3rd anniversary issue

Alpha News Service

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPACE: 1999 SOCIETY

Volume 2 / Number 2 December 1979

CON MOVES TO SUMMER '80; EVENTS STAY SAME

The Space: 1999 Society's 2nd Annual Space: 1999 convention, originally planned for November 23-25, has been rescheduled to the summer of 1980.

The decision to reschedule the event, made in late October, was due to a number of factors. From some of the comments made by both members and non-members, the post-Thanksgiving date was inconvenient for travelling to New York. Consequently, ticket sales lagged. Also, the SNS did not get the kind of promotional support it was expecting from a leading SF magazine which had supported its earlier convention.

It was felt that the amount of money raised through ticket sales would be, at best, barely adequate to put on a quality convention. The SNS Board of Directors elected to reschedule the event, rather than run the risk of putting on a potentially unsuccessful con, as happened to another Space: 1999 convention earlier this year.

Although the exact date of the re-cheduled convention has not been set, Space: 1999 Convention 1980 will take place in mid-summer, when it is felt ticket sales will be much higher. The activities, special events, hotel, guests and ticket prices for the November date remain the same. Most of those who had bought tickets for the November convention have so far elected the option of retaining their tickets, which will be honored at the 1980 convention.

Further information on the convention will be available in Alpha News Service #3 (March).

STAR TREK MEETS THE MYSTERIOUS UNKNOWN FORCE

As of December 7th, "Star Trek" has made its premiere in most parts of the United States ...and preliminary indications are that the film version of the world's most successful SF television series not only borrows heavily from itself, but from Space: 1999 as well.

Film clips seen in preview show that the special effects are everything Paramount promised they would be, but that the basic storyline, which has the Enterprise encountering an all-powerful destructive force in outer space, is extremely derivative of both "The Changeling" and "The Doomsday Machine" episodes of Star Trek, as well as the "Voyager's Return" and "Space Brain" episodes of Space: 1999.

After faltering in the beginning with a scene in which the Enterprise's transporter kills two people (which has nothing to do with the rest of the story), the movie concentrates on the strange entity which is destroying whole planets in its path, not unlike the alien machine to which William Windom played Captain Ahab in "The Doomsday Machine".

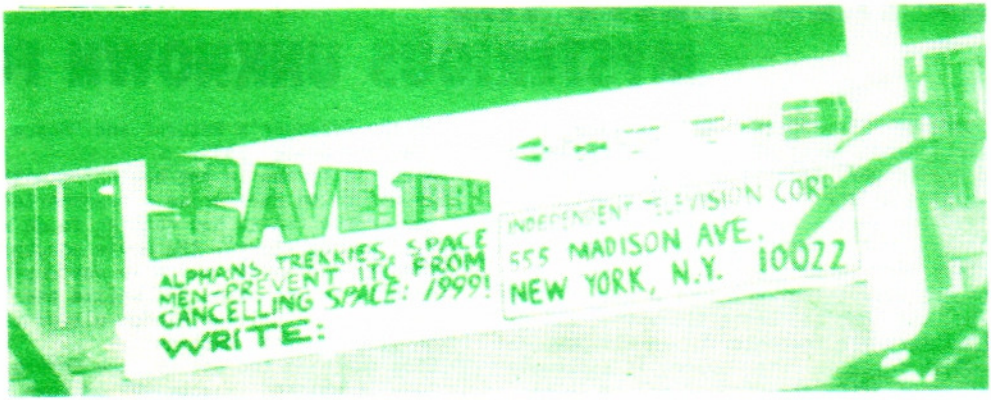
Upon reaching the entity, the Enterprise's Lt. Ilia is whisked away by the unknown object and returned in robot form to gather information

about the ship and the life-forms running it. (This is certainly reminiscent of what happened to Dr. Russell in "Ring Around the Moon" and to astronaut Kelly in "Space Brain".)
It would be impossible, however, to detail how the plot of the film resembles "The Changeling" and "Voyager's Return" without giving away the end of the movie.
On a purely thematic level, it is ironic that the type of plotting that Trekkies used to pan 1999 for...in which the heroes encounter the Mysterious Unknown Force which causes all sorts of bizarre things to happen until they figure out what the MUF wants...is precisely the type of plotting evident in the "Star Trek" movie. In short, after criticizing 1999 heavily, Star Trek has found itself doing the same type of story Space: 1999 was doing four years ago.

THE SNS: YEAR 3

December marks the third anniversary of the creation of The Space: 1999 Society and the movement to save Space: 1999. This issue of Alpha News Service is a special commemorative issue, with a complete history of the organization and a section illustrating the first efforts of the "Save: 1999" campaign.
The origins of The Space: 1999 Society date back to December of 1976, when Ted Hruschak and Dan Pallotta created the "Save: 1999" Campaign, an effort to organize a write-in campaign to prevent the impending cancellation of Space: 1999 in February of 1977.
"Save: 1999" began its effort by taking a test ad in The Cauldron, the student newspaper of Cleveland State University, publicizing the write-in campaign and the organization. In addition, "Save: 1999" applied for recognition as an official student organization at the university.

As a student organization applicant, "Save: 1999" was able to place posters in various campus buildings and set up an information table. Potential members were offered advice on writing to the networks (ABC was interested at the time) about Space: 1999. Special "Save: 1999" stickers were also distributed.
Progress was slow until just after ITC cancelled Space, when Ted Hruschak met fanzine publisher Mona Delitsky, who was laying the groundwork for the first-anywhere Space:1999 convention. "Save: 1999" was the ideal vehicle for the convention effort. Mona enlisted the aid of several other dedicated Space fans, and "Save: 1999" was rechristened as The National Save: 1999 Alliance.
The NSNA was intended to be an informally-structured, non-profit organization operated by fans as a service to other fans. A letter describing the organization and offering in-



SAVE "SPACE: 1999"



Copyright ©1975 ATV Licensing Ltd.

ITC officials will be meeting late in February to discuss the possible cancellation of SPACE: 1999, due to a loss of syndicating stations in the U.S. Help SPACE: 1999 return to its original, more successful format. Help keep it from going the way of STAR TREK. Write WUAB-TV. Write the papers. But most of all, write: Independent Television Corporation; 555 Madison Avenue; New York, New York 10022; "Attention: Mr. Abe Mandell, President". For information: 749-2468 evenings. Paid for by the SAVE: 1999 campaign.

formation about the upcoming convention in return for nothing more than an SASE was published in Starlog magazine. By no means the first Space: 1999 group to be created, the Alliance nevertheless brought together a large number of Space: 1999 fans and successfully sponsored Space: 1999 Convention 1978 in Columbus, Ohio.

As a first attempt, Convention 1978 was an unqualified success. Special guests included Gerry Anderson, Nick Tate, Clifton Jones, David Prowse, Barry Gray and, as an unexpected surprise, Martin Landau. A variety of SF films was featured, including two uncut episodes of Space: 1999: "Breakaway" and "War Games".

Thanks to the enthusiastic response of the 800 or more fans who attended the convention, a special charity auction and a dinner with the special guests made possible a donation of over $6000 to Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Space: 1999 Convention 1978 meant a lot of work to all the NSNA co-ordinators, each working on separate projects. While some of the co-ordinators did almost all of the pre-convention paperwork, the others kept the flow of events running smoothly during the convention.

Prior to and during Convention 1978, however, Ted and Mona found it necessary to raise objections to the structure and leadership of the Alliance. No offices such as President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc. had ever been created or voted upon by the co-ordinators, yet one member of the group had assumed such an office without an election. In addition, the self-appointed President created a set of by-laws without the knowledge or approval of the rest of the Alliance co-ordinators.

Despite repeated attempts by Ted Hruschak to negotiate a mutually agreeable solution for the continued unified operation of the Alliance, the disagreements were never resolved. When the self-appointed President made it clear he did not intend to give up his "office" or acknowledge a proper election, he was officially dropped from the organization.

In October 1978, Dan Pallotta returned as an active participant in the original organization, having been prevented from working on Convention 1978 by committments to work and college.

David Barnes and Brian Anderson, who were of invaluable help to Ted and Mona in keeping Convention 1978 on track, had already de-

cided to remain with them. The organization which began as "Save: 1999" almost two years before was reorganized as The Space: 1999 Society in mid-October.

Work began at once, from scratch, to build membership and to sponsor a second convention. The Society applied for and was granted Space: 1999 licensing from Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc., the current copyright-holder, early in 1979. Non-profit status is pending with the IRS, and while convention plans were temporarily fouled by unforeseen problems and a certain amount of bad will, The Space: 1999 Society is growing into a strong, viable organization of dedicated fans.

The purposes of The Space: 1999 Society remain what they were in the early days of "Save: 1999": to draw together people who appreciate, enjoy, and wish to revitalize Space: 1999, to direct a unified effort to keep the program "on the air" wherever possible and to help preserve the program for posterity. Even though Space: 1999 is the focus of these efforts, other quality science fiction productions by Gerry and Sylvia Anderson will receive similar support.

As a secondary purpose, the Society is dedicated to benefit its members and the rest of society by giving monetary donations or lending other support to selected charitable organizations which are working to improve the human condition. This secondary purpose is part of the focus of the Society's annual convention.

The Space: 1999 Society is, as it was intended to be, an informally structured, non-profit organization, responsive to its members and dedicated to their interests.

The organization is operated by a Board of Directors. Each Director has a separate function, sharing in the overall workload; no single person represents the organization. This assures that no one person can unduly influence the organization. All communication from members is routed through one address, allowing quick, direct reply to members' requests.

Alpha News Service is the official news publication of the Society. Issued four times a year, Alpha News Service is intended to act as a forum for interaction and communication between members. News contained in ANS will focus on Society activities, news in 1999 fandom, and SF in general.



METEOR HAS IMPACT BUT SHAPE OF THINGS IS POOR

Martin Landau has made two almost identical appearances in motion pictures recently, one in a TV movie, the other in a theatrical film. The TV movie was "The Death of Ocean View Park". Landau played the owner of the park who, despite evidence that the park is potentially dangerous (carnival rides turning on by themselves, odd weather, etc.) elects to keep the amusement park open.

It turns out that a freak storm has played havoc with both the park's electrical system and the land the park is built on. In the climax, Landau climbs a giant ferris wheel to try to rescue passengers while the park is blowing up around him. Effects were quite good for a TV movie, and in the end Landau falls to his death.

Much the same sort of thing happens in "Meteor". Landau portrays a general who insists the US should not share its military secrets with Russia in an attempt to shoot down a gigantic meteor that threatens to collide with Earth. Landau changes his mind by film's end, but nevertheless is killed in the much-publicized mudslide scene.

Waiting in the wings somewhere is a new adaptation of "The Fall of the House of Usher", also starring Martin Landau. Reports conflict as to whether this will be a TV movie or a theatrical film.

On the other end of the artistic scale there is Barry Morse, trapped in an imbecilic production of "The Shape of Things to Come" which probably has H G Wells spinning in his crypt.

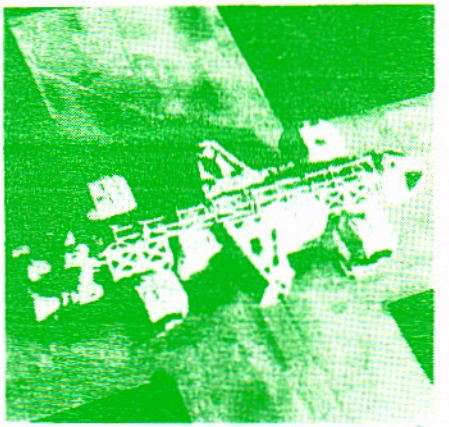
Purported to be a sequel to the original

"Things to Come", this Allied Artists film comes across more as an episode of Buck Rogers, with Morse, Jack Palance and a cute robot providing the only interesting moments.
Palance plays the same role he played on Buck Rogers a couple of months ago, that of a power-mad blackmailer, a sort of intergalactic Ayatollah Khomeini. Morse, the robot and several non-actors set out to stop Palance.
At their best, the special FX remind one of 1999, but at their worst, they're terrible. Sets appear to be left over from "Starship Invasions". Plotholes abound.
It is always fun to see Palance playing the tyrant role, nevertheless, and Barry Morse has two pretty good soliloquies, one about outer space, the other about ancient Greek philosophers. Unfortunately, lines are often buried in a garbled audio track.
Interestingly, while in 1999 Morse often went around wheezing because of his artificial heart, in this movie he goes around wheezing because he's dying of radiation poisoning. And while dedicated Victor Bergman fans may still want to see this film, they may cringe at the sight of their hero bleeding pink blood!
The film was originally a British/Canadian production, with Space: 1999 first-season line producer Sylvia Anderson acting as technical advisor. Ms. Anderson was, unfortunately, dropped from the production crew when the movie became an all-Canadian production.

Next issue: Barry Morse never leaves home without it!

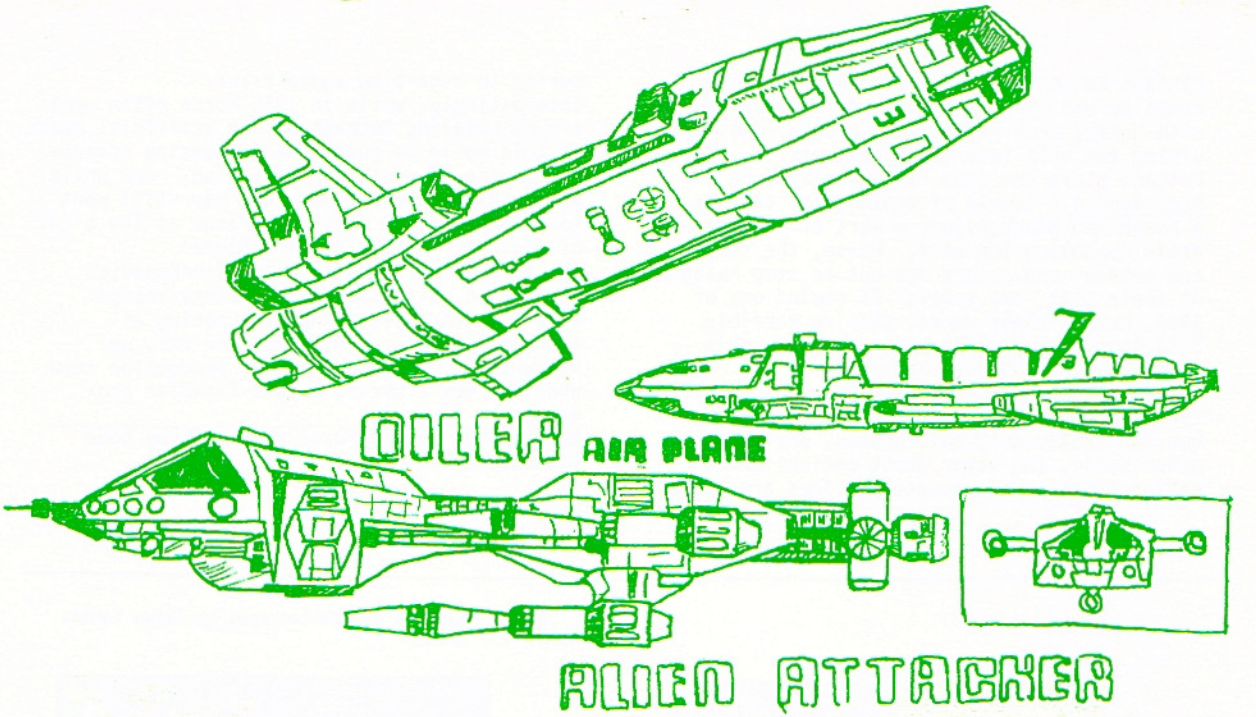
Models, artwork and photographs by Teruo Yamada.





Featured on this page are photographs depicting model work done by Japanese Society member Teruo Yamada, a 19-year-old student living in Tokyo. Teruo also sent a number of excellently-drawn spacecraft, based on ships from "2001" and Space: 1999.
The models pictured are a space station built of "wood and various other articles," and an Eagle crafted from glass pipes, concrete paste, plastic and paper. Space restrictions prevented the addition of several other photos sent by Teruo, as well as other artwork, but these may be contained in a future issue.
Not shown are a "dirtied" MPC Eagle, a Hawk, an "Invader's Baseship" similar to the one seen in "War Games", a copy of Alpha's deep-space probe built without a kit, and an MPC Moonbase Alpha kit with added glass tubes set into a concrete-and-gypsum crater.
Teruo is an avid fan of Space: 1999 and other Century 21 productions, including Thunderbirds and UFO. His great ambition is to become part of the staff at Century 21, and build special effects miniatures.

Interested in sharing your artwork or model work with other members? Members are invited to send artwork or photos of model work to Photos, Alpha News Service, The Space: 1999 Society, Box 11123, Cleveland OH 44111.
"High quality" is not necessary; art should be small enough to fit on a typical page of ANS. If possible, send negatives of photographs to retain detail in printing.



Compost

Ads are currently FREE to all members and non-members. Due to the litigous possibilities, no ads will be accepted for anything potentially illegal, including the sale and/or rental of audio- and videocassettes, except where documentation is included as to the legitimacy of such materials. Ads should be sent to Compost, Alpha News Service, The Space: 1999 Society, Box 11123, Cleveland OH 44111.

WANTED: Space: 1999 tapes! Todd B. Heiler, 436 Mill St., Springsville NY 14141.

Wanted: Space: 1999 items. I would like to buy any Space: 1999 items such as Comic Books, Novels, Toys, Novelties, etc. Please write me if you have any material and tell me the price and condition. Allen Osborne, 455 East Woodrow, Columbus OH 43207

James' Novelities, the number one in Novelities is having a special sale on the items listed.
#17 Snap It's, a novelity noise maker 50 for 60¢
#37 Magic Wire Trick for two 10¢ ea.
#26 The Magic Card changes from Queen to King...only 10¢ ea.
#100 Stocking Stuffers includes 2 blow parachutes, 2 party poppers, 1 magic paddle, 1 box of caps and finally one string trick, $1.00. So surprise your loved ones with some of James' Novelities Fun Jokes. Seven novelities for only One Dollar ($1.00). Send for free catalogue to: James' Novelities, 2650 Bixby Rd., Groveport OH 43125 ...10¢ off with this ad mailed in.

ALPHA NEWS SERVICE, 160 W. Foster St., Melrose MA 02176 Now offering subscriptions! $3.00 ($4.50 overseas) entitles you to the next three issues of ALPHA NEWS SERVICE. Subscribe NOW and receive 3 special issues: our 1st anniversary issue, the Martin Landau/Barbara Bain special, and our 2nd annual Year 3 issue...with a complete 1999 novelette! Now is the best time to join this fast-growing club. Payment must be in US funds. (NOTE: Despite the similar name, this publication and the SOCIETY newsletter are not related.)

Get copies of cassette recordings of the Big Chuck and Little John Show on WJKW-TV8, Cleveland. TV8's own comedy team! These recordings can be free. SASE for information to Brett Carey, 4114 Rellim Ave. NW, Warren OH 44483.

Australian member Melissa Adams wishes to correspond with other Space: 1999 fans. Her address: 17 Macquarie St., Bolton Pt., 2283 NSW Australia. NOTE: Airmail postage for a standard US letter is 31¢. Check with your Post Office for proper postage!

Commlock

All letters sent to Commlock will be accepted as intended for publication. Letters may be edited in the interests of space, grammar or clarity. Letters may be sent to Commlock, Alpha News Service, The Space: 1999 Society, Box 11123, Cleveland OH 44111.

The first letters we received were so interesting we decided to publish them almost verbatim. This, in turn, indicates that the Commlock column may take up a sizable part of future issues. Good work, fellow Alphans! Here, then, the letters....

The Alpha News Service is here, and if you can keep up the high standard you've set with this first issue, you're going to keep a lot of fans eager for news happy. I'm especially looking forward to the first letter column; it ought to be a perfect forum for a free-for-all exchange of ideas and opinion. So keep up the good work!

As a matter of interest: so far as I've been able to check, the only California station presently carrying Space is our very own channel 26 here in Visalia! After two years of Year 2, and an intervening year's absence, Year 1 has returned to the Valley; and it's strange, almost, to see these early episodes after some three years. Although I knew of the impending release of the "Breakaway"/"War Games" movie (I think "Lunar Attack", like the novelization, would be a more appropriate title, by the way), I was shocked to read about the cutting out of the "Alpha Valedictory" scene with Prof. Bergman. "War Games" ran here a couple of weeks back, and I can tell you: it's one thing to read the speech in the novelization, but it's another thing entirely to see and hear that speech being delivered on-screen. Its deletion not only cuts out the very soul of the episode, but also the Alphans' own view of their number one priority for living, something you were always aware of during Year 1 but which somehow got deflected during Year 2: they are looking for a place to live! This was one of the finest moments in the entire series, and I wish some sort of effort could be mounted to demand its reinstatement.

(And oh, yes...since "War Games" is a product of the Alphans' own minds, I privately like to think that Bergman did in fact make such a recording at some time prior to his untimely death; so that Alpha can indeed speak to the future in his voice, after it is abandoned.)

One other thing about this particular episode that really stood out to me, and that's comparing the "stellar dogfight" "Star Wars" and its successors have popularized with the more measured and stately (but no less desperate) deportment of the Eagles as they engage the Hawks. I simply can't picture an Eagle throwing itself all over the sky the way, say, a Colonial Viper does!

Having said all that, I have to voice even greater objection to the impending loss of "Breakaway" from the weekly lineup. This is, after all, where we all began, and to yank it will be a terrible disservice to the fans... especially those who are just discovering the show. The episode puts us in the thick of the action in a way that the opening credits simply can't do. (I'll probably get some argument here, but I feel the Year 2 opening sequence fell down somewhat in this respect. All those little "supers" zipping across the bottom of the screen were nice and all, but they were distracting and tended to clutter the picture. Year 1 simply gave us the critical date...September 13, 1999...and then leaves it to the pictures. They don't need any extra embellishment...they tell the story.)

I note that among the "Bests" to be chosen at the upcoming convention will be Best Episode. That ought to be a wild affair; who doesn't have their own favorite? I know I do, but my nomination for this honor deserves a special commendation all its own, independent of Terry's Top Ten...and that episode, which ran here just last week, is "Dragon's Domain".

One of Space's aspects that most interests me is its overall continuity; the progression of events, and how the two seasons do...or don't ...fit together. And in my view, no other episode in either season...with the exception of the aforementioned "Breakaway"...sets us up in terms of people and places and turns of events, for September 13, 1999, to a greater extent than this one. Or, for that matter, for what will follow; anyone can see, for example, that here is where Helena Russell's Status Reports of the second year have their origins. We get our first good look at her and Koenig before they knew each other, before she even got to Alpha, and before he became its top officer. There's a hint of the uniform changes that the second year will bring in full force...even down to the photo ID tags, if you really look closely. This suggests, at least to me, that these changes were already in the process of being made throughout the ILFC

structure...Commissioner Dixon is also seen to be wearing such a tag...and were slowly filtering out to Alpha, but the moon broke orbit before the changeover could become complete. Then, to borrow Helena's words, "Memory (of such things) was dimmed in our fight for survival," and there the matter rested up to the eve of Year 2.

Of course, the most glaringly obvious...and still relevent...theme of "Dragon's Domain" is that of astro-politics. The space explorer's worst enemy is not the unknown. "The reality of space adventuring is that it's terribly expensive." Remember? Look at the continuing problems on the construction of the space shuttle. And "Breakaway" only proves that while Commissioners may change, issues do not. Let's hope, for the future's sake, that this will change; and more, let's work for it.

Let's hope it's different in at least one other respect, too. I look at all these spectacular photos sent back by Voyagers 1 and 2 (pre-Queller class, of course) and Pioneer 11, with more still to come, and then I look at such episodes as "Domain" and "Matter of Life and Death" and "Brian the Brain" and "Death's Other Dominion", and I begin to wonder what indeed will happen when the state of the art allows Man to follow the trail to the outer planets blazed by these remarkable machines. We could be in for a cursed life. We had so much success, on balance, when Apollo followed the Rangers and Surveyors and Lunar Orbiters to the moon; it brings the public to expect success as a matter of routine. Interest in Apollo was nose-diving long before Apollo 17 left Taurus-Littrow. When we start thinking about going to Jupiter or Saturn (Titan?) or even Mars, we may be called to account for all that success, and not just in terms of dollars but of lives, careful as we might be.

What will it take to find the tenth planet, whether we call it Ultra or not? "Domain" at least suggests it. Look at how very distant Pluto is, and the lengthy time and effort it took to find it nearly a half-century ago, and that with the technology of astronomy then in existance. Pretty neat piece of detective work. To find an even-more-distant tenth planet may very well take the sort of high-powered telescopic gear Alpha must possess, as is implied in "Domain". Now that I'd like to see turn out prophetic! (Quick, now: at this very minute, what's the most distant planet? Neptune! It crossed into that distinction when Pluto moved inside its orbit this January, and won't become eighth in order again until March 1999...the same month Sandra Benes arrives on the moon to become its data and communications officer.)

One last little thing, if you're still with me at this point! I note in the ANS that there is some confusion as to where Ed Bishop is in "2001"; this may only add to it, but here's what I think. I read The Making of Kubrick's 2001 a few years back, and was surprised to see his name among the credits. So when "2001" was shown on TV some three years ago...and remembering the large number of non-speaking roles in it...I tried to make a point of looking out for him. And if memory serves correctly, he is one of the pilots in the cockpit of the moon shuttle Aries, the spherical transporter that brings Dr. Floyd to the moon. I don't think it was a speaking role, nor do I remember his character being addressed by name.

I don't know about you, but I am exhausted by now! Again, luck to all attending the convention and hope you get a terrific turnout. Hope we here in the West will have our fair share of representation. Maybe a Midwest location might be chosen for next year's affair, to equalize travel distances? And here's a little thought: wouldn't it be something to have Barry Morse and Catherine Schell on the same convention podium? Their characters never meet (although they appear together in "Guardian of Piri"); it would really be interesting to hear what Prof. Bergman and Maya might've thought of each other....

Terry Shewmaker
Visalia CA

Thanks for the words of encouragement, Terry.

Just in case our article was a little confusing, we'd like to clear up the case of the Edited Victor Bergman Speech. Victor's speech was edited out of the TV episodes in some cities, by the station's editors. Now, it is possible that the same thing will happen to the movies, BUT... the chances are against it. In some cities the movies may be shown on a different station than the TV show was shown on. Even if they're shown on the same station, that doesn't necessarily mean the movies will fall victim to the same specific film editor. Different editors at different stations edit different things. It's usually purely a matter of taste for them.

We do agree, though, that it would be terrible to see the scene go. It'll also be sad to see "Breakaway" and "War Games" pulled from syndication, though we do understand ITC's reasoning. If, for example, the movie "Alien Attack" is running Saturday from 6:00-8:00 on channel 2, who would watch "Breakaway" Saturday at 7:00 on channel 7? ITC is obviously trying to avoid ending up competing with itself on two different stations.

We checked a VHS videocassette of "2001: A Space Odyssey", and while you may very well be right, we're not sure that the pilot of the Aries 7-B is Ed Bishop. (There is a second pilot who is cut off by the edge of the TV screen, so we can't see him, either.) As many times as we've watched the tape of that movie, we're still not sure where Ed Bishop is. (Our personal

theory is that he's in the conference room with Dr. Floyd...'WAY in the background.) Anybody else got any other ideas? We may end up consulting MGM to see which of us is right!

I was greatly relieved to have found your Society. Since 1975 I have received nothing but criticism about liking Space: 1999. At last I have found a group of people that share my interests.

This letter is mainly to give some suggestions:

Firstly, I am disappointed that I cannot attend the convention. The con being in New York and I being in Texas represents a problem. However, this doesn't mean I'll always be unable to attend. For the benefit of me and other fans like myself, I suggest you change the city the con is in every year. Say like to Dallas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Denver and the like. This gives all fans a chance to attend.

Second, I think that now, with almost all fans in contact with each other, we should ALL try to be the start of a third year of Space: 1999. This does sound ridiculous, but think of the Trekkies trying to revive Star Trek SIX YEARS after its cancellation. It's certainly worth a try. Letters, petitions, calls to all local stations would help. Try to get all neighbors and relatives to help in this very important campaign. Of course, it didn't work last time, but we were very uncoordinated in our actions. We were working in fragments. I hope this important suggestion is taken seriously.

Third, an animated series. Maybe we could get this off the ground. It wouldn't hurt to try. To make this work just follow the outline of item 2.

Fourth, maybe if this doesn't work and it's impossible to restart the series, we should try to have a movie made. A real movie in which the Alphans finally find a home. No one should just let this kind of series "hang". If it must end, let it end right!

Fifth, if items 2 or 3 work, let's make sure we can get those actors that we want in the series to go in the series. Like Prentis Hancock and Barry Morse, to name a few. Everyone send letters to encourage them.

Sixth, gentlemen at the Society, I hope you can possibly get certain publishers to make a complete set of Space: 1999 photonovels. Every one of the fans, and me especially, would like to have many color pictures of Space: 1999. Also, we'd like to have the full story/script lines of the show. In a set of photonovels that would be possible. All fans certainly would enjoy this.

These suggestions are for all fans to answer.

Now, items pertaining to your newsletter:

Firstly, I hope if this newsletter is a success, that you could print it more often. Maybe eight times a year or even monthly. All fans would like the gap between newsletters to be shorter.

Second, maybe you could begin a comic strip for this newsletter. It would help give a lighter tone to your newsletter if it were bogged down by bad news. Anyway, many would not mind seeing a short animated Space: 1999 comic strip.

Third, maybe a short column could be written by various primary Space: 1999 actors every publication. Their thoughts and views of the show. Or maybe a column written by Gerry Anderson showing how the show was being created. Anything from spurred inspiration to bare technological aspects.

Fourth, I hope you could possibly print the meanings of certain vague episodes. Tell the fans "that aspect" of the shows which they don't understand. Maybe help explain those aspects of the technological side of the show many anti-Space: 1999 people deem impossible. In short, clear up the loose ends for everyone.

Gentlemen, once again I say I am pleased with your Society. I hope that this newsletter remains the entertaining, informative publication it has started out to be.

Christian Horton

We're 'way ahead of you, Christian, on your suggestion to hold the con in a different city every year. Some of the possibilities for 1981 are Los Angeles and Toronto, for example.

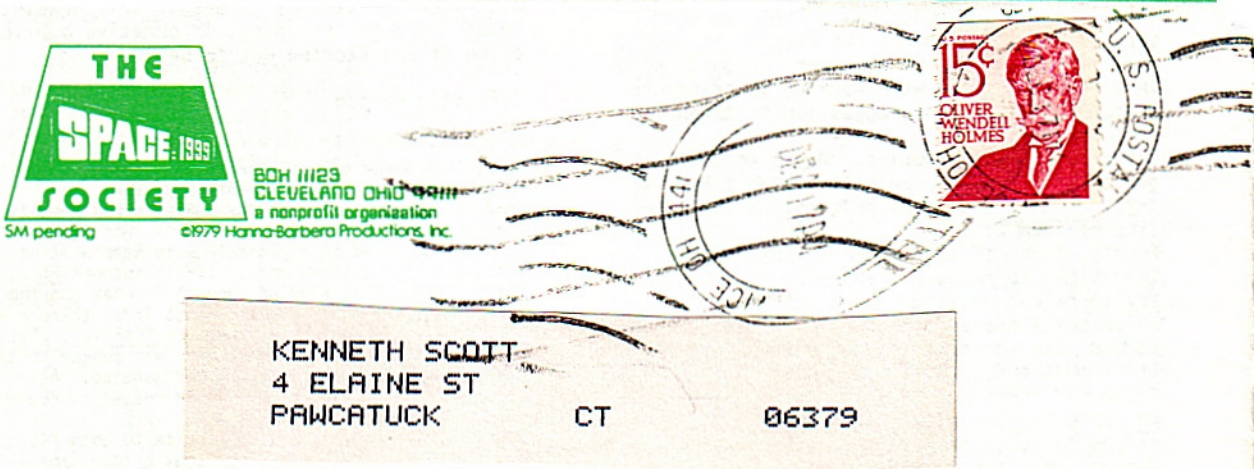
It does not sound that ridiculous to keep writing letters to TV stations and to ITC in support of Space: 1999. That kind of support is what got the Star Trek movie made. On the minus side, there are many fewer 1999 fans than there are Trekkies, plus which Space: 1999 merchandise does not appear to have the same selling power as Trek merchandise. All these factors go into a production company's decision as to whether to revive a show.

All we can suggest is that you write to both ITC and your local stations. Trek took a long time building its support, and it is possible that 1999's real strength lies somewhere in its future. The show is ahead of its time, and it may be years until it gets the kind of recognition it really deserves. Right now we're in the middle of organizing a brand new letter-writing campaign to ITC. Check our next issue for the addresses, and how to go about writing most effectively.

As to a set of photonovels, it's highly unlikely anyone will want to publish any, especially the way production has been stopped on so many 1999 products lately, but it wouldn't hurt for us to try. We'll let

you know the results.
Right now it would be unrealistic to print our newsletter more often. First of all, even a newsletter this size costs quite a bit to print (although lately we're getting our reduction and color ink free), but more importantly, with the show cancelled, there simply isn't enough news about 1999 to fill eight or twelve issues a year. (Though this may change if we get a lot of interesting letters from readers.)
A comic strip is a distinct possibility. Production directors Dave Barnes and Brian Anderson are in touch with an artist they know who does three-panel 1999, Trek and Lost in Space strips. We're going to see if this gentleman would consider doing a regular strip for us. We've seen his stuff, and it's hilarious.
Continually tracing down 1999's cast to do a series of articles for us might be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming, but we do plan to publish a series of post-convention interviews with the stars, which is really the same thing. As to a column by Gerry Anderson, please see Starlog. Many of the columns attributed to Gerry are actually written by David Hirsch, an assistant editor at Starlog, but every once in a while Gerry answers letters from fans.
Finally, we do plan some articles analyzing particularly complex episodes of Space: 1999. Next to The Prisoner, Space: 1999 is possibly the most difficult series to understand on TV.
And, thank you for the compliments! As you can hopefully see with this issue, we're trying to make Alpha News Service better and better.

Merry Christmas
Happy Hannukah



KENNETH SCOTT
4 ELAINE ST
PAWCATUCK CT 06379