

# THE TIMES NEW ROMAN

Mihi opus est longa sententia posuit hic. Potius eo quod dicit inveni tantam scientiam potest hic.

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*"The seed of everything is in everything else." ~ Anaxagoras (500 B.C. - 428 B.C.)*

## A SNACK PARTY AND SOME THOUGHTS ON STAR TREK

This Saturday, the Classics Hall lounge will play host to its second snack party of the year. The background and discussion of this party will focus on the connections between classical themes and the hit TV series Star Trek.

According to mythology and science fiction blogger Tom Allfred, the universe presented by the Star Trek original series is full of references to Greek mythology, with several shared overarching themes. "Vulcans... really represent the god," Allfred explains in a blog post. "Both the race of aliens Vulcan and their home world Vulcan... are representations of Hephaestus or the Roman equivalent of Vulcan."

He further explains that the Vulcans can be linked to Hephaestus through their planet's ecology (fire, volcanoes, and smoke), their copper-based physiology, and their significance as technological

innovators.

Additionally, Allfred links the common origins of Star Trek's Vulcans and Romulans to the Roman creation myth of Remus and Romulus. "Long ago Romulans and Vulcans both lived on the Vulcan planet (this is why they look so similar) and were one race. This is a very clever way to make two independent species represent the two twin brothers," Allfred notes. The Romulans broke away from the Vulcans because they disagreed with their newly formed society of peace and logic. In his blog post, Allfred draws a line between this and Romulus's mythological killing of his brother Remus.

Apart from the general construction of the Star Trek universe, Allfred draws a specific line between the journeys of the Enterprise and the Odyssey. This applies to the long, wandering journey made by Odysseus's ship and the adventures of the Enterprise, the mysterious ability of both crews to find trouble wherever they go, and even their leaders. "Both Odysseus and Kirk are prideful men," explains Allfred. "Strong

leaders that are feared but in several cases both men exhibit excessive pride that doesn't only endanger themselves but also their crew..."

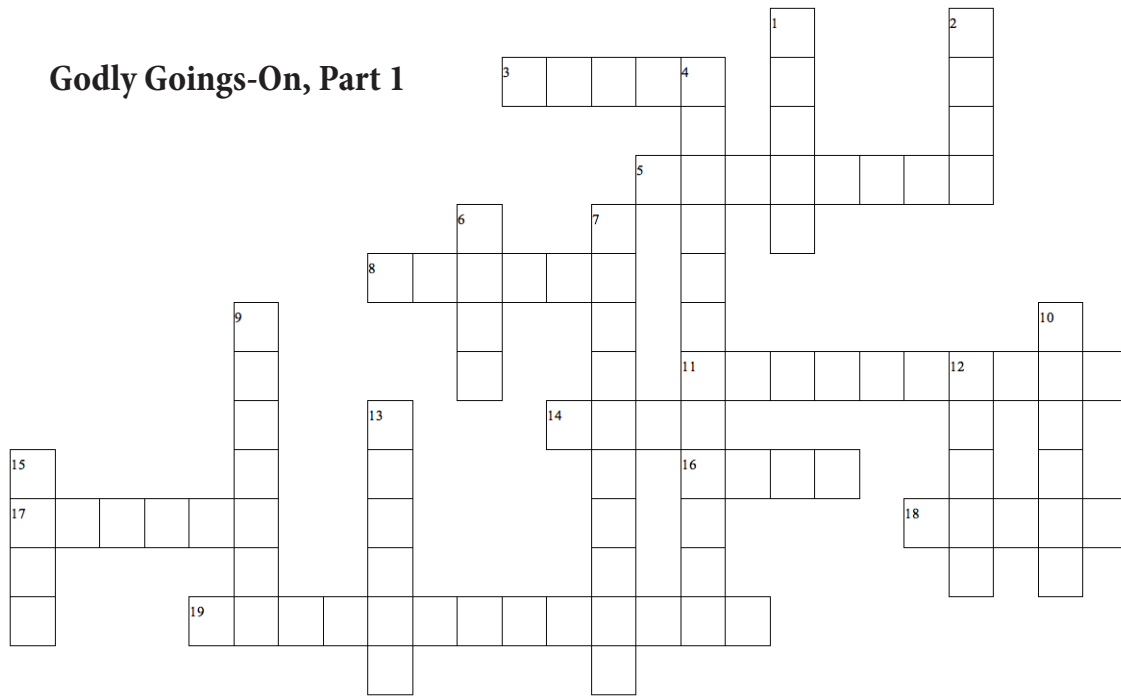
Most strikingly, the original series contains several direct references to Greek and Roman mythology. In season 1, episode 24, the crew encounters spores that behave similarly to mythological lotus plants. The spores seem to have a near-magical healing effect, protecting all they infect from radiation poisoning, but they also cause infected people to have no wants or needs. After being infected with spores, several crew members abandon the ship. Later, in season 2, episode 33, the crew encounters a strange and powerful being who turns out to be Apollo, now the last of the gods.

## THE ARGYLE SWEATER

BY SCOTT HILBURN



## Godly Goings-On, Part 1



### Across

- 3. Number of demigods who serve as judges for the dead
- 5. Last god to enter Olympus and “god of the vine”
- 8. Home of Ares
- 11. God of fire and metalworking
- 14. Mother of the god Apollo
- 16. Number of muses
- 17. Godly representation of the strategic aspects of warfare
- 18. Name that describes both the god and the home of the dead
- 19. Chair of \_\_\_\_\_ (Possession of Hades)

### Down

- 1. Wood of which Hades’s throne is composed
- 2. One of two twin giants who imprisoned Ares for a year
- 4. Half-man, half-serpent offspring of Hephaestus
- 6. Father of Eros (also known as Cupid)
- 7. Only daughter of the goddess Demeter
- 9. Natural formation under which the god of metalworking’s workshop is located
- 10. Creatures employed to torture the guilty
- 12. Weapon with which Ares is typically depicted
- 13. Youngest of the main 12 Greek gods
- 15. Mother of Hermes

