MAIN COMPUTER

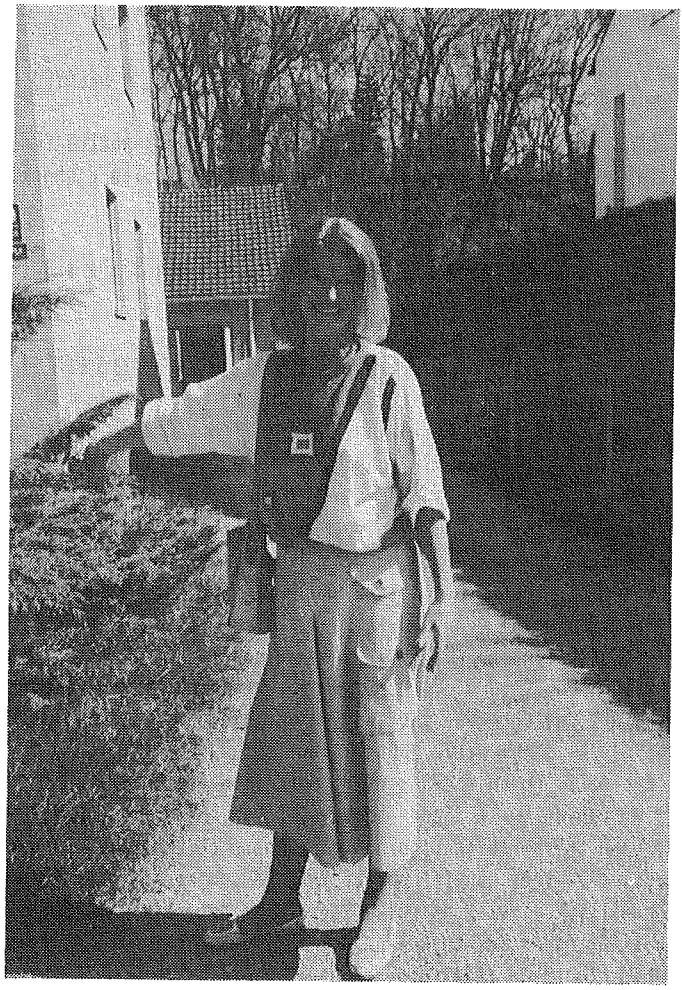
Newsletter of the International Space:1999 Alliance

Dues: $8.00 US/ $9.00 Canada/ $12.00 Overseas Issued in Sept., Dec., March, & June

CATHERINE SCHELL FAN CLUB

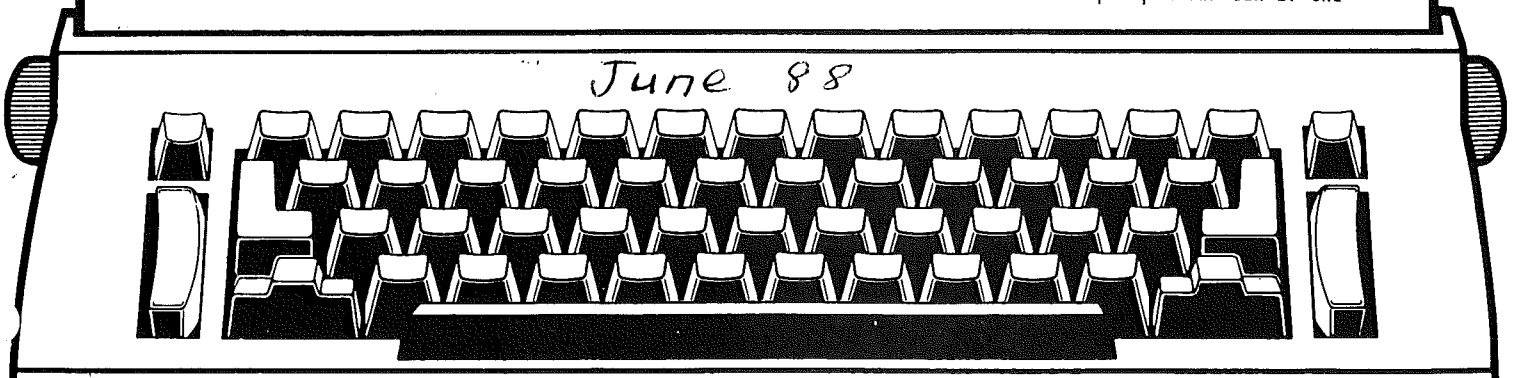
All fans of Catherine Schell should be sure to join this club. The President, Michael Evermann, informed us that the club's newsletter will be printed in English even though it is published in Germany. It is also possible to pay membership dues in U.S. dollars. The cost in this case is $12.00 due to the exchange rate. The name for the newsletter has not been decided yet. If you have any ideas for a name, you might send them to Michael along with your dues. The first issue of the newsletter is scheduled for July 15. It will contain a special interview, new photos of Catherine like the one to the right, a story written around the character of Maya and some private photos of Catherine when she was a youth.

If you are a Catherine Schell fan, you won't want to miss this issue. You can send dues or info requests to: Michael Evermann / Malplaquetstrasse 10 / D-1000 Berlin 65 / WEST GERMANY. Michael also showed Catherine some issues of MC and has agreed to forward copies to her. We would like to thank Michael for providing a contact with this talented Space:1999 star.



SPACE:1999 VIDEO TAPES

It appears that our prior ad indicating that Star Tech sold video tapes was in error. Blythe Kearney sent us a catalog from an individual who is associated with Star Tech, but who runs a completely separate business called FBN Video. The catalog states that, "FBN is a hobby, not a business, and has no connection with any company." Copying commercial videotapes is an infringement of copyright. Shows taped from the TV for personal viewing are OK. Duplication of shows taped from the TV is in a questionable area. This is probably why the the video sales are separate from Star Tech. Most of the Space:1999 tapes available from FBN are copies made from original, uncut PBS showings which were taped in SP mode. They have all 48 episodes and the movies. They were not able to obtain uncut or Sp tapes for ten of the



June 88

Volume 10 Number 4

episodes. They were interested in trading for copies in this format. You may also be able to buy tapes with copies of the episodes. If you would be interested in a catalog or more information, you should write to: FBN Video / P.O. Box 456 / Dunlap, Tn 37327. * * * * NEW INFORMATION * * * * - Part of the reason tapes may not be available from FBN is that ITC requested they stop selling them. This is because ITC has obtained the rights back from USA network so they can issue them through their own video marketing division. Apparently the episodes are to be taken from original English 35mm prints and will be 52 minutes long. The anticipated release date is in 1989. They are also trying to get the rights for the movies so they can be broken back down into the individual episodes again. Keep your fingers crossed.

* *

DELAYED AGAIN

We're sorry for the delay again. There were health issues again which need not take up space. We also looked at the financial situation to determine new dues and got quite a shock. This will be addressed later in the MC. For now lets read more enjoyable things.

* *

SPACE:1999 - REBIRTH & GROWTH OVERSEAS

We received the following letter from French member Chantal Battiston. This may spur renewed interest in 1999 and contribute to growth in 1999 fandom.

LA 5 did it!!! Yes, eleven years after its creation, a private French TV station finally broadcast Space:1999 second series! Nobody believed it could happen anymore, but on August 29, 1987, "Breakaway" was shown as the first episode of a 48 episode series. Then I had a time wondering whether the T.V. guide printer made a mistake, or a miracle was going to happen. First, 23 episodes from the first series were shown at about 6 PM weekdays. Then, the day "Testament of Arkadia" was to be broadcast according to the T.V. guides, the first ever seen episode of series two over here, appeared. Believe it or not, it was "All That Glisters"! I still wonder about the reason for this broadcast: for a first broadcast, nobody knew about Tony, Maya and all the changes. The station pressed the control and there they were without any explanation! The next day was "The Metamorph" as announced, but I guess it was quite late to introduce Maya! Then, "The Exiles, and the series stopped being broadcast daily to be shown weekly, Saturdays at about 3:30 or 4:00 PM and sometimes rerun Sundays at about 1:00 or 2:00 AM. Saturday is quite a good time, although there are sports shows on other channels at the same time. The problem was that nobody knew the series was going to be shown at that time! Indeed, this channel is used to changing programs without telling T.V. guides so they can let people know. A few weeks later it was all right.

Actually, "Testament of Arkadia" was broadcast one Saturday afternoon among series two episodes, and the whole second year but "Bringers of Wonder" part 1 and 2 have been shown. Apparently, both series will be rerun as it seems the channel still has rights on them. One can hope!

Of course, the series reappearance was an opportunity for me to talk about it without being taken for a foolish forgotten series lover. What I gathered from friends I asked is that most of them knew Space and liked it as children when they first saw it (series I that is), and some were still watching it. I got a funny re action from one of my friends, who is 19 now: she told me she used to watch the series in her father's arm and was so scared by the few scenes she dared watching that she made nightmares out of them! Among those who discovered the second series, almost all said they prefered the first one, and didn't recognize the Space:1999 they knew in the second.

Then, a T.V. series magazine printed an article about the two years making, and some readers wrote comments. It appeared that the second series already criticized in the article was also criticized by viewers. Never mind, it was an opportunity to try to have the Alliance known, and I wrote a few times myself so that its address would be printed along with those of LBFA, Morse Code, British Nick Tate Club and mine, in order to let French fans know they were not alone, something I thought myself during the years. So far I have received 21 letters from people wanting to know more about Space or one of its actors, and apparently some will join the Alliance (something I advise them to do!) Isn't that wonderful?! Those potential new members are more series I than series II lovers (only one person wrote he considered both series equally good), but let's not make a quarrel out of it! Having seen series II episodes in French after knowing some in English , I myself do prefer year I to II, although I find some very good episodes in series two, among them "Immunity Syndrome", "Seeds of Destruction" and "One Moment of Humanity" for example. Anyway, SPACE stays Space, and it really lived recently over here! See, everything is possible!!

We would like to thank Chantal for the inspirational words. We were also thrilled when a later letter indicated that she, Claude Merkel and Richard Plumel, having noted a growing interest in Space:1999 in France, have decided to form a 1999

club of their own. They still don't have a name for the club or its newsletter but they hope to have the first newsletter out during their summer vacations. They hope it will live long and have lots of members and so do we.

"MERELY PLAYERS" COMING BACK TO ONTARIO?

We have received word from Vivian Stanley that Barry's play may be scheduled to run from Nov. 16 to Dec. 10 or possibly earlier at the Hamilton Place Studio Theatre in Hamilton, Ontario. It is being promoted by Theatre Aquarius. Vivian thinks this would make a great Canadian section convention if there is enough interest. For this she needs the address of someone in Toronto to help set up arrangements. Anyone want to volunteer? If nobody volunteers, she will set it up. She also needs to know if anyone is interested in going. She will even accept a tentative yes. As she says, "I NEED SOME ANSWERS! I need to get a number in order to get prices. LETS SUPPORT THIS GUYS! That, by the way, is aimed at the Canadians in the crowd. The US members need no encouragement."

This may be your chance to see a great actor do his stuff. Don't miss it. Vivian also indicated that Barry was to be in Canada at the end of May and that Ray Wickens and Barry's son-in-law Donald have the anniversary clock to present to Barry and Sydney. There should be pictures of the presentation for members of Morse Code.

UNDERCURRENTS

By Amanda Russell

Commissioner Gerald Simmonds strode down the hall toward his Alphan 'Guest Quarters', a feeling of frustration overwhelming him. He'd not felt this helpless for longer than he could remember. He sneered at the words 'Guest Quarters' beside his door before he opened it and entered the darkened interior. 'Guest' had suddenly become permanent, thanks to Koenig and his...stubborn close mindedness, his so called concern for the base; for Alpha and her people. TOO much concern as far as Simmonds was concerned. So much that he wasn't willing to take a risk. Koenig refused to see that without taking a risk or two, there would BE no base for him to be concerned about.

Simmonds had been incensed by Commander John Koenig's decision not to attempt a return to Earth immediately after Breakaway. Simmonds had tried everything he could to change the Commander's mind, but it had done no good. His threats were hollow ones. Koenig knew it. Bergman knew it. The Main Mission Command Staff knew it. Reluctantly, Gerald Simmonds knew it too. His authority over Koenig, and all of Alpha, had been severed at the same time the Earth's gravitational hold on the moon had been severed. He was a man without a job, a purpose, just as the moon was a satellite without a planet.

And try as he might, the former commissioner could not get these Alphan people to come to their senses - about their chances of survival in space, and about John Koenig, the man they believed would lead them to some as yet uncharted 'Promised Land'. A modern day Moses. Hardly. Koenig was nothing more than a charismatic figurehead who had shown enough foresight to step in and take complete and total control of a bunch of easily lead scientists before panic, and common sense, could settle in.

Oh, there were a few who would side with him against Koenig. Men and women who - for one reason or another - had gotten on Koenig's bad side during the nearly two months since Breakaway. They would gladly side with Commissioner Gerald Simmonds should he truly wan to make a stand, but Gerald Simmonds had not reached his position of Commissioner by backing the wrong team - even if it was his own. It was too late to do anything about it now. The moon, and Alpha, were long since past any hope of returning home. The Eagle transport ships simply did not have the range needed.

They were all fools. Blindly following Koenig, believing him to be right. They would soon learn differently, but it was all ready too late. He was stuck on this miserable waste dump for the rest of his life. But he would not give up. It was the one thing -- the hope of returning home o earth -- that made his life on Alpha bearable.

Suddenly there was light and true hope again. Simmonds could see it, could see his one way off Alpha and back to Earth. Oh yes, he would play along with the civility routine toward these Caldorians, so long as they could be of use to him. And they could be of immeasurable use.

Once again Koenig was showing what a fool he was. Allowing these aliens to repair their ship, to re-program the sleep chamber for someone to replace their lost crewmember - a human. Leading them to believe they would actually be welcomed on Earth now, so soon after Breakaway. The earth would have enough problems of its own. There would be no time to welcome alien beings with gifts of friendship. Even 75 years from now when they were actually to reach Earth, there would be a cool welcome for their alien visitors. But the human passenger they brought, that was another matter entirely...Yes, he knew the truth and knew a way to be certain HE was the passenger the Caldorians took back o Earth.

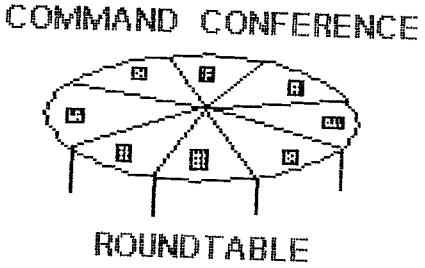
More than once Koenig claimed his actions were for the good of Alpha. And that was what would be his downfall. Oh, Simmonds was very aware of the rapidly developing relationship between Koenig and Helena Russell. He'd never had much regard for the doctor, and was not above using her new importance to his own advantage if it came to that, but he did not really

want to bother with the woman. No, he would hit Koenig where it would do the most good, cause the most harm -- endanger the good of the base.

Simmonds was aware of the beginnings of undercurrents of dis-satisfaction with Koenig rippling through the base. The early blindness was clearing and reality seeping through. He would like to stay around and see what happened, watch as Koenig was brought down, but he could not risk it. He could not lose his only chance - ever - of returning to Earth. His plan would work. If Koenig was willing to risk the entire base, all 300 some lives against him, just to prove who was in control, then Koenig was a bigger fool than Simmonds had always believed.

Smiling, Gerald Simmonds stopped just outside the Maintenance Section of the base. Beyond was the power Station and the converter he would use to make Koenig see reason - his reason. And the door between him and that converter was only guarded by two men. Checking his stun gun, Simmonds felt the assurance of success settle over him. Let Koenig have the base. None would survive long enough to really care. And he, Commissioner Simmonds, was going home.

Firing in quick succession, the guards dropped to the floor. Simmonds entered the correct security access code into the commlock he had stolen from Koenig and slipped quietly through the door as it easily parted before him. He could feel the fresh air of Earth all ready.



An interpretation of Year II by Michael Godin

304 Lake Shore Rd. E. Apt. 10/Port Credit, Mississauga Ontario, Canada L5G 1H4

I began as a rather reserved but avid fan of Space:1999. I attended two conventions ('78 & '79), and became acquainted with the more vocal personalities in fandom at that time. During 1979 and 1980, my fascination began to change to an interest in the subject matter of the series. I withdrew into an eight year hermitage from the only community for whom such work held any value, the Alliance. The work is not finished but it is ripe for tossing about in samples. In sum, it is an interpretive project on the subject matter of Year 2, and I feel it carries considerable philosophical weight in spot. However, that is a question for your own judgement. It concerns second season exclusively because that was the season I saw first.

I shall start this discussion addressing some of the more essential, physical details of the storyline leading to points and generalizations which will give rise to more sophisticated notions. The storyline is, indeed, worthy of so lofty a level of appreciation. But, I must warn you, the analysis is very subtle.

First, it is necessary to establish a thorough concept of the storyline. What I mean by "storyline" is the entire array of episodes, in all their detail, and all in their given chronological order. All episodes are dated except for "Journey to Where" and "The Taybor". Since these two were aired in the same period as the earlier episodes, I presumed that they were meant to fall somewhere within that time span. But telecasts were never strictly chronological, and I had to ignore their specific ordering within this period for some while. I opted to place them in the seemingly empty 100 days between "The Exiles" and "One Moment of Humanity" (403 and 515), seeing how the others in their vicinity seemed spaced by anything from six to eight weeks. In fact I had never actually determined the placement of these two undated cases until the development of certain organisational theories indicated precisely where they should fit. Those theories will be discussed later. The net result was that "Journey to Where was dated at 444 days and "The Taybor" at 490 days.

Next came the natural development of marked phases or regions in the storyline. Historical fields are normally broken into epochs or ages. On a scale as small as this, of course, these conceptions are out of place. Since the duration of the whole storyline does not encompass even one full generation, we are forced to settle for a sense of history that is more spatial than chronological. After all, the scenario is fashioned on the Moon's rapid passage through the many neighborhoods of galactic space.

Yes, there are such divisions in the storyline. They are subtle but can be arbitrarily defined. The first is the "space storm" cited by Helena in the status report for "The Rules of Luton". Since most episodes transpire in a day, any event that lasts 42 days must be interpreted as marking off one region of space from another, especially since the phenomenon has no other "episodic" purpose. The 210 days between "The Mark of Archanon" and the spacestorm are far less a regular pause than a decisive hiatus. The longest break between episodes at that point was 75 days, separating "All That Glisters" from "Mark of Archanon". Together with the expanse of nothingness before "The Metamorph", this long "calm before the storm" serves to define this episodic region of space.

The second division falls directly upon one, specific episode, "Space Warp". The phenomenon at the heart of this ordeal is a literal rift in the fabric of space, with an instantaneous displacement of 5 light-years. That's quite a distance! What greater division of the storyline could there be? It translates as more than 5 years of travel time "saved" or "redeemed" in the wink of an eye. Anyway, the resolution of that episode itself hinges upon successful passage through the warp. Simply, the story isn't over until the Commander and Tony have passed through the "door" and returned to the Moon already on the verge of a new sea full of adventure. Therefore, while the space warp can be viewed as a decisive boundary between "regions", the episode "Space Warp", is effectively contained in the first side of the warp since the episode is finished as soon as the Moonbase is reunited and the trouble with Maya is resolved in the same instant.

These are the only two historically discriminating events in the entire storyline. To be sure, there are many momentous incidents, but no others constitute either a lapse of time or breach of space quite so dramatically.

The three defined regions I have opted to call provinces and in the dignifying light of later theory, Provinces. The theory so far is organizational since it unifies the sequence of episodes in any given Province.

It appears that each Province is governed by a set of physical circumstances. One element of the set is active, the other passive. Subtly revealed in either all or a majority of its episodes, these conditions tend to characterize their host Province, casting events in a special light and giving each region a theme. That is to say, these circumstances gang up in their repective Provinces as nowhere else in the storyline.

Now, let's get our Provinces straight. The first, ending at the space storm, must consist of the seven episodes dated from 342 days to 640 days, that is, from the "Metamorph" to "The Mark of Archanon". The third, beginning after the space warp, must also consist of seven, from "The Bringers of Wonder", whose date is a separate matter for discussion, through "The Dorcons". Now, the middle region, the "intermediate" Province, must necessarily contain the remainder, from "The Rules of Luton" through and including "Space Warp". All told, they number nine episodes. I think that's all we need clarify for now.

Though I have provided a rather adequate argument to win respect for these boundaries, I have not done alot to describe these proposed Provinces. However, when added to the observations we are about to make, their message rings clear. What I shall do next is handle the nitty-gritty of these physical coincidences, and it will be up to you to decide just how influential the argument is for "Provincialism" in the storyline.

It begins when we take notice how often cold occurs among the seven episodes of the first Province. First, there is the cryogenic phenomenon of the "Exiles". Then there is the chilly climate of wintry Scotland in "Journey to Where". On the heels of that story is the story of Taybor's potent perfume, which arose in the ice caves of some exotic planet as its sun went nova. Just after that we discover the frigid temperature of the planet Vega, and the gradual refrigeration of Moonbase Alpha that is the result of Zamara's seizure upon "ionic transfer." And finally there is the "cool but not cryogenic" state of suspension in which Pasc and Etrec are discovered.

The second peculiarity is the instance of blue upon two occasions, "The Exiles" and "The Mark of Archanon".The condition is not influential in either episode, but rather occurs as a somehow rather impressive sideline. In "The Exiles", Helena reports that "for the sixth consecutive day, we've been traveling through an area of deepspace where the stars are so close that we're constantly bathed in a lovely, blue light." The information apparently has no bearing on the course of the episode, yet it is somehow noteworthy enough to find its way into Dr. Russell's log. In "The Mark of Archanon", for the duration of the episode, Commander Koenig and Maya are engaged in the evidently distant activity of what is labeled "Blue Quadrant". Why such an area might be described this way must be attributed to a presumable abundance of blue light emanating either from it or through it. Again, the circumstance plays no part in the immediate plot, yet why is it there? Doubtless, a diversion was required for John and Maya, since the script did not provide for their presence. But why should the phenomenon be characterized as "blue"? That is a matter for speculation.

Be that as it may, we are saddled with two, plainly "unnecessary" occurences of blue phenomena, something not to be seen elsewhere in the storyline. Oddly, they fall directly in the only two episodes of that first Province which feature cold, or low temperature suspension of life functions. And yet they are not related.

Youth and innocence also crop up in the same episodes as a condition of the alien people. Cantar and Zova and also in Etrec. whose pathetic innocence shapes the behavoir of that episode's participants. Another such case is Maya herself and the state in which she is discovered. There is also evidence for a child-like naivete' in her attitude and demeanour for many episodes to follow, even into "The Rules of Luton", the first episode of the next Province. That will be discussed in detail later.

Finally, notice the great concern for form and beauty all through the first Province. Re-shaping Psychon into a paradise is Mentor's dream. Helena goes artistic in "The Exiles" sculpting a gorgeous self image. The theme is also made when Maya transforms into a into a fat hag in the same episode to demonstrate to Tony his own hang-up with beauty. Beauty is big business with Taybor, and it turns out to be his flaw as well, seeing how sorely he lacks it himself. Again Maya shows him with another hideous transformation. Notice the beauty and decoration of the alien androids in "One Moment of Humanity". The duplicate Alpha for Tony and Helena and the semblance or "image" of a seductive dance between Zarl and Helena to provoke John are both tricks of form, or appearance. Also the androids learn, "by example", or by observing the form or appearance of the deed, and then repeat it on that basis. At last there is the fancy cosmetics of the Archanon race. It's never an issue but it certainly stands as an aspect of their nature. And, of course, there is the consideration

of a disease that shows itself by a glowing figure on the forehead. What could be more emphatic of beauty than a disease that, in a sense, speaks artistically.

That is the case, or part of it, for the "characterization of the first Province. The details do much to determine the quality or "style" of that region of space.

Then Alpha meets the dreaded "space storm", and though the event is only meagrely documented, it has apparently lasted far longer than any other event that has befallen the moonbase. Suddenly, upon emerging from this monotony of turbulance, Alpha stumbles upon a planet, an Earth-type planet, it seems, one with luxuriant foliage and, get this, its very own ever-warming sun. The heat is on. The incidence of Luton marks the debut of the Earth-type planet in the storyline (In fact, it and Sunim are the only planetary settings that production chose to depict in the real outdoors.). With this begins a "warming" trend that can be traced all the way back to the explosion of Psychon, actually. But what we shall see from here on is a frequency of high-temperature phenomena, some important, some trivial, but all together building another hefty case for characterization of the second Province. Hereafter, it seems that everyone is sweating and swooning with fire and fever, all the way to "Space Warp".

Luton is warm and tropical-like. New Earth has a sun, too. I especially like the scene where Maggus is sweating up a storm while laboring to keep Alan's Eagle grounded, all amid a bath of brilliant sunlight. Enter Maya, and Magus' immediate failure to detect her trick, which demonstrates that the effort has gotten the better of him, for the moment. In "The Catacombs of the Moon", the lunar community is beset by an ever-intensifying rain of plasmatic fire. The prolonged exposure sends temperatures rising with no end in sight, it is feared.

In the other "side" of this province, almost everyone is affected with some form of mild fever in the "Beta Cloud". It is the normal characteristic of all those who have been brought down by the influence of the cloud. In the "Seed of Destruction", heat is again an issue. The asteroid seems intent on having itself "cooked". In other words, the condition is a natural and beneficial consequence of its commandeering action. To boot, Helena is positively aghast at the eerie cool of John's touch, implying that heat is a much normal and welcome state. Sunim is another oasis in space with a higher temperature than Luton, 78° versus Luton's 73°. The difference may be subtle, but the similarity of the apparent dominance of vegetation, sets off or highlights the departure. Whether the difference in temperature is important, other than as an aesthetic curiosity, is quite debatable. Actually, I'd dare to say it is not. Then why the fuss over it? I counter such a question with another: Why is the information provided, so point-blank, in both cases? My interpretation requires that I regard all detail, however trivial. After all, the greatness of any work is founded on the subtlety of suggestion. The subject matter of the Year 2 storyline is filled with such suggestion, as long as you are willing to acknowledge it. As I warned, the artistically or philosophically faint at heart need venture no further. But if you dare....

The crowning glory of this "warming" trend is Maya's critical fever in "Space Warp". Since Dr. Russell is helpless to diagnose or treat it, and since it is peculiar to Maya alone, we may safely assume the condition arises from her own nature, or from what makes her the creature that she is. It is a curious conincidence that her suffering is aggravated by visions of Psychon's fiery chaos. Remember that I said this warming trend could be traced all the way back to the explosion of Psychon. We need only consider the two cases of suspended animation in the first Province, again, from "The Exiles" and "The Mark of Archanon". Note how both use a low-temperature technique, yet the earlier one is cryogenic, which implies absolute zero, while the later case employs a fixed temperature of 4° Centigrade, which is merely a comfortable "cool". The hundreds of degrees in difference signifies a rather positive leap into the drawnout warming process we observe in the second Province. I think it's an added coincidence that the subject of Maya's visions is the same phenomenon which planted the seeds of thermal growth in the fabric of the storyline.

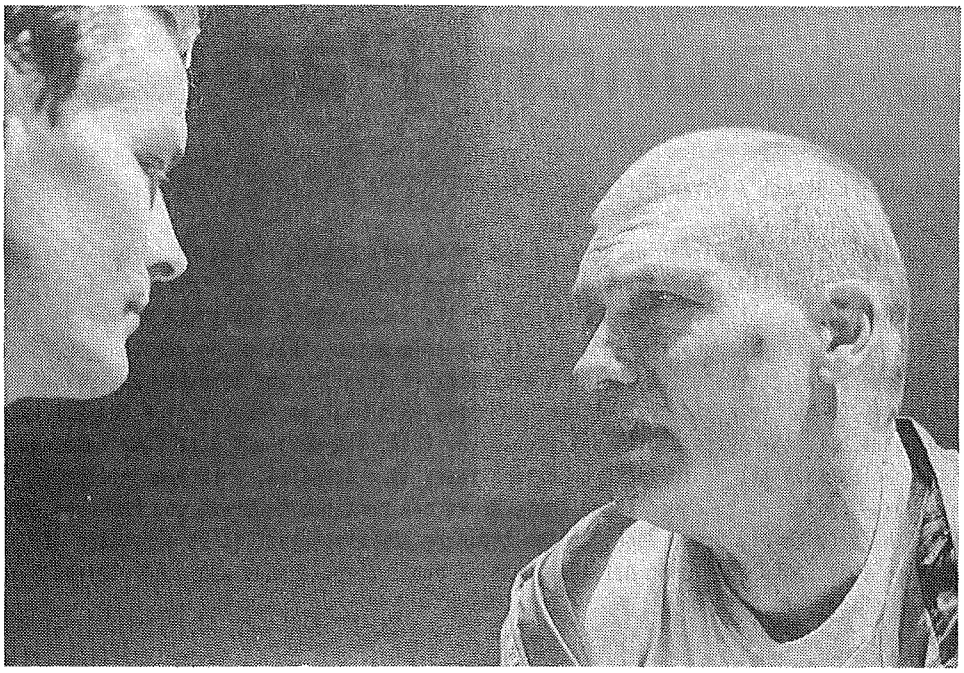
Have I painted a dizzying picture? Well, you haven't seen anything yet! Just wait till we tackle the last Province.

(Ed.- Due to space considerations we have stopped here. This part of the interpretation will be completed in the next MC. Michael would, however, like to know your opinions of this work. He anticipates providing additional commentary to qualify his ideas on the Provinces of Year 2, but would like to have your opinions before proceeding. He hopes you are all interested enough to respond. If you want to share your views on Michael's work, you can contact him at the address at the beginning of this section.)

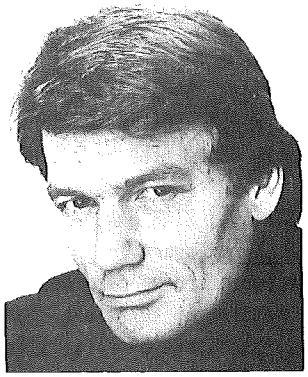
THE FEAR

Starring PRENTIS HANCOCK

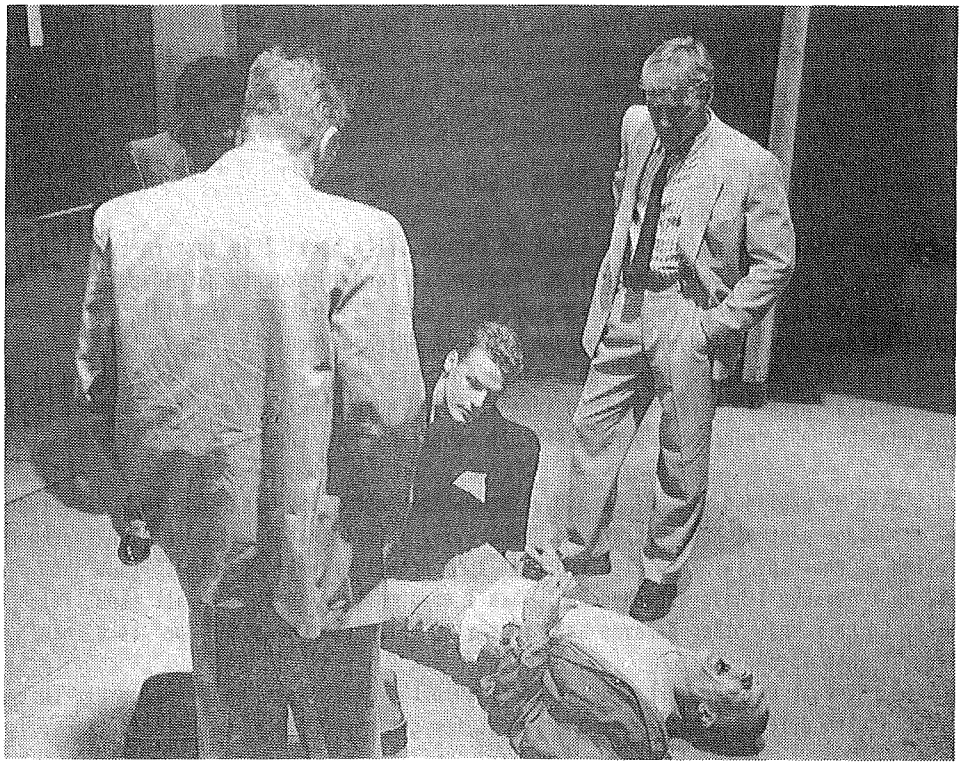
We were most surprised and pleased to receive a package of 4 - 8x10 B&W stills from Prentis. These stills are from "The Fear", a recently transmitted episode of a very high quality drama series from Euston Films/Thames TV. We thought you would be interested in seeing Prentis in a current role. Two of the stills appear on the next page. We would like to thank Prentis for sending the pictures. We are always glad too report what the stars of 1999 are currently doing. We will always print pictures and information about current roles when we have it.



PRENTIS HANCOCK



PAUL MORROW



Launch Pad

From Terry Bowers / 603 N. Clark Street / River Falls, Wi 54022

Mostly I wanted to comment on the matter of dues raised in Kevin's letter. Being SO involved with fan clubs, through the Alliance, the LBFa and NAFC, as well as being a somewhat inactive member of several others, I can honestly say the ALLIANCE dues ARE NOT too high. As a matter of fact, they are on the lower end of the scale as far as fan club dues, and it is amazing that we are able to receive the quality and quantity of information that we do for those dues. I don't think the dues should be lowered, therefore just about assuring a sacrifice in quantity and possibly quality of M.C. There are many clubs who charge MORE than $10.00 per year and who deliver MUCH less than what we receive from the Alliance. I will concede the fact that exchange rates hike the price a bit, but even given that, the dues are more than reasonable, especially when you must take into consideration that all of the club operating costs (i.e supplies, printing, postage, etc., etc.) continue to rise. And that's what dues are for -- to cover those costs so we can continue to bring you the news and information about SPACE:1999 that you want. There is rarely extra money in the treasury and every year it is a stretch to meet the budget. Therefore, it is MY opinion that we DO NOT lower Alliance dues. I don't think anyone would be pleased with the results that are sure to follow such an action.

From Kevin Peterson / 930 1/2 5th Street / Golden, Co 80403-1454

Howdy there, Alphans!

Most and least favorite films, huh? My worst first. Worst 3: PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE(In total agreement with you there, Kerry!) / AMAZON WOMEN ON THE MOON / ATTACK OF THE FIFTY-FOOT WOMAN. (I was going to include 5 instead of 3, but after these three, it's hard to decide. There are so many poorly done films -- but when it comes to the worst of the worst, these are it.)

Best 5: 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY / ALTERED STATES / STAR WARS / SILENT RUNNING / ALIEN (There are many more, of course, but for the record, these are my most favorite in the sf genre.)

Of my favorites, the one that's had the most impact on me personally is 2001. Kubrick raised sf to its highest art--and why? Because he showed us sf the way we've been reading it all along. The one I find most fascinating is ALTERED STATES. It captured my imagination so completely I was nearly obsessive over it. It's also art--the imagery, the language, and the concepts. They get into your head and stick there.

I like the new "Roundtable" episodic analyses. Soon as I can get some videotapes of 1999, I hope to take a close look into them in view of other members comments about them. The review of Chris Yost's 2nd book of his PSYCHON TRILOGY by Kerry Keene was also appreciated. Had no idea if that was still going on. luckily I still have the address. That's all for this time. By the by, are there any Spacefen in the Denver area? If so, I'd love to meet with some of you. Thanks!

From SANDRA SPRECKER / Box 111 / Battleford, Sask. / CANADA S0M 0E0 (WHO?)

Guess what? Just when you thought it was safe to think of Canada...I'm back! I've just re-read the last five issues of MC that I've received here in the Twilight Zone called 'Battleford' and I thought that I would put in my 2¢/ worth. I've been negligent in my duties as an Alliance member, so forgive me if some of this is a bit old!

- March '87: (I told you I've been bad!) I loved "Commander Koenig's Neighborhood"!!! That is the kind of fun stuff that I love to read! Very well done Mr. Johnston. If we can't laugh at ourselves I've always felt we were in a lot of trouble. I too applaud Mr. Jones' column; I think that it is a good idea to keep in touch with the space program realities. I know that alot of work is being done by NASA under some very difficult conditions and that those people doing the work deserve some praise for their efforts.
- I'm afraid that I can't give an unbiased view of 'con over-focus' because I feel that Con is a very important part of the Alliance and a very important part of how I relate to SPACE:1999. I feel that a review of Con in the MC is a good way to keep the warmth and feeling of that special time with you past the actual event! I don't know how 'never-attend Con' Alliance members feel, but because I have attended Con, when I miss one I want to hear all about it! And when I've been I want to remember! I'd like to hear what other members have to say on this topic because 'Con' is a focus of the Alliance and this point should be brought into focus.
- It was wonderful to find out that we have more international members. It is absolutely incredible to think that people in different parts of the world with different languages and lifestyles can share the same basic feelings....see, there is too hope for this world!

-May '87: Interesting about the 'Project Meta 1986'! I truly believe that much of mankind's hope rests in the fact that 'he' looks toward the stars for opportunity and guidance; for a chance to behave as a representative of a planet rather than a landmass with artificial borders. With the state of things on Earth, you'd wonder if "they" would think it wiser to wait awhile til we've gotten our act together before contacting us! I wish 1986 META all the luck! Any hypothesis on what the world's or your reaction would be to actually picking up signals fromouter space? What changes do you think it would cause?
- I just love reading "memory Lane" so I've enclosed my own!
- I like the idea of the "Review" column! I loved 'Full Moon' too! If somebody wants, why don't you review some older works! Give some of the new members a chance to hear about what they have missed and what to go looking for! I've got some less recent (let's not use the word old; it dates all involved in this project!) stories that I'll give my hand at reviewing in the future. (No cracks there Von Kamp!!!)
- As per LOST OUR HEADS; well, like I said, I've been in the Alliance forever and that is a good thing. The Alliance has been through alot and by all rights we should have 'bit the dust' awhile ago. We are breaking all the rules by still being together. I've found that beating the odds (if I may, Terry and Bonnie) is nothing new with this group of people....the people that I have met through the Alliance have been truly exceptional beings in every sense of the word! But, we are human and therefore prone to 'growing pains'!! This isn't necessarily bad, but let's face it boys and girls (Ed-No, at age 25+ it must be men and women) childishness gets you ZILCH! Bottom line is, if you don't like the way something is done, suggest a way to make it better....don't point out it doesn't work! That's useless except for blowing off steam...in a non-productive manner. If you have some back issues of MC, go take a look at where we've been and where we are now...it is growth. A growth that will continue as long as we allow it not to get lost.
- Love those 'Moonbase Alpha Classifieds'!
- Love that artwork by Lew Place!!!! The man is a genius of the highest degree!
- JULY '87:<u>The Darkness</u> was a very sensitive and well-written piece of work. My hat off to Ms. Ray who did a wonderful job! I am still musing over Tony "raving hysterically" - be a change for the man, who does lean toward the controlled! I think there is a great art to short stories and MC prints work by those who are artists. I would love to see more stories, because I feel it is through the works of people like Ms. Ray that the characters who began on screen, get a chance to grow into what television television does not allow.
- I have to admit that Mr. Keene is right. We should not pick on Mr. Freiberger; but when you have such an easy target it is hard to resist. I don't know how much of the criticism was serious, and how much of it eventually became a joke. I certainly never blamed the man for anything. The politics of television could beat any presidential election!! Let's face it, no one person has the power to destroy what is working on a television program. it is always a combination of things! Take the rather sorry path of NBC'S MIAMI VICE - the press loved the show and sang the praises of the entire production, now they want to blame Don Johnson for single-handedly destroying the magic. I'm sorry, I've watched the show ever since the second season, and he didn't do it by himself. You've got bad scripts and major communication problems between L.A. and Miami that never helped anything. And this isn't even SF....this is main stream audience!
- I don't know who brought this up, but this person is correct...Science fiction (or what ever name you'd like to use) is <u>hard</u> to sell to the networks. These people are looking for viewers to equate to $$$$$. Television is like any other business but ocassionally they do attempt something more and accidentally succeed. Take for example Hill Street Blues; Miami Vice; Family Ties; Moonlighting; and especially <u>Beauty and the Beast</u>. Here are quality programs that broke the barriers on TV and made $$$$ besides! Television has its good and bad points, and both Star Trek and Space:1999 got lost in the shuffle. Which is fine with me, because both programs have given people a starting point for alot of really good experiences; as "Memory Lane" seems to attest to! As I have said on occasion: "I find it scary to think about what would have happened if I hadn't run into Space:1999 and the people I have gotten to know."; benefits can not be underestimated. I have really enjoyed the Star Trek movies, and because of them, gone back to tune in on the episodes (for better and for worse). No one can deny that the Star Trek movies have given SF some entertainment power once again after Lucas and Spielberg retreated to other projects. They are a good thing
- one last note while on this topic. I was at my first Star Trek Con when I was in L.A. in October last year and I felt the outsider, but, I watched Deforest Kelly interact with the audience there. He called some of them by name and recognized people he had seen and talked to before. It reminded me of the way Barry Morse could make anyone feel a friend. The clubs may be different, but people are much the same in both. I guess I'm saying, 'don't throw stones'. We of the Alliance have had more than our share of boo boos and outright fiascos! I only know that I wouldn't trade a second of my time with people of the Alliance for anything. That may sound a little phony, but ask anyone who was in L.A. for the Con or at a Von Kamp New Year Party or at a play with Mr. Landau or Ms. Bain starring or the recipient of a Ron Butler blackmail photo or a Lew Place video....we are talking irreplaceable folks!
- Sept. '87: Many thanks again to Doug Pelton for his LEEDS Con review! This man knows his Anderson material - How about an education for the Alliance members on a little Anderson history, Doug? I loved hearing about the 'Relax-A-Con' from everyone! I missed it but I plan to make it to whatever comes around this year. I would like to vote for another 'Relax-A-Con' because you get to meet more people that you've been dying to meet (and haven't written) in one place! I know this isn't best for all, but why couldn't a little larger get-together coincide with some smaller ones? I'd invite you all up to Canada, but that didn't go down well in Atlanta when I suggested it. I'll throw the invitation out again. I'm sure we could cook up something that would knock your socks off! We are a pretty talented group up here in the frozen wasteland....that aren't too frozen at all in July and August! It would be cheap considering the U.S. vs. Canadian dollar.

- once again, I agree with Mr. Keene pointing out Mr. Landau's comment on 'hit some, miss some and trying things' - true about the Alliance and life in general! Something to consider when deciding whether or not to get involved on a more intensive basis with the Alliance. Considering the time and effort involved in getting MC out to us, even in varying degrees yearly and bi-yearly production, these people should be given purple hearts for stating with us in the face of personal and professional and Alliance related problems. Because I do not have a word processor and am (hopefully) going off to graduate school in the fall, I can't volunteer my services to help get the MC out. And I am also prepared to accept the demise of the Alliance because of the inability on my part. I feel it is time that someone take the MC, even if for only a short while, so these people have a chance to have a normal life again! (I use the term 'normal' loosely there Mr. Von Kamp; I've seen your version of normal...too tough on me!) If somebody could tell me how I could help, I would be more than willing to do it....but I know what it is like when you are trying to keep your own life under some type of control without taking on more!

- I enjoy the "Command Conference Roundtable" - great idea! I enjoy reading these well thought-out discussions because it has been eons since I have seen an episode and this helps me remember what was so special about Space:1999. Something I need to be reminded of when you haven't seen it for awhile!

- I absolutely love BEAUTY AND THE BEAST; from the filming style to the morality of the stories, this is a work of art that I hope can hold the feeling of what they have begun. This is a breakthrough for night-time viewing. The acting is superb and the scripts intelligent...the human spirit prevails.

- I am absolutely disappointed in STAR TREK:TNG. The potential is there but it never comes to realization. With the appeal of the Star Trek movies and the personnel available to the creators and production members, this show should not have a flaw. They have the formula and the capability - why did I leave the episodes I saw without a sense of wonder, (as I did with the movies and Space:1999) and a vague feeling that this was nothing more than an expensive version of Buck Rogers minus the lightness of good old Buck! I'm afraid I haven't watched the show recently, some of the characters show alot of potential but it didn't seem to be enough to hold me. Picard, Worf, Geordi and Data are quite spectacular in their own ways, but I found the remaining crew members to be anywhere from non-descript to outright irritating. I am going to be very interested in seeing how this show progresses and maybe if I hear good things I'll try to tune in more often than I do now.

- Dec '87: Memory Lane I think can definitely expand to not only the first time you saw Space:1999, but the first time you met a guest at Con, an Alliance member, or something about an episode that touched you (if you don't feel like critiquing the whole episode). We have the potential for some great stuff here. For starters, everyone who has ever been to Con has a 'Margaret' story - that woman is everywhere! Has she visited anyone on a non-con basis or does she just wait for us to get together?

- I have another idea. Why don't we hear from Alliance members about 'other' Alphans other than the high profile ones we know. A type of "Adopt-An-Alphan"...you create a person that you think is on Alpha hiding somewhere in a corridor. You must have a favorite Alphan from a fan story or someone that you feel should be introduced to an unsuspecting moonbase. I always remember Wayne Walls' Lt. L'laws from the Main Mission newsletter - now HE was a character! My feeling is that there are frustrated Alphans in all of us trying to get out!

- My compliments to Lew Place on his choice of articles for the Space:1999 Flashback.I found it to be very intelligent and informative article and not just PR. Ms. Conrad spins a wonderful yarn in the "3rd Season in the 4th Dimension"! I would love to see John Von Kamp as a tree! I'd also like to see NIck Tate on the "Professionals" - that could be very interesting with him and Lewis Collins!

- Mr. DiPietro, I must disagree with you on the placement of editor comments in the 'Launch Pad' forum. It is the editor's right to clarify points made in a letter or emphasize Alliance policy when the policies have been misinterpretted. That is the job of the editor.As per Mr. MCCorry's comment regarding the timing of the MC arrival on his doorstep, I suggest he phone and talk with Mr. and Mrs. Von Kamp on the numerous things that have been going wrong in getting an MC out on time even when everything seems just about perfect with the MC preparation and everything is calm in your life so that you have the time to do he job properly. That is the one thing I have always admired about the MC, it may not have been out on time, but it was certainly worth the wait everytime! This is not an easy job and as I have been at the Von Kamps during some pretty busy periods, it amazes me how much these people do in the same 24 hours that I have!

- One last comment on "nefarious" Trek fandom: all 'stars' live off their fans. We are the ones who buy records, movie tickets and watch the TV programs - we dictate who works and who doesn't. in no other TV program in history has type casting been such a limiting factor in career options as with STAR TREK. William Shatner has won a 'Best Actor' award at Stratford (in Canada) one year but nobody offers him the chance to do "Hamlet". And Mr. Shatner has to work within these boundaries. He and the rest of the cast of STAR TREK have done very well indeed with what has been dealt to them. As for the stars living off the fans at Cons; we are all disappointed when the stars can't come to Con and so would the Trek fans would be also if the stars didn't show up there. We have a little more problem with stars to our Con because they are usually working (thank heavens for that!) and they are usually in the UK somewhere. Ask John Von Kamp o tell you about getting stars here! Ask Mare Fitzgerald about the night before Pittsburgh Con!!!

- What is new with Barry Morse these days? I was very distressed to find out that the Canadian entertainment industry is not aware enough to have supported Mr. Morse in his quest. I can understand to some extent though. Canada is a very large country area-wise and very small population-wise and this leads to less $$ per mile/kilometre traveled. I was very distressed to hear that Barry lost his own money in the process.

- Guess what gang. THis is it! (You think this was bad, the Von Kamps got audio tapes too!) Write and let me know what you think of all this. I think that if one wanted, we could also review new SF from other mediums. I know that Ron Butler does a mean SF book review and I'd like to see a couple of those sometime; along with anyone else who has read some good SF....let's hear about it! I want to know what people think about Asimov's new TV series PROBE? I really love it! It is fun with this little message that comes sneaking up on you. The characters are unique and the scripts amusing.

Since "2001" seems to be a hot topic: what does everyone think of The Lost Worlds of "2001"? I am especially interested in what you think of his concepts of the logical biological organism (p. 120-122)? I found it to be an intriguing book and a wonderful compliment to the original novel.

I have one last thought...I seem to have found the love of SF to be an almost common denominator between myself and my friends. So, I have a question: which came first - the qualities in a person that attract them to 'science fiction' or the qualities of 'science fiction' that attract the person and the connection between people becomes side-effect? Probably a little of both, but all I know is that the shared love of SF has come up in the strangest circumstances on a consistant basis in my life. What think you all? Okay! That's it for now. Take care of yourselves!

The next letter comes from Chris Paulsen / 18600 Clark St. #204 / Tarzana, Ca 91356. This letter addresses some items that needed to be discussed so it is printed as an introduction. We will then discuss some of the ideas raised here and present some information on the current state of the Alliance. Questions will then be addressed to the members for comment. It is imperative that we receive more than the normal 7-15 member response to questions put to the membership. If we don't, we will make the decisions with no complaints.

THE FUTURE

I'd like to address something to which I think some members might object. Not necessarily the subject matter or the proposals I put across or even the way I suggest them, but the fact that they are coming from me, a "returning" member; one who has not been through thick and thin with you; one who dropped out for nine years. I hope the Alliance is more open than this but for those of you flirting with who-does-he-think-he-is thoughts, let me offer this: we are all fans of the same series; we all share this common love. We are all committed to promoting said series and prolonging its life, and thus committed to the Alliance, the #1 organization through which it is most effectively promoted. Anything which strengthens the Alliance in effect strengthens the series. Any idea which strengthens the Alliance thus ought to be judged on merit, not from its source. With that out of the way, let me begin.

This concerns the future of the Alliance itself. At last count there were some 100-odd members, a shameful number for a series which in its heyday beguiled millions around the world. The future depends upon new blood; new blood brings new life. New life brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Fresh enthusiasm attracts new blood and the cycle continues.

I propose that the #1 stated goal of the International Space:1999 Alliance must be expansion. The attraction of new members is the single most important goal you can find. "It supersedes all other functions."* Anything and everything that each of us considers a higher priority logically does and must follow. Everything and anything we hold dear is dependent upon this single facet. Let me explain why new members are necessary and so important, then suggest means to attract them.

Stagnation in anything that sits for a long time is possible. I'm not saying the Alliance has or will but could. New blood is our "barrier against disaster". To further illuminate this, let me tell you a little about myself: I started working at a small lunch restaurant when I was 16. Remaining there proved advantageous and I moved up the ranks. I was full-time manager at 19 and quit at 21. That's 5 years at the same place! What I remember most was how everything seemed unchangeable. We didn't do anything to change; we became used to the way things were. A new employee invariably saw things differently, through new eyes. I began to rely on these new employees to help me innovate. I needed to to look through their eyes to see what I couldn't. This is what new members accomplish within the Alliance.

So, yes, I'm sure we could all agree that enrollment expansion is good but is it as necessary as I've made it out to be? Aren't there "more important matters of interest to discuss"? Let's examine the possibilities... Firstly, most would assume that the promotion of Space:1999 itself is the chief function of Space:1999 fandom. Yes, but only as a guiding philosophy. What a hundred members can do toward this end, a 1000 members can do tenfold. The proselytizing of our "faith" becomes all the more credible with more strength. The relative succes or failure of our guiding philosophy depends on our ability to increase membership, for sheer numerical numbers alone say more than volumes of insightful prose. In other words, Space: 1999, as a canceled series, is only as great as it's members wish it to be. The more that wish, the greater it becomes. Secondly, some might argue that Main Computer, as the lifeline, the artery through which we connect with each other and disseminate information must be our prime focus. That's a good point. But the livlihood of MC ought not to depend on the ramblings of a few but on the varying opinions of the multitudes. The greatest strength of our American democracy lies in the freedom to formulate and express minority views, for out of these divergent thoughts come a few real gems; the pearls of wisdom, so to speak. What I see as

a major plus for MC with drive for new members is (hopefully) an increase in publishable material. To use the body analogy again: the fully pumping "artery" of MC needs a wide range of publishable material from which to choose. This wide range depends upon a wide range of members, and hence new members. Other items that could be deemed as having a higher priority include: 1) keeping 1999 alive before the SF community - what better way to do this than with more people; 2) pushing for a revival-type TV or theatrical movie (witness Perry Mason, Leave It To Beaver, Gilligan's Island, and, of course, Star Trek) - again, my same reply as in #1.

What I'm trying to formulate is the idea that these other priorities: Space itself, MC, or a revival, are not unimportant or necessarily second-rate, but that their success necessarily depends on a thriving organization. Members are the key to any organization. An increase in members ensures the livelihood of that organization and, consequentially, the success of the other priorities. OK... anyone can criticize but how to fix it? (Good God! Scratch that last line! I'm coming down with Freddie Freibergeritis!).

What I have in mind is not some free-wheeling, flailing, all-out push for members but rather a coordinated, carefully calculated, unanimous effort by all existing members. What I envision is a sort of "new member mentality" taking hold within the Alliance. This mentality recognizes a need and pursues various strategies, both Alliance-wide and personal, expensive and cheap. Below are some ideas for such strategies.

First, there is no denying the power of the lowly flyer. It hooked me (of course, you may be regretting that) and can hook others. The flyer's success is its concentration in the places where potential members are found, namely conventions and Sf/comic bookstores. There are those who know not of the Alliance: fans who need a little spark, former fans who little push, (former members who need a little SHOVE) new fans who need a little acknowledgement. It is to them we must address. What is the current flyer situation? Fair. The flyer itself is lackluster. It lacks the ability to stand out, to draw the eye. And furthermore, it seems apparent that one must request a copy from HQ before one can distribute it. Solutions? Punch up the design and copy and, most importantly, it must be part of Alliance by-laws that each member receives one flyer, once a year, say, September, along with their regular MC (I don't see why September is not the beginning of the Alliance year. It probably is the beginning of the Alphan year. A.B., not A.D.). Each new member also should receive a copy, regardless of when they joined. A spur-of-the-moment congoer would then have a flyer readily available to xerox, instead of waiting for one in the mail. Also, some might distribute flyers who keep forgetting to request a copy. The logic of this solution is clear: it is inexpensive, easy, and relies on members to "spread the faith". That means you, too. Second, I propose that once a year the Alliance use it's funds to place an ad in a vehicle that will almost certaintly gaurantee a return: Starlog, the biggest SF magazine. Using Alliance funds naturally does not preclude individual initiative. To this end I have taken the liberty of placing the first annual Alliance ad in an upcoming Starlog. Thereafter, the burden of responsibility must fall upon Alliance HQ to either place the ad or reimburse those who do so. Third, does the Alliance have a mailing list? If so, then past members might be contacted through a mail campaign. There are two ways of doing this. The first is a 15¢ postcard, the second is a 25¢ letter with a return address. As the US Post Office does not return postcards, the more expensive method would serve to indicate past members who have left no forwarding address and thus may be crossed off. Fourth, and most remote, is a direct mail campaign to ITC to release 1999 on video in the original, uncut format (a la Trek, Outer Limits, Prisoner, Buck Rogers (!), Twilight Z., Lucy, etc.) which would serve to bring people to 1999, not to the Alliance directly. This is mostly dependent upon a large enough campaign which is dependent upon a large enough organization.

The second and third proposals involve money in some way. Money to advertize. Money to mail. Realizing the Alliance is not without its limits, I thought to address this, also. There is an old axiom: "You must spend money to make money" and surely any monies spent would be compensated by dues from new members (yes, it would, and don't call me Shirley) but to ensure that the Alliance stays in the black, may I suggest an increase in dues to, say, 10.00. This is not an exorbitant amount (and I don't think $8 or $10 keeps people from joining), it helps to offset the recent Postal increase, and the extra two dollars spead throughout us all would raise over $200.00. Ten is a nice round number and is not unreasonable. I'd bet the going rate in other clubs is similar. I'd also bet that members would be more than happy to pay the extra two dollars if MC could be increased by 2-4 pages. How about it, John and Kathy? Another means of raising money: selling back issues of MC. It works for Starlog and many new and returning members like to catch up. An every-other-issue list of past MC's with a one sentence description would suffice. You've got one customer here and at, say, $1.50 an issue, probably many more.

These ideas: a flyer sent out to every member once a year, advertising, and a mail campaign to former members are but few of the possibilities. This is all I could come up with but I'm sure that the rest of you could come up with a few more. I really think the flyer idea has merit and should be implemented as soon as possible. If only half of our membership went only once a year to any SF convention and put 10-20 flyers and if those flyers only struck gold with one-tenth of those who picked them up, that's 5-10 new members a year. Then they would be available to place a few flyers here and there. That's nothing to sneeze about. That's

momentum. New members are necessary to increase the communication between fans. In sum, they broaden the base of support throughout the world (literally) and increase the "networking" ability of the Alliance.

*My apologies to Tony Barwick and Michal Winder for shamelessly plagiarizing their dialog.

CHRIS PAULSEN

We would now like to take a few pages to address some of the items in Chris' letter and give you some information on the income and expenses for the last two years. At that time we need to discuss what direction YOU, the members, want us to take. We will try to present as much information as possible, but if you have any questions feel free to write us.

We agree that gaining members is very important to the future of the Alliance, not only for their viewpoint, contributions and collective voice, but also because of "economies of scale". What does that mean? When printing material, the more you print, the lower the cost per page becomes. You can spread the costs over more members so the cost for each person is reduced. This is true for most items other than postage & misc. costs. If we can increase membership we might be able to reduce the dues or improve the quality of the material provided without increasing dues.(More on that later).

In one instance Chris lacked some information. The Alliance accounting year and general publishing year has always begun on September 1 and concluded the following August 31. This worked out well when conventions were held in July because it gave us a whole month to resolve Con bills before the end of the year. September to August is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as the Alliance fiscal year. As far as receiving a flyer each year, this could easily be included in the first MC of each year. If this is what the members want, it can easily be done. While we had just created a new flyer, Chris also designed and sent in a flyer which we feel is excellent. We will send samples to several Alliance members for their review. We will choose one of the flyers based on this review. If you need flyers before the choice is made, let us know and we will send you one of each and you can decide which one to use and then let us know as part of the evaluation.

The Alliance has maintained mailing lists since the first convention. Several times we have sent flyers to old members to try to re-establish contact. Many came back with "No Forwarding Address" on the envelope. Many more never responded. Did they get the flyers? We will never know. In the long run we feel we waste more money on postage trying to do this. We feel Flyers at Cons, bookstores, and other SF/Fantasy establishments and ads in Sf magazines are a better utilization of our money. Ads in other magazines, however, do use money for which the members see no return. Current finances really do not allow us to place ads. It uses money we need for other items. (explained later) We would be interested in your ideas on the best way to utilize Alliance funds to promote growth in the club.

Thanks to David Bobzien we are now aware of ITC's plans to release Space:1999 on video cassette. We have talked to them and have asked them if they would be interested in having our members write the descriptions of the episodes for the back of the cassette cover, or perhaps do some of the artwork for the cover. We also wondered if there would be any interest in holding a convention concurrent with the release date to help with promotion. We were asked to put our ideas in writing and send it to them. We also intend to ask them if they would be willing to put a small notation about the club on the jackets or at the end of the episodes. We will have to wait for their response. We tried selling back issues of the MC during our "Porch Sale". They were not a fast selling item. There is, however, a need to increase finances. The next few pages contain information on Alliance finances for the last two years, changes that have occured since 1980 and recent changes in the postage rates and how they affect costs.

CHANGES IN DUES SINCE 1980

YEAR		US	CAN	OVERSEAS
1980	BULK RATE	$3.00	$4.00	$5.00
1981	FIRST CLASS	$5.00	$5.00	$8.00
1982		$6.00	$6.00	$10.00
1983		"	"	"
1984		"	"	"
1985		$8.00	$8.00	$12.00
1986 to present		"	$9.00	"

The postage for Canada did not change in 1986, but we had to put the MCs in an envelope. The increase covered the cost of the envelope.

The next two pages contain a breakdown of the income and expenses for the 1986 and for 1987 to the last bank statement and an anticipated final set of values based on items yet to be completed this year. The cost per member is listed for each category. This information is being provided so YOU can help determine what the future of the Alliance is to be. Further discusion follows the financial report.

1986 Alliance year - starting balance $846.02

INCOME

Dues + merchandise orders + misc.		$ 1532.98
Merchandise sales at Con 86		$ 816.95
Funds left from Con 86		$ 703.85
Donations for Relax-a-con 87		$ 511.00
	Total	$ 3564.78

EXPENSES

			per member
Print Main Computer Average cost per MC = $108.14	$ 648.83		$4.99
Misc. printing costs Catalog + flyers + other misc. items	$ 342.20	Minus catalog ($242.75)	$2.63 $ .76
Purchase catalog/auction items for resale Photos + t-shirts + various 1999 items	$ 379.75		$2.92
US+Canada postage to mail MC 6 MCs mailed. Avg. cost per mailing = $ 34.69	$ 208.16		$1.73
Overseas postage to mail MC 6 MCs mailed. Avg. cost per mailing = 25.82	$ 154.92		$5.96
Misc. costs Includes Con 87 exp.($631.97) + Con 86 art payments($507.30) (All but $20 of Con 87 covered by donations)	$ 1186.67	without Con exp.	$ .36
Misc. postage - not MC Porch sale, auction & merchandise items	$ 203.43		$1.56
Membership in Nat. Assoc. Of Fan Clubs	$ 10.00		$ .08
Supplies Computer paper, mailing labels & envelopes	$ 59.87		$ .46
Total	$ 3193.83		US $14.73 OS $18.96

Final balance sheet

Start. Balance + Income - expenses = **Balance to start 1987**
$ 846.02 + $ 3564.78 - $ 3193.83 = $ 1216.97
Ending balance matched bank statement.

1987 Alliance year - starting balance $1216.97

INCOME TO DATE

		Last statement	Anticipated
Dues + merchandise orders		$ 1360.70	$ 1569.95
	Total	$ 1360.70	$ 1569.95

E X P E N S E S T O D A T E

	As of last statement	Anticipated For Year	per member
Print Main Computer Average cost per MC = $215.76	$ 647.28	$ 863.04	$ 6.64
Misc. printing costs Flyers + other misc. items	$ 100.73	$ 100.73	$ .77
Purchase catalog/auction items for resale(Photos + various 1999 items)	$ 438.43	$ 588.43	$ 4.53
US postage to mail MC	$ 92.70 (US)	$ 141.30	$ 1.31
3 MCs mailed. Avg. cost per mailing = $ 34.53	$ 10.30 (Can)	$ 10.30	$ 1.38
Overseas postage to mail MC 3 MCs mailed. Avg. cost per mailing = 39.96	$ 119.88	$ 166.68	$ 6.41
Misc. costs Includes bad checks.($100.50) + Photo storage + banner (144.66) (All bad checks recovered later)	$ 247.16	$ 247.16	$ 1.90
Misc. postage - not MC Merchandise items + flyers	$ 175.02	$ 175.02	$ 1.35
Member. in Nat. Assoc. Of Fan Clubs	$ 20.00	$ 20.00	$ .15
Supplies Computer paper, mailing labels & envelopes	$ 68.20	$ 68.20	$ .52
Advertising	$ 70.00	$ 95.10	$ .73
Total	$ 1989.70	$2472.60	US $17.90 Can $17.97 OS $23.00

Final balance sheet

Start. Balance + Income - expenses = **Balance remaining to date**

$ 1216.97 + $ 1360.70 - $ 1989.70 = $ 588.97

Balance matched last bank statement.

ANTICIPATED $ 1216.97 + $ 1569.95 - $ 2472.60 = $ 314.32

If the preceeding was not a big enough shock, understand that it does not reflect the postage increases that have recently gone into effect and a raise in the price of MC printing prior to the last MC which is not greatly evident in the figures. The only reason we have not had a problem so far is due to the fact that we made quite a bit of money at the 1986 Con and have had auctions of 1999 & SF items to supplement the dues in the past.

In order to give you an idea of where things stand; the new postage rates are as follows: US-Old rate=$ .39 New rate=$ .45 // Can-Old rate=$ .40 New rate=$ .52 // Overseas-Old rate = $1.60 New rate =$1.80. These are the rates for an 18 page MC as we currently print it.

I would like to discuss a few things based on the preceeding financial breakdown, provide you with some additional information and ask you some critical questions.

The figures printed on the last two pages do reflect the overall expenses of the Alliance in any one year but some additional explanation is required. First, the cost per member reflects the cost per each paying member of the Alliance. We send the MC to all the guest stars free. The cost for each of these MCs is distributed among everyone else. The high cost for the Overseas postage per member is due to the fact that most of the stars are overseas. We distribute the postage for the stars over all the members. This reduces the cost per overseas member to the correct amount. The second problem is that there are two

kinds of expenses; short term and long term. They are different in the amount of time required to pay back the costs. The short term items are the MC printing and postage, supplies and certain merchandise. Merchandise in this category is paid for before we have it printed and we do not print more than is ordered. This takes some time and causes us to have 6 to 8 week delivery dates. The long term items include merchandise which we purchase to keep in stock for immediate delivery, and items which require us to purchase a minimum quantity. We try to keep at least 3 of each 3 1/2 x 5 picture in stock for orders. When we get down to one picture we order 3 more. This uses funds to pay for items which may or may not be sold by the end of the Alliance year. The money is spent but is not returned to the treasury before the end of the year. When we had yearly conventions, we sold much of the inventory we had. You can see this in the 1986 sales of merchandise at Con. While we don't charge as much as most SF dealers, we do make a profit on each item so when we sell alot we make extra money. When we don't sell alot, the money is tied up and can't be used elsewhere. In part, the higher per member cost for 1987 is due to purchasing the Moonbase Alpha pins and replenishing four patches which were out of stock. There are minimum order quantities for each of these items. We were in fact very lucky to still be able to offer the patches. Our original supplier raised their minimum order to 50 patches. If we had not found another source which would allow us to purchase a minimum of 15 patches we would have had to discontinue the patches. The alternative would have been to tie up over $500 of Alliance funds for 4 patches. We hoped to increase sales by printing the catalog. The cost of catalog printing was about $2.00 per member. We charge about $2.00 per catalog requested so the money will eventually be paid back but they aren't selling fast. Sales of catalog items have increased but they do not match the sales that usually occur at a large convention where people can see what they are buying. Looking at merchandise items of the long term payback variety and certain other associated or one time items, removal of these items would reduce the per member cost for 1987 by almost $3.00. Looking at it another way. If we wanted to maintain the starting balance (take in as much as we spend) for each of the last two years we should have increased the dues by $4.00 in 1986 and $3.00 more this last year. This would have been about $1.33 per year for the 3 years between 1985 and 1988 where there were postage increases and $3.00 for this last year to include the postage and printing increases. Removing the cost for long term merchandise items for this last year, the cost would have gone up about $1.00. Please remember that the merchandise costs would only show up this year. They would not show up again until the merchandise needed to be replenished and would be adding money to the treasury in the meantime.

There are also advertising costs. Printing flyers and placing ads in magazines are costly items which may also be of the long term payback variety. There is no immediately observable payback to the members. As we indicated before and as indicated by other members, more members gives us a larger voice and helps to reduce the cost per member in each category. It helps to reduce the need for increases or at least reduces the size of the increase.

Where does that leave us? It means that if we don't change something now we will come up short of funds in the near future. What can be done? We have taken one step, which can be reversed by the members, in this MC. We have gone to thinner paper. This reduces the dues (cost of 4 MCs) by about $1 per year and would allow us to add more pages to MC without increasing the postage cost, but the cost to print a page outweighs the savings in postage. We are also looking at other ways to reduce the cost. One way would be to remove all photos from the MC. Xerox copies cost $15 extra for each page with pictures. This makes the cost about equal with the current cost. Removing the pictures would allow us to reduce costs by xeroxing instead of printing them.

What should we keep and what should we change? As indicated we have already made one change in the MC. We will look at other changes which may reduce printing costs. We would like to keep the pictures in the MC since we feel it contributes to the quality of the publication but this is up to YOU the members. We also think that advertising is important and should be paid for with Alliance dues. In order to continue these operations in the future, we are raising the Dues for the next year to: US-$13.00 // Can-$14.00 and Overseas-$17.00. If the membership decides to remove pictures from the MC, we will use the extra money to add extra pages to MC. If we can't print another full page, the money would be used for additional advertising. Please note this does not cover costs for merchandising in the future. We need to know what YOU want to do. Should we keep our merchandise efforts going? We have enough material for another auction. The raise in dues should allow us to balance our budget with respect to short term costs and advertising. We could use the money from the auction to finance long term costs. This money would not have to be returned to the Alliance immediately since it would not be required for MC printing, postage or advertising. The raise in dues is necessary. What we do with the MC and what we keep or discard is up to YOU. We will adjust the direction of the club based on YOUR input. If anyone has any suggestions, we will gladly entertain them and present them to the membership for consideration. Generally requests for comment or voting get about 10-15 responses. If that is all we get this time, we will do what we think should be done with the funds and options available to us.

Please take a few moments and send us your opinions on the following questions: **(1) Is the thinner paper OK?** _____ If not, dues may have to be adjusted in the near future. **(2) Should we remove all pictures from the MC and Xerox instead of print MC?** _____ **(3) Should we keep our merchandise effort going?** _____ These are important questions. Now is the time to voice your feelings on how things should be handled. If we get 30, 40 or, Lord willing, 50 or 60 responses, we will do as the majority of the members request. If you think we have been doing a good job, or don't care what happens, and decide not to write, we will make whatever decisions we feel are in the best interests of the club and the members. Here's YOUR chance. Write us as soon as you can and let us know YOUR wishes. We would like to hear from you before September 1, the beginning of the next Alliance year. We're sorry to have taken up so much of MC with this, but it was important.

ADS and NOTES

NOTICE - CHANGE OF ADDRESS - If you want to write to Claudia Fravel, you should use the following new address: Claudia Fravel / U.S.S Shenadoah AD-44 / FPO New York, NY 09551-2540

WANTED - New members for a role-playing Battlestar Galactica Club. Also need copies of the Loner series. Need most of both series of Space:1999 episodes in VHS format. Also looking for Anderson annuals. Please write to Elenore Claassen / 1740-47 Ave. S.W. / Calgary, Alberta / Canada T2T 2S2

NOTICE - Mayr Fitzgerald (formerly Mare) DOES still exist! We have talked to her a couple times in the last two weeks. She wants all members of the former Prentis Hancock fan club to know that the journal is almost finished. In her words, "it's only half a lifetime later". She also has some items to put in MC. Something called AS THE MOON TURNS (Yipe!) and possible periodic reports on what Prentis is doing. I am sure you will all enjoy these reports as they are published in the MC.

NOTICE - Member Doug Pelton wrote a 10 page series guide and article on Gerry Anderson's "Secret Service" marionation series. This guide appeared in the Spring issue of SIG (# 19). If you would like to obtain a copy of this review, check your local SF bookstore or you can contact SIG by writing to Brendan Sheehan / 23 Halston Close / Darley Road, Battersea / London SW11 6RH / Great Britain. You can also write to Doug. He has done articles on Anderson shows for other magazines and is one of the most knowledgeable fans of Gerry Anderson's works that we know. His address is: 65 Park St. E#508 Port Credit / Mississauga, Ontario / Canada L5G 1M3

EARTHCON VIII - A science fiction/fantasy convention mainly for written SF&F will be help September 16-18, 1988 at the Holiday Inn Westlake, in Cleveland, Ohio. Advance registrations must be in by August 31. If you would like more information write to: NEOSFA / PO Box 5641 / Cleveland, Oh 44101

BLAKES'S 7 FANS -Awright, all you Blake's Seven fans! The third issue of SHADOW is now out, with a load of essays, fiction, poems, filks, reviews, and art. 52 pp, only $3, $5 overseas(US funds or Int'l M.O. or 6 Int'l Reply Coupons). Send your order to: Theresa Buffaloe / Rt. 3, Box 632 / Bay Minette, Al 36507

TECH NOTEBOOK - Anyone who wants an Alpha moonbase Technical Notebook can send for a catalog from: The Intergalactic Trading Co. / PO Box 1516 / Longwood, Fl 32750. Price of the notebook is $15.00 plus postage and handling.

?? QUESTION ?? - How much interest would there be in a compilation of THE LONER stories by Michael Heyes? I've just finished talking to Denise Miller about that very possibility. I believe there may be a lot of members who've gotten involved since the time those stories were in print and available. All reports I've heard about them is that they were excellent stories. If there was a definite interest, we'd have to have photocopies of the stories Denise doesn't have (I don't have any of them) so that it would be a complete volume. So, if you'd like to see it, write either to Kevin Peterson / 930 1/2 5th St. / Golden, Co 80403-1454 OR Denise Miller / 5266 Edmondson Pike Apt #610 / Nashville, Tn 37211 and LET US KNOW. THANKS.

WANTED - all 14 episodes of the short lived TV series Logan's Run. These can be recorded on LP or SP. I am also interested in any other Logan's Run material (comic books, etc.) Contact: David Kaplan / 321 Frost pond Road / Glen Head, NY 11545-2413.

SPACE:1999 - is currently appearing on KFVE channel 5 in Honolulu, Hawaii at 10:00am on Saturdays. From Chris Paulsen.

THE PRISONER is out on video tape with one episode per tape. It is apparently distributed by "Baker and Taylor". Check with your neighborhood video store. The success of these video tapes along with the marketing of Star Trek and Outer Limits tapes may have been what decided ITC to release Space:1999 on videotape.

WANTED - A1 quality Space:1999 episodes on VHS or 3/4" U-matic formats. Please contact: Tom Lemos / 601 San Nicholas Ln. / Foster City, Ca 94404

COMING SOON: LUNAVISIONS 4 is being planned for late-summer or early-fall release. For notification of publication date and price, send SASE to Denise Miller / 5266 Edmondson Pike Apt #610 / Nashville, Tn 37211. Could still use some art for LV 4. If interested, please get in touch. Copies of LV 3 are still available. Send SASE for details.

FROM THE ALLIANCE - We have limited quantities of some items which we would like to sell to clear more space. These items will be sold on a first-come first-served basis. (1) Several copies of "Peripatetic Two" fanzine. This 162 page all 1999 zine published in 1985 contains stories by George Eichler, Mayr Fitzgerald, Bonnie Yoman and others. It contains good fan artwork and the back cover contains transcripts from the Con 1980 fan graffiti board. Cost is $10 each. P&H included. (2) Also for sale 2 1986 LA Con T-shirts autographed by Barry Morse "Love! Barry Morse. July 1986". The cost is $25 each. P&H included. Also available but NOT in limited quantities - (1) A Space:1999 merchandise catalog which contains 22 pages of pictures, zines, patches and other items available from the Alliance. The cost is $2.75 US & Canada or $3.25 Overseas by check or money order. (2) **INTERCOM** 1 - an excellent fan publication that offers 67 pages of fascinating reading on many aspects of Space:1999. The zine contains a 25 page photo interview with 1999 script writer Johnny Byrne. It also contains the fan story "A Textbook Case" by Lis Therkildsen and an in depth review called War Games Special. Cost is $3.50 in the U.S. / $3.75 in Canada / $4.00 Overseas. Make all checks or money orders out and send to: International Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Oh 44851 USA

SPECIAL NOTE & THANK YOU

Barry and Sydney Morse would like to send their love and thanks to each and everyone who contributed to the lovely 24 hour 50th anniversary clock from Morse Code and Alliance members. They want to place it on the mantle over the fireplace in their London home. Watch for Barry and Eddie Albert in a new TV episode of "The Twilight Zone" filmed in Toronto this past spring.

The following article appeared in a California newspaper. It dealt with US interests in the Panama Canal. The title, however seems to be applicable to our group as well.

The United States must prepare itself for 1999

MAIN COMPUTER © 1988 International Space: 1999 Alliance/ a Non-profit organization

Main Computer # 4 Volume 10 June 1988

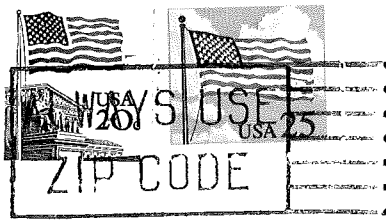
John and Kathy Von Kamp, MC Editors, 86 First Street, New London, Ohio 44851-1196 USA

Newsletters published in the following months: September, December, March & June

Member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAN CLUBS, 2730 Baltimore Ave., Pueblo, Co 81003

INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE
MAIN COMPUTER PUBLISHING
86 FIRST STREET
NEW LONDON, OHIO 44851-1196 USA





Tony Wynn Mar 89
LOGMAN Div. (SHAPE)
APO NY
09055

AN X BY YOUR NAME MEANS
IT'S TIME TO PAY DUES FOR ANOTHER YEAR