MAIN COMPUTER
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Barry Morse on Science Fiction

During the past relaxacon, I had the opportunity to sit across from Barry Morse for an hour and a half to interview him for a friend of mine's doctoral dissertation. The questions I asked him were based on his knowledge and impressions of science fiction in the theater. Although there is nothing in the interview that deals with Space: 1999, reading and understanding about just what kind of developments took place to lead up to and indeed start science fiction as we know it today. After my friend, Paul, was finished with the tape, I was able to start transcribing it for all of you who have been asking me for it. One half of this one and a half hour interview will be printed now and the final half will be serialized in the next few Main Computers. Barry's comments were enlightening to me since I am not personally a Ph.D. in Theater; and his broad experience in theater and love for theater is displayed in his commentary. I hope that you will all find it as entertaining and enlightening as I did just last year.

"I was at one time, an adjunct professor at the drama department at Yale a long time ago, about, oh Lord, 20 years ago and I had a very interesting time there. I was only there for one academic year on the invitation of my old friend Robert Brewstein. Bob had been an actor with my wife and I in a theater season in Boston many years ago. He eventually became more of a aesthete and eventually the dean of the drama department at Yale and was rash enough, foolish enough to ask me to be on his faculty. I ran a course up there which was very enjoyable for all of us I think and attracted a lot of attention because. Well, you know how courses have to have names as well as numbers. In this very pretentious syllabus that they publish at Yale. A very elegant publication all handsomely printed. They said, "Well, what will the title of the course be?" And I thought for a while and said, "Well, the best truthful title of my course would be Rubbish." And so it became the quite notorious course number 119, Rubbish; because, what it addressed were what I like to think are the facts of life. Because, teaching institutions all over the world train actors on

the supposition that they are going to spend all of their working lives addressing the creations of Anton Checkov, and Euripidies, and Shakespeare. Whereas in point and fact they are going to have to spend a vast majority of their lives playing in material which we, all of us if we were truthful and frank, would call "rubbish." We're going to have to play in soap operas and television serials and do commercials and voice overs all of which are intensely interesting, complicated, and difficult. Much more difficult than most people believe. So this course was designed to familiarize actors with what I used to say, "What we are attempting here ladies and gentlemen is to construct a Taj Mahal out of chicken droppings. Because we all know that it is fairly difficult to be less than good as Hamlet because we have a person called William Shakespeare on our team. And if you just say the words in the right order, and don't bump into the scenery, William Shakespeare will do a lot for you. But if you are going Getting Gerties Garter or Up in Mable's Room or "As The World Neglects To Turn" or some other nonsense of that kind, it is up to the actor to create something of value and interest out of material which is not of itself intrinsically very good. That was a whole separate much more intense set of skills." So this course became very popular among my students. There were some quite well known ones. A tall, very good looking boy who has become quite a star I gather in America was once a student of mine by the name of Ken Howard. Well he was a very interesting example of someone who hated the idea of being good looking. He was always trying to escape from character parts because he was rather ashamed of being so handsome. I finally persuaded him that there was nothing wrong or necessarily shameful about this and he went on to become a star. This old course of mine at Yale became very popular with the students and also very popular with the rest of the campus. In the theater that we used to work in I would keep looking around and I would see the auditorium was full of people. I'd say, "Who are all those people? They're not my students. What are they doing here?" And they were all doctors and dentists and lawyers and all the other people from all the other disciplines who came in because they found it was very entertaining. I loved this of course because it gave the actors the opportunity to work a little bit in front of an audience to test what responses were which is another separate skill which actors all to often when they are in training never get the chance to do. It's so often that acting training systems are built within a kind of cocoon so that the performers never have to face the real world of approval or disapproval, amusement or boredom, or all the other responses that can come from an audience. But I always used to think that was kind of foolish. It's rather like training scientists and denying them the use of litmus paper. So, it was a very interesting time and they were kind enough to ask me to take up a fellowship there and stay there permanently but I was a bit too unreal and I thought I'd better get back to the jungle. My real word, yes."

Have you ever heard of another science fiction opera besides Ursula LeGuin?

"No, I don't think I have; let me think. A science fiction opera or anything that could vaguely be called a science fiction opera. I suppose, the closest that one could come to the general, broad principles of science fiction would be Goonoes' opera on the Faust legend. Well, if not science

fiction at least vaguely supernatural about that. Faust making this deal with the devil and all of the terrible results of that.

That's the only one I know in the popular repertory of operas. But wait a minute. Who was that? Mark Blitzstein who was a writer in the 20's and 30's [might have written] a musical or light opera called, something like Lost In Space? My memory is not too sound on these things. My knowledge is not too good on that score."

Rawson's Universal Robots (RUR) is called the first science fiction play. Do you consider any others written before that play to be science fiction?

"First of all, we have to define what we mean by science fiction. RUR was a European play written by a Czechoslovakian writer name Carl Chapek. Now, this guy, oh, they were brothers actually. Two brothers, Carl and somebody else. He or they both together, had previously written, just before or just after RUR, a play called "The Insect Play" which was on an anthropomorphic theme. In which various human characteristics are represented by various insects. Butterflies. Ants. It was an attempt to represent in anthropomorphic terms some of the human characteristics, virtues, and vices and all the rest of it. The Czechoslovakian theater and all of the eastern European theater at that time of the 1920's was very much influenced by the breaking down of convention which had come about partly as a result of World War I and also partly as a result of the Russian Revolution in 1917. When modern social standards and all kinds of cultural standards were being torn up and thrown away. And the old style, representational kind of play which had been in vogue for one hundred years or more was gradually being edged out and not only the styles of presentation but the actual subject matter of the plays was being expanded into less tangible, more realistic terms. Even such writers as George Bernard Shaw, of whom I am a great admirer, wrote plays as early as 1902 for example he wrote his great play some people would say his greatest play called "Man Superman." Now, the idea of a play called "Man Superman" made in 1902 strikes everybody as, you know, highly improbable. People just can't believe it was written as early as that. But it was and it was produced not long after that in 1904 I think. It deals with a set of characters who in a kind of dream or nightmare or, what? Trance? [The characters are] transported to Hell. This is another rendition of a subject that has been used many times by other writers, the "Don Juan" legend. And Shaw, in his play "Man Superman," makes use of this device by carrying his central character into Hell where he meets in person the Devil and there are other characters who he's known in his life. So it has some aspects of science fiction and the supernatural about it. Another writer, an English writer, called J. M. Barry wrote "Peter Pan" which again is a sort of supernatural story about a child, a boy, an infant, a youth, we don't know quite what who refuses to grow up. A very interesting, intangible kind of idea to write a play about as he did in 1904. He also wrote during the first World War a quite heartbreakingly tragic play called "Dear Brutus" which I commend to you to read because it's not likely to be produced in our time because it's so heartbreakingly tragic. It's on the theme of people having a second chance at their lives. Again, a kind of supernatural, science fictionish kind of idea. Written during the first World War when so many people were suffering bereavement over lost husbands, brothers, sons in this terrible slaughter of the first

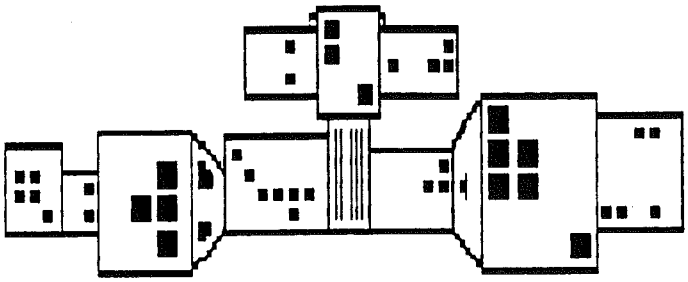
World War and so many people had these vague longings that they wish they could have their time over again, have their loved ones back, a fresh start, and Barry who personally had a very tragic life himself wrote this play called "Dear Brutus" which is part of a quotation from Shakespeare's Play Julius Ceaser in which somebody says, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in ourselves but in our stars that we are underlings." And the theme was that whatever happens to us all, good or bad, fortunate or unfortunate, is in someway predestined. That nothing we can do, long for, or wish is ever going to change it. And so this play, "Dear Brutus", deals with the idea that people do get a second chance. Just miraculously, they get a chance to relive their lives a second time around. And the terrible, terrible thing is that they all make precisely the same tragic mistakes that they made the first time. It's almost unbearable. It's a wonderful play. Well that has some aspects of one might think science fiction or the supernatural about it. And if you take that broad concept of what we think of as science fiction, the unrealistic, inexplicable, I think of science fiction or supernatural as being anything which can't be rationally logically explained in the way of human behavior or physical activity. I mean, defying the laws of gravity or defying the laws of time. That sort of thing. Those, I think are in a sense, science fiction plays. If you started out chronologically, you could say that some of the old Christian morality plays are in a sense science fiction since they deal with unrealistic, supernatural events. And all the way through the classical periods of the English language theater you get, at least two of the plays of Shakespeare, which have supernatural events in them. "Midsummer Night's Dream" being the more popular one perhaps. And "The Tempest" being another one in which there is magic and an unnatural control of the elements, all that sort of stuff. That's all written four hundred years ago. And then you have Shakespeare's contemporary, Christopher Marlow, who wrote another version of the Faust legend, "Dr. Faustus," which is all about a man trading his soul to the Devil for certain immediate material profits and all the terrible things that happen to him as a result of that. That is a kind of combination, really, of a morality play with a supernatural story. And then closer to our own time, around the time of the brothers Chapek, who were writing RUR and "The Insect Play," in the 1930's you have the rather interesting experimental plays of J. B. Priestly, an English novelist and writer, who wrote a number of popular, box office hits of the time. He became interested at one point in the time theories of one J. W. Dunne who evolved a theory of time which proposed that time should be viewed not as a kind of thread or a stream that went on from point A to infinity. But that in a sense, all time was taking place at the same time. It was an investigation of what we nowadays call the experience of "deja vue." And I think that all of this is really being within the realm of science fiction and the supernatural. And J. B. Priestly wrote four plays, actually, on this idea. One was called "Dangerous Corner" written and produced in 1932. Another was called "Time and the Conways;" the Conways were a family. It was a play about time warps really. The other one was called "People at Sea". I can't remember what the fourth one was called. It doesn't matter. The time plays of J. B. Priestly will give you some thoughts about the bending of time as a device in plays. The simplest example is "Dangerous Corner" which is a marvelously thrilling play. It

was revived again, just quite recently in England. It deals with the extraordinary flukes of time which may govern events. A group of people brought together at a family gathering, and the trend of the conversation diverts to the point where a whole lot of cans of peas are opened which turn out to have horrific, tragic which result in the ruin of two people's lives, the wreckage of a marriage, and one man's suicide. And then he goes back on that same conversation, and you follow the same dialogue up to the point where, by pure fluke, the conversation takes a certain turn but this time it doesn't take that turn. Suddenly, somebody else happens to speak at that moment and we never go down that road, we never go what he says in the title that dangerous corner. It's a very intriguing idea for a play. And is, in the broadest sense almost a since fiction kind of play because it deals with a time warp. As you see, anytime this century from Shaw in 1902 to of course many more recent things that have been cooked up in drama, in the theater, plays are being written in that way. And then of course, right up until our own day we have these wonderful things written by Ray Bradbury. I played in a couple of those. Very good scripts that Ray Bradbury adapted from his stories. So that's a bit about the previous history of science fiction and the supernatural in the theater. But you will find, I'm sure, in many other languages there have been developments of those kind. Not a great deal in Russia. Russia, in a curious way, has always been less adventurous, less avant-guard in these respects than most other theaters in recent times tending to be more conservative. It's a very interesting subject, the development of nonrealistic, nonrepresentational events, characters, and happenings in the theater. Science fiction. The words themselves seem to me to infer events being controlled or influenced in ways which the present degree of knowledge in science cannot explain. The obvious example of course is "Alice in Wonderland." Of course, it wasn't written as a play. It really is a fantasy. And the remarkable thing is that it was written by a man who was himself a mathematician, in effect, a scientist. His knowledge of all the logical sciences was immense, he had a great reputation as a mathematician. This was, "Alice in Wonderland" and "Alice Through the Looking Glass", was really just the other side of all that. There is a kind of crazy sort of logic that runs through "Alice in Wonderland" just as there is an inverted sort of logic that runs through most science fiction writing doesn't it? There has to be. I'm thinking more of events in dramatic history. Of course, we all know H. G. Wells and Jules Verne and writers like that who wrote fictional material in the science fiction genre. But there are quite a few, obviously, in the theater when one comes round to think about it." - Thomas Cicirelli



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Editor: Thomas Cicirelli
Ombudsman: Kathleen Griffith
Staff Writers: John Von Kamp, Kathy Von Kamp, James Driscoll.
Contributors: Dwight Chapman, Daryl Bartosh, Lora Deluca, Tony Wynn, Kevin Peterson, Kevin McCorry
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Alpha News Service



Editorial

Winter is here with a vengeance, and I thought I'd take the time now to write this editorial since I am trapped inside by less than zero temperatures and blowing snow.

Yep. It's a good time to write the editorial!

I got a letter yesterday, or was it the day before, that clearly should have been addressed to the Ombudsman to protect my delicate sense of balance between well meaning motivational criticism and all out attack. Anyway, the author of the letter gave me several questions to answer but failed to enclose a return self addressed stamped envelope. Holding true to form, I pitched the letter. Why? Because, if I make an allowance for one person, I will be forced to spend my meager wages on postage stamps and devote all my time answering lots of mail. Not that I mind mail mind you; I look forward to getting mail from the membership.

I especially look forward to the mail containing several tightly wrapped bundles of tens and twenties which are in untraceable, nonsequencial order.

But this letter I received had what I thought was a very interesting observation. The author, who I can't remember, told me if Main Computer was not "on time" there would be virtual armies of other 1999 fans springing up to take up the slack and start another newsletter. I suppose the author's intention was for me to feel threatened by this.

Well, I hate to disappoint him or her; but, I more than welcome the efforts of other 1999 fanzines and newsletters. Sounds like a strange thing for me to be saying, right? Not really, think about it. There are just so few of us around that having more people produce things for 1999 fandom will only bring positive results.

Let's step back a moment and take a look at exactly how Main Computer is focused in the 1999 market. Admittedly, I have a rather captive audience which directly affects the editorial decisions. Main Computer strives to include a compilation of many features to maintain broad appeal for all Alliance members. The "something for everyone" philosophy admittedly produces a splintered result.

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I have received letters wanting me to veer from this collection by cutting Launchpad letters, adding stories, killing off the humor, bringing back old columns, stop writing such long winded editorials, and so on. All of these letters have an influence on me and almost always counter what the next person will write.

However, there are other fanzines out there such as Lunacy and Alpha Notes which fill a market that Main Computer just is unable to. Without fanzines, you would have to wait a long time to see a long 1999 story in these pages considering it is difficult to tell an interesting fan story in 20,000 characters. These other fanzines also have the ability to take risks that I, as editor of a club oriented newsletter, cannot take with the limited number of pages and seasonal schedule. I fully support these other 1999 fan publications with a plug and advertising space; because, we as fans of the show really need them. And should any budding 1999

fanzine or newsletter editors out there want to start up another fan publication, more power to you and expect to see support in Main Computer for your efforts.

I also would like to tell you all that I am doing the very best I can to bring publishing Main Computer back on track. We got behind due to the transition and a few technical bugs; but I think everything is fine now.

"Remains to be seen, Thomas."

I know, I know.

I'd like to announce the launch of a new feature in Main Computer that you can look forward to reading every issue called "Lunar Toons." And, if you've paged through this issue, you have probably noticed that it is strictly humorous. Hey, you know I had to put a humor column in sooner or later! I just can't get it out of my blood. I think the idea came to fruition when we ran the ST:TNG Drinking Game last issue. I took some time after sending the issue out and looked over a lot of bits and pieces in the vast, overstuffed Main Computer File 13 and came up with some really funny stuff. It would be a shame to let all that material go to waste.

By the way, don't play the drinking game with real hard stuff or you may not be able to see the television screen after the first half hour. I should have put a disclaimer on the page!

There is so much I have to do for the next issues that I have to get back to typing. I just wanted to say thanks for all the letters no matter what you write. Sometimes, you may not think what you write has any affect on me and my authoritarian attitude but it's simply not true. Look what happened to the person's letter who didn't enclose an SASE. I used an entire page of the newsletter responding.

That's ok. I really was grasping at straws for this editorial anyway!

"Hold on tight, you know he's a little bit dangerous!" Poetic license.

- Thomas J. Cicirelli



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LAUNCHPAD

Dwight A. Chapman, P.O. Box 29631, Cincinnati, Ohio 45229, Dated January 1, 1990.

Congratulations and compliments to you as the "new editor of the alliance newsletter." Judging from (Volume 11, Number 4) it's as entertaining as it is informative. I wish you luck and the support of the entire association.

In that same issue, a fellow member made a great suggestion that I agree with completely, "Chris Goudis from down under New South Wales, Australia proposes that we form a question and answer department."

It's a great way for our group to get better acquainted, also to share and learn from each other things about 1999 that we never knew, but always wanted to know.

I motion that we put it to a vote. Here's one "Yeah!"

As we began the '90's, I wonder what the year 1999 will really be like? Or, due to the uncertainties of our world at present, will we make it to the end of this decade?

Will the U.N. finally function as a practical system? Will that system ever place a base on the moon? And out of nostalgia, will it be designated "Alpha" just as one of the space shuttles was dubbed "Enterprise"?

Visionary Gerry Anderson wondered about these things almost twenty years ago. Perhaps most of our fellowship does now. I suggest that this become a theme topic for the '90s.

I would like to hear the thoughts and opinions from those who care to comment. Particularly, from the editor. Again, I wish you good luck with your new job and a prosperous new year.

Dwight A. Chapman

Daryl Bartosh, 421 S. Mollison Ave. #21, El Cajon, CA, 92020, USA, Dated: November 1, 1989

I don't usually express my views too much on paper but I must write about the longer time periods between the Main Computers. It seems I just renewed my membership and I have to renew again! I still like hearing about the actors of 1999 and I like hearing from the fans, so, I will dutifully continue my membership.

I must agree with Kerry Keene in almost every respect concerning 1999 and Star Trek. I must say I've never been a big fan of Trek either and as far as ST:TNG. Yuk!!! In my opinion, Star Trek has taken a dive for the worse. On the other hand, 1999 Year 2 is what made me devoted to the show. I felt little to nothing for the first season. The character of Maya is fantastic. So fantastic that I chose to personalize my car's [license plate] with the name of her race. I seriously feel without the character of Maya, I would never have become devoted to the show. Perhaps that is why I, like Kerry, am a member of the Catherine Schell fan club. I am pleased to have found one person so taken with the character as I have. Thank you for your support Kerry!

As for the other shows afore mentioned by Karla and the others "Beauty of the Beast" and "War of the Worlds", I never gave "Beauty" a chance. I watched about 15 minutes of it, got bored, and turned the channel. I have a friend that tapes the show. This same friend was the one who introduced me to 1999 so she has good taste in some things.

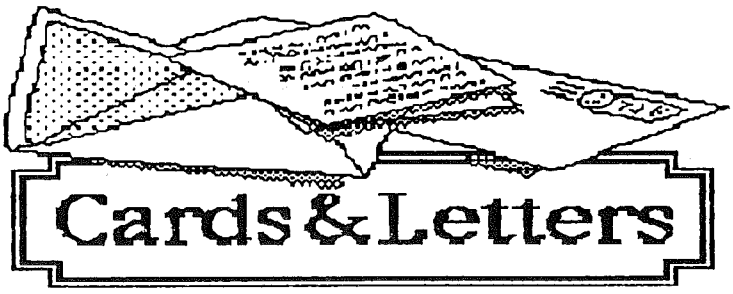
As for "War", I have one word to sum it up, "Gruesome!" I cannot believe the gore that they are allowed to show on TV [today]. I agree with Kerry whole heartedly on this one.

As to the last letter written by

Chris Goudis, the answer is "Yes!" I've heard of "The Edge of the Infinite", and I have the book. If I have 2 books I'll sell you one if you're interested. The book depicts the episodes "All that Glisters", "Journey to Where", "The Dorcons", and "Immunity Syndrome." I don't know why "Earthbound" wasn't novelized. Another [episode] never novelized was the Taybor. I feel this episode would have done quite well in book form.

On another note about films. I just saw Martin Landau in Woody Allen's film "Crimes and Misdemeanors." He was fantastic! I must say he should definitely get another Oscar nomination for this one. Go see this movie, it's great! But don't think like I did through the whole movie. I kept seeing Martin as Commander Koenig in civies! That's all for now; write me if you wish!

Daryl Bartosh



Lora Deluca, 28 Glenbrook Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M6B 2L8, Canada, Dated: November 11, 1989.

In response to Kerry Keene's letter, dated 05/25/89, I would say "Right on, Kerry!" We do not need "argumentative" debates on 1999 vrs Trek. Afterall, each show is vastly different in concept, originality, and in characterization.

For example, Captain James T. Kirk's character is quite different from that of Commander John Koenig. They may have some similarities, but [neither of them] are alike. Dr. Helena Russell is a well respected professional in her particular field. As is Sandra who works on the computer console in Command Center. How about Maya, who as Kerry so aptly stated, happens to be a good female alien. Seems that many aliens of any kind are male. At least, this alien was distinguishable from any other that I've seen. Does Mr. Spock compare as a Vulcan? Not at all. The two are completely in contrast.

On Trek, some may say that Lieutenant Uhura is also a well respected professional of high stature. As forementioned, so is Dr. Russell. These are some examples of the various differences inherent in both sci-fi shows.

ST:TNG cannot be compared to the old Trek series. What is parlayed is rather mediocre with little substance to it. Lack of dramatic tension and "tightness" are missing - largely present in the old Trek. The two are incomparable at best. That is not to delete anything from the actors and actresses. I don't enjoy expousing harsh criticism on those involved in the arts in general. Remember, it isn't the actors or ST:TNG's fault for the program's shortcomings. They are merely expressing representations of the various characters each one portrays. Blame the scriptwriters, directors, producers for that. I speak from experience when I say that it takes preparation, talent, time, and determination to showcase artistic merit.

Some people have [expressed the opinion] that Trek is more universal in scope than 1999. Humm, more universal? Trek is universal in the sense that the United Federation of Planets would be akin to the entire world's countries under one banner. The colonization of different worlds with people of different origins is similar to the theory of "Global Villages" - elimination of tariff barriers, international trade blocks, international economic cooperation, etc. From this perspective, Trek is definitely very universal.

However, that is not to detract from 1999. On Moonbase Alpha, there are 311 international scientists

working together each group from a different country as well. They are in cooperation, or rather, they are all cooperating and surviving together on Alpha.

In 1999, they have had to deal with human survival, colonizing a part of space, having to diversify themselves in various ways as a means of staying alive.

On Trek, they are surviving in the sense that, should anything go wrong "up there", they would be all alone. And since they too encounter strange planets and beings, albeit in a completely different arrangement from 1999, that too is universal; encountering the vast reaches of the universe.

Perhaps there are readers out there who wish to comment on this simulating topic of discussion. But remember, be neutral. We don't need any "rah-rah" [cheering] on who's #1. Let's just show some good old fashioned criteria, but no "arguments". Afterall, is not respect, neutrality, universal and international?

And last but not least, may the 1999 odyssey continue and may Main Computer and the Alliance together (to quote from Trek) "live long and prosper." Forever Alphan,

Lora Deluca

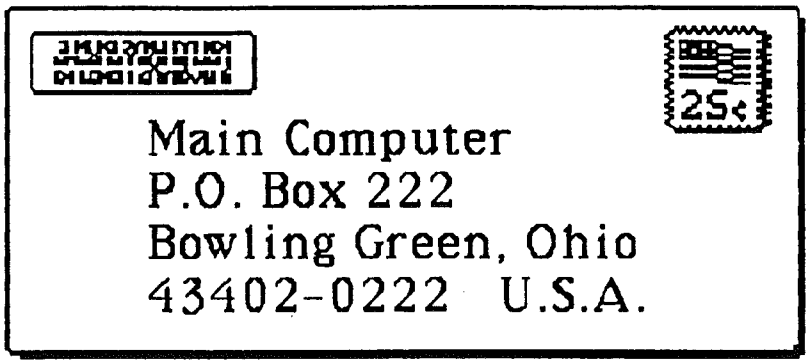
Kevin McCorry, 105 Linden Crescent, Fredericton, N.B., E3A 5A1, CANADA, Dated: April 4, 1990

Well, the Alliance has undergone a major change over the last year as has its newsletter. I'm writing this commentary thereon in the wake of receiving the second Main Computer under Thomas Cicirelli's editorship. [Vol. 12, Num. 1] As far as the actual quality of Main Computer, it has improved this issue over the last two. I like the double columnizing and the larger print is easier to read. However, it still lacks the depth [of the] the '87 and '88 editions. I've read this one [cover to cover] in 30 minutes, and I do read fast but that's not the point, even though it's longer, where as earlier editions sustained interest [for over] an hour. "Roundtable" seems to have disappeared, and the only substantial input is in the ["Launchpad"] column. It's distressing that the Main Computer is becoming just a letterzine, just the same general issues of fandom reiterated ad nauseam by, usually, the same people. C'mon folks, let's submit more analysis, more stories, more nostalgia, etc. And I'm not interested in reading about ST:TNG regardless of the negative opinion with which I'm always in complete agreement.

LAST MINUTE NEWSFLASH : BARRY MORSE
Vivian Stanley,head of MORSE CODE(Barry Morse Fan Club)has just let the Alliance know that Barry is in England until at least November working on a project for the BBC.In Canada this spring he did promotional work for PAL Performing Arts Lodges on the opening of their first retirement home. Also a promo for the United Nations on the literacy problem in Canada. This winter Barry was in New Zealand working on a project for noted SF writer Ray Bradbury.
Barry's voice was also heard in the U.S.A. in June on cable TV station, The Disney Channel,in a children's animated half hour show called THE RAILWAY DRAGON. Barry plays the part of the dragon. Watch for repeats.(KVK

Yes, a group of us have pondered the possibility of another movement, one strictly concentrated upon the timelessly

complex ITC moonbase yarn. We don't plan to act antagonistic toward the Alliance; rather, we wish to complement it in a burgeoning anew of Space fandom. A three way phone conversation between Dean Godin, Bob, and myself last month enabled us to establish much concerning the new organization. It will offer a quarterly, 25 page newsletter and abundance of new approaches at $10-12 in Canada and the U.S. All of us hope the new club and the Alliance can co-exist, help each other, and bring Space:1999 fandom into the '90s.



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Do you have questions or comments for the ALLIANCE? Or would you like a all 1999 photo and fan-made merchandise cat alog offering zines, patches, pins, etc. Write to the INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE at 86 First Street, New London, Ohio 44851-1196, U.S.A. for news and official information on all club matters. Contributions for the ALLIANCE's newsletter/journal should be sent to the address just above this notice. All editorial rights are claimed. (KVK)

I'm sick of the perpetual mistreatment and ignorance of Space:1999. Starburst has an article interviewing Julian Glover in a recent issue, and everything but 1999 is mentioned. No video magazines have listed or reviewed the new 1999 video disk. Finally, a B-movie video catalogue has listed our show, called it short lived, and dated it 1970. I refer to the Phantom Ultimate Video Guide. Being mistaken by a B-movie book is the ultimate insult. What are we doing to change public perception of our show? Very little I'd say. As for me, I recently submitted a thoroughly complimentary description of Space:1999 for Anglofile magazine. It may or may not see print. I've also [written] Starlog recently insisting on better treatment and have orchestrated a letter campaign to Canada's Youth channel. Canadian fans, please write to YTV / 525 Lakeshore Blvd West / Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5V 2V8 and request they run 1999.

That's all for now. Terry, I'll try your drinking game for TNG some night when I want to get plastered. That a sure thing. I'd be in a stupor after the 30 second preview

Kevin McCorry

Tony Wynn, 920 Twin Bridges Road #15, Alexandria, LA, 71303, USA, Dated: March 25, 1990.

I just wanted to drop you a note to say that you're doing a great job with the Main Computer, in my opinion. The newsletter looks good and the various features are well done and interesting.

I would like to further mention that since Satellite One is the official meeting place of the International Space: 1999 Alliance for 1990. We would like to see a big turn out of 1999 fans and Alliance members, especially as this year celebrates the 15th anniversary (basically speaking) of 1999.

Best of luck with the future issues of Main Computer, keep up the great quality!

Tony Wynn

Kevin Peterson, 31 West Maple Ave, Denver, CO, 80223, USA, Dated: November 3, 1989

Glad to see the new editor is

someone I have faith in! Not only are your credentials fitting, both professionally and in the fannish sense, but also your declaration that you'll "trim the fat, shoot the bull, remove the fax, cut, paste, and delete as necessary." Hooray!! That's what an editor is for.

I was able to attend Starcon 89 and not only did I distribute 1999 flyers, but I also met some possible future members of the Alliance. As is a common experience, the ones I talked to didn't know the Alliance existed. In fact, one who put it most succinctly said, "Oh boy!"

At the alternative video room, I got to see two episodes of UFO and also two episodes of 1999! The guy running the video room got all his episodes off of PBS [yielding] great quality. My friend, Pam, who's been nuts to see 1999 because I've been telling her about it constantly, fell in love with the show on account of "Another Time, Another Place". It was late when we saw "Earthbound", so while Pam snored, I sat paying rapt attention to an episode I've never seen. Was that Christopher Lee?

Ok, Kerry Keene raised the topic of accurate science in science fiction. Is it science fiction we're talking here? I mean, I see the world "impossible" here. Calling something impossible is tantamount to clapping poor ol' Galileo in irons again. I'm more inclined to take Arthur C. Clarke's view rather than this Peter Nicholls guy. Clarke believes in science and takes the theory to its limits in his own fiction. In "Profiles of the Future" he gives a projected time line of scientific developments that according to him should happen if we keep developing as fast over the past century or so. By the year 2060, he has us doing space time control, successful brain transplants, recording memories, and on the verge of a workable space drive and transmutation. One should keep in mind that this man invented the idea of communications satellites.

But, we all know, none of this is possible, right? We all know Jules Verne was a subversive radical druggie, and you'll find his books quite often in the fantasy section to boot. We all know that FTL drive won't work. According to whose assumptions? Einstein rejected quantum physics rather vehemently. Energy requirements for the transporter are admittedly huge. So? If they're using controlled matter antimatter explosions to run the warp drive, well! Theoretically, that kind of energy would make fusion look like a pack of matches. Computer space for transient storage and transmittal of genetic morphological data would be complex and immense. Maybe their computer chips make ours look like billboards and hold 100 times the information. More to the point, how do our computers today compare to those of the 1950's. Lastly, Mr. Spock is hybrid stock. It's also preposterous that the only non-human sperm on earth that will combine with the human ovum is that of the rhinoceros. Our expectations aren't the final arbiter of what is true or possible.

But this is theory. It's theory, so ergo, its impossible. Does that sound like logic to you? All right, then. What should we analyze when looking at the science in science fiction show or book? Should we look at the limits of the possible or try to envision all the potential of theoretical science? Isn't there room for theory ramification romps in a space opera, for heaven's sake? Isn't that what science fiction is about? Is it possible to ask ourselves that?

I'm a lay-science philosopher, granted; but there are people being paid to think about this or that field of inquiry could take us. There are writers who work as scientists and write SF on the side.

Clarke, for example, or how about Gregory Benford? These people must ask the impossible questions before they can hope to surpass the presently known limits of the possible.

Kevin Peterson



Lora Deluca / 28 Glenbrook Ave. / Toronto, Ontario / Canada / M6B 2L8 / Dated: June, 1989

Hello everyone! I am a Canadian fan of the Space: 1999 series, and a new member of the Alliance. I'm pleased to receive the MC quarterly newsletter and read all the interesting letters and topics discussed in it.

I have been a Space: 1999 fan for quite a long time, roughly a decade, when I first began to take a keen interest in the new, different, and exciting science fiction series, I was much younger then, watching reruns of many episodes of the series. Today, I still catch the odd rerunning of certain episodes on some local [television] channel.

I particularly enjoyed, and still do, the actors and actresses who portrayed various characters on the show. Perhaps it was seeing tow veteran actors, Martin Landau and Barbara Bain, that first got my attention. I remember having first seen them on the early Mission: Impossible reruns.

One thing I noticed about Space: 1999: the special effects as well as the storylines were quite creative, no to mention imaginative, interspersed with dramatic dialogue. I like to think that when Space: 1999 first got on the airwaves sometime in the early 70's, it was probably a very different science fiction series unlike any other at the time. Perhaps that's what got people interested in [the show] - the curiosity factor. I read once that it was billed as the "world's most popular show" for a science fiction series.

Anyway, I hope I've introduced myself well to many of you readers. And a special thanks to whoever put the ad for fan club membership in Starlog! Because of my interest, though sporadic in recent years in Starlog, I was desperately looking for some kind of fan club on Space: 1999. I could never find much in other sources of publications. I thought I was the only admirer of Space: 1999!

Keep up the good work, MC! Big Fan, Lora

James Driscoll / 2406 Station Road / or / P.O. Box 7001 / Erie, PA 16510

One boring Saturday night, while checking out nothing on TV, I happened on a startling new show. Spacecraft flying around the moon, to and from a base, and it caught my eye. For the next hour I was entranced and I was hooked.

My name is James Driscoll, and with the current Main Computer editor Thomas Cicirelli, we have touched more Alliance lives than most members. We were the convention's Amateur Film Contest hosts. To say we enriched those lives we touched would be, well, passing maximum BS.

This pretty much sums up my interest: films, movies, TV, and the technology behind them. Computers and electronics are also high as well as gaming, both computer and human. My TV interests are Space (of course), Star Trek new and old, Battlestar Galactica, and an interest in Alien Nation. My movie interests are mainly based in science fiction and special effects. But, I also watch action, adventure, and fantasy films. I enjoy the following books: The "Conan" series, the Star Trek series, books written by Alan Dean Foster, and the "Forgotten Realms" novels from TSR. My gaming interests include role-playing games such as AD&D, Morrow Project, and Star Wars. I enjoy playing the strategic games Axis and Allies, Starfire, and computer games of all kinds.

I was born on August 17, 1960, I have been an Alliance member since early 1978. Starting this summer, I will try to complete my Bachelor's degree at Edinboro University.

Good luck everyone, its been a pleasure to meet with a lot of you over the years, and take time out to drop me a line if you can! - James

New Alliance Members *Here We Grow Again!!!*

Christine M. Barr / Edmonton, Alberta / Canada. Christine is a Catherine Schell fan!

Mr. Lindsay Prescott / Christchurch / New Zealand.

Christy Keith / Sacramento, CA / U.S.A.

Emilio Julian Olivan / Barcelona / Spain.

Approaching 1999 Technology
The Antimatter Engine

The Air Force has plucked from science fiction an idea to blast rockets into space by using the power of antimatter. Just 35 milligrams of antimatter - smaller than a thumbtack - could put NASA's space shuttle into orbit.

Antimatter is the mirror image of matter and consists of subatomic particles whose electric charges ar opposite to those in matter. When antimatter and matter combine, they annihilate each other in a tremendous burst of energy. Air Force scientists hope to harness this energy to build new rocket engines. Antimatter in large quantities does not exist quite yet, but physicists have made positrons and a few other constituents of antimatter. The storage problem of antimatter might be solved by keeping it away from matter by using powerful magnetic bottles. (Abridged from author Jeff Hecht in *New Scientist*)

Fan Club Listing

Irwin Allen Fan Club / 1671 East 16th St. #129 / Brooklyn, NY 11234 / Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, Lost in Space, Time Tunnel, and Land of the Giants.

Dr. Who Fan Club of America / P.O. Box 6024 / Denver, CO 80206 / Dr. Who.

Companions of Dr. Who / P.O. Box 56764, / New Orleans, LA / Dr. Who.

Blake's 7 Information Network / 1305 Maywood Rd. / Richmond, VA 23229 / Blake's 7.

Lost In Space Fannish Alliance / 7331 Terri Robyn / St. Louis, MO 63129 / Lost in Space.

Galactic Hitchhiker's Guild / 3039 NE 181 St. / Portland, OR 97230 / Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Six of One / 2426 Line Lexington Rd. / Hatfield, PA 19440 / The Prisoner.

Battlestar One / P.O. Box 988, Astor Station / Boston, MA 02123 / Battlestar Galactica.

Star Trek Welcommittee / P.O. Box 12 / Saranac, MI 48881 / Publishes a guide to all Star Trek clubs.

Romance on the Rails / 5233 Elkhorn / Greenwell Springs, LA 70739 / Wild, Wild West.

Scorpio / P.O. Box 397 / Midlothian, IL 60445 / Blake's 7.

Richard Chaves Fan Club / P.O. Box 4218 / San Diego, CA 92104

(Mostly abridged from *The Best of Science Fiction TV* by John Javna)

Satellite One Con
Sept 28 - 30 '90

Special Guests: Richard Chaves (Lt Col Ironhorse, War of the Worlds), Robin Curtis (Lt Saavik, Star Trek), Barry Morse (You know who this guy is!), Majel Barrett, (Nurse Chapel, Star Trek), Robert Asprin, Robert Pettit, Sidney Williams, Charlie Clint, and Marilyn Clint. Special Attractions: Dealer's Room, Contests, Banquet with the Stars, Films, Episode Screenings, Writer's Discussions, Costume Contest, Gaming, and Displays of Artwork, Models, and Miniatures. For more information on this great convention held in the stately Hotel Bentley in Alexanderia, LA, contact: Satellite One Con / P.O. Box 13135 / Alexandria, LA / 71315. Special registration rates available!!!!

The British Will Hold 1999 Alpha-Con

The Date: The 3rd and 4th of November 1990.

The Place: The Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds - Venue for Alpha-Con.

Alpha-Con: The biggest convention ever to be held in Britain for Space:1999, the ultimate Gerry Anderson series and probably the peak of achievement in British filmed science fiction.

We should have a packed two days in store for attendees with episodes from both seasons of Space:1999 being screened and some very special guests giving us a behind the scenes view of the filming of the series. Also on display will be an incredible array of original props, models, and costumes from Space:1999.

There will be plenty of other events to keep everyone busy during the two days. As well as the traditional prize raffle attendees can let their artistic side have free reign with contests for both drawing and writing plus a fancy dress competition which should be the highlight of the event. As attendees of past conventions will know, the standard of creativity amongst Fanderson members is astonishingly high.

Watch out for Alpha-Con updates - give yourself and early Christmas present in 1990 and register for Alpha-Con, celebrating Space:1999, the best of British science fiction.

For further details, please send an SASE or IRC to Alpha-Con / P. O. Box 93 / Wakesfield WF1 1XJ Britain

Save Command Conference

Main Computer needs more articles concerning deep thought on 1999 episodes to print in Command Conference. Articles should be a maximum of two typewritten pages in length. Should no one decide to write such acticles, Command Conference will not return.

Ombudsman's Corner

How Are We Doing?

We need to know just how much the membership likes or dislikes the different articles and Main Computer as a whole. Please take the time to complete this questionnaire and mail it to: Kathleen Griffith, The Ombudsman / Main Computer / P.O. Box 222 / Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222 / U.S.A. Please circle the number which indicates your feeling on the various articles and features.

1999 Alpha-Con
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Ads & Notes
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Alpha News Service Editorial
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Antimatter Engine
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Barry Morse On Science Fiction
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Creation Is Better
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Fan Club Listing
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Launchpad
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

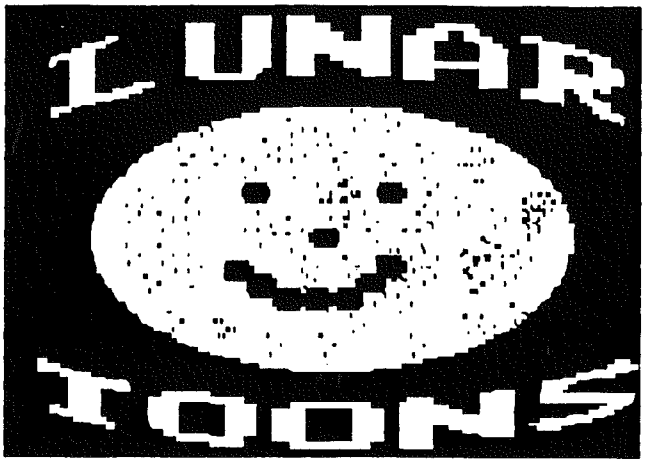
New Alliance Members
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Lunar Toons
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

We're All Aliens
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Newsletter Layout
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It

Newsletter as a Whole
Loved It 1 2 3 4 5 Hated It



Watch for the exciting new movie to be released only on video, "Honey, I Shrunk the Kamps" starring Rick Moonranis as a vengeful ex-1999 actor who has never gotten even a mention or small recognition by the Alliance for all the death scenes he did while wearing a purple sleeve.

The Alphan Dictionary

Scat: Told to aliens, particularly malevolent ones.

Shimmy: See "Hips."

Showdown: See "Cancel-ation," and / or "Man-i-fold."

Objectionable: Said of the glow from the nuclear waste dumps near Alpha. See "Irradiated."

Pixie: What John Koenig called Balor in "End of Eternity." Later cut.

Hapless: Said of rear guard security personnel.

Hallmark: Signs. Examples: Level Six, Command Center, Men, Women, Hither, Yon, Certain Doom.

Air: Substance. Kept in airlocks.

Gruesome: Happened to Jackie Crawford. See episode "Alpha Child."

Scarce: Security guards that have intelligence, weapons that work against aliens, and extras when you need them.

Plod: Measure of movement for the moon now that it's broken away from Earth. Also see "Impossible."

Jackknife: What an eagle does before Alan says, "Holy =+@#$%^&!!!"

Jargon: What a security man says in target practice.

Chunk: Sound. "Eagles produce this sound on impact," John Koenig.

Here's what reviewers have to say about the hilarious, new 1999 fanzine Lunacy:

"I laughed; I cried; I kissed $14.50 goodbye!"
- *Hardware Warz Fanzine*

"It was like a totally, boffo, awsome, radical read dude!"
- *Muffy "Peroxide" Hartsman, Reviewer for the Totally Rad Beach Blanket Science Fiction Times*

"Facinating . . ."
- *A Mutant Space Alien*

"It didn't make me feel so depressed."
- *An Unemployed GPP Robot with a Brain the Size of a Planet*

"Hilarious!" "I love it!" "I was laughing so hard, I had to stop reading!" "Deranged!" "Highly recommended!"
- *Lunacy Readers*

Lunacy the hilarious Space:1999 parody, satire, comedy, and spoof fanzine is finally here! But don't let our marketing hype brainwash you. See, firsthand, just how thin the line between genius and insanity really is! Send for your very own 142 page copy of Lunacy today! Send $14.50 for U.S. / $15.50 for Canada, and $18.50 for Overseas delivery (U.S. currency please!) to Lunacy Headquarters / c/o Erwin Stank / 955 Escalon Ave. #511 / Sunnyvale, CA 94086 / U.S.A.

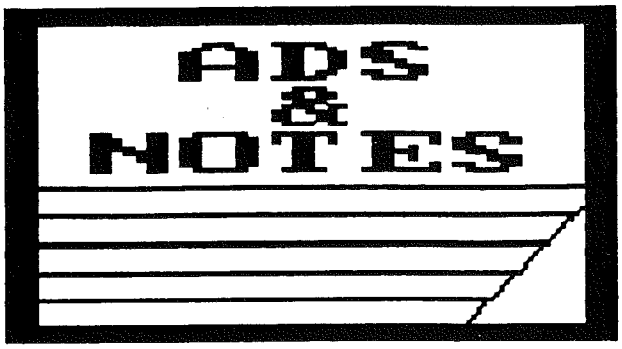
LUNACY

is...

...totally INSANE!!!

Creation IS Better





Patrick McGoohan's "The Prisoner" joined CBS' late night lineup on Feb 1. The series is airing at 12:30 a.m. on Thursday nights. The series originally aired in the U.S. on CBS during the summer of '68. It will supposedly repeat its run late night this summer as well.

Masterpiece Theatre aired on April 15th "The Dressmaker," a two hour film about a Liverpool family of women torn apart during WWII when the youngest falls in love with an American G.I. Billie Whitelaw stars. It was the first theatrical film presented in the 19 year history of Masterpiece Theatre.

TVS is making a series from Enid Blyton's "The Castle of Adventure," starring Brian Blessed.

Ten years ago, Julian Gloaver played Alexander Dubcek in an ITV drama called "Invasion." Dubcek, then working as a forestry clerk in exile, saw the dram and was very impressed. Now back in home in Czechoslovakia, he gave his first TV interview to Glover from ITV's "World in Action."

"Man of the Moment" opened on stage February 14 at the Globe with Peter Bowles starring.

"A Taste for Death" just ended a six week run on "Mystery!" Roy Marsden starred in the episodes. Look for it in reruns!

Barbara Bain stared in "Broadway Bound" a play by Neil Simon in Los Angeles's La Mirada Theatre April 3 - 22 this year. The play was directed by Glenn Casale. "Bain's method is to work against easy sympathies, and is all the more affecting for doing so. A fine Delivery of Simon's best play," writes reviewer Robert Koehler.

"A Year in the Life" a collection of short stories tracing the development of John Koenig and Helena Russell's relationship during events of the Alphan's first year in space following "Breakaway." Over 65 pages! Cover by Robbie L. Perkins. $10.00 U.S. and Canada / $13.00 Overseas (U.S. funds only, please!) To order, contact: Terry S. Bowers / 603 N. Clark Street / River Falls, WI 54022 U.S.A.

Academy Alpha wants you! Become a member of the newest Space: 1999 fan club and get quarterly issues of "Whispers In The Grove" as well as an end of the year fanzine for your membership fees of $10.00 in Canada / $12.00 in U.S.A. / $17.00 Overseas (Canadian funds or equivalent amount in your own country's currency.) Send membership fees to: Robert Wood / Box 1207 / Cochrane, AB TOL OWO Canada.

Lunacy is ToTaLlY InSaNe!!! *Lunacy*, the hilarious, new Space:1999 parody, satire, comedy, and spoof fanzine is finally here! Bigger, better, and more hilarious than any other Space:1999 fanzine you have ever read! Send $14.50 for U.S. / $15.50 for Canada / $18.50 for Overseas delivery to Lunacy Headquarters / c/o Erwin Stank / 955 Escalon Ave. #511 / Sunnyvale, CA 94086 U.S.A.

Wanted: Uncut versions of 1999 episodes. Also looking for paperback books 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 U.S.A.

Wanted: Space: 1999 merchandise at reasonable prices. David Kaplan / 321 Frost Pond Road / Glen Head, NY 11545-2418 U.S.A.

Available now: *Lunavisions* 4, 60 pages of Space:1999 fiction by Terry S. Bowers, Kevin F Peterson, Barbara Ferrell, and Kerry Keene. To order, send $6, $10 overseas (U.S. currency please) to Denise Miller / P.O. Box 179 / Estill Springs, TN 37330 U.S.A. *Lunavisions* 2 and 3 still available! Send SASE for details.

Wanted: Space:1999 fan fiction and art for *Lunavisions* 5 and future issues. Send your contributions to Denise Miller / P.O. Box 179 / Estill Springs, TN 37300 U.S.A.

MAIN COMPUTER PUBLISHING
PRESENTS
BACK ISSUES OF MAIN COMPUTER

Yes, thrill once more to those glorious days of yesteryear and pick up those issues of the Main Computer that you have been meaning to add to your library. All profits from this endeavor will go immediately toward purchasing new publishing software to make Main Computer an even better newsletter in the future. Prices are listed on a per issue basis:

Volume 1	Volume 2	Volume 3	Volume 4	Volume 5	Volume 6
#1: $1.05	#1: $0.90	#1: $1.20	#1: $1.05	#1: $1.20	#1: $1.50
#2: $1.05	#2: $1.05	#2: $1.05	#2: $0.90	#2: $1.20	2/3: $2.25
#3: $1.20	#3: $1.35	#3: $1.20	#3: $1.20	#3: $1.50	#4: $1.20
#4: $1.05	#4: $1.80	#4: $1.35	#4: $1.50	#4: $1.20	#5: $1.50
	#5: $1.20	#5: $1.05	#5: $1.20	#5: $1.80	#6: $1.50
	#6: $1.35	#6: N/A	#6: $1.50	#6: $1.20	
	#7: $1.20	#7: $0.90	#7: $1.20		

Volume 7	Volume 8	Volume 9	Volume 10	Volume 11
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#3: $1.50	#2: $1.95	2/3: $3.00	#2: $2.70	#2: $3.00
#4: $1.50	#3: $1.80	#4: $1.80	#3: $2.70	#3: $3.00
#5: $1.50	#4: $2.10	#5: $1.80	#4: $2.70	#4: $2.70
#6: $1.50	#5: $2.10	#6: $1.80		
	#6: $2.25			

Combined issues are much bigger than the regular issues of that year and are Volume 6 2/3, Volume 7 1/2, and Volume 9 2/3. Volume 3 Number 6 is currently not available. How to order these really great additions to your personal library: Send a letter or the form below to Main Computer / P.O. Box 222 / Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222 USA which lists all of the issues you want with a check made out to your trustworthy and busy editor, Thomas Cicirelli, for the total cost of the issues plus $1.00 postage and handling for the first issue and include 50 cents for each additional issue priced BELOW $2.00. Issues more than $2.00 are extra heavy so postage cost is 75 cents. Mailing costs to countries outside the United States and Canada are tripled. All issues will be shipped first class mail or surface mail if going overseas to your address written in the letter you send to me. As previously stated, all proceeds will go toward gathering quality publishing software to help make Main Computer better as time goes on.

Please send me the following back issues of Main Computer that I have CIRCLED.
My Name and address:_____

Volume 1	Volume 2	Volume 3	Volume 4	Volume 5	Volume 6
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#2: $1.05	#2: $1.05	#2: $1.05	#2: $0.90	#2: $1.20	2/3: $2.25
#3: $1.20	#3: $1.35	#3: $1.20	#3: $1.20	#3: $1.50	#4: $1.20
#4: $1.05	#4: $1.80	#4: $1.35	#4: $1.50	#4: $1.20	#5: $1.50
	#5: $1.20	#5: $1.05	#5: $1.20	#5: $1.80	#6: $1.50
	#6: $1.35	#6: N/A	#6: $1.50	#6: $1.20	
	#7: $1.20	#7: $0.90	#7: $1.20		

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#4: $1.50	#3: $1.80	#4: $1.80	#3: $2.70	#3: $3.00
#5: $1.50	#4: $2.10	#5: $1.80	#4: $2.70	#4: $2.70
#6: $1.50	#5: $2.10	#6: $1.80		
	#6: $2.25			

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Postage for first issue: $1.00
Postage 50 cents for each additional issue priced BELOW $2.00:_____
Postage 75 cents for each additional issue priced OVER $2.00:_____
Outside Canada or USA? Triple the total postage cost:_____
GRAND TOTAL (Please! Please! Please! US funds only!):_____

Inside this issue:

Barry Morse on Science Fiction
Fan Art in Creation is Better
We're All Aliens
Alpha News Service Editorial
The British are at it Again with Alpha-Con
Launchpad
New Space:1999 Club Announcement

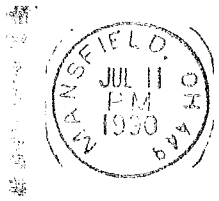
Upcoming issues:

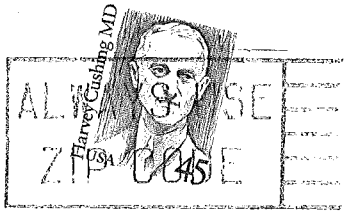
Alliance History
1999 The Next Generation
The Technical Section
What Really Happens at MC
More 'Zine Reviews
More from Barry Morse
(We promise!!!)

MAIN COMPUTER©

The newsletter of the International Space: 1999 Alliance, a nonprofit organization. Questions for the Alliance should be sent to: John and Kathy Von Kamp, 86 First Street, New London, Ohio 44851-1196, USA. Newsletter submissions, letters, and questions should be sent to: Main Computer, Thomas Cicirelli, Editor, P.O. Box 222, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222, USA.
Volume 12, Number 2, Winter 1990, Copyright 1990
Newsletters are published quarterly in the following seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The International Space: 1999 Alliance is a member of the National Association of Fan Clubs, 2730 Baltimore Ave., Pueblo CO, 81003.

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





Tony Wynn Mar 90
920 Twin Bridges Rd. #15
Alexandria, La
71303

If there is an "X" in this box, you're running out of SPACE! Time to pay your dues for another year of Main Computer!

X

International SPACE: 1999 ALLIANCE