MAIN COMPUTER

Newsletter of the NATIONAL SAVE:1999 ALLIANCE **Volume 1 Number 6**

*** LATE BULLETIN ***

ITC has just announced plans for a second *SPACE:1999* movie! *Breakaway* and *War Games* will be combined and released for European theaters and American television. No date or title has yet been announced but once the film is released, the two episodes will no longer be shown individually.

Battlestar: Galactica... Gone for Good?

On Monday, April 23, ABC-TV cancelled *Battlestar:Galactica*. The reasons for the decision were, as usual, varied, complex and different depending on who was interviewed. There are, however, basic reasons that are indisputable.

Up until the actual announcement came, members of the crew thought *BG* had been renewed. They were to begin production during the middle to the end of May for the new season. The show's writers had been frantically writing during the hiatus to the extent that scripts from 'outside' writers were welcome. As of Monday evening, one member of the crew still maintained that the show had been renewed. Tuesday brought the actual news home as every paper, from locals to Hollywood's *Variety*, carried the story of the cancellation.

With *Galactica*, ABC had been shooting for an instant success, top ten time. The show's overall ratings, while erratic, still averaged approximately 30, half way, average performance. For any other network, that rating would be enough to keep a show on the air. ABC though, riding high on a schedule full of bona fide hits, did not need a show that merely pulled its own weight.

In addition, the cost of the show was enormous. The initial outlay, as has been stated in so much publicity, was about $14 million. The cost of each subsequent hour was close to $750,000 if not more. They would often shoot the show from six in the morning to eleven o'clock at night. A 'normal' hour show should be filmed in six days. *Galactica* often averaged between 9 and 12 days for a single hour. The reason the show was pre-empted so often? They were so far behind in their shooting schedule, the network gave them that extra time to catch up. The show did not 'wrap' until the first week in April. Since ABC considered the show a failure by its own standards of success, the cost of the show was deemed too excessive to continue with it. In simple network terms, if a show costing x amount of dollars does not generate x amount of success, the show is cancelled. That is the saga of *Galactica*.

Can the network mentality be altered? Not likely, unless enough support is demonstrated, making it clear to them how they could profit monetarily. Certainly the network must know that in order for a show to make money, it must be sold into syndication. Right now, almost every show loses money until it is syndicated. However, a series cannot be syndicated with less than three years in the can. (*1999* was an exception, sold to stations to be aired as a new, weekly show as opposed to a syndicated network series.) If ABC can be shown that the only was to effectively turn the show into a profit-making venture would be to renew it, keep it long enough to take advantage of syndication, perhaps the show will have a chance. The average to above-average ratings of the show will support the wisdom of such a decision.

Simply because the show has been pink-slipped does not necessarily mean the end of it. There have been many instances of shows being cancelled by one network and then picked up by another. There are several instances of shows being cancelled, then reinstated on the same network. (*Baa Baa Black Sheep* was cancelled and renewed three times before it was finally allowed to pass into oblivion.) If, as fans, we are to make any concerted effort to breathe new life into *Galactica*, we must work as *(continued pg. 2)*

one, and work quickly. As long as the sets remain standing, there is the possibility of renewed life. Once Universal tears the sets down there will be no possibility of seeing it again, as the reinvestment would be too great a speculation for any network to take on.

As of this writing, it would seem that the person to convince of the long-range monetary potential of the show is the president of entertainment as ABC-TV: Mr. Anthony Thomopoulos/President, ABC Entertainment/2040 Avenue of the Stars/Century City, CA 90067. Also write to the other two networks and ask them to pick up the series: Mr. Robert Daly/President, CBS Entertainment/51 W. 52nd St./New York, NY 10019 and Mr. Fred Silverman/President, National Broadcasting Co./30 Rockefeller Plaza/New York, NY 10020. When writing, remember the standard letter writing rules: be brief, be polite, type if possible, and do not write "Battlestar:Galactica" anywhere on the outside of the envelope.

Here is how networks tabulate viewer support. Petitions are counted as one letter. For every one letter received, they estimate there are ten other people who feel the same way, but have not taken the time to write. So...instead of signing a petition with five people which will be counted as a total of ten, each of you should write an individual letter thus having them figure the total as fifty.

According the Jean-Pierre Dorleac, the costume designer on the show, they have one back-up script to be filmed when the show is cancelled to provide an ending to it. With the efforts of fans, we can postpone the filming of that final episode.

Notes

Congratulations to Houston area fans for getting *SPACE:1999* added to the programming of their local station KHTV, Channel 39.....Allen Jones has informed us that an English mail order firm currently has available 4 model kits from Anderson productions. The models are "Angel Interceptor" from *Capt. Scarlet & the Mysterons* and the Eagle and Hawk from *1999*; they also have the new "Starcruiser I" model which will soon be available in the U.S. and will make a special appearance at *SPACE:1999* Con '79. If you'd like more information write to: BMW Models Ltd./327-329 Haydons Rd./Wimbledon S.W. 19 8LB/England. Be sure to include an international reply coupon and ask for a Retail Order Dept. Guide and a 1979 Airfix Products Price List.....We understand that Warner Books is currently considering publication of a manuscript from Michael Butterworth which would be an independent *SPACE:1999* novel. The book is entitled *The Brilliant Suns* and consists of three separate adventures bridged together. If you'd like to help Mr. Butterworth convince Warner Books to publish this novel, write to: Warner Books/75 Rockefeller Plaza/New York, NY 10019.

2068

ZERO X was the wonder-craft that highlighted *Thunderbirds Are Go!*, the first cine-excursion (1966) of Gerry Anderson. The huge craft was composed of five parts: the long blue Main Body, the Martian Excursion Vehicle (MEV) in front, two Lifting Bodies, and the front-mounted silver Nose Cone which was used as a heat shield during take off.

The assembly, storage and take offs all took place at Glenn Field, the late 2060's version of the century-old Cape Kennedy. A huge barn housed the Main Body; nearby were two Lifting Body hangars. The MEV was attached to the SSEC (Solar Systems Exploration Council) Building to allow its crew to enter the craft indoors.

To assemble ZERO X, the Main Body was brought out of its barn hangar and positioned so that the Lifting Bodies had easy remote control placement on the top and the rear bottom. The MEV taxied out to join up to the Main Body, followed by the Nose Cone. The MEV was used to take the crew down to planet surfaces. When the craft reached the fringe of the atmosphere, the Lifting Bodies and Nose Cone were returned to Glenn Field until Earth reentry.

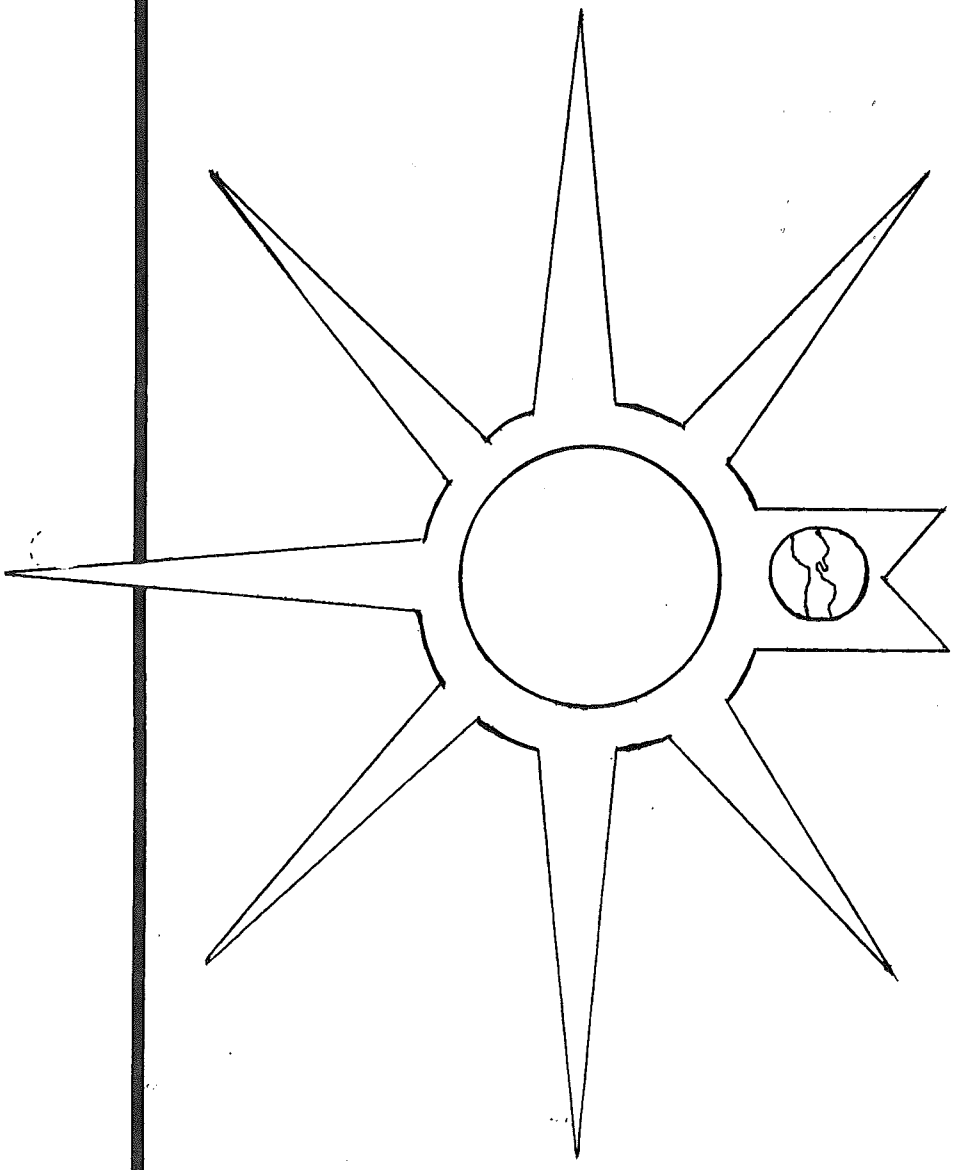
ZERO X's crew was small and all American: Captain Paul Travers, co-pilot Greg Martin, Navigator Brad Newman and research scientists Tony Grant and 'Doc' Ray Pierce. The craft and its personnel were a part of the SSEC, and their boss was Colonel Price.

Let's talk Anderson! Find my address in the Want Ads in this newsletter and fire away with questions and comments. Supermarionationally Yours, *Doug Pelton*

And the word went forth to every outpost of human existence, and they came: the Aries, the Gemons, the Virgos, the Scorpios, the Piscons and the Saggitarians. In all, two hundred and twenty ships, representing every colony, color, and creed in the star system.

The human race might have one more chance, but first it would have to survive the Alliance, the elements, and the unknown, dark and sinister threats that would lie ahead.

Words of Adama
from *The Saga of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA*



Join Commanders Adama and Koenig in their fights for survival! ANNOUNCING! *RISING STAR ALPHA* is now open for membership as a unique fan club devoted to both *SPACE:1999* and *Battlestar Galactica*. Dues per year are $6.00, and you will receive 6 bi-monthly issues of our newsletter, TERRA NOVA TIMES (TNT), filled with explosive articles, editorials, stories, quizzes, photos, artwork, poetry, and MUCH MORE!

Become a part of the two most spectacular shows ever presented on the television screen. Rise to the occasion! Join...

RISING STAR ALPHA
c/o Rickey Jones
P.O. Box 65
Caruthersville, MO 63830

Ever since we were blasted away from Earth, we've been fighting for survival. We have survived, but how I don't know. There's no rational explanation; but what I do have is an absolute faith in the strength of the human spirit and believe that someone or something is looking after us...God, if you like. And we will survive!

Commander Koenig
from the episode *War Games*

~Want Ads~

WANTED: Material on Barbara Bain and Martin Landau. Will buy and/or trade. Contact Susan Hertz/18902 Florwood Ave./Torrance, CA 90504

WANTED: Betasystem Videocassettes of all episodes of: *U.F.O.*, *Thunderbirds*, *Supercar*, *Joe 90*, *Secret Service*, *Fireball XL-5*. And Betasystem Videocassettes of *Into Infinity*, *Day After Tomorrow*, *Doppleganger*, *Thunderbird 6*, *Thunderbirds Are Go* and any other Anderson production. Send SASE for information to Michael Liebich/2171 N. Rockwell/Chicago, IL 60647

WANTED: Pursuing *1999* Yr. 2 Soundtrack. Need info on costumes. Please contact Tony Kluck/1319 Thorncroft Ct./Westlake Village, CA 91361

WANTED: Anything from Hammer film *Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde*, and stills of *Martine Beswick* and *Ralph Bates*. Please send lists to Tony Kluck/1319 Thorncroft Ct./Westlake Village, CA 91361

WANTED: Model kits or toys of FIREBALL XL-5 starship, THUNDERBIRD ONE and ZERO X from *Thunderbirds*, and SKY ONE from *U.F.O.*; *1999* Yr. 2 novel #5 *The Time Fighters*. Will pay. Mr. Allen Jones/1600 18th St./Port Arthur, TX 77640

WANTED: Cassette tape recordings (sound only) of *Battlestar Galactica* episodes. Send lists and prices to Eric Beatty/524 Michigan Ave./Waterville, OH 43566

WANTED: Urgently needed: Cassette Recordings *SPACE:1999* Yr. 1; novelizations *Alien Seed*, *Planets of Peril*, *Space Jackers*, *Edge of the Infinite*. Reply to C. DeNova/424½ Grand St./Oneida, NY 13421

WANTED: Anything pertaining to *Joe 90*, *Captain Scarlet*, *The Secret Service*, *U.F.O.* and *Doppelganger* including stills, cassette-episodes, episode guides and TV listings. Please send prices and list any Anderson questions to Douglas C. Pelton/65 Park St. E./#508/Port Credit/Mississauga, Ontario CANADA L5G 1M3. SASE not necessary.

WANTED: Anything on the Tatsunoko Productions cartoon *Battle of the Planets*, including photos, Sup8 film clips, animation layouts, soundtrack recordings, magazine articles (U.S. & Japanese). Please write to Joey Buchanan/P.O. Box 555/Proctorville, OH 45669

WANTED: Would like to share ride and expenses to Pittsburgh. Contact Bob Caudill/513 N. 4th St./Flatwoods, KY 41134

WANTED: Correspondence with fans of *1999*, *U.F.O.*, *Galactica*, *Doppelganger*, *Silent Running*, *Salvage I* and James Bond movies. CAUTION: I tend to write many pages in return on these fascinating subjects: J.L. Klemann/3012 Tingler Rd. W./Richmond, IN 47374

WANTED: To correspond with other *1999* fans who like Paul Morrow (Prentis Hancock) and the other Main Mission regulars: Sandra Benes and David Kano. Susann Molnar/166½ So. Santa Rosa/Ventura, CA 93003

--- *NIGHTMARE...Space:1999* novel by Diana Winslow ---
125 pages. Illustrator: Mary Bloemker. Did Alan Carter and Nicki Ferrell actually experience the catastrophe as they claim? If so, will the moon be destroyed? Their friends search for the answer although there appears to be no answer possible. Includes Yr. 1 and Yr. 2 characters. $3.75 includes postage. NOW IN PRINT and orders WILL be mailed at the end of May. To order: Diana Winslow/7000 Valleyford Court/Watauga, TX 76148

TIMEFRAME: The new Canadian zine for science fiction and fantasy. The first issue will feature: *SPACE:1999*, *Star Wars*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Star Trek* and much, much more. Interested? For more info send 17¢ plus an SAE to Evelyn Baker/30 Snowcrest Ave./Willowdale, Ontario CANADA M2K 2K7

THE PATROL REGISTAR: The newsletter for a conglomeration of science fiction interests. Contributions and requests determine a varied content. A year's subscription (monthly) is $5.50. 8-10 pages. First issue FREE. c/o Eric A. Stillwell/ 1151 W. 27th Pl./Eugene, OR 97405

INTERNATIONAL SCI FI/HORROR PENFRIEND REGISTRY. $1.00 fee per address by supporters of F.J. Ackermuseum. Include age/interests. Send to P. Marshall/P.O.B. 150/ Holbrook, NY 11741

--- S.H.A.D.O.*U.S.E.C.C. ---

Club for fans of Gerry Anderson's *U.F.O.*series. $3.00 plus ten 15¢ stamps for yearly dues. Includes bi-monthly newsletter, membership card and annual pub. Join now...STRAKER WANTS YOU!.....Also interested in *U.F.O.* material. SKY 1 model, color stills, props. If selling any related items, send me your list and prices. .....If interested in Dinky toys *U.F.O.* interceptor, and SHADO mobiles, can supply them for $10.00 each plus $1.50 postage. Write to Jim Main/85A Prospect Hill Rd./ New Milford, CT 06776

ZEBRA-CON '79: A *Starsky & Hutch* convention. July 27-29. Come add to your collection and meet your fellow fans. All proceeds are going to the Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Help us and support this worthy cause. For info please send SASE to Karen Brandl/555 Thornhill Dr./Apt. 210/ Carol Stream, IL 60187 or call (312) 465-2203 (no collect calls).

FOR SALE: Buttons and stationery for the following TV series: *SPACE:1999*, *U.F.O.*, *Man/ Girl From U.N.C.L.E.*, *New Avengers*, *Voyage*, *Stingray* and others. Also available: CASSETTE RECORDINGS (sound only) from various series new and old. Send 2 stamps (or double stamped legal size envelope) for complete catalog. Sue Cole/2710 Rohlwing Rd./Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

*** FOR SALE ***

GUM CARDS and other trade cards of most GERRY ANDERSON productions U.S. and foreign. *Captain Scarlet, Stingray, Thunderbirds, Joe 90* at $7.50 each. *Z Cars* $6.50, *Super Car* $12.00, *U.F.O.* (Anglo) $18.50, *U.F.O.* (Bassett) $14.50, *SPACE: 1999* (U.S.) $5.50, (English) $12.50, (Italian-400 cards) $35.00, (Holland) $25.00. PLUS over 200 more titles available of other cards. Send $1.00 (refundable) for 9-page illustrated catalog to: CORDO ENTERPRISES/2930 Tully Dr. N.W./Roanoke, VA 24019

The final issue of *MC*-Volume 1 is #7 which will be published on July 1.
ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ADS IN *MC*#7 IS JUNE 20.
Any ads received after this date will be returned.
Ad rates are: MEMBERS: 25¢ per 15 words NON-MEMBERS/DEALERS: $2.00 per 15 words

Fan Clubs

SPACE:1999 CONSERVATION CORP./215 Lynn Fells Pkwy./Saugus, MA 01906
If you live in New England and are a devoted fan of *SPACE:1999*, come join us in our thrilling efforts to promote *1999*!

ALPHA NEWS SERVICE/c/o Dick DiPirro/160 W-Foster St./Melrose, MA 02176
*ANS*4 now ready for mailing. Exclusive movie preview: *Red Alert!--War Games* sequel, *Bringers of Wonder*, Maya interview, *Logan's Run* the movie, Alphan Defenses and more! 24 pages $1.00 (overseas $1.50). *ANS*1 & 2: $1.20 ($1.70 overseas) each. *ANS*3: $1.10 ($1.50 overseas).

THE AVENGERS/PATRICK MACNEE FAN NETWORK/1925 Terry #7/Longmont, CO 80501/U.S.A.
The international fan club for *The Avengers/New Avengers* and its stars. Bi-monthly newsletter, article clipping service, pen pals, more. Send SASE for details.

MOVIES IN REVIEW

by CHUCK RAUE

Dawn of the Dead

George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead*, the 1969 B&W horror film, has been updated with a sequel entitled *Dawn of the Dead*. The film's basic premise is similar to its predecessor: the dead are zombies searching for human flesh to munch on. The story centers around the efforts of four people attempting to survive the 'invasion' by holing up in a shopping mall. They fight vandals, motor cycle gangs, the zombies and one another to survive. Actually it makes little difference who they're fighting because the audience really doesn't care if they live or not; the four are no better than the people and/or creatures they're fighting. Combine this with the fact that the story and plot are almost non-existent and you wind up with a sad situation where one almost wants the zombies to catch the damsel in distress so there's some action to the story and maybe the characters will even show some feeling.

The special effects in *Dawn of the Dead* are extremely detailed and realistic, but this tends to work against the film rather than to its benefit. There is so much violence, so much blood and gore, that the shocking effect of such acts lose much of their impact. The audience becomes almost insensitive to it all.

Dawn of the Dead has its moments and provides a chill or two, but overall the movie suffers from too much effect, too little story, and non-existent acting. Unfortunately the story is left open for a sequel; hopefully it'll take another ten years to do the next one.

Phantasm

The TV commercials for *Phantasm* say "If this one doesn't scare you, you're already dead." The story begins when a 13-year-old boy notices some strange things going on at a mortuary during a friend's funeral. The boy does some investigating and becomes curious enough to go snooping around the mortuary by himself late at night. From here on, you'll be holding on to your seat and having your heart race every time you see a corner or a door. You're going to meet aliens, metal spheres, things that look like Jawas-gone-wild and the most effective rendition you'll ever see of the dreaded wooly bugger. It's hard to say much about *Phantasm* without giving too much of it away. The film is a very effective horror tale built on a good foundation of suspense and the unknown. *Phantasm* encompasses all the little things that nightmares are made of, and then some. It's a film that must be seen and experienced to fully appreciate.

"If this one doesn't scare you, you're already dead." I'm very happy to report that I'm alive and well.

NEXT MONTH: *Battlestar:Galactica*, the theater version and *Alien*.

P.S. from Mare: I don't want to spoil Chuck's next review but I can't help mentioning *Alien* this issue. If you're prone to nightmares, heart attack or getting sick, stay away from this film. On the other hand, if you love suspense and fantastic sets and special effects, don't waste a minute getting over to your local theater.

Space: 1999 Via Space?

WTCG, Channel 17 in Atlanta, is seen on over 250 cable systems all over the U.S. via its communications satellite. By requesting that WTCG pick up *1999*, we can open up many new areas, places where the program either isn't currently shown or has never been shown. To voice your support write to Mr. Ted Turner, President/WTCG-TV/1018 W. Peachtree St./Atlanta, GA 30309.

MAIN COMPUTER
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Address Letters to the Editor to: CHUCK RAUE/P.O. Box 402/Mobile, AL 36601

CONVENTION '79 UPDATE 3

With less than two months remaining before Con '79, the whole con committee is working harder than ever to get all the details finalized. We have some wonderful news to report this issue:

*** ZIENIA MERTON IS NOW A TENTATIVE CON GUEST ***

Zienia writes that she will be with us this summer as long as her work schedule allows. We all look forward to meeting Zienia and know she'll enjoy the warm reception she's sure to receive from her many fans.

WE STILL NEED GO-PHERS!

If you've offered your help to any of the con committee but haven't written to Ann yet, please do so soon. Send an SASE to ANN HESTER/107 Lemuel Ct./Warner Robins, GA 31093.

COSTUME CALL & ART SHOW

Have you pre-registered for the costume call and art show yet? Please help us to be well-prepared by cooperating in the pre-registration. Send an SASE to: COSTUME CALL/ Sue Cole/2710 Rohlwing Rd./Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 and/or ART SHOW/Marty Siegrist/ 1200 Pulaski St./Lansing, MI 48910.

AMATEUR FILM COMPETITION

Last call for the Amateur Film Competition! If we don't receive more response to this event, it will have to be cancelled. In conjunction with the amateur films, we've lined up professionals to speak on special effects and editing, so get all your technical questions ready.

THE CHARITY AUCTION

Auction donations have started to come in quickly now. We'll have items in every price range, so everyone will be able to bid and buy. We'd especially like to thank David Hirsch for donating the following items:

SUPERMAN: movie poster and 8 lobby cards
ROLLERBALL: 8 lobby cards
BATTLESTAR:GALACTICA: movie poster
STAR WARS: two different posters
THE SPY WHO LOVED ME: poster and 8 lobby cards

STARLOG Magazine has donated a set of issues #1-7. ITC has contributed several full color *D:MA* promo books. All of these items are in excellent condition.

Our mystery box is still growing and besides the Butterworth scripts mentioned in Update #2, we now have several other scripts from various television series. Several original models and props will also be offered this year. This is just a part of our Charity Auction line-up. Other donations will be coming in right up until con opening.

DEADLINE NOTICE

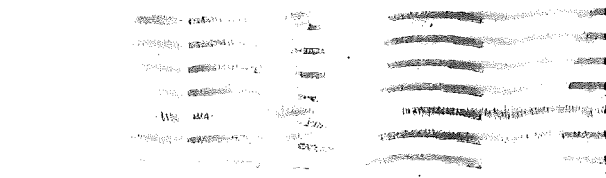
The final date for the original con membership prices is June 1. Any reservations postmarked after this date must include payment with the new rates or they will be returned. The new rates are as follows:

3-day membership	$20.00
Non-member 3-day membership	21.50
1-day membership	9.00
Non-member 1-day membership	10.00

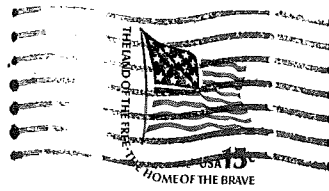
Supporting memberships remain at $7.00; a few banquet reservations are still available at $40.00 each. With seven special guests to fly in this year, we hope all members will take at least a supporting membership if possible. Please note that extra Con '79 program books and post-con reports will not be available to those who don't attend the con or reserve copies before the con.

In the next Update will be included a map of Pittsburgh with directions for those who will be driving plus the location of the William Penn Hotel in relation to the bus and train stations and the airport. Any members with questions of interest to those attending should write to headquarters and we'll run the answers in Update #4. If you want a personal reply, please include an SASE.

1999 ALLIANCE
123 FAWN VALLEY DR.
McMURRAY, PA 15317







Tony Wynn
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Eugene, OR 97405