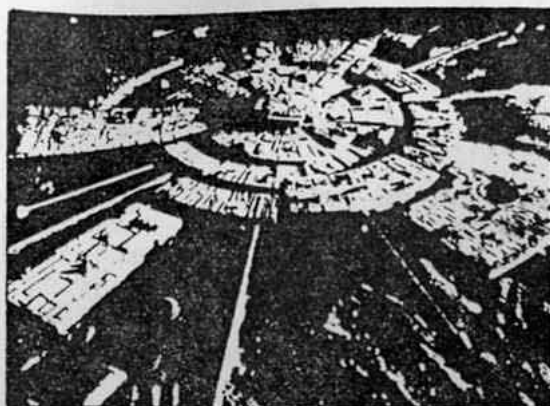
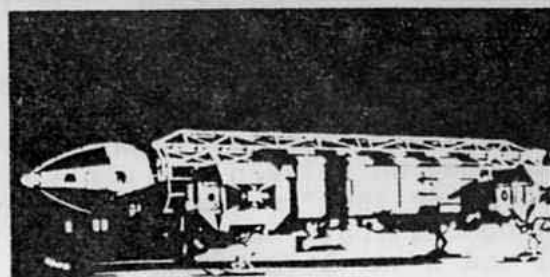
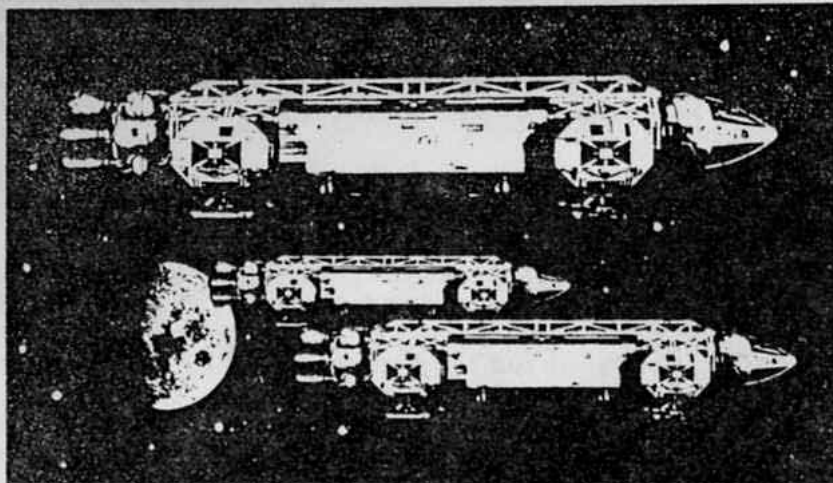




ComLoC 4



JAMES D. DENNEY



ComLoC #4

ComLoC is a Space: 1999 fan publication put out every so often by Piri Press Publishers. This hallowed manuscript is the result of the collection of letters from fans by Pam Beckett and Chuck Raue, editors. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of the editors. Anyway, this issue is dated October 1977. Cost of a copy of this is 50¢ or you can get a subscription of 3 issues for \$1.50.

cover by James D. Denney

This issue of ComLoC is dedicated to Gerry and Sylvia Anderson. The creators of the show that we have all come to love, "Space: 1999".

Letters

Marty Siegrist/2311 Woodview/Lansing, MI 48810 (7/21/77)

ComLoC is IMPROVING. One was promising, two interesting, three is fascinating and I expect the progression to continue. I like the informal, conversational atmosphere of the whole thing and the people here really have something to say. Great. Almost like mailing comments on an APazine, actually, much to and fro discussion. I was tempted to write and comment on some letters in #2, but time didn't permit. It doesn't now, either, but I can't resist...

Kathi Higley: Right on for defending Maya. Her coming into the series, pointed eyebrows and all, and right off becoming science officer was suspiciously reminiscent of Trek (Spock, right?), particularly coming on the heels of the announcement that the Bane of Trek, Freiburger, was the "new blood" promised us by ITC. Aaaaargghh. However, I like the character of Maya, portrayed well by Catherine Schell. Her powers don't seem to be used as a cop-out in the episodes and, as for her facial coloration, has it ever been established that it's all natural coloration? I suffer from the same problem of being able to catch pitifully few 2nd season episodes, but it's never been established that I know of. Perhaps it's not real, and she's just wearing some sort of make-up that way because it conforms to the standards of beauty that existed on Psychon. Maybe it's a variable coloration, different patterns of which would be found on different Psychons. In any event, I find her quite believable as an alien (in fact, she almost leans a bit too far toward the human end of the subjective spectrum). One must not insist that the earth-centric viewpoint is the only one; who knows what was logical or necessary evolution on other planets? (As for Garth in Trek's "Whom Gods Destroy", I don't think I believe in him or the episode. For one thing, I find it hard to believe that Garth or any human could learn molecular transformation from aliens; perhaps he was more along the lines of an illusionist. Besides, any episode that has Spock fretting over telling two Kirks apart when the logical solution would've been to stun them both and figure it out later does not rate genuine credence or recognition.)

J. L. Shevlowitz: The thing that struck me most about "Space Warp" is that there was an apparent connection between her illness and the goings on with the lost Eagle--the way they're juxtaposed throughout the show seems to point to that conclusion. But there is no actual connecting-up done in the episode, and I was left after viewing it with the

distinct feeling that they could have left out her illness and had a good and perhaps more coherent show. And you're right about the Eagles--perhaps they're breeding down there in their little underground nest.... Another show that bothers me is "The Rules of Luton", which is a remake of Strek's "Arena" which is an adaptation of Fredric Brown's short story of the same name, with variations in the ending. There are many ways in which overall themes of conflicting or unknown planetary laws and the question of "kill or be killed" can be handled, so it's disappointing to see '99 follow so closely in Trek's footsteps in that episode.

Well, I could go on with incredibly boring remarks about everything everyone said in #3 for quite some time, but I'm sure you'd rather I didn't. There is one thing that keeps cropping up in all areas of fandom, though, that I'd like to comment on. That is the Enmity Between SF Fandom, Star Trek Fandom, and 1999 Fandom. Oh, you've heard of it? Fascinating, seemingly inexplicable phenomena, right? Why does everyone hate everyone else? It's puzzled me for awhile, because I like all three. I've been into SF since the third grade, when I'd sit around the school library for hours reading Madeline L'Engle books and stories about mushroom planets and teleporting and other fun things like that. I've been watching Trek since I got dragged into a Trek film festival at Moo U here and discovered that it was pretty good TV SF. And I started watching 1999 to see if Barbara Bain's expression would ever change (it did. Twice), and wound up watching 1999 because it was good, interesting, SF. A convert! I'm sure my intellectual history here is thrilling everybody, but the point is that I enjoy all three; why doesn't everyone? I was talking to Mona Delitsky last May about this and we hit upon some sort of an answer. As some folks have said, anyone who is attached to a particular show or character is going to feel threatened by anything coming along that is remotely similar. Many trekkies felt that the advent of 1999 would spoil the chances of Trek revival; 1999ers feel threatened by Trek because 1999 is constantly being denigrated in comparison with Trek (mostly by trekkies). (Trekkies were not entirely to blame for being predisposed to disliking 1999, because advance publicity for 1999 billed it as "the new replacement for Trek" and other similar nonsense) So right away we have two sets of enemy forces.

But there's more to it than feeling threatened in some way. I think the cause for such outright hostility is that the fan who are strictly loyal to one show are not SF fans. They enjoy the show because of one or more of the main characters, or because they like the particular format or gadgets or something. I've heard quite a few trekkies say that they don't like SF in general, they just like Trek itself, and I think that's at least part of the difficulty between the various fandoms. The folks who are intrigued by speculative fiction in general are already aware of the vast number of universes, cultures, ideas, mores, timelines, and aliens that are possible, so they're not as likely to be rigid and inflexible in their views and phobias (I don't think there's a word for "fear of other universes"--uniphobias) as those who haven't had a similar background. Thus, the folk who are into Trek because it's good TV science fiction tend to be more tolerant (if not downright enthusiastic) about 1999. And visa-versa--there are starting to be a few intolerant people in 1999. (The trekkies who wisper IDIC as they condemn 1999 strike me in much the same way as the Christians who preached tolerance as they charged off on the Crusades and instituted the Spanish Inquisition. The idea is great, but it kinda gets lost in the shuffle.) Then, too, there's the element of feeling downtrodden and underdogish. Trekkies are looked down upon by mainstream SF fandom, 1999ers similarly treated, and there's

a feeling of safety and pride in banding together and looking down on everyone else--the herd instinct. We have to get over the xenophobia I suppose before 1999ers and trekkies can come out of the closets without sabers drawn. (Speaking of which, I want a light-saber. You're right, Chuck, "Star Wars" is beautiful stuff.)

I can hear the snoring now, so I'd best cut this off--better late than never as the saying goes. Keep up the good work, fly like an eagle and all that good stuff.

- - -

Judy Shevlowitz/4453 El Camino Corto/La Canada, CA 91011 (2/21/77)

Having read ComLoC #2 and #3 several times each, one thing seems to me to be very apparent. This poor show, literally defenseless against critical people taking target practice at it, is suffering from an epidemic of nitpicking. Things that in Star Trek were taken for granted or talked about with reverence are held against '99 as being inane, or stupid, or crummy. That's hardly fair. A prime example is a criticism I read of some of the production values. It was said that the show was totally inaccurate in that the base is always lighted the same way (brightly) and from the same angle. Out in the depths of space with the inconstant light source of not so nearby stars, that type of thing would be impossible. Granted, that's true. The alternative, however, would be that being accurate, we would see none of the base at all, it being too dark to see anything. That would make for very boring scenes. If one was to follow that logic, though, why is the Enterprise always lighted the same and from the same angle? No one ever mentioned that. It works both ways if you're going to be picky about it, but critics are intent on only picking on '99.

After this little sermon, I'm a little ashamed to admit that I find great pleasure in finding things in the show that are inconsistent, that are completely wrong, or that could've been done better.

For example, did anyone else notice that in "Seed of Destruction" a part several scenes after Koenig's double traded jackets, the original Koenig had on his original jacket and in the scene after that had on the reverse jacket again? That's a blooper they didn't spot. I'm also curious if Landau had his hair parted on the same side throughout the series. I keep forgetting to check.

In my opinion, the conflict between series one and series two fans shows a great lack of maturity. When the show first came on, I tried watching it, but couldn't even force myself to finish watching a single episode and finally gave up. When series two came out, I decided to give it another chance. Lo and behold, I liked the show. I went back and watched the series one reruns when they were shown. I found that there were things I liked about both seasons and things I disliked about both seasons. Each has its own merits. If the series is picked up, I sincerely hope that the producers are smart enough to combine the best of both series. If they did that, they'd wind up with a bigger hit than they'd know what to do with.

This series could be so good if the characters acted with any semblance of compassion for others rather than the notion that only they are right. In the episode "The Bringers of Wonder" all the aliens wanted was the power from the nuclear waste dumps. Ah ha, you snicker to yourselves, they wanted to blow them up which would destroy the moonbase. Well, consider this alternative: the Alphans help the aliens by finding a way to get the nuclear wastes out into deep space. It can be done

because Koenig was more than happy to give them wastes when he thought that was all they wanted. Once in deep space, they put a delayed fuse on it and ignite it out there. The aliens get the energy they need and Alpha gets rid of its nuclear waste problem. In return, the aliens might supply the Alphans with some interesting memories. A fair exchange. The way the show actually ended, what happened to the aliens? They quite probably died due to the lack of energy. Since their deaths were needless, it is the Alphans who are to blame for that exercise in genocide for their unwillingness to negotiate.

At the end of "Brian the Brain" when Koenig said that they could re-program the robot with their morality, I physically cringed, wincing in pain at the idea of a robot like Brian going around the universe with Alphan morality.

My friends and I have come up with a saying for the show...If It's Alien, You Don't Understand It and It Moves---SHOOT IT! (unfortunately, it fits perfectly).

In regard to our friend the "dumb, blind kangaroo", all I have to say is that he had it coming. Any normal person who voluntarily refers to himself as a kangaroo like he did when talking to Etrek is in no position to complain.

Speaking of nitpicking, re: the letter by Sandi Neochi in #3. Koenig is not Kirk's descendant but rather would be his ancestor. If anything, Kirk would be Koenig's descendant. (Does Koenig have a middle name?)

Back to nitpicking episodes: (no, I didn't forget my first paragraph, but, well...)

"One Moment of Humanity"--not really such a bad episode considering what else '99 has been trying to pass off on us. I have a friend who watches '99 every week with me to escape Lawrence Walk at her parents'. While watching this episode, we were both groaning from pain and laughing during the last fifteen minutes. We also engaged in making somewhat snide comments. Frankly, it deserved it. One comment that I made was that it looked like they were dancing. Surprising to find after reading the book that they were. The ending was completely confused. Since Zarl became human, thus breaking the collective mind link, he should not have died (cease to function) as he was no longer a robot. If he died because he was still a robot, the link would not have been broken and he'd still be alive. What if Koenig hadn't gone blind and dumb with jealousy? (He should have only been worried if Helena began to enjoy it. Jealous of a robot? Not unless that robot is a damn sight better than he is.) If Koenig had not hit Zarl, he would have become human in a different, loving non-violent way. The link would have still been broken. It would have made for a much more touching scene, but not one that would have easily gotten past the network censors.

Re: Mona Delitsky. You said that you read the section of Fantastic Television dealing with '99. One of the biggest errors is that they completely mislabeled the still of Koenig in his spacesuit.

Re: Ted Hruschak. Your hope has come true. I, too, am working hard on getting a SF series of my own into the right hands. I have the pilot done in addition to a second episode, a third in the works and seven or eight outlines ready for the treatment stage. One agent turned it down after not coming up with any marketing ideas for it (he's going to be sorry someday) but I'm still plugging away. With the amount of time all that entails, I haven't had the time to do what I was doing before... adapting my two '99 scripts into short stories. (short nothing, the first one ran 54 pages, the second 34, so far.) Once I get the package for my series ready and registered with the Writer's Guild, I'm going to finish

that '99 story and start on a third that's already outlined.

This letter has been written out of a sense of frustration. As of this writing, channel nine in Los Angeles has stopped carrying '99. I don't get the San Diego station so KHJ was the only one. What's worse, that last '99 episode they showed was part one of "Bringers of Wonder". Think about it. That's a weird way to show something.

If any of you have ventured this far and are still awake, thanks for tolerating me this long. For better episodes of '99 on ABC, I'll sign off now.

- - -

Ted Michael Hruschak/2602 Walbrook Ave./Cleveland, OH 44109 (7/27/77)

Good morning class! My name is Prof. Hruschak and this course is entitled FILM APPRECIATION VIA SPACE: 1999. There are no prerequisites other than an open mind, a closed mouth, and a liking for Space: 1999.

Before I begin today's lecture let me state that being a prospective TV writer, and having a natural affinity for arousing controversy, it looks like I've become this magazine's answer to Harlan Ellison (or Rod Serling, Howard Beale, Number Six, Carl Kolchak...) Reading the last issue of ComLoC I couldn't help but notice most of you were ready to tar and feather me and/or burn me in effigy. I had, in reply, a searingly hot answer all ready to go, making mincemeat of your arguments. It was a logical, insulting letter but then I realized what I was doing and got rid of it.

You people almost had me, didn't you? You almost suckered me in. You panned me, mocked me, even plagiarized me--and I was ready to return in kind. Then you would re-pan me, and I would re-pan you, and you would re-pan me, and...well, you get the idea.

Listen, that's not what this magazine is about! If it's going to become a bloody battleground, we might as well change the name to Gettysburg. If I were to go along with the flow, we'd be spending this entire magazine crapping about each others' previous letters, and not writing anything new. Besides which, where do you all get off using personal insults on others' tastes? What this magazine ought to resemble is a scientific journal. You supposedly mature readers are supposed to present your own views and shut up, not comment on the views of others. Have you ever seen authors in a journal insulting each others' articles? Naturally not. Yet may of you are wasting time and space by doing just that. I suggest you say what you have to say on Space: 1999 and don't comment on anybody else's letter. If this situation doesn't change, it will mean the end of an intelligent letterzine like ComLoC...because there'll be so much infighting that the intelligence will be crowded out.

Moving on. I've decided that a much better way of explaining why Space: 1999 is so far superior to Space: 1999--Year Two is not to present counter-charges to the claims of the Year Two fans, but to give them a ratings scale by which to judge the episodes; hence, this lecture. (Notice, too, that I refuse to call the former series Year One anymore. It was never designated that way on the original run; I'll now refer to it as Space: 1999 or the first season or original Space: 1999.) My rating scale is not arbitrary; I did not make it up myself. It's the rating scale taught in many Film Appreciation classes. I feel that with a BA degree in Mass Communications from Cleveland State University I'm rather qualified to pass this along to you. I ask you to listen with an open mind. If you do, you'll very likely surprise yourself by looking at both seasons of Space: 1999 in a different way...seeing things in it

you've never noticed before. Pay attention; there'll be a quiz next period.

Space: 1999 has, at various times in each season, touched on four different aspects of filmmaking: 1) neo-realism, AKA art films; 2) drama; 3) camp; 4) melodrama. On a 0-9 scale in terms of respectability, with 0 being lowest and 9 being highest, neo-realism is 9, drama an 8, camp approximately a 6 and melodrama a 2. I now intend to show you why the original Space: 1999 occupies the top two categories, neo-realism and drama, while Year Two resides in the bottom of the four, melodrama.

Neo-realism, or art, is the highest film form, the domain of geniuses like Stanley Kubrick, Federico Fellini, and Ingmar (not Victor) Bergman. In this the film has a message, which it conveys to its audience through the use of symbols, and their interrelationships with the characters in the film. Example: Space: 1999

First season, of course. The episode "Black Sun". Alpha is approaching a black sun (I refuse to call it a hole) and Koenig and Victor have built a force field to try to protect the base from it. As they are about to enter the sun, Victor brings out a bottle of sixty year old brandy he'd been saving for the proper occasion. They drink it just as they pass through the black sun, and strange things begin to happen. Time slows. Koenig and Victor age. And a voice speaks to them. Many of you, especially Year 2 people, look at that and say, "That's idiotic. They're not explaining why any of that happened!" Patience. A lot went over your heads.

There's a heck of a lot of symbolism going on in that one five minute scene. Let's take it backwards, step-by-step. Victor asked it, "Are you ...God?", and it didn't answer. That should have been your first clue that the presence was God. I support my theory thusly. God is them most powerful being in the universe. Well, the most powerful thing we know of is a black sun. Can we not equate the two, to say that a black sun might be the intelligent force that we call God? Let's examine the time suspension, aging, and telepathy. Time had to be slowed so they could talk to God, obviously, but there is another factor. Normally man does not meet God until he is on the verge of death; so Koenig and Victor had to be accelerated there to find him. The telepathy was obvious; God doesn't need a voice to speak. Even the drinking of the brandy was symbolic--Eucharistic wine! Symbolism of the force field? Well, people, even in the year 1999 humans are not perfect. The Alphans feared the black sun because they didn't understand it; so they built a barrier between it and them. They didn't know it at the time, but their fears were keeping them from becoming one with God. Even when they entered the black sun they kept themselves isolated from it. So, though they communed with God, they never really touched Him. All because of Man's instinct to fear everything he does not understand.

Another example, this time from "The Testament of Arkadia". Why were Luke Ferro and Anna Davis chosen to re-populate Arkadia? Anna because she was the only one who could translate the sanskrit tablet in the first place. But what about Luke? Is it just coincidence that Luke appears right at the beginning of the episode, in the kendo match? No, whoever went down to the planet with Anna had to be able to conquer Koenig first. In the kendo match Luke bested Koenig at a game of brains and physical strength. He might have been the only man on Alpha that could have defeated Koenig and pulled off the eagle heist, and that's why the Arkadians chose him to help re-populate the planet. The fact that both of these people were on the reconnaissance team was not coincidence. The Arkadians were reaching out to control the computer. They knew the two

Alphans they wanted.

Have you given any thought to the symbolism behind the names on Space: 1999? "Arkadia"--the dictionary defines an "arcadian" existence as one that is carefree and serene. Remember the planet Ariel from "Last Sunset" that tricked the Alphans into not colonizing it? In Shakespeare Ariel is the prankish spirit in "The Tempest". Catch the analogy? Both the planet and Shakespeare's spirit were trouble makers. Ultima Thule (from "Death's Other Dominion") means ultimate north; quite appropriate. Meta (from "Breakaway") means beyond reach, which it certainly was. Xeno (in "Missing Link" spelled Zenno) means strange or foreign. All of these planet names were telegraphing things about the episodes in advance.

Not all the episodes of the original Space: 1999 were as good as "Arkadia" or "Sun", but the rest came close. If the acting was played down, it was so you would concentrate more on the symbolism and not be influenced by artificial tension. When you consider the amount of intelligence that must go into the producing this high quality programming, you begin to understand why I have the utmost respect for Gerry and Sylvia Anderson.

Several last points on neo-realism. First, neo-realistic films almost always look deceptively simple on the surface, but are unbearably complex underneath. Don't feel that badly if you didn't notice the brilliance of "Black Sun". You're in the company of Isaac Asimov, Ben Bova, Spider Robinson, Baird Searles, Cleveland Amory, and a thousand other so-called critics who really should have known better. Also, don't say I'm crazy and that I'm reading things into the plot that aren't there. People go to films like "2001" and see fifty or sixty different symbols, and if you want to believe that they weren't deliberately planted there, well...what can I say?

A final qualification. My interpretation of these episodes are not necessarily the right ones. The reason all artists leave the symbolism vague deliberately and don't explain it is so that the symbols can be whatever you want them to be. It's sort of a celluloid Rorschach test; there is no right answer. Having different people come up with different theories on the meaning of a film makes it much more interesting and it also tells the viewer something about himself, about what made him interpret the film that way. The only way vagueness and symbolism can become dull in a movie is if you the viewer are too lazy and unimaginative to come up with your own interpretation. And that's your fault, not the producers'.

The next form of film is drama. The "man vs. " story. Man vs. man; man vs. nature; man vs. machine. There is a character conflict over moral issues, and the social impact of important discoveries is demonstrated. An example of the latter is "Testament of Arkadia" again. Koenig had been wondering if there was any purpose to existence, any reason for being. By the end of the episode, he'd found out that all of what happened had been predestined. That's a heavy impact on your life...to see two people fulfilling their destinies, and to know that yours still awaits you out there. As for character conflict, such conflict between two people must embody the two opposing moral viewpoints. Like the Alphans and the Darians ("Mission of the Darians") arguing over which is more moral....cannibalization in order to perpetuate the species, or the death of the species with dignity, without descending into animalistic behaviors. Or the intra-Alphan argument over immortality in "Death's Other Dominion"; or Tony Cellini against a disbelieving world world in "Dragon's Domain". Often in drama, there

may be lines which do not make sense until placed into context. We don't understand lines like "Thule is a jealous woman, and she'll never let us go," and "We have no fear here," until we've seen the end of "Death's Other Dominion" and "War Games". If you the viewer haven't the patience to wait until then, and reflect back upon the episode, too bad! Sometimes a line near the end of a first season show will give the whole moral straightaway. "No, my dear Gwent. You were wrong from the beginning. To want to preserve oneself for eternity is the highest vanity." "We must keep faith and trust that for us, for all Mankind, there is a purpose."

Admittedly, Year 2 has attempted some drama. However, Fred Freiberger's conception of drama is hopelessly amateur. If there were moral arguments, they didn't contain the brilliant lines of the first season. They were almost always blunted severely by being cliched. (Look at the otherwise good "The A B Chrysalis" for example) And often times, the two opposing moral views were laughable. In "The Metamorph", the morals in conflict were "It's wrong to kill if you feel like it," and "It's right to kill if you feel like it." We know it's wrong to kill for any reason; unnecessary to tell us that. Couldn't Freiberger come up with a more controversial question than that? The same thing went for almost every Year 2 episode.

Camp is something that's so bad, it's good. It's the same as melodrama, only camp takes the melodramatic points and exaggerates them to the point of comic absurdity. The only instance Year 2 was camp was unfortunately unintentionally. In the "To Be Continued" tag of "Bringers of Wonder, part one", the alien BEM slobbers all over Koenig like a german shepherd. It looked at Koenig as if he were a potato chip. Everybody watching with me started laughing! The only good example of doing camp right in SF was the much-lamented "Lost in Space", in which there were many examples of intelligent satire.

Melodrama is the last film form. Unless accompanied by something extra special, such as special effects a la Irwin Allen, melodrama is terrible. All it is is a formula story to scare you, anger you, or make you cry. No message can be found underneath. While Year 2 tried to do dramatic stories, as I said the dramas were cliched, so there was no impact from the message. Therefore, the stories fell into this category. There was a lot of running around, chasing after monsters, cracking jokes, and making love, but there was nothing underneath it. By the end of the episode you ask "Why have I been shown this? What am I supposed to learn from it? So what?" Now, there is nothing wrong with a good, simple melodrama. But why should Space: 1999 come down to this level when it was doing art and drama?

Your assignment is to look over all of the episodes again in light of this information. You might just find your opinions of Space: 1999 and Year 2 changing. I hope you'll be pleasantly surprised. And from now on, direct your opinions to us all and not to just one person. Don't give us the insulting claptrap we got in issue #3. Present a counter theory. Be intelligent. Class dismissed!

Vivian Stanley/Box 1572/Jasper, Alberta, Canada TOE 1EO (8/2/77)

I've noticed in reading ComLoC that a lot of people loved Victor. Well, I'm a great fan of Barry Morse too and would like to hear from other fans. Also, anyone interested in helping with or joining a Barry Morse/Victor Bergman fan club? - - -

Anthony Allen/101 E. Poe St./Apt. 5/Richmond, VA 23222 (8/3/77)

Greetings Alphans! I'm a Trekker and an Alphan as well as a general SF fan. Hey, how about Alphies as another titled for us? As for this feuding--you silly galactic kangaroos, or as Space Ghost would say, Kangaloids. Well, Maya shouldn't look that way huh? Her makeup looks stupid, huh? Compared to what? As for her abilities being a "cop-out" or "Comicsbookville"...I think her abilities enhance crisis situations as well as compliment an already refreshing character. I'm very sure there were a few giggles when Spock was first seen; his pinch and mind meld could be considered "Comicsbookville" as well. You Earth chauvinists--cracking on dear Maya--for shame!! I ought to get Blackula to bite you in the clavicle!

The show. I personally enjoyed the special effects and settings of both seasons--fantastic as usual. In my view the shortcomings of the first seasons were as follows: '99 was just too low key. All those eagles and planets blowing up...ugh! And then the planetary disasters--earthquakes, landslides,--yeeecch! And then all that strange space phenomenon! Also, do you remember the awesome security force? However, the first season has its beautiful moments. For me second season '99 was the topper! Many of the wrong things in the first season were corrected and no longer were you asked to accept the "mysterious force" explanation of why things occurred--though many scientific principles were left vague. Of course, ideas that affected the plot were usually clear. There was also more of a sense of community and everybody was given a chance to do their number--unlike on Trek. There our dynamic trio Kirk-Spock-McCoy would come to the rescue and poor Uhura had to play little Lady Milquetoast or open hailing frequencies or just sit around not taking over the helm. Back to '99, both seasons were beautifully unique, almost like different shows, and have a praiseworthy quality of their own. Both make '99 complete.

Spacers should feel pride at being part of the Alphan experience. If there isn't another '99 season, well, the two are something to be treasured.

Seriously now. The focus of '99 or any other piece of SF art should be the art itself and not how cute Spock's ears are, how attractive you think Maya's makeup is, or wishing to one day fire Alan's stun gun (sorry, Pam!) (ED NOTE: no problem, my friend). There is more to science fiction than just Gene Roddenberry's or Gerry Anderson's universes.

Why are some of you Spacers so belligerent? Look, whether it's SF or whatever all dramas have their drawbacks. If it's on television and by chance happens to be science fiction, it could drive you space happy if you're the producer. Now Trek happens to be an awesome phenomenon and a legend--as '99 is becoming. But neither Trek or '99 is the pinnacle of science fiction achievement. Remember, Trekkers--SF was originally written for the masses just like "Time Tunnel", "The Invaders", and just like the current "Star Wars". SF has proven itself a valid subculture. But is Trekdom to be considered seriously a single, solid, consistent subculture or is it more of an obsession or a fetish? The way you Spacers bicker...if you angry Alphans are representative of Spacedom...hey, should we even try to organize under our interest in '99? There's a difference between a viable, healthy subculture and just the illusion of one.

'99 and Trek were only television series. Television is the medium which conveys it to you. Television has a way of bringing an artificial intimacy and friendship where none ever was. Characterization serves the purpose of simply telling the story. You do anything necessary to get

an hour's worth of entertainment in so short a time. Effort is made to keep them as constant as possible, but the first thing is that hour's entertainment. Maya, Tony, and the others are formed very much by the writers involved. Any good story changes the characters somewhat in terms of their background or in the ways they react. The creation of a series is a communal effort by writers, producers, directors, and actors. If you have found characteristics that you like in Maya or Tony or whoever, the actors were doing something instinctively that you as a viewer perceived. Still, the first and foremost purpose in any television series is to entertain--which is very difficult, almost verging on mission impossible (sorry, folks).

This over examination of the relationships and so on has to be rhetorical. Relationships serve the purpose of creating a piece of fiction. There is no constant in series television. All this silly bickering makes this all sound like it has a great deal of impact. Really, it doesn't--at least not to the degree many of you seem to think it does.

The thing of import for Trekkers and/or '99ers is that we share the joy and beauty of these pieces of art and other SF. Of possibly greater import is that we share deep friendship that has been opened up for so many of us, for so many of us who hungered to reach out a create a peoplehood. In and through fandom many people have found countless treasures to enrich their lives: friendships, books, ideas, and even new outlooks.

I see Trek's great subvocal message as one of great optimism--there will be a future and a grand one at that. '99's message is that even if the moon does get out of Earth's orbit and hurled into outer space, there can be love, equality, and joy--when all else seems to work against you.

Do we have to really have to knock the moon out of orbit to get the drift of the message of Space: 1999? Nah, I hope not! Everybody is a star--twinkle, twinkle baby! Any my love to you all.

Patti Cullen/RFD #1/33 Lakeside Rd./Mt. Kisco, NY 10542

Greetings to all my fellow Alphans...and it would seem, after reading ComLoC #3, that hell hath no fury like a Space fan who's ticked off! Heavens, what tempers! Oh, but I'll be the first to admit that people (especially fen) do like to sound off on their favorite subjects and defend ideas that are dear to them. However, I agree with Phyl Proctor and Eileen Skidmore that we should all calm down a bit, stop screaming at each other and the Trekkers, and get down to some good stuff....

Shall we stretch our imaginations and share some ideas and theories? It seems like Alpha is always losing eagles, yet they seem to be in good supply. Where do all those replacements come from? (Virginia Walker once said, "They lay eggs!")

How about this: if Mentor taught Maya the secret of molecular transformation, and she was going to teach it to Dorzak, can it be taught to humans, or are their mental powers too limited?

In reply to J. L. Shevlovitz's letter: why so many ("accident prone") security people on Alpha? Well, perhaps they had a minimum force back in the good old days before 9/13/99. But then, traveling in unknown space, confronting so many strange situations, wouldn't it seem like a good idea to increase the number of security guards? Take some people whose jobs might be superfluous on the "new Alpha" and retrain them. Add to them the guards they started with and that is a lot of purple sleeves. AH, HA! It's probably those new trainees who keep getting killed off!

(See how much fun it is to speculate?)

You got the idea...this is the kind of thing that kept trekdom going for so long...fans filling in the gaps. If we can write stories for all the '99 fanzines and read 'em and like 'em (or dislike 'em) we can discuss them in these hallowed pages (ED NOTE: gee, thanks sweetie for the compliment) and see some real action. If '99 is going to keep alive through its fans, it'll get awfully boring very quickly if we spend all our time arguing over favorite stars and favorite years.

One other thing...I have found homes for Mike Reyes' stories; keep an eye out for them in 'zines like Pesarius and Moonbeam. I still would like to hear from people who want The Loner reprinted.

Chuck Raue/804 Rowell St./Mobile, AL 36606 (8/8/77)

I would like to state my agreement with Kathy Stear's comment concerning the Maya-losses-her-powers discussion she brought up in ComLoC #2 and my disagreement with Sandi Necchi's comment on the same subject in ComLoC #3. First of all, the reason I disagree with Sandi is that I don't believe that molecular transformation is a natural ability that all Psychons are born with and that all can master. After repeatedly listening to my tape of "The Metamorph" and from things said in a number of episodes this season, I have come to the conclusion that molecular transformation is an artificial power that Psychons can obtain via the biological computer Psyche. If Maya's powers are indeed derived from Psyche's influence her powers should fade. There is some basis for this conclusion. In some episodes Maya has begun to have trouble transforming and, at least in the order they were shown here in Mobile, the amount of difficulty Maya experienced increased as the episodes progressed. The first incident was in "The A B Chrysalis" when Maya had trouble both turning into and leaving the form of the Krenno chlorine creature. It took her a few moments to take on the form and then she had to be coaxed on by Koenig to leave that form. Then in "All That Glisters" Maya was easily able to assume the shape of the rock creature but she had a great deal of trouble leaving it. The next problem occurred in "The Bringers of Wonder, part two" when Maya experience a bit of trouble becoming one of the alien creatures and then had serious difficulty trying to get out of the transformation. Finally was the segment in "The Dorcons" when Maya is turning into a bird but is unable to do so (and when has she ever had trouble turning into a bird???). From these incidents it would seem that Maya's loss of ability is a progressive condition that would continue to worsen as time went on. Okay, my explanation works fine except for one little stumbling block: "Dorzak". In this episode we see another Psychon, Dorzak, utilize the power of molecular transformation without Psyche. How do I get by that one? Simply, I ignore the episode. Reasons for this are 1) the episode doesn't coincide with the facts presented in previous episodes concerning molecular transformation, 2) the episode was written by Christopher Penfold who hadn't written any other episodes since Year One so perhaps he was not as familiar with Maya's complete background in reference to her powers, 3) this episode was one of the ones done near the end of the season when they were really rushed to get the shows out on schedule (this was also one of the episodes that was shot "Doubled over". It was being shot while "Devil's Planet" was being filmed.) and seeing that they were in a rush it is possible that they didn't check the scripts as carefully as they should have for flaws and format errors. "Dorzak" is a fair episode but personally I consider it a sort of "alternate universe" story. So, taking all these factors into

account, I feel that if we are given a third season of 1999 we will see a complete disappearance of Maya's powers. Although I like the character of Maya I do feel her powers have gotten a bit out of hand and a loss of her powers would not only be an improvement in the overall character of but it would also intersect a good portion of emotion and character interaction in the episode(s) that spanned the loss of her powers.

John Canfield/5522 Loranger/Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (8/9/77)

I just finished ComLoC #3 and it was great. Having read many fanzines I like ComLoC simply because it is fans speaking their minds (and 1999 fans can do some speaking!). Ah, yes. Remember in ComLoC #2 somebody mentioned that Shermeen was much too young to be a true Alphan? Hey, I got an answer! (And I did it all by my lonesome.) Shermeen's father worked on Alpha and Shermeen was there visiting him when the moon was blown out of Earth's orbit. Trapped there, she was put to work in hydroponics because she grew plants back on old Terra. Later, her old man was zapped by one of the many baddies we've met in the past two years. (Whew!)

Ingrid Naack/30 W. Edsall Blvd./Palisades Park, NJ 07650 (8/9/77)

Hi again. I have a few things in mind that I want to say.

Re: Ted Hruschak. I have heard no complaints against Year 2 1999 stories. I think that on the most part they are better than Year 1; the acting is definitely better. Besides, if you thought that, quote, "the show has been all but dead from "The Metamorph" on", unquote, why did you watch it?

You also wanted to know why Alan Carter was so popular. In my opinion, he is the best portrayed character and one of the most outgoing. Also, to answer your question "do female viewers find him terribly sexy or what?"--right on, old boy!

Re: Pam Beckett. There were two errors in your comments on "One Moment of Humanity". 1) the female alien's name was Zamara, not Zahara, 2) and she was portrayed by Billie Whitelaw not Whitehall. (ED. NOTE: message received and thanks)

Anybody else out there think that Sahala ("Dorzak") would have made a good regular on the series?

Re: Phyl Proctor. Your letter was terrific and naturally I agree totally. If one really likes a show, one should like everything about it and everyone in it--not be divided into warring groups liking different things. The fighting should be reserved for the networks! Like Phyl said, no war can be fought on two fronts at once.

A note of interest on which I'll close. Two actresses who have guested on 1999 are now working together on "Foldark" being shown on PBS's MASTERPIECE THEATER--Jill Townsend (Sahala) and Judy Geeson (Regina from "Another Time, Another Place").

Burke Wiggins/5236 Bubbling Wells Ln./La Canada-Flintridge, CA 91011 (8/9/77)

Hello there fellow Nick Tate fans! This is the escapee from The Lawrence Welk Show (or the Geritol to lunch bunch); refer to Judy Shevlowitz's letter in the first part of this issue. I'm an Aussie who's found herself transplanted to southern California. I have a few things to say about Space: 1999, then I'll go away like a good "dumb, blind kangaroo".

Sorry, I couldn't resist that.

First, I think I have a few good phrases for '99 fans. Do you ever get the urge to shout back at those untrained Trekkies? Well, if you do merely say "Alphas do it better and do it right!". It ought to keep them quiet for a few minutes. Or in the interests of referring to oneself as a member of a group of '99 fans--how about "Spacers", "Lunnies", or "Space Cases"?

Just kidding folks. Don't send me back to the outback!

Secondly, I wish to be among those few who realize that dear Alan does have rank and that it is of CAPTAIN. So the nits who insist that he should be referred to as "Mister Carter" should be advised. I quite agree that Tony will get no easter basket from me either if he refers to Alan a "dumb, blind kangaroo". But no matter how much I love Nick I must admit that he let himself in for it. Remember "The Mark of Arch-anon"?

I think that they should be forced to use the credibility factor (from Gene Roddenberry) for something other than writing on the W.C. (ED NOTE: W.C. is the British term for water closet...toilet, y'all) walls. One must admit that some of the Year 2 episodes lacked something called a believable plot. For instance, the 'droid in "Beta Cloud" should have at least shouted out if they were pouring all that power at him. Also, c'mon people--give Maya some talent for brains. One would hope that a Psychon would figure out that if a creature has no life signs then it is not a live beasty, but a dead beasty that doesn't know it yet, or a robot/droid. Wouldn't one?

I hope that everyone out there is writing to ABC to get Space: 1999 back on for a third year. Oh, for those interested, Nick's latest movie is entitled "Summerland".

May the Force be with you and fly like an eagle (but don't land like them; they crash a lot). Anyone for a donation to the Alan Carter Flight Training Lessons Fund?

Kathi Lynn Higley/154 Hewitt Rd./Mystic, CT 06355 (8/9/77)

Well, here I am back again. Guess I'm just trying to vie with Pam as "the mouth of Alpha" (when you're number two you've got to try harder...)

Okay! Firstly I want to thank both Lisa Putman and Tom Chafin of ComLoC #3 for their concern over my lack of Space: 1999. But their kindness was for naught; for--lo and behold--since writing that letter of lamentation (which appeared in ComLoC #2) a miracle has occurred. I CAN WATCH SPACE! The explanation for said miracle and how it occurred is a long, complicated bit of logistics which I don't want to bore anybody with but the fact remains that I can watch the show fairly regularly. Believe me, I have been watching the reruns with a real vengeance! That is, when the local station doesn't pre-empt them for assorted earth-shattering athletic events such as the Semi-Annual Toupee-Tossing Tournament or Pygmy Toe Wrestling Finals or the Navel Lint Picking Championship. *sigh* At any rate, Lisa and Tom's moral support was greatly appreciated and I hope they'll be as overjoyed to hear of my good fortune as I am.

Now to get to the nitty-gritty of this LoC...

Re: J. J. Shevlowitz's comments concerning Maya's illness in "Space Warp" and the impossibility of her so much as getting the sniffles because "Alpha, bless it's sole (sic), has a sterilized, controlled atmosphere." I'm no scientist...God knows I barely scrapped by in the one year of chemistry I was crazy enough to try to take in high school. But the only truly sterile atmosphere I've ever heard of was outer space

(plus a laboratory-controlled vacuum). Nothing can grow or survive in them because there's no air and even the most minute bacterium needs oxygen. So Alpha cannot have that much of a sterile environment that an alien introduced into it could not become ill. As to why we don't see Maya similarly affected earlier in the show or again after "Space Warp"...how many people do you know who get the chicken pox or the mumps twice? Couldn't what afflicted Maya be of a similar nature; a one-time deal brought on by exposure to the germs in Alpha's atmosphere that Maya's anti-bodies received an immunity from immediately after one attack? Yes, I know. This is a lot of ordinary nit-picking on my part and Lord only knows J. J. is certainly entitled to question the validity of that particular episode--but I think I should warn everybody that when it comes to Maya I'm like a mother bear with an endangered cub. But then, I'm like that where Alan's concerned too....

Which somehow brings me to Ted Micheal Hrucshak's comment that "All he (Alan) does is fly eagles and occasionally jump on bad guys. What's so great about that?" Oiy! You certainly don't wish to live very long, do 'ya Teddy? Making statements like that within Pam's earshot sounds suicidal to me! (ED NOTE: amen!) But as one of those "female members of the audience" who are "so inexplicably bonkers" I shall attempt to explain why I like Alan Carter....

Actually you've already partly explained why with your comment of "Granted, he's one of the few good characterizations left." He is. In fact, it's the three-dimensional portrayal Nick Tate gives of that pig-headed loyal Aussie that makes that "good characterization"! See, not only is Alan terribly sexy, he's a believable man; a man loyal to his friends when all evidence points to the fact that they don't deserve his loyalty, a man capable of bear-hugging a friend returning from a dangerous mission, a man capable of loving an alien child. He's a man unafraid of showing how he feels toward a friend or foe and I can identify with that because that's the way I am myself. And if you can tell me that you couldn't "see" that in Alan in all the episodes he was in I really think you're blind in your mind's eye! For Alan does much more than fly eagles and jump on bad guys--just as Commander Koenig does much more than get hysterical at the least threat to Alpha and orders the eagles into battle and Doctor Russel does more than shove tongue depressors into people's mouths and push aspirins and Tony does more than be suspicious of everybody, make bad beer and lust after Maya and just as Maya herself does more than change into various critters and out compute the computer! Generalizing about people whether in real life or in fictional existence does a disservice to them. It's like saying all Polish people are dumb, all blacks are pimps, all whites WASP's, all Irish folk drunks... See what I mean? Actually, I do believe, Teddy, that you made that comment only to ruffle our feathers and not seriously. At least I hope so! I'd hate to think you do react to only the surface mannerisms of the Space characters without seeing the depths in each one of them.

I believe a good point was made when it was said that we Space fans need a common title. I'm rather partial to "SPACER", myself. But I'll key you in on a little secret... Were you aware that the more discriminating Trekkies and/or Trekkers refer to themselves as Trek-fen (fen being the plural of fan)? 'Tis true, for Trekkie has come to mean a type of gum-chewing groupie fan who isn't interested in the cerebral aspects of the show but would prefer to faint at the feet of Shatner or Nimoy. Trekker has come to be associated (at least in my mind) with the hardcore dissectors of the who who analyze every aspect of the show and argue amongst themselves about everything. There's no intermediate title for the fan who like a mule is neither one nor the other but a combination of

the two. Hence the term Trek-fen or Trek-fan which doesn't lump you into either category. So I guess in the case of the Space fans finding a title for themselves, we should learn something from the Trek-fen and determine which will be our "groupie" title, which our "cerebral" title, and which our "mule" title---anyone care to do the determining?

To all of you in ComLoC #3 who insisted that we cease feuding and present a united front to the critical world--bravo! I couldn't have stated it better myself. 'Corse the chances of an entire critical world reading ComLoC and throwing our feuds back into our faces are slim at best; I really can't find any harm in our feuding the privacy of our own little letterzine. But I think it's great that we're willing to forget our differences in order to reach a desired goal. I just wish the world's governments could learn to do the same. Really, kids, so long as no blood is shed and we can air our differences good-naturedly and non-abusively I can't see why we can't continue to differ. I mean, if we all start agreeing on everything not only would it be against human nature but ComLoC would be one dull 'zine! I do promise, however, that should I ever meet a Space fan in the flesh who differs with me I won't brawl with him/her in public but will embrace them as a brother and take them to a quiet corner and then punch them out!!

To Donna Lotze and Ingrid Maack a big hug and kiss (an no, I'm not one of "them") for helping me defend our resident Psychon in ComLoC #3. It's nice to know that somebody else likes that poor kid and is willing to accept her for what she is without question. And...with that I say so long!

Richard Robinson/P.O. Box 172/Dardanelle, AR 72834 (8/12/77)

Since my letter in ComLoC #2 had a little effect in #3 (like that of an H-bomb), I decided to try again...I know how that thrills some of you.

Let me see--#3 was dedicated to Nick Tate (Alan Carter)... Well, I'll pass that one up.

RE: Ms. Higley--You are absolutely right...who am I so question Maya's appearance? On the other hand, who are you to stick up for her? I am a Trek-fan...yet I do not go around defending Spock (in fact, I can't stand the character of Spock--and I think his makeup looks silly at times, too.)

Dear Donna Lotze: you have no idea what it does for my ego to have you reply to my letter in such a whole-hearted way. Fine, if you like Maya's 'sideburns' and eyebrows that's your business and I respect your opinion. But--if you were an alien, would you honestly like to look like Maya? (I sure would hate to look like Spock.)

You are absolutely right--I publicly admit defeat on the American remark. However, I have never been to Canada and I have no way of knowing how smart Canadians are (but that is besides the point; I didn't think of that when I wrote the letter). I sincerely hope that the average Canadian is smarter than the average American--because I think the average American is rather stupid...

Donna--I consider you one of the special people since you do not hate Trek. Most '99ers (or most of the ones I've had contact with) do. Contrary to popular belief I do not hate '99. I have a lot of complaints about it (JUST AS I DO ABOUT TREK) but that doesn't mean I do not like the show--in fact, I am a very big fan of the show. It is simply that I cannot stand Maya, Alan, or Koenig (by the same token, I cannot stand Kirk or Spock). And I would watch '99 regularly if it was shown here (just as you would Trek).

RE: Lisa Putman--arched? Yes, I agree with you. Spock's eyebrows arched and his ears pointed--fine.

I do feel that Trek is superior to '99. Just as I feel that '99 is highly superior to "The Man From Atlantis" or "Fantastic Journey". That doesn't mean I don't like them--I'm just picky.

As to the reason why I miss '99, because it was not carried here for the second season. I thought that was clear in the first sentence of my letter.

Two things disturbed me about #3. First of all, I read people correcting Pam on her "crazy kangaroo" mistake until I thought I would throw up. (ED NOTE: 3 corrections in #3, and I appreciate the caring...so you can stop it already) Also, isn't about time that ComLoC moved on to something more important than the '99 vs Trek feud. It's obvious that neither side is going to back down so what's the use?

Now that I've stirred up everyone all over again, I have to get back to my bomb shelter to avoid the fallout. I'm looking forward to seeing what people have to say about my letter this time.

Matt Butts/4567 Cerise Avenue/New Orleans, LA 70127 (8/18/77)

Greetings from the planet Earth! After reading ComLoC #3 I decided to write a letter to this fine publication and throw in my two cents (which, with inflation, isn't worth much!).

First, I would like to say something to all of those "Year 1" or "Year 2" fans. But I am a Christian so I won't say it.

Looking at the individual episodes is tolerable (since that is possible in a syndicated show) but why condemn the whole of Year 2 just because of "The Taybor" or "Brian the Brain"?

Consider "The Metamorph". Although Mentor seemed rather passive during most of it, Maya came off just as I had expected her to. When she found out what Daddy was doing, she suddenly realized that this was wrong--the first step toward the maturity she showed in the rest of the episodes. I didn't see the eagle in the very beginning; I was fiddling with my tape recorder. But I hear it was bad. But I really didn't care. It was the acting that counted.

Then our station showed two more good episodes: "The Exiles" and "Journey to Where". Those I found very nice. Tony was exceptionally well done in the latter.

Disaster came suddenly: "The Taybor". Excuse me while I down a bottle of Pepto-Bismol. The character was revolting, but some of the script was quite imaginative. The special effects were good, too.

After that Space: 1999 reached its greatest indignity: "Brian the Brain". What was the use of that episode? It was so cliched I felt like throwing myself through an airlock. My God, Gerry, what are you letting that clown do up there?

"All That Glisters": tacky, very tacky. For a while I hoped that rock would kill Tony. Then Maya would have come to her senses and started flirting with Alan.

ALL RIGHT ALREADY! That's enough criticism!

But now that it's on its way out (ABC, there's still time), Space: 1999 is going to be forgotten by a lot of people (hopefully we true Spacers won't forget it). Space did a lot of things for us. I myself made many friends through it. And it has started God-only-knows how many 'zines... one of which I edit. Keep it up, y'all, 'cause as long as one 'zine carries on, Space: 1999 will never die!

Kathy Stear/1437 W. Taylor/Chicago, IL 60607 (8/18/77)

Sniff, sob, etc. My local TV station--WGN Continental Broadcasting

Channel 9, Chicago--took it seriously when they got the word that Space: 1999 had been cancelled. They pulled it off the air completely. Didn't even show the re-runs this summer. And I did so look forward to seeing John plant that smacker on Helena in "Journey to Where" again. Now I guess I'll never see Part 1 of "Bringers of wonder". I'm so upset. Please feel sorry for me.

I just got my copy of Catch the Final Sunrise. It's really good. I feel like I've been waiting for it forever. Not that it took that long to come, you understand. I just wanted it so badly! Anyhow, the final product justifies all that anticipation. The story's so good. The characters are real. They interact like you'd expect them to. And, best of all, no matter who you love they are there. Nobody got slighted. I have to give Deborah Walsh a lot of credit. Just writing a story of that length is a big old job. But then she went and did all those pictures. Sit down and put your feet up for a minute, Deb. You deserve it.

Trivia question. Just to satisfy my own curiosity, does anybody know how many Alphans there are now? What did they start our with, 311 or so? Well, they've killed off an awful lot of them. So how many are left?

Something really neat has been happening as a result of ComLoC. First I've been catching a lot of opinions and ideas from other Space fans and expressing my own in return. Here comes the neat part. All of a sudden I'm getting letters that start, "You don't know me, but I read your letter in ComLoC and do you want to be penpals?" Wow! I love it. I really feel like I'm getting a lot of my money.

Last, and certainly not least, I've decided not to point out to Pam that Tony really called Alan a "dumb, blind kangaroo". (ED NOTE: gee, thanks, Kathy!)

Mona Delitsky/ c/o Dept. of Chemistry/University of Michigan/Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (8/18/77)

Well, ComLoC is getting more interesting every time. It's good to see lots of people getting into the act expressing their opinions and also good to see more Space: 1999 fans. However, some people have to grow up and stop making personal attacks on the writers. Some of the comments made against Ted Hruschak or myself personally reveal the childishness of the people who made them. If you want to disagree with someone, fine, but stop making comments about the person himself. It degrades the quality of ComLoC.

There's only one person's letter in ComLoC #3 that I feel duty bound to make comment on. About Sandi Necchi's letter! Sheesh! Chuck and I discussed the letter and he told me that his initial reaction to it. As he read the letter he kept saying "Yes! Yes!" agreeing with everything you said. THEN, he got to the paragraph about "The A B Chrysalis" which to him (and to me) seems totally out of place after all the intelligent comments you made about Year 1 and our favorite villian Freddie Freiburger (you ought to hear Chuck foam at the mouth about Freiburger; we spend hours talking about how we'd like to burn him in effigy...) Anyway, I don't see how you can say that the plot was cliched. I think you missed the beauty and the whole point to the thing. The bit about a chrysalis lifestyle was simply fascinating, an idea I'd never seen anywhere else in SF. That was NOT cliched at all. And, c'mon, the aliens were not saying "It's logical for us to destroy Alpha", they were saying "It's not logical for us, with everyone on our planet sleeping in chrysalis to let our defenses down. In this state, we cannot defend ourselves and so we cannot stop the shock waves and risk the destruction of our entire civilization." That's what they were saying and they had a bloody good reason to say it, even though

it was detrimental to our heroes. And lord, I don't know how you can compare the dignity, the fine dignity, of John Koenig, a man who will grit his teeth in the worst situations (e.g. "War Games") and keep his cool (and strictly to be a good example to the other Alphans even when he, too, is scared to death) to the pompous, macho, egotistical, "perfect" James T. Kirk. I mean, I still like Star Trek and when I saw "Turnabout Intruder" the other day, I realized that I still like Shatner, but the two characters are so drastically different from each other that there simply is no comparison. When Koenig was "preaching his gospel", as you called it, in the end of "The A B Chrysalis", it was simply a declaration that despite the fact that he thought it was all over for Alpha in a few minutes, he was still willing to make a statement and keep his dignity. The man is a gem. Not macho, not trying to make it with every woman on the moonbase, but a mature individual with a tough job, one he certainly didn't ask for, but which he handles well. He's tough, without being macho; he's cool as well as being warm and having a lot of depth. Koenig is not and never has been your typical one-dimensional action/adventure hero. Everything, to his relationship with the other characters (Victor in "Black Sun", Maya in "The Rules of Luton", Helena and Alan in "Journey to Where") has shown the great depth to the man and his true emotions. He is a person with dignity, maturity (tons more than Kirk), cleverness (witness how he got Alpha out of trouble by using his brains in "The Last Enemy" or even "The Metamorph"), compassion, and fairness (how do you think he felt sending Helena off in an eagle in "Black Sun" when he could have changed that decision? He had to let his emotions stay out of it and make a fair decision: the mark of a good Commander).

Recognize that there is a difference between keeping your dignity in a situation by not letting yourself be intimidated by someone stronger than you, and acting "godlike". John Koenig is not an egotist. He simply has the ability to stand up and say what he feels (certainly this was risky in "Voyager's Return" too) which a lot of people don't. LONG LIVE JOHN KOENIG!

I think your problem, Ms. Necchi, is that you automatically classify anyone who has the highest authority in a situation as trying to be God. That's silly, especially in this case where it's so inaccurate.

Anyway, except for your poor vision regarding Koenig, I thought the rest of your letter was great. You put down Freiburger so aptly and well. Peace?

Just for the heck of it, I thought I would present here my opinion on the ranking of Space: 1999 episodes. I will rank them in two lists, one for each season, because it is simply not fair to put them together. They're almost two different shows, and it would be like comparing 1999 and Star Trek episodes, which is like comparing Psychon apples and Organian oranges (if you get my meaning)...

I certainly don't expect anyone to agree with it completely or at all, but just for the general interest...Also, alot of the rankings are debatable over a few numbers; that is, I might rate something as fourteenth one day and maybe sixteenth another day. But, a thing that I consider very applicable is the general placement of an episode in a list. For example, I would put "Black Sun", "The A B Chrysalis", and "Journey to Where" at the top, and "Brian the Brain", "The Beta Cloud", and "Guardian of Piri" at the bottom of their respective lists, anyway!!

Anyway, here goes (and I'm not dogmatic about it at all, so no one else should be, either): (#1 is best, #24 is worst).

Year 1

1. Another Time, Another Place

Year 2

1. Journey to where

2. Black Sun
3. Missing Link
4. Breakaway
5. War Games
6. Collision Course
7. Voyager's Return
8. The Last Enemy
9. Dragon's Domain
10. The Last Sunset
11. Earthbound
12. Testament of Arkadia
13. A Matter of Life and Death
14. Space Brain
15. Full Circle
16. Alpha Child
17. Missions of the Darians
18. The Infernal Machine
19. The Troubled Spirit
20. End of Eternity
21. Death's Other Dominion
22. Ring Around the Moon
23. Force of Life
24. Guardian of Piri

This is the way I feel they should be ranked, but it's strictly my own opinion. I'm sure everyone else has their own way of doing it. And please, all of you "Beta Cloud" fans, don't take it personally!! This is simply the way I feel is the general order of the episodes, according to quality, and I do have my biases, so....

As for ComLoC, it's beginning to look like a regular "slander sheet". It's good to debate points about 1999, but it's very bad to call each other names because of our opinions. It's stupid, and that's not what ComLoC is for. It's obvious that we all care about Space in our respective ways and even though I am a Year 1 fan mainly, I freely align myself with all the Year 2 fans as because, for God's sake, we have a show to save! Space: 1999 is on its way out if we don't do something about it. Starting in September, many of us who now get the show will not be able to see it at all if our local stations don't renew it. Most of them would be interested in shoeing new episodes (if there were a Year 3) and Gerry Anderson wants to make a Year 3. He's said this repeatedly. We have to forget about our differences and realize that fact and UNITE!

Myself and others formed an organization a while ago called The National Save: 1999 Alliance which has its base in Columbus, Ohio. Our purpose for joining together was to coordinate activities of saving 1999, like dividing up the letters needed to be sent to individual TV stations, disperse information, etc. We are also already in the planning stages for a Space: 1999 convention to be held in summer 1978. We hope that other fans will join us in our efforts. Currently we are gaining members but more Space fans are welcome. If you want more information regarding the organization or the convention, write either to me here in Ann Arbor or to The National Save: 1999 Alliance, P. O. Box 20185, Columbus, OH 43220.

Come on, Alphans. Help us SAVE SPACE: 1999!!

Jeff Jones/1379 Westmoreland Ct. Apt. D/Columbus, OH 43220 (8/24/77)

Hi, fellow Alphans. This letter started out as a simple plea for unity but after reading some of the letters in ComLoC #3 there were a few

points I could not resist commenting on.

RE: J. L. Shevlowitz. Why does it matter why Maya is sick from? The important fact is that she is sick and not knowing what is responsible for it just adds to the tenseness of the situation. As for the sterilized, controlled atmosphere of Alpha, maybe she caught whatever it was while bouncing around on some planet whose atmosphere was not sterilized and controlled. The molecules of the seditive in all probability did remain in her system but just because it worked on one life form doesn't mean that it would be the least bit effective on a totally different life form. As for security, you act as if nine out of ten people on Alpha were running around with a purple sleeve. People will always be people and as long as they are there will always be a need for security, especially on an installation such as Alpha.

RE: Ted Hruschak. It's a shame to see such a nice person display such Trekkie-like attitudes. There was an awful lot of good stuff in Year 2. Pity that your mind was made up from the time you saw "The Metamorph" that Year 2 was bad. You sure did miss a lot. Sure, Year 2 had its bad moment but so did Year 1.

RE: Donna Lotze. I totally agree with you. Most Space: 1999 fans don't dislike Trek; it's merely the closed mindedness of the Trekkies that disgusts us.

RE: Lisa Putnam. I quite agree with you, especially concerning Ted. Come on, Ted, wake up.

RE: Sandi Necchi. Well, Sandi darlin', I can tolerate most of what you said. I also consider myself a member of the Farewell Fred Freiburger Club (3FC). However, you must admit that feather brain Fred did do a few good things for Moonbase Alpha (oh well, I guess accidents will happen).

However, my poor misguided child, I cannot let your comments on "The A B Chrysalis" pass. I'm sure that Mona Delitsky has pretty much expressed my feelings in her letter as we both consider this episode one of the best if not the best of Year 2. As to your comments on John Koenig, may you be forced to spend the next four years alone with Brian the Brain. John Koenig is the commander and if anyone should dominate the show it should be him. To equate John Koenig to the almighty James Tiberius Kirk, a STARSHIP CAPTAIN--one of only a few men in the galaxy capable of holding that position (how many times have we heard that one), is a criminal offense as bad as Ted's "Lost in Space" comments. There are a few similarities between Koenig and good old Captain Kirk who stands on the pulpit... er, bridge of the Enterprise with an American flag in one hand and a copy of "Fifty Ways to Violate the Prime Directive" in the other while spouting the gospel according to the book of James (T. Kirk that is). While Commander Koenig is totally loyal to Dr. Russell (with the possible exception of "Missing Link"), Kirk runs around with half the women in the Milky Way. I understand that in the new Star Trek series Kirk's command chair is going to be replaced with a bed. It should be quite a time saver. Now don't get me wrong. I like William Shatner and James T. Kirk; I really do. But when it comes to class, James T. Kirk isn't even in the same ball park with John Koenig. It's like comparing a new Rolls Royce with a '66 Chevy; they both get the job done but the John Koenig has so much more class in doing it. In a head to head competition the only events in which Captain Kirk would win would be bed hopping and chest baring events.

Hey, Ted!!! You still awake out there? All right now, repeat after me I LIKE YEAR 2.

As you may have noticed most of my comments have been very pro Space: 1999. Why? Because I love this show and I don't want to see it die. The time has come for all Alphans to unify. In an attempt to do this, Mona, Chuck, Ted (yes, the same one), Mike Cruthers, and myself have formed the

National Save: 1999 Alliance. We are attempting to offer a means of organization for all '99 fans and clubs. The biggest problem we face is being able to reach all the '99 fans. There are still many '99 fans who know of no other fans. Some don't even know the show has been cancelled. We have to reach these people and let them know there are others out there. I called the TV columnist from our local morning newspaper, told him who I was and about our organization. The next day his entire column was devoted to our conversation with the huge headline GROUP WANTS 1999 REVIVED. As a result, I received letters from fans in Columbus (where the show is seen only on cable from Cleveland or Cincinnati). They have all pledged to do whatever they can to help. Who knows how many more there are out there yet to be reached? For this reason I ask you to write us, get all your '99 friends to write to us, and do whatever you can to find those lost '99 fans. We cannot save our show by sitting back and wishing for it we must be vocal. Let people know that we're out here. Look at the Trekkies: do we love our show any less than they love theirs?

Before closing, I would like to make one final comment. Throughout my letter I have been poking fun at Ted Hruschak. Those of you who don't know Ted probably think that the only way he would watch a Year 2 episode is if forced to by six armed security guards with lasers set on kill and orders to shoot if he should so much as look away from the screen. In reality, Ted is one of the most devout Space: 1999 fans anywhere. He loves the show, BOTH years. Ted has done as much as anyone as far as saving Space. He was the one who coined the SAVE: 1999 phrase and I am quite proud to have him as one of my fellow co-coordinators.

Ted? You okay? Now let's try it one more time. This time with a little more feeling. I LIKE YEAR TWO.

Closing, I repeat my request that you write to us and do everything you can to make other '99 fans aware of our organization. The address is the National SAVE: 1999 Alliance, P. O. Box 20185, Columbus, OH 43220. Until ComLoC #5, take care, fellow Alphans and SAVE: 1999.

Debbie Walsh/1070 York Avenue/Lansdale, PA 19446 (81/31/77)

Howdy, fellow fans and I love you all. It's so nice to be able to just let loose with Spacer-isms and Space enthusiasm without having to worry about those tacky Trekkie sneers. Which brings me to my first point: did you know that a lot of Trekkers are really closet Spacers? Really! But we've all been spreading the rumor that all Trek fans are anti-Space and it just ain't true! It's the neo-fans in great part who become snobish; but I've found that many ST fans are gracious about Space, and confess to enjoying the show. So there.

Next, what's all this rot about First Year fans and Second Year fans? Haven't you noticed that the Moon is still the Moon, the Commander is still the same man (hair parted on the correct side), the eagle section is still commanded by the same pilot, and Medical Center still revolves around a certain doctor? The premises of the show are still the same, and if you can be tolerant of the inconsistencies and incongruities of the second set of episodes (of the same series!), the show itself is much the same--many of the good things remain or have been further developed. Of course you miss Victor Bergman--everyone does. But, hey, isn't Maya great?

Which brings me to another point. (hold on to your seats folks!) Why is everyone picking on Maya? Yeah on you, Kathi Lynn Higley. Why can't Maya be Maya? By the way, Ms. Schell was born in Hungary, and is an American citizen, not British. As a hard-core Schell fan from way back, I think she's added some much-needed grace, humor, and beauty to occasion-

ally weak scripts. Of course, extraordinarily weak scripts, like "Catacombs of the Moon", couldn't really be helped by her, and they didn't even bother. What turkeys.

But Kathi is on the right track--if you've watched the show enough to be able to make criticisms, there must be something you like...so why not just sit back and enjoy?

Now, as to J. L. Shevlowitz, thank you for your lovely admission that Space has the potential to be greater than Star Trek. However, both shows have qualities that make them beautiful and unique, and shall we leave it at that and not compare?

As to your statement about Space being like a repertory company this seems to be typical of British films and television--take a look at Upstairs, Downstairs, Wodehouse Playhouse, anything--group participation, group effort, group satisfaction at a job well done. By the way, I'd love to see your scripts--I happen to edit this fanzine, see...

RE: Ted Hruschak. Since even Nick Tate can't pronounce "1999" without tripping on his tongue, I vote for "Spacers", to differentiate us from the characters on the show, who are called "Alphans".

Second, what's wrong with "The Beta Cloud"? Frankly, it's one of my all-time favorites, one of the few second season episodes with nearly all of the first season regulars. Whatever problems there may have been with the nature of the robot and the Alphans' efforts to stop it, you must admit that the episode was a good showcase for the characters and gave us more insight into them--like Fraser really is dumb, Sahn can do much more than faint, Maya does have limitations on her powers, and so on. And nothing will ever change my mind about Tony's chauvinism; as an Irish Italian I know how Italian Catholic males are raised, at least within my own family, and that macho image is almost a part of their genes. If you're wondering how I figure Tony is Catholic, check out "The Bringers of Wonder, part one" and the scene with Tony and Guido and the discussion about their parents. Mama made the spaghetti sauce with everything in it but holy water, and that is a particularly Catholic.

To Rose Stanley (ComLoC #2): Stanley Kubrick is the infamous co-writer of the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey". (the other partner being Arthur C. Clarke)

To Everyone: I just figured I'd put this in. I am a Trek fan, a Space fan, a Man From Atlantis fan, etc., etc.--in other words, a science fiction fan...a state of being, which, I think binds us all.

To Sandi Necchi: who is GHU? By the way, I too liked "The Starlost" and for that I hope Marlan Ellison will forgive me. Agreed on your reaction to "Collision Course"--a beautiful episode. Mr. Zap-em-up, huh? Try Freddie Frenchfry, ala Lillie Deans. Haven't you noticed how all the nasty aliens get fried? I really like your sentiments about Space and Trek fandoms--if we love either of these shows let's act like we do and respect the ideals they embrace. That is the one thing I've never been able to understand about these intolerant Trekkies...

Psychons are not born with the power of molecular transformation and Psyche helped to amplify Maya's abilities. Note in "Dorsak" he (Dorsak) had to be taught how to change his form; in "The Metamorph" Mentor spoke about teaching Maya the secret, yet never used the ability himself--which would indicate that he wasn't able to.

Concerning Helena's quadrants, I always thought they were the areas of space immediately surrounding the moon, radiating out. In any case, three-dimensional space demands the term "octants", not quadrants, as quadrants indicate the dimensions of length and width only.

I must say that Fred Freiburger has done one thing for both Space and Trek fandoms--he's given us a point of contact, community--it is a pain to

see something beautiful and cherished prostituted. May I suggest that we all meet by Airlock 7 and arrange for Freddie to take a walk--sans spacesuit, oxygen, etcetra?

In regards to Mona Delitsky's remarks about Space being too cerebral for the average viewer, I protest. If a show is too cerebral and people protest about it, it is most likely because they haven't developed a taste for it after decades of being weaned on video pap. I find your whole concept of "Brainless, ignorant people" insulting and not unlikely a cause for some of the feelings of antagonism felt towards Spacers. This is an example of the feelings we're trying to combat in Trek fandom! And this certainly is not the way to create unity!

I think I've bopped around ComLoC #3 long enough, insulting everyone I'm sure and it's time for some independent thinking. Please ignore the smoke rising from my ears.

One of the things I love about Space: 1999 is the alive, growing fandom around it, but there really isn't enough fanfiction. Although 'zines are beginning to blossom, as an editor, I've found that there aren't enough people writing Space stories. Literary talent has little to do with the ability to create a plotline--so I challenge every fan out there to come up with a new plot for a Space episode and send it either to me or to ComLoC. Together, we can develop the thing Space fandom desperately needs right now--more creative, original thinking.

Speaking of original thinking, don't forget the campaign to save our show. Have you written any love-notes to Freddie Silverman? Off your carcasses, to the typewriter (or inkwell, crayon box), and to the mail box.

One last thing before I sign off. Virginia Walker, in ComLoC #2, suggested that someone collect and arrange the dates of the second season episodes. Well, I'd done most of the work before reading that plea, and published a partial timeline in my novel. So here is the entire timeline, or as I call it, Alpha Chronology.

Episode Title	# days	Earth Date
Breakaway	1	Sept. 13, 1999
The Metamorph	342	Aug. 21, 2000
The Exiles	403	Oct. 21, 2000
One Moment of Humanity	551	Feb. 14, 2001
All That Glisters	565	March 1, 2001
The Mark of Archanon	640	May 15, 2001
The Rules of Lute	892	Jan. 21, 2002
New Adam, New Eve	1095	Aug. 11, 2002
Brian the Brain	1150	Oct. 5, 2002
Catacombs of the Moon	1196	Nov. 20, 2002
The A B Chrysalis	1288	Feb. 20, 2003
The Beta Cloud	1503	Sept. 23, 2003
Seed of Destruction	1608	Jan. 5, 2004
A Matter of Balance	1702	April 8, 2004
Space Varp	1807	July 22, 2004
Dorzak	2009	Feb. 9, 2005
The Seance Spectre	2012	Feb. 12, 2005
Devil's Planet	2306	Dec. 3, 2005
The Lambda Factor	2308	Dec. 5, 2005
The Immunity Syndrome	2310	Dec. 7, 2005
The Dorcons	2409	Mar. 15, 2006
The Bringers of Wonder (1&2)	2515	June 29, 2006
The Taybor	no date	
Journey to Where	no date	

Not that Tony and Maya knew that they loved each other in "One Moment of Humanity", yet everyone's been making such a fuss over "The Beta

Cloud" almost two years later. And Maya knows Dorzak exists when she says she's the only living Psychon in "The Dorcons". And "Journey to Where", the episode with so much emphasis on dates, "as never given a log date! For those of you who prepare ammunition for attack, please remember these discrepancies are the fault of Freiburger--ye olde Story Editor--for not even attempting continuity. So how can the Moon go from one planet to another in four days? ("Devil's Planet" to "The Immunity Syndrome") I still want to meet at Airlock 7 at 0800 hours... That's all...take care...and by all means, enjoy. Oh yes, don't forget to write Freddie Silverman!!

EMPORIUM

Alpha Newsletter, c/o Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180. A newsletter for '99 fan. Current issue (#8) contains articles, short stories, news section, reviews, Question/Answer section with Zienia Merton and Nick Tate, ad section, etc. Price is \$1.00. Subscriptions also available. SASE for more information.

ART & STORY #2 is a science fiction and fantasy magazine available from James D. Denny, P. O. Box 9124, Fresno, CA 93790. This issue contains a four page article on '99 with a variety of photos. The back page contains a number of '99 photos also. Cost for this issue of ART & STORY is \$2.00. Subscriptions of 3 issues is \$6.00. AFTERWORDS is the newsletter associated with A&S and the newest issue (#8) contains a long article on Star Wars, an article on Ray Bradbury's return to comics, and a nice article on '99. Cost for this is 50¢ or it is free with an order or subscription to ART & STORY.

THE DAVE PROWSE FAN CLUB (Darth Vader in Star Wars and the creature in the second season episode of Space: 1999 "The Beta Cloud"). The club is just being formed, and if you are interested please send a SASE to The Dave Prowse Fan Club, 3339 So. Galena Ct., Denver, Colorado 80231.

MARTIN AND BARBARA (BAIN) LANDAU ASSOCIATION OF FANS is in the first stage of conception. Planned are an official and authorized club for these two actors from Space: 1999 and a special one-shot (at the moment) fanzine saluting the entire career of both the Landaus. Emphasis will be on all aspects of their careers, not just '99. If interested, please send a SASE with your name, address, age, and phone number enclosed to Martin and Barbara (Bain) Association of Fans, 48 Clark Street, Lynn, MA 01920.

MAIN MISSION ALPHA, the first American Space: 1999 fan club, is again open for membership. Under new leadership and after a massive reorganization this club is moving to be in the forefront of Space fandom. For \$5.00 you receive two black and white photos, a membership card, a bi-monthly newsletter, and the twice-yearly (so far) journals. For more information on this excellent and highly recommended club send a SASE to Main Mission Alpha, c/o Mary Bloamaker (president), 400 Saratoga St., East Boston, MA 02128.

CATCH THE FINAL SUNRISE is done! This very exciting, original Space: 1999 novel takes place in an "alternate universe" where Tony, Maya, and Alan have crash landed on the planet they were surveying and tells the story of the efforts of the residents of Moonbase Alpha to locate their friends, as well as what happens to the three Alphans on the planet Pandora. Beautifully written, it contains all of the Year 1 and Year 2 characters and masterfully links together the gaps between the two seasons. For ordering information, please send a SASE to Deborah M. Walsh, 1030 York Avenue,

Lansdale, PA 19446. The editors of ComLoC highly recommend this novel:

Hi, it's us again....

Moonbase Alpha Status Report....oh, good lord...

Hi, this is your friendly neighborhood dumb, blind kangaroo! Yes, my friends, you now hold in your hands my baby, born from reams of paper, miles of Taperaser, inches of fingernails, drops of sweat, and hours without sleep. I do get myself into the most incredible situations!

All right. Before some of you go running to Chuck saying "Pam cut this out of my letter!", let me say that he already knows what all I edited. As partners he and I naturally back each other fully when it comes to editorial decisions. Speaking of which, Beckett has a rule to lay down.

ABSOLUTELY NO personal slander will be printed about any individual letter writer.

One-sided? Perhaps. However ComLoC is Chuck's and my 'zine and we will not stand to have it turn into a soapbox for personal vendettas. If you want to pick a fight with someone over something they have written, use your paper, stamps, time and money...not ours! If you don't agree, well, start your own 'zine and you can do as you wish. But not in my 'zine you won't!

Many of the writers in this issue have expressed a desire to see an end to personal comments on the letters in the previous issue. We have no stand on this one way or the other. As long as the above rule is abided please feel free to say whatever is on your mind. A suggestion to remember if you wish, a letter with nothing but comments on previous letters does tend to bog down in spots.

Something that has been concerning me is the "internal conflict" between Space: 1999 fan--the "Year-1-is-better-no-Year-2-is-no-it-Isn't" comedy. When I began to type up this issue I was quite ready to print an editorial full of "fire and brimstone" in regards to the lunacy of this childishness, but to my delight, I've found that about 90% of the '99 fan I've come in contact with are mature, sensible people who have come to grips with the ultimate truth: Space: 1999 is Space: 1999. Congratulations! Most of you have your heads screwed on properly! As for the minority who insist on perpetuating the knife-throwing, either you'll eventually be brought to your senses or be drowned out by the more gracious members of our family. In any case, 98% of the writers in this issue deserve a great big hug...with all the love you are showing, will definitely be watching Year 3 next fall!

By the way, should any of you doubt my honesty, I do print all of the comments made on the individual '99 actors--positive and negative. Even on Nick. Even when it makes me so angry I could cry. For those who want to double check that statement, ask Chuck. He'll have all the original letters.

On the episode renewal front, I was completely stunned to hear that my Pittsburgh station that carries '99 (WPGH, channel 53) will continue to run it this fall at the same decent time. Don't any of you ever say that miracles do no occur!! Unfortunately my happiness is overshadowed by the knowledge that many of my friends will not be able to watch it, probably beginning this month. If you wouldn't mind, it might be a good idea to include in your letter next time whether or not you'll be able to get '99 this fall and if so, what station(s) is carrying it. For those of you who have have received the old ax, perhaps we could work out a taping system where those who need episodes taped could have them done. Comments?

An apology for the tardiness of this issue. Originally this was to be completed by the end of August. However, in July my mother was hospitalized again and is still so. (cancer and fandom do not mix!) Most of my time has been spent with her, but again, my apologies.

The clock says 4 am and I can't see the keys anymore. Deadline for next issue is tentatively set as the last week of October and Chuck edits #5. My deepest love and thanks to all for writing and take care.
SPACE ON!

Pam

Well, it's late again. What else is new?...

Well, ComLoC's a month late and for that I apologize but switching to this new format has caused a lot of running around to office supply store to office supply store. Not to mention the fact that I started college this month and am learning a lot about distribution of my time properly. Please forgive the delay but I think this new format represents some progress for ComLoC. I hope you all like the new look.

Okay, first of all I'd like to welcome ComLoC's host of new readers that have come to us in response to an ad that was in STARLOG #9. Many of you new readers may be a little lost at first but if you read through the discussions carefully and stick around you'll learn who's who. Some of you have asked about back issues and I've gotten some orders lately for the back issues. Well, sorry, but at this point all copies of previous issues are gone. I will be reprinting them and if you'd like to send a SASE for notification when they're done that's fine or if you'd prefer you can wait and I'll announce the finishing of the reprints in my future editorials as they are done. Cost for the reprints will vary according to the amount of postage needed to send them. The first issue being reprinted presently is #1. Cost for it will probably run about 35¢. Stay tuned to the editorials for further info on this. Also, those of you who have already sent in money for back issues please note that your money has been prorated to your subscription. If you are curious as to when your subscription expires then look on the address label on the back of this issue and in the parentheses you'll see a number. This number represents the last issue in your subscription. Therefore, if the number in the () is 4 then this is your last issue until you resubscribe.

Starting after this issue ComLoC is going monthly. No, I'm not crazy and yes I think it can be done. Activity in fandom is increasing almost geometrically and these 2-3 month gaps between issues is making for oversized issues and slow discussions. The next issue of ComLoC is going to be a double issue (#5/6) and will be \$1.00 if you haven't paid for it yet. It will contain the usual letters plus three additional extras. First we'll have a report from Mona Delitsky on her recent trip to England in which she got to see or talk to every '99 star who was on the continent at the time (she talked to me for 2 hours the day after she came back and I was totally dumbfounded at her terrific luck at getting to the stars. I'm sure it'll be a fascinating letter). Second we'll have a letter from Pat Jenkins, an English fan and the vice-president of the British Nick Taff Fan Club. She'll be telling about the day she spent with Martin Landau. Thirdly, the next issue will be a catch up issue on the fanzine reviews that have been absent in the past two issues. A lot of 'zines have come out lately so there'll be quite a few reviews. I'll be doing most of them but if any of you out there would like to review a '99 'zine for #5/6 then please feel free to do so. All letters for publication next issue should be to me by October 25. That is the final deadline date. I'm gonna be on schedule if it kills me!

Mona's listing of episodes in her letter this issue has prompted a new little undertaking for the next issue of ComLoC. All who wish to participate are welcome to do so. I would like for all of you who are reading

this to make a listing of episodes in the same manner Mona did, ranking them #1-24 on a season by season basis. I'll then take this ratings when I get them and try to find out where the average placement of the episodes generally fall. I won't be able to print all these rankings but I will present a numerical representation of where they fell.

I'd like to take this chance to make an apology to all of you whose letters and tapes I just haven't had time to answer. It's not intentional, so please don't get mad at me. I'll try to get caught up soon.

Well, this issue has to be taken into the printers this afternoon so I'd best wrap all this up. Everyone remember to keep on writing to the following address urging ABC to pick up 1999. The address is:

Mr. Patrick Plevin
Programming Dept.
ABC-Television Network
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

You also should address some of these letters to this address to Mr. Fred Silverman. He too is very important. Afterall, he is the Vice-President in Charge of Programming but Plevin is important too because he has had a bit of contact with the fans.

One last thing. Everyone try to get the news of the campaign to your local newspapers and such. Jeff Jones sent me a copy of the write up his local paper did and it was very nice. Try to contact your local major papers, any small weekly publications in your city, college newspapers (this can be very important since many SF/Trek/'99 fans can be found at colleges), and you might also try to get plugs for the letter campaign in any of the small TV Guide-like publications that are published in many cities and distributed free at local stores. If you are able to get any plugs or articles about the campaign printed please let me know where the notice was printed and if possible I would appreciate a copy (photo copy or duplicate) to put into a "revival scrapbook". I'll also print a listing of where revival news has appeared in the media in each issue of ComLoC.

All for now. Hope you've enjoyed this issue of ComLoC. Year III on ABC!!!

Fly like an eagle,

Chuck

ComLoC
c/o Chuck Raue
804 Rowell Street
Mobile, AL 36606

►(First class mail)◄