MAIN COMPUTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE

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MC CHANGES

As you can tell by the cover of this MC, there have been more changes in the newsletter. Chris Paulsen sent several Main Computer front page designs for us to evaluate. After talking to some other trusted and creative members of the Alliance, we selected the current design for use as the new MC title page. There are also several other new features later in the newsletter. We hope you like them. We would appreciate any comments.

What YOU DO want in MC!

In addition to the change in the first page format, in the last MC we again asked you to vote for the columns which you liked the best. This time we got a much better response. The results are tabulated below. The total vote for each column was determined by multiplying the number of first place votes for each column by 12, the number of second places votes for each column by 11, the number of third place votes by 10 etc. through the number of twelfth place votes by 1. We added each of these values together to come up with the total vote. The highest total vote would indicate the most requested column.

Column	Total vote	Column	Total vote	Column	Total vote
LAUNCH PAD	281	STORIES	238	COM. CONF. ROUNDTABLE	237
WE'RE ALL ALIENS	234	CON REPORT	204	MEMORY LANE	197
ADS AND NOTES	195	HUMOR AND CARTOONS	181	FLASHBACK	178
ZINE REVIEW	161	SCANNING	148		

Based on these results it's easy to see that the most popular column is LAUNCH PAD. We're OK here. Each MC already devotes a large number of pages to this column. The next three columns had very similar totals. All of these should be in each MC. COMMAND CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE appears in each MC. STORIES appear in most issues and we have enough material (especially if we serialize longer stories in several issues) to keep this going in each issue. We put WE'RE ALL ALIENS in each issue when we have submissions. This section is entirely up to YOU the members. Of the next group of three, ADS & NOTES appears in each MC of necessity. CON REPORTS normally only appear in one issue if/when we have a con or small group meeting and MEMORY LANE only appears when we have submissions which isn't often. Based on this, I think they are appearing about right based on member response. The remaining columns should appear once in a while in one or two pages. Scanning is the only column in the last four that deserves some additional consideration. Several members indicated they wanted info on stars current work, actor reviews or more pictures of the stars which normally appeared in the scanning section.It appears that while SCANNING is low on the list, members still want info on the stars. Perhaps the SCANNING column format should be revised. Let us know what you think about this. Comments like the one on the next page are always appreciated.

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My list of favorite parts of the MC is slightly arbitrary since it is really a matter of degree as to which parts I like best. Basically, if it's well written, interesting, thought provoking or humorous, I enjoy it. Although ads rate last on my list, they serve a very useful purpose--letting people know about other zines and 1999 merchandise.

We would like to thank everyone for your votes and you comments. We hope to use these comments to give you what you want. There may be more or less of a particular column in each MC, but overall we will try to keep the distribution in accordance with your desires.

That is the good news. There is also some bad news. Apparently the paper industry has been depressed for some time. Paper costs have been low. To try to drive the price up, many plants reduced their output. The result is that paper prices are going up. The cost of printing 100 copies of one sheet (4 pages) of the Main Computer will go from $24.55 to $37.00 effective with this issue. It doesn't take a calculator to figure that this is over a 50 % increase in the cost of printing. This means any savings we made in switching to the 11 x 17 inch format have disappeared and we have lost ground at the same time. We don't know how this will affect the membership rates. Based on potential changes which are discussed in the next section, we can not say at this time what effect any of this will have on the newsletter. We will let you know as soon as we have information to give you. - John & Kathy

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MEMBER CONCERNS AND NECESSARY CHANGES

We received a letter from two concerned Alliance members. They voiced their concerns about the direction and responses from Alliance leadership. Some of their concerns are based on a lack of information. However, in many cases they are correct. We don't disagree with what they say. Up till now we have tried to provide members with as much service and support as our schedules and family life would allow. The concerns will be listed in the following material. We have elected to deal with the concerns rather than print the letters to keep this section to a minimum and in the best interests of the Alliance. C# = Concern. A = Answer or response.

C1 - Our section rep is not doing a good job. We haven't received membership cards in ages. The rep should keep in touch with us and keep section members in touch with each other.

A - Not too surprising. It has been difficult for us to get out current updates to the section reps about who has renewed. We have also had a new membership card laid out for a year. It needs to be changed because of the new logo; but we just haven't had time to get it issued. It's not necessarily the reps fault though we have not had too many complaints from the reps about not getting the cards and few members have complained to us or apparently to the reps as far as we can tell. As far as contact by the reps. The Alliance has been operating low on funds. We couldn't reimburse the reps for any postage they spent. Aside from the time involved, the postage does mount up if you do a good job of keeping up contact. They also have little to report. Almost everything comes out in the MC. You could have section meetings to which only the members could come. The "No-Cons" in Ohio were not actually conventions. They were section get-togethers. It was just that anyone could come. We have suggested that other section meetings be held. To date nobody else has tried to set one up. This is up to YOU the members. How we intend to address this is in NEW DIRECTIONS.

C2 - I write letters and volunteer to do things but I never hear from you.

A - We get a lot of letters. Those that have easy answers normally get out. Those that take any time to come up with an answer normally wind up in a pile to be answered when we have the time. This is almost but not quite the same as the dead letter section in the post office. Sooner or later we get back to them but sometimes it is after an event or time frame has passed which is unacceptable to the letter writer. Some people write two or three times and don't get a response. We're sorry. That's the way it is. It USED to be fun to answer letters. Now it is another job that has to be done in competition with mow the lawn, fix/clean the house, work, type up MC, etc. This leaves little time for relaxation, friends, weekends/vacations with family, church, etc. The change probably began when we went from 6 issues to 4. We were trying to get more time for ourselves. That didn't help much. We have finally decided that other things are more important and in the best interest of the Alliance and ourselves, changes must be made. (NEW DIRECTIONS)

C3 - I'd like to be a rep for part of a section. I'd like to put out a newsletter for this area. It would come out whenever something happens.

A - This would be OK but why not discuss it with the section rep first. I am sure they would agree and might provide some ideas. However, because of the financial situation, you would have to assume the costs.

C4 - The newsletters are always late.

A - Same reasons as for C1 above. (see NEW DIRECTIONS) Would you prefer Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter Issues issued any time during those seasons?

(Cont. next page)

C5 - If we have stars at a convention do we pay the airfares or do they and if we do, it comes out of the Alliance doesn't it?

A - I believe this has been answered before, however, one more time. The stars are NOT required to pay for anything during their stay. All plane tickets, room costs and meals for the stars are paid for by the convention committee through sales of tickets to the convention and other sources such as banquet tickets and fees for tables in the dealer's room. Phone calls within reason are also paid for. If one of the stars invites a group of fans to a meal the Convention committe is only responsible for the stars meals. Some of the stars have paid some of their room or meal costs because the convention was being held for charity and this was their way of donating. They are NOT required to do this. Many of the stars do not request payment for their appearance at the convention for the same reason. However, some stars have received a small additional speaking fee for their appearance. Considering that some stars such as David Prowse and others can get $5,000 to $10,000 for a one or two day appearance, we were lucky he came to our con twice for free. For the first few conventions the Alliance provided enough money to get the cons started but that was all. All conventions need to pay for themselves. During the early conventions the Alliance had more members and the conventions were more of a success. Beginning with the 1982 convention which the Alliance bailed out when it went $5,000 in the red, the conventions have not been as well attended. We also have fewer members and the Alliance account can not afford a repeat of 1982. Many of the con committee members from those early days have moved on to other things, some even to greater cons such as working on World Con. Because we no longer have as much working capital(members), the experience base to run the cons, and attendance levels at the conventions, the Alliance can not be responsible for any costs for convention activities. Any person or group of persons (see NEW DIRECTIONS) wishing to run a convention would have to bear the total financial burden. The Alliance can provide a small amount of money for advertising and would do everything to help promote the convention but that's all that can be done monetarily. We would be willing to provide information based on our past experience to anyone interested in running a convention, but we will not be on the committee or be involved in any way other than advisors.

C6 - Wapakoneta was a poor choice for a Con location. There are no airports close. It was planned and announced too late.

A - Choice of a location was based on a member suggestion. We don't turn down anyone who wants to get members together to have a good time. Also, if you haven't seen the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum located there, don't knock it. Yes, it is a distance from airports. We try to arrange transportation so that it is as reasonable as possible by having people come together. A long car ride is far more enjoyable when you get to talk to friends you haven't seen for some time. It also spreads the cost around. In Sandusky, those who came in by limo only paid half the cost. As far as planning, we weren't even going to try to have a con this year due to lack of time on our part. Better no Con than one we had no time to plan. However, some people feel like they are in a vacuum if they don't get a chance to have some sort of meeting with other fans and asked if the Wapakoneta meeting could be scheduled. If someone wanted it, it was worth a try. Poorly planned, granted. Not enough time for everyone who wanted to, to attend, granted. Done for the right reasons, to have a get-to- gether of 1999 fans to enjoy each others company brought together by their love of the series Space:1999, UNQUESTIONABLE. We would like to see a larger, well planned convention, but we can't do it. (see NEW DIRECTIONS)

C7 - The Alliance should be handed over to someone who is willing to put the time and effort into the position.

A - Those who have not been a club president and tried to do the things we have can not know how much time it takes. Time subtracted from the time with your family. For single people this may not seem so bad. When you are watching your children grow it's a waste of precious time. Some changes are being made in the way the Alliance will be run but the changes are being made because as Presidents, WE need them. Changes are not bad. Even if we stopped having conventions entirely and only had local get-to-gethers it would not be that different than other clubs. There are clubs with larger memberships that do not have conventions. One of the Monkee fan clubs is older than the Alliance and has a membership in the thousands. The club no longer holds conventions. The president did all the work; the newsletter, convention and personal contacts. It was just too much work. There are no conventions but the club goes on. Clubs change for other reasons. Pierce Brosnan has indicated that he wants more time with his family and for new career directions. He will not have as much time to devote to the club. He thinks it should be put on hold for a while. Since the newsletter was based mainly on interviews and information supplied by Pierce, the newsletter and the club, which also has many more members than we do, will have to change to meet the new conditions. This club has never had a convention.

NEW DIRECTIONS

This has already taken too long. To be brief, the problem is we are trying to do too much and not doing any of it well. In order to improve the club we must have help. Therefore we wish to make the following changes: 1 - We will stop writing the Main Computer. We need to have someone else volunteer to write the newsletter. We would still review the newsletter before it is printed. The printing & mailing will still be done from here at least for the time being. At the end of the newsletter you will find a blank copy of an MC front page. Anyone interested in the position of MC writer should create a letter introducing themselves as the new editor and stating what he/she plans to do to improve the MC.

The letter should be printed on the sample MC cover page using the same equipment and style that would be for the real MC. We will then review all submissions and select the new editor. We already have one person who has expressed an interest. If possible, we would like to have the next MC put out by the new editor. We really do not expect this to be a drastic change. There have been two other editors since the Alliance began. We have had done the MC for the last eight years and the MC has changed through that time. With continued member support, the MC should continue to change to meet members needs. If you are interested in back issues, they are available for 75 ¢/ US/Canada and $1.00 elsewhere. At this time we don't have a listing of what is in the old issues. This listing is a big task. If you have all or most of the back MC's and you would like to tackle this job, let us know. Each description should be held to about 50 words if possible. If you are missing an issue, we can supply a copy. We would be willing to provide a free year's membership or two items from our catalog for this effort. Contact us if you are interested in creating this listing for other members, please let us know.

2 - We will no longer be involved in setting up conventions. If YOU, the members, want to have conventions it will be up to you to create a group separate from the Alliance fan club to set up and run the conventions. This group would be financially responsible for all convention bills. We could act as advisors for the group until they understand what is necessary to run a convention. Then the group would be on its own. Two individuals have asked to run conventions in their areas. Tony Wynn said he would be willing to try to set up a convention in either New Orleans or Houston in 1990. He would like to know if there are any interested people in the area who would like to pull together to run a convention. Tony has had some previous convention experience. Bob Wood has also indicated that he would like to try to put on a convention in Canada. He has discussed the possibility with Sandra Sprecker. They would also need help. We don't believe Bob has had any convention experience but Sandra has been involved in most of the Alliance conventions. If you would be interested in helping either group organize a convention, please contact them at the following addresses: TONY WYNN / LOGMAN DIV. (SHAPE) / APO. NEW YORK 09055 // ROBERT WOOD / BOX 1207 / COCHRANE, ALBERTA / CANADA TOL 0W0. NOTE: Tony's address will change in June. You can contact the Alliance for Tony's address. The address will also be printed in the MC. If anyone else is interested trying your hand at a convention, or would be willing to serve on a standing committee to decide where conventions should be held, please let us know as soon as possible. If there is to be a convention next year, the planning should start NOW.

3 - We will keep the merchandising and, remain for at least some additional time as Presidents. We will be able to do a better job of getting out membership cards. We also have some ideas for membership packets for new and renewing members that we may now have the time to implement. We should also be able to get the merchandise out faster. We thank all of you who have been waiting for merchandise. We have not forgotten you. Please be patient a little longer.

We think these changes will be in the best interests of the Alliance. We could not keep trying to do it all ourselves. If this doesn't work, we may have to refund the dues, sell off the remaining merchandise and close down the club. We don't think it will come to that but as Smokey the Bear would say, Only YOU Can Prevent 1999 Expires. OK, so it was a lousy play on words. Maybe it will get better with a new editor. (Maybe worse???)

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WE'RE ALL ALIENS UNTIL– WE GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

From Albert Leon / 221 South 7th St. / Elizabeth, NJ 07202

My name is Albert Leon and I recently graduated from college with a degree in biology. I have been a Space:1999 fan for over 12 years. The first episode of Space:1999 that caught my interest was "Beta Cloud". I remember how I couldn't pull myself away from the television set. I enjoyed it so much that there was not one thing that I didn't like about the episode. From then on I watched Space:1999 every week and it instantly became my favorite program. Even now it's still my favorite. I enjoy writing stories, making drawings and building models based on Space:1999.

Unfortunately, Space:1999 hasn't been broadcast in my area for many years now and I haven't seen it since. However, I was recently able to find "Alien Attack" and "Journey Through the Black Sun" in local video stores. It was great to see these episodes again. I enjoyed watching these episodes again now more than I did before.

"I am also a fan of "Lost in Space", "Dr. Who", "Star Trek" (old, new and movies), and just about all science fiction. I'd like to hear from anyone interested in talking about all aspects of Space:1999 of Space:1999 and other science fiction programs and movies.

While this is one of the most liked columns, this is the last letter we have to publish. This column will be successful as long as all of YOU contribute. Let's hear from old and new members alike.

Launch Pad

From Jan Soarks / 333 Roberts Drive / Travis AFB, Ca 94535 (Aug. 18, 1988)

This letter is long overdue (typical for me) but I've made myself sit down and write this because I've been with the Alliance since '79 and I owe you at least 100 letters by now! The last time I wrote was two years ago when I wrote about Con '86 in LA, which was fabulous. I just have to congratulate Christopher Paulsen for his brilliant observations in "13 Years of Hindsight" in the March ('88) ish of Main Computer. I totally agree that year 2 was a different show from year 1. In fact, when I first saw year 2 I was apalled at what they did to my favorite show. It was only after I saw a few more episodes and got it into my head that it was a different show and treated it as such, that I began to enjoy it. I may get into hot water by saying this, but I compared the plots of year 2 to "Lost in Space". Almost every episode had an evil alien bent on destroying the good guys. Now, I like year 2 and "Lost in Space" too, but why do all aliens have to be bad? At least in Year 1 there were aliens like the Caldorians who were peace-lovers, and it was one of our own people who was the enemy. Maybe it was the now-called "Rambo Syndrome" where we are always the good guys fighting the evil alien bad guys.

I agree with the comments about the casualness of Year 2. The Alphans seemed to me like they were having a pretty good time on the base by Year 2. While I am not against them making life as pleasant as possible despite their situation, it would have been nice of them to maybe look a little harder for a habitable planet. I can only remember a few episodes from Year 2 when they did just that.

I am really in agreement about the background music. I don't think I've ever heard more beautiful background music than Barry Gray's music. It would play in my head hours after the show was over, it was great. It blended perfrectly with each scene and added tremendously to the mood of the scene. And it sounded like science fiction music too. I'm sorry to disappoint anyone, but with a few exceptions, I just didn't care for Derek Wadsworth's stuff. It was just too upbeat all the time, especially during the "kill the ugly brutes" plots (to coin a phrase from Christopher).

Also, Year 2 did not have the same sense of wonder as Year 1. At the end of each episode of Year 1, I felt that I had learned something about the characters or even myself. It was like a philosophical journey through space. Year 2 had the familiar basic plot where everything turns out in the end.

Christopher mentioned the opening theme, and again I am in agreement. Barry Gray's opening was exciting, full of awe, yet a little scary all at the same time. And the previews at the beginning let you know what to prepare for. The Year 2 theme to me just seems flat by comparison. And the first time I ever saw the Year 2 opening and saw John Koenig turn around and open fire, I knew we were in trouble there. I never thought I'd live to see the day that John Koenig would just blast away, or would be openly hostile to anyone, aliens included, without at least an introduction.

As far as Maya - I really think they had a good idea in adding her, but they didn't give her much to do besides change into one or two aliens a show and tag along on missions. I liked the part in "Rules of Luton" where she and Koenig both opened up and told a little about their past. Aside from that part and the first episode, Maya just seems to be the standard alien who is different from everyone else. Even with the other characters, it seems that the writers wanted to make the show less sterile by adding more humanism to the people, but some they gave too much character and others not enough. I would have liked them to delve deeper into the Maya character instead of spending so much time on John & Helena lovey-doveying around. I have worked in an office where the boss and a co-worker had more than a working relationship, believe me, that type of relationship does not make a strong leader. I did not have as much confidence in Commander Koenig in Year 2 as I did in Year 1. I guess it is lonely out there and the Commander is only human, but he is still in charger of a base with 300 people, and some things will just have to wait for his breaks. How callous I sound!

The bottom line is the fact that 1999 was renewed for a second season because Year 1 was so successful. So why did they feel that a radical change was due? I know, I know, I'm basically rehashing what Christopher Paulsen said so wonderfully a couple isues back, but I'm saying it because he's right you know! After reading his article I was so totally moved and motivated that I knew I had to write my total agreement. (It just took me a couple months to get myself to sit down!) And now I'm in the mood to watch one of my very few 1999 episodes on video tape and re-live the magic all over again. And yes, I'd even settle for a second season episode!

Just received the latest MC, so I can comment on it as well. I am ecstatic over the possible release of 1999 episodes on video. It will be great seeing episodes I haven't seen since the 70's, as well as the original versions on the ones currently in movie format. They would probably be released in hi-fi too. Can't wait! I would like a flyer as I now live near a comic store and can possibly gain new members around here. I wear my LA Con '86 shirt quite a bit, though no one I have come in contact with has ever heard of 1999. It is a familiar problem, and disappointing because how can you spread the word of the Alliance's existance if no one has heard of the show? Hopefully if the videos come out next year, it will help. Of course, I work with a lot of "younger" folks who were not watching much TV in the mid 70's. I was fortunate to be 15 in '75 and saw the premiere of 1999. (ed. How about 25 in '75. Think about it.) I enjoyed the interpretation of Year 2 by Michael Godin. Boy, he sure gets in deep, doesn't he? Though I have not changed my opinion between Year 1 and 2, Michael certainly gave me something to think about, things that the episodes themselves didn't convey to me. I will be interested in his conclusion.

Since I don't subscribe to Starlog anymore, or any other SF magazine, Main Computer is my sole source for info on 1999 personnel and character stories. I really would not like to see the Alliance fold. I hope that the Alliance sticks around for a long time and that the dream of 1999 is realized.

From Kevin McCorry / 105 Linden Crescent / Frederickton, N.B. / Canada E3A 5A1 (Aug. 88)

Space:1999 on videotape - Hooorrrraaay!!! It's about time, I must say. ITC is finally seeing reason. A TV show can't expand its following when it's kept hidden. On a video collectors level, I don't really know how to feel. After all the trouble I've gone thru to get my episodes from TV, these copies will thus be obsolete.Or will they? Any ideas on what we could do with the tapes off the TV?

The problem is the price of purchasing pre-recorded tapes. Like it or not, that's the only way the general public will be able to get hold of the Space:1999 tapes. Since 1999 is a very special interest recording, most video rental clubs will not offer it. Around here, though I've tried, no rental club has any of the Space movies. One did have Destination: Moonbase Alpha back in '84, but it rented poorly. The only way to get 1999 tapes is by ordering them, a costly purchase. Sadly, most people rent not buy. So, the video medium doesn't seem a very effective means of getting 1999 to the general public. For the fan, though, who can afford it, it's like having died and gone to Heaven! I'm delighted and am wishing for the best!

Chantal Battiston's letter about Year 2 showing in France is certainly encouraging. 1999 has lived in France lately! I'm curious about one thing. Space:1999 in French is Cosmos 1999, at least it is here in Canada. A French version of Space ran here in 1976-77 and 1979-80. Both seasons were shown. It seems odd that Year 2 was dubbed in French for French broadcast in 1977 but did not air in France until 1987. By the way Chantal, "All that Glisters" was called "Tout ce qui reluit" here. If the episode titles are the same, then it was indeed the same version of Cosmos 1999 that aired in both Canada and France. "New Adam, New Eve" was called "Une autre terre", which translates differently - it means Another Earth. Sadly, much was lost in the translation. I can only guess that "All that Glisters/Tout ce qui reluit" and "Testament of Arkadia/La Testament de l'Arkadie" were mixed up in transit to the TV station and the wrong episode was shown. It does happen sometimes. Saturday afternoon seems a popular time for sci-fi. 1999 ran here on Saturday afternoons in a highly turbulent time slot. I can empathize with you!

Michael Godin's interpretation of Year 2 is certainly impressive. As I said, Space:1999 yields intellectual creativity, and that means both seasons. Michael and I have met, and we've discussed Space in detail, especially Year 2 hich is equally, if not more, worthy of artistic appreciation than Year 1. I've felt since joining this club that Year 2 has been given a bad knock. Come on everyone, let's keep an open mind.

From Mario Rivera / P.O. Box 3355 / Virginia Beech, Va 23454 (Oct. 88)

As a new member, but an old fan of 1999, I am saddened to see a club like 1999 slowly fading away into the depths of the solar system, obscurity. As with Moonbase Alpha, which was blasted into the solar system soon to be forgotten by an Earth struggling to survive the world wrenching departure of its moon, so it seems that many fans have lost interest in an S.F struggle for survival wrapped up in their own earth bound struggle for survival. But, can it be that in 1989 planet Earth and all its 1999 fans, both closet and active, will again be making contact with Moonbase Alpha? If ITC joins the growing video market in old S.F. TV shows, we the fans may again be able to make contact and join that going day to day struggle to survive the problems that our Alphans and we on planet Earth are enduring until they make planet fall and we our destiny. Without commercial interruptions.

From Geoff Tilley / 2 Susan Court / Cheltenham, 3192 / Victoria, Australia (Oct 88)

Congrats on the new look MC, you've got a winner there! The campaign for getting 1999 on video is an admirable one though as one of my friends said once, the SST episodes compiled into movies were so brutal in their treatment of the show that anyone who watched them wouldn't think half as much of the show as if they'd seen them unchanged and intact. You are probably aware that budget distributors in the U.K. have the compilatons of 1999 available but that's it. It would be a good idea if they were contacted as to the possible releases on tape as they have been doing with the other Anderson shows. For the moment they seem to be concentrating on the puppet shows. As Phil Rae once commented to me, the interest in Fanderson concentrates more on the puppet shows and that's where the sales are. That seems to include UFO which surprises me. I'd like to think that Channel 5 will release a 2 episode tape within 18 months to at least test the market. It will be the sales of that tape which will determine the future releases. ITC will probably use that as a monitor of the popularity. If it equals whatever UFO got then that would seem to be incentive enough to release it in America (ala 'cult collectable' UFO).

There's a lot of things I liked in the June (88) MC but I'll point out the main ones. The Martin Landau interview was very interesting. "Tucker" shant see theatrical release here until December. He is so right with his comment, "People forgot I could act, I guess." I hope Tucker is just the first step towards better roles in the future.

Kevin McCorry's time line makes for interesting reading though I won't challenge its accuracy. He has made assumptions that I might have questioned but as an alternate timline it receives my kudos.

Ah, what I wouldn't give to see Barry Morse in the theatre! I hope many people take the chance to go see him. I look forward to at least reading the reviews.

Lastly, the best item in this MC was Manuel Rui Pereira deCarvalho's highly imaginative and entertaining background dossier on the Dorcon race. I do wish he can submit more or, at least, others so enthralled with this new type of docu-fiction will try some of their own.

From Karla Von Huben / 3036 Hawthorn Street #18 / San Diego, Ca 92104 (Nov 88)

Hi Everyone:

First, I'd like to get the nuts and bolts out of the way (i.e., my completely arbitrary reaction to the physical layout of "Main Computer"), then to go on to mouth off about fandom, my opinion regarding shows new and old, and generally create hate and discontent! (I LOVE being the bad guy!)

(ed. Karla's MC comments were positive and fun to read but printing all the comments would take up too much space, so on with the hate and discontent.)

Now, on to the hate and discontent! (Heh-heh!) Reading through the letters in the Sep '88 issue, I sense a theme running through many of them, and it goes like this: "I can't stand Star Trek: The Next Generation!" I wonder just how much of this is a holdover from the days of Trek vs. 1999, and how much is actually based on an unbiased viewing of the show. I think ST:TNG is fabulous, but then I was never married to the original. Of course, I can not quarrel with people who say the first season was dreadfully uneven--it was. There were some truly awful episodes ("Too Short a Season" springs to mind), but there were some outstanding ones, too: "Heart of Glory" and "Conspiracy"; "The Big Goodbye" won a Peabody! How many 1999 scripts won anything? If we start talking about weak scripts, I'm afraid 1999 is as big an offender as anyone. In fact, it was the holes in the scientific theories that drove many potential viewers away from 1999 in the first place. IF the ST:TNG writers start coming up with really good stuff (which they did abou half the time), then I feel the series has the potential to go far beyond the original; it could run for five years or longer. Is everyone who "hates" it really that unhappy, or are you afraid to like it because you think it will somehow take away your loyalty to Space" You're allowed to like them all, you know. It's not as if we had an unlimited choice of televised science fiction series. Let's support them all, even as we retain our special identification as lovers of 1999. I find that it's a lot more fun watching and supporting a show that is currently running -- and doing well -- than it is busting my back trying to revive interest in one that is already off the air. I'll keep spreading the word about 1999, but I reserve the right to watch "Next Generation" too!

I do have several nits to pick with Robert Wood. I agree that the plots of ST:TNG are trash half the time. But I CAN NOT for the life of me understand how you can say the actors, sets, and SFX are "sub-average". Patrick Stewart is one of the finest actors working today, and he makes Jean-luc Picard into every military person's dream of a commander: strong, forthright, hard-working, capable, caring, taking ultimate responsibility for his decisions. After a long time in the Marines, I can tell you that's RARE! And better still, he asks advice of his subordinates and TAKES IT! That's even rarer! He is, I find, the most interesting of the cast. (I don't expect that someone named Robert would realize this, but he is also extremely sexy. I met another woman fan at a masquerade this weekend, and she told me about her feline friend. He has thin fur on his head, broad shoulders, graceful legs and great buns! His name is Jean-Luc Picat, naturally!)

The men on the show, as is always the case because the industry is male-dominated, are settling into their roles better than the women. And I find each and every one of them worth getting to know better--with the possible exception of Wesley. However, since the Traveller explained that Wesley is a genius on Mozart's level, I can accept even him. I am sorry they got rid of Tasha; she was a fabulous character. But I imagine that Diana Muldaur will be another strong woman when she joins the crew. In short, I have nothing but praise for the way the actors have settled into their parts. Let's not forget that they are in direct competition, despite constant denials of the fact, with people that Trekkies (or Trekkers, or whatever they are this week) insist on calling "living legends". That's enough to intimidate anybody. But haven't you noticed how much more easily they all relate to each other now? The stories are much more often hits now than misses, and the special effects are dazzling. I have never heard ILM's work referred to as "sub-average". I think the effects are wonderful; best of all, they are there to support the story, not to overpower it. If we can only get good scripts, then "Next Generation" has unlimited potential. And for hungry fans, that's great news!

"Earth-Star Voyager"???? Come ON! It was both a pretentious Amazing Teenage Wonder Pilot bore, and a total waste of Duncan Reghr (see above comments about Patrick Stewart being sexy). If you think that's good SF, then I guess I can understand why you don't like ST:TNG. And why you don't much like "Beauty and the Beast", either. Now that's truly amazing, as it's a show that has (in my opinion) virtually nothing wrong with it. Strong characterizations, interesting situations, and great scripts; it's got it all. Except an audience, of course; did you know that in spite of the fact that it's been renewed, it's not a true "hit"? Sad, isn't it, that fine shows are constantly beaten up in the ratings by sitcoms and fluff.

Everybody p.o.'d now? Told you I love being the bad guy!

OK, let me stir things up even further, with my totally biased RAVE about the new "War of the Worlds." I think it's so good that I am writing about it here because I have to tell someone or I'll bust! I can't honestly say yet what it is that attracts me so much, because the show is very new. But I haven't missed one yet, and since TWO Los Angeles stations are running the episodes twice a week, I've seen them all at least four times--and I'd watch them again if I could. In fact,

there was such an overwhelming response to the two-hour pilot, that one of the stations, which had planned to rebroadcast it once, had to reschedule extra showings so that the pilot episode has been on three or four times!!

The premise is simple: it's based on the classic movie "War of the Worlds" that starred Gene Barry. It turns out that the bacteria that stopped the alien invasion didn't destroy them, but put them into deep hibernation. A radiation leak reanimated some of them, because the radiation killed the bacteria that held them in stasis. So now they are free, and are taking over human bodies to use as their disguises while they find the rest of the aliens who are buried on Earth. In addition to the aliens already here, there is an invasion fleet on the way. And the mission of our heroes, should they choose to accept it, is to stop the aliens. Simple, right? Yes, but it works, probably because the whole idea IS simplistic.

The problems occur because the aliens take over human bodies to use as hosts, so they can move among us undetected. Of course, the high level of radiation needed to kill the bacteria means that the human bodies decay rapidly, so the ugly monsters always need more! It's everybody's worst nightmare--you can't tell the good guys from the bad guys--and it works very well.

The camera work (as opposed to SFX which don't seem to be extensive in this show) is imaginative, with lots of shadows and odd angles; we have yet to actually SEE one of the aliens and that keeps the suspense going.

But the best thing about the show is the cast: JARED MARTIN is Dr. Harrison Blackwood, a delightfully quirky astrophysicist who remembers the original invasion. He was raised by Dr. Forrester (Gene Barry) after his parents were killed. LYNDA MASON GREEN as Dr. Suzanne McCullough. Hooray! A strong woman who is raising a child alone, and who is a microbiologist, intelligent, competent and dedicated. PHILIP AKIN as Norton Drake the computer expert. He is confined to a wheel chair and could be considered the weak link. He is not portrayed as handicapped. He often drives the van and shares in all the adventures. RICHARD CHAVEZ is Lt. Col. Paul Ironhorse, a full blooded American Indian with the US Army Special Forces. (Richard Chavez and Jared Martin are also notable as were Patrick Stewart and Duncan Reghr above.) Hey ladies, when it comes to great looking men, "Worlds" is great: we get two for the price of one!

Anyway, I'm loving it! With "WOTW" and "Next Generation" both going great guns, SF on the tube is looking healthy. Now, if we could just get someone to rerun SPACE, we could have the best of ALL possible worlds!

One final comment that may help resolve the concerns about apathy. You may notice that I have a letter in the September 1988 Main Computer, and now this letter, after having been silent (wish she still was, they say) for years. I had a very difficult time during the last two years, and lost interest in almost everything. This is not therapy, just a statement of fact. I am only now finding my interest in fandom reviving, thanks in part to a writers' group I'm involved in, thanks also to my interest in "Next Generation", and thanks to my stubborn refusal to give up my membership in the Alliance, mainly because I've been with it since the beginning. I think perhaps many people go through cycles like this, and if the trend in good movies and TV shows continues, we may see increasing membership as people discover the new science fiction offerings that are available, and re-discover old loves. That's what happened to me, anyway. Does this hold true for anyone else?

OK, everybody, those are my opinions and comments. Take your best shot! I sure wish we could do this in person--you people are the greatest, and I miss seeing you all. Take care. 1999 Lives!
(Ed. NOTE: Karla provided more detailed descriptions of the characters. We cut them back to leave room for one more 1999 related letter.)

from Kerry Keene / 417 NE 18 Ave. / Pompano Beach, Fl 33060-6543 (Nov. 88)

THE NEW LOOK MAIN COMPUTER: From the new logo to some suggested new printing styles, the Sep '88 issue of MC **i s** looking good! This issue also had some features that were nice to see again, primarily the bios of some of our new members. Let me take the time to welcome the new members to The Alliance and may your memberrship in this fine organization be as fruitful to you as it has been to me. Welcome aboard!

I thoroughly enjoyed the letters in the September MC. The reworked timeline by Kevin McCorry is very interesting, but I'll keep the timeline open as Kevin ends the journey. But that may open a whole new storyline, however. Michael Godin's continuing work is impressive as is Manuel Rui Periea deCarvalho's work in creating a background on the Dorcons. That's something that could be carried on to other characters and cultures seen in "Space:1999".

Finally, I found the letters to be very interesting in the Sept. '88 issue. And the article on Martin Landau was very interesting, and so was the movie "Tucker: The Man and His Dream". I'll be keeping an eye open for it when it hits the video market. (Ed.- Released in April of '89. Look for it at your local video stores.)

Well, that is about it for now, except to say that I saw a book entitled "The Complete Guide to Prime Time Television" which covers all of the TV shows from 1946 to the present. As you can probably expect, the authors didn't have very kind words for "Space:1999". I'm not surprised. This series has never gotten the respect it deserves. And those who are members of the Catherine Schell Club no doubt read the wonderful story (a true story by the way) that she wrote for issue #2. It was wonderful to read something that gives an insight into what a nice and colorful person that Catherine Schell can be. That's all for now. Take care.

i i i i P.S.: The ad that appeared in the Sept. '88 issue of MC for the movie "Escape" is no longer valid. I have been able to get that movie recorded for me by a friend here. For information purposes, "Escape", aka "The Border" is one of Catherine Schell's latest films, made in 1987 by the BBC in conjunction with the A & E cable network. It's a fine film and Catherine provides some humor in what is otherwise a very hard-hitting film dealing with people trying to escape Communist tyranny in 1952 Prague. It's a very good film.

THE THIRD SEASON IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION:
THE REVOLT

By Cathy Conrad

(Ed. If you are interested in the introductory story of the 3rd Season in the 4th Dimension, see MC 2 Vol 10, Dec '87.)

"This is incredible, Commander!" "What is it, Maya?" John asked worriedly. He walked to her computer console in the new Main Command. "That Gerry Anderson fellow who visited us from the third dimension caused great temporal disturbance in this area." "He what?" "He used a pretty messy method of dimensinal travel. It's left us locked in orbit around that plant planet. And we're not in the same dimension we were in before." "How?" "I'm not sure, but when he sent Alan back into his dimension, we moved into a kind of Limbo."

"Uh-uh," Alan protested. "I got into Limbo when I came back here. I was one of the Professionals, don't you remember?" He sighed and looked dreamily off into space. "Had the fastest car in the U.K., my pick of the prettiest guest actresses in London, the most--" "We get the point, Alan, we get the point," John said disgustedly. "I was promised a younger, blonder, sexier co-star, but what of it? I'm still stuck with 'Ol Marble Nose here." Helena looked at him and the threat was plain. "Just kidding, Hel, just kidding," John added hastily, raising his arms in appeal.

"Getting back to our problem," Maya continued, "the Moon isn't going to leave this Limbo or our present orbit unless we figure a way to cross dimensional space" "Maybe we won't need to," Tony mused. They all turned to look at him, but he kept his eyes on the main screen. The plant planet was still pictured, a lush green orb. "Huh?" "That planet looked like a pretty appetizing place before. If we could colonize the place, then who'd need our old dimension?" "You've got a point. Maya?"

Her fingers flew at her computer keyboard. A readout zipped across the screen. She smiled as she looked at John. "It IS a lovely place. It's relatively small and close to its sun. The whole planet is a tropical paradise. Plenty of vegetation, fresh water, not a single desert or unwieldy spot on the entire planet!" "Animal life?" "None. Nor any sign of humanoid life." "But the plants..." Alan interjected, frowning. "Those plants were intelligent, right? Almost human, you told me." "Gerry Anderson said that'd be the first story in that new season of a TV show. That doesn't mean there are actually palm trees with glasses running around down there," Tony said. "We don't know. With dimensional barriers in such a muddle, who knows what else is trapped in this limbo," Maya answered. John sighed. "It's worth a look, though. Alan, get us a reconnaisance Eagle ready for liftoff. Tony, Maya, Helena, come on. Oh, you too, Alan." Grumpily he called to the launch pad and followed the gang out to the travel tube.

In minutes they were off. In a few more minutes, they were landing on a beach. "Another perfect landing," Alan said smugly. "On the right coordinates?" "Of course. The same spot that Gerry Anderson bloke showed us on the screen. Look out for moving palm trees." John grumbled and the two went into the passenger section. The rest were all geared up. "Let's go".

...And out onto the hot beach they went. And what to their wondering eyes should appear but a human -sized palm tree with large glasses and a set of root feet. "What's going on ? What're you doing here? You're messing up my beach! You landed on my daughter's sandcastle to boot! Who are you?" "Uh....calm down. I'm Commander John Koenig of Moonbase Alpha. Our Moon and this planet are both stuck in dimensional limbo. We've come to----" "Oh, yes, right. You're Kathy's people." "Who?" "Don't tell me you've forgotten already. Lieutenant Kathy Von Kamp, head of the Weird Plant Project of Alpha's botanical section. We, er, ran away together." A faint blush swept across his bark. "just like in the story," Helena whispered to John. "Yes. I think that story's become reality in this dimension," Maya added quietly. "And we really did have a Kathy Von Kamp working in that section."

"Where is she, this Kathy?" John asked the palm tree. "Kathy! Yoo hoo!" the tree yelled back toward the jungle that lay beyond the beach. "Katheeeee!" They heard movement, and suddenly a pretty blonde woman came running out, wearing only a standard Alpha-issue blue bikini. The palm tree's glasses fogged. He reached up with a twig arm and pulled one of his own fronds. A tiny set of windshield wipers came on and cleared his glasses.

"Hi, John! And what's this? Commander!" Kathy said, startled. "Hello, Lieutenant. How do you like your new life here?" John--Koenig asked. "It seems to suit her fine," Tony cackled, glancing at her shapely shape. Kathy ignored him. "I like it very much, Commander. Everyone's been so friendly to me, I feel very welcome. "Everyone, you mean there are people here?" "Not quite, Koenig," the tree said. "We're a hybrid form of life. There were once humans on this planet. Then they found the ultimate answer to the problem of hunger." "They turned themselves into fruit?" "Shut up, Alan," John warned. "Er--well, something like that," the tree replied. "We joined with the plants all over the planet. We have all the ntrients we need. This is a place for plants, not people." "Yet you brought Kathy here." "Well, she's different." The tree wrapped a frond around her waist protectively. "A few humans--one human--can coexist with us." "And you, Kathy? how do you like life here?" "Oh, it's very peaceful here. There is a lot of natural beauty." She cast an eye on her tree friend. "Like John, here. He's got the cutest coconuts I ever saw!" The tree's bark blushed again, and Koenig cleared his throat. "Uh, yes, I'm sure. But, as the Moon seems to be stuck where it is, would you at all consider allowing us to stay? We are less than three hundred.

Spread out over this planet, we would not crowd you nor strip this planet's resources." "But what of our people? Would this become another Luton?" The tree paused as shock registered on the humans' faces. "Yes, Kathy's told me of that other plant planet." "Oh, but that was a bit different," Kathy said. "The people--er, plants--uh, beings, of this planet are a human/plant hybrid species. We can communicate. Whereas on Luton, the plants didn't until John and Maya nearly got made into mincemeat pie. Yes," she continued, smiling, "these humans could be a help to us. You know, when you turned into plants, you did give up some advantages."

The tree's fronds bristled. "Yes, you did. Lesser mobility, you can't protect yourselves very well from storms and all that stuff--" "Point taken," the tree said, and cast a wary eye on John. "We shall consider it." "We could bring our own food, enough seeds to farm our own," Maya encouraged. "We wouldn't have to eat your, uh, people." "Very well...." "Let us explore a bit, make a good feasibility study. You confer with your people. Then we'll talk. Yes?" John said. "Yes.. Go, make your observatons." "Okay. Maya, you and Tony see how well--and where--we could grow our own food. Alan, Helena, we'll go out and ...uh, mingle." The group started off into the jungle. Alan started off in another direction, and John and Helena went together.

"It's beautiful, John. Like Hawaii!" Helena told him, her eyes wide. She sniffed the balmy breeze. "Yes it is." John stepped out into a shadowy glade and bumped into something. "Hey, up there! Watch it, human!" John looked down, startled, to see a waist-high heather bush. Its fragrant purply-blue blossoms faced up at him, as did a set of blue eyes.

"Uh, excuse me, I didn't mean to--" "Commander, this is my little daughter Heather," said the voice of the palm tree. He turned and saw the tree walking up behind them. She's tall for a sapling her age, isn't she?" the tree said, his--its--voice thick with a father's pride. "Yes, she's, uh, very tall. I'm glad to meet you." "Same to you." The bush darted off into the jungle. "Be careful, honey! Don't try to play with those mean blackberry brambles again! Kathy yelled after her. They're a bad family." ‡‡‡

Meanwhile, Alan fought his way through some large-leafed tropical bushes, careful, of course, not to damage them. He stopped, raised a portable scanner in the air, and checked the reading. He smiled, then turned around. He looked up at a bank of the most beautiful orchids he'd ever seen. They were on long thin stalks, and the blossoms were a delicate swirl of blue, purple and yellow. A weird pattern at the center of each blossom looked eerily like a brown eye. He got closer and sniffed its gentle perfume. "You're a beauty," he murmured. "So are you," whispered a sexy female voice that seemed to come from nowhere. "Huh?! Who said that?" He looked around in a circle, half-expecting to see some dark-skinned island girl with a sarong. "I did silly," the voice whispered sexily. "What? Where? Who? Who are you?" "I'm an orchid. Haven't you ever seen an orchid, human?" the voice said with a trace of disdain. "What? <u>You</u>?" Alan blurted, looking at the tallest orchid. The stalk bent toward him and he saw that, indeed, it had been a brown eye at the middle of the blossom. It blinked. "Yes, me, crazy buns," she--it--said, and giggled. Alan looked confused for a moment, then relaxed. He grinned and decided to put on the old Carter charm. Whether orchid or human, a girl was a girl. "So", he murmured, "what's a nice girl like you doing in a pack of peat moss like this....?" ‡‡‡

Tony and Maya trudged up a hill in the hot sun. Maya smiled, excited, waving her scanner like a banner in the air. "It's perfect! The higher elevations in particular are rich. It's begging to be cultivated!" Tony, depositing himself on a rock, did not share her joy. "Let's stop at this elevation. We're just the first survey team, y'know, I'm not a mountain goat." "Oh, come on," she giggled, and sat next to him. "Aren't you fascinated by all this? Every humanoid on this planet willingly merged with a plant. They can still communicate with us, and yet--hey, think of it! If we grew our own food, maybe these plants could tell us when what we grow needs water, or some particular nutrient, or when some plant disease is attacking them! Tony, isn't it thrilling?" He stared at her as he wiped the sweat from his brow. "The only thing I'd find thrilling right now is a tall, cool mug of my own beer...." "Oh, not that slop!" "Yes, that slop. It'd cool us down, at any rate. Or--how about this," he went on, a gleam in his eye and an evil grin on his face, "we find ourselves a nice tropical lagoon and go skinny-dipping?" "We'd better stick with your beer, Tony, we don't want you to scare all the plants," she giggled. He sighed and started to talk, when a sudden rustling noise stopped him. "Hey! What was that?"

"It came from over there..."" Maya got up, as did Tony. He walked in the direction she pointed, and they saw a small cedar tree rustle. It tried to move toward them. "What is it?" "A cedar tree." "I <u>know</u> that. What's it want?" Tony said. "It looks like it's hurt. Or something. It's such a nice looking tree." It rustled again. "Hello there," Tony said to the tree, feeling like an idoit. "I--er, I'm Tony, and this is Maya. Is something wrong?" It rustled again, then stayed quiet. "It can't communicate. Something's wrong. Here--" she said, handing him the scanner. "What're you doing?" "I'm going to try to find out what's wrong." She stood still, then in a flash Maya became a cedar tree, the same size as the other one. She stepped lightly on root-feet and got near the first tree. It rustled suddenly and snuggled up to her. She backed off at first, then rustled back at him. Tony rolled his eyes. More rustling caused him to look down as the two cedars sprinted into the forest. "Maya! Maya! Where are you going?" he called, a worried frown on his face. "Maya!" ‡‡‡

"So...what do you girls do for fun around here?" Alan said, and a chorus of orchid-girl giggles filled the air. "Oh, we manage," came the voice of the tallest orchid. Alan leaned rakishly against the bank of dirt they were on, and drew a finger over one of her leaves. "Yeah? Maybe you can show me sometime. But I've got to get back and make my report to the Commander," he said reluctantly. "Oh, not yet!" the tall orchid murmured, and the chorus of giggles started up again. It got louder and louder. Alan didn't notice the long vine approaching him until it coiled up his leg and tripped him.

"Ow! Hey! What's going on?" he yelled, as more vines snaked in to trap him. "We're going to have a little fun first," one orchid said. The giggles got even louder as the vines began to tear his clothes apart... ###

"So far so good," Koenig said, smiling broadly to the palm tree and Kathy. "This is a beautiful planet." "We think so," Kathy said, idly tickling one of the palm's fronds. Helena nodded her agreement and looked off into the distance. The sun had withdrawn behind a cloud, and she saw some fierce-looking clouds on the horizon. "Look's like a storm," she said, as the little group walked back onto the beach. "Where've you been?" demanded a small voice. "Going on a little tour. Why? What's wrong, Karen?" the palm tree asked a bonsai tree, propped on a rock. "We've got a major storm coming. Perhaps even a tsunami. I've been getting telepathic messages from our cousins on the other island all day. They were hit first." "Oh, no...we'll have to take to the caves again. If this storm hits, we could all be washed away. I still haven't repaired the damage to our storm breaks from the last storm." The bonsai tree shuddered visibly.

Koenig's commlock buzzed urgently. He unclipped it. "Yes?" "This is Tony. I think Maya's run off with a cedar tree." John grinned. "What's the matter? You're not charming enough for her anymore?" "This is serious, John. I think she's been kidnapped. She turned into a cedar to talk to one, and suddenly they just ran off." "She must be found. That storm means business and she doesn't know where our shelter is," the palm said worriedly. "Hang on, Tony....." "I'll send one of our people to find her. We've been having some trouble lately with the evergreens on the higher elevations," the palm said distractedly. "Yo! Rosie! Where are you!" The sound of small root-feet pattering across the hard-packed sand reached their ears. A rose bush came running to them from the bushes. It had dark green foliage and two large pink roses in bloom. At the center of each bloom was a bright blue eye. The bush muttered to herself, reminding Helena of a character on an old sitcom..Cousin Itt, of "the Adams Family." "Rosie." "Front and center, your frondship." "We've got a problem. A mad storm is coming, and one of these humans is missing. You've got to organize our people to prepare for the storm and find the one called Maya. Only now she's in the shape of a cedar." "Fine. Great. Maybe in my spare time you'd like me to move this island out of the storm's way, or perhaps shift the orbit of this planet to make the storm go in the opposite direction, or--" "Enough sarcasm, now. You <u>are</u> my security officer. Now, go find the human first. She's on the north higher elevation." The rose bush stopped. "Where?" "The north--" "Yes, yes, I heard you. We've had some trouble up there today." "Not again..." "Yes. The evergreens have even spoken of a revolt against the tyranny of the deciduous. Perhaps they're now taking hostages...." "Curses!" the palm tree Von Kamp muttered. "John! John!" cried Kathy Von Kamp, running out of the jungle. "I can't find little Heather! And it's not the blackberries this time! She never reached them!" "No....." ###

Alan stretched his arms, as far as they would reach, to his commlock.One of the vines grabbed it and flung it across the little clearing he was in. "Got to reach someone..." Alan breathed. A vine suddenly snaked out and drew his arm back. He looked up as the orchids went into another chorus of soft giggles. They had him down to trousers and boots. He'd managed to cut two vines, but more kept coming at him. One orchid leaned down. It spread its leaves out toward him as it got closer. The others did the same, their leaves enveloping him.... ###

"Call out the troops," the palm tree Von Kamp said decisively. All manner of trees and flora emerged from the jungle, including a bespectacled kapok tree, a few California redwoods, a tall Colorado pine with a fluff of blond hair at the top, a very skinny Canadian maple tree with a moustache, a Georgia pine with large glasses and thinning pine needles on top, and all that.

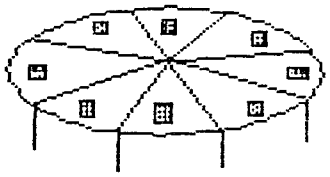
"All present," Rosie announced. "Weaponry test?" Rosie plucked a few of her own thorns and procured a pea-shooter from a leaf-pocket. She put a thorn in one end and blew it out the other. The thorn hit the bonsai tree dead center. "Hey!" "Sorry, Karen." "Let's move out...."

WILL THEY FIND THE YOUNG HEATHER? HAS MAYA BEEN KIDNAPPED OR DID SHE RUN AWAY WITH A HE-CEDAR? AND IN THAT CASE, WILL THEIR LOVE BE...EVERGREEN? WHAT FATE WORSE THAN DEATH AWAITS ALAN CARTER. AND JUST HOW MANY MORE ALLIIANCE MEMBERS WILL THE AUTHOR OF THIS KOOKY STORY BE ABLE TO WORK IN AS PLANT PEOPLE? WILL GERRY COME BACK TO SET HIS DIMENSION ARIGHT? STAAAAAY TUNED FOR THE THRILLING SEQUEL.....

From Cathy Conrad / 320 Hartwell St. / Royston, Ga 30662

If you like stories like this one, please let us know. You should also write to the author and let him/her know how much you enjoyed their work. By acknowledging a person's creative talents you help to keep stories flowing into MC and other fan publications. If you have a story you would like published, the editor will be glad to review all submissions.

COMMAND CONFERENCE



ROUNDTABLE

FORCE OF LIFE

Year 1, Episode 9

From Kevin McCorry / 105 Linden Crescent / Fredericton, NB / CANADA E3A 5A1

Moonbase Alpha - 122 days after Breakaway.....

STORYLINE - A mysterious ball of blue light approaches Moonbase Alpha and hovers above the complex. It does not register on the scanners and is impervious to computer analysis, it is construed as a threat. Koenig, thus, orders a meeting of the section heads, but, just prior to the meeting, everyone on Alpha is suddenly halted in their tracks, still as statues. Everyone that is, except nuclear waste technician Anton Zoref who is at work in Nuclear Generating Area 3. The eeire blue light invades that section and, to Zoref's alarm, zeroes in on him. He collapses, and, almost immediately, Alpha personnel become mobile once more. A Red Alert summons Koenig, Russell and Bergman to Generating Area 3 where they find Zoref unconscious on the floor.

Reviving quickly, Zoref insists he's all right, but Koenig doesn't want to take any chances. He orders Zoerf to report for a medical exam and suggests Bergman run through a quick check of the generators. It turns up a reading of an energy discharge of unknown origin, occurring outside reactor #3 at the time of Zoref's collapse. The instruments in Medical Center help Dr. Russell less in her analysis of Zoref. Zoref's medical monitor mysteriously blanks out, and Helena must estimate the patient's condition as one of shock. Treatment: a few days rest.

Relaxing in his quarters, Zoref begins to act strangely. He turns the heat up to full, to the chagrin of his wife Eva. While reading, he is seized with a sharp pang of severe coldness. It subsides, but only after the lamp next to him burns out. Shaken, Zoref goes for a walk, and his curiosity leads him back to Generating Area 3. Alone there with his friend, Mark Dominix, Zoref suffers the same cold pang, and a cup of coffee is frozen solid as is his colleague, Dominix. Shocked, Zoref flees the station minutes before Helena arrives to investigate the death.

Dominix somehow froze to death rapidly, Helena tells Koenig. Bergman detects another energy discharge located in the Generating Area at the time of Dominix's death. Sensing a connection between that death and Zoref's collapse hours before, Koenig orders the Benerating Area sealed in the hope of preventing another death. It would do no good.

Trying to report for comprehensive medical analysis of his frosty problem, Zoref expereinces yet another chilly pang. He pursues an orderly down an empty corridor, draining the light batteries as he goes. He catches up to the frantic girl. At his touch, she freezes, and Zoref walks off, bound for the Solarium Area. The body is found. Realization dawns: "Whatever killed Hilary is no longer in the Generating Area. It was right here in this hallway."

Koenig, Helena and Bergman slowly put the puzzle together, with the help of a worried-sick Eva Zoref. Anton is a catalyst for some alien force that feeds on heat from any source. He is located in the Solarium Area and immobilized when the power there is cut, but the relentless force within him quickly regains consciousness. Zoref escapes, terrorizing Helena and freezing a security guard. The possessed technician scurries off, bound for his old station: Generating Area 3, and all the energy he needs...

General Quarters is declared. No one else must be frozen by Zoref's lethal touch. As Koenig, Bergman, Helena and Carter pursue the space age Jack Frost, Morrow cuts all power, as ordered, to deprive Zoref of the energy to keep moving. Eva almost becomes another victim, but is saved by Carter's timely intervention. Panting, sprawled on the floor before the sealed Generating Area, Zoref hurls himself at the only heat source around: Koenig's party. Instinctively, Carter draws his laser, fires a kill beam, and chars Zoref into a blackened corpse. It doesn't stop the force within him, however. The alien power, regenerated by the laser charge, animates Zoref's corpse. With phenominal strength, it opens the sealed lead doors and enters the Generating Area. Koenig orders power restored to the generating station and his party flees the power section as Zoref's corpse opens the door to Reactor 3. A fission explosion ensues, but, fortunately, Alpha's radiation screens shield it and its other generators from serious damage. No casualties are sustained, except Zoref who has now become part of a regenerated blue light-organism that departs Alpha and drifts off into space, possibly to become a star. A mourning Eva Zoref is reminded that there was a purpose of some sort in Anton's demise....

REVIEW

"Force of Life" is one of the most memorable episodes of the series, and it offers a twist. Alpha is not threatened by a corporeal being intending to destroy the base, but by an amoral entity merely undergoing a stage of evolution requiring the presence of Alpha and an Alphan catalyst. It just happens that, in the process, Alpha and its inhabitants are at risk.

This is one of the few episodes in which an Eagle is not shown, and none are needed. The story is exciting in its own right, without ostentatious Eagle crashes or other fancy effects, save the fission explosion near the end. The effects, when shown, are of their usual high quality. Unlike Trek, the story doens't come across as ducking needed effects. The effects serve the story, not vice versa. Ironically, such is a criticism that was levelled at 1999.

Acting is top notch, second only to the writing as the episode's high point. It is certainly quite effective in portraying the amorality of the entity, the terror of its victims, the urgency of the problem to all concerned. Ian McShane is marvellous as the possessed Anton Zoref. His poker-faced expression permits a very convincing depiction of the entity's emotionless quest for heat, its emotionless perpetration of murder. Intriguingly, Zoref, at first, retains his repulsion at the death of a victim, but soon he loses his personal responsiveness, his initiative, his identity, as the entity's need for energy becomes all-consuming. As Koenig, Martin landau portrays a leader facing a serious dilemma. The force must be eradicated before it eradicates Alpha, but how can this be done without killing the human host? One life against three hundred. The presence of Eva Zoref accentuates that dilemma. She seems to serve only one purpose, that of an emotional barometer. Never-the-less, Gay Hamilton plays the part quite well. Barbara Bain and Barry Morse share Koenig's problem, and they show both sides of their character: the detached professional, and the warm sympathetic human within. Both are necessary, at any time, when coping with death. The other members of the cast, as always, were excellent in their portrayals.

This is one of the few instances in Year 1 in which we see Alphans in their spare time; Zoref in his quarters, Tanya and friend in the Solarium Area. This is a reminder that we are dealing with people like ourselves who need relaxation. In this case, it is cut short by the entity's incursion. To me, this is symbolic of normal human actions being set upon by the non-human forces of space.

Finally, the music conveys a bone-chilling eerie mood, one of an altered bodily function, of the pumping heart's efforts to compensate, again of human patterns becoming prey to spatial processes. Barry Gray's music, as usual, corresponds remarkably to the situation the Alphans find themselves in, a situation that truly is one of Space:1999's more memorable episodes.

- -

In my analysis of "Dragon's Domain" (ed. previous MC) I erred when I stated that it was the only episode in which a passenger module parts company with the remainder of an Eagle. This manouver also occurs in "Earthbound" when Carter returns the rescue ship to the base, leaving Koenig's party still docked with the Caldorian spaceship to begin investigative procedures. I'm certain, however, that "Dragon's Domain" and "Earthbound" are the only two episodes in which this happens. I'm surprised no one detected my mistake.

* *

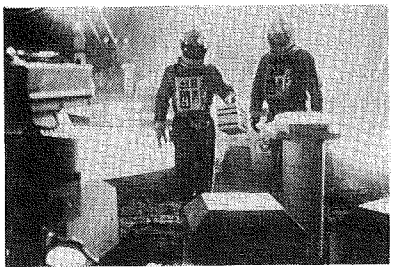
On the next page is a potential new column entitled ALPHA * BITS. David Bobzein, one of our talented California members, has volunteered to write synopses of all the episodes. He has obtained a copy of the original ITC broadcast order. The first two episodes of Year 1 are on the next page. We (and Dave) would like to know what you think of this column.

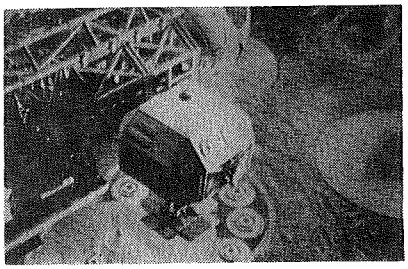
1) Should we expand the length of each synopsis or is the length in this MC OK?
2) Should a critical commentary be added below the synopsis?
3) Should the synopses be in the MC or should they be put in a separate publication?

Please write and let us know what you want to do with this information.

ALPHA * BITS

#5401 **Breakaway**

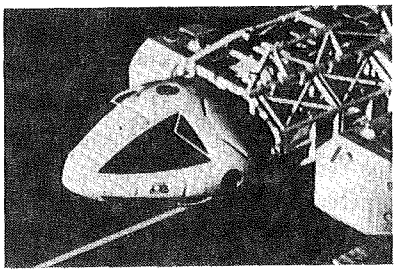


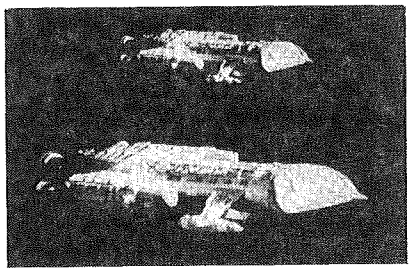


John Koenig arrives as the new commander of Moonbase Alpha, a self-supporting installation manned by 311 international scientists. The enormous base, located on the near side of the moon, functions as an overseer of the vast nuclear waste sites on the dark side... and also as a command post for mankind's latest probe to the newly discovered planet, Meta. The mission, however, is threatened by the mysterious deaths of nine astronauts and Dr. Helena Russell believes that radiatin leaking from the nuclear waste dumps is responsible. Koenig heads an investigation with Professor Victor Bergman into the cause of the deaths. They discover that it is not any standard radiation but magnetic radiation never before witnessed at such an intensity. Commander Koenig orders immediate dispersal of the waste over a vast area of the lunar surface in order to lower the intensity. It's too late. A violent magnetic chain reaction alters the gravitational field catapulting the moon away from the Earth, sending it into the void of interstellar space. Now permanently cut off from Earth, the men and women of Moonbase Alpha struggle for survival as they desperately serch for a habitable planet on which to establish a colony.

Director: LEE H. KATZIN Writer: GEORGE BELLAK
Guest stars: ROY DOTRICE (Commissioner Simmonds)
PHILIP MADOC (Commander Gorski)

#5402 **War Games**





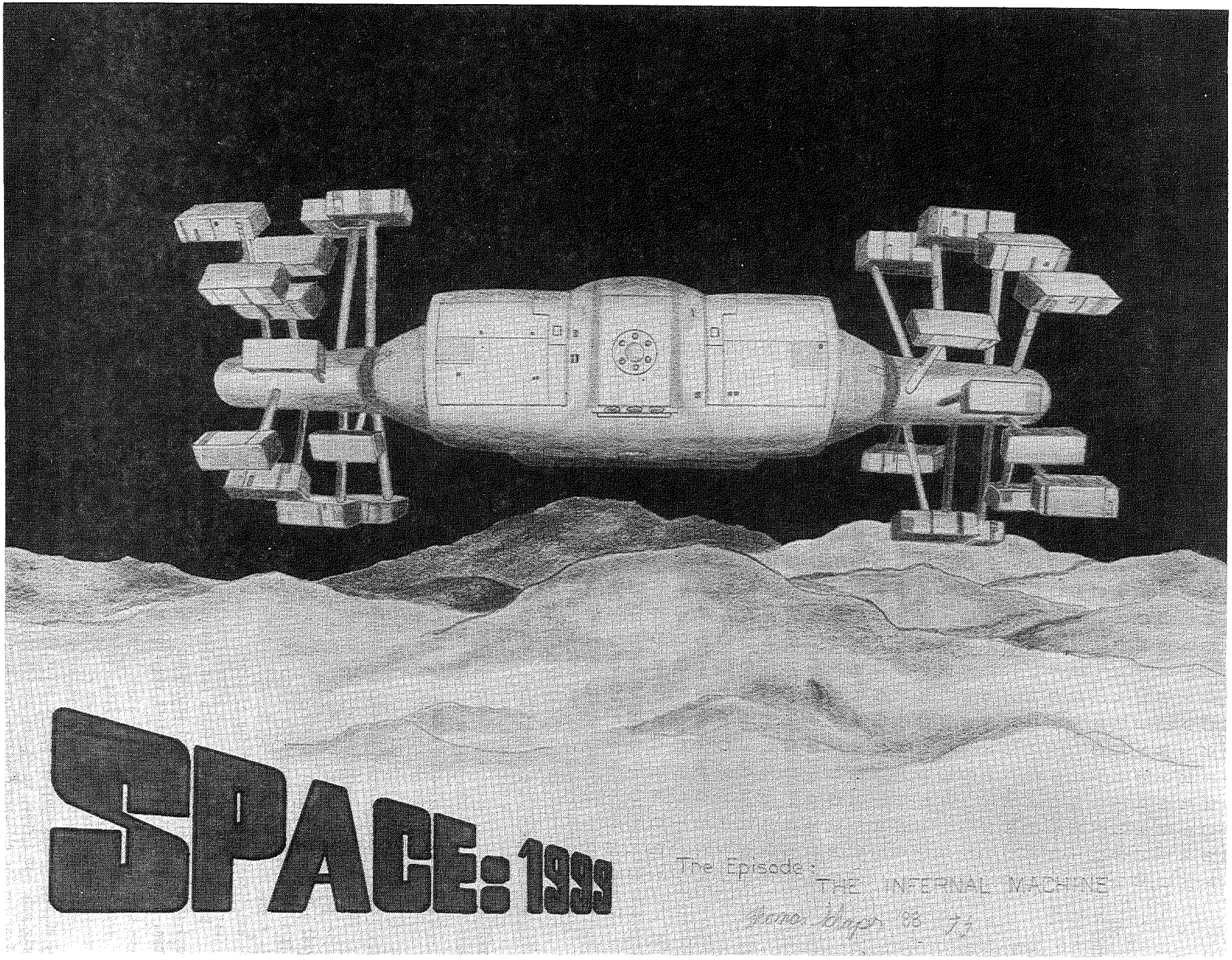
Moonbase Alpha is devastated by an attack of what appears to be Earth warships coming from an alien planet. With life-support systems severly crippled and 131 dead, Commander Koenig is convinced that the base can no longer sustain life. Koenig and Dr. Russell head for the planet to negotiate with the inhabitants for the survivors of the base. To their astonishment, they are greeted by two bizarre unsympathetic intellectual beings... one male, the other female. They judge humans as aliens motivated by fear and, therefore, a threat -- a contamination to their perfect civilization which has survived for billions of years. In a violent outburst, Commander Koenig attempts to damage their control center but is quickly shot dead by the female alien. Suddenly, Dr. Russell is given the mysterious powers of the aliens and risks using it to bring John Koenig back to life.

Director: CHARLES CRICHTON Writer: CHRISTOPHER PENFOLD
Guest stars: ANTHONY VALENTINE (Male Alien)
ISLA BLAIR (Female alien)

* *

CREATION IS BETTER....

The artwork on the next page was sent to us by Thomas Schaper / 157 Kinderkamack Rd. / Oradell, NJ 07649. We are always looking for good artwork to put in the newsletter. If you are also willing to do artwork for fan stories, please let us know so we can put you in touch with fan authors.


SPACE: 1999
The Episode: THE INFERNAL MACHINE

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****

SPACE:1999 WORD SEARCH - BOTH SEASONS

****

ALPHA
ARKADIA
ARRA
COMMLOCK
EAGLE
HELENA
HYDROPONICS
JARAK
KANO
LUTON
MAYA
PAUL
PIRI
PSYCHON
SANDRA
SWIFT
TAYBOR
VICTOR

Welcome to another item which can show up in occasional MCs if you like them. Please let us know what you think of the word search. As with most word search puzzles, the words may be found in the puzzle either forwards or backwards, up or down, or diagonally. Try it before you look at the solution on the last page of the MC.

- -

After the ads on the next page there is a blank MC cover page. This is to be used by anyone interested in being editor of MC. You should copy and use to print your letter introducing yourself as the new MC editor. We want you to send us your original, not a copy, so we can see the print quality you will be using. After the blank cover page is a copy of the current flyer for the Alliance. You can help spread the word about the Alliance by making copies of the flyer and distributing them at conventions you attend, placing them in your favorite comic/SF store, putting them on campus bulletin boards, wherever you think a Space:1999 fan might see them. Be creative.

BARRY MORSE - will again appear in his one-man play, "Merley Players". Barry will appear for only two days, June 10th & 11th, in Quebec, Quebec, CANADA. For members in that part of Canada and the Northeast U.S., this is an event NOT TO BE MISSED. This is a rare opportunity to see Barry display his talents as a master showman. We saw it in November and will never forget it. We urge you to make every effort to see it. If you want to attend, contact Vivian Stanley / Box 2022 / High Level, Alberta / CANADA T0H 1Z0

SPYCON 6 - will be held July 21-23, 1989 at the Holiday Inn Itasca / 860 Irving Park Rd. / Itasca, Il 60143 / (312) 773-2340. This is a con for those interested in Man & Girl from U.N.C.L.E, Avengers, Secret Agent, Honey West, Get Smart, James Bond, etc. The room rates are $58 Sing., Dbl., Trpl., or Quad. Membership rates are $17 thru 7-1-89 and $20 at the door. There will be an Art Show, Dealer's Room, Film/Video Room and other activities. Daily charity auctions will be held to benefit the March of Dimes. If you want more information or wish to attend (checks should be made out to Spycon), you should send all money or info requests to: SPYCON 6 / 2710 Rohlwing Rd. / Rolling Meadows, Il 60008 Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with all info requests.

BNTC NAME CHANGE From Phyll & Eileen - There is something new about our club. We are now called the International Nick Tate Club. The word 'British' was changed to 'International' after several people asked if we accepted non-British members. OF COURSE WE DO. About half our members are from outside Britain. If you would like to become a member, you should write to: International Nick Tate Club / 65 Bromyard Road / Hall Green, Birmingham / Great Britain B11 3AZ

SPACE:1999 VIDEOS - Don't want to wait to see if ITC does release 1999 on video. You can order VHS (only) video tapes from FBN Video. If you want their catalog or more information, send a letter and SASE to: FBN Video / PO Box 456 / Dunlap, Tn 37327

SHADO-USECC - is a club dedicated to the Gerry Anderson series, UFO. Dues are $15 for U.S. and $21 for Canada & Overseas. For more information on the club send a SASE or 2 international reply coupons (IRCs) to: Helen Weber / 514 Delaware Ave. / Lansdale, Pa 19446

CATHERINE SCHELL CLUB- If you would like to send a letter to Catherine, you can send the letter to the club President who will forward it to Catherine. For information on how to send a letter to Catherine, write to: Michael Evermann / Malplaquetstrasse 10 / D-1000 Berlin 65 / WEST GERMANY. Include $1.00 or 2 IRCs to receive a reply from Michael.

FRENCH SPACE:1999 CLUB - A new Space:1999 fan club is born. It is the only French speaking club and publishes a newsletter in French 4 times a year. All requests for information should be sent to: Richard Plumel / 47 Rue De La Liberte / 38600 Fontaine / FRANCE. Please add 2 IRCs to your letter for a response.

ITC - That is to say International Television Conspiracy found uncut 16mm prints of "Metamorph" & "Bringers of Wonder I & II" created before these episodes were converted into the movie versions. They have transferred these to video. The "Conspiracy" exists to give fans across the country the opportunity to see TV series not available on commercial video or in local syndication, and to preserve rare film and video as a service to Fandom at large. Other titles available include "Time Tunnel", "Dark Shadows", "Champions", "Green Hornet", "Fireball XL-5", "UFO", etc. They also deal in SPACE:1999 BOOKS AND MERCHANDISE. They will trade tapes for RARE tapes and 1999 merchandise. For a complete list of the tapes and items available write to: ITC / 230 Summer Place / Norcross, Ga 30071 or call (404) 448-6457

FANZINE - It's sick. It's degenerate. It's THE LAUGHING MUTOID, the humorous-adult "Blake's 7" fanzine. Issue #1 is rated "R", for $$ in U.S. & CANADA, $6 OVERSEAS. Issue #2 has both "R" and "X" stories, for $3.50 U.S. & CANADA, $6 OVERSEAS. Check, money order, or int'l bank draft should be made payable to: Cathy Conrad / 320 Hartwell St. / Royston, Ga 30622 USA.

WANTED - Has anyone seen a copy of "The Day After Tomorrow" on video? It was a film about a family journey into space produced by Gerry Anderson. Also, has anyone thought of doing an age survey???? I've been curious to know how old everyone is out there. Please send responses to: Anthony DiPietro / 342 So. Washington St. / North Attleboro, Ma 02760

FOR SALE - For sale or trade - One Space:1999 Eagle One model kit (MPC (C) 1975 mint in the box! Will trade for most AMT 70's STAR TREK models. They must be in the box and unassembled. I will also sell to the best offer! Send all information to: Jeff Hale / 4031 Strathmore Dr. / Montgomery, Al 36116 or call (205) 281-6886 9 Am to 10 PM EST. Please, NO COLLECT CALLS.

WANTED - Someone to tape "Logan's Run" TV reruns off the TNT (Turner Network Television) Network. It will be aired this summer or fall. Please contact: David Kaplan / 321 Frost Pond Rd. / Glen Head, NY 11545-2413

WANTED - Space:1999 Second Season book #4 "The Psychomorph" by Michael Butterworth. If you know where I can get a copy of this paperback, please contact: John Wicklund / 689 E. County Road D Apt. #207 / St. Paul, Mn 55117

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MAIN COMPUTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE
DUES: $13.00 US/$14.00 CANADA/$17.00 OVERSEAS • ISSUED: SEPT/DEC/MARCH/JUNE

LOVE SPACE: 1999?
YOU ARE NOT ALONE

THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE: 1999 ALLIANCE

The International Space:1999 Alliance is the No. #1 world-wide organization dedicated to the British television series **Space:1999** and other Gerry Anderson productions (UFO, Thunderbirds, etc). Members -- in North and South America, Europe, and Australia -- are active in science-fiction and fantasy, enjoying and supporting many other old and new shows. If Space:1999 isn't your only interest, you'll find others who feel similarly.

All members receive the Alliance newsletter -- **Main Computer**, containing member's letters, reviews, and opinions; current media sightings of SF/fantasy personalities; fan stories and artwork; and occasional quizzes, games, and puzzles. Within it's pages are some of the liveliest and most interesting discussions and debates concerning Space:1999 found anywhere on the planet; it is the biggest and best avenue through which to contact 1999 fandom.

Members and non-members also attend the annual Space:1999/SF convention. While making new friends and meeting old, they view 1999 and other SF shows and movies, and attend the celebrity Q & A and the Charity Auction. In the Auction, SF-related items are sold to benefit a local charity. Donations in the past have gone to Children's Hospitals in Cincinnati, Columbus, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Los Angeles -- all previous convention locations.

The Alliance is a non-profit organization. Operating funds are raised through members dues and sales of 1999 merchandise, including photos, patches, fanzines, and calendars. Funds are used for publication and postage costs, convention operations, and production of flyers and merchandise.

Yearly dues are $13 U.S. * $14 Canada * $17 overseas, in U.S. funds **ONLY** and must be payable through a U.S. bank or post office. This entitles you to four quarterly issues of Main Computer and puts you in contact with 1999 and Anderson fans around the world.

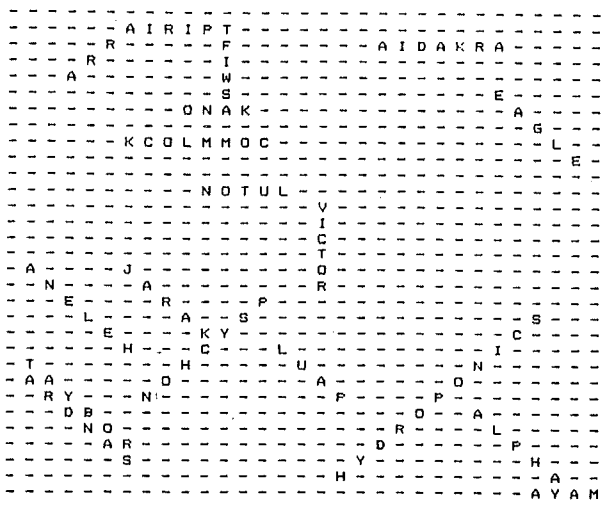
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE-86 First Street, New London, OH 44851-1196 USA

NAME_____ ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE (Province)_____ COUNTRY_____

POSTAL (zip) CODE_____ MISC. (optional): AGE_____ PHONE _____

THE ODYSSEY SHALL KNOW NO END



MAIN COMPUTER ©

International Space:1999Alliance
A nonprofit organization
Main Computer #3 Volume # 11, March '89

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

Newsletters published in the following months: Sept., Dec., 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 OH 44851-1196 USA

An "X" by your name means it's time to pay dues for another year

SPACE:1999 FUN & GOOD TIMES GET-TOGETHER

YES, there will be a fan get-together this summer. It is NOT a convention in the regular sense. There will NOT be a dealer's room, although if you have items you want to trade or sell, bring them along. We will bring Alliance merchandise along if anyone is interested in it. There will NOT be a separate video room but we're sure there will be lots of videos shown during the weekend. There will NOT be a banquet, but there's sure to be lots of fun around the dinner table. There will NOT be an art show, but if you've done some art that you would like to share with other Space:1999 fans, go ahead and bring it. I'm sure everyone will be in your room to see it. All you have to do is mention where it is. All right. Now you know what is NOT going to be there. What is going to be there is:

BARRY & SYDNEY MORSE

YES! Barry and Sydney have indicated that they would like to join us even though they know this is not a full fledged convention. In order for us to have Barry & Sydney join us, we need to pay for their airfare from Toronto to the states and for their room and board. The airfare will be about $250 - $350 round trip. This covers both of them. Their room will be $54 a night. Then their meals. We figure this comes to about $500 - $600. Twentyfive people indicated they would be willing to attend a gathering if it was held. Based on this attendance we would hold the meeting in suites which the organizers will pay for. This leaves paying for Barry & Sydney. We would like to have everyone who comes send $25 to help cover the cost for Barry & Sydney. If more than 25 people come, we can return part of the money or if enough people come, we may have to use some of the money to try to get one or two of the hotel's banquet rooms in order to have enough room to get-together.

I M P O R T A N T ! !

We need to know as soon as possible how many people will be in attendance. We also need to have the $25 donation for Barry & Sydney's plane fare as soon as possible. We will only be able to get the low rate mentioned if the airfare is booked 30 days in advance. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are planning to attend. If we don't get enough money, the get-together will go on no matter what, but we would have to tell Barry & Sydney that we couldn't afford to bring them. This would be a shame. We will have at least one video camera to use to record the weekend. If you would be willing to donate to the cause in exchange for a video tape, we would like to ask for $20. This will cover the cost of the tape, mailing and money for the cause.

WHERE --- WHEN --- WHAT

WHERE - The gathering will be held at the Holiday Inn in Wapokenata, Ohio. (419) 738-8181. We know this is not close to any major airports. There will be no limo or taxi service. You should arrange to drive, rent your own car or arrange to drive with friend and jointly rent a car. This was really designed to be a local gathering anyway even though anyone can come. If you need directions, write or call and let us know. We'll send them to you. The room rates are $44 plus tax and $5 plus tax for each additional person in the room. YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL BE THEIR BUSY TIME OF YEAR AND ROOMS MAY BE HARD TO COME BY IF YOU WAIT. The hotel restaurants are not too expensive and there is a McDonalds, Wendy's & other fast food places within easy walking distance.

WHEN - AUGUST 11, 12 & 13th, 1989.

WHAT - Lots of fun. Some events we have considered include those listed below. Please let us know which ones you would be interested in by putting a check in front of them so we can set up a schedule.

_____.I.L.F.C. BOWLING TOURNAMENT _____. PUTT PUTT GOLF _____. 1999 & SF WIN, LOSE OR DRAW
_____. NEIL ARMSTRONG AIR & SPACE MUSEUM _____. KITE FLYING (Outside museum. Bring you own kite or buy one)
_____. ALPHA MATCH GAME _____. WHEEL OF ALPHA _____. CATACOMBS OF THE MOON (Ohio Caverns tour. Extra cost)
_____. RECONNAISANCE MISSION (Picnic. Extra cost. Badminton, hiking etc.)
_____.JOURNEY TO WHERE (Visit to European style castles. Extra cost.)
Other items may be added. If you have any other ideas for fun events, let us know.

SEND YOUR RESPONSES TO EITHER: John & Kathy Von Kamp / 86 First St. / New London, Oh 44851

SEE MORE ADS ON BACK OF THIS PAGE

MORE ADS AND NOTES

FOR SALE - Space:1999 paperbacks. Moon Odyssey ($6), Space Guardians ($6), Collision Course ($6), The Psychomorph (U.K. edition - $10), The Making of Space:1999 by Tim Heald ($25). All books in very good or better condition and postpaid. Contact: John Wicklund / 689 E. County Rd. D Apt. #207 / St. Paul, Mn 55117-1263

LUNAVISIONS 4 - Coming soon! 60 pages of Space:1999 fiction by Terry S. Bowers, Kevin Peterson, Barbara Ferrell, and Kerry Keene. For more information, send a SASE (or 2 IRC's) to: Denise Miller / P.O. Box 179 / Estill Springs, Tn 37330

ALSO NOTE: For those who correspond with Denise, this is her new address for the time being.

INTERCOM 1 - IF YOU THINK YOU'VE READ EVERYTHING THERE IS ON SPACE:1999, then think again. Intercom 1 is 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 and editor Johnny Byrne (Metamorph, Immunity Syndrome, etc.) revealing many unknown insights and behind the scenes work in a detailed dialogue about episodes, events between year I & II, his feelings on Gerry Anderson & Fred Freiberger, an unfilmed script, relationship with Martin & Barbara, and much more! The zine also contains the fan story "A Textbook Case" by Lis Therkildsen; an in depth review called War Games Special. Cost is $3.50 in the U.S. / $3.75 in Canada / $4.00 Overseas. All checks or money orders should be made out and sent to: International Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Oh 44851 USA

1999 MERCHANDISE - Space:1999 merchandise is available through the Alliance. If you would like to see everything we have to offer, you can order a catalog. The catalog contains 22 pages of pictures, zines, patches and other items available from the Alliance. If you would like a catalog, send $2.75 US & Canada or $3.00 Overseas in a check or money order made payable to: International Space:1999 Alliance. Send to: Intenational Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Oh 44851 USA.

ANY INTEREST in compiling a complete list of all magazines which covered 1999? If you are interested, I am willing to compile the list for possible printing in a future MC. If you would like to contribute, please send a list of the articles you know of. Please include the magazine title, the volume and issue numbers, dates, and the name of the article. This would provide persons looking for information an idea of what magazines to look for. Send all lists to: David Williams / P.O. Box 13 / Eastville, Va 23347 (804) 678-7701

WANTED - Photocopies of information, articles, interviews etc. to swap with other members. If you are willing to swap copies of your collection for copies of mine, contact: John Trone / 20 Orient Road / Yeronga, Brisbane / AUSTRALIA QLD 4104

NOTICE - For people interested in the Gerry Anderson universe. The Fanderson organization and the magazine SIG have separated. It is necessary to join/subscribe to both. If you are interested in joining the Fanderson fan club, you should write to: Fanderson / PO Box 111 / Derby / Great Britain DE1 9LT for more information. If you wish to subscribe to the SIG (Supermarionation Is Go) magazine: you should write to: David Nightingale / 332 Lytham Road / South Shore, Blackpool / Lancashire / Great Britain FY4 1DW

1999 PAPERBACKS - Is there a Space:1999 fan out there interested in the paperback books from the series? A lot of them come into our second-hand bookstore. I'll send them to you for postage and cost (1/3 of new). Write to: Ms. Susan K. Thode / 802 Sheridan Road / Waterloo, Ia 50701 for more information.