

# SPACE ODYSSEY

By Christopher Burruto

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**SYNOPSIS:** After Graknor attacks her mothership in the deepest of space, Teevok escapes the battle in a scout ship that crash-lands in a school cafeteria on Earth. As Teevok sets out to find life form, with intelligence, she encounters members of the Space Odyssey Club and recruits these experienced Odysseans (she thinks they're REAL space heroes) to return to her home planet to confront the ruthless Graknor of Zoltaria. Without help from Earth's mightiest Space Odyssey Club, Graknor will destroy her planet and all of its inhabitants. Star Trek-loving heart? This show is by far and away the one for you!

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(4-5 females, 3 males, 14-18 either, 2+ extras)*

WALLACE/CAPTAIN CURTIS (m).....	Teen student and “Space Odyssey” commanding officer. <i>(168 lines)</i>
FRANCINE/NOYOTA (f).....	Teen member of Space Odyssey Club. <i>(63 lines)</i>
JAMES (m).....	Wallace’s fraternal twin brother. <i>(59 lines)</i>
QUARK (m).....	Wallace’s best friend. <i>(64 lines)</i>
PLATO (f/m).....	Teen member of Space Odyssey Club. <i>(39 lines)</i>
HULU (f/m).....	Teen member of Space Odyssey Club. <i>(47 lines)</i>
ANNIE (f).....	Ensign. <i>(60 lines)</i>
SPLINT (f/m).....	Teen member of Space Odyssey Club. Serves as chief doctor of the Starship Odyssey. <i>(32 lines)</i>
RED SHIRT (f/m).....	Teen member of Space Odyssey Club. <i>(37 lines)</i>
MOM (f).....	James and Wallace’s Mom. <i>(16 lines)</i>

KODOS KONE (f/m).....	Evil guy in the first iteration of Episode 81. (7 lines)
TEEVOK (f).....	Alien girl from the planet Altos Prime. (74 lines)
AXL KIPZOID (f/m) .....	Slacker hippie space alien. (14 lines)
TODD (f/m).....	Part of Axl's slacker crew. (7 lines)
TALOS (f/m) .....	Part of Axl's slacker crew. (6 lines)
MRS. KIPZOID (f) .....	Axl's lizard-like mom. Not amused with Axl. (9 lines)
GRAKNOR (f/m).....	High Commander of the Zoltarian Force. (48 lines)
CORNAC (f/m).....	One of Graknor's henchman. (14 lines)
ZAZZBUTT (f/m).....	Another henchman. (11 lines)
ALIEN 1 (f/m) .....	Zoltarian alien. (4 lines)
ALIEN 2 (f/m) .....	Zoltarian alien. (2 lines)
FRIEND 1 (f/m).....	James' friend. (4 lines)
MATH 1 (f/m).....	Student on Math Team. (5 lines)
MATH 2 (f/m).....	Student on Math Team. (4 lines)
MATH 3 (f/m).....	Student on Math Team. (4 lines)
DINO (f/m).....	An alien, cartoonish dinosaur, something like Barney the Dinosaur. Known as a Turvian Centipod. (5 lines)

**EXTRAS:**

DRAMA CLUB 1-3 (f/m).....	Students on Drama Club. (Non-speaking)
MINIONS 1-2 (f/m) .....	Kodos Kone's minions. (Non-speaking)

**CAST DOUBLING OPTIONS**

MOM can double as MRS. KIPZOID

TODD can double as MATH 1

TALOS can double as MATH 2

ZAZZBUTT or CORNAC could double as AXL

ALIEN 1 can double as ALIEN 2

**DURATION:** 90 minutes

**TIME:** Present

**SETTING:** High school and space

**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES****ACT ONE**

SCENE 1: Starship Odyssey

SCENE 2: Kitchen

SCENE 3: School cafeteria

SCENE 4: Club fair

SCENE 5: Starship Odyssey

***INTERMISSION*****ACT TWO**

SCENE 1: Starship Odyssey

SCENE 2: Transporter (bare stage)

SCENE 3: Starship Odyssey

SCENE 4: Starship Odyssey, Graknor's spaceship

SCENE 5: Starship Odyssey, Graknor's spaceship

## SET PIECES

A bridge or deck of the Starship Odyssey: console with levers, handles, lights that serves as the command center

Command center for Kodos Kone and Minions. Could be a captain's chair and two side chairs.

Kitchen with table

Cafeteria tables or booths for Math Club, Drama Club, and Space Odyssey Club:

- Space Odyssey Club has a spaceship poster, laser swords, DVDs and model spaceships. They are dressed in character as if they are filming an episode of "Space Odyssey."
- The Math Team has a banner with math symbols and calculators.
- Members of the Drama Club are dressed in black.

Axl's space alien deck (hippie look and feel)

Alien planet to find Power Core. Could easily be a bare stage. (Note: The Power Core itself was made from 1/2 a large Styrofoam globe bedazzled...

## MUSIC

This play contains suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). Heuer Publishing LLC has not obtained performing rights of these works. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own through ASCAP, BMI or the U.S. copyright office.

## COSTUMES

Alien masks and headpieces could be purchased from a big box store. Please use your imagination. Axl, Todd and Talos could wear "hippie" or "hipster" clothes. Mrs. Kipzoid is lizard-looking, she may even have a tail. Graknor, Zazzbutt, Cronac, Alien 1 and Alien 2 should wear silver or black garb, capes and outrageous head gear. Please differentiate Kodos Kone and Minions from the other aliens with different costumes or costume colors.

## SOUNDS

- Dramatic music accents—some of the Apple products included with the application *Garage Band* work perfectly or any dramatic classical music
- Copeland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man” excerpts
- Explosions
- Space engine sounds, whining and failing
- School bell
- Soft boom sound as spaceship hits Earth
- Various dramatic music
- VOX (Teevok’s computer voice. Could use a built-in voice created with an app/7 lines of dialogue)
- Sound of torpedoes
- Crazy space music
- Grateful Dead “Truckin’” or other eclectic, unique rock song
- Transporter sound
- Cricket sounds

**NOTE:** Voice over is pre-recorded. If desired, it could be read live.

## PROPS

- Assorted basketballs/sports equipment (James and Friend/s)
- Laser gun (Teevok)
- VOX handheld instrument. Note: It should light up and be about the size of a cell phone. The pre-recorded VOX has approximately 7 lines. (Teevok)
- Model spaceships for the Space Odyssey Club
- Laser swords or light sabers (Space Odyssey Club table)
- Spinning Rubik’s Cube: Could be made with a large cardboard box suspended with a string from a pole. With the right lighting, it will look comically impressive
- Light saber (Red Shirt)
- Mega Iso Coder: A handheld scientific device to detect life forms. Lots of dials and glitter.
- Hourglass (Graknor)

**PREMIERE PRODUCTION**

*Space Odyssey* had its world premiere at Bristow Middle School, California.

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**ACT ONE, SCENE 1**  
**STARSHIP ODYSSEY**

**SETTING:** *On the set of the Starship Odyssey. The set includes a command center or bridge on the Starship Odyssey with a control board and buttons.*

**AT START:** *CAPTAIN CURTIS (WALLACE) sits in the command chair, staring into space (the audience). NOYOTA (FRANCINE), QUARK, HULU, PLATO, ANNIE, SPLINT and RED SHIRT enter, exit and move with purpose. They are in the midst of a crisis. We hear short dramatic music. This first scene is played with camp - overly dramatic.*

**CAPTAIN:** *(Voice over.)* Star Date 2481.4. The Odyssey is in deep space, near the Klaatu Nebulae. We are in pursuit of an enemy Zetarian ship. *(With authority.)* Steady... Mr. Hulu. Hold your course!

**HULU:** Yes, Captain Curtis.

**CAPTAIN:** Commander Plato — I need an engineering update!

**PLATO:** Engineering reports our Starboard thermal flux resistors are totally baked! Engines down to just 18%.

**CAPTAIN:** *(Angry.)* Give me everything you have! We've got to intercept that ship!

**NOYOTA:** Enemy ship has changed course! New heading is mark 2 point 84.

**HULU:** Isn't that —?

**QUARK:** Yes Captain, the enemy ship is heading toward—

**CAPTAIN:** *(Angry and frustrated.)* The Forbidden Zone!

*Dramatic music.*

**CAPTAIN:** New course: Mark 2. 84.

*ODYSSEY CREW begins to chatter over this revelation.*

**ANNIE:** We're pursuing? Into the Forbidden Zone?

**RED SHIRT:** What about the treaty?

*Various murmurs of agreement.*

**CAPTAIN:** Cut the chatter, people. Helmsmen! Keep a steady course.

**ANNIE and HULU:** Ay, ay Captain! *(They look at one another, worried.)*

**QUARK:** *(Stiffly.)* Captain Curtis. Regulation 6.4 section 3 states that entering the Forbidden Zone is a Class 1 violation of Star Force Protocol—

**SPLINT:** You could lose your command!

**CAPTAIN:** *(annoyed.)* So noted. Plato?

**PLATO:** Captain?

**CAPTAIN:** *(Pause.)* Direct all power to forward thrusters and *(Emphatically.)* follow that ship!

**PLATO:** Yes, sir.

**CAPTAIN:** Noyota?

**NOYOTA:** *(Reading his mind.)* Laying in intercept calculus, Captain.

*CAPTAIN smiles. There is a pause while everyone digests the enormity of what they are doing.*

**QUARK:** Captain? ...Strange...

**CAPTAIN:** What is it Quark?

**QUARK:** *(Alarmed.)* The enemy ship! It's turned full about!

**HULU:** Captain! All power is concentrated in their weapons banks!

**SPLINT:** They're going to fire... on us?

**RED SHIRT:** Are they bluffing?

**QUARK:** As a student of Zetarian history, I can assure you Zetarians never bluff.

**HULU:** Captain! Atomic Quasar Torpedos headed our way!

**CAPTAIN:** Fire nova interceptors!

**NOYOTA:** Inoperative!

**CAPTAIN:** Shields?

**ANNIE:** Twelve percent. And falling...

*CREW awaits impact. They hold on to chairs – anything.*

**QUARK:** Impact in *(Counts down.)* 7, 6, 5, 4, 3...

**CAPTAIN:** Everyone! Brace yourselves!

*CREW freezes. Lights drop. Optional music: "Copeland's Fanfare for the Common Man."*

**VOICE OVER:** Space: Our last frontier. These are the travels of the Starship Odyssey. Its mission: to search out new planets and new life, to explore the infinite reaches of the cosmos... to very cautiously go where no one has very cautiously gone before.

*SFX: Sounds of explosion. The command deck is rocked: CREW leans one way, then another in synchrony.*

**NOYOTA:** Internal communications support is inoperative!

**PLATO:** Detronium power orbs, offline!

**CAPTAIN:** How? Impossible!

**PLATO:** The atomic torpedoes shorted out the plasma-energy drive!

**HULU:** We're riding on auxiliary power!

**PLATO:** Interesting...!

**ALL:** *(Except PLATO.)* What?

**PLATO:** Calculations suggest we've got ten minutes before we suffocate. Just FYI.

*CREW registers shock and fear.*

**SPLINT:** Captain, I've got forty crewmen in sick bay suffering from radiation sickness and the Mysterium Slug plague we picked up on Andromeda 4. Another direct hit will devastate us!

**QUARK:** Captain?

**CAPTAIN:** Yes, Quark?

**QUARK:** I've calculated our chances of survival at negative 2.41 percent. *(Punches in some more numbers.)* Oh, and I rounded up.

*VARIOUS CREW moan and chirp at his negativity.*

**ANNIE:** I suggest directing all power to impulse and set a course to the moons of Rigel Seven for repair.

**HULU:** Rigel Seven's too far, we'll never make it!

**RED SHIRT:** We're barely on auxiliary now!

**SPLINT:** (*Insistent.*) Captain. Sick bay.

**CAPTAIN:** A few more minutes, doctor!

**SPLINT:** We don't have a few minutes! (*Exits in a huff.*)

**NOYOTA:** Captain. The enemy ship is hailing us.

**CAPTAIN:** Pipe it in!

**NOYOTA:** Yes, Captain!

*The ODYSSEY CREW'S attention is transfixed in front of them. Lights rise on another part of the stage. It's the enemy ship with KODOS KONE and 1-2 MINIONS. A simple decorated desk and chairs will do. KONE and MINIONS could even bring on these set pieces.*

**CAPTAIN:** This is Captain Curtis of the Starship Odyssey. With whom am I—

**KONE:** Well, well, well... Captain Curtis! We meet yet again! This is your old friend, Kodos Kone!

**ODYSSEY CREW:** Kone!

**ANNIE:** Friend? More like frenemy!

**KONE:** Sensors indicate you have no power. Your ship is frozen by our tractor beam. We lured you here, then sprung our trap. There is no escape for you this time, Captain. Checkmate!

**CAPTAIN:** (*Angry. To NOYOTA.*) Not on MY watch! (*To PLATO.*) Plato! How are those repairs coming?

**PLATO:** I'm an engineer, not a witch doctor!

**CAPTAIN:** Direct life support to impulse!

**PLATO:** On it!

*PLATO goes to the board and hits some buttons.*

**CAPTAIN:** We've got one chance to blast ourselves out of here!

**PLATO:** (*Working furiously.*) Keep your fingers crossed... it's now or never!

**CAPTAIN:** Hulu! Engage! And get us the Hell-O Kitty out of here!

*SFX: Sound of engine whining, then failing...*

**QUARK:** Engine failure, Captain. Their tractor beam is too powerful...  
we cannot escape...

**KONE:** Nice try, Captain Curtis...

*KONE and MINIONS laugh.*

**KONE:** Stand by to be boarded! Or destroyed!

*KONE'S MINIONS laughs in agreement.*

**RED SHIRT:** *(Nervous.)* Captain? What do we do now?

*CAPTAIN sighs. He puts his head in his hands and shakes his head.  
Pause.*

**NOYOTA:** You're giving up? Letting them board us?

**SPLINT:** I'd never thought I'd see the day!

**ANNIE:** *(To HULU.)* They'll have your commission!

*CAPTAIN holds up his hand to stem the comments. He suddenly has  
a "look" in his eye. He laughs.*

**CAPTAIN:** Kone... before your slimy reptilian foot boards this ship...  
it is my duty to warn you about the... *(Pause.)* Hydra 13.

*ODYSSEY CREW eyes one another; they are confused; there is no  
such thing as the Hydra 13.*

**KONE:** Hydra? 13?

*KONE and MINIONS exchange confused glances.*

**CAPTAIN:** The Hydra 13 is a secret device built into every Star  
Force ship. If you destroy the Odyssey, thirteen exact replicas will  
take its place!

**KONE:** *(Laughing.)* Come now... you're bluffing, Captain!

**QUARK:** The Captain never bluffs!

**CAPTAIN:** Destroy my ship... but then face 13 more, you'll have an entire fleet surrounding you. Quark, initiate the Hydra 13 on my mark...

**KONE:** (*Incredulous.*) Destroy your own ship! No one in Star Force destroys his own ship!

*There is a pause. ODYSSEY CREW puts on their game face.*

**CAPTAIN:** (*Here is the selling point.*) I grow tired with waiting... death doesn't mean much for us, if it means nothing to you...

*KONE and MINIONS are surprised by the sudden turn of events.*

**CAPTAIN:** Seven, six, five, four...

*Lights on KONE and MINIONS dim.*

**CAPTAIN:** ...three, two—

**NOYOTA:** Captain! The enemy ship! It's disappeared!

**HULU:** (*To CAPTAIN.*) Enemy ship heading (*Looks up, pleased.*) away from the Forbidden Zone!

**RED SHIRT:** At warp... 15!

**CAPTAIN:** (*Cheerfully.*) I guess Kone has met his match with the Space Odyssey!

*ODYSSEY CREW laughs in relief.*

**SPLINT:** You took a big risk, Jim.

**CAPTAIN:** You never know when a little poker might come in handy... Hulu, steer us to the Magellen Clouds...

**HULU:** Aye, aye.

**CAPTAIN:** Mr. Plato. Get those deuteronium orbs back online; this isn't the last we've heard of Kone!

**PLATO:** Yes, Captain!

**CAPTAIN:** And doctor, see to those injured crew members! (*Pause.*) We'll need each and every one of them!

**SPLINT:** I'm a doctor, not a miracle worker... but if you can give me some power, I'll try work some magic!

**CAPTAIN:** Mr. Hulu. Take us out! To... *(Pause. Standing.)* the stars!

**ALL:** *(Standing.)* Today! Tomorrow! Always!

**SPLINT:** Guys! That was awesome! That was the best reenactment of "Space Odyssey" Episode 81 we've ever done!

**PLATO:** We nailed it! I think it was better than the real show!

*ODYSSEY CREW high-fives one another and murmurs excitement.*

**QUARK:** You think we have a shot to win a place in the Space Odyssey Regional Reenactment Contest!

**RED SHIRT:** Place? With a performance like that? We should win the top medal categories! *(Pause.)*

**FRANCINE:** *(As Francine.)* And how about a nice hand for our Captain Curtis! Wallace Albert Armstrong! Well done!

*EVERYONE applauds. WALLACE (as CAPTAIN) humbly bows.*

**PLATO:** Wallace, guys! Could you feel it? It was like we were really in the SHOW!

*Murmurs of agreement.*

**WALLACE:** This crew could pull off anything!

**PLATO:** *(Checking watch.)* Oops. Look at the time! See you all at the next rehearsal! Great job everyone! *(Exits.)*

**FRANCINE:** This meeting of the Space Odyssey Reenactment Club is hereby adjourned!

**QUARK:** Wait! Wait! One more time!

**ALL:** To the Stars! Today! Tomorrow! Always!

**FRANCINE:** You were really great today, Wallace!

*WALLACE smiles.*

**HULU:** I think we could win regionals!

*ALL provide murmurs of agreement.*

**QUARK:** Hey, anyone want to come over? I just got the brand-new “Space Odyssey Lost” episodes. Lots of action!

**ANNIE:** (*Checking watch.*) Sorry. I gotta go!

**HULU:** Me, too! Sorry Quark!

*ODYSSEY CREW exits ad-libbing “goodbye” except WALLACE, FRANCINE, and QUARK.*

**QUARK:** Come on! (*Meaning FRANCINE and WALLACE.*) (*Tempting, QUARK acts this out.*) Laser cannons? (*Imitates laser cannons shooting.*) The inner-most organs of nefarious space aliens emerging through the skin in glopps and ooziings of green protoplasm—spraying—

**FRANCINE:** Eww—

**QUARK:** —spraying across a dark and silent universe? (*Pleading.*) Huh?

**FRANCINE:** That’s supposed to entice us?

**WALLACE:** (*Shaking head.*) Sorry. Can’t. James has a basketball game.

**QUARK:** “James has a basketball game...” Would your mom ever make James go to one of our robotics competitions?

*JAMES enters with a couple of his friends.*

**FRANCINE:** Or Science Decathalon?

**QUARK:** Or Space Odyssey Sectionals?

**WALLACE:** Well, I suppose... maybe? (*Shrugs.*)

**JAMES:** Hey space boy!

*JAMES’ FRIENDS laugh; WALLACE, FRANCINE and QUARK turn around...*

**JAMES:** You guys shoot some ugly aliens?

**FRIEND 1:** Use your fart-on torpedoes and destroy a galaxy cruiser?

*JAMES and his FRIENDS laugh.*

**QUARK:** Why, yes, we did get all the aliens, except (*Meaning JAMES and FRIENDS.*) for some super colossal—

**WALLACE:** ...Quark...

**JAMES:** Quark? That's your name? (*His FRIENDS laugh.*)

*JAMES cuts off QUARK.*

**JAMES:** —(*To WALLACE.*) Come on. Mom's waiting. Game time!

*JAMES and FRIENDS high-five and leave snickering, echoing hurtful words such as "space bugs," "lasers, ugh," "I'm hit." FRANCINE and QUARK look at the ground, uncomfortable, not knowing what to say.*

**QUARK:** Yeah. Maybe I should get going...

**FRANCINE:** Uh... see you tomorrow.

**WALLACE:** Yeah.

**FRANCINE:** Remember... fourth period—the Space Odyssey Club booth. Tomorrow!

**QUARK:** Gotta recruit those new members! Keep the Odyssey flying!

**WALLACE:** (*Sad, embarrassed.*) Yeah... I'll see you then...

*WALLACE exits. FRANCINE and QUARK are left standing watching him go... They look at one another and shake their heads. Lights down.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 2

### KITCHEN

**AT START:** *In the center is a kitchen table with three table settings. It is dinner time. JAMES and MOM are settling down to eat.*

**MOM:** Wallace! Dinner!

**WALLACE:** (*Calling from offstage.*) Be right there. Just finishing one last science problem.

**JAMES:** (*Shuddering, imitating.*) "One last science problem." Ugh....

**MOM:** Maybe you could take a lesson from your brother and pay a little more attention to school and a little less to your jump shot...

**JAMES:** Whatever...

**WALLACE:** (*Enters.*) Sorry. I was working on a theorem for a cold fusion— (*Sees food.*) Hey! Mandarin chicken! My favorite!

**JAMES:** Or as they call it on planet Dantarglia, eep nop, nor quen!  
With a side of relish!

**MOM:** (*Gently.*) James!

**WALLACE:** Didn't get enough digs in today to satisfy ya?

**MOM:** (*Pause.*) Digs?

*WALLACE and JAMES are silent.*

**MOM:** What "digs"? What's going on with you two?

**JAMES:** (*Sighs.*) My friends and I broke into his Odyssey Space meeting and—

**WALLACE:** —and made fun of us. As usual.

**JAMES:** We were just having fun! Too bad I don't get extra credit!

**WALLACE:** It was at our expense!

**JAMES:** Look. It's cute, you know. Your little reenactments of a TV show that was cancelled thirty years ago. When Mom was a teenager!

**MOM:** Teenager? (*Aghast.*) I was six!

**WALLACE:** (*Pause.*) "Space Odyssey," in case you didn't know, predicted portable communicator devices, flat screen computers, cell phones—

**JAMES:** You do know it wasn't real, right?

**MOM:** James...

**WALLACE:** (*Standing.*) I know it was just a show! But at least I aspire to something more than being good with a stupid ball! Like... like... that LeBron Jordan...

**JAMES:** Jeesh... (*Standing.*) The basketball team chose me to be their captain. I'm the captain. Of a real team!

**WALLACE:** My crew is my team, and they're just as important as your team! They're like family to me—

**MOM:** Sit. The both of you.

**WALLACE:** Someday... I'll be out there! Among the stars... For real!

**JAMES:** I kinda think you're out there already. And so do my friends!  
(*Does crazy sign.*)

**MOM:** James!

**JAMES:** Why not discover new life here? At school? Who's that girl who plays Noyota?

**WALLACE:** (*Suspicious.*) Francine?

**JAMES:** You've got a planet-sized crush on her. It's so obvi—! Why don't you two do a little—

**WALLACE:** (*Standing.*)—Shut up!

**JAMES:** (*Standing.*) You shut up! Geeky nerd!

**WALLACE:** Stupid jock!

**MOM:** (*Loudly!*) Boys!

**WALLACE and JAMES:** (*Both pointing.*) He started it!

**MOM:** Enough! Both of you! To your rooms!

**JAMES:** I'm not finished with my slunarium slime soup!

**MOM:** Now!

*JAMES gets up haughtily and exits. MOM turns to WALLACE. WALLACE sits with his head in his hands, defeated.*

**MOM:** Wallace... don't let James—

**WALLACE:** James? My "cool" twin brother? The most popular kid in school? You know what his problem is, Mom? I embarrass him, so he hates me—

**MOM:** He doesn't hate you... you two are just different that's all. He doesn't—

**WALLACE:** (*Stands.*) He doesn't know anything about me... or even care!

**MOM:** (*Gently.*) Wallace...

**WALLACE:** He treats me like... I'm a total alien. My own brother... my twin...

*WALLACE pushes in his chair and exits. MOM sits and sighs, her head in her hands.*

**MOM:** (*Sighs and shakes her head. To herself.*) If only those two could get along. It would be so much nicer around here if they could just get along?... (*Shakes her head and sighs.*)

*Lights down.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 3**  
**SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**SETTING:** *Three cafeteria tables.*

**AT START:** *A beam of light traces itself across the ceiling. SFX: Soft boom. TEEVOK's ship crash-lands near the school. An eerie, blue light envelopes the stage. After a second, a green light emanates. TEEVOK enters the cafeteria from a side door. She looks around confused. She doesn't know where she is. She has a laser gun pointed in self-defense. When she realizes she's not in danger, she takes out her VOX. [See Production Notes.]*

**TEEVOK:** Vox, where are we?

**VOX:** *(A pre-recorded soft and sweet computer voice.)* A planetary system, main star, Sol. You are on the third planet, Earth.

**TEEVOK:** Earth? That's 15 light years from...

**VOX:** 14.686 light years to be precise. Earth is the densest and fifth largest planet in the system. It is also the largest of the system's terrestrial planets—and it has over two million Starbucks!

**TEEVOK:** Got it.

**VOX:** It's atmosphere is comprised of—

**TEEVOK:** *(Irritated.)* Got it! *(Hits another button on VOX and begins to speak.)* Personal log, Teevok of Altosian Prime. Star Date 21.43. During a rescue mission, our ship was commandeered by the Zoltarian Commander Graknor. They intend to attack my planet with our own ship and subjugate my people. I narrowly escaped in a small scout ship and pulled into a time straw created by Earth's gravitational force. I have landed in *(Pause. Looking at locker.)* a large trash receptacle.

**VOX:** Earthlings call it a school cafeteria.

**TEEVOK:** As of yet, I have encountered no intelligent life forms...

**VOX:** It is a middle school!

**TEEVOK:** My ship's proton drive is inoperative and cannot be repaired. *(Sighs.)* To escape discovery, I have stowed my ship in an alternate dimension.

**VOX:** Ingenious.

**TEEVOK:** *(Pause.)* I fear I may be stranded here forever. My mission to warn my home planet Altos of imminent invasion is a failure. I have doomed my planet and failed my people...

**VOX:** Teevok, you require rest. There are beds in their “sick bay.” Would you like me to show you?

**TEEVOK:** Yes, Vox. Thank you. *(Exits.)*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 4

### CLUB FAIR

**SETTING:** *Club Fair in school hallway. Three tables or booths are set up: the Space Odyssey Club, Drama Club and Math Team.*

**AT START:** WALLACE and FRANCINE are seated, talking. STUDENT EXTRAS amble by and take an interested look at the clubs. QUARK enters and holds up his hand in a mock greeting.

**QUARK:** Hail and prosper my fellow Space Odysseans! I, Commander Quark, have arrived!

**WALLACE and FRANCINE:** Hail Commander Quark!

*They get curious looks from the other students. QUARK crosses to the MATH TEAM table.*

**QUARK:** *(Speaking to the MATH TEAM.)* You know, I tried out for the Math Team once, but I didn’t pass the demanding physical! *(Pause. Waits for laughs.)* Get it? I didn’t pass the demanding physical? For the math “team”?

*MATH TEAM confers then delivers their judgment.*

**MATH 1:** Your statement is a feeble attempt at humor.

**MATH 2:** An utter fail.

**MATH 3:** There is, in fact, no physical assessment required.

**MATH 1:** Therefore, no exam would deter, nor exempt you, from being on the Math Team... *(Pause.)* Despite your... obvious physical limitations...

*After a pause, EVERYONE on stage laughs. QUARK frowns.*

**FRANCINE:** Dude! They sunk your battle ship!

**QUARK:** *(To MATH TEAM.)* Thanks... thanks a lot... *(To FRANCINE.)* You guys been here all period?

*JAMES and FRIEND 1 enter unseen by ODYSSEY CREW.*

**FRANCINE:** *(A little dismal.)* All. Period.

**QUARK:** Any interest?

**WALLACE:** *(Shrugging.)* So-so... not really...

**QUARK:** *(Confidently.)* Well! Commander Quark is here to get things rolling!

*JAMES and FRIEND 1 take laser swords from the Space Odyssey Club table and wield them.*

**JAMES:** Avast! You scurvy space pirates.

*JAMES and FRIEND 1 begin sparring... STUDENT EXTRAS on stage show a lot more interest now.*

**QUARK:** *(To deaf ears.)* There weren't any pirates in "Space Odyssey!"

**FRIEND 1:** Defend yourself, you cullion!

**WALLACE:** James! Take it easy!

**JAMES:** —I have never seen an uglier Verdorian Snake Slug than thou!

**FRANCINE:** *(To CREW.)* There weren't any Verdorian Snake Slugs in the show!

**FRIEND 1:** You deserve nothing but death, Scorpion Man from Saturn!

**JAMES:** I'm not from Saturn! I'm from URANUS!

*STUDENT EXTRAS and the other CLUB members laugh. WALLACE embarrassed and furious, grabs the weapons.*

**JAMES:** Recruiting for your space man club?

**QUARK:** We call ourselves Space Odysseans!

**FRIEND 1:** You're more like Space Oddities, it fits you better!

*EVERYONE on stage laughs. JAMES and FRIEND 1 high-five one another.*

**WALLACE:** If Mom ever—

**JAMES:** (*Poking at him.*) You do that! You tell Mom. See what happens... you'll regret it...

*JAMES and FRIEND 1 exit. The crowd of STUDENTS disperse.*

**QUARK:** Dude, there's no getting around it, your brother and his buddies are clearly a-number-1 turd blasters!

**FRANCINE:** Don't let him push you around!

*TEEVOK enters.*

**QUARK:** Easy peezy, lemon squeezy! Just say, "Hey, James, my evil twin bro-bot, shut your pie hole." See?

*FRANCINE puts her hand tenderly on WALLACE'S shoulder. FRANCINE, WALLACE, and QUARK sit at table and commiserate.*

**TEEVOK:** (*To MATH TEAM.*) What is your purpose?

**MATH 1:** We're the Math Team. And no: there's no physical.

**MATH 2:** We have competitions solving equations.

**MATH 3:** Against other teams—

**TEEVOK:** (*Pointing to the poster which has an equation.*) Like this one?

**MATH 1:** That's Bernunzio's Condundrum.

**MATH 2:** It's a 500-year-old unsolvable equation!

**MATH 3:** But we still have fun trying to—

**TEEVOK:** It's four. To the quilnic.

*Pause.*

**MATH 1:** (*Astonished.*) What. Did. You. Say?

**MATH 2:** Four? To the what?

*MATH TEAM quickly takes to their calculators.*

**TEEVOK:** The answer is 4 to the Quilnic—which is 100 digits of imaginary numbers. Squared.

**MATH TEAM:** (*Astonished.*) Explain!

*ALL STUDENTS on stage gather around to hear the explanation.*

**TEEVOK:** This polynomial is really a smooth function, it's necessary to use the Gorgouchu set of Flux symbols as used by the Mercadia mathematicians of the Quinzi Nebula. They are known for their analytic abilities... it's the same theory used to power our ships... (*Realizes she went too far.*)

**MATH TEAM:** What?

**MATH 3:** You lost me at “smooth function.”

**MATH TEAM:** Yeah...

**TEEVOK:** Thank you, Math Team: I will consider your organization to spend my discretionary time periods.

*MATH TEAM continues to be astonished. TEEVOK turns to Space Odyssey table.*

**TEEVOK:** And, what is your team?

**FRANCINE:** We're fans of “Space Odyssey.”

**TEEVOK:** (*Curious. Questioning.*) “Space Odyssey”?

**WALLACE:** Space Odyssey follows a group of space explorers—

**QUARK:** (*Romantic interest piqued.*) Hi, my name is Quark. I'm single, an Aquarius and like long walks on the beach. I cried during “The Notebook.” True story.

**FRANCINE:** Quark. Now is not the—

**QUARK:** Did I mention I'm single?

**FRANCINE:** And with good reason! (*Pause. To TEEVOK.*) We act out the heroic adventures of—

**TEEVOK:** Heroic? Adventures?

**WALLACE:** Yeah. Of “Space Odyssey.” We act it out. For real.

**TEEVOK:** For real?!

**WALLACE:** I'm Wallace—

**FRANCINE:** He's our captain!

*SFX: School bell rings. All STUDENTS ready themselves for class.*

**TEEVOK:** Captain Wallace! I'm Teevok. (*Shaking his hand awkwardly.*) I believe I would like to join your gallant crew for some (*Pause.*) space adventures...

**WALLACE:** OK... great! Here. (*Handing her DVDs.*) Take a look at these old episodes. They'll give you a good idea of what we do!

**QUARK:** (*Romantically, comically.*) If you need someone to help you fast forward through the boring parts... (*Winks.*) I'm. Your. Guy. Aquarius? Long walks on beach... (*Mimes call me.*) Call me?

**FRANCINE:** (*Steering QUARK clear of TEEVOK.*) You. Are. Pathetic. (*To TEEVOK.*) We have a meeting after school! See you then!

*The hallway empties. TEEVOK takes out her VOX and looks around.*

**TEEVOK:** Continuing log of Teevok of Altos Prime. I have integrated successfully with a group of young humans. And have been invited to participate in heroic adventures aboard the Starship Odyssey. My mission is saved! I will bring these heroes and their ship back through a Hawking Time Straw to save my home planet and defeat the Zoltarian enemy!

*Lights down.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 5**  
*STARSHIP ODYSSEY*

**AT START:** *Lights up on the bridge or deck of the Starship Odyssey. Dramatic music. CAPTAIN CURTIS (WALLACE) sits in the command chair, staring into space (the audience). NOYOTA (FRANCINE), QUARK, HULU, PLATO, ANNIE, SPLINT and RED SHIRT enter, exit and move with purpose.*

**CAPTAIN:** Steady... Steady...

*SFX: An explosion rocks the ship to one side, then another.*

**CAPTAIN:** Plato? What happened to our stabilizers?

**PLATO:** Can't say sir. Two of our engines just quit.

**CAPTAIN:** What are we going to—?

**PLATO:** —they're being held together by duct tape and chewing gum!

**WALLACE:** *(Out of CAPTAIN character.)* Uh, I think that was my line...

**PLATO:** Sorry, I got it... "We're short staffed and—"

**CAPTAIN:** I don't care if you have to use duct tape and chewing gum—get them working!

**PLATO:** Yes, Captain!

*PLATO returns to station. TEEVOK enters. ODYSSEY CREW ad-libs "Oh, hi!" "Welcome aboard!"*

**HULU:** Captain.

**CAPTAIN:** What is it Hulu?

**HULU:** It appears the planet is emitting a steady pulse of pure matter and energy in perfect synchrony. I suggest we go to the surface and explore further...

**RED SHIRT:** They appear to be ripples...

**HULU:** Ripples?

**RED SHIRT:** In the fabric of space-time.

*JAMES enters.*

**TEEVOK:** Sounds like the planet is experiencing a rotational chronometric invariance. Similar to one emanating from the Gamma Trau sector! It's called a Time Straw! A gateway through time!

*VARIOUS ad-lib confusion.*

**QUARK:** Whose line is that?

**HULU:** I don't remember that...

**FRANCINE:** *(Out of character.)* Guys! She's improvising! Awesome!

**WALLACE:** *(Out of character. To JAMES, annoyed.)* Why are you here?

**JAMES:** Mom's in the parking lot... I've got an early game tonight.

*TEEVOK takes out her VOX. A green light emanates.*

**ODYSSEY CREW:** *(Ad-libbing.)* Woah... what have you got? I've never seen anything like it!

**TEEVOK:** *(Looking at device.)* My readings need to coincide with the phase shifting necessary for... travel. *(Waits.)* There. Please. Do not be alarmed.

**NOYOTA:** *(Suspicious.)* Why should we be alarmed?

*SFX: Fun sound and lights that signify being frozen in time.*

**ODYSSEY CREW:** *(Ad-libbing.)* What's going on? I can't move.

**WALLACE:** *(Out of character.)* Teevok! What's going on?

**TEEVOK:** It is a necessary precaution for our journey.

**FRANCINE:** *(Out of character.)* Journey?

**TEEVOK:** To my planet. Of Altos Prime!

**JAMES:** You guys have the weirdest club ever!

**QUARK:** I can't move!

**SPLINT:** It's like I'm stuck on fly paper and I'm the fly!

**TEEVOK:** *(Speaking into her VOX.)* Time dilation calculations complete. *(Moves around other characters adjusting some levers and knobs.)* Time lens hyper drive in 5, 4, 3, 2 and... *(Pushes a button.)* NOW!

*SFX: Crazy eclectic noises... music, space sounds, etc. There is a sound of rumbling and the actors shake on stage.*

**WALLACE:** What's going on?

**RED SHIRT:** I'm so scared!

**PLATO:** This is so way cooler than the dopey Math Club!

**TEEVOK:** Please... If I do not guide us perfectly...

**WALLACE:** What?

**TEEVOK:** Our entire corporeal selves will be nullified.

**ODYSSEY CREW and JAMES:** Meaning? What does that mean?

**ANNIE:** Are you saying we might die?

**TEEVOK:** A most gruesome death. Your insides will be outside and your outsides will be inside!

**ALL:** (*Except TEEVOK.*) Eww...

*A swirling kaleidoscope of lights and sound. After a moment, the humming stops. The lights rise in full.*

**TEEVOK:** We are now 15 jagillion light-parsecs from your home.

**FRANCINE:** Fifteen? Jagillion did you say—

**TEEVOK:** It is a measurement beyond your simple human comprehension. Suffice it to say that we are now (*Pause.*) in a "Galaxy far, far away."

*Pause.*

**QUARK:** You think we're idiots or something? (*Gesturing around.*)

This isn't even a real ship!

**SPLINT:** It's cardboard!

**HULU:** And Christmas lights!

**RED SHIRT:** And duct tape!

**QUARK:** I built this in school with Mr. Lonardo, the tech teacher.

**ANNIE:** Look at me—I'm firing photon torpedoes at that asteroid!

*She presses the button. SFX: The sound of torpedoes and an explosion rocks the deck.*

**ANNIE:** Guys. I think I just blew up that asteroid... Oops!

*Pause.*

**SPLINT:** Woah. This medical tricorder is picking up actual readings.

*(To TEEVOK.)* Your heart rate is 800 beats a minute.

**HULU:** Look, I pushed this lever and made us go right.

**WALLACE:** *(To TEEVOK.)* Teevok, how did you do this?

**TEEVOK:** Variable extempore universes coexisting in alternate nexi... blah, blah, blah, blah, I'm sorry, I had to; I desperately require your help.

**FRANCINE:** Our help?

**TEEVOK:** Yes. To save my people.

**ALL:** *(Except TEEVOK. Ad-lib.)* "Save your people"?

**TEEVOK:** The Zoltarians. They're headed to my planet. They intend to destroy it!

**JAMES:** Zoltarians? Who are they? People? Aliens? Another space club?

**TEEVOK:** Long-range sensors picked up a distress signal. My planet of Altos launched a rescue mission. When we arrived, we found a ship drifting in space... We transported the Zoltarian survivors onto our ship. Only... they weren't survivors—they were warriors! Bent on conquest!

*ALL react sympathetically.*

**PLATO:** A trap!

**TEEVOK:** I barely escaped in a small emergency cruiser. The Zoltarians plan to use our own ship to attack our planet!

**RED SHIRT:** Diabolical.

**SPLINT:** What can we do?

**TEEVOK:** Please. Help me save my people and defeat our enemy. You're just the heroes I need! Those historical documents I watched—

*ODYSSEY CREW looks at one another, mortified.*

**WALLACE:** Uh... Teevok... those aren't exactly historical documents.

See, "Space Odyssey" was actually, I mean, a long time ago—

**HULU:** *(Interrupting.)* Wallace! Captain? There's an object off our starboard bow! A real object off our real starboard bow.

**ALL:** *(Except TEEVOK.)* What is it? What do we do?

**WALLACE:** Evasive maneuvers!

**ALL:** *(Except WALLACE.)* Huh?

**WALLACE:** *(Gesturing.)* Go left!

*ODYSSEY CREW leans into the direction of the maneuver.*

**WALLACE:** Did we lose it?

**ANNIE:** We lost it!

*ALL heave a sigh of relief.*

**FRANCINE:** It's back! It's... It's following us!

**WALLACE:** Put it on visual?

*It's a large spinning Rubik's Cube. This is a cheesy square made to look like a Rubik's Cube, spinning from a string and hanging from a stick. It's SUPPOSED to look cheesy.*

**ODYSSEY CREW:** What the—? What is that?

**QUARK:** *(Moves down.)* The cube! My childhood nemesis! *(A little hysterical.)* Why is it following us? What does it want from us? Do you want us to solve you, little cube?

**PLATO:** Maybe it's a hallucination. Anyone else have the taco salad for lunch?

*Several ODYSSEY CREW nod and raise their hands.*

**ANNIE:** Maybe it's an asteroid...

**RED SHIRT:** Or space debris!

**JAMES:** *(Pause. Dramatically.)* Guys! It's a spaceship!

*ODYSSEY CREW reacts with surprise – they are impressed by JAMES' analysis.*

**FRANCINE:** Scan indicates lifeforms onboard.

**JAMES:** There are people on that thing?

**PLATO:** Maybe, not people so much as—

**QUARK:** Little Rubiks Cubicons...

**JAMES:** We can destroy a small vessel, right?

**WALLACE:** Let's talk to them first, OK? Francine, open—

**FRANCINE:** Hailing frequencies open, Captain. I mean Wallace. I mean... I don't know what I mean! Looks like we have a visual.

*Optional music: We hear the Grateful Dead tune "Truckin" or other rock music as lights rise on another part of the stage to reveal AXL, TODD, and TALOS grooving to the music. They could enter and hold a TV-like frame.*

**WALLACE:** *(Hesitant.)* This is the Starship Odyssey. With whom am I speaking?

*AXL, TODD, and TALOS spout comic gibberish.*

**WALLACE:** Francine?

**FRANCINE:** Translator engaged. *(They smile at one another.)*

**AXL:** Hey dudes!

**ODYSSEY CREW:** Dudes?

**WALLACE:** *(Cautiously.)* Please identify?

**AXL:** *(Pause.)* Axl.

**WALLACE:** *(Looking around to his crew.)* Pleased to meet you Captain Axl—

**AXL:** Nah, just Axl. No formalities here bro!

**WALLACE:** How many in your crew?

**AXL:** Dudes! He called you my "crew." Awesome! *(They give each other fist bumps.)* Uh, it's just me and my two buds... *(By way of introduction.)* Talos—

**TALOS:** Totally stoked to meet you!

**AXL:** And Todd...

**TODD:** I am The Todd. Humble greetings!

**WALLACE:** Axl and crew... you appear to be following us. What is the purpose—

**AXL:** (*Looking around guiltily.*) —I'm... hiding...

**ODYSSEY CREW:** Hiding?

**WALLACE:** From other aliens?

**AXL:** No captain dude sir... we're totally hiding from my mom!

**ODYSSEY CREW:** Your mom?

**TALOS:** He took his mom's ship! Without asking!

*Pause.*

**SPACE ODYSSEY CREW:** Uh-oh...

**AXL:** And... We've run out of fuelage!

**TODD:** It's total unprecedented bummage!

**TALOS:** Total bummage.

**WALLACE:** It does seem like—as you say—"serious bummage"!

**AXL:** It would be awesome if you and your buds could dispense with some fuelage so we could get back home... (*Leans in close.*) before my mom finds the ship missing... if you get my driftage.

**TODD:** Her "crazy" gets amped up quick!

**TEEVOK:** (*Glancing at screen.*) Wallace. Another ship has appeared on our port side!

**RED SHIRT:** It's a Bird of Prey!

**QUARK:** It's the Mothership!

**TALOS and TODD:** Dude! It's your mom!

**ANNIE:** Captain. The Mothership is hailing us...

**WALLACE:** Put her through.

*MRS. KIPZOID enters and holds a TV-like frame or she could stand on the opposite side of the stage from AXL's group. The image we see is one of incredible alien-ness.*

**MRS. KIPZOID:** Declare yourself!

**WALLACE:** I am Wallace of the Starship Odyssey.

**ANNIE:** Its mission: to explore strange new—

**RED SHIRT:** Not now Annie!

**MRS. KIPZOID:** You are trespassing!

**WALLACE:** We're on an errand of mercy.

**MRS. KIPZOID:** Clarify!

**WALLACE:** We're aiding a ship that has run out of fuel.

**MRS. KIPZOID:** *(Pause. Then she understands.)* Axl Kipzoid the III!

**AXL:** Greetings. Oh wondrous lizard-shaped maternal order of my species!

**MRS. KIPZOID:** Don't you try to sweet talk me! Did you take my ship without asking?

**AXL:** Uh... *(Looks at TODD and TALOS.)* Affirmative. On a dare...

*TALOS and TODD lower their eyes...*

**MRS. KIPZOID:** A dare? So, if they dared you to race around the Zanolli Nebula, that's what you would do? Despite the cell nullifying radiation? Is that Talos with you?

**TALOS:** *(Subdued.)* Yes, ma'am.

**MRS. KIPZOID:** And Todd?

**TODD:** *(Happy.)* Greetings! Mrs. Kipzoid! You look ravishing today...

**MRS. KIPZOID:** You will beam here this instant! You did not have permission to have take my ship out of this quadrant!

**AXL:** Sorry...

**TODD:** *(To his buds.)* Dude, you are so grounded!

**MRS. KIPZOID:** You'd better hope your father is not in a bad mood! He'll send you to the isolated moons of Neptureen.

**TALOS:** And the whirlpools of Nebulon?

**ALL:** Whirlpools of Nebulon?

**AXL:** That place sucks... literally.

**TODD:** And, if a Tasmanian Lizard Man gets a hold of you, well... let's just say it's not pretty!

**AXL:** Time to transport. Hey, thanks Captain Wally and crew... Later...

**ODYSSEY CREW:** *(Waving.)* Later...

*Ad-lib goodbyes. The lights go down on either side of the stage.*

**SPLINT:** Woah... that was one scary looking mom!

**ANNIE:** She reminded me of my cousin, Frank. He's got this weird growth back here *(Gestures to her backside.)*, and it looks like a tail.

**ODYSSEY CREW:** Ewww...

**FRANCINE:** Annie? Remember when you wanted me to let you know when you were being annoying? Or inappropriate?

**ANNIE:** Uh-huh!

*Pause. FRANCINE looks at her.*

**FRANCINE:** My face! (*Gestures.*) It's telling you. Now.

**ANNIE:** Oh. (*Returns to her console.*)

**TEEVOK:** I've placed my planet's coordinates in the ship's navigational systems; we should arrive in—

**HULU:** Captain! Another ship has "materialized" off starboard.

**FRANCINE:** (*Baffled.*) It came out of nowhere!

**JAMES:** A cloaking device!

**TEEVOK:** That's my ship! It's the Zoltarians!

**QUARK:** They just probed us!

**HULU:** I'm not sure I like how that sounded...

**SPLINT:** No one's probing me!

**ALL:** (*Except TEEVOK.*) Ewww.

**FRANCINE:** Captain, they're hailing us.

**WALLACE:** On screen.

**FRANCINE:** On screen now, Captain.

*The ODYSSEY CREW "looks forward" seeing a screen in front of them. We see a repulsive (use your imagination) creature. The CREW reacts unfavorably. GRAKNOR enters, perhaps with a TV-like frame. Speaks with a booming voice.*

**GRAKNOR:** I am Commander Graknor! Of the Zoltarian System. Who are you? I do not recognize your ship...

**WALLACE:** (*Stuttering.*) Th... This is the Starship Odyssey!

**GRAKNOR:** Where is your commander?

*WALLACE looks around; he's a little frightened. They are silent...*

**GRAKNOR:** (*Angry. Demanding.*) Answer me!

*The ODYSSEY CREW stammers and looks to WALLACE.*

**WALLACE:** I... *(Gathering courage.)* I am Wallace Albert Armstrong, Captain of the Starship Odyssey.

**GRAKNOR:** *(Laughing.)* You are puny! A child!

*ODYSSEY CREW titters a little.*

**WALLACE:** *(To his own crew as well.)* I haven't gotten my growth spurt yet!

**GRAKNOR:** Our sensors indicate your ship is harboring an Altosian Prisoner of War... Hand the scum over...

*ODYSSEY CREW is protective of TEEVOK, except for ANNIE.*

**WALLACE:** If we... refuse...

**GRAKNOR:** *(Leaning in.)* We will destroy you!

**ANNIE:** *(Shaking TEEVOK'S hand.)* Nice knowing you Teevok. Don't forget to update your twitter feed when you get a chance!

**ODYSSEY CREW:** *(Except ANNIE.)* Annie!

**JAMES:** Uh... guys? *(Points to screen.)* The screen shows some red blips and some green blips.

**ALL:** What?

**JAMES:** The red blips are... coming closer!

**HULU:** Light torpedoes headed our way... Impact in 10, 9, 8—

**WALLACE:** Evasive maneuvers! Shields full up!

**QUARK:** *(Checking controls.)* Shields not responding!

**HULU:** 4, 3—

**WALLACE:** All hands! Brace for impact! This is not a drill. I repeat, this is not a drill!

*As lights go down. SFX: Explosion...*

*INTERMISSION*

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*By Christopher Burruto*

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