

'Star Trek' fans boldly go into digital video

CNet. News.com/NY Times: **Paul Sieber** was wearing a "Star Trek" uniform in the deep Virginia woods when he found himself surrounded by a leathery-looking gang. Fortunately, the ruffians were dressed up as *Klingons*, and **Sieber**, with a cigarette dangling from his mouth, was preparing to film them with a \$6,000 digital video camera. At times like this, **Sieber**, the writer and director of "Starship Farragut," must come to grips with the obvious--not all *Klingons* are trained actors--and bellow, "Quiet on the set!" From these Virginia woods to the Scottish Highlands, "Star Trek" fans are filling the void left by a galaxy that has lost "Star Trek." For the first time in nearly two decades, television spinoffs from the original 1960s "Star Trek" series have ended, so fans are banding together to make their own episodes. Fan films have been around for years, particularly those related to the "Star Wars" movies. But now they can be downloaded from the Web, and modern computer graphics technology has lent them surprising special effects. And as long as no one is profiting from the work, **Paramount**, which owns the rights to "Star Trek," has been tolerant. (Its executives declined to comment.)