# MAIN COMPUTER

The Newsletter of the International Space: 1999 Alliance

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# Miscellany
## from The East Files

Martian East continues to faithfully clip articles appearing in the British press on what the 1999 cast alumni are doing and send them to us about twice to three times a year. The Alliance is grateful for this continuing service as it could never be accomplished by us here in the States without great expenditures of resources. In true "Miscellany" form complete, except for dates in some and who they played in others, here are some random stories concerning the activities of the 1999 cast.

Phil Madoc, Commander Gorski in "Breakaway", narrated The Snowman at a Christmas Concert.

Brian Blessed, Mentor from "The Metamorph" and Dr. Cabot Rowland from "Death's Other Dominion", and Su Pollard are just two of the stars who were intrigued by producer Brian Scott-Hughes's idea for the new Whirligig series, Stories with Music. "It's very interesting being asked to sing an oak tree,

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VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3, SPRING 1991

Brian Blessed observes. Brian, Su, and Derek Griffiths join Willie Rushton in three of Aeasop's fables with music by Paul Reade and words by Michael Cole. The idea for the program first came to Scott-Huges when he went to see a performance of The Midas Touch stages in Manchester six years ago. The audience of young children were clearly captivated by the music, lyrics, and humorous narrative.

Freddie Jones, Dr. Logan from "Journey to Where", stared in "Sob Sisters."

"Wish Me Luck" star Julian Glover, Jarak from "Alpha Child", was left close to death - by one of Eggwina Currie's dreaded eggs! He was hit by salmonella food poisoning only days before rejoining the set of his TV secret agent saga. The 54-year-old actor collapsed with a temperature of 107 degrees after a lunch in London. Juilan said, "The pain was the worst I've had to endure. Later I learned I was close to death. Apparently the salmonella was in eggs used in savory pastries." Julian plays chief of operations, Colonel "Cat" Catogan in the Second World War drama which runs on ITV.

TV chiefs have axed an episode of the hit series, "Boon," because they fear one scene could be regarded as a sick reference to the Lockerbie Jumbo Jet disaster. The scene causing the controversy features a reunion in which actors sing a song called, "I'm Going To Heaven on a 747." The lyrics are now considered to be in such bad taste that the episode, staring husband and wife team Kiristoffer Tabori and Judy Geeson, Regina Kesslan from "Another Time, Another Place," may never be seen. (January, 1989)

Peter Bowles, Baylor from "End of Eternity," played a judge who was amazed by the "Rumple of the Bailey." He also played in "Executive Stress" and "To the Manor Born." Peter didn't have a private education, nor is he from a privileged family background, despite the fact that he's played so many well-mannered gentlemen on TV. "That's a great advantage," he says, "because it makes me a keen observer of social variety in Britain." He has never sought out parts of well-heeled characters but he does tend to get offered "collar and tie" jobs rather than the "donkey jacket" parts. "One of the nice things about being brought up on a council estate in Nottingham is that I feel I can go anywhere. I never feel uncomfortable or fear the unknown." He is, in fact, in the regular habit of popping down to his local pub for a few pints of the best bitter. "It's very important for an actor to just stand there in a pub and be yourself - it helps recharge the batteries." But in places where Peter is out and about and is recognized by the public, things can sometimes become rather unsettling. "One of the drawbacks of being well known is that you are continually on show. It's not that people bother you in an obvious way, but you are made to feel conscious of being recognized. People will either speak to you, which is far better because it releases the tension, or they will recognize you and not speak to you, an then become embarrassed and try to cover it up." He has been married to his wife Susan 28 years living just 10 miles from the heart of London, and finds his personal handicap of being color-blind not that much of an obstacle. He longs to play more meaty roles in the theater; but several critics have argued that Peter is a talented actor who is in part a victim of his own TV success - and while he wouldn't argue, he doesn't let it stop him from enjoying TV work that has brought him thousands of fans. (December, 1988)

Brian Blessed appeared in Robin Hood Prince of Thieves as Robin's father.

Nick Tate appears in Steven Spielburg's Hook in U.S. theater's this fall.

Tony Anholt remarked in an interview that most of his fan mail, though he has done many other TV series, "comes from the lovers of Space: 1999 which I filmed in the '70s and is still being screened around the world." (December, 1988)

Leo McKern, Companion and the voice of Gwent in "The Infernal Machine," played Number 2 in several episodes of The Prisoner.

The father of Catherine Schell acted from experience when she had a part in the "Wish Me Luck" British World War II dramatic television series. As a child, Catherine became a refugee, dodging the Communists when she and her family fled from their native Hungary in 1940. She spend another dangerous two years on the run in Vienna, before her father, a former diplomat, finally got papers for the family to travel to America. Catherine, who plays a British

agent dropped into France to aid the French Resistance, says, "My father was an officer in the Hungarian Army, which fought with the Germans, when he deserted. To escape the clutches of the Gestapo, he wore a wig and baggy clothes and would sit in a rocking chair when the Gestapo hammered on the door of our basement home. They would say, 'Who is that old lady?' and my mother would replay, 'That is my nanny. She has been with us for many years.' Later, in Austria, we had to dodge the Russians." (January, 1990)

Lisa Harrow, Anna from "Testament of Arkadia," played in "A Sense of Guilt" about a marriage rocked by the arrival of the husband's oldest friend.

Tony Anholt plays Charles Frere in Howards' Way which is essentially a British version of the States show Dallas.

Richard Johnson, Lee Russell from "Matter of Life and Death," starred as Bulldog Drummond in the hit film "Deadlier Than the Male."

Brian Blessed, who first found fame as Pc Fancy Smith in "Z-Cars," is a devoted World Wide Fund for Nature supporter. Brian, his wife Hildegard and daughters Rosalind and Kathy, have turned their Surrey home into a private animal kingdom - with six dogs, six cats, a dozen ponies and thirty ducks as well as hens, guinea fowl, and a pond full of carp. "It's absolute chaos," admits Yorksire-born Brian, who pulls off a TV double by starring in "My Family and Other Animals" and narrating the Natural World film, "Gorillas in the Midst of Man." "But animals are the passion of my life. Looking after them is hard work, but there's never trouble."

Ilsa Blair, the female alien in "War Games," stared in a powerful drama about the contrasting worlds of elegant Edinburgh lawyers and the city's pimps, prostitutes, and junkies. "'The Advocates' is a tale of corruption, drugs, and murder. I bet Taggart's sick - all this going on and none of it on his patch."

Sarah Douglas, B from "A B Chrysalis," has swapped her Hollywood lifestyle to spend Christmas working in a sandwich bar. Sarah, who also played the villainess Ursa in Superman II and Pamela Lynch in "Falcon Crest," was spotted by shoppers serving in the Stratford - upon - Avon shop run by her mother and sister. Sarah said, "I always come home for Christmas. I missed it one year and never again. There are two things I miss in America, my family and Brussels sprouts - I always have a big plateful when I come home."

Liegh Lawson, Zarl from "One Moment of Humanity," stared in a six part television serial, "Kinsey," about the failing fortunes of a maverick lawyers whose Birmingham practice is also in dire straits after his partner does a runner with the cash. This marks Lawson's return to television after a seven year break - and he has his wife, Twiggy, to thank for landing hi the lead. "It's a brilliant role, but I was ready to turn it down because I really wanted to go back to New York and direct a play."

Catherine Schell was in an episode of "Lovejoy."

- Mostly from Martin East

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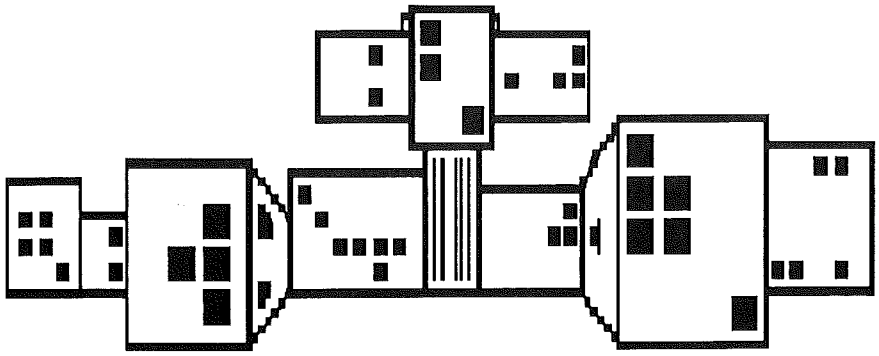
**Do you have questions or comments about:**

*membership,*
*organization,*
*Spacecon 10,*
*how to help out,*
*official information,*
*the membership drive,*
*1999 photos,*
*if your address changes,*
*patches,*
*pins,*
*fanzines,*
*and or MORE?*

**Well then, you should contact the International Space: 1999 Alliance by writing directly to the co-presidents**
**Kathy and John VonKamp**
**86 First Street**
**New London, Ohio**
**441851-1196**
**U.S.A.**

# Write Today!!

# Alpha News Service



## Editorial

There I was sitting in this crowded theater escaping the hot, muggy night about to watch the most hyped film of the Summer and guaranteed dud "Robin Hood Prince of Thieves." I knew it would be a dud; because, Turner Network Television had been airing all the Robin Hood myth movies it could lay it's hands on for the past few weeks and nothing could top ol' Errol Flynn swinging in on a vine to land like a cat on the branch of a big oak tree in front of the pompous Sheriff of Nottingham and belting out a hearty, "Welcome to Sherwood!"

As the credits lazily graced the screen to grand music, I read the name "Brian Blessed." Wow! I nudged my friend Chuck and said, "Hey, Brian Blessed is in this film." Chuck, in typical Chuck form said, "Yeah," but a little more sleepy than usual. And, the movie had just started!

Yet, I was not alone in my observation and surprise. A few other members of the audience also remarked on how much they were looking forward to seeing Brian make his appearance. I suddenly realized that if there is not a Brian Blessed Fan Club, there oughta be one. Then I realized that we have a whole lot of interesting articles that had never appeared in the pages of Main Computer but collecting in a folder with the heading of "Star Stuff." And not we're not talking hydrogen atoms. So, most of this issue is dedicated to stories about the stars, guest stars, and co-stars of our favorite science fiction show.

Another big part of this issue is dedicated to that wholly remarkable event, The Tenth International Space: 1999 Alliance Convention, Spacecon 10. Talking about the spectacular convention here would simply not do it enough justice. You must peruse the official invitation in Main Computer to really find out just how wonderful this con is going to be especially when you attend!

I wonder if Errol, or Brian, will show?

"Scientific progress goes 'Boink'?"

- Thomas Cicirelli



It's the latest fanzine to hit the stands concerning Mission: Impossible and Space: 1999. Since it's covering both with excellence, you could say it's doing:

# Double Duty

The fanzine has 104 pages of stories from dedicated, overworked fan Terry S. Bowers, master of the golden typewriter for Space: 1999 and Mission: Impossible stories, and illustrated with fantastic artwork by Liz May and Becky Eisenhuth, artists who also work overtime!

### *The Space: 1999 Stories:*

"Girl Talk" - an look at the John and Helena relationship from Helena's best friend.

"Moon Shadow" - John Koenig the object of an assasination plot?

"Cassandra" - Visitors to Alpha mistake Helena for a long exiled heir to a throne.

The Mission: Impossible stories titles are: "The Scapgoat," "The Suggestion," and "Friendship."

Prices: U.S. - $15.00, Canada - $16.00, Overseas - $18.00. Please make all payments in U.S. funds only, thanks! Please make check or money order payable to, and order from: Terry S. Bowers, 603 N. Clark Street, River Falls, WI, U.S.A., 54022-1404. All proceeds from the sale of this fanzine will be donated to the Landau - Bain Association Star Fund

Join the latest Space: 1999 club

# Alpha League

Send $8 in Canada, $12 in U.S.A., or $17 Overseas in Canadian funds, please, to: Alpha League, c/o Robert Wood, Box 1207, Cochrane, AB, TOL OWO, Canada. Help us grow!.

# Alliance Members Enter the TV Zone

The British have a magazine called TV Zone which covers Dr. Who, Trek, and various other new and old science fiction television series. Early in 1991, TV Zone printed two letters from Alliance members, one from Martin East and the second from Kerry Keene. In lieu of the Launchpad section this issue, because hardly any letters have been received from the general club members to make a Launchpad section, hint, hint, these two letters from TV Zone #14 are being reprinted here.

From: Martin East, 6 Beechcroft Road, Chesham, Bucks England, HP5 2HW.

My main reason for buying a copy was the feature on Space: 1999 in issue 12. This, together with UFO, is one of my favorite series. It has made refreshing reading to have two new articles by Richard Houldsworth who is clearly a 1999 fan. Thank you for including the series and I hope more is featured in the future. I hope TV Zone continues for a long time with its excellent up - to - date information and coverage of past and present series.

From: Kerry Keen, 417 Northeast 18 Ave., Pompano Beach, Florida U.S.A., 33060-6543

I have only become aware of your magazine, TV Zone, recently, and I must say that I have some qualms. The direction that the editors plan to take it also leaves me somewhat cold. When I read that the focus will be primarily on two highly overrated shows, in my view, namely Star Trek and Doctor Who, I just sighed a sigh of frustration. But I have purchased the first issue and I did enjoy the review of "Breakaway" from the series Space:1999 done by Richard Houldsworth. However, up until the last two paragraphs, Mr. Houldsworth was doing all right. I am constantly amazed, and angered, that so-called experts want to compare everything that is TV SF/Fantasy with Star Trek! I am personally glad that Space: 1999 wasn't another Star Trek! I am also glad that the first season didn't turn into a series where all of the answers to the problems faced by the characters are wrapped up in some inane and stupid commentary as Trek often did. That's a typical American piece of garbage writing!

I would also point out to Richard that Fred Freiberger didn't kill Trek or 1999, as he is often accused. ITC delayed renewal for almost a year. Do you blame him for that too? If Trek died after its third network season, then I suggest that he blame and others blame "God" himself, Mr. Gene Roddenberry! In fact, the series had been cancelled after its second season and was almost cancelled after its first! Why is that always conveniently ignored by Trek fans like Mr. Houldsworth? I did notice that it was pointed out that a second season wasn't confirmed after the first season in the review on page 14, issue 1, but it was buried deep within the article.

As for this Star Trek cossiness, well, if McCoy and Spock yelling at one another over the same subject for the 100th time is cossiness, or if Shatner playing Kirk like a pompous ass is cossiness, then Mr. Houldsworth, and the Trekkies, can have it.

As one who has seen all of the episodes of ST:TNG, let me say that you haven't seen rubbish until you see this garbage heap! Mr. Houldsworth will love the characters in this series. They are all just like the characters he accused those in Space: 1999 Year One of being, but because they are Trek related, I have no doubt that he will find some excuse for liking them. They are as cold as ice, with Picard having not smiled once in over three years! The other characters are as boring as Spock is on one of his better days. So, enjoy this piece of crap you Trek fans. You deserve it!

To wrap up this letter with one final comment on Doctor Who. Why anyone would sit through one complete story is beyond me, but to watch this thing for 25 years is down right insane. But people are entitled to their idea of fun.

Well, that is about all for now. I am looking forward to the next installment of Space: 1999 in TV Zone.

# Fusty! Musty! Dusty!

## *What an Adventure...*

Brian Blessed is big and brawny, a jolly giant of a man. He stands just over 6 feet tall, a massively imposing 15and 1/2 stone of mighty muscle. He is also, by his own admission, an adventurer.

It was the word "adventure" which attracted Brian to ITV's new children's series, "The Castle of Adventure," based on a book by Enid Blyton. He stars as Sam Tucker, a wild man of the woods, but it's his co-star, Kiki the cockatoo, who steals the show - as she does the book with such catchphrases as "Fusty! Musty! Dusty!"

Brian's character does not appear in the book, it was written for him. "I'm sure Enid Blyton would have approved," he says, "When I was growing up in Yorkshire, we were very poor, so we swapped our Enid Blyton hard-backs for marbles."

In the series, Brian is acting opposite Susan George, who plays a widow whose children stumble into a web of intrigue while on holiday near an old castle. This is the second time they have worked together. "The first time was in an episode of "Tales of the Unexpected." She played a woman who murdered her husband by hitting him over the head with a frozen leg of lamb. Then, she baked the murder weapon. I was the inspector trying to solve the mystery. Both of us have come a long way since then. Susan is now producing films as well as acting and here I am in yet another series. And, I was recently invited to a 'do' at the BBC and I couldn't work out why until they told me that, apparently, I'd been in more TV series than anyone they could think of."

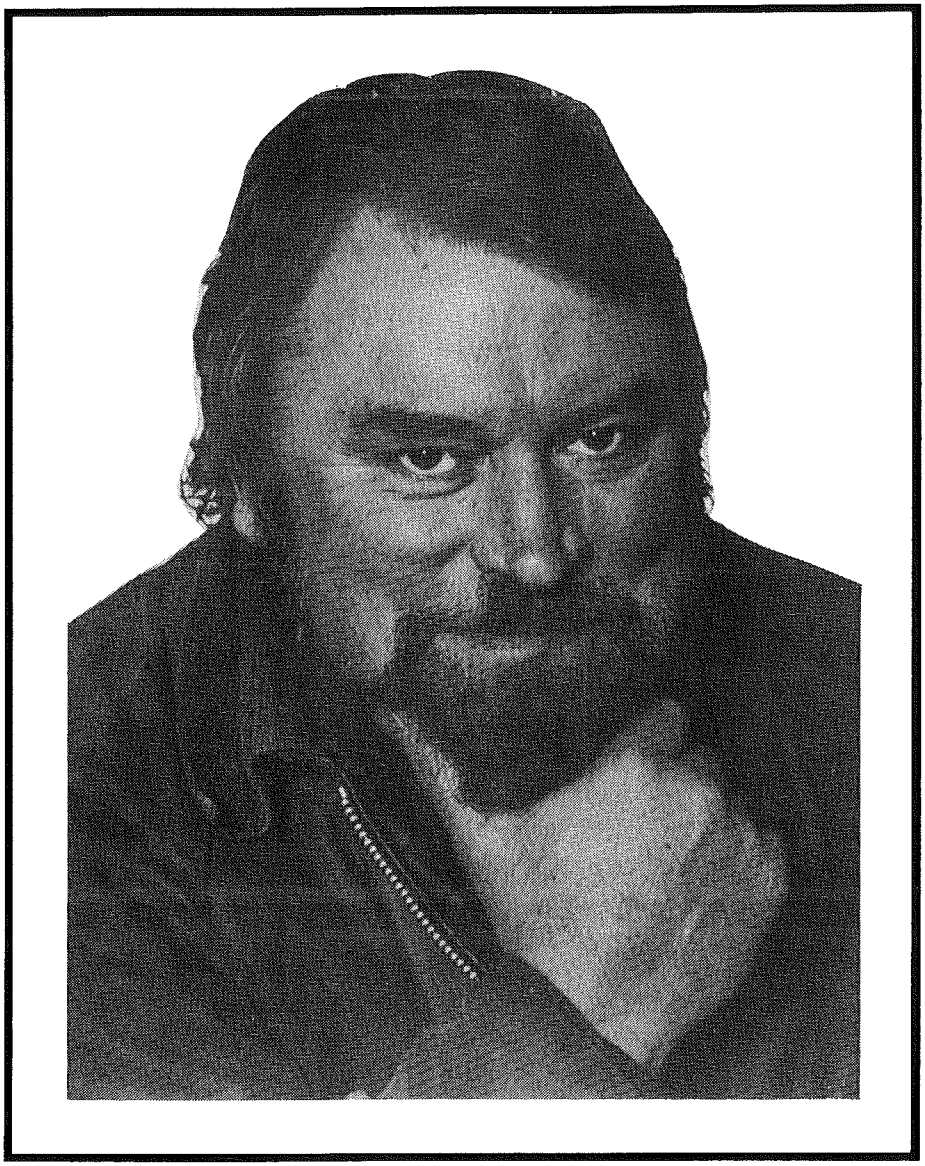
It is more than 25 years since Brian made his mark on television as Pc "Fancy" Smith in the police series "Z Cars." And he never minds when people hark back to it. "Why should I? The best thing that happened in my life was 'Z Cars,' and the fascinating thing is that I was never typecast; my next part was Porthos in 'The Three Musketeers.'"

Brian would perhaps have said, "the best thing that happened in my career," if his wife, actress Hildegard Neil, was to speak for him! They first met when they were in a play together. Apparently, he was so smitten with her that when he offered her a lift home, he drove into a bridge - although, he blames the icy road. Now, they have been together for 15 years and have a daughter, Rosalind, who's 15. Their home is a cottage in Surrey where Brian likes to live close to nature, in a manner which would appeal to his "Castle of Adventure" character. He works for various animal charities, and when he comes home after an acting job, he is greeted by eight ponies, three horses, several ducks, hens and dogs. He likes to feed them all himself before he goes off to rehearsals.

Braving the winter chills in the woods of Kent, where he was filming "The Castle of Adventure," posed no problems for Brian. "I've always been a very fit man. "If I hadn't been, I wouldn't have been able to play roles like Long John Silver in 'Treasure Island.' I was doing 12 hours in scalding heat in Jamaica for that series."

He also needed to be fit to even contemplate his ambition of 25 years - which is to stand on the top of the world's highest mountain. An experienced mountaineer, this dream gnawed away at him until, at the age of 52, he could ignore it no longer. On the 20th of March, he set off to conquer his own 29,028 foot castle of adventure - Everest.

Talking to him on a chilly day in January in the deepest Kent, he openly admitted the risk involved, "I've accepted I could die. It's highly dangerous and I'm very frighted.



But to be quite morbid, an adventure has to have risks attached otherwise it's not an adventure. Acting gives me a lot of pleasure, but I love mountaineering much more. To a certain extent I've never thought that I've done anything right in my life. I think there are Everests in everybody - mine just happens to be the real thing."

Despite his protests, Brian's courage has to be remarkable, even though his mountaineering experience includes a successful climb of the 19,340 foot Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. For the Everest expedition, he was planning to take a picture of Hildegard with him. "When you climb to such great heights, the faces of the people you love and hold dear apparently disappear. So, I will have photos to spur me on. My passion for mountaineering will also drive me along, but I know I'll have to go slowly. Just putting on your shoes at 22,000 feet can feel as if you have an avalanche in your head and your heart is coming out of your chest. It's very, very frightening."

Hildegard knows all about Brian's great passion for mountains. He scaled the 20,320 foot Mount McKinley in Alaska as a symbolic declaration of his love for her. "Something in my mind wanted to earn her," he offers by was of explanation.

"It's very easy to be an armchair philosopher down here. When you get up there on the mountain, in storms, with lightning flashing, thunder breaking, and your hair standing on end, you're petrified. You call out for your mother, for anything, I assure you. You know a lot more about who you are. After that, things like worrying about income tax take their true position in the order of life!"

A man apart - that's Brian Blessed. But just when you think things are getting a bit deep, he relates on of his favorite pranks. "I love going to hotels and taking with me my 300 pound weights I use for training, in two big bags," he says with a chuckle. "I casually lower them by the desk. Someone always comes up and says, 'Take your bags, sir?' I say, 'Thanks very much.' Then I get in the lift. Five hours later, six blokes arrive at my room, each with a bit of luggage on a trolley."

(Sent in by Martin East, written by Tim Ewbank, pictures by Brian Aris and Rod Ebdon from an unknown newspaper insert in England which reports on British televsion, date unknown.)

# Nuclear Waste:

## *"Not So Bad"*

"The waste from the nuclear power plant is the best part of nuclear power."

That surprising interpretation was delivered at Firelands College in Huron, Ohio by a public relations man for Toledo Edison power company, Bill Begin. Begin preached the nuclear gospel to a 30 person audience at an engineering society dinner. His views on atomic issues were not the sort that are usually heard.

For instance, Begin says, "the longer the half-life of a radioactive substance, the safer it is." The lifespan of wastes such as plutonium, cesium and strontium is calculated in "half-life" numbers - the time it takes to lose half their radioactivity. A major worry about nuclear waste is that some elements emit dangerous levels of radioactivity for 10,000 years or more.

Others cool quickly, with half-lives of only 30 to 40 years. Those elements are worst, Begin says, "because they radiate more damaging atomic particles in a short time. The shorter the half-life, the faster it's kicking out energy."

As for the goodness of nuclear waste? Begin says the amount of radioactive fuel used up making a year's worth of electricity in a nuclear plant can be stored in a four-foot square cube. But a coal fired power plant produces large amounts of coal ash and gases that cause acid rain. "When we're done (with nuclear fuel) we've got it all. We don't put out tons and tons of sulfur dioxide, fly ash, and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere."

The answer to all those four-foot cubes of radioactive waste is the federal government's plan to bury it in 2,000 foot deep manmade caverns. Sites in Texas, Washington, and New Mexico have been picked for nuclear dumps. One would be enough if it weren't for politics, according to begin. "No one state wants to be known as the nuclear waste deposit state because it doesn't fit on a license plate very well."

Begin whose 25 years in the navy included 15 operating reactors on atomic submarines, says the rest of the country will one day share his commitment to nuclear power. "Seven or eight years from now, we're going to be heroes."

Begin predicts the country will run short of electricity in the 1990s. California will brown out first, then the Sun Belt, and finally the Northeast Corridor around New York and New England. Begin predicted the Midwest will avoid that, partly because of the region's nuclear plants. "We're in better shape in the Midwest than anyplace in the United States today. Jobs are coming back this way, my friends, you can count on it."

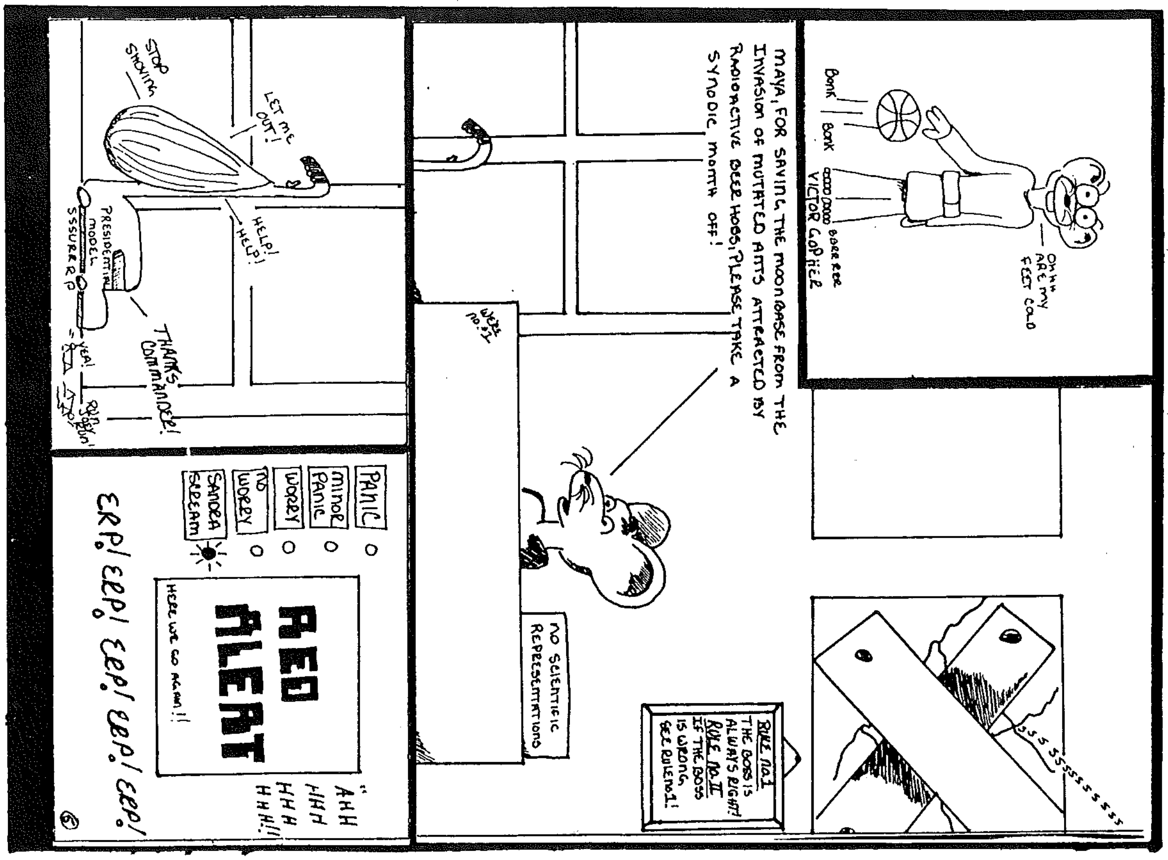
(From The Norwalk Reflector, February, 21, 1987 by Ric Buck, abridged.)

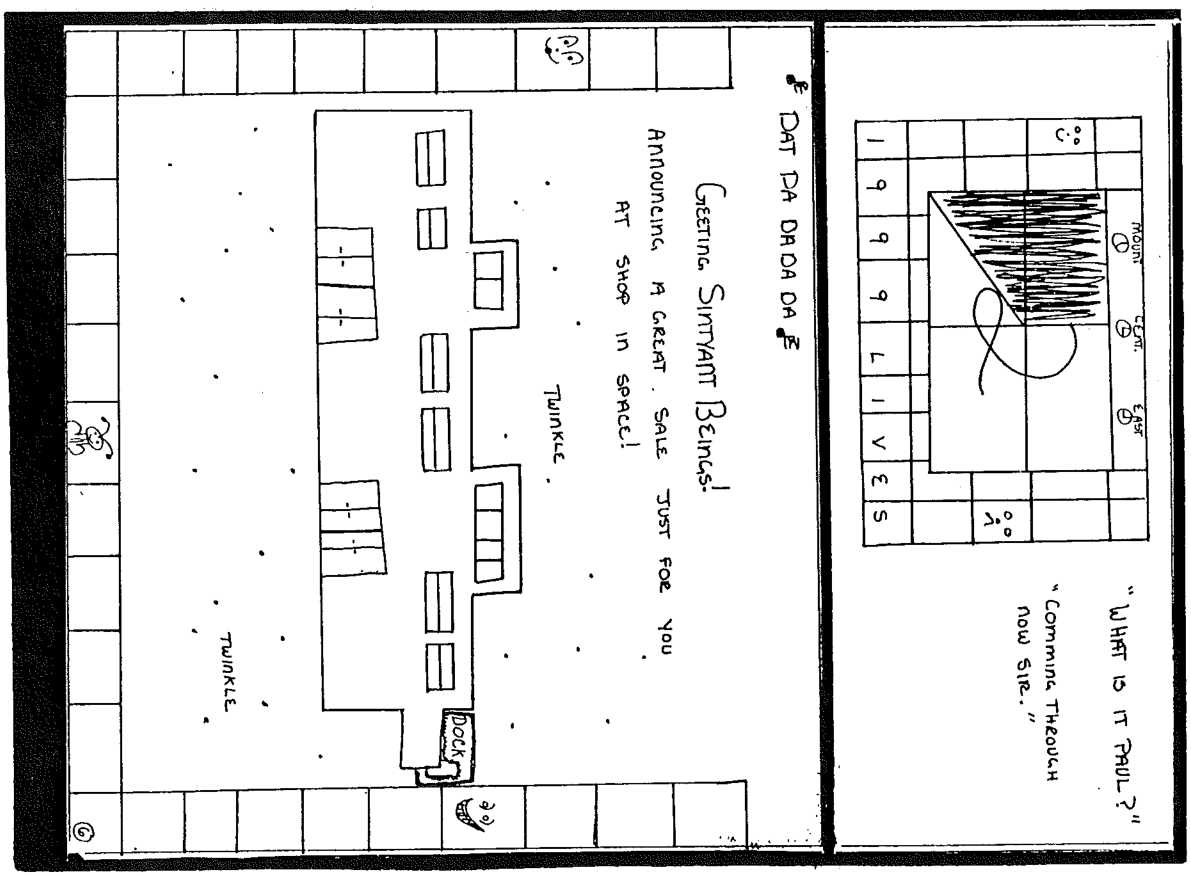
# More Morse

On the action series, The Fugitive, Barry Morse played the tireless peruser of poor Richard Kimble, Lt. Philip Gerard. In doing so, the British-born, Toronto-based Morse discovered that some viewers could not separate fact from fantasy. On one occasion, he was accosted by a large woman who shrieked, "Why don't you leave that nice man alone?" Morse explained that he was only an actor. "She was taken aback to find that I was really quite human," he mused. Besides The Fugitive, Morse was a fixture on Canadian Broadcasting Company as an actor, producer, and director, and spoke highly of the network. "Who else but the CBC would do Marlowe's Dr. Faustus?" he asked. They do the better things better [than American TV]; they do the ordinary things not half as well."

(from the Canadian TV Guide, February 17, 1990, from Vivian Stanley)

# Lunar Toons Presents



# "Shop In Space"

# A Martin Landau Must See

## *Review of "Crimes and Misdemeanors"*

Except for the celestial hilarity in his New York "Stories" vignette, Woody Allen's past two films ("September," "Another Woman") have been dramas - and stillborn dramas at that. On-guard followers are asking, even more than usual, what his latest is like?

For starters, "Crimes and Misdemeanors" isn't like previous Allens - nor really like anything else. Its one distance cousin might be "Hannah and Her Sisters," which similarly welds a standard Allen comedy to a second movie; this time, though, the other film is a human tragedy. perhaps, a more apt comparison is "Zelig 0" a one-shot that shatters the mold.

Of the serious "Crimes" half, the less elaboration the better, its power benefits from surprise. The self-contained moral tale involves a community pillar tempted to sanction a heinous act masterminded by his shady brother. His subsequent self-flagellation, which gets 1000 on the Gloom Meter, might overwhelm the film if it were not for the depth and humanity in Martin Landau's performance - an equal of 1988 "Tucker" turn.

The "Misdemeanors" half is integrated with the rest in a crafty finale; until then, laughs are plentiful enough to keep the film bounding across the tightrope. Allen and Alan (Alda, that is) were born to be cast as in-law rivals for Mia Farrow; note Woody's gleefully infection grin at his cinematic sabotage on the Alda puff-piece documentary he's been charitably hired to film.

Despite Allen's increasingly arch pedagogy, no film this year has kept me more glued to my seat. Half-morbid or not, "Crimes," is best viewed as part of a jester's total work; taken on this level, a la Chaplin and Monsieur Verdoux, its emotional kick is overwhelming.

(from U.S.A. Today, 10/14/89, by Mike Clark)

# More Fan Clubs

Once Upon a Time, 515 Ravenel Circle, Seneca, S.C. 24627, U.S.A. The Prisoner.

Six of One, P.O. Box 60, Harrogate, U.K. England, HG12TP. The Prisoner. Send two I.R.C.s.

The Prisoner Association, P.O. Box 5225, Palmerston, N, New Zealand. The Prisoner. Send two I.R.C.s.

Back to the Wild Wild West, C/o Ann C. Telpen, 618 Martin Street, Indianapolis, Indiana U.S.A., 46227. Wild Wild West. Send legal-sized self addressed stamped envelope.

Starman, c/o Chris Menefee, 600 Water Street SW #8-14, Washington, D.C. U.S.A., 20024. Send legal-sized self addressed stamped envelope.

Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, c/o Kathy Agel, 51 West 2nd Ave. Bayone, N.J. U.S.A., 07002-2322. Send legal-sized self addressed stamped envelope.

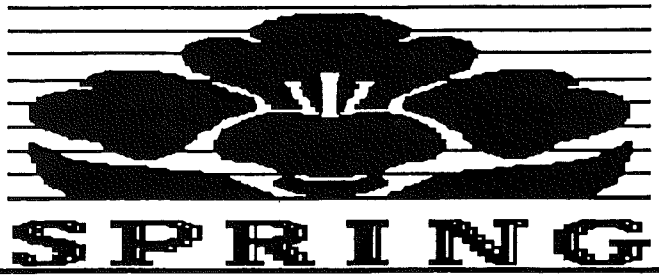
Pierce Brosnan Fan Club, c/o Maria Barbasa, P.O. box 9851, Glendale, CA U.S.A., 91206. Pierce Brosnan, Remmington Steele. Send SASE.

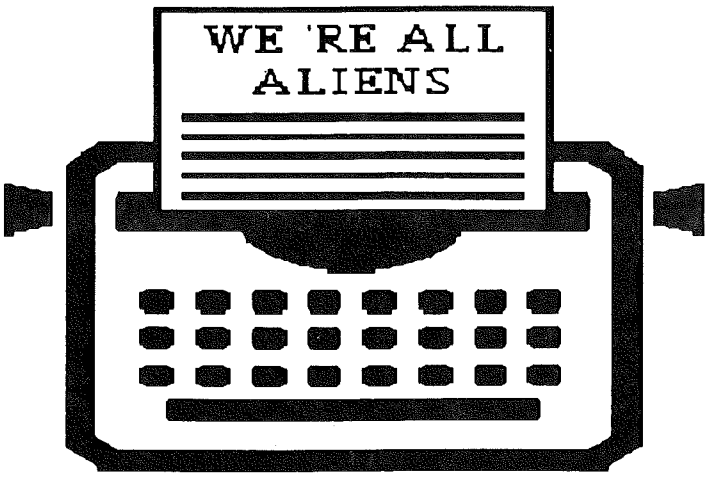

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From: Julian Olivan, Via Julia, 148 Atico, 08016 Barcelona (Spain)

I've joined the Alliance recently, and I'm very glad to be in it. I want to meet people interested in Space: 1999 and science fiction from all over the world because here there isn't anyone (or I don't know anyone) who remembers the series.

Let me introduce myself. I'm 23 years old and I work as an Insurance Agent in Barcelona. I've been a fan of Space: 1999 since the series was first aired in my country, back in 1975 when I was 9 years old. When I read the previews of the series in our TV Guide, I was mesmerized by the whole series elements: the moonbase, eagles, Main Mission, uniforms, the original theme that started the odyssey. But the problem was that I couldn't watch the series, it aired Thursdays at 3:30pm and I was in school until 6pm. I remember it was traumatic. I really desired to watch, to enjoy the series. In those years, science fiction was not everywhere and every-time in TV or Cinema; the science fiction "boom" that was brought about in 1978 by "Star Wars" did not start here. Space: 1999 was the only science fiction series on the TV screens since 1969 when UFO, Star Trek, or the Invaders were aired. And, I couldn't watch it!!! I watched an episode: "Guardian Of Piri" after a dirty trick; I pretended to be ill one Thursday morning and I succeeded. Oh! What an evening! Unfortunately for me, the trick didn't work again; and, the next episode I saw was in 1978 in the partial re-run of Space: 1999 at 6pm. I read Chris Goudis letter in Main Computer (Dec. 1988) and he is a kindred spirit. I've an affinity with him: like me, he was 9 years old when he first saw the series, in 1976, so we're the same age. He said that Space captivated him because of the realism, because 1999 was the near future and not Star Trek's far future 23rd century. This was my feeling too. I remember my childhood fantasy, dreaming to be a moonbase member in 1999, I really believed that 24 years into the future it could be possible that earthmen could build a scientific base on the moon's surface. I remember my childhood plays, building my own pasteboard commlocs, lasers, and eagles. I transformed my Superhero Action Figures (classic MEGO figures) into Space: 1999 crew: Koenig, Helena, Maya, Tony, Alan. I cut their faces from photos in magazines and put them like masks on Superman, Captain Marvel, Mr. Spock, and Captain America faces. Building an eagle cockpit for the figures in a shoe box.

Like Chris, I prefer Year One for the philosophically strong stories, for Barry Grey's theme and incidental music, and Main Mission. In 1978, I preferred Year Two, I loved Maya and Tony characters, the colorful uniforms, the action/adventure, the humor, the Maya-Tony / John-Helena opening relationships. But in the next years, from 1979 to the present, waiting for a re-run of the series, I realized that Year One was stronger. Since then, I prefer Year One. Maybe mixing the philosophical stories and the music of Year One with the action, humor, open relationships of Year Two could have been the "magic formula" for a Year Three. As I've said, I waited for a re-run since 1979; but, it's never happened. Until now. A new channel started in January and it's prime-time series for Sundays is Space: 1999, announced by the channel as "a classic of science fiction." Of course, I'm recording all the episodes.

Apart from Space: 1999, I love Star Trek, but not all episodes, V - The Mini-series, ST:TNG, Beauty and the Beast, Twilight Zone, and The Incredible Hulk. My favorite science fiction films are Star Wars [the trilogy], Alien, Aliens, Blade Runner, Robocop, Superman I and II, Metropolis, and Back to the Future I.

I love terror films and television series too but that will be for another time, another place, another letter. That is all for now. I'll welcome pen pals from all over the world. Write me! Long live 1999!!!

# The Ballad Of Science Fiction Shows That Fail

Adapted to science fiction from "The Ballad Of Why Shows Fail," MAD Magazine Number 152.

High in the halls of I.T.C.,
Producers met that fateful day,
To learn of the syndication schedule for the fall:
Which shows would go or stay?
And though each man feigned confidence;
Each face was metallic grey.

We filed into the Conference Room;
Each tried to mask his fear,
But nervous coughing filled the air
As zero hour drew near.
And soon, the pounding of my heart
Was all that I could hear.

In time the Program Chief arrived,
A man of steely eye;
And as he glared at one doomed soul,
I heard a stifled cry,
"I'll make this brief," our leader said.
"U.F.O. has to die!"

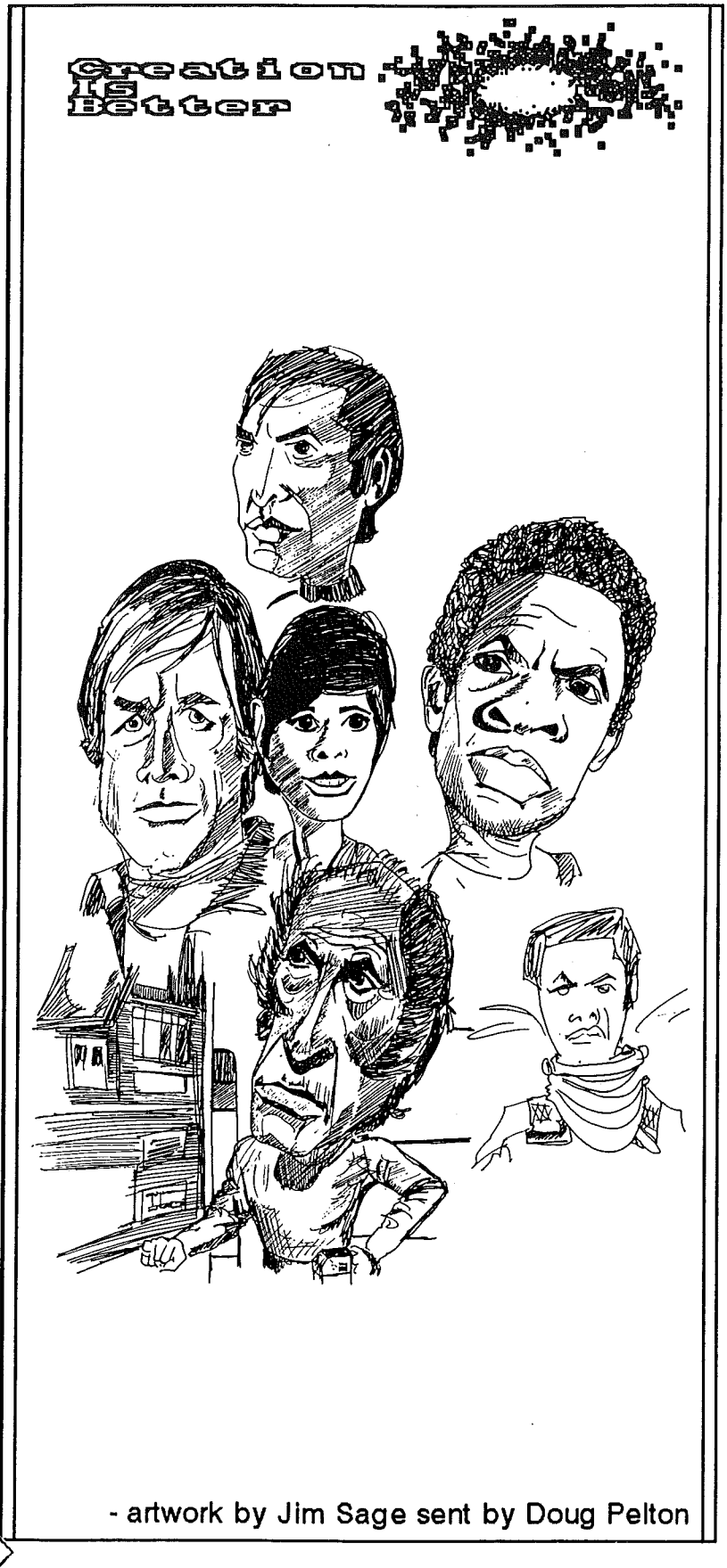
Some felt relief that they'd been spared,
While tears were shed by some,
And others sat there glassy eyed
As if they'd been struck dumb.
Beside me, one wretch murmured,
"Wait! The worst is yet to come!"

At last, the Program Chief went on;
His tone was sad and slow:
"To tell the truth we've put the axe
To every Non-Trek, science fiction show.
I won't delve into reasons now,
But The Prisoner has to go!

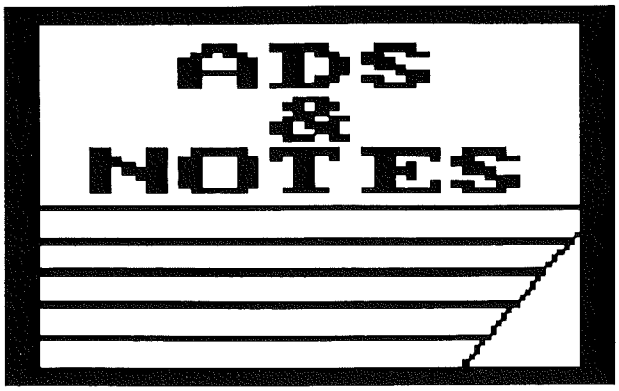
"The Alphans, too, from Space: 1999
Have just closed out their stay,
And I now decree that the moonbase
Shall be mothballed, put away.
Let's hear no more of metamorphosing aliens
Henceforward from today!

"In truth, I loved those science fiction shows;
Each spaceship I adored.
But each man kills the thing he loves
By look or word or sword.
Some kill for gold; some kill for lust;
Some just because they're bored.

"Some men kill for the joy of it,
To watch the blood ooze pink.
But I kill for a reason that
Is different than you'd think.
I've only killed these Non-Trek shows because
The ratings say they stink!"




- artwork by Jim Sage sent by Doug Pelton




*Ben Bova* recently sent the Alliance a form letter promoting the group Spacecause dedicated to pushing the idea of a return to the moon and a trip to Mars in our lifetimes. If you are interested, contact Spacecause, 922 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, DC 20003, U.S.A. The Alliance is not formally involved in this group.

*Heartfelt condolences* from all Alliance members are sent to Sandra Sprecker upon hearing the news that her dear father had passed away.

*Double Duty* is the latest Mission: Impossible / Space: 1999 zine by Terry S. Bowers with artwork by Liz May and Becky Eisenhuth. The 104 page volume contains three M:I stories and three 1999 stories focusing on the characters played by Martin Landau and Barbara Bain. To order U.S. $15, Canada $16, or Overseas $18, send the check or money order payable in U.S. dollars to Terry S. Bowers, 603 N. Clark Street, River Falls, WI 54022-1404, U.S.A. All proceeds from the sale of this zine will be donated to the Landau-Bain Fan Association Star Fund.

*Gail Paradise,* an original, founding club member for the Alliance, wants to sell a great deal of her formidable 1999 collection. Send SASE or two I.R.C.s for complete list and prices to Gail Paradise, 89 Adams Street Apt. 8, Waltham, MA U.S.A, 02154. Her phone number is 617-899-7461.

*Still missing* a complete set of those pesky U.S.A. issued 1999 bubble gum cards? Send your want list of the numbered cards that you need to Lost Dutchman Comics, 5805 N. 7th Street, Phoenix, Arizona U.S.A. 85014 where several hundred individual cards are for sale for six American pennies each! The shop also has a few 1999 books.

*For Sale:* Neat toys, fun games, perplexing puzzles, various etc. from Space: 1999, Star Trek, Buck Rogers, and others. Send SASE for complete list to: Ross Bailey, 385 West Jones, Brawley, CA U.S.A., 92227.

*A big thank you* from the Alliance to Erwin Stank for all his work in laying out the Con 92 flyer.

*Heartfelt condolences* from all Alliance members are sent to Kathy VonKamp upon hearing the news that her beloved mother had passed away.

*Prentis Hancock* sent in a ballot for the Con Survey, did you? Said Prentis, "Dear John and Kathy, hope you don't mind me voting. Love the new format of Main Computer. Fond Regards, Prentis." [Somebody pinch me! - Thomas]

*That Touch of Humor,* The Ultimate Photo Guidebook to the career of Catherine Schell, is now on sale. This guidebook is huge featuring over 250 pages and over 350 photographs of never seen before, rare, and well known black and white photos of Catherine Schell. You must order before December 31, 1991 to get a copy of this book. The first 15 orders will have their books signed by Maya herself! Prices including first class shipping, appropriate countries send your appropriate currency: Germany and the rest of Europe: DM 100,- , Great Britain: L 35,- , U.S.A. $60.00, Canada $70.00, Australia: $85.00. Send your order to Jovan Michael Evermann, Malplaquetsrasse 10, D-1000 Berlin 65, Germany.

*Heartfelt condolences* from all Alliance members are sent to Rosie Badgett upon hearing the news that her dear sister, Mary Lou, had passed away.

*Doug Pelton* reports that the summer '91 edition of the English magazine Century 21, #5, started a series of articles on 1999. Further articles in the series by issue number: #6, overview of the series, #7, episode guide, #8, 1999 merchandising. To get copies, send 19 pounds and 15 pence, English currency, to: Michael Reccia, Editor Engale Marketing, 332 Lytham Rd., Blackpool, Lanes, Great Britain, FY4 1DW. If you just want information, send him a letter and two IRC's.

# The International Space: 1999 Alliance's very own Little Shop of Alpha Stuff

**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 and 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, Ohio 44851-1196 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 International Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Ohio 44851-1196 USA.

**Publications** - There is only one fanzine put out by the Alliance. 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 grandeur of the cosmos. How can a machine that expresses pictures in binary information have a concept of beauty? Nothing, Dickenson, nothing can make up for human experience and human interpretation 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 Salad, 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 Moonbase insignia design. Same as the Alpha patch. Size is 1 inch by 3/4 inch. The cost is $2.50.

**MERCHANDISE SURVEY** - What new items would you like to see? Please lets us know. Some possible items include: Calendars, Photo Stamps, Keychains, Pens, Pencils, Large Paper Clips, Shirts and/or Jackets. These are only suggestions. Please write and let us know if you would be interested in any of these items. We would also appreciate any other suggestions you might have. Write to: International Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Ohio 44851-1196 USA.

## CORRECTIONS

1. Dues for Alpha League (ad on page 4) are now for 4 issues: $17.00 U.S., $18.00 Canada, $23.00 Europe and South America, and $25.00 Australia and Japan. Dues are payable to: Erwin Stank / P.O. Box 60037 / Sunnyvale, Ca 94086 USA. Canadians send dues payable in Canadian currency to: Robert Woods / Box 1207 / Cochrane, Alberta / Canada T0L 0W0
2. A few typos were not removed in the interest of time so everyone could take advantage of the early bird Oct. 31st deadline for a Con '92 ticket.

## Inside this issue:


Miscellany from Martin East
Green Glowing Nuclear Waste
Brian Blessed in a "Castle of Adventure"
Spacecon 10
The Laughs Continue with "Shop In Space"
Little Shop of Alphan Stuff
Alpha News Service Editorial
Alliance Members Have Entered The TV Zone


## Upcoming issues:

Alliance History
French Con Report
Approaching 1999 Technology
"Time Perception"
Again, Still More "Shop In Space"
Spacecon 10 Updates
Handmade 1999 Models
[Just more incredible issues, really!]

# MAIN COMPUTER

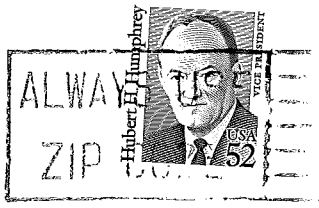

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If there is an "X" in this box, you're running out of SPACE! Time to pay your dues for another year of Main Computer!