MAIN COMPUTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE
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THINGS ALWAYS LOOK DARK JUST BEFORE THEY GO COMPLETELY BLACK

Main Computer, the newsletter of the International Space: 1999 Alliance, now has a new editor Thomas Cicirelli who has been active within the club since 1980 and takes over as Main Computer's fourth editor it's 11 years of operation. In placing the responsibility for the newsletter in some else's hands, John and Kathy VonKamp will be much better able to serve the membership at large.

Main Computer will undergo some changes. Gone is the dot matrix print of prior MCs. The newsletter master copy is now printed on a laser printer. Some of the set up styles will be changed in coming issues.

"Scanning", which was a regular feature, has been dropped. The "Zine Review" and "Flashback" sections are still active so long as MC has material for them. However, they were not favored in the recent reader poll.

"Launch Pad" will be expanded and stories will now be carried for only 4 pages in the center of MC. You will now be able to pull out the stories to make a complete book of them for your own reference without having to thumb through 4 MCs to get the complete story. Two new columns are launched in this issue. "Command Center" will be written by the current presidents John and Kathy VonKamp and will keep members up to date on club news in general. "Alpha News Service Editorial", written by the editor, will cover topics having to do with the newsletter and letting off steam.

Main Computer will now be published seasonally rather than on a set month. This is because of various printing, mailing, and editing situations that have come about because the newsletter separated from the main office.

The MC editor loves to see stories and letters on computer disk. If you have the ability to send your work to MC on disk, these are the computer / software combinations the newsletter supports. IBM-PC and compatibles / Microsoft Word or any ASCII file saved by another word processor. Apple II / AppleWorks files on 5 1/4" disks only. Radio Shack TRS-80 Model 3 or 4 / DeskMate or Scriptsit. MacIntosh / MacWrite. Your diskette will be returned to you provided you include sufficient postage and a diskette mailer.

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For those of you who have a computer and a modem, you may now upload stories and letters to a computer BBS service. NovaComm BBS will accept and forward all related files to MC. NovaComm BBS operates 24 hours a day, 1200 and 2400 baud, 8 bit word, 1 stop bit, even parity, and the phone number is 419-669-3227.

There are now two separate places to write to in the Alliance for news and official information. If your letter has to do with only the newsletter, the address is Main Computer, P.O. Box 222, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43402-0222. If it has to do with any other club function or concern, the address is International Space: 1999 Alliance, 86 First Street, New London, Ohio, 44851-1196.

If you write to MC, you **must** include a self addressed stamped envelope for a reply. Do not call the editor at home unless requested to by him. (He gets very cranky.) Address all hate mail to the MC's Ombudsman at the post office box listed above.

ALPHA NEWS SERVICE EDITORIAL

It's been a long time since I wrote an editorial, but I have a feeling that this one is going to be a long one. All of the others will hopefully be shorter.

Let me start by telling you the ten cent story of my affiliation with the Alliance. It started back when I went to the very, very first 1999 con in Columbus. From that con, I walked away with some definite feelings and ideas about what science fiction is, how it is to be represented, and just how much I like Space: 1999. I really do like the show despite the parody stories that I have written. I must like the show; I am now editing the newsletter for the club!

I suspect that most of you know me from my stories in prior issues of MC. Many of you probably remember, and can look up, the letters that I wrote to this publication. Letters I was determined to write and would write again if I had to.

I don't know how many recall the Amateur Film Contests that Jim Driscoll and I used to hold on the Friday nights of the annual conventions opposite the banquet with the stars. I never did get to go to one of banquets, and I was always curious to find out what actually happened behind those doors. The film contests were a lot of fun; and if I could do one at the next convention, I would. However, the publication from which we used to get all of the names for people to invite to send films to the contest has folded. Jim and I still make those Amateur films but not in the quantity that we did years ago.

A little of my background for this job. I was involved as editor in my high school newspaper for two years. I have written more Space: 1999 short stories than I can count. (Fortunately, not all of them have seen printer's ink or my career as a writer would be over.) I have a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications. I personally developed 4 convention handbooks

for other conventions. I have been an active editor of one college newsletter for a year and a half. Mostly, I think it was the fact that I have access to so many computers and a laser printer that John and Kathy thought it would be a good idea if I took over.

You might ask, "What are you doing now? We have hardly seen or heard from you in years."

I am attending classes at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio in an attempt to gain a Master's Degree in Education. In January, I will start work on my Ph.D. in Mass Communications. I am currently in the process of writing a science fiction book. The book's story is finished but the revising is not. When I get tired of the book, I turn to one of three short stories to allow my mind to refresh. If I am suffering from a tremendous case of writer's block, I eagerly dive into typing Main Computer.

To the accolades and perhaps outright cheers of some of you out there, I am not working on any Space: 1999 fan fiction. At this time, I feel that I have a large enough body of work still in the "Stories" folder at MC HQ and printed in prior issues of MC that I should not write more. I think other Space: 1999 fandom writers should be given the opportunity to grace MC's short story pages.

What kind of editor will I be? A wise man once said, I think it was my eighth grade shop teacher, "Democracy is great for people's rights, but an authoritarian government gets things done." As an editor, I will trim the fat, shoot the bull, remove the flax, cut, paste, and if appropriate delete as necessary. What I like to see as submissions for stories are those that I can run in one or two issues. I want to see "Launchpad" soar and "Command Conference Table" really buzzing with activity. "We're All Aliens" should have more submissions and artwork should dot the pages like flowers in a garden on a warm spring day.

Also, I would like for everyone to send written work for MC to me typed and saved in ASCII or Word file on an MS-DOS disk with return postage on a disk mailer.

Whoa! Wake up, Thomas!

I must have been dreaming.

Remember to write letters, stories, biographies often to MC. Without your input, this is going to be a thin newsletter.

COMMAND CENTER

As we indicated in the last MC, we were looking for someone else to be editor of the MC. Several people said they would be interested, but they did not have the time or equipment to do the job right. Two people did, however, respond with examples of what, how they would put the MC together and what plans they had for improving the newsletter. We would like to thank everyone who even thought about doing the newsletter. It indicated that you cared for the club and for helping us. Our choice for the new editor is - Thomas Cicirelli. Thomas was chosen for several

reasons. As you can see by the style of the new MC, Thomas has access to quality layout and printing equipment which we did not have and could not afford. Thomas and his companion Kathy Griffith have been long time members of the Alliance, and he has contributed many items for MC over the years. One of his stories appears in the only Alliance fanzine to be issued. His abilities in the creative arts areas are supported by his college education in the media / communications field. The final, and perhaps on of the most important reasons for his choice, is that he and Kathy live in Bowling Green, Ohio. This is about 1 1/2 hours from New London, Ohio and in the same telephone area code. (He can call and bug us if we don't get news to him fast enough and if we don't call back, he can come and knock on our door! He wouldn't... or would he?) We think Thomas will make a great addition to the newsletter. He has discussed several ideas already and we are really excited. If you want to help Thomas, be as active or more active in your communications and support of the Alliance for him as you have been for us. We will greatly appreciate your support. If you have any comments on future issues of MC, you can still write to us but we would like you to send them to Thomas also. Any MC items which are sent to us will be forwarded to him.

The auction is over and it was quite successful. There are still several individuals who have yet to respond, but the majority of the money is in and the items have been sent. If you received notification of the items you successfully bid on, sent in your payment, and have not received your merchandise, please let us know. We would like to thank all of you who bid on the items; but in particular, to the following members for having the highest bids. The $478.00 generated will be used for future Alliance growth and improvement. If you have suggestions on how this money can be used to improve the club, please send them to us. Again, we would like to thank; Terry Bowers, Tangi Yonce, Darryl Bartosh, John Wicklund, Jennifer Lobb, Michael Evermann, Martin Willey, Kevin Webster, Michelle D'Aiuto, David Kaplan, and Lisa Murry for contributing to the auction. A list of the high bids for the auction items will appear in the next MC so members can get an idea of the current value of 1999 items.

[The next MC will also contain a detailed report on the Wapakaneta "Journey To Where?" mini-con.]

LAUNCHPAD

Chris Goudis / 67 William St. / Port Macquarie 2444 / New South Wales / Australia. Date: 12/12/1988

I've only recently joined the Alliance and I can honestly say that it is a very dedicated fanzine with a lot of talent and love behind its success. One feature I would like to see include in it is a question and answer column similar to the Matrix Data Bank of the Dr. Who Magazine; a column where we can pose queries about the show. I think it would generate a lot of discussion amongst Alliance members and that can only be positive. To get

the ball rolling, I'd like to pose a few that have been driving me crazy for years, so here goes:

Does anybody know what the second season uniform patches stand for? What does LSRO, UJC, and SAT mean and who is allowed to wear them? What about jacket colors? It seemed that anybody was allowed to wear what ever color they liked. In "Journey to Where", Alan's jacket is red but in "The Immunity Syndrome", it's grey. What about the band of color on the left forearm? According to the Alpha Technical Notebook, this was color coded, yet on every jacket I've seen, it was the same beige color.

I know this might seem like a simple question, but how many sections are there on Alpha and what are their colors? According to the Space: 1999 Writer's Guide in Starlog 38, each section head resides in Main Mission. So because there are seven consoles in Main Mission, does that mean there are seven sections? I've never read a satisfactory answer to this question. Also, if you were a scientist, say a geologist, what section would you belong to? I point out the characters of Dave Reiley in "All That Glisters" and Patrick Osgood in "Catacombs Of The Moon". Both are geologists, yet, Dave wore a read sleeve and Patrick wore a brown one.

Does anybody know anything about a book called "The Edge Of the Infinite" by Michael Butterworth. It's supposed to be a second season novelization. If so, which episodes does it novelize?

Why was "Earthbound" never novelized?

Has anybody heard of a book called "Rogue Planet" by E. C. Tubb? Is it an original novel?

A puzzler on Main Mission now. The observation windows near the balcony look out into space. There should be no dispute in that fact. Logic suggests they should jut out above the rest of the Main Mission Tower roof, in order to look into space. Yet, in the Alpha Technical Notebook section, the diagram clearly shows a flat roof with no windows looking into space. In fact, the windows are shown as looking into a stairwell. What's even more confusing is that the model used in the series agrees with the Notebook. The window section was never seen on top of the Main Mission Tower. Logically, this [placement of the windows] must be wrong.

It's been a long time since I've seen the series, so please bare with me on this question. Did the design of Main Mission change as the first season progressed? The reason I ask is that in the 1976 Annual, page 6, it clearly shows the operations floor being bounded on 3 sides instead of 2 as in the Alpha Technical Notebook. The steps, in the annual, form a 3 sided "U" shape instead of the 2 sided "L" shape in the Notebook. The extra set of steps being on the viewport side. I believe the annual photo to be from "Breakaway". [The question is] did the shape of Main Mission change after the first episode?

How are the Alphan space suits made air tight? I'm referring especially to the neck ring, because in an episode such as "Black Sun" where the neck ring was not used, there appeared to be no visible means for the appliance to be [properly] joined to the suit.

By the end of the series, how many Alphans were left on Moonbase Alpha of the original 311?

That's it for now. I hope I've provided some food for thought. Bye!

From: Kevin McCorry. Date: 01/1989

I just thought I'd make some brief comments about the September 88 issue of MC. I loved it. The newspaper style format is great. Let's keep it. This way, it's easier to keep the newsletter together without stapling it. I like the double column style in that the lines are shorter; one is less likely to lose oneself in a particular line. Larger print would only take up space. So, I must disapprove of that. True, it is easier to read, but I'd much rather have more space for increased text. That allows more material on less paper. The new MC nevertheless seems worth the dues increase. I feel the September MC is the best yet. Let's hope all feel the same.

Thank you for publishing my series timeline. With limited space, everything printed must justify the space consumed. I feel my timeline does. It is bold in places and probably controversial. We'll see. But the way, somewhere along the line, "Ring Around the Moon" was left out! For the record, I've chosen to date that episode at 0057 DAB.

The "Launchpad" column is filled with intriguing comments from fans about the show itself. That had been lacking but now I see it's back in force. Her's hoping it stays that way.

As to the "Column Preference Vote" I proposed, I recall including my responses in the prototype. I wouldn't suggest deleting anything if pricing and space were not a problem. I'd rather not remove anything. If a choice must be made, I'd choose to drop the humor / cartoons for the reasons discussed in my letter. [Sept, 1988] I would curtail the con reports provided there are any more to a minimum of once per con. Those deserving more could purchase post con reports or the non-attending membership. I would not delete the "Roundtable", "Launchpad", "Memory Lane", stories, or bios. Ads are necessary but collectively ought to be limited to one page. "Scanning" and "Flashback" could appear periodically if and when enough interesting info accumulates. "Name That Alphan" does not seem a good idea, purely for con-goers, contributing to movement away from the series material. I prefer stuff like the Dorcon essay by Manuel Rui Pereirs de Carvalha and Michael Godin's Year 2 analysis. They seem a more worthwhile use of space (pun intended).

I guess that's all for now. Hang in there, everybody! Long live 1999!

From: Robert Wood / Box 1207 / Cochrane, AB, TOLOWO / Canada. Date: 2/89

It looks like it is time for me to put my two cents worth in with the arrival of MC, Vol. 11, Num. 2.

To Geoff Tilley; I [don't approve of your comments]. You have [in the substance of your previous letter] informed us that we will not see an influx of any substance into the Alliance

membership. You have informed us that we have no hope at all of any sort of revival of Space: 1999. You made a comment which [may be] derogatory to us all when you said "is it not too difficult to organize . . .". That painted us all as being lazy and not able to do something simple. Open your eyes, John and Kathy have put together an extensive auction in this very issue [Vol. 11, Num. 2], and Terry Bowers is soon to hold an LBFA auction! And beyond all of that you tell us that our problem is "couch potato inactivity." Who are you to tell us this? You are one of the couch potatoes. You admit it when you say that you have not been a member of the Alliance for 12 months. When you weren't putting down the Alliance, the members, and our presidents, you were placing Fanderson, Engale Marketing, and everything to do with European "corporation - fandom" on a pedestal. It does not belong there! [In my opinion,] Fanderson is an uncaring, impersonal, corporation. I believe that we have every right to hope for a surge in new members if we continue with some good effort and some advertising (it doesn't have to be much). And finally, never say "never." One can always hope for a revival of Space: 1999 - even though it probably won't happen.

Thank you Manuel Rui Percira de Carvalho for your nice comments on my review of "The Black Sun." I appreciated it.

Continued thanks to Michael "Dean" Godin for his extensive efforts interpreting Year 2.

To everyone who has continued with their efforts to keep 1999 alive (one way being through letters in MC) - thank you. You are all great people!

As Mayr Fitzgerald said, "Keep the faith!" Bob.

From: Manuel. Date: 3/14/89

About Kevin McCorry's "Modified Series Timeline" - a fine work of organizing and transmitting the data.

I'm unable to view "Breakaway" for now, but why put Terra Nova six light years away from the solar system? All information I have indicates that Terra Nova was relatively close. (Did you know that "Terra Nova" is a literal translation to Portuguese of "New Land"? . . .)

I don't agree with the placing "Dragon's Domain" so soon after "Breakaway". The relationship between John and Helena in that episode seems to be too different from their relationship in the early episodes. "Dragon's Domain" belongs to the end of Year I - beginning of Year II. I also thing that the Alpha Technical Notebook explanation for the episode's date is acceptable.

Kevin's solution for Victor, Paul, et. all is plausible and allows a possible reunion. Good! But I still think that security was a good reason for the appearance of Command Center.

The idea of the memorial construction is very nice.

The Commander's announcement of weekly parties that will be held is a bit strange. People are supposed to relax and have fun at parties; how can anybody have fun in a party that feels like an order?

Why is "Catacombs of the Moon" before "A B Chrysalis"? Why put "Beta Cloud" before "Seed of Destruction"? And the other

episodes out of production order? I haven't seen them in a long while!

I don't think that it is necessary for Helena to relive "Bringers of Wonder" in a dream. It's a fact that the aliens were getting weaker and weaker, and their power near the end of the episode was beginning to lose control [of the Alphans].

One last thing: No, I do not think the quest is over.

Alpha won't evacuate - unless we Alphans see it happening.

They are still out there, somewhere... (Thanks for the timeline, Mr. McCorry!) That's all for now, Manuel.

From: Kerry Keene / 417 NE 18 Ave. / Pompano Beach, FL 33060-6543. Date: 2/17/1989

The December 1988 issue of MC was a joy to read for several reasons. One of the reasons was the fact that I saw more names contributing to this issue than I've seen in a long time. It is heartening to see new and old members contributing to the newsletter. Now with the release of the episodes later this year and together with what seems to be a resurgence [of] fan interest in 1999, it seems that our dedication to this series is beginning to pay off. Let's keep up the momentum!

We all should be very happy for the nomination of Martin Landau for an Oscar for his role in the film "Tucker: The Man and His Dream". It is about time that he is being given credit for his work after over 30 years. I understand that he will be appearing in a future Woody Allen film. That will be something to look forward to even though I'm not a big fan of Woody Allen films.

I want to thank Doug Pelton for sending in that article on the film "Tucker". It was good to read another article on this film that I enjoyed very much. It was very interesting as was the interview with Martin in Starlog #139. I have since written to them thanking them for doing the interview and if you fans would like to see more interviews with the 1999 stars, then write Starlog and make your feelings known! I told them that I would like to see more interviews with those who worked on the series in future issues. They seem to listen to the massive amounts of letters written by the Trekkies. Ours may not be massive by that standard but, who knows? They may listen to more than one person. Try it! You may be surprised at the outcome!

Dean Godin has some more fascinating views on the first few episodes of Year II. As Dean pointed out, there is something of a Biblical overtone in the episodes that he reviewed. As with Year I, in his commentary in the December 1988 issue of MC. Unlike many fans, Dean has taken the time to sit down and analyze what that season really had to say. It helps his cause because Dean is a true devote of Year II. Perhaps, by reading what Dean has to say, those who criticize it will give it a second chance and perhaps appreciate it on it's own merits. I believe that Maya learned this by her association with the Alphans and came to admire them.

Well, that is all for this go round. Just one final note: Don't forget to write to ITC and express your feelings over them

releasing the 48 uncut episodes on tape. The more the better! Take care, Kerry.

Kerry Keene / 417 Ne 18 Ave. / Pompano Beach, FL 33060-6543 / Date: 5-25-89

Well, I am back. Watch it people! Those darts are sharp! A little levity before I get into the subject of my letter. But before I get into the letter, let me say one thing about Jan Sparks's letter. She says that there was a Year 2 because of Year 1's success. Well, why did ITC wait almost one year to issue a renewal notice to the TV stations carrying Space: 1999 at that time? That delay put a real time constraint on getting Year 2 produced.

Now, I'd like to comment on what Karla Von Huben had to say in the same issue of MC as Jan's letter appeared. I will admit right from the start that I'm not a big fan of "Star Trek" the original series or the new series. The fourth movie I did like, but this new film, due in the summer, has not received much good word of mouth comments according to the editor of "Premiere" magazine. But we'll have to wait and see.

I'm not interested in a 1999 vrs Trek debate either. So my opinions concerning Trek deals with my view of the entire Trek subject without 1999 being considered. They are two independent shows, each borrowing on the ideas that came before in SF. I will defend 1999 from attack by anyone or any group. So, what I say in the following is not an attack on ST:TNG for the sake of criticizing the show. I get the feeling that criticizing anything Trek is a taboo! Come on! It's a TV series. Yes! Defend the show you fans, but don't be closed minded either. Space had its shortcomings, [and] so does Trek!

The first season was not only uneven, but many of the stories left me with the feeling of a pointless exercise in story telling. The stories with those stupid aliens were useless, and if you'll notice, they have dropped them from future stories. Now, if they'd drop that useless Q character. Oh if I were a Trek fan, I'm one who wouldn't crow about "The Big Goodbye" winning anything. That was, in my opinion, one of the worst episodes of any year or any TV series! Dumb! I just wonder why the issuers of that Peabody gave it to that episode? "Hearts of Glory" would've been a better choice. But I have never been that interested in awards or award shows. I will admit that I was pulling for Martin Landau to win that Oscar, but I find most of these things to be far more political in nature than fair.

Scientific errors! I just have to laugh at anyone who brings that up as a knock on 1999. Asimov started that and he should look at the stuff that he has written before he takes pot shots at someone else's work. I notice that Trekkies picked up on his comments without thinking about the flaws in Trek. So, I'll point out some to them right here. First, faster than light travel won't work, and even if it did, by the time the Enterprise or any other ship got to its destination, thousands of years would have passed on the planet when the arrived. So their orders would have no meaning once they got there. Next, the transporter is another gimmick that the Trek fan has fallen in

love with (most anyway). They accept it without question. In reality, such a device would require enormous energy, more than any ship could provide. The amount of computer storage needed to store the information required to transmit the data about a living being's DNA structure would be huge! To transmit such huge amounts of data (even at computer speeds, now and in the future) would take centuries instead of just seconds. So they should think again before they rip some other show on the score of scientific accuracy. And [I] could even go after Mr. Spock and his half-alien, half-human lineage. That's impossible also. So, be careful Trek fans before you take after another series on the scientific accuracy issue.

For more information on the science in science fiction, look for the book "Science in Science Fiction" by Peter Nicholls, copyright 1983. It was published by Alred A. Knopf, Inc.

I agree with Karla about supporting good SF shows, but we don't have to like everything just because it's SF. And no one that I know of is denying anyone the right to watch whatever they want to. Although, there are groups out there who are trying to do that. We must stand up to such pressure groups.

The acting [in ST:TNG] is good but not great. I'd never even heard of Patrick Stewart before his job on ST:TNG. I understand that he was in "Dune", but his role must have been small. I don't remember him. His character, however, started out as something of a wimp. The first episode is a perfect example as are a few other episodes. His role got started very slowly and has evolved into a good character. But I hardly consider him sexy. The joke here is that he looks like an anorexic Sen. Cranston from California. The other male characters are just fine with the exception for Wesley, yuk! And as usual, women are treated as second class citizens. This from the "Great Bird of the Galaxy" (I hate that phrase) who is put up as this great progressive. Dr. Crusher seldom did anything and the trend continues with the new doctor played by Muldaur. But Trek has always been known for its lack of strong female roles. There are exceptions. The alien commander in "The Enterprise Incident", but all in all, this is true.

To wrap this up, I'll just say that the stories this year resemble 1999 in many cases. "The Child", the one in which Wesley falls in love with the alien girl, Picard's artificial heart, and I could go on. For more feelings toward ST:TNG and 1999, see MC, July '87.

"Beauty and the Beast" is a fine show and it had a great impact on me last year, but this year I haven't watched as often as last year. The plots got to be more of a cops and robbers series this year. But the two episodes dealing with Vincent's background were great! The surprise of who his father is was a real suspenseful idea.

Well, to end this by saying just one word about "War of the Worlds", YUK!!! I just find the acting to be low grade, the stories are simplistic where the aliens are incompetent and they seem to always find a way to lose the encounter with the human guerilla group. You know, once in a while in a war, the good guys sometimes win and the enemy sometimes wins. But what turns

me off the most is the violence and gore. Aliens dripping all over the place isn't my idea of good entertainment. So that ends my comments on WOTW.

Well, that's it. In some ways SF on TV has improved, but all in all it still has a very bad track record. Even ST:TNG ratings aren't good enough to keep it off the bottom of a network's ratings list. Its syndicated rating is very good, but that's all. Take care, Kerry.

Kerry Keene / 417 NE 18 Ave. / Pompano Beach, FL 33060-6543 / Date: 5-25-89 [same date as above letter]

I write this letter with a lot of mixed emotions. Again, as so many times in the past, the future of the Alliance is in doubt. I read with sadness the comments of John and Kathy and I could sense both pain and frustration in what they said. They have taken a lot of time out of their lives to run the club and publish MC. With their jobs and trying to raise Heather, this leaves very little time for anything else. This is why I salute both John and Kathy for their dedication to MC, the planning and running of conventions with the help of others, and the many other things that go into running a fan group such as filling members' orders.

Now, we the fans, must get in there and help. If I knew anything about publishing a newsletter, I might give it a try. But I don't know the first thing about layout or print styles and the like. I plan to support whomever takes over the publishing of MC. I will continue to send my comments and suggestions to the new publisher. Let me also thank John and Kathy for offering to remain as advisors. Their experience is well appreciated by me.

The last MC was well worth waiting for. The story by Cathy Conrad was funny and wacky. The artwork by Thomas Schaper was incredible! The little synopsis of each episode by David Bobzien is a fine idea. I think critical analysis could be left for "Command Conference Roundtable" and "Alpha * Bits" should be kept as a new feature in MC. The length is basically OK with its length varying maybe a couple of lines based on how complex the episode is.

What follows are some comments on two letters that appeared in the March '89 issue of MC written by Jan Sparks and Karla Von Huben. Let me say one thing. I am not interested in getting into a 1999 vrs Trek argument. To me, that is a waste of time and besides, I don't really care to compare one series to another. I have seen a lot of 1999 in this new Trek series, however.

First to Jan's comments. Let me take your first observation that all Year 2 had were aliens that had nothing but bad dispositions. I guess that you didn't watch that year close enough. The threat in "One Moment of Humanity" didn't come from he inhabitants of the planet, but from the technology that had gotten out of their control. Androids were the threat, not the inhabitant! The inhabitants were themselves under threat by these androids. It was the Alphans who helped them to regain control of their planet. Yes "All That Glisters" had an alien

that threatened the landing party, but the alien acted out of desperation not out of malice. "The Taybor" didn't threaten anybody; he just coveted Maya. The aliens in "The Mark of Archanon" weren't evil either. Pasc was ill and the illness caused him to act the way that he did. His sacrifice for his son was touching. The aliens in "The Rules of Luton" and maybe Magus could be the first aliens so far that could be considered twisted in some perverted way. Those aliens in "A B Chrysalis" acted out of self preservation. Isn't that similar to the way the history of our race has gone over the last couple of thousand years? Sahala, the alien in "The Immunity Syndrome", was and example of an alien who weren't into horrible acts of destruction. There were some who where as the aliens in "The Bringers of Wonder", "The Seed of Destruction", and perhaps "A Matter of Balance", but most of the aliens weren't the evil types that Jan accuses them of [being].

As for the Alphans not looking for a new home very hard in Year 2, hadn't that fact been firmly established in Year 1? The writer doesn't have to point that well established fact into the viewer's head. However, some examples are in order: "Journey To Where?", "Rules Of Luton", "New Adam, New Eve", "A Matter Of Balance", "The Seance Spectre", and "Immunity Syndrome". If the producers had "given" the Alphans a new home, what would you critics of the second year have said? I can just imagine what some of you might have said: Oh, there goes Freddie. He has really fouled things up! There will be no new strange encounters in space. It's "Lost In Space" all over again with the alien of the week visiting the planet.

As for the music, that is more of an esthetic thing and geared toward a person's particular task. I enjoyed both seasons' music finding some in both years that I didn't care for. The openings are also a matter of taste. The clips used in the opening of each Year 1 episode were a little disconcerting at times. But, I thought they were OK. I also liked the themes of both years except the strident guitar music that Barry Gray used in Year 1.

"A sense of awe." I can agree with Jan here too to a certain extent. Year 1 had that mystical feeling about it while Year 2 was far more realistic in its story concepts. Year 1 had that feeling of the Alphans had really entered the unknown, their constant struggle to survive in the face of huge odds was evident. In Year 2, the Alphans took more control of their situation. There wasn't an MUF to intervene in time of trouble. Some may say that Maya filled the MUF role in Year 2. To some degree, they would be right, but not even Maya would have been anymore help than what Victor was in the face of a black hole other to lend her expertise. Liking one Year over another may be based on one's own philosophy. I suggest that those who have "Comloc" #8 read the letter by Judy Shevlowitz. She looks at the two seasons as being deterministic for Year 1 and existential for Year 2.

Concerning Maya, I think that she was one of the most developed characters in the second season and the series overall. She was far more important than just battling with some alien in

some other form. Maya was more than just a "tag along on landing parties". Maybe because she wasn't a SF alien cliche bugged some people. She wasn't green, pointed eared, stoic, and unemotional probably rubbed some people the wrong way. She was a woman instead of a man as most aliens tend to be a mark against her in some people's eyes. I've read where some also call her a female Mr. Spock. The two [characters] have very little in common except that they are both intelligent and alien.

One of the criticisms of Year 1 was the lack of characterizations. The hinted at relationship between John and Helena begun in Year 1 was merely carried on to a deeper degree than it was in the first season. I think that the situation the Alphans find themselves in is far different than a relationship formed on the job. This comparison is really not valid in my opinion. There isn't much in the way of male / female relationships in SF to begin with. Trek sure didn't have it. The only other show I can think of is "Lost In Space" where a husband / wife relationship was present. I'm not into soap opera either, but I do enjoy good human interaction. SF is sorely lacking the area of male / female interaction.

I know that I was planning to comment on Karla Von Hubens's letter, but I'll do that in another letter. Let me stress one more thing. I'm not here to do a personal attack on anyone or anyones viewpoints. I am merely espousing my own views as a response to another person's letter. That is what "Launchpad" is all about. So, let me leave with this thought: A strength of fandom is the participation of its members. This is one way to keep the interest going. Debate is healthy without arguing. I'd be more than happy for Jan or anyone else to comment on my view above. I love discussing things with people. Take care, Kerry.

Stephen Nelmes / 8 Victoria Close / Thornbury / Nr. Bristol / Avon / BS12 1JE / Great Britain / Date June, 1989

I would like to say that I hope the release of Space: 1999 episodes on video tape goes well and ITC do their upmost to promote it. Here in Britain, the initial release of "Alien Attack", "Destination Moon Base Alpha", and "Cosmic Princess" went well and made their way into some high street shops. But about a year and a half afterward, they have faded out and are only available from Channel 5 distributors and specialist shops. Promotion is an essential element for Space: 1999 and without it the general public might not show any interest in the series. The only advertising which I saw as on the back page of S.I.G. and this would only alert fans who already knew about it's release that it was available.

Promotion of the Alliance is also important. Without the advertising in last September's Starlog, I probably wouldn't have contacted and joined.

When I joined I was told that there were only seven members in Britain. There are most definitely more who could join as the 1999 mini-con at Leeds demonstrated because around one hundred people were present. It's a pity that there are no club which allows these people to contact each other. There is Fanderson,

but I was deferred from joining them when I heard that they were splitting up with the S.I.G. magazine.

Does anybody out there have any PAL system recordings of episodes not yet released by Channel 5 on either Betamax or VHS? If so, please contact me. [PAL is a different system for the reception and transmission of video signals used through most of Europe. It is not compatible with American television equipment without the use of expensive equipment. -Ed]

Ellen Lindow / 4006 W. Sam Allen Road / Plant City, FL 33566 / Date: 2/4/89

Hi Alliance People! You asked what I'd like in MC. I am most fond of fiction. Short, long, poorly written or not. It's the possibilities inherent in 1999 which captured my mind an heart. The fiction doesn't have to be humorous, X rated, or even R rated. I've been lucky enough to finally get all the 1999 episodes on tape and my 4 year old, my husband, and I watch one episode a week. With any given episode, there's always several possible endings given more changes in a decision - usually by Koenig, but occasionally by someone else. I have a long, lonely commute to my job and I generally spend the time mentally playing out these other endings. Perhaps, this mind game of mine would be fun to share.

Here is an example: In the episode, "The Black Sun," What if the survival eagle didn't return? Those left on Alpha come across a planet 10 years later with the descendents of the six on board the survival eagle. The two generations try to live in harmony with their home planet and welcome the Alphans to join them.

As to the debate between Year 1 and Year 2, I like both years. Of course, things would change on Alpha. At first the Alphans would have tried to get back to Earth and would have been terrified by the weird things happening to them in deep space, but human beings are very adaptable. They obviously tried to make Alpha more livable and after at the same time. They began to relax more even in the desperate situation they were in.

I sure look forward to each MC. My husband and I fight over who gets it first and he fusses that I always take it to work and don't bring it back. (He's right. I do tend to read them at work.) Keep up the good work.

P.S. We've been watching Dolphin Cove. The science isn't too accurate, but it has Nick Tate in it for me and Dolphins in it for my 4 year old. We like it. We tape Mission: Impossible on the West Coast Feed. - Ellen

Michael Stroud / 120 Hendryx St. / Dowagic, MI 49047 / Date: June 1989 [?]

I am looking for a few good man and women to help me develop a new edition to the Alliance. This "New Edition" would be a role-playing game in which members have to develop and play characters in adventures made up and sent in by other members. No official name has been given to the game; but so far, I am going with "Space: 1999 The Ongoing Odyssey." Of course, I am

open to suggestions. So, anyone out there that is interested in helping me develop this, please contact me.

Liz May / 22 Regent Street / Rowhedge / Colchester / Essex / England / CO5 7EA / Date: June, 21 1989

I have only recently joined the Alliance, but I thought I would write to say how much I enjoyed reading Main Computer (can't wait for the next one!). It's great to know there are people out there still appreciating the show. Once again, thanks for a great read. Best Wishes, Liz May.

Richard Plumel / 47 Rue de la Liberte / 38600 Fontaine / France / Date July 10, 1989

Space: 1999 will be rerun in France!!! Wonderful news! The first episode announced July 15th will be "Another Time, Another Place" according to the TV guide at 12am and that is just before the news. After this first episode, the series will be shown weekdays at 11:30am. I wonder if the TV station will broadcast "Another Time, Another Place." I am (almost) convinced it will be "Breakaway". I do hope that this time the TV station will show "The Bringers of Wonder" which are the only two episodes we do not know in French. I will write again if I have new information. All for now. Space: 1999 Lives! Richard.

WE ARE ALL ALIENS . . .

Richard Plumel / 47 Rue de la Liberte / 38600 Fontaine / France

My name is Richard Plumel. I am 21 years old. I would like to tell you how I heard about the Alliance and how I became involved in the French fandom. I have been a fan of Space: 1999 since the first time it appeared on TV screens in 1976. At school, I was 7 years old, the episodes of Space were so famous that we imitated our heroes. I remember I was Paul Morrow, and we [all] had some very exciting adventures! At the time, I did not imagine Cosmos: 1999 ("Space" in French) would have such a place in my life. The years went by and I understood there was a difference between the others and me. I had fallen in love with the series, and the others did not. For them, it was just a good science-fiction show. For years, I felt alone . . . until . . . 1987 when Space was rerun by a private TV station. I had decided to find out if there was a Space fan club in Great Britain. That is why I wrote to the TV station, and they answered that I had to contact Fanderson! Through Helen McCarthy, I heard the club had a French member who also loved Space. Obviously, I ran toward my pen. It was the beginning of a new life! Chantal Battiston (hello Chantal!) told me all about the Alliance, and I joined immediately. I only wish I had joined sooner. We were both convinced there must be Alphans in France; all we had to do was to inform them. Then a miracle happened, a TV series magazine published one of Chantal's letters and we made contact with Claude Merckel (hello Claude!). Quickly, the idea of a French

Space: 1999 club emerged and . . . it was launched, the starting point of a wonderful adventure. Until now we have managed to gather more than 40 members. We try to spread the word for the club, and therefore for the Alliance, by writing to different SF and TV magazines, and we hope to discover new fans in the next months. You know, I am proud to be a member of this great family named Alphans.

ADDS AND NOTES

Wanted - Someone who has VHS episodes of the TV series "V" and "Galactica: 1980" that they would sell or dub for me. Please contact: Michael Stroud, 120 Hendryx St., Dowagiac, MI 49047.

Wanted - Uncut versions of 1999 episodes. Also looking for paperbacks of 1999. Need #8 from first year and # 3, #4, and #6 from second year. Gerald Peaselee / 85 Cumberland Ave / Apt #1 / Portland, ME 04101

Ever wonder how John Koenig and Helena Russell arrived at the openly loving and caring relationship depicted in Year Two when they started out so antagonistic toward one another in "Breakaway"? Then read "A Year in the Life" by Terry S. Bowers. A collection of short stories tracing the development of their relationship during events of the Alphan's first year in space following "Breakaway". Over 65 pages of text, cover art by Robbie L. Perkins. $10 U.S. and Canada / $12 Overseas (U.S. funds only please!) Order from and make the check or money order payable to: Terry S. Bowers / 603 N. Clark St. / River Falls, WI. 54022 USA

More for sale: Books: Moon Odyssey (U.K.) $5, Phoenix of Megaron (U.S.) and Space Guardians (U.S.) each $4. All VG to NM, add $1 for P&H. Other: 1999 Alien model kit (VG in box, $22 ppd.) UFO lunchbox (NM, $25 ppd.) TV21 Annual (Mint, $18, ppd.) Brian Heiler / 329 Fairview Dr. / Whitby, Ont. L1N 3A7 / Canada

Wanted: Alan Carter doll, Logan's Run and Tommorow People items. I have loads of videos to trade. I also want Green Hornet items. Brian Heiler / 329 Fairview Dr. / Whitby, Ont. L1N 3A7 / Canada

For Sale: Space: 1999 dolls are out of the box but in excellent condition: Koenig, Russell, and Bergman are each $35 or $90 for the entire set. Mattel Control Room with computer used with dolls. Fair condition. $30. Colorforms Alphan Set complete, mint, and rare. $75. Complete, original Alpha Costume. Bill Frazier's tunic, belt, and pants. Excellent condition $500. (non negotiable) This costume is worth of the price. Will fit average sized man or larger sized woman. Was shown last at the 1986 LA Convention. Martin Landau certified it is original. Also interested in art work, masks, props, models? Send me a SASE for a list of original items used on TV and movies. The list is long and serious collectors only need reply. Send check or money order to: Daryl Bartosh / 421 S. Mollison Ave. #21 / El Cajon, CA 92020 USA / 619-444-2370 → Phone

For Sale: 1975 MPC Space: 1999 Eagle One model kit still sealed for only $35. If interested, send a money order for $35 plus $3 P&H to: Jeff Hale / I-E Hibiscus / Montgomery, AL 36109 USA

For Sale or Trade - 121 various mint condition 1989 Batman bubble gum and puzzle cards. Will sell all for $12 Canadian funds or will trade all 121 for the 5 I am missing - # 22, 24, 92, 111, 121. Interested? Contact: Robert Wood / Box 1207 / Cochrane, AB / TOL OWO / Canada.

A new Space: 1999 Fanzine, "Alpha Notes", is now available for $4.25 Canadian funds from Robert Wood / Box 1207 / Cochrane, AB / TOL OWO / Canada. It contains fiction by Kerry Keene, Elenore Claasseu, and Kevin Peterson, art, columns, etc. Limited supply!!!

Con 90??? Do you want to see a return to a great 1999 con? Do you want to be part of that con? I propose a 1999 Convention in Calgary, Alberta, for July or August of 1990. For it to become a reality, and for it to be a great 1999 con, I must have your interest and assistance. Let's form a continuing 1999 Con Committee, to plan and run all future cons including this one. Are you interested? We must begin our organization and planning now! This means that you must make the decision as to whether or not you want to help - now! Even if you are only interested in attending this con, please decide now! And then contact me: Robert Wood / Box 1207 / Cochrane, Alta / TOL OWO / Canada. I need your help. **Let's do it!!**

Now Available: Lunavisions 4, 60 pages of Space: 1999 fiction by Terry S. Bowers, Kevin Peterson, Barbara Ferrell, and Kerry Keene. To order, send $6 ($10 overseas - U.S. funds only) to Denise Miller / P.O. Box 179 / Estill Springs, TN 37330. USA Also still available: copies of Lunavisions 2 and 3. Send SASE for details.

Wanted: Space: 1999 fiction and art for Lunavisions 5 and future issues. Send your contributions to: Denise Miller / P.O. Box 179 / Estill Springs, TN 37330 USA

Richard Chaves (Col. Ironhorse) will do the first episode of "War of the Worlds" next year, but will not be returning for the rest of the series; however, there is a fan club starting for him. Please send and SASE to: Richard Chaves Fan Club / P.O. Box 4218 / SanDiego, CA 92104 USA

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE LAST MINUTE, NOTHING WOULD GET DONE

Nick Tate is back on television on the FOX Broadcasting Network in the show "Open House" that airs Sunday nights at 9:30pm. The show is a revamping of "Duet" which used to air on the same night. No dolphins, but Nick does have comic ability with some nifty one liners.

Remember to include your name and address on all letters, stories, etc. sent to Main Computer for publication. The address to send all of your material to is: Main Computer / P.O. Box 222 / Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222 USA

IN THIS ISSUE:

* A NEW EDITOR IS FOUND
* TWO NEW COLUMNS
* PLENTY OF LETTERS
* ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW FANZINES

Coming in the next issues:

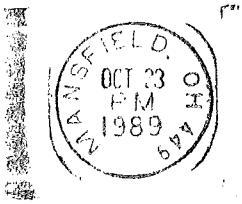
* Reports of 1999 Minicon.
* Interview with Barry Morse
* The value of 1999 stuff
* Main Computer reprints

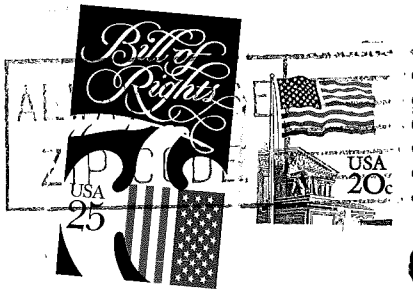
Main Computer is currently in need of short stories from 6-12 pages, "We're All Aliens . . ." bios, "Command Conference Roundtable" issues, and lots of letters. Send submissions to: Main Computer, P.O. Box 222, Bowling Green, OH 43402-0222 USA

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Thomas Cicirelli, Main Computer Editor, P.O. Box 222, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222 USA Newsletters published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. This club is a member of the National Association of Fan Clubs, 2730 Baltimore Ave., Pueblo, CO 81003 USA

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