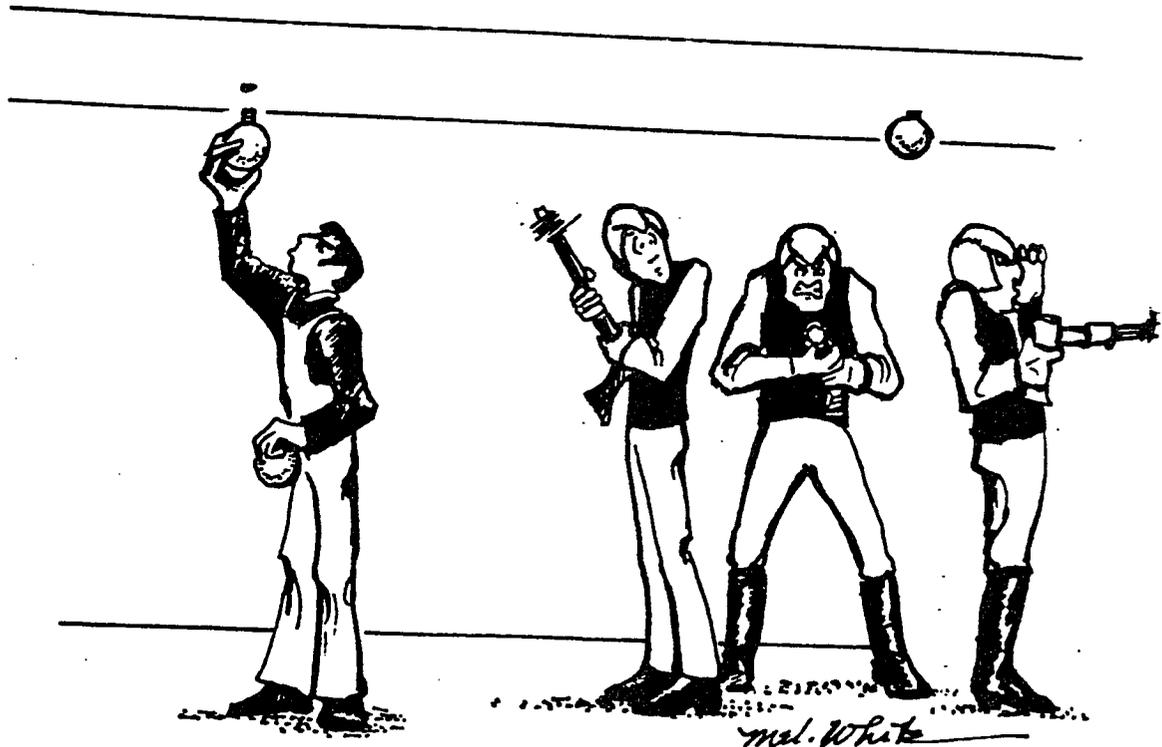
"Perhaps you Humans should exhibit more control."

"You're probably right, Sprok. Let's investigate the possibilities in our forty-two million dollar motion picture."

"Aye," said Scotchy who for the first time ever had the last word.

-BURP-

THE END



**QUESTION: HOW MANY ROMULANS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?**

**ANSWER: 4. ONE TO DO THE CHANGING AND THREE TO MAKE SURE THE FEDERATION DOESN'T STEAL THE SECRET.**