MAIN COMPUTER

The Newsletter of the International Space: 1999 Alliance
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A Bit of History
Twelve Years Of The Alliance

By Kathy VonKamp

John and I were asked to write a history of the Alliance which we think is a good idea to show new members where we have been and jog the memories of those who have been with us since the start including John and I. Please excuse any unintentional omission of facts or events in the following account. I believe this is the first time all of this information has been put down in one series of articles. Plus, twelve years is a lot to recall in detail. Thus if anyone reading this would like to add to this account, please do so. Or if you have some nice or funny memories of past cons or Alliance gatherings or from just being a member please contact Main Computer or us so we can include your letters or articles in future issues.

To relate a history of the Alliance, one has to relate not only club and newsletter events and changes but also what has happened at the past conventions since they are interrelated. Actually the conventions under our old name, "The National Save: 1999 Alliance", started before the club did. In planning and carrying out the first con, there was no thought to whether there should be a club or not. All our energies and hopes were focused on whether we could get enough people together, money raised, guests contacted, planning, scheduling, and finally carrying out the whole weekend. The committee members were all inexperienced at science fiction conventions except for two: Jeff Jones who was the first president of the Alliance became the con chairman and Marty Siegrist. Others on the founding committee were Chuck Raue, Mona Delitsky, Ted Hruschak, Sue Cole, Mayr Fitzgerald, John, and I. I also need to mention that David Hirsch, who was then with Starlog magazine, was our source of major publicity. Without this, the number of people attending (approximately 650 to 700) just wouldn't have happened. Thus, probably no con or a very small affair that would have died after the weekend. Looking back, I've often thought how incredibly lucky we were then knowing now what the future has brought.

It would seem nice and simple to say that this first committee already knew each other very well and all lived in the same area of the first con, Columbus, Ohio. Of course, just the opposite was true. We were all strangers to each other drawn together only through our love of Space: 1999, quirks of luck, and chance. Each founding member has their own particular story which, unfortunately, I can't remember very clearly now. (I could use some help from people to fill in the blanks.) All I can relate here is our own story which started with a letter by me to Starlog after their first issue came out (I think sometime in the summer of 1977). The letter simply asked for an address to write Martin and Barbara, and just happened by chance to be the on picked by the magazine to print as an example, I suppose, for their "Communications" or letters section.

[The letter] appeared in their second issue near the bottom of the page. Jeff Jones, then living in Columbus, Ohio, saw this letter, found our phone number, and gave us a call introducing himself as a spokesperson for a newly forming group called the National Save: 1999 Alliance. [It was a] call which I will never forget since it propelled us into the world of science fiction media fandom. A world which at that time was completely new to us. We had for years watched or read SF but were totally unaware of clubs and conventions for it.

Thus followed several weekend meetings at Jeff's apartment and many, many long distance phone calls, lots and lots of mail processing in answering all the information requests from the Starlog ads, and sending out several progress reports throughout the year prior to that first con. During this time, Sue Cole helped us out tremendously by donating all the printing that needed to be done. This helped tremendously since we started out with a nonexistent budget. The ones who could, contributed other expenses out of their own pockets. To my knowledge and recall, the wonderful ads in Starlog were also free through David Hirsch. Mayr Fitzgerald donated our con badges using her graphics arts talents putting together the first post con report along with several other things as the Alliance grew after that first con. (More on this later.) Ted Hruschak was instrumental in getting two episodes of 1999, "Breakaway" and "Black Sun", uncut from WUAB Channel 43 in Cleveland, Ohio and helped out on the weekend brain storming and planning meetings at Jeff's along with Mona Delitsky. Chuck did several progress reports and passed news of the con through his 1999 fan publication called Comloc. Marty Siegrist got the con's first art show started and organized.

The 1978 convention officially launched the National Save: 1999 Alliance. (The series had just been cancelled the year before hence the name of the club.) The site was the downtown Sheraton Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. For those of you not familiar with this area, this city is the capital of our midwestern state. It was the last weekend in July which here means hot!! Plus, I was a full nine months pregnant and supposedly due that weekend, and only one hundred miles from home!! I couldn't have anticipated this long weekend any more, but I was thrilled to be there even though I felt and looked like I had swallowed a watermelon. I slightly unnerved Gerry Anderson when he asked me when I was due. But Barry Gray took it all in stride and actually showed a lot of grandfatherly concern; Martin Landau wished me well, hoped it was a girl, and told me a little bit about how Barbara felt when she had their two girls. Finally at the banquet, Nick Tate came over to our table, sat down, and placed his hand on my stomach and tried to predict the date of birth which he missed by only three days. That was okay since I was glad Heather was not born until the following weekend.

Well, I think I have digressed enough here and have limited space. The latter is more personal con memories than actual history. To

get back on track, this first Alliance event scheduled several activities that were in most of the succeeding cons. They were: guest question and answer sessions, autograph sessions, star banquet, a dealer's room, charity auction of 1999 scripts, props, and other memorabilia, amateur film contests, 1999 episode showings either on tape or on film reels which were forever breaking on us in the first two cons but after the first two we were able to switch to videotape. Last, but not least, were all the fantastic, creative, and imaginative costume contests and art shows. 1999 people have a lot of talent in numerous areas. Martin particularly liked the art show exhibits with his artistic background. He also liked viewing many exhibits with Nick in 1978 pointing out several things to him.

To finish up the 1978 con, celebrity guests not mentioned earlier were Clifton Jones, Dave Prowse (Darth Vader), and David Hirsch (Starlog Magazine). Martin was our surprise guest since he could not confirm his appearance until less than a week before the convention. Great effort was made by certain con committee members to keep him as much out of sight as possible in a hotel filled with 1999 fans! And, of course, the press had to be dealt with when they descended with no advance warning early Friday night with all the con committee members save the two left at the hotel. The rest were either picking up other guests at the airport or doing last minute errands such as finally getting the word we could have two 1999 episode reels. Thus Ted had to make a six hour round trip drive to Cleveland from Columbus to pick up the episodes. Those two lone committee members left at the hotel were Chuck Raue, then 19, and myself, then 29 and very pregnant, who faced the local TV people for quick interviews in which they all tried very hard to get us to reveal our surprise guest. If you have never been in this situation, one has no idea how bright a light these people put in one's face to videotape for TV.

There should be a few words added here about the special charity auctions held at each con. The first few raised the most funds usually letting us give several thousand to children's hospitals and child development centers in several cities across the United States. Why these particular charities? Because these were the kind of charities that were of interest to Gerry Anderson. Being the creator and producer of the series, we thought he should have first choice.

At the first con a professional auctioneer was hired, but it soon became apparent he did not always realize what he was putting up for bids. To him, all science fiction shows were alike. Our guests very graciously helped out in the bidding themselves plus autographing all the items they could. The rest of the cons, we used the guests only plus John who became the main and sometimes only auctioneer. Nick, Prentis, and both Barrys were especially memorable with their entertaining and amusing styles.

That 1978 con was indeed an eye opener to the wonderful world of organizing and running a science fiction convention. Though, all in all, it was a tremendous learning experience as all of them were and something not to have missed. There were a lot more terrific things that went right than wrong and a lot of great people met who many have become good personal friends of ours - guests and fans alike.

To Be Continued - Kathy VonKamp

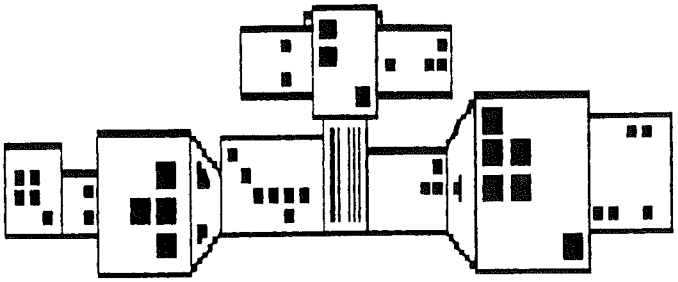
Alpha League

The New Space: 1999 Club

Dues in Canadian dollars: $10 in Canada, $12 in USA, and $17 Overseas.

Each year for your dues, you will receive four quarterly issues of the club newsletter "The Guardian" and an annual 40 to 50 page fanzine. Write and make all checks payable to Robert Wood / Box 1207 / Cochrane, AB / TOL OWO / CANADA

Alpha News Service



Editorial

Hello everyone! Just dropping in a page or two to keep you up to date on what's happening down here at Main Computer's editorial desk and to spill some trials and tribulations on you.

First of all, we tried. We really, really, really . . . really tried to get Main Computer back on a normal schedule which would correspond with the seasons. Unfortunately, all of our efforts were beaten back by many unfortunate and untimely complications. Perhaps the biggest one we were unable to overcome was the switchover of editorial duties from the VonKamps to me that took almost five months to accomplish. With the printing of this double issue of Main Computer, this publication will once again be on time with the seasons to be printed quarterly. Writing this double issue as been quite a task; I hope I will never have to do it again!

I have again been questioned again on why we can't give an exact month for publication. The reason is the printing, collating, mailing, and maintenance of the mailing list is not done here at Main Computer. The Alliance presidents are still graciously doing that task. If I were to do it, I wouldn't be able to finish my doctorate work in what little spare time remains.

I recently acquired a great addition to help me edit and publish a quality newsletter, a 386 based IBM compatible computer. I realize that to some of you this doesn't mean much; but let me tell you, I can now actually paste up the newsletter in one day instead of three. This development is a great time savings. Now, if only I could convince the Ombudsman to purchase a laser printer for me and save even more time.

The sale of back issues is going well. We almost have squeezed enough profits out to purchase the latest upgrade to the desk top publishing program PFS: First Publisher. Next on the list of things to get will be more graphics files, typefaces, and clip art to decorate the pages of the newsletter. A hand or page scanner is also in the works provided the membership drive from Alliance HQ goes well.

Again I must tell you how much I love to get letters, but I really need to get more from different individuals. I know there are others of you out there; because, I have seen the mailing list. So, please, if you have a spare half hour, drop a letter in the mail to Launchpad so that it can see printer's ink. Even if you have nothing to say except that you still get a kick out of watching Space: 1999; I know I still do.

And speaking of printing and printers ink, let me forewarn you of the possibility that the newsletter might get thinner paper wise and the quality of printing might be going down. The U.S. Postal Service is about to raise the cost of mailing a one ounce first class letter a nickle raising the postage cost from 25 to 30 cents in the next few months. The presidents and I are working hard to come up with a way to keep the dues the same when this increase hits us. Two ideas which have been kicked around are to drop the weight of the paper Main Computer is published on and hopefully reduce the cost of mailing or publishing the newsletter by just photocopying it rather than having the newsletter printed by the offset method. The savings of either cost reduction option should help to keep the Alliance's dues the same. We will try all we can to keep the newsletter the normal size of 20 pages. Helpful hints and cost saving suggestions should be sent to the presidents John and Kathy VonKamp.

And before I get letters on how rotten a person I am for not putting more Barry Morse interview into this Main Computer, let me explain that I am in the middle of moving. Again! Barry's interview

on science fiction has been packed away so as to not get lost in the move. Barry will return next issue as will Command Center and more neat, new things.

While I do love to receive and read letters, I must remind you that space is limited in this newsletter. Don't write letters that go on for more than two typewritten, double spaced pages. Pace you letters. Tell us what you are going to tell us, then sit back, and wait for the membership's reaction. Remember, Launchpad is one of the few ways you can get published in Main Computer without writing a feature story, column, story, or interview.

Oh, one last news item. Extra bonus points for the members who can tell me where I got the title "Farthing's Comet" for my contribution to the Alliance's only fanzine. You can't do anything with the extra bonus points, but the award sure will look good on your wall. Send your guesses to Main Computer / P.O. Box 222 / Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222 / U.S.A. Winners and the answer will be revealed next issue. The fanzine is reviewed in Peterson's Guide to 1999 Fanzines in this issue. So. You wanna hint? Ok. The title of the story is the title of an episode of a science fiction show; and, no, it isn't from Space: 1999.

"Those who look for mistakes are destined to find them."

- Thomas J. Cicirelli

PBS: 1999

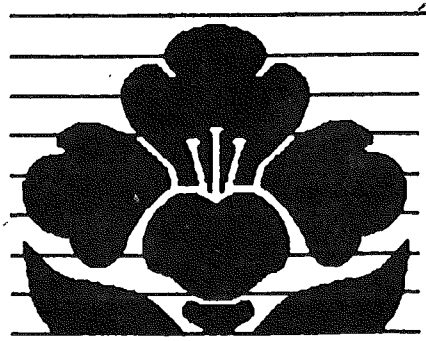
Space: 1999 has popped up in an unexpected place - the local Public Broadcasting Service station in Schenectady, New York.

Ellis Bromberg, programing director for WMHT / WMHZ, explains that Space: 1999 came to them through an unorthodox and unexpected means. WXXA, the local independent station, donated a wide variety of its unaired programming to the local public station. The material was then examined to see if it would fulfill what Bromberg describes as "the mission of public broadcasting to offer educational [and or] alternative programming."

Space: 1999 was felt to be a "stretch of the Doctor Who and Blake's 7" programming. These two other shows have met with success when broadcast by PBS stations.

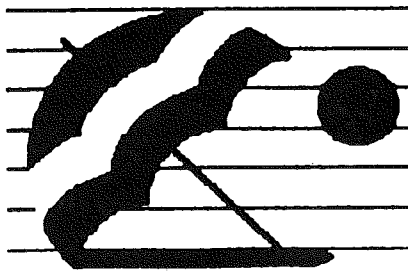
Because public stations do not partake in the national rating systems such as Nielson or Arbitron, support for a program is judged in the amount of letters received and dollars generated during the nearly quarterly pledge drives. The more support a show draws as well as its intrinsic values to be suitable as a PBS show will determine its life on the air. The short initial run of Space: 1999 is not a problem for local PBS stations since these stations enjoy having series of a variety of lengths to intersperse among mini-series, specials, and their regular programming. Reaction to the weekly broadcast in Schenectady thus far has been quietly positive, but the future of Space: 1999 depends on continued audience reaction.

- Peter L. Huston (Heavily abridged and edited from Starlog, December 1989, page 34)



SPRING

MAIN COMPUTER
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Editor: Thomas J. Cicirelli
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Major Contributors: Ian Fryer, Terry Bowers, Bob Woods, Michael Lindow, Becky Eisenhuth, Doug Pelton, Lora Deluca, Gary Esposito, Kerry Keene
Translator: Laura Hardy
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SUMMER

Peterson's Guide to Space:1999 Fanzines

By: Kevin Peterson

Time Trap

By: Patricia Brimer, Stephen Eramo, Sharon A. Hutchinson, and Darlene A. Palenik.

Printed and Copyrighted in 1977.

I'm sure that the copyright date alone isn't what confers classic status to this fanzine. This one is genuinely good. As a writer, I have to admire the creation that went into this, an RMU (Ready - Made - Universe) story, bastardized as it is.

When (not if) you read this, you'll see what I mean:

The existence of the ALINC (Alien Communications Investigation Corporation) team;

The convincing reconstruction of an unsavory period of American history;

The depth of the characters;

The feeling of wholeness you get when the research extends far beyond the areas dealt with in the story, giving it the voice of authority.

In Time Trap, that authenticity is bolstered by fluid creativity where the characters' development is concerned. I do not know who's responsible with this fanzine being a joint effort, but they've captured the idiom of personal history merging with the larger scope to create a seamless fictional context.

In other words, sure, the characters have depth, but it's also convincing.

So, this is not your usual fan fiction fare.

Primarily, Time Trap is about the ALINC team, though Alan is thrown in for good measure. He ends up in Colonial New England, in Salem, after he encounters a strange spacecraft. (It's very "Journey to Where" -ish, though it offers no rhyme or reason as to why he's sent to Earth in any time period, let alone that one.)

Once there, he meets up with the ALINC team, some of whom are people he knows from his own past. He also meets up with some very nasty witch-hunters.

It is a little frustrating that Alan is out cold for most of the story, but the ALINC team keeps us more than diverted. Besides, the suspense only almost kills you and you have an opportunity to examine the nature of suffering along the way.

Now, some people might kibitz that the four members of the ALINC team are based on the real-life authors, saying that that's fudging in favor of not having to create completely new characters. So what? It is no worse than using an RMU, and besides, I think that's what makes this zine a particularly fun, particularly fannish one.

Not to say tat I didn't have any gripes.

I do not know what theory of time travel was being used, but it wasn't clear in any case how the ALINC team was going to get back to Earth at the end of the story. The little voice inside me that demands credence where the physics of it is concerned hollered pretty loud.

It's not probable that time travel would have been developed before 1999 - the storyline is so conditional in that way - and I find it absolutely unbelievable that this TATE Foundation would neglect to inform ALINC that the moon had left Earth orbit.

There were planned other ALINC team stories, but they never did come to light on the printed page, unfortunately.

I was able to reach Steve Eramo regarding this, and it just so happened that one of the writers moved out of state, and after that, close collaborations were not possible.

So, it was nothing disastrous.

Just life.

As for the illustrations in the zine, most of them were blocky sketches - not very good -; although, I can say some of them work well if one looks at them as if they were wood engravings of the colonial period.

But, all is not lost! There is some fabulous work by Mary Bloemaker in there, and I'm sure everyone will enjoy that.

The zine has some flaws, but the salvage ratio is high.

The Alliance's Only Fanzine Farthing's Comet and A Time For Reflecting

Looking at the cover of the zine is a joy. Not only does it have two incredible color photos of art by Lew Place attached, and not only does it have some nifty computer graphics titling, but the cover is also wraparound card stock and the pages are staple-bound on the rib, like most of the monthlies on the newsstands. This right here is more than enough to make me an advocate of putting the longer stories Main Computer receives into a separate zine!

Farthing's Comet by Thomas Cicirelli is straightforward science fiction much in the style of a Year One episode; pains are taken to be or seem to be correct in the technical aspects of the story, and [it's] weak on humor. Thomas' writing is basically good (though there's a smattering of grammatical gewgaws), but the tone tends to be a little too reverent so it comes off feeling stilted and restrained.

Thomas has the story plotted out, thought out, and carried out, but the main action doesn't have quite enough "Oomph" to push through under its own steam. Instead, the story flounders pulling itself along through predictability. Could have used another subplot or at least written with more fire and taken a slightly deeper look into the characters' reactions, hearts, and minds. For instance, I would have expected more indignation on Farthing's part at the plans to destroy the comet than was shown.

All this is not to say that the story isn't worthwhile. The human-interest theme centered on Dr. Linus Farthing makes it that, at least - the fulfillment of an aging man's best dream. Not only that, but at the story's climax, chills of awe prickled their way down my back at the primal glory of the comet.

A Time For Reflecting by Kerry Keene was typical of a Year Two offering except for Victor's presence. I thought the plotline worked very well. Not so much overt action as there was puzzle-juggling to keep the reader occupied. Good balance of humor to drama.

The rhythm of the language used would have been nicer if blurbs on the tense hadn't driven me bananas. I.E., sometimes the narrative was in present, sometimes in the past. I could see using it as a device to split up separate streams of consciousness, but here I don't see the point.

Otherwise, Maya's venture into the past of her Alphan friends was an entertaining one. John's supporting role in this was quintessential: cordial, strong, diplomatic, and always skeptical!

Art for both stories was by Judy Moore and Keith Young. Moore's bright, detailed style was an excellent contrast to Young's dark, shadowy style.

I couldn't fault Moore too much, though at times her renderings reminded me of SuperMarionation and Paul seems a victim of cubism on page 30. My personal favorites were Alan, page 11; Helena, page 12; and Maya - Tony, page 48.

Regarding Young's art, everyone seemed just a little too dark and haggard, including John, who [is with Helena] on page 18. Keith is

obviously not afraid to draw the wart on the collective face of humanity, and it is good that he will never be accused of candycoating his art, but being a little less heavy handed with the main subject would improve the overall look. Favorites here were the bust of Maya, pages 22 and 47; John and Helena, page 18; and the four Alphans, page 34.

This fanzine is still available from the Alliance, but supplies are limited!

All That Glisters Numbers 3 and 4

Edited by Bob Woods

You know, it just occurred to me while reading All That Glisters (ATG) #3 that this is a very timely zine. In the column features, current at the time of publication, television productions are discussed, with pictures and everything. I especially liked the one entitled "M-M-M-Max H-H-Headroom". Yeah, I liked that show, which was based on the Max Headroom movie which I had caught on HBO Exclusive.

And see, if I'd been getting this zine all along, I would have known that there had been a movie called "The Return of the Six Million Dollar Man and The Bionic Woman" aired on television. I don't watch television all that much, so I even missed the Barbara Bain episode of Moonlighting, which is dealt with in another column. So ATG keeps you informed as to what's of interest to Spacefans.

There are three stories in this time. The first is by Terry Bowers entitled Things Shared. As seems usual for the Grand Poobah of LBFA, it's a John and Helena story. To be truthful, she's written much better.

In this, she opts for less story to make it a mere vehicle for romantic John and Helena scenes. The whole first half is an encapsulated version of the alien masquerading as John while Tony, Maya, and John are running around on some asteroid. I for one would have loved to see the scene where Helena gives the alien what for in front of everybody. As it is, it's only referred to while Helena reminisces. Terry's a capable writer but I was sort of disappointed by this one.

But don't let that put you off. From issue #1, ATG's just got better and better, and the next two stories are proof.

The Darkest Moments, by Robert Wood, is a short John and Victor story that grabs you on page 9 and won't let you go until it's finished. Though there are a few sentence structure blurbs, this reads extremely well. He uses a very visual style filled with colorful image ideas, and - well, you can tell I'm excited. The imminent disaster storyline is wed with a welcome resurrection of the world of Zenno. It isn't really like an episode, but it's great fan fare.

A Battle Rages, also by Robert Wood, has the same readability of the preceding story. You are never confused as to what's going on as they land on a scarred world torn by a war between the savage Outsiders and the advanced telepaths who live underground. The only question I have is, can't Maya think of anything other than this huge lizard like creature to break down a barrier? She did the same thing in ATG #1. The battle scenes could have been a little more up beat and detailed but other than that, the story works just fine. Vonne, who was introduced in ATG 2, is also featured.

ATG #4 is a good example of how Robert's art is steadily [improving]. Check out the bust of Maya on the cover, and take a long careful look at the bottom of page 22. Flawless.

There's a new column this time, In My Opinion, penned by Robert Wood, which is rather intriguing; Can we Talk? by Jay Hilland is especially weird this time, so if you like weird, read it!

[In ATG #4] four stories, all by

Robert Wood, appear.

The first is called "Aftermath: The Buildup", though it really should have been called "Breakaway: Revisited" for all the new ground it covered. It's well written, but I have serious questions as to the value of a story so similar to "Breakaway". There are other questions as well: if this is the same sort of reaction that led to "Breakaway", why weren't there the same gravitational and magnetic aberrations that were present in the original reaction; and why a planet holding the same lure as Meta did in "Breakaway"? What, really, was the point of the story?

"We Can Work It Out" is the second story and - uh oh! What's this? John's infidelity to Helena? Eeek! And - and he's been put under a drug induced spell by this mysterious Debra? What a tart! I could believe that John could be tricked into thinking he loved Debra, but I couldn't believe that Helena did not put in a call to security to put that woman away.

In "Exiles on an Ice World," hold on thar! What? What? Here's this huge world with only 450 sterile aliens on it, and the Alphans can't stay? I don't think the Alphans would have agreed to that in the least. And another thing - if the axis shift was so great it could destroy a battlecruiser that had already lifted off, why in the world didn't it kill off the 450 unprotected beings on the planet's surface? The whole icy crust of that world would have been in upheaval. Hundreds of miles an hour winds would have alone torn them to bits with ice splinters they would have [to dodge]. Come on, when you write one of these [fan stories], remember that [we the] readers have inquiring minds - we want to know everything! And please, give the Alphans a better reason to leave a world behind; they are desperate people.

"Resurrection of the Hidden Mind" This is a really good story. I would have preferred the original 1999 cast, but what we have here, the next generation of Alphan children all grown up, isn't really all that bad. It opens up some interesting possibilities. They grew up in space, so I wouldn't think they're going to be all that desperate to settle in on some planet. Maybe they view themselves as collectors of information about the universe. And what if they'd somehow drift back to Earth? Now that would be something.

- Kevin Peterson

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Do you have questions or comments which deal with:

* Membership
* Organization
* Address Changes
* How to Help Out
* Official Information
* The Membership Drive
* 1999 Photos
* Fan Made Merchandise
* Patches
* Pins
* Fanzines

Well then, you should contact the International Space: 1999 Alliance directly by writing the co-presidents Kathy and John Von Kamp at 86 First Street / New London, Ohio 44851-1196 / U.S.A.

!!! WRITE TODAY !!!



Eileen Skidmore / 65 Bromyard Road / Hall Green, Birmingham / GREAT BRITAIN B11 3A2

Hello everyone. I'm Eileen Shidmore, and along with my co-president, Phyllis Proctor, I run the International Nick Tate Club which for those who do not know much about it is Nick's official club. We feature items on Nick's private life and his career past and present, including regular features on Space: 1999. I have been running the fan club for about 11 years.

At the time Space: 1999 was first being shown, I was a Star Trek and Dr. Who fan. Prior to the transmission of Space: 1999 it was launched by a big media publicity campaign which claimed it to be the new Star Trek and that it was bigger and better than any science fiction series ever seen. That sort of hype made many people wary and suspicious that if it needed all of this hype it couldn't be as good as they claimed. But it was! As I soon discovered when I decided to watch it because it had so many excellent actors and actresses as guest stars. The first episode I saw was Earthbound which left me spellbound. I thought the cast was excellent, I was very impressed by the designs of the costumes and scenery which somehow seemed more realistic than the fanciful creations in other series, and of course, the special effects were so brilliant that they have set a standard of excellence that for a TV series has yet to be surpassed. The intelligent scripting interested me too. It was refreshing to see an alien portrayed as gentle and tolerant instead of the usual power crazed fiends and bug eyed monsters we'd come to expect in science fiction.

I watched Space: 1999 regularly and no longer just to see the guest stars! I found so much to enjoy, each story was good, many were thought provoking and seemed to embody that strange sense of mystery, awe, and wonderment which the concept of outer space conveys to human kind. I enjoyed the acting of all the regular cast though obviously getting to know Nick Tate as a friend through running his fan club has made him special to me. I cared about the characters and what happened to them on the erratic voyage into the unknown.

I liked both series, both had their good and bad points, but if I had to choose, I must say that the first series was the best. It's standards were higher, I feel. I couldn't really choose a favorite episode, so many of them were superb. But, Earthbound, remains dear to me because it introduced me into the series and so into a situation where I make so many friends and have so much fun. Space: 1999 fans are all so nice!

In addition to Space: 1999, I like most other science fiction and fantasy. I enjoy reading,

theater, and the world of nature. I work as a clerk for a company that makes embroidered badges.

All the best, Eileen

Brian Hesiler / 329 Fairview Drive / Whitby, Ontario / L1N 3A7 / CANADA / From Deep in the Main Computer Files

My name is Brian Hesiler; I've been a fan of the series since its beginnings; but, I also enjoyed earlier Gerry Anderson series such as "Secret Service" and U.F.O. Although, I had no idea at the time that they were in any way connected.

Since the series' demise, I've dedicated my time to collecting television memorabilia from the 60's to the 80's with my personal emphasis on Space: 1999 and my other love, The Green Hornet. This soon turned out to be a business; so, I therefore offer my search service to any club member who is looking for a special piece.

I'm also interested in trading videos of television science fiction. I have many episodes of Space: 1999, U.F.O., The Starlost, etc. for trade and would like to hear from any other club members who trade VHS videos. I look forward to hearing from other members. I'm also compiling a list of toys and other merchandise with photos pertaining to Space: 1999 and I would invite any help from any other members.

Michael Evermann / Malplaquetstrasse 10 / 1000 Berlin 65 / WEST GERMANY / From Deep in the Main Computer Files

My name is Michael Everman. I am 24 years old and I [have been studying] journalism [for the past] 4 years in Berlin, West Germany. I have both the International Catherine Schell Club and the German Moonbase Alpha club on my hands. My three favorite TV series are Falcon Crest, Alf, and of course Space: 1999.

I always hated Star Trek and I was as such a fan of 1999 when I saw my first episode. It was not "Breakaway", but "Infernal Machine", the second of the 30 episodes shown in Germany. From then I did not miss any episodes but I only managed to see "Breakaway" ten years later in 1987. All of the episodes are now shown four times in Germany - in 1977/78, 1985/86, 1987, and 1989 on three different stations.

My favorite person and show from the first year was Catherine Schell as the servant of the Guardian in "The Guardian of Piri." I loved that episode because of the wonderful decorations on the set, the planet Piri. It still is the most beautiful planet of the whole show. I collected everything I got from German magazines, but stood almost alone. All my friends did not like the series. Other favorite episodes included "Metamorph", "Rules of Luton", and "Space Warp."

From "Metamorph" on, Cathy was my favorite actress and still is today. I managed to get my first signed photo of her late in 1978 when Cathy was voted third best actress from a German youth magazine. Other 1999 stars came in 10th, Tony Anholt in 1978, 3rd and 5th for Barbara Bain in 1977 and 1978, and Martin Landau appeared in 1977 in 11th place. In 1980, I got hold of Cathy's address and since then she sent me more autographs. But we lost contact later.

- Concluded next page.....

Lunacy At Its Best

This review is of the new 1999 fanzine Lunacy which has been put together by its editor, Erwin Stank, from submissions recieved.

It takes a good sense of humor to enjoy "Lunacy." I say this right away because if you are lacking, you'll hate this zine. It takes shots at every conceivable thought we may have ever verbally or mentally regurgitated during our many years as Space: 1999 fans. Not those nice thoughts. The rotten news. You know. The nasty stuff we say about Space: 1999 behind its back (usually at conventions, along with friends and fans who have seen the show enough to mercilessly destroy every aspect of its production). Also, be warned, Lunacy's nastiness isn't limited to innuendo. Language and some subject matter might offend those who are sensitive.

Did I like Lunacy. Yes. There are priceless moments in this zine that will never be duplicated anywhere else. What comes to mind immediately are comical "take offs" of our Alliance and LBFA newsletters and, yes, Starlog magazine (my personal favorite) by Lew Place. Then, there are little gems such as the Alpha News Service with subtitles like "Peep Shows Come to Moonbase Alpha" and "I Ate My Baby for Breakfast!" , and TV Guide - a listing for the year and date of September 13, 2009, capitalizing on the rescue of the Alphans. "Freddy's Private Files," I believe, should be seen by every fan who enjoyed the first season of Space: 1999 but are still undecided about the second year. It's hysterically funny and, at times, right on target with some remarks supposedly written by Mr. Freiberger. If you're brave, you might also like to catch Church Chat: 1999 and Space Porn: 1999. 'nuff said.

A lot of work has gone into Lunacy and it looks great - very professional. Erwin is obviously a devoted, if not somewhat insane, fan with a staff that matches him in irreverence, enthusiasm and sarcastic wit.

The dedication page in Lunacy is almost worth the price of the entire zine. However else you might feel about Lunacy, one must agree that they fit into at least one of the categories listed.

- Becky Eisenhuth

"Were All Aliens" concluded:

Suddenly in 1986, Space: 1999 was back on German television after a 9 year absence. Interest in the series [climbed] and I found some friends who liked the show as well, and so we founded the German Moonbase Alpha Fan Club. I found some of my now best friends through the show. I also noticed that there are more 1999 clubs around, the Alliance for example, but none for Cathy. So, I phoned her and asked her what she thought about founding a club. She was very delighted as it is her first and only club in the world. So, I got fully involved in the club business and both clubs are very successful now. The Catherine Schell club has, though it is difficult to promote, 28 members from all over the world and the German Moonbase Alpha Fan Club has 25. The clubs have had an ad on television recently and since then a lot of new people have joined.

First Time?

By Michael Lindow

Linda Patrick entered Moonbase Alpha's lounge and stopped to peer over the cushioned chairs and couches for someone. When she spotted Victor Bergman, she swooped in like a hawk on wounded prey.

Victor sat in his usual chair sipping Alpha's own artificial tea substitute while Helena Russell, off duty from her medical chores, sat relaxing nearby. Helena looked up to see Linda quickly approaching and groaned to Victor, "Oh no, here comes Alpha's News Hawk. I wonder who she's after. You or me? You, I hope."

"Thank you, Doctor Russell. I'll remember your kindness," Victor replied straight faced as Linda alighted in the chair directly opposite Bergman.

"Professor Bergman," Linda said cheerfully in self introduction.

"Hello, Ms. Patrick. To what do I owe the pleasure of your visit?"

"Victor sounds sincere," Helena thought to herself, "and he probably is. He has a real way with women."

"Well, the Alpha News Service needs some material for the next issue, and I want to start a new series of 'when did who meet whom.' I was hoping you would tell me about you and Commander Koenig. When did you first meet? What were the circumstances? I'm sure it's a grand story." She sat ready with microrecorder in hand, prepared to transcribe the story for posterity.

"Well," Victor began, "the story is not a grand as you might think." He paused and rubbed his chin in thought. "We met in Florida. John and myself were both working with NASA at the time; we met and I invited him up to the Centuri Space Dock. His expertise as a pilot and his astrophysics degree made him the logical choice to work on the Falcon Shuttle Replacement we now know as the eagle."

"Commander Koenig really helped you develop the eagle? That's very interesting, professor," Linda said seriously. "But what about . . ."

"Alpha?" Bergman interrupted and Ms. Patrick took on an annoyed expression. "I had been working on the design for Moonbase Alpha and John became very interested and did a lot of the supervision of construction on Alpha. And that's the whole story." Victor settled back into his chair, and smiled a munificent smile at Linda, who started back knowing she had been dismissed.

"Thank you, Professor. You've been a real help." She stowed the microrecorder in her bag on the chair and picked up her notepad. "Thank you, again, but I really need to do some other interviews." She stood and swooped out the way she had come.

When she was gone, Helena Russell spoke softly, "That was some performance, Victor."

"Performance? What ever do you mean?"

"I mean exactly that. John has said that he knew you before the eagle tests. He didn't say how - just that the two of you knew one another from somewhere."

"Well, we may . . . . ." Victor's voice trailed off.

"May what? Come on, Victor. John would never tell me. But you could." Helena leaned closer.

"It really isn't that interesting; but it's not the kind of story a respected scientist, such as myself, and a Moonbase Commander, such as John, would want floating around." Bergman gesticulated floating hand movements in circular patterns in the air.

"I'll never tell," Helena said with an evil glint in her eye.

"Oh, I guess something that happened almost 20 years ago can hardly matter now." The professor settle back into his chair and steepled his fingers.

Victor told his story:

We were both working with NASA on various projects, and one day I was returning about noon from Miami on an inspection trip of some components for the new eagle transport when I stopped in Cocoa Beach at a tavern I frequented on trips to Florida. I was drinking a whiskey-rocks when I spotted this lovely brunette at the bar attempting to order. She spoke with a heavy french accent and the bartender was having trouble understanding.

I moved down the bar closer to her, listened briefly, and translated for her; then struck up a conversation with her as the bartender went to fetch her drink. Her name was Celeste and she was a photographer working with NASA and the Space Commission, due to go to Centuri Dock in a couple of weeks. We talked a while in French so others wouldn't listen in and I then I had to excuse myself because of appointments at the Cape.

So, I had my meeting, then went shopping for something to wear to see Celeste that evening. I arrived at her complex about seven and saw a tall, dark-haired figure converging with me from another sidewalk. He was waring the most awful florescent green jams and a hideous Hawaiian shirt; quite a contrast to my white linen suit, red shirt, and Panama hat. We met where the two sidewalks intersected.

"John Koenig, isn't it?" I said as I extended my hand.

"Yes, and you're Victor Bergman. I've seen you over at the cape, and studied your work," John said as he shook my hand firmly.

We talked as we walked together and traded information about our current work.

"That's really something, Professor," John said enthusiastically.

"Victor, please, John. In fact you need to come to Centuri to see the tests on the new equipment. Your abilities would integrate perfectly, but if you'll excuse me," I stopped and turned toward apartment number 17, "this is where I get off."

As I knocked on the door, John frowned, "This is where I was coming, Victor."

"Here? I was coming here to see . . ."

Just then the door opened and John and I both said, "Celeste!"

"Victor? John? What are you both doing here? I wasn't expecting either of you." She sounded surprised and mildly shocked or perhaps something else.

"I was coming to ask you out to dinner," I said.

"So was I," John echoed. "You didn't mention Victor this morning on the beach."

"Just as she didn't mention you this afternoon, John."

Celeste looked behind her into the apartment as John and I argued. "I really can't see either of you tonight; but another time . . ."

"Celeste, who is it? Salesman or something? I'll tell them to take off." A deep male voice said from inside the apartment.

The owner of the voice stepped into view, and even John had to look up. Still in his Marine uniform; his name, "Huss," was monogrammed on his chest, the fellow was impressive. Celeste had an unhappy expression on her face as he moved her aside.

"You fellas better go," the Marine grunted.

"Yes, I suppose we might do that. Goodnight, Celeste." I wanted to cause no trouble for her and thought a retreat was in order.

"I don't think . . ." John began; but, I cut him off.

"John, we were going to dinner. We'd better get going." I tugged on his Hawaiian sleeve, and he came along reluctantly. "We don't want to cause trouble for Celeste. Do we John?"

No. But did you see that ox push her aside? I'd like to . . ." John balled his fist and shook it.

I saw a slowly fading ring mark from a wedding band recently removed but said nothing. "Let's get a drink to calm down. I know a tavern nearby. We'll get supper and a strong drink."

We got to the tavern, the Saturn VI; and I bought the first round for John and I. John bought the second, and I ordered the third before our food came. We alternated after that and I listened to John most of the time. He was very troubled, and had no one to really talk to for a long time. The liquor in his system began to loosen his lips.

"Celeste is the first woman I've talked to since Jean died in Switzerland. I just immersed myself in my work since then." John stopped and said sheepishly, "Victor, I tink I've drunk too mulch."

"So have I, my friend," I said, and ordered another round. Neither of us remembered much after that and we awoke the next morning with severe hangovers seated in a cell in the Coca Beach jail.

I awoke first and surveyed our dingy surroundings. Bare cement block walls, grimy benches, yellow stained toilet, and sooty bars made up our environment - and we fit in perfectly. My white suit was stained with grease and dirt, and John's Hawaiian shirt and shorts were

similarly discolored. I was sore and stiff in multiple areas and was painfully moving about our enclosure to loosen up as John came to.

"Where. Where are we, Victor?" John mumbled as he looked around.

"The local constable holding cell, I suppose. You Americans sometimes call it a 'drunk tank.' Very quaint."

"Great," John's eyes fell closed again.

The hallway door opened, and I saw an officer coming toward us.

"I'll make a call and get us out of here, John."

"Do that. I think I should stay here and suffer a while longer." John spoke without moving or opening his eyes.

"Sorry boys," the officer stopped in front of your cell door and unlocked it, "but you two are free to go."

"Thank you, officer, and don't think I don't appreciate being released, but why are we suddenly released if we did something to be put in here?" I asked the question as I straightened my jacket and John struggled to his feet.

"Someone bailed you both out. Come on, let's go. We need this space for real desperados." The officer smiled broadly.

"Then what are we? Besides foolish?" I asked.

"Gentlemen and friends." I heard a French accented voice call from the hall door.

"Celeste! I take it we have you to thank for our release. But how did you know we were both here?"

"I checked at the Saturn VI where we first met. The trail was easy to follow."

John and I thanked our jailer and departed with Celeste. It seems she and her friend had a disagreement and parted company. They found him that morning, nursing bruises from what must have been a terrible fight he'd gotten into; but he wouldn't say what had happened.

John, Celeste, and I painted the town the next evening, and we saw her again on Centuri Dock a couple of weeks later. I corresponded with her until she was lost on the Ultra Probe. She was going to photograph the universe.

Victor's story ended.

The scientist's head hung down as he remembered a lost love.

"That's quite a story, Victor," Helena said softly.

"Yes, quite." Victor paused as he looked up. "Don't look now, Helena, but here comes Linda again. Maybe it's your turn now," Bergman smiled.

"Professor Bergman, Doctor Russell, sorry to intrude. I just came back for my bag." She picked up the nondescript carryall and took the still recording microrecorder from it, switched it off, and pocketed the device. "See you in print!" she said and swirled out of the room.

"Victor! She recorded the whole story. Now everyone on alpha will know - John is going to be furious."

"Perhaps. It might stimulate conversation around her for a while in any event."

"But now the truth of how you and John met will be out." Helena was clearly annoyed at the reporter's ploy.

"That's alright. I saw her put the recorder in the bag; and now, she thinks she has a scoop. Good for her morale. And who's to say what the truth is?" He paused and looked at Helena.

"Now, I need to get back to my lab. See you later, Helena."

Helena Russell said nothing. She just watched Bergman leave and wondered to herself.

The End

LAUNCHPAD

From Becky Eisenhuth / address lost, sorry / Dated: April, 1990.

Thought this a good opportunity to get reaquainted with all of you. It's been a while.

First of all, I miss you, John and Kathy. Your dedication to the Alliance was immeasurable and we will never forget it ... but now the newsletter is in Thomas' capable hands and if the last couple of issues are an example of his abilities ... we fans are in for some highly readable Main Computers in the future! So, rest up VonKamps. You deserve it and you have made a good choice [for a] replacement [Main Computer editor].

With all the hoopla over the change in Main Computer's editor, and the resulting mayhem which always follows such an important step, I wasn't too surprised that Martin Landau's Oscar nomination was slid under the table a bit. For that matter, very little has been said about Crimes and Misdemeanors in general. It was an acclaimed movie, you know, and maybe I'm just being picky but I'm a little surprized that we, as Space: 1999 fans, haven't doted on the fact that this star has gone on to bigger and somewhat better things. Heaven knows that if a certain actor with the initials W.S. were in the same boat, Star Trek fans would be screaming about it all over the pages of Starlog and beyond. Some might argue that Landau accolades should be left to the LBFA but just because Martin and Barbara have their own club doesn't mean they should be ignored by other clubs. Speaking of Barbara, did anyone outside the LBFA know that last April she starred in the Neil Simon stage [production of] Broadway Bound? She's been receiving quite a bit of critical praise for her role as Kate and, for myself, it was a pleasure to see her after the April 8th performance backstage. The play's producer took about ten of us onto the stage to look at the props and set trimmings then we were greeted by Barbara herself in the greenroom. She's as lovely and delightful as ever [while] posing for pictures and listening to our nervous questions and was just as curious about us as we were [about] her. She even boasted to be a producer and that she receives newsletters from her club and is proud to be a part of it.

Okay, okay, this is a 1999 club and we should treat it as such. I suppose I bring all of this up because I would really like to know what is going on with [all of] Space: 1999's cast members. Has Zienna been doing anything interesting lately? I heard Catherine Schell has a new club. What's she up to? Is Tony Anholt still doing stage? Prentis , Clifton ... Barry? I was delighted when seeing Nick Tate on Open House. He has a great sense of humor and did well in the role of a bossman. The show lacked in other areas, admittedly, but the cast looked as if they were having a good time.

I guess that will do it for this time. I want to encourage everyone to keep up their spirits and enthusiasm. I love looking through the MCs and seeing what everyone has to say. The variety of opinions never ceases to make me laugh in a good way and pique my interest.

Warm Wishes - Becky Eisenhuth

Doug Pelton / 65 Park Street East / Suite 508 / Mississauga, Ontario / CANADA / L5G1M3 / Dated: July 24, 1990

Dear Launchpadsters,

Greetings from Alpha Ontario! Yes, it's your wandering Main Mission-ary Doug Pelton here, with a bit of news and views. I'm glad that things are progressing in the 90s for Space fandom. I know I try to do my best to spread the word with Operation Flyers at all the cons I go to. Spread out a lot for

the smash Fanderson 90 convention a smaller amount for the recently attended War Of The Worlds convention in upstate New York. I was part of a panel at this WOTW convention dealing with fanzines, so I proudly displayed a copy of a recent MC [Oh, NO!!! -ed] amongst the others of note in the Anderson Universe of fine fan publications no matter if it was a club since or declined zine like the departed SIG and rookie Century 21 magazines from Engale in England.

Whilest in England at F90, I was a security person for the two day event so all you hard working people who have worked all those great Alliance events of the past take note, I'm beginning to like the "chores" even if it means "sidewalk-to-the-lobby-down-the-hall-into-con-activity-room"gopher, Joe Jobbing!!! I even held down the fort at Registration and had to handle a "sale" for a day only person dealing with a really foreign currency and trying to remember the routine of entering this all down on paper and hand out the right stuff to the guy to use as guide material!

I landed a tough Fanderson fish at last, after two tough tries in years recent and gone by, I finally won the Mastermind contest and for that honor got interviewed on their new British Satellite Broadcast network. The con had 11 out of 16 invites from the Guest Stars department. So you can imagine my eyes, ears, and racing pulse seeing my voice artist and live action heroes both familiar and first time descend upon the Mount Royal Hotel.

I shared my in convention and non-convention (in the hotel bar!) moments with the Yorkshire Alpha Con organizers like Neil Swain and the Statons reassuring them that the Alliance still perseveres taking with it the MC struggling into the 90s. I had a most wonderful time that I only wished you folk would have shared with me. Prior to the convention, I brought the much anticipated and controversial "Gerry Anderson Episode Guidebook" from Titan in England.

Space holds down pages 131 - 142. There are both seasons listed with sparse principal credits for Series Two, with the second season listing new people in old departments. Each series section has the same format. Brief format description, major characters, cast and voice artist, then the episodes, and principal credits. There are 22 black and white photos spread over the series section, a relatively even number for both seasons. The color section at the end of the book features two photos from year one, an eagle removes nuclear waste shaft cover during "Breakaway", and John and Helena lead a surface moon walk party with MBA way in the horizon background [probably "Ring Around the Moon"]. An interesting note, our Alphans have the trademark suits on but all have the pull down visors raised up over their helmets. Maybe they've patented air pills for this sort of venture!

In the same book, there are 4 black and white photos from The Protectors for all you Tony Anholt / Verdeshiphiles!

Okay, that's the newsfront from up here with location reporting from those con sites. If these cons hadn't used up my con budget in this my first year of unemployment, I'd be seeing some of you at Alexandria in September. By then, the job hunting will have to be turned up a few notches.



So, now after all this, do you still think I'm letting my devotion to the Alliance slip away? If it does, it takes with it my other Anderson club affiliation with it! So, that's going to happen when I can go out in July and build a snowman!

Other things, taped Martin on Later with Bob Costas and Barry Morse's Railway Dragon. During the LWBC with Martin, we only saw one photo of him from 1999 in a photobio of Martin from his kid days till Crimes and Misdemeanors and not one

word of 1999 was ever mentioned on both sides of the interview. But this is understandable as it's been 15 years since Space was really vital in the Marin's career [but it was also] annoying.

While at the WOTW con, I met some people who were at previous [Alliance conventions]. Rosemary Shad who helped at Con 85 nearby her Virginia residence. Also from either that con or and earlier ones, one Jeffrey Hastings who remembers fragments of what ever con that he was at with the rest of us! Pam Barnes and Steven Schmidt were also there at the WOTW con and at previous Alliance events. So there was a subtle Alliance con presence here at the Ezekial Project.

In the Fan Club Listing, I would like to volunteer Fanderson care of Neil Swain, the new chairman of the club at the address for Alpha con.

I love the loony spirit of "Lunar Tunes" [which is] very reminiscent of my 1980 collaboration with Mayr Fitzgerald in "Force of Laugh." We need that again, which should kick me [into ordering] "Lunacy!"

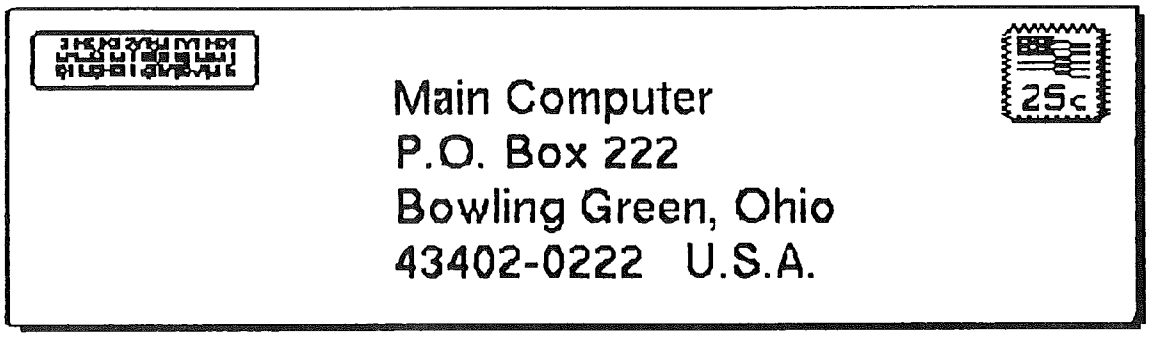
I know I've forgotten a ton of old Star Scannings for months upon months now, but that's another letter when I want to hurt my "Space" brain. Well, I am outta alphagab for now. All my best as I wish I could attend cons for a new job, with Ed McMahon's ten million dollars supporting this yummy habit, but I have to conserve finite finances since being laid off in May.

All my aging best to my Alliance brethren and sisters. Keep up with the good work; don't leave the Alliance and Main Computer out to dry up.

Moonbasically Yours, Doug Pelton

Lora Deluca / 28 Glenbrook Ave. / Toronto, Ontario, M6B 2L8 / CANADA / Dated: May 8, 1990

This is probably [the most] unusual letter you've received because it's in French! I wrote it because I wanted to send 'greetings' to "our friends" over in France - the French Space: 1999 Fan Club (whose members also happen to read MC I'm certain, judging from the letter Richard Plumel wrote in MC Vol 11, Num. 4). Besides, I'm bilingual being from Canada,; I just thought it [would be] a nice idea anyways!



Cher Richard (et au club Francais),

"Allô!", et bonjour a tout le monde! Je m'appelle Lora et je suis une Canadienne qui vient de Toronto. J'ai décidè de vous écrire une petite note pour échanger des "plaisantreries" avec les membres francais du club de L'Espace: 1999 (meme que je ne vous ai pas connues). Moi, je suis une membre de L'Alliance. J'ai remarquè votre lettre dans la literature de L'Alliance que vous avez écrit.

Je suis une vrai partisan de L'Alliance . . . et de L'Espace: 1999!

En tout cas, je voudrais dire . . . Vive L'Espace: 1999, et . . . "au revoir" a tout!

Une "Alphan", Lora.

[Now, French is a language I do speak but very poorly. I was able to contact a good friend of mine also named Laura to translate the above letter for those of us who do not speak French as well as we would like to. - Thomas]

"Hi!" and hello to everyone. My name is Lora and I am a Canadian who lives in Toronto. I have decided to write you a small note to exchange pleasantries with the French members of the Space: 1999 club (even though I did not know you). I am a member of the

Alliance. I noticed your letter in [the] literature of the Alliance that you wrote.

I am a true fan of the Alliance . . . and Space: 1999!

In any case, I would like to say . . . Long Live Space: 1999 . . . and goodbye to everyone!

One Alphan, Lora

Gary Esposito / 6258 21st Ave. North / St. Petersburg, Florida / U.S.A. / 33710 / Dated: October, 1988.

I was in a bookstore the other day, going through a book on the subject of "Fantastic Television." I looked at what the author had to say about Space: 1999. Basically, he said the series (Year One) was good, special effects, acting, but the writing had killed it. And so, in the end, the series was pathetic.

I remembered what Isaac Asimov asserted, that "the creators of Space: 1999 were chemically free of all traces of scientific knowledge."

Back in 1976, there was a Trekcon convention. It was very well done. At that time, as you can imagine, the war between the Trekkers and the few 1999ers was in full swing. Now at that convention - a Star Trek convention - Steve Sample won top prize for best costume. The effect was on the order of an earthquake. You see, Steve was dressed as John Koenig, and the judges were the special guests of the convention, Scotty and Sulu.

When I first saw Space: 1999 back in 1975, the effect was incalculable. I can now remember Arra's voice in "Collision Course" speaking these words, "Oh, poor John Koenig. How you belittle yourself in the scheme of things." The meeting between those two souls in Arra's ship, the conversation between her and Koenig had an ominous quality not meant for the human reason. This is plainly revealed in the end when Koenig is screaming at Victor, terrified, "I believed her Victor! I believed her!" All that I could think of at that moment was of Christ's words, "Oh, ye of little faith." And then Arra's planet touched Moonbase Alpha and disappeared. The universe at that moment became for me like an inconceivable thought. A sense of humility without limit came upon me as it must have for John Koenig. So was, or is Isaac Asimov right? When Victor has a plan to save the Alphans in "The Black Sun" he himself calls it "insane." There are no excuses. In one sense Isaac Asimov is right. So what is going on here? No, Space: 1999 is not "stupid" as Asimov's statement implies, but the Alphans learn in their precarious circumstance that "behind" the universe lies an unfathomable virtue. You see, Isaac Asimov wanted technology to save them like on all good science fiction shows, but Victor, the [scientist], says that's "insane." This affronts Asimov's sensibilities. A scientist can accept the unknown but not the unknowable. So Space: 1999 transgressed one of the laws of the now orthodoxy. Space: 1999 invokes primordial creaturely wonder, and this awe cannot be contained by any system of thought - scientific or theological. The Alphans have a stultifying relationship with "a friend," - Victor gives the friend a name, "God" [in the episode "Black Sun"]. We cannot fault him for saying this, for he was at a loss for words. The situation of the Alphans is akin to that of Christ on the cross with the words, "My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken us?" This is not stupid, but a virtue unthinkable. Space: 1999 transcended the human vanity. Space: 1999 (Year One) was simply the greatest thing to ever appear on television. It was inevitable that it would suffer the same fate as Socrates.

Yours truly, Gary Esposito

Kerry Keene / 417 NE 18 Ave. / Ponpano Beach, FL 33060-6543 / U.S.A. / Dated: August 7, 1990

The comments that follow will cover several topics, but first let me tell our readers of a new cable channel called "The Science Fiction Cable Channel" based in Boca Raton, Florida. According to its founder, Mitch Rubenstein, who was interviewed recently on a radio station here, this new cable channel will carry both movies and old TV series to start with. There will also be original programming produced by the channel itself.

Not only does this new cable channel provide a means of getting

science fiction out to the masses, along with the networks, but this is an opportunity for fans to get their favorite shows back on the air. Mr. Rubenstein said that they are even now in negotiation with ITC to see what can be done to get shows like Thunderbirds, Stingray, UFO, and perhaps Space: 1999 back on the air.

The best way to get this new channel on your cable network is to write or call your cable company to see if they will consider putting this cable channel on your cable network. If anyone would like to write this company, you can write them at: The Science Fiction Cable Channel / Mitch Rubenstein / 2000 Glades Road / Boca Raton, FL 33431 / Phone: (407) 395-7001

This is just another opportunity for us to get Space: 1999 back on the air, not just locally, but nationally. It can't hurt if we let both our cable companies know that we would like this channel on their network and lets also write "The Science Fiction Cable Channel" as well, letting them know that we would appreciate it if they can get Space: 1999 on their channel. We can also express our desire to have other Gerry Anderson shows aired as well.

I do understand that they are trying to get The Prisoner and other British shows for airing on the cable channel as well.

One final point about this new channel. Gene Roddenberry and Isaac Asimov are on the board of directors of this new cable channel. (I'll withhold any personal comments on their involvement.) The cable channel is slated to go on the air early next year and their satellite will be launched in November.

Now, some comments on the last issue of Main Computer. First, I would like to say thanks to Daryl Bartosh for the support of Maya and my comments and Lora Deluca for her kind words in regards to my letter of 5/25/1989 which appeared in Summer '89 issue of Main Computer. I would also like to expand a little on the characters of Kirk and Koenig. As Lora pointed out, there is a striking difference between these two characters. Kirk received his training from a military organization, while John Koenig received his training from on of the top universities in the world, namely, MIT. Koenig's background is scientific with a move into administration as his career continued. He and Victor Bergman were instrumental in the design and construction of Moonbase Alpha. James Kirk is strictly a military type who at times has expressed a desire to explore space.

But perhaps the fact that Space: 1999 is decidedly a nonmilitary show is another reason why I enjoy this series so much. If one goes through a list of science fiction shows and movies, they will find an overwhelming military representation in them. It was refreshing to see a series based on a base devoted to scientific exploration and the furthering of our knowledge of the universe.

But, the real joy of the Winter 1990 issue of Main Computer was the lead article; an interview with Barry Morse. It was such enjoyable reading that I can't wait to read more comments from Barry Morse. Thanks Thomas!

Well, that is about all for now. Lora Deluca also brought up the fact that the crews of the Enterprise and Moonbase Alpha were from all parts of the world. Well, Space: 1999 went one step further. The cast of this unique series also came from all over the world. Martin Landau and Barbara Bain are from the U.S.A., Barry Morse is from England originally, Zenia Merton is Eurasian, Catherine Schell is Hungarian by birth, Tony Anholt has a multifaceted background, and Nick Tate is Australian. And, I could go on by saying that Anton Philips and Clifton Jones are from Jamaica. Yes. This is one unique show.

All the best, Kerry

Why Not a Science Fiction Cable Channel?

Submitted by Chris Paulsen from an article in the LA Times by Steven Herbert, abridged.

When cable television networks were being formed about a decade ago, among the first were all movie, all sports, and all news services. In the years that followed, seemingly every genre has gotten its own 24 hour channel, ranging from all music video to all home shopping.

A Florida entrepreneur believes there is room on America's cable boxes for another "all" service. A year from now, Mitchell Hubenstein plans to launch the Sci-Fi Channel, which will be devoted to science fiction, fantasy, and horror programming.

Rubenstein, the network's president, says the network will air a mix of original and repeat shows. The original programming will include game and talk shows, documentaries and cartoons. The network also plans series on computer software, NASA, archeology, dinosaurs, comic books, and science.

Much of the programming will originate from its studios in Orlando, Florida.

The network's most ambitious project is "Isaac Asimov's Universe," an anthology series created by the legendary science fiction author. Rubenstein hopes the series will be a joint venture between his network and a major studio, with the studio retaining foreign [distribution] rights.

Asimov is on the channel's board of advisers, as is "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry and author Martin H Greenberg.

The Sci-Fi Channel, however, will have many hurdles to clear before getting off the ground.

"Each year we hear from about 10 groups who want to start new cable networks," said Larry Gerbrandt, vice president and senior analyst of the Carmel based media research and investment firm Paul Kagen Associates Inc. "Usually four to six show up at the industry's trade shows and an average of one a year gets on. It will be an uphill battle for the Sci-Fi Channel."

The first need is money. Startup costs are currently being shouldered by Rubenstein, who had owned and operated cable systems in the Midwest and Southeast before selling them in January. Arrangements for additional financing are being handled by Shearson Lehman Hutton.

"We perceive there to be a very broad universe of potential interested entities that would like to have a piece of the channel," said Frank Yeary, an associate with Shearson Lehman Hutton's media communication group.

Another hurdle will be getting enough cable systems to carry the channel. That task has become more difficult as the available channel capacity has diminished.

"To launch a network, these days, you need at least 5 or 6 million homes at launch and [you must be able to] see your way to 25 million by three years," Gerbrandt said. "You don't even hit 'break even' until 20 to 25 million [homes are reached]."

Rubenstein hopes the network will be in 7 million homes at its launch, and projects an annual 30% to 40% growth.

"I anticipate that it will take four to five years to bring it to profitability because we're plowing so much into programming. It would only hurt ourselves if we put less money into programming."

The Sci-Fi Channel was born out of a brainstorming session and buttressed by a marketing survey.

"It just hit me that it was a great concept. We examined analogies to other areas where science fiction was commercially successful to see where we'd be successful. Science fiction publishing is a huge and respected arm of publishing. Comic books are very successful and 20% of all video rentals are devoted to science fiction, fantasy, and horror.

Continued Next Page . . .

It Was All an Act for The Hunter

To the rest of us, he'll always be "The Hunter". Grim, relentless and steelyeyed.

But to actor Jack Creley, he was Mister Nice Guy.

"I remember when he first came to Toronto in 1952 and rented an old duplex at 39 Huntley Street. I needed a place to stay, and he invited me to move in with his wife and two little kids. When I told him my dog had just had five puppies, he said, "Fine. The more the merrier. Stay as long as you want." That was the way he was. Friendly and open. But determined to succeed."

For more than three decades, Jack's accommodating friend was one of Canada's busiest actors. And why not? He was versatile - and he'd made an early start.

The kid was only 14 when he dropped out of school and got a $2 a week job pedaling his bike around London as a delivery boy. One of his stops was the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where he lingered to watch the student thespians on stage and said, "I can do better than that!" Which he did - winning a scholarship that launched his 55 year career of "pulling faces for a living." Yes, the ex-delivery boy has played many roles. But the one we all remember was The Hunter.

The character's name was Philip, and from 1963 to 1967, his was one of the most familiar faces on TV. He was a bulldog that Philip - a man obsessed with brining the Bad Guy to justice. Week after week, as millions watched every Tuesday, Philip would stalk a man who had been accused, tried, convicted, and sentenced to die for murder. And week after week, his quarry would slip through his fingers. But you know the strange thing? The audience was cheering for the Bad Guy.

Anyway, when Philip finally caught up with the escaper in a special two hour program, it was seen by more people than any single episode of a regular series in the history of television. It was a record that stood 13 years, topped only by the "Who Shot JR?" episode on Dallas which was itself topped by the final episode of M*A*S*H.

Today, 22 years later, The Hunter is still recognized wherever he goes. Thus, when he returns to Toronto from England this month to see family and friends like Jack Creley, he knows what will happen.

"People in stores and restaurants still give me the eye and whisper: 'He ain't here, Lieutenant!'"

You know him, don't you?

It is Barry Morse, who played police Lieutenant Philip Gerard the implacable pursuer of Dr. Richard Kimble (the late David Janssen) on The Fugitive.

- George Gamester of the Toronto Star, abridged.

"Why Not..." concluded:
The more we explored, the more we became comfortable that science fiction was a legitimate business and very popular in the U.S." Rubenstein said.

In January, Rubenstein commissioned a Gallup Poll of approximately 1,000 cable subscribers. The channel said the survey revealed it would be at least as popular as Nickelodeon, and probably more popular than MTV for viewers from age 12 to 49.

Although Rubenstein talks with optimism over the many areas where science fiction has proven popular, an area it has not fared well in is television.

Television's most memorable science fiction shows, "The Twilight Zone" and "Star Trek," never cracked Nielson's Top 25 over the course of [their network lives].

Recent science fiction programs have fared even worse. A CBS revival of "The Twilight Zone" was canceled midway through it second season in 1987. NBC, over the past eight seasons, has tried nine science fiction or fantasy series, and eight were canceled in two seasons or less. The ninth, "Quantum Leap" the lone science fiction series currently on the three major networks is ranked 67th among 85 prime time shows.

Rubenstein's first response to science fiction's problems on network television is to give a broader definition to the genre. Among the series he plans to include are former network hits "Bewitched" and My Favorite Martian."

Ombudsman's Corner

. . . Main Computer Needs

Main Computer is currently in desperate need of letters for Launchpad, thought provoking articles for Command Conference, interesting fan biographies for We're All Aliens, and a short story or two for publication next year. Main Computer has enough feature material as well as plenty of continuing columns to keep the newsletter coming to you every season. However, it is the input from the fans through Launchpad, Command Conference, We're All Aliens, and fresh stories which will add the needed variety to this publication. All submissions should be sent to Main Computer / P.O. Box 222 / Bowling Green, Ohio 43402-0222 / U.S.A.

Letters for Launchpad must be printed or typed and no longer than four pages if handwritten, two double spaced pages if typed. If you are grasping for straws at what to write about, you can pick up thoughts where someone has left off in previous Launchpads or start a new string of thought and letters by commenting on the series, science fiction in general, the newsletter, the club, responding to or asking questions.

Command Conference is for in depth, thoughtful commentary on Space: 1999. Articles must be printed or typewritten not exceeding eight printed pages, or four double spaced typewritten pages. Currently, there are no submissions for this area which used to be one of the most popular features. Command Conference will be discontinued next issue due to lack of interest if Main Computer does not receive any submissions for it.

We're All Aliens fan biographies is the springboard by which you can reach out to 1999 fans across the country and introduce yourself. Recently, the section has started more than a just a few pen pals and linked up fellow 1999 fans who lived just a few miles from each other and never knew it! Biographies should be printed or typewritten in a page or less. Try to introduce yourself, relay what drew you to 1999, hobbies you enjoy, science fiction you relish, what kind of people you would be interested in talking to, and the address where you can be reached. Phone numbers of the authors of biographies will not be printed unless specifically requested.

Main Computer is interested in printing short stories. The stories must have a 1999 theme and be limited to twelve double spaced, typewritten pages. Stories that are handwritten will not be considered. Because of the limited space in Main Computer and the editor's limited time for typing, pasting, and setting up the newsletter, stories may have to be serialized.

Results of the survey which appeared in the last Main Computer are still filtering in. I hope more members of the Alliance will take the time to complete the survey so the Thomas can to continue to bring you a better product in the future.

One last item, the address for Main Computer is not the address to send questions about the club or changes in address. We have nothing to do with the day to day operation of the club nor mailing or printing the newsletters. Please send all those letters to the presidents Kathy and John VonKamp at 86 First Street / New London, Ohio 44851-1196 / U.S.A. Letters sent to Main Computer concerning club matters will be forwarded as quickly as possible but delay will have to be expected on the part of the letter writer.

- Kathleen Griffith

Alpha Con

November 3 and 4, 1990

For more information, write to Alpha Con / P.O. Box 93 / Wakefield / Great Britain / WF11XJ

Time Perception

By: Neil B. Foxwood

"My life. To end my life asleep. Adrift in the motion of the heavens to which many have gone and few return. My life asleep, beyond reach of my body, within my mind is a universe to die in."

"Keep hope. Our life is not lost. To sleep the years away and to dream a better day is not death in sleep. We will sleep to move again. To Breath again. To live again. To return again to all we have given up."

"All I can see is dark, void, emptiness."

"All I can see is light, bountiful, life. Sleep well my soul."

****

"We have a problem."

"What?"

"The panels have misaligned. We're falling out of phase."

"Location?"

"Unknown."

****

Kano entered Main Mission with a red report folder which contained Alpha's newest novel. He was the lucky one of the base and had won the chance to read it first. He peered at Paul Morrow sitting at his desk attending to his duties not yet spotting him. Kano quickly paced to the stairs next to the computer bank and crept in the corners toward the balcony stairs. Morrow still had not moved. He was talking to the Technical Section. Kano moved behind him silently but quickly. He raised his had to give Morrow a startling tap on the shoulder.

"Hi, Kano," Paul said bluntly.

Rats!

"You really should be more quiet if you are going to sneak up on me."

Double rats! "Look, I went to supply to get my shoes resoled. I was ultra quiet coming in and you didn't even look up once."

Paul turned around in his chair to face Kano. "I didn't have to." He pointed to the monitors on the Big Board. "I have had you on the monitors ever since Computer told me you had left your room."

Grrr! What a sneak!

"How long have you two been at this, now?" Commander Koenig said from behind Kano who was quite startled at the sound of the Commander's voice. "A month or so, is that right?"

Kano, inspecting the sole of his shoe and quite embarrassed said, "Thirty-three days actually."

"The story, Kano," said Paul as he held out his had. Kano gave him the story since it was Paul's turn to read it. Paul opened the red covers and looked at the contents briefly, "How is it?"

Kano started to walk away with a small smile on his face,. He looked at the balcony and shouted to reach people who might hear him if they were actually standing there, "It was boring! Another 'Alien Shoot'Em Up' novel!"

Paul whispered to the Commander, "With a title like 'The Green, Green Grass of Home'?"

Koenig shifted his blue eyes to the right and left. Spotting no one but Paul, Kano, and himself, he spoke softly, "Maya must have written it." At that, Koenig and Morrow both chuckled to themselves.

How strange it was to be at home and yet away from home. The men and women of Alpha were once strangers to each other but now were family. The familiar corridors replaced the spacious outdoors and space was now more inviting to them having braved many hardships. This was not to say that they did not long for a planet to settle on. They had just merely accepted their fate and facts. Alpha was now home. A temporary home to them; but nonetheless, home now.

Koenig looked at the Big Screen as Morrow turned to sit at his post. Koenig examined the stars and counted them. A little under one half had planets. A little under a fourth of those planets could support some type of life. And of those planets, only a fourth would be able to support human life. "About fifteen I think," he mumbled aloud.

"Fifteen what?" called Kano.

"Planets. Out there."

"I'll do an estimate count if you want."

"No, that's alright, Kano," Koenig looked at the computer Chief. "I have no pressing need to know."

Paul added, "We're at least five weeks away from the nearest one."

"Five weeks!" Koenig looked around wildly. "Well, I'll have to start planning to give shore leave soon!" The three men chuckled aloud. Koenig added, "I hope it is as uneventful as the past five weeks."

"One can only hope," Morrow commented.

"The odds are against it."

"Quiet Kano!" came Morrow back to his friend.

The seismic scanner on the Big Board suddenly came to life.

"Tremor Commander," reported Kano.

"Magnitude?"

Kano ripped off the figures from his desk, "Size nine on lunar scale out of a possible . . ."

"Twelve!" Morrow finished. "Bulkheads, sir?"

"Close them now! Kano, find the epicenter; and Paul, get the full staff up here, now." Koenig sat down at Sandra's Communication desk as Computer put up a generated estimate of three minutes until shockwave.

"Command Center," said Tanya Alexander appearing on the monitor at Sandra's desk now manned by Koenig.

"Tanya, we have a size nine quake on our hands. Evacuate the subsurface levels now in case the rock breaks through."

"Yes, Commander," Tanya's face winked off the monitor to be replaced by a Quake Alert sign with the estimated time to shock wave as the alarm buzzers began to sound.

"Commander, the staff just is not going to get here in time," Paul said after consulting his notes.

"Get as many as possible within the next minute and prepare to lockup the elevators, travel tubes, and airlocks at the one minute mark. I'll get the eagles on the surface below ground to the hangers and decompress." Koenig switched to Alan Carter's station and proceeded to lower the eagles so they would not be shaken from the pads.

"John," Helena blinked on one of the monitors of the Big Board, "I only have a nurse and two orderlies. Could you open the bulkheads for just a few seconds to let Mathias and a few others through?"

"If I opened the bulkheads for others and the quake hit then you wouldn't just be getting Bob and orderlies for company."

"John . . ."

"Bye, Helena. Strap in tight. This is a size nine quake." Koenig cut off the communications link.

"Her timing is fantastic," commented Paul.

"Yeah," responded Koenig.

"Agreed," said Kano.

Sandra scurried in as the one minute mark clicked over on the computer generated displays.

"Kano?"

"Computer set to minimum capacity in thirty seconds, Commander," Kano answered.

"Always a move ahead of me in that area."

Kano broke a smile. "Just like when we play chess," he reminded the Commander.

Koenig stared at Kano for a second. Loathing words were said with his eyes. Sandra reported communications had shut down. As the thirty second mark hit, the skeleton crew of main Mission moved their chairs and spread themselves on the floor in a protective fashion. The quake rumbled the air inside of Alpha and buckled her supporting metal frame which carried the human cargo. However, Alpha was spared major damage as the rocks on the surface did not decide to crush or pull in a way damaging to the moonbase. The effect of the quake was merely cosmetic to the surface of the moon but a nail biting shake for the staff of Alpha.

Not hearing the familiar decompression alarm sound off, Morrow said, "A lot of bark and no bite, eh?"

Koenig got up and brushed off, "We got away lucky." He turned to Kano who was turning Computer back on, "Where is that epicenter, Kano?"

"Darkside. Lower hemisphere. Third quadrant. that's about the best guess for Computer."

"Guess?" quizzed Paul.

"Yes. Guess. We do not have any seismic sensors out that far."

"Nevertheless, let's get those bulkheads open and this base back together."

To be continued.....

Here's what more reviewers have to say about that hit 1999 fanzine,

"LUNACY"

"Slicker than a greased quasinorm."
- A Very Important Aide at Perma One

"Hey! It's bigger than the biggest thing ever. Other than me."
- An Ex-Galactic President

"Wrompf. Wrowwrow. Umahah. Ooomph!"
- A Giant Walking Carpet

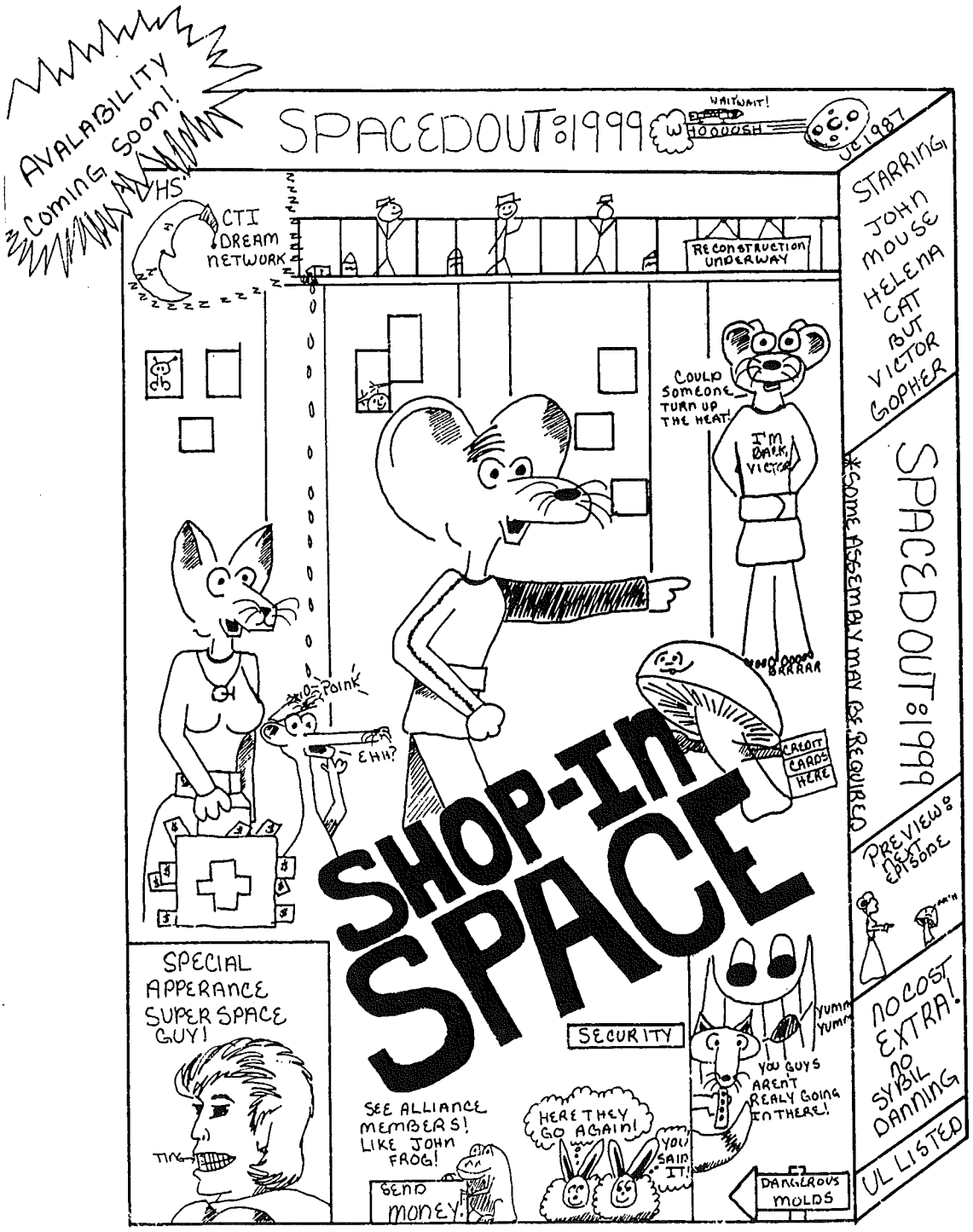
But, the creators of Lunacy have taken a reality pill to bring you,

Dynasty: 1999

It's Revenge!
It's Betrayal!
It's Secrecy!
It's Passion!
It's Mystery!
It's Educational?
It's Jealousy!

Best of all it's SURPRIZES GALORE!! And it's by Erwin Stank and Destiny Bryant with great artwork by Lew Place! Dynasty:1999 is just only $8 in U.S.A., $9 in Canada, and $11 Overseas. Lunacy can by yours for modest prices of $14.50 in U.S.A., $15.50 in Canada, and $18.50 Overseas. (U.S.A. currency please!) Send your order to Lunacy Headquarters/ c/o Erwin Stank / 955 Escalon Ave. #511 / Sunnyvale, CA 94086 / U.S.A.

LUNAR TOONS



WRITER: Tom C.
ARTIST: Robbie P.
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Margret

A REASON TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The International Space: 1999 Alliance's Catalog Page

INTERCOM 1 - IF YOU THINK YOU'VE READ EVERYTHING THERE IS ON SPACE:1999, then think again. Intercom 1 is an excellent fan publication that offers 67 pages of fascinating reading on many aspects of Space:1999. The zine contains a 25 page photo interview with 1999 script writer and editor Johnny Byrne (Metamorph, Immunity Syndrome, etc.) revealing many unknown insights and behind the scenes work in a detailed dialogue about episodes, events between year I & II, his feelings on Gerry Anderson & Fred Freiberger, an unfilmed script, relationship with Martin & Barbara, and much more! The zine also contains the fan story "A Textbook Case" by Lis Therkildsen; an in depth review called War Games Special. Cost is $3.50 in the U.S. / $3.75 in Canada / $4.00 Overseas. All checks or money orders should be made out and sent to: International Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Oh 44851 USA.

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

PATCHES - The following patches are available through the Alliance. When these are gone, we will not reorder unless member demand covers the costs. They were created from pictures and other information from the show. The meaning and/or reason for existance of each patch, the significance and color description are listed in the Alliance catalog. The price listed covers postage and handling for orders from all countries.

MOONBASE ALPHA CREST: The official Moonbase symbol. COLORS - White background with navy letters. The center has a dark blue and navy background, black and white moon and earth, and orange and yellow orbit patterns. DIMENSIONS - Horizontal 2" at narrowest, 5" at widest, vertical 3". $5.50 each - 37 in stock.

ASTRONAUT'S CREST: COLORS - White background ringed with red. Black Earth, red triangle. DIMENSIONS - 3" diameter. $4.00 each - 3 in stock.

UNIVERSE PATCH: COLORS - Black letters on a white background. Dark blue background, yellow sun and stars, white corona and spokes. DIMENSIONS - 3" diameter. $4.50 each - 4 in stock.

LSRO: COLORS - White background ringed with red. Solid red upper hemisphere, red-rimmed lower hemisphere. Black letters. DIMENSIONS - 3" diameter. 4.00 each - 6 in stock.

AM TECHNICAL PATCH: The numbers depend on the person's field of specialization. AM is Alpha Moonbase. COLORS - Red background, black letters/numbers, white detail. DIMENSIONS - 3" diameter. $4.00 each - only 2 in stock.

EAGLE: COLORS - Black letters on white. Center is black with white numbers. DIMENSIONS - 3" diameter. 3.50 each - 5 in stock.

SECURITY: COLORS - Black letters on a white background. Edge of badge and center are purple. White "S" in center. $4.00 each - only 2 in stock.

PUBLICATIONS - There is only one fanzine put out by the Alliance and its 48 pages contain the following stories:

FARTHING'S COMET - by Tom Cicirelli - "We are so dependent on them, Dickenson. A machine..." He began to ramble, "Machines can not experience the grandure of the cosmos. How can a machine that expresses pictures as binary information have a concept of beauty? Nothing, Dickenson, nothing can make up for human experience and human interpretaion of beauty."

A TIME FOR REFLECTION - by Kerry Keene - She stopped him. Maya then gave him a little hug, kiss and smiled, and said, "There is nothing to blame yourself for, there is nothing to forgive yourself for. I volunteered....I do know what you mean though. There is so much I want to do and my plans include you and my Alphan friends. Besides Tony, have I ever, as you say, 'steered you wrong'?" / "No, but there's always a first time," he said with a grin.

"Oh, yeah? Here we are. How about wishing me luck?" she said, slipping her arms around his neck and tilting her head slightly waiting for him to 'wish her luck'.

The zine includes artwork by 1999 con art show winners, Judy Moore and Keith Young, with a color cover based on art by Lew Place. The price is $9.00 US and $11.00 Overseas.

ALPHAN COOKBOOK - Prepared by Alliance Alphans for Alliance Alphans. In the 22 pages you will learn the culinary secrets to such delights as All That Glisters Rock Candy, Mission of the Darians Meatless Chili, Devil's planet BBQ Sauce, Steak Diana Morris, Ultima Thule Cold Potato Soup, Paul Morrow's Mushroom Salad, Tony Verdeschi's Alphan Beer, Koenigsburg Meatballs, Alan Carter's Banana Jam, MOONPIES!; and many more! Find interesting ways to use mushrooms, beer, and shrimp. Be prepared for a return to REAL food. (No more soybean substitutes!!) Order your copy today. The cost is $3.00 US, $4.00 elsewhere.

ALPHA MOONBASE PIN - The pin is black on silver metal with clasp style pin back. It is the Alpha Moobase insignia design. Same as Alpha patch. Size is 1 inch by 3/4 inch. The cost is $2.50.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES FROM ALLIANCE HQ.

CONDOLENCES

We are sad to report the news of two deaths. The first is of British member Neil Swain, head of Fanderson (the Official British appreciation society for Gerry Anderson). He passed from this world on July 1, 1990 while on vacation (or holiday) in Spain. The cause was not reported to us.

Last June Neil was chairman for the Fanderson 90 convention in London and was to chair and initiate Alpha-con in early November. This convention is still being held in tribute to Neil and Space:1999. This is to be the first two day convention for 1999 in the United Kingdom. For more information about this convention contact: Alpha Convention / P.O. Box 93 / Wakefield, West yorkshire, WF1 1XJ GREAT BRITAIN

Secondly, we send our condolences to member Bob Woods in Alberta, Canada for the sudden death of his father, age 46, from a heart attack. Bob, who has put out the 1999 fan publication series All That Glisters, now runs a new 1999 club. It started out as Academy Alpha but has recently changed its name to Alpha League. It is the same club and same address. (Please see ad inside this issue).

Special note to any members who have seen either of the first two issues of Whispers in the Woods, the former publication from Academy Alpha. Even though the Alliance and Main Computer received some negative reviews in these publications, all differences have been resolved between the Alliance co-presidents and Bob Woods the president of the new Alpha League. There were some minor communication problems which have since been resolved. Everyone has mutually agreed to work together positively for 1999 fandom. We hope all fans will welcome and support Bob in forming a "new" 1999 club. It is a big task with a lot to learn as any fan club president will atest to. We hope all who read this will give Bob "positive" support.

!! ★ FRENCH 1999 CON ★ !!

A French 1999 club, Cosmos 1999, is organizing and hosting their first French "mini" con or 1 day gathering with a specially invited guest from the series. This is the first 1999 sponsored event for France and attendees will be able to spend a memorable day with Barry Morse and his wife Sydney. There is also a remote possibility that Anton Phillips (Dr. Bob Mathias) will also attend, but as of this writing, Alliance HQ has no confirmation of this.

The con is scheduled for October 28, and a list of the scheduled events include: a costume contest if there are enough entries, a Space:1999 Awards session for things like best spececraft, best alien costume, etc., showing two episodes (one from each season), a question and answer session with Barry, and finally a 1999 trivia or question quiz contest to finish out the day. The minicon will run from approximately 10 AM to 6 PM. If you would like to show your support or get more information on the con, contact: Chantal Battiston / 26 rue Gallieni / 26000 Valence / FRANCE or Richard Plumel / 47 rue De La Liberte / 38600 Fontaine / FRANCE or phone Chantal at 75-42-37-74 or Richard at 76-27-55-25. We would be interested in reports on the con from any members of the Alliance who may be able to attend.

NEW MEMBERS

We'd like to welcome into the Alliance family new members: MANON BROSSEAU, Canada / TERUO YAMADA, Japan / GEORGE A. LEWKO, Canada / STEVE L. GARRETT, USA / FRENCESCO MELE, Italy.

BEST WISHES

Congratulations to the Alliance's first president, founding and honorary member Jeff Jones on two counts. One because he tied the knot in marriage last January. Number two because he is the proud father of a new baby girl, Rebecca Leigh, as well as being the step father to a 16 year old son and 8 and 10 year old daughters. Again, thanks to Jeff and Debra Jones and welcome to the world for Rebecca. They now live in Reston, Virginia where Jeff still works for NASA at the Goddard Space Center where he is working on the upcoming space station.

FROM RUSSIA

Member Chris Paulsen from California has been living in Leningrad, Russia for the past few months. He wrote us a brief note about what is popular in the media over there. They adore American movies, especially Rambo and Robocop. They like Stallone, Schwartzenegger, and Chuck Norris as leading men actors. For science fiction, Star Wars, Batman, and Alien I & II are big. They've never heard of Space:1999 but Star Trek is a flop there.

SPACE:1999 IN CANADA

Doug Pelton reports that Space:1999 is now on the air again weekly in Canada on their youth cable channel (YTV). It is shown Saturdays at 4:30 PM. ! ! U.S. members: If this can happen in Canada lets start contacting and keep contacting the upcoming SF Channel for 1999. TV people react more positively to individuals than to fan clubs. Many people still don't take clubs seriously. Individual requests carry more persuasion. Write short, polite, positive letters. U.S. members should contact your cable companies to see if they will be carrying the SF Channel. If you have the address for the SF Channel, please send it to us so we can print it for all Alliance members.

SPACE:1999 VIDEOS FOR SALE???

J-2 Communications late this summer contacted several Alliance members and HQ about fan opinions on their favorite episodes of Space:1999. This was in response to letters written to ITC almost two years ago! News as of our last contact with J-2 is that they plan to release the whole series!! The latest projected release date is early 1991 and possibly January. Pre-release information should be out to video dealers during late 1990. Keep in touch with your local video stores for additional news. Contrary to some original information which we gave to Bob Woods, J-2 plans to put two episodes on a tape. (Sorry about that Bob.) All Alliance and Alpha League members please note this change.

FAR AWAY

Alliance member Tony Wynn was assigned to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield in mid September. He was previously assigned in Belgium and Louisiana. He was shipped out two weeks before the Satellite One convention in which he was a major committee member. Tony had offered to have an Alliance gathering at this con, but to our knowledge, no Alliance members responded.

Tony relates that mail is an all important part of their daily lives over there. He would appreciate hearing from any members since he is really feeling the culture shock of life there. He is estimated to be there 5-6 months but this could change since he is involved in a world crisis situation. Any kind of mail would be greatly appreciated. Letters, news from home, cards for the upcoming holidays, even cards for birthdays of 1999 characters or 1999 events. Any of these items would probably get through any censoring that may be imposed by the Saudi Arabia government. Please keep this in mind when sending Christmas cards or any other items. Christianity is being kept low key so as not to offend other Arab allies. Let him know you are thinking about him. Don't let him down. We know him personally and he's a terrific young man. He may be putting his life on the line so please take the time to show him you care. His address is: Anthony Lee Wynn, SSgt 544-76-2416 // Operation Desert Shield // 23 TFW/23 AGS (Deployed) // APO New York, NY 09855. If you know of any other Alliance members who are serving in Saudi Arabia or who are away from home in any of the reserve support groups, please let us know so we can pass along their address also. Thanks to Terry S. Bowers for the information on Tony Wynn.

ADDITIONAL ADS

RARE 1999 ITEMS: - The best of 1999 fan fiction from the late 1970's and early 80's. Great collection of original fanzines. Also photo calendars, model kits, scripts, gum cards, annuals, lunch boxes, etc. Also many things from other SF movies and TV series made in the U.S and England. If you are not already on the mailing list, please write: Media Tie-In / Chuck Raue / P.O. Box 160794 / Mobile, Al 36616 USA or call (205) 666-1507

NEW ZEALAND 1999 ITEMS FOR SALE OR TRADE - Lindsay Prescott / 764 Gloucester Street / Christchurch 8006 / New Zealand has the following items which you might want to add to your collection. British 1999 annuals, Starlog (US) 1999 Tech Manual, 1999 art poster (New Zealand). Novels - first year and very rare Butterworth US second year books, the Butterworth Star 1999 for the year two series. Both have photo sections. Finally, the rare Making of Space:1999 by Tim Heald. Write for detailed listing and send an IRC (International Reply Coupon) for response.

Inside this issue:

Alliance History
Fan Story: "First Time"
Another Fan Story: "Time Perception"
Fan Funnies: "Shop In Space"
Peterson's Guide to 1999 Fanzines
Alpha News Service Editorial
Cable Science Fiction Channel

Upcoming issues:

More Alliance History
More From Barry Morse
More "Time Perception"
More "Shop In Space"
More Exclusive Columns
More Long Winded Editorials
(Just... Just More...)

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.
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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!