

Brian Tochi

SPACE ACADEMY

"STAR LEGEND"

SA - #85016

AUGUST 3, 1977

FILMATION  **N**
STUDIOS

SPACE ACADEMY

"STAR LEGEND"

by

Samuel A. Peeples

August 3, 1977

"STAR LEGEND"

#85016

Commander Isaac Gampu
Cadet Captain Chris Gentry
Cadet Lt. Laura Gentry
Cadet Lt. Paul Jerome
Cadet Lt. Adrian Pryce-Jones
Cadet Lt. Tee Gar Soom
Loki
Peepo

Com-Voice
Entity
Rampo

"STAR LEGEND"

#85016

INTERIORS

The Seeker
insert - com-screen

Space Academy
Command Center
Observatory

Starship Hope
Corridor
Comman Center

EXTERIORS

The Seeker
Space
Space Academy
Rock
Two Academies (split screen)
Starship Hope

"STAR LEGEND"

#85016

TEA

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER 1

The small spaceship angles across a dark, starless sector of space. Far away the distant gleam of multi-colored stars are pinpricks of light, but here the tiny space scout is alone. You can almost feel the emptiness of this quadrant of deep space about it. As it moves deeper into the area, it leaves widely-spaced, blinking and BEEPING markers behind it. GAMPU'S VOICE worried, almost troubled, COMES OVER:

GAMPU (O.S.)

Chris! Paul! Squawk ident!

Now!

2 INT. THE SEEKER 2

Paul is beside Chris, both intent on their work. Chris is handling the controls from the left-hand seat, while Paul works on a control panel, on which lights blink and glow in random order.

CHRIS

Oraco, Commander!

He leans forward, punches a button -- and an AUDIBLE BEEP-TONE COMES OVER.

3 INSERT - COM-SCREEN 3

Gampu's grizzled face frowns from the screen; he is obviously uptight, but trying to hold it under firm control.

GAMPU

You're one degree off-course,
Chris -- correct, please -- now!

4 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 4

Chris nods, and touches a control. Paul glances up from his work-panel, to grin at Chris and slightly shake his head.

CHRIS

Is it that critical, Gampu?

5 INSERT - COM-SCREEN 5

Gampu's face tightens, slightly, and his voice holds an edge.

GAMPU

Correct your course -- now!
That's an order!

6 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 6

Chris' eyebrows raise, slightly, and he glances at Paul, who again shakes his head.

CHRIS

Oraco!

But, as he reaches to make a correction of the controls, ALARM BELLS, SQUAWKERS AND BEEPERS GO OFF, and a RECORDED COM-VOICE INTONES:

COM-VOICE

(strident)
Collision course!

7 INSERT - COM-SCREEN 7

Gampu is bending closer on the screen, peering at his own screen (o.s.) intently.

GAMPU

What is it? What's wrong?

8 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 8

Chris shakes his head, looking through the forward windows, peering out at the unusually dark sector of space. Paul is working a computer keyboard, now looks up.

PAUL

Something coming out of the Triangle
-- mass: twenty tons, no heat, no
life -- just space junk.

CHRIS

Shut off those alarms -- Commander
we're taking evasive action -- ten
degrees lateral quadrant, vector
.901...

9 INSERT - COM-SCREEN 9

Gampu's face jerks, frantically, and his voice rises in alarm:

(CONTINUED)

9 (CONTINUED)

9

GAMPU

No -- not into the Triangle
Chris! -- You must not...!

Abruptly the image of Gampu is SCRAMBLED, and his voice becomes a JUMBLE OF SOUND, UNINTELLIGIBLE.

10 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER (MINIATURE)

10

A huge, dark pitted rock soars PAST CAMERA, as the Seeker angles sharply off to the RIGHT -- plunging into the dark, empty quadrant of space that has no stars.

11 INT. THE SEEKER - CHRIS AND PAUL

11

Chris looks relieved -- then bends closer over the controls, struggling with them.

CHRIS

Something's wrong!

PAUL

You said it -- what is that thing?

Chris glances at Paul, who is staring through the forward window, looks up, himself -- and stiffens, his face registering shock.

12 THEIR POV - SPACE (MINIATURE)

12

ZOOMING toward them, looming incredibly huge, is a luminous cloud, glowing, sparking electrically, growing larger until it fills the screen! It is rolling, tumbling ominously, like a mighty storm cloud gone mad -- and it is broadcasting a strange, frightening sound as it comes, a BUZZING, ROARING CRACKLING of sheer, terrible energy!

13 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL

13

Through the forward windows eery green light floods across them, tinging them, and everything in the Seeker the same weird color. Then, suddenly, there is a FLARE OF ENERGY, from every metallic object in the Seeker -- and the control panel erupts in wisps of smoke. Then, as abruptly as it came at them, the green light fades, and is gone.

14 THEIR POV - SPACE (MINIATURE)

14

The gigantic, roiling energy cloud, zooms away, into the depths of space, and is gone.

15 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 15

Chris frantically punches switches, works levers, then looks at Paul and shakes his head, his face grim.

CHRIS

Whatever it was, it knocked out our power! We're drifting into the triangle...!

(punches buttons)

Come in, Academy! Commander Gampu -- can you read us? Commander?

PAUL

It's no use, Chris -- power readouts are negative...

He is looking through the forward windows. Paul tenses.

PAUL

What a time to get acquainted with a hunk of rock!

16 EXT. SEEKER (MINIATURE) 16

A huge, dark, pitted chunk of rock is slowly spinning, angling toward the Seeker -- close -- and closing fast!

17 TWO SHOT 17

Chris bends over the controls.

CHRIS

No use -- our motors are dead!

PAUL

Collision course -- impact in forty-one seconds...! Looks like the Triangle's going to add us to it's list of missing ships...!

Helpless to do anything else, the two boys stare up at the windows, as the ALARM BELLS AND BUZZERS AGAIN GO OFF, STRIDENTLY.

18 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER - ROCK (MINIATURE) 18

As the slowly revolving rock, many times the size of the little Seeker, looms closer, closer, collision seemingly inevitable!

FADE OUT

END TEASER

"STAR LEGEND"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

19 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER - ROCK (MINIATURE) 19

The huge, spinning chunk of space rock is perilously near -- when, suddenly, from nowhere, an intense beam of light, fiery red like a laser beam, strikes the rock -- suffusing it with glaring red -- within which comes a terrific explosion! The Seeker is sent tumbling off to one side -- and the great chunk of rock simply -- vanishes!

20 INT. THE SEEKER 20

Chris and Paul hang on, as the ship jerks and tumbles, then slowly steadies again. The forward windows are dark -- the great piece of space rock is gone. They look at each other, both relieved at their close call, but puzzled -- and a little shaken.

PAUL

Wow! Was that close!

CHRIS

What hit it? Looked like an old-fashioned laser-beam -- but where did it come from?

PAUL

Wherever -- it saved our bacon from being crumpled...!

CHRIS

(smiling)

At least!

(frowning)

Still no power -- com's still out -- no -- wait -- look...!

21 INSERT - COM-SCREEN (MINIATURE) 21

Strange, flickering color appears across the screen, not unlike the dancing auroras of Earth's polar regions (Borealis and Australis), intensify -- then, above them, surrounded by the multi-colored energy-flames, appears a huge, grotesque face; it is pasty, lumpen, not entirely human, with strange, glowing purple-yellow striped eyes. It's VOICE is a rumbling ROAR, deep, menacing, almost thundering out at them:

(CONTINUED)

21 (CONTINUED)

21

ENTITY

Go back whence you came --
and return no more -- Obey!

*

22 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL

22

Chris and Paul stare at the menacing image on the screen, then at each other -- then both suddenly grin.

CHRIS

Do you believe that?

PAUL

I think he's a fugitive from an
old horror movie...!

ENTITY (o.s.)

Go back -- at once! This is your
final warning!

CHRIS

Okay, okay -- but we can't go back
-- or forward, either! Our engines
are dead!

23 INSERT - COM-SCREEN

23

The Entity stares at them, it's bulbous features twisting.

ENTITY

Beware! Never return! Tell the
rest of your kind -- they must not
enter the Triangle -- ever...!

The ghost-flames burn brighter, the horrid face dims -- and is gone -- and the screen goes blank.

24 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL

24

Paul shakes his head.

PAUL

Guess we've been told! Hey!

This last as the forward windows suddenly GLOW REDDISHLY.

CHRIS

Whatever it is means it -- we're
getting the bum's rush...!

- 25 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER (MINIATURE) 25
The red laser-beam touches the hull of the Seeker, glows deeper in color -- and the great force of the beam works like a presser-beam -- pushing the little spaceship away. It gains speed, moving back the way it came!
- 26 INT. THE SEEKER - TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 26
They stare out the forward windows -- the red glow fades, replaced by the familiar black, starry depths of normal space.
- CHRIS
Power's back!
- GAMPU (o.s.)
Come in, Seeker! Chris! Paul!
- CHRIS
(into com-screen)
We're receiving you, Commander.
- 27 INSERT - COM-SCREEN 27
Gampu's lined face is terribly worried, his voice strained.
- GAMPU
Are you all right? What happened to you? You disappeared from our screens...
- 28 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 28
Chris shakes his head.
- CHRIS
Something in the Triangle -- lost power...
- PAUL
Hey, you'll never believe what happened...we were about to hit a chunk of rock almost as big as the Academy, when, out of nowhere...
- 29 INSERT COM-SCREEN 29
Gampu nods, slowly, frowning hard.
- GAMPU
I know, you were saved by a strange, old-fashioned energy beam...

30 SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 30

They are puzzled.

CHRIS

How do you know that -- if we weren't on your screens?

31 INSERT - COM-SCREEN 31

Gampu's set, worried look doesn't change.

GAMPU

(impatiently)

I -- just -- know...

(then, grudgingly)

It's -- happened before...

He speaks slowly, almost as if to himself, then suddenly shakes his head.

GAMPU

Your boundary-marker mission is scrubbed. Return to the Academy.

32 TWO SHOT - CHRIS AND PAUL 32

Chris frowns.

CHRIS

Oraco.

He switches off the com-screen.

PAUL

I don't get it...

CHRIS

That's two of us...

(harder, stubbornly)

But I'm going to...!

33 EXT. SPACE - THE ACADEMY - THE SEEKER (STOCK) 33

As the Seeker arcs in toward the massive Academy, slowly to enter a port.

34 CLOSER ANGLE (STOCK) 34

The Seeker docks with the Academy, sliding slowly, easily into the port, which slides closed behind it. OVERLAP SOUND OF COM-VOICE:

(CONTINUED)

34 (CONTINUED)

34

COM-VOICE

Blue Team report to Command Center.
General Quarters -- all personnel
report to stations...

The steady RINGING OF BELLS ANNOUNCING GENERAL QUARTERS COMES OVER PRECEDING AND FOLLOWING SHOT, as the COM-VOICE ANNOUNCEMENT IS REPEATED.

COM-VOICE

(over bells)

Nova Blue Team report to Command
Center. General Quarters -- all
personnel report to stations.

35 EXT. THE SPACE ACADEMY (STOCK)

35

As we ZOOM IN TOWARD Omega Observatory Dome.

36 INT. COMMAND CENTER

36

Peepo is at the center console, circuitry sparking busily. Laura is beside him, and Gampu is pacing back and forth in the center of the big room, looking toward the view-screens, then suddenly turning, striding to a star-chart that drops down silently in front of him. It is on a sheet of plexiglas, with star-patterns marked in colored lines, with glowing lights indicating major constellations. In the center of the star-chart -- as we ZOOM IN ON IT TO A CLOSE SHOT - is a dark area, outlined with glowing red lines, roughly triangular in shape, in which NO STARS BURN, just blank, empty space. Gampu stands close to the transparent chart, staring at the empty area in the middle of it -- as THROUGH it we can see the arrival of the other cadet member of Nova Team One -- ~~Tee Gar~~, wearing a lab frock and frowning down at a medical chart in one hand; Adrian holding up a strangely-colored chunk of rock, peering through a magnifying glass at it; and then Loki appears, darting through a half-opened door, skidding on the slick floor -- and banging headlong into Tee Gar, who fends him off automatically, without breaking stride, or lifting his eyes from his medical chart.

37 ANOTHER ANGLE

37

Loki skids toward a console, sees the transparent star-chart dead ahead, and ducks low -- under it -- Gampu is too pre-occupied to pay him any mind. Laura holds out a hand, and shakes here head.

LAURA

How many times have I told you
about running, Loki?

(CONTINUED)

37 (CONTINUED)

37

TEE GAR

(smiling)

Yeah -- haste makes lumps -- on somebody else!

LOKI

Very funny!

(shakes his head)

I can't win! If I'm late, I catch it -- if I try to hurry --

(breaks off, staring at the star-chart)

Hey, that's the Alderan Triangle! We're heading into there!?

ADRIAN

Why not?

PEEPO

It is forbidden.

TEE GAR

(interested)

I never knew that. What makes it special?

Gampu turns from the star-chart, to look at them, his face troubled.

GAMPU

That we shall find out...hopefully. *

Chris and Paul enter at a half-run, hurry across the big room to join the others. Gampu eyes them, then nods, his face remaining strained, worried.

GAMPU

(turning to star-chart)

We are here, on the edge of this area -- commonly known as the Alderan Triangle...Strange things have happened here -- ships have vanished without a trace -- others have been saved -- by something...

PEEPO

In my opinion that something is Captain Rampo and his ghost ship. *

(CONTINUED)

LOKI

That's what Peepo told me when he *
was listening to those old ghost story
tapes. He's hooked on spooks! There never
was a Captain Rampo.

38 CLOSER ANGLE - FAVORING GAMPU

38

He turns slowly to look at him and shakes his head, slowly.

GAMPU

You are mistaken, Loki. The legend
of Captain Rampo happens to be
based upon truth...But it occurred
more than a milleniumago.

TEE GAR

Over a thousand years -- Rampo and
his ship would have to be ghosts!

He breaks off, looking at Gampu, who meets his eyes evenly,
and nods.

GAMPU

You've been scanning the history *
tapes Peepo, what else have you
found?

PEEPO

Captain Rampo was in command of
a starship -- the Hope, an almost
exact duplicate of the Academy,
built on an asteroid...

CHRIS

I remember that from history class.
It was a self-contained planetoid --
it had to be before they perfected
hyper-drive systems to reach the
stars, equipped with old-fashioned
laser-beams for defense...Paul, -- *

He breaks off, and looks at Paul.

PAUL

You're right! Like that beam that *
blasted that rock before it could hit us --

CHRIS

(thoughtfully)
And like the energy beam that
pushed us out of the Triangle...

PAUL

Do you think -- I mean...?

(CONTINUED)

38 (CONTINUED)

38

CHRIS
Captain Rambo!

39 CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU

39

He holds there, then slowly turns to look at the red-outlined triangle on the star-chart.

GAMPU
(grimly)
Our mission here is to mark with space beacons the boundaries of this area -- and, if possible, to chart star-courses through it -- safe star-courses...

40 GROUP SHOT

40

Chris steps closer to the star chart.

CHRIS
We can try in the Seeker, Commander

*

GAMPU
No Chris!
(pause)
I'm taking the Academy in -- now...

*

*

GAMPU
(echo effect)
Attention, please. You will remain at general quarters. We are now entering the Alderan Triangle...

He moves to the command console.

*

GAMPU
I gave you the coordinates, Peepo. Ahead, one quarter...

PEEPO
Oraco!

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ACADEMY (MINIATURE)

41

As it slowly, majestically, begins to move through space, blotting out stars behind it, one by one, as it gains speed.

42 INT. COMMAND CENTER - GROUP SHOT

42

The Nova Team members are at their stations in front of the various consoles.

(CONTINUED)

42 (CONTINUED)

42

GAMPU
Ahead -- one half.

PEEPO
Oraco!

PAUL
All power positive and steady.

GAMPU
Ahead full speed!

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ACADEMY (MINIATURE)

43

As it moves into the darkness of the Triangle, no stars around it, now. There is a sudden, EXPLOSION OF SOUND, AS ALL OF THE AUTOMATIC ALARMS GO OFF!

44 INT. COMMAND CENTER - GROUP SHOT

44

They are tense, watching their instruments on the consoles. The alarm buzzers and bells continue their clangor.

PAUL
Power drain! I can't understand it -- even the reserve energy banks are draining...!

GAMPU
Reverse -- full!

PEEPO
Controls dead -- they do not respond!

CHRIS
The same thing that happend to the Seeker!

PAUL
All power systems out. We're drifting...

TEE GAR
Into the Alderan Triangle!

LOKI
I don't like this!

LAURA
(urgent)
Look!

(CONTINUED)

44 (CONTINUED) 44

She points to the view-screens.

45 CLOSE - MONITOR (MINIATURE) 45

Slowly, something swims into view, slowly, majestically -- the counterpart of the Academy, bathed in a green light, shadowed, mysterious, no lights shining, like an empty, lifeless hulk.

46 GROUP SHOT 46

They all stare at the view-screen.

PAUL

It's exactly like the Academy!

LAURA

Captain Rampo's vessel...!

ADRIAN

The ghost-ship!

47 EXT. SPACE - THE TWO ACADEMIES (SPLIT SCREEN EFFECT) 47
(MINIATURE)

As the great, huge vessels slowly, majestically converge upon each other, almost totally filling the frame.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

"STAR LEGEND"

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

48 EXT. SPACE - THE TWO ACADEMIES (SPLIT SCREEN EFFECT) 48
(MINIATURE)

The two great vessels drift side by side. The ancient Starship Hope dark, greenish, shadowed, somehow eery and forlorn; the Academy brighter, alive with lights, and movement within the huge structures that comprise it.

49 INT. COMMAND CENTER 49

Gampu, at the central console, frowns toward Chris.

GAMPU *

Something in the Triangle
blankets normal power...

CHRIS

Standby systems normal...Whatever it
is, it doesn't effect recycled
nucleonic systems.

LAURA

But they're just emergency power regenerators.

TEE GAR

So here we are -- *

PAUL

Where are we? *

PEEPO

Second vector of quadrant 951.373... *

LOKI

Why can't you just say we're in the
middle of the Alderan Triangle like
the rest of us?

PEEPO

But we're not...We're drifting just
inside the lateral perimeter of one
section of it -- and my scanners
indicate a positive life-reading
from that starship...

Peepo's casual announcement has an electrical effect, as they all stare at him. Gampu reacts, jerking erect.

GAMPU

That can't be!

(CONTINUED)

49 (CONTINUED)

49

ADRIAN

Look -- I see something!

They all turn to look at the view-screens.

50 INSERT - VIEW SCREEN - STARSHIP HOPE (MINIATURE)

50

The huge, dark, shadowed hulk hangs against the blackness of space, bathed in an eerie greenish light - and in one tower a light appears, vanishes -- moves upward, like someone carrying a torch up a windowed stairway -- then shines out, brightly for a moment, before vanishing.

51 GROUP SHOT

51

Chris turns, looking at Gampu.

CHRIS

There may be an answer to all this -- to the Alderan Triangle, too -- aboard that starship!

GAMPU

Possibly...

PAUL

Without power, how can we get across to it?

CHRIS

We've got a recycler aboard the Seeker -- and if we rigged it to supply power to the maneuvering jets...

(sudden grin)

Commander -- request permission to board that starship!

Gampu hesitates, frowning hard.

GAMPU

If there's something alive there...

LAURA

Captain Rambo, I'll bet...!

PAUL

*

(grinning)

The Flying Dutchman of Outer Space, Himself...

(CONTINUED)

51 (CONTINUED)

51

GAMPU

Chris -- you and Paul jury rig
that recycler - I'll take the
Seeker there, myself...

CHRIS

Not alone!

GAMPU

(a beat; then a thin smile)
Volunteers?

CADETS

(in unison)

Me!

52 CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU

52

He eyes his cadets; he is sometimes a stern, almost forbidding man, not given to open demonstration of his feelings -- but for an instant warmth -- pride in his Nova Team -- glows in his craggy features, then he half-smiles and nods.

53 EXT. ACADEMY - THE SEEKER (STOCK) (MINIATURE)

53

As the great airlock doors slide upward, and the Seeker moves -- very slowly -- out, dropping away into space.

54 EXT. SPACE - THE TWO ACADEMIES (SPLIT SCREEN EFFECT)
(MINIATURE)

54

As the Seeker, rear propulsion units glowing very dimly, leaving a misty trail of glowing ions in its wake, angles toward the ancient starship.

55 INT. SEEKER - GROUP SHOT

55

They are all clustered forward, looking through the windows.

LAURA

There -- that spacelock's part way
open --

CHRIS

We can squeeze in there.

GAMPU

Activate life-support systems. *
We're going aboard. Paul, bring
a hand-laser -- we may need it...

They snap on their bracelets.

56 INSERT LAURA'S BRACELET

As she activates it. It LIGHTS UP, then goes out.

LAURA (O.S.)

Life support system activated.

* 56A CLOSE SHOT LOKI'S BRACELET

It lights up, goes out. CAMERA PANS to Loki's face.

LOKI

Life support system activated.

GAMPU (and others o.s.)

System activated, Support on, etc.

57 EXT STARTSHIP HOPE - SPACELOCK (MINIATURE)

The great door is jammed, half closed. The Seeker maneuvers in, there is barely room to dock. It scrapes along side, stops.

58 INT. SEEKER

As it is jarred by contact.

LOKI

Talk about a tight fit!

GAMPU

Let's go, - and stay together.

They move out. Peepo's head swivels about.

PEEPO

Hey, wait for Peepo!

59 INT. STARSHIP

The corridor is dark, moody, a green aura pervades. The group moves in slowly, warily.

LAURA

It's almost like the Academy.

CHRIS

(touching the dirty wall)

But it sure wouldn't pass inspection!

60 REVERSE ANGLE

Gampu in the lead, Chris and Laura just behind him. They move down the corridor, past debris, remnants of the past. Suddenly a pile of odd clothing springs to life in front of them. It hangs suspended, arms outstretched, blocking their way. Their is a gasp of fright from the group as they stop.

60A CLOSE SHOT EMPTY COWL OF GARMENT

60 (CONTINUED)

ENTITY (OS)

Go back! This is your last warning!
The master of this ship commands you
to leave or stay forever...!

GAMPU

Who are you, and who is your master?

61 GROUP SHOT

They face back down the corridor -- as the clothing drops
back to a limp heap.

CHRIS

Whoever it is, sure wants to
scare us away.

*
*

ADRIAN

He's doing a good job, but let's go on.

*

LAURA

We've got to find out what it's all about...!

They go on, down the corridor.

62 ANOTHER ANGLE

62

As they reach a forking corridor -- a heavy metal door
SLAMS closed in front of them. It bars their way.

CHRIS

We must be getting close to something!

LOKI

(grins)

The ghost of Captain Rambo...!

He pulls massive lollipop from his pocket.

*

LAURA

Too much candy isn't good for your
teeth, Loki!

LOKI

But it's great for when I get nervous!
And I'm getting nervous.

*
*

But even as he starts to raise it to his mouth -- every
vestige of light GOES OUT. In the blackness, Loki YOWLS --
then Laura SCREAMS.

LOKI

Hey, -- something touched me!

(CONTINUED)

61
**
*
*
*
61

62 (CONTINUED)

62

LAURA
It's here -- with us!

The dim, shadowy
lights of the corridor come back on! The cadets and Gampu
are alone -- but a deep, ECHOING, SINISTER LAUGH COMES OVER.

*
*

63 CLOSER ANGLE - LOKI

63

He looks around -- then suddenly raises his hand, looks down
at the floor, then at the others.

LOKI
(indignantly)
Hey, my lollipop's gone! Come on!
Give it back! Come on, Peepo!

*
**

PEEPO
It wasn't me!

**

*

*

AGAIN THE DEEP, SINISTER LAUGH COMES OVER, ECHOING:

ENTITY (o.s.)
All who enter here are doomed!
Doomed! Doomed!

64 ANOTHER ANGLE (LOCK-OFF SHOT)

64

Chris moves to the closed door, puts his shoulder to it, and is
joined by Paul and Tee Gar -- but the door is jammed, and
won't budge. Gampu frowns, gestures to Paul.

GAMPU
Stand back! Use the laser,
Paul!

They move away from the door -- and a thin, bright blue beam
arcs out -- touches the door -- and it glows blue --
brightens explosively -- then is gone. The passage way is
clear again, and they go on.

65 INT. COLD ROOM (STORAGE AREA)

65

They climb over a partially open door, and enter the command
center of the ancient starship (redressed to appear different

(CONTINUED)

65 (CONTINUED)

65

from the Academy set). Lush green plants in pots and trays, are everywhere, some bearing beautiful flowers, others magnificent fruit. They hold there, looking around. The deep, frightening VOICE BOOMS OUT:

ENTITY

You have been warned for -- the --
l-a-s-t -- t-i-m-e...

The VOICE seems to be running down, becomes blurred, and deeper, like a slowed LP. THERE ARE LOUD SQUAWKS, SQUEAKS, AND ELECTRONIC GROANS, then the voice speeds up, into a chipmunk chatter. It ceases, then VOICE OF A LITTLE GIRL:

(CONTINUED)

ENTITY
(little girl's tones)
I warned you,...for the last time,

*

They all stand there -- staring --
the incongruity of the terrible face
and the cute, lisping little girl's voice! Then a small,
totally human voice resounds over speakers:

**

**

RAMPO (o.s.)
Doggone it! I played the wrong
tape! Anyway, will you all
please go away -- now -- while
you still can?

**

**

GAMPU
Not until you answer some questions!

**

TEE GAR
Did he say, 'Doggone it'?

PEEPO
An ancient expression of
exasperation...

PAUL
We know that -- but who said it?

PEEPO
Captain Rampo!

**

**

(CONTINUED)

65 (CONTINUED) 3

65

GAMPU

(stunned)
Captain Rambo -- that simply isn't possible -- he'd be more than fifteen hundred years old --

RAMPO (OS)

Sixteen hundred and three, to be exact! *

And a door opens, revealing a small room, cluttered, obviously living quarters, beyond it. A small, perfectly natural man steps out; in appearance he is somewhat younger than Gampu, but beams at him, fondly.

GAMPU

Sixteen hundred years...!

RAMPO

Please, you're making me feel old.

GAMPU

Captain Rampo, I presume?

Rampo bows.

RAMPO

The same!

He smiles at Loki as he takes one hand from behind his back. In it is Loki's lollipop.

RAMPO

Thank you for the lollipop -- it's delicious.

LOKI

(frowning)
You're welcome -- I guess...

Rampo tosses him something that glints as if flies through the air. Loki catches it, holds it up and sucks in his breath. It is a huge diamond.

RAMPU

Fair exchange?

LOKI

(wide-eyed)
A diamond!!

CHRIS

(staring)
That stone's priceless!

(CONTINUED (

65 (CONTINUED) 3A

65

LOKI

So was my lollipop!

LAURA

Captain Rambo, we've got so many
questions --

She breaks off, as there SOUNDS A HARSH, FRIGHTENING CRACKING OF ENERGY -- and from everywhere a thin, greenish vapor begins to seep into the room. It thickens quickly into a dark, green cloud, glowing with electrical discharges that CRACKLE like lightning, zapping everywhere. Eerie green radiation begins to burn from every metallic object!

(CONTINUED)

65 (CONTINUED) 4

65

RAMPO

This way -- in here -- hurry!

And he gestures through the open door, to the cluttered living area beyond. They hesitate - but the green cloud moves, -- and they hurry through the opening, which slides closed behind them -- and just in time, as the green cloud surges thickly into the command center, the eery NOISE IT MAKES FRIGHTENINGLY LOUD!

*
*
*

66 INT. RAMPO'S QUARTERS - OBSERVATORY (redress)

*

66

(Redress of OBSERVATORY, with pulsing, flowing LIGHTS behind the panels to indicate great energy surging there.) Rampo turns, checks the door, to make certain none of the green vapor has entered, then nods.

RAMPO

I've shielded this room -- we're safe here...

*
*

GAMPU

What is that thing out there?

67 CLOSE SHOT - RAMPO

67

His expressive, usually mild features contort, and he shakes his head.

RAMPO

Some form of blind, mindless, living energy, seeking other power sources to feed upon...
(pause)
Here, in the Triangle -- there are no suns -- these things have fed upon them -- destroyed them...
Drained them of energy -- as it drained your ships...

68 GROUP SHOT

68

They are all looking at Rampo.

LAURA

(smiling)
That's why you tried to frighten us away -- to save us...

(CONTINUED)

68 (CONTINUED)

68

RAMPO
(bitterly)
Yes, and I failed -- again...

GAMPU
Captain Rampo, I don't understand
all this...

69 CLOSER ANGLE - FAVORING RAMPO

69

He half-smiles a bittersweet expression on his face.

RAMPO
It's simple enough. We had established
the colony on Lyrae III. This starship
was in orbit around the planet. I
was the only one aboard...all of the
passengers had landed -- when something
happened to the sun -- it flared -- enormously
-- my star-ship was caught in the magnetic
storm that followed -- hurled away...

(bitterly)
I tried to get back to Lyrae III -- and
made the mistake of crossing the
Alderaan Triangle -- Suddenly this
massive energy vapor attacked the
ship -- I knew if I returned I would
bring these vapors with me, so I have
devoted my life to orbiting this
triangle, warning or frightening
others off, so that they would not
be harmed by this terrible scourge.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

70 ANGLE GAMPU AND RAMPO

70

Gampu smiles, and in rare gesture, places his arm across
the other man's shoulders.

GAMPU
A heroic thing, Captain. *

LOKI
(frowning)
But how -- why, have you lived so long?

RAMPO
The radiant energy of that solar flare --
changed the cells of my body.

LOKI
Just like you, Commander. *

Gampu nods, slowly.

(CONTINUED)

70 (CONTINUED)

70

GAMPU

And you have spent all of these years, fighting this battle?

RAMPO

Yes, Commander, but I' am afraid that I've failed.

GAMPU

What do you mean?

RAMPO

The energy vapors -- they've become stronger -- my shields can't hold much longer -- and when every power source in this Triangle has been absorbed the vapors will have to find energy elsewhere. -- They'll move out, -- consume the entire galaxy.

*
*
*
*
*

LAURA

There must be a way to stop them!

RAMPO

I've tried -- for a thousand years-- without success...!

CHRIS

Peepo -- did you get an analysis scan on that thing out there...?

PEEPO

It's held in a sort of force-field, most accelerated trionic particles.

PAUL

(excited)

Hey, we use energy like that to generate our own force-fields!

GAMPU

But nothing to match the strength of this force.

*
*

He turns to Rampo.

GAMPU

You say, these vapors seek out energy -- feed upon it?

*

RAMPO

Yes, insatiably!

(CONTINUED)

70 (CONTINUED) 2

70

GAMPU
(thinking hard)
Perhaps we can give them a
bit of indigestion...

CHRIS
We must trap them -- while they
are here. *
*

PAUL
What are we waiting for? *

GAMPU
Let's go! Captain -- lower one
of your shields around this
power room -- now, please!

RAMPO
(bewildered)
No, wait-- I don't understand...!

GAMPU
I think we can do something about
this situation... *
*
(pause)
But it will mean the destruction of
your ship, Captain! *
*

71 CLOSE SHOT - RAMPO

71

He holds there, staring at Gampu, then suddenly nods.

RAMPO
It would be worth anything -- to
destroy them...

72 ANOTHER ANGLE

72

Gampu nods.

GAMPU
You know what must be done...Paul
-- you've got a standby life-
support bracelet, give *
it to Captain Rampo.

PAUL
Yes, Commander.

**

73 INSERT - RAMPO'S WRIST - PAUL'S HAND

73

Paul snaps the LS bracelet around Rampo's wrist -- and activates it. The ready light FLARES and FADES.

RAMPO

Thank you, mate.

**

74 ANOTHER ANGLE

Gampu nods.

GAMPU → Tee Gar

Open the door, ~~Christopher~~!

yes come

74

Gampu strides to the door. Chris jabs the control -- and the big doors slide open -- revealing the green vapor, thick, swirling, in the corridor beyond.

75 MOVING SHOT

75

They run through the glowing, SPARKING green cloud. Once Chris is hit by the green light-flash, staggers -- But Paul grabs his arm -- and they run on.

GAMPU

Hurry!

PEEPO

Hey, wait for Peepo!

**

But, even as he speaks -- a heavy green bolt strikes at him -- sends him crashing against one wall, to slide down it, unhurt, but dazed. Laura runs to him, helps him to his feet.

GAMPU

(shouting)

Go on -- run for it!

76 ANOTHER ANGLE

76

Chris, Paul, Tee Gar and Laura run through the thick green mist -- find a corridor clear of it -- and run as hard as they can down it.

77 INT. THE SEEKER

77

Chris bursts inside, runs toward the controls. Paul joins him. Laura and Tee Gar run in -- turn -- as wisps of green fog begin to seep in from the engine room. *

LAURA

Chris! The vapors are in the engine room. They'll consume the power cells!

*
*

77A INT. ENGINE ROOM

77A

The smoke is pouring through an opening.

77B INT. SEEKER 77B

Tee Gar rushes to engine room door and slams it shut.

78 SHOT - CHRIS 78

At the console. He punches some buttons, the panel flickers, goes out.

79 ANOTHER ANGLE 79

GAMPU

Laura, Chris. Mind-link, see if you can reverse the smoke, -- long enough for us to start the engines.

Gampu takes Laura's hand, the others understand, they all grip hands, Adrian grabs the bewildered Rampo's hand.

ADRIAN

Help us amplify their thoughts.

LAURA

Come on, Loki

**

Rampo nods, the group closes their eyes in concentration.

80 CLOSE CHRIS 80

81 CLOSE LAURA 81

LAURA

(eyes closed)
Concentrate -- !

81B INT. ENGINE ROOM 81B

The smoke is pouring through the small opening, then it slows.

81C CLOSE SHOT - LAURA AND CHRIS 81C

Eyes closed.

81D INT. ENGINE ROOM 81D

The smoke now starts to reverse and the room starts to clear.

81E PAN TEE GAR, PAUL, GAMPU, RAMPO 81E

As they concentrate.

81F INT. ENGINE ROOM 81F

As the last of the smoke pours back through the opening.

82/83 OMIT OMIT 82/83

84 OMIT

82/83 OMIT

OMIT 82/83

84 ANGLE

84

As Chris now runs forward and touches a switch --
and in front of him, the control panel of the Seeker
comes alive with lights! Gampu and the others hurry
aboard.

CHRIS

Here we go!

(CONTINUED)

84 (CONTINUED) 84

They lurch, as the Seeker starts moving away.

85 EXT. STARSHIP HOPE - SPACELOCK - THE SEEKER 85

As it SCRAPES out through the partially closed door, then drops away.

86 INT. THE SEEKER 86

Gampu is at the controls, and now he gestures to Chris, in the co-pilot's seat.

GAMPU

Now, Christopher -- full radiant power in our forward lasers...!

Chris bends forward, over a control.

87 EXT. THE SEEKER AND THE STARSHIP HOPE (MINIATURE) 87

An intensely bright beam shoots from the Seeker toward the Starship Hope!

88 EXT. SPACE - STARSHIP HOPE (MINIATURE) 88

The bright beam hits it -- and suddenly it FLARES BRIGHT GREEN with radiant energy, BRIGHTER - THEN SUDDENLY EXPLODES! The fiery, multi-colored explosion fills the screen. It fades -- and the starship Hope is gone -- and the terrible green energy cloud vanished with it.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

89 EXT, SPACE - THE ACADEMY 89

As the majestic Academy moves serenely into the black, starless Triangle.

90 INT. ACADEMY - (TBA) * 90

Rampo is standing alone, staring out at the depth of space. Gampu joins him.

RAMPO

(quietly)
I don't belong here -- or anywhere
...My job is done...

(CONTINUED)

50 (CONTINUED)

50

GAMPU

(smiling)

I wouldn't say that...

He nods OFF -- and the cadets swarm in on Rampo. The little man turns, stares at them.

CHRIS

(smiling)

Captain Rampo -- with your permission --

LOKI

We've got about a million questions --

LAURA

Do you think that free energy was becoming intelligent -- beginning to think -- to reason...?

TEE GAR

What about Nuclear Medicine -- do you think this energy force could be used...?

ADRIAN

(interrupting)

No -- wait -- what about the geology of the dead suns in the Triangle...?

PAUL

Have you charted safe courses through the Triangle...?

PEEPO

How many of Hymington Blastworthy's movies have you seen...?

But as they all begin to jabber at him, crowding in closer, the loneliness that Rampo might feel is gone, and he grins. Gampu holds up a hand, authoritatively, and the others reluctantly fall silent.

GAMPU

That will do! As you can well see Captain Rampo, you done isn't done, it's only just begun. Welcome to the faculty of Space Academy.

**
**
**
**

RAMPO

Glad to be aboard!

**

(CONTINUED)

50 (CONTINUED)

50

GAMPU

As a matter of fact, I have a
few questions as well...
(trails off ad libs)

And on that note, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END