ALPHA LOG 8

EDITOR: CHRIS LANDRY JULY-AUGUST 1978

Dear Members:

Welcome to another issue of ALPHA LOG. This issue, I am continuing with another special interview with a well-known science fiction author. I realize that the interviews in the past few issues of the newsletter have little to do with a SPACE: 1999 theme. However, when these oportunities came to my attention, I couldn't pass them up. I doubt that any of you would have either. May I point out that any SPACE: 1999 material (meaning articles) that you'd like to contribute would be greatly appreciated.

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NEW EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

I have recently made contact with three more SPACE: 1999 clubs. I will now be conducting newsletter exchanges with these clubs, all of them foreign. "Eagle One" (president: Curt Duckworth) and "Morse Code" (president: Vivian Stanley) based in Canada, and "The British Nick Tate Club" (president: Anne Lewis) based in England. I will be sending these club leaders copies of ALPHA LOG and they will be sending me copies of their respective newsletters. "The Springfield SPACE: 1999 Club" is now taking part in seven such exchange programs.

You might be interested to know that two of the clubs, "Morse Code" and "The British Nick Tate Club", are concerned with the entire careers of each individual actor (Barry Morse and Nick Tate). This includes SPACE: 1999, but also involves other highlights of each actor's career. The two clubs are also in direct contact with the actor of their interest. This should provide further information and enjoyment in this field.

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PIONEER ONE

PIONEER ONE is a Springfield convention planned for October. This will be a joint effort between "The Springfield SPACE: 1999 Club" and "The STAR TREK Club of Springfield". Guest speakers, science fiction films, and a costume party are planned for the two day event (October 21-22). A dealers room is also being set up. For further information, write us today. Details will also be published in ALPHA LOG 9.

CONVENTION UPDATE

The biggest event of the year for SPACE: 1999 fans is, of course, the national convention this summer. Two more SPACE: 1999 celebrities have confirmed attendance for the convention. They are Gerry Anderson, creator of the series, and special effects coordinator Brian Johnson.

I have also recieved information that there will be at least two first season Alphan uniforms at the auction. However, these already have bids of several hundred dollars.

Next issue, I will try to get complete coverage of the events and features at the convention.

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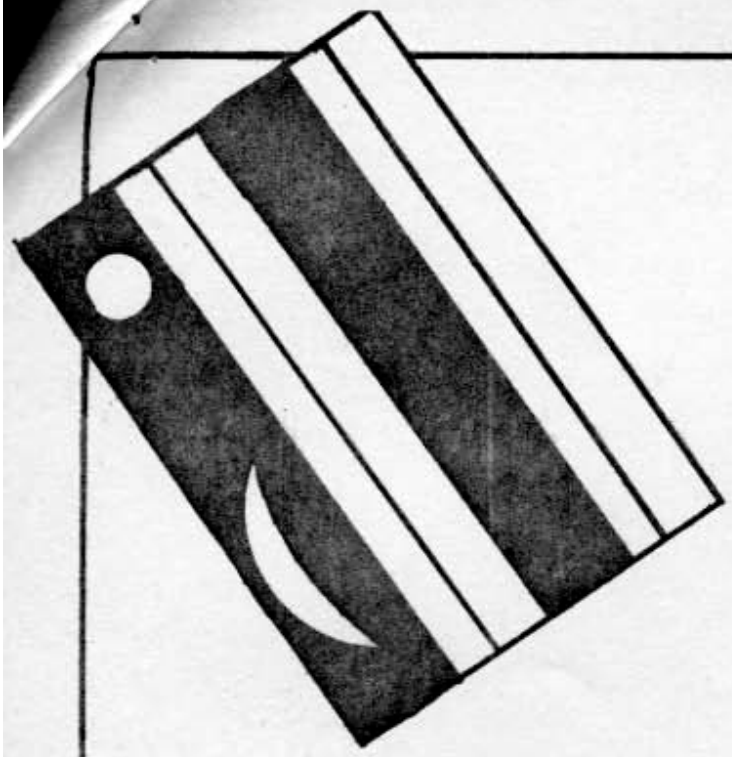
INTERVIEW INTRODUCTORY

Recently, at Westfield (Massachusetts) State College, acclaimed science fiction author Isaac Asimov gave a lecture entitled PSYCHOLOGY THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION. I was able to attend this symposium. Dr. Asimov's lecture proved to be quite enjoying as well as highly informative. Dr. Asimov also displayed his great sense of humor.

I was fortunate enough to conduct a short interview with Dr. Asimov. He was still recovering from a coronary seizure, so I was only able to ask about half of my questions. However, the short time that I talked to Asimov was well worthwhile. A small crowd had gathered around us and towards the end of the interview, everyone got into an involved conversation about science fiction authors.

The whole episode was very interesting and enjoying. I hope that you will find the interview as enjoyable as I do.





ISAAC ASIMOV INTERVIEW

BIO: Author of almost 200 books, many of them science fiction. Winner of just about all known science fiction awards, including the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

Landry: (Here I explained that I was conducting the interview for ALPHA LOG, a science fiction newsletter connected with the series SPACE: 1999).

Asimov: Oh, that was not one of my favorites, no.

Landry: You have written many, many books. Of them, which is your personal favorite ?

Asimov: Oh, the one I enjoyed writing most was called "Murder at the A-B-A", a murder mystery, not science fiction. And one of the reasons that I enjoyed it so much is because I'm a character in it and I describe myself. (Someone in the crowd makes a gesture.) Oh, you've read the book. I describe myself very accurately, don't I ? Aren't I exactly the way I describe myself, except I'm more handsome ? Right ? Right ? Yes, see.

Landry: What is your favorite type of writing ?

Asimov: My favorite type is science essays, the kind I write for "The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction". I've just written my twentieth anniversary one. In other words, I started in November of 1958 issue and I've just done the one for November of 1978. And I hope, if I continue to stay alive and just a little over thirth, to keep at it for at least twenty more years, maybe more.

Landry: How did you get interested in science fiction ?

Asimov: When I was a little boy, I started reading it and I loved it. Nine years old. And anyone who starts reading science fiction when he's a little boy and loves it, he eventually tries to write science fiction. And if he's got a lot of good luck, he sells the science fiction. And then he's stuck.

Landry: What type of audience do you write for ?

Asimov: Well frankly, anyone who'll read me. But, it turns out that most of the people who are my audience are people who are young, either in years or heart or both, and who are intelligent. And while this doesn't mean an audience of tens of millions, it does mean an audience of hundreds of thousands. And it's enough to keep me...solvent.

Landry: You've won several awards for your writing. What does this mean to you ? How do they motivate you ?

Asimov: Well, unfortunately, I wish I could say that my writing is motivated by this or that, but I'm a compulsive writer. And if no one gave me any awards, and no one bought my books, and no one would publish my books, I would still go on writing, y'see. At least that's what I think. But it's nice to be able to have reasonable motivation because then, y'see, no one goes around to you and says, "You bum. Why are you sitting there wasting your time writing ? Why don't you go out and dig ditches and support your wife and family ?" This way they say, "Oh, what a good man. Lookit, he's working so hard to support his wife and family." All the while I'm doing what I want to do. So it's nice to have the awards, because that's my excuse to keep doing it. That and selling things, and making a little money. An honest dollar.

Landry: Are there any authors whose work you admire ?

Asimov: Not as much as mine. But, yea, there's other authors. Science fiction you mean. Like Arthur Clarke and Frederick Pohl. Harlan Ellison ? I like his stuff. I can't write that way, and if I read too much of it, it depresses me. Not because it's bad, but because it's so emotionally evocative that it wears me out, you know. But he's an extremely powerful writer. And the amazine thing is that he's just as intense in person, in his life, and how he manages not to have burt himself out, I can't imagine. He's such a source of psycic energy, WOW ! Yea, he's about 5'2" tall, and he's absolutely devastating with the women. You may think you're not interested in any fellow who's 5'2" tall, you're wrong girls. You'd be putty in his hands. I don't know why, it just doesn't seem fair.

Women science fiction writers ? Oh, Ursula LeGuin, Ann McCaffery, Joanna Russ. I keep forgetting. When I first started, science fiction was purely masculine in it's makeup. And now women have come along, and as in every field which they invade, they prove themselves to be at the very least, the equal of men. And this is good, for goodness sakes. It doubles the brain power of the human race. Without increasing the numbers at all. And I myself would like to see women with equal opportunities to men in every damn field in the world. That would increase my chances of meeting women too. Right ?

Bob Heinlein ? Well, Bob Heinlein has just had a bypass operation and apparently it has worked fine. He should be better than ever now, because he's been in poor health for years, and if this thing works, it'll give him a new lease on life. Of course, he's 71 years old. And that's not as good as 31, but still, 71 with the operation is better than 71 without. And I hope that things will go well with him for a while.

Bradbury ? Bradbury doesn't hardly write anymore. He's mostly involved with Hollywood work. But when he does write, he's in a class all by himself. He's not truly a science fiction writer. He's a sort of a poet, frankly. And when he's good, he's very, very good. And when he misses fire, like most poets, he's not so good. It's safer to be someone like me. I sort of aim low. And while I never reach the heights, I never plum the depths. Right ? Don't agree with me so fast. Ha-ha.

Landry: What makes good science fiction ?

Asimov: Well, what makes science fiction good is, A: that it's good litterature. In other words, the same criteria that makes you decide that any piece of writing is good has to be met before science fiction is good. And then, B: once that science fiction is good as a piece of writing, it then also has to show some respect for science. That doesn't mean that it has to have science in it, but if there is science in it, it has to be reasonable science. The author has to be shown to understand the science he uses. If he doesn't, there might still be a good piece of writing as such, but it's bad science fiction.

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FOLLOW UP

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. Isaac Asimov for taking the time to do this interview. For those of you who are fans of Dr. Asimov's "I, Robot", he gave me this piece of information:

"'I, Robot' has been sold to the movies. Warner Brothers is going to do it, and guess who's doing the screenplay. I'll tell you. Harlan Ellison. Of course, the fact that he's doing the screenplay doesn't mean that he'll finish the screenplay. And if he does finish the screenplay, that doesn't mean they'll use the screenplay. And if they do use the screenplay, that doesn't guarantee they'll make the picture. And if they make the picture, it might end up not being anything like the book. But, that's life."

RECORDS DEPT.

FUTURE EVENTS

In this issue, I would like to conclude the reviews of the events presented in future history as seen in the SPACE: 1999 Warner calendar. I hope that you have enjoyed this feature.

JULY. 2th- Moon is caught in crossfire between warring planets Delta and Betha. 2000. "The Last Enemy".
9th- Commander Dione of Betha lands at Alpha, but is killed breaking ceasefire.
12th- Eagle pilot Mike Ryan is drawn into black hole. 2000. "The Black Sun".
15th- Moon is also being drawn into black hole. Professor Bergman devises force field for protection and Koenig dispatches a survival Eagle.
20th- Moon is sucked through black hole. Koenig and Bergman meet being thought to be God.
21st- Survival Eagle returns to Alpha.

AUG. 9th- Astronauts Wayland and Cousteau are killed during encounter with the space brain. 2001. "Space Brain".
10th- Moon goes into outer reaches of brain and escapes unharmed. Alphan Kelly dies during contact.
15th- Progon scientist Balor comes to Moonbase Alpha. 2000. "End of Eternity".
16th- Balor, immortal, tries to take over Alpha.
19th- Koenig lures Balor into an airlock and ejects him into space.
24th- Dan Mateo conjures up his own spirit during seance. 2001. "The Troubled Spirit".
26th- Spirit kills two Alphans.
28th- Spirit is exorcised, but Mateo is killed as well.



LSRO

THE LUCK OF THE ALPHANS

by Terri Woodworth

"Jackie ! Jackie !" Alan Carter called out. "I hope that nothing's happened to him. Damn it. Why did he have to run off like that ?" Alan thought as he made his way through the wooded area of the new planet which they called Glacamora.

Meanwhile, on Eagle 7...

Helena contacted Alan on her commlock. "Alan, have you found anything of Jackie yet ?"

"No Helena, but I have heard...oh forget it. It's probably just my nerves."

"Alan, don't blame yourself for Jackie running off. He did disobey orders by stowing away on the Eagle."

"Yeah, I know. Have the sensors on the Eagle been fixed yet ? We could find him in an instant with them."

"Sorry. I've worked on them as best as I know how, but I'm still getting nothing. I wish John hadn't sent only the two of us on this reconnaisance."

"Helena, there's a light up ahead. I think it may be Jackie, but to be on the safe side, I'll lock the transmit button on."

Helena Russell listened as Alan made his way towards the light.

"Jackie ?" Alan called out.

Then, Helena heard laughter, and more laughter until Alan's voice seemed to be drowned out. Over the din, she could just make out his words: "Helena, you're not going to believe this, but..."

"Alan !" she cried into the speaker, but was answered only with silence. It seemed to mock her.

"Uncle Alan, Uncle Alan, wake up," Jackie said to the unconscious pilot.

"Wha...where am I ? Jackie ! You're alright !" Carter smiled.

Jackie nodded. "Of course. My friends have been taking care of me. Do you want something Uncle Alan ?"

"No Jackie," he said gently. He stood up and swung the boy onto his shoulders. "We have to go back to the Eagle now." He continued to survey the area around them.

A giggle came from behind him.

"No sir. We're gonna have a party and I want Auntie Helena here too !" Jackie said stubbornly.

In a sudden glow of light, Helena appeared.

"Alan, Jackie. What happened ? How did I get here ?"

"I did bring ye here," a voice from the bushes replied. And as the owner of that voice appeared, the two Alphans' minds went spinning.

Hours later, on the Eagle voyage back to Alpha, Helena went up to the pilot's section.

"How's Jackie, Helena ?" Alan asked.

"Asleep. He's really tuckered out. Alan ?"

"Um."

"I've been thinking. Did we dream it all, or did it really happen?"

"I know this sounds crazy, Doc, but I think it was all real. I mean, we're in Eagle 7. Seven has always been a good luck number. We named that little gem of a planet Glacamora. Four-leaf clovers were in abundance there. Maybe the old fables and myths weren't so far off."

"I think you may be right, Alan."

Each would carry for some time the memories of that party. Of the many beings they met, all of which were familiar. Helena thought of those who discussed achlemy with her. Alan knew that he would dream many times of that ride in the skies on a winged stalion. And Jackie, he found his childhood dreams fulfilled.

And who is to say that for a short while, the three didn't really spend a day in that mystical land of Glacamora.

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MORE "SPACE: 1999" CLUBS

As usual, I am continuing to print this list of all known SPACE: 1999 clubs. If I discover any more clubs in this field, I'll be sure to list them. You might want to write to some of the clubs for information.

ALPHA INTERNATIONAL. c/o Karen Robinson; 15 Rockledge Plaza; Cedar Grove, NJ; 07009. Publishes a semi-regular newsletter.

ALPHA MOONBASE. c/o Dan Bromley; 781 West 118th Avenue; Northglenn, CO; 80234. Publishes a SPACE: 1999 newsletter.

ALPHA NEWSLETTER. c/o Stephen Eramo; 5 Kimball Drive; Stoneham, MA; 02180. Publishes a semi-regular newsletter.

ALPHANS CLUB. c/o Diana Sue Majesty; 216 Gifford Way; Sacramento, CA; 65825. Now publishing three summer journals.

THE ALPHA SOCIETY. c/o David Jackson; 13321 South-West Morgan Road; Sherwood, OR; 97140. Temporarily shut down due to lack of funds.

THE BRITISH NICK TATE CLUB. c/o Anne Lewis; 30 Palewell Park; East Sheen, London; SW 14; England. Publishes newsletter concerning actor Nick Tate. IRC.

COMLOC. c/o Chuck Raue; 804 Rowell Street; Mobile, AL; 36606. Publishes a semi-regular letterzine.

EAGLE ONE. c/o Curt Duckworth; 17 Glencove Drive; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Canada. Publishes a quaterly newsletter.

GALAXY. P.O. Box JJ; Old Chelsea Station; New York, NY; 10011. One of the seven wonders of the world (who are these people ?).

THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE: 1999 PEN PAL SERVICE. c/o Jeff Myers; Route #1; Marshall, MO; 02128. Gets you in touch with another SPACE: 1999 fan whose interests are compatable with your's.

MAIN MISSION ALPHA. c/o Mary Bloemker; 5 Lamson Street 2; East Boston, MA; 02128. Publishes a bi-monthly newsletter and one yearly journal.

THE MARTIN AND BARBARA (BAIN) LANDAU ASSOCIATION OF FANS. 48 Clark Street; Lynn, MA; 01920. Soon to publish a large one shot fanzine dealing with the career of the Landaus.

MORSE CODE. c/o Vivian Stanley; Box 1572; Jasper, Alberta; Canada T0E 1E0. Publishes a semi-regular fanzine dealing with actor Barry Morse.

THE NATIONAL SAVE: 1999 ALLIANCE. c/o Jeff Jones; P.O. Box 20185; Columbus, OH; 43220. Operators of the convention at the end of this month.

THE SERVANTS OF SPACE: 1999. Address unknown; New York, NY. The only place I've ever heard of these folks is in "The Making of SPACE: 1999" by Tim Heald. I hope that he wasn't just kidding.

THE SPRINGFIELD SPACE: 1999 CLUB. c/o Chris Landry; 12 Maplewood Terrace; Springfield, MA; 01108. Publishes a bi-monthly newsletter.

What am I doing at the end of the list ?!?

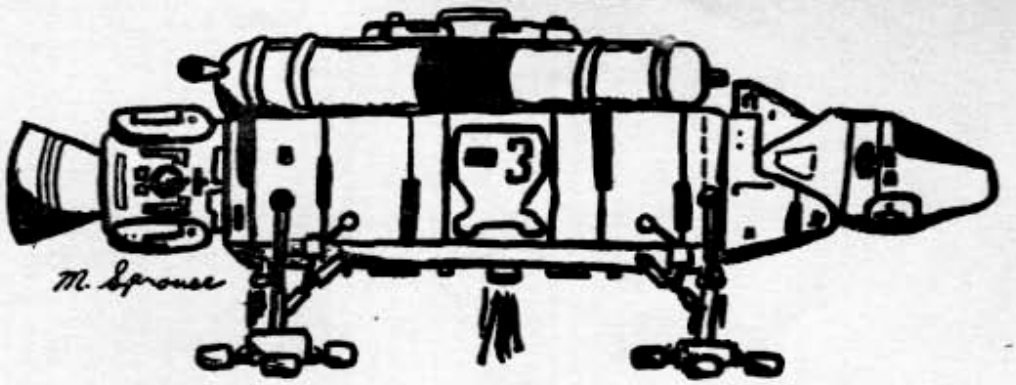
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MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membership cards and certificates for "The Springfield SPACE: 1999 Club" are still available. Membership cards (supplemented in ALPHA LOG 3) are 10¢ and membership certificates (supplemented in ALPHA LOG 4) are 15¢. Local members may purchase these at any club meeting. Out-of-city and out-of-state members may order them through the mail. Foreign members: inquire for special rates.

SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL SALE !!!!

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SPACE:1999

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the following people for their time and effort in contributing to this issue of ALPHA LOG:

Rob Engman for his robot drawing.

Jon Landry for his "SPACE: 1999 Aliens Wordsearch".

Steve Poleri for his various SPACE: 1999 drawings.

Mike Sprouse for his Swift drawing.

Terri Woodworth for "The Luck of the Alphans".

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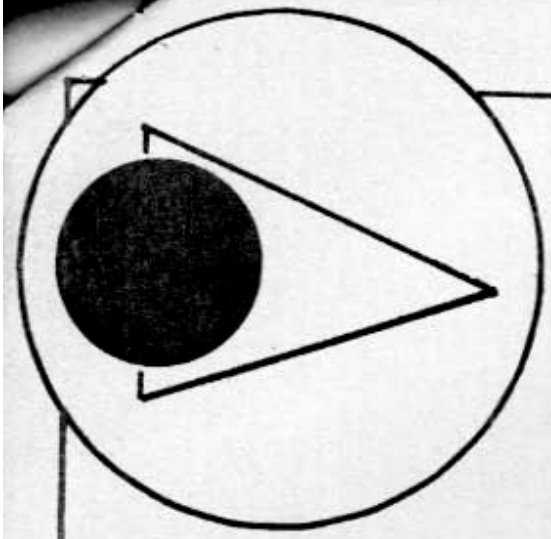
ANIMATED REVIEWS

Here again, I bring you another review of an animated episode which was featured in the Charlton magazine series SPACE: 1999. This one is called "Mind of the Snark". Next issue: "The Old Gods Are Not Eternal".

MIND OF THE SNARK (Episode 7: January 1976)

John, Helena, and Victor are on a reconnaisance to an abandoned Earth space station, the Snark. It's original crew now dead, the Snark was being run by a group of androids. Once a recreational ship, the Snark provides the Alphans with some vivid hallucinations. Commander Koenig meets Qit, chief of the Snark. Qit challenges John to a duel, for the fate of Alpha. Koenig is transported to a mid-evel castle where he must fight the demons of the Sorcerer, who turns out to be Victor Bergman. He must decide whether to kill Victor or let Alpha be destroyed !





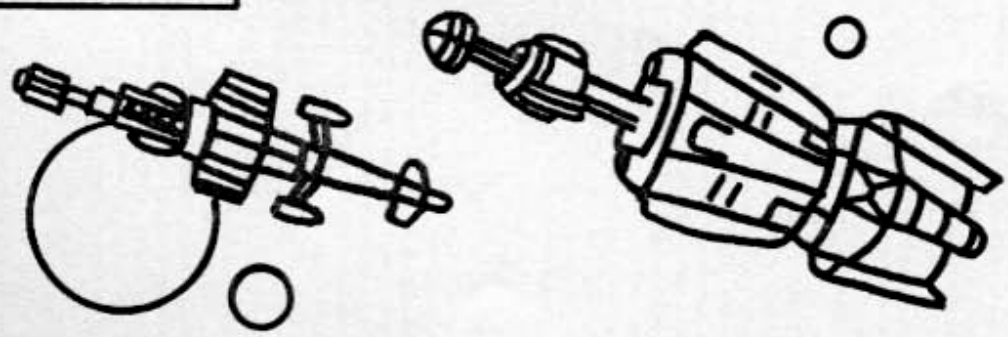
"SPACE: 1999" ALIENS WORD SEARCH

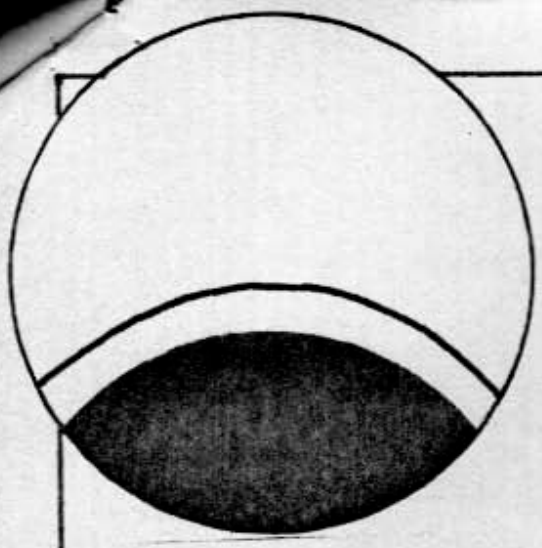
Last issue's word search was so well received that I decided to put in another one. I think that just about everybody knows how to do a word search, so I won't take time to explain. Again, there is no way for me to print the answers, so you'll have to believe that they're all there. This word search deals with SPACE: 1999 animated aliens. Good luck.

A	L	C	O	B	A	I	L	O	J
M	T	C	E	E	M	U	S	O	Z
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1. Adan ("Paradise Progression")
2. Alcoba ("Cornucopia")
3. Bel ("Another Name for Hell")
4. Eva ("Paradise Progression")
5. Infinity ("The Infinity Mechanism")
6. Iokon ("Another Name for Hell")
7. Jord ("Dawn of Extinction")
8. Kel ("E Pluribus Unum")
9. Kolton ("Snowball")
10. Lunda ("Mind of the Snark")
11. Montinima ("The Old Gods Are Not Eternal")
12. Nucleon ("The Primary Life Form")
13. Nuna ("An Alien Charm")
14. Orcus ("Cosmic Headache")
15. Qit ("Mind of the Snark")
16. Rygar ("Snowball")
17. Tamblin ("Just Like Home")
18. Tenik ("Dawn of Extinction")
19. Wenko ("Cosmic Headache")
20. Zhara ("Endgame")

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Landry goes CRAZY
ITC Update
Story: "The Future is Not So Far Behind (Part One)"
"Cornucopia"
Club Anniversary

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I, CLAUDIUS
Story: "The Future is Not So Far Behind (Part Two)"
"Endgame"
Local Reruns

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Science Fiction Happening
Interview: Frederick Pohl
Interview: Philip Jose Farmer
Nick Tate Comedy
"The Possesed"
Boston Exchange

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ALPHA LOG 7

Convention Update
SUPERMAN
Interview: Nat Segaloff
Interview: John Wallace Spencer
Story: "The Inhuman Sacrifice"
"E Pluribus Unum"

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ALPHA LOG 8

Foreign Exchange
Interview: Isaac Asimov
Story: "The Luck of the Alphans"
"Mind of the Snark"

Send to: ALPHA LOG Back Issues; c/o Chris Landry; 12 Maplewood Terrace; Springfield, MA; 01108

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