MAIN COMPUTER

Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE Volume3 Number 1

From the Presidents

Dear Members,

We would like to begin this fourth year of the International Space:1999 Alliance by thanking all of you who attended or supported the con in any way. It was a successful con though not as big as we had hoped. We had as stars: Dave Prowse, from *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*; Nick Tate and Prentis Hancock, from *Space: 1999*; and Herb Jefferson Jr., from *Battlestar Galactica*. Six hundred people attended the con over the three day period, and we hope you all had a good time. We were able to donate $2,500 to the Children's Hospital, and our art show, which has grown larger each year, grossed $1,100 in sales for our contributing artists. All you artists keep up the good work!

We would also like to announce several changes and tentative dates. Unlike past years, we (Kathy and John Von Kamp) will remain presidents for one more year. We hope this will allow us to solidify the Alliance and certain other contacts before passing the reins to someone else next year. (Anyone interested out there?)

Mare Fitzgerald has stepped down as *Main Computer* editor to devote more time to her Prentis Hancock Fan Club. Her replacement is Marty Siegrist. You should remember Marty as the somewhat harried but always reliable organizer of our convention art shows for the last three years, and also as last year's Central Section Rep. We know she will do a good job. This *MC* is proof. *((Editor's note: Hah!))*

Replacing Marty as Central Section Rep will be Sue Cole. Sue has held this position before and has been actively involved with the cons, supplying prizes for the art show and materials for the auction and running around in some of the best costumes. (Long live Percy and Taybor!)

To all nonattending supporting members: transcriptions are taking longer than expected. The post con report and programs will be ready for mailing in October. Anyone else wishing to purchase a post con report may do so. The prices will be listed in the next *MC*.

Also to those of you who are awaiting pictures: please bear with us. We sent out all the photos we had in stock from our old processor who held us up before. We have found a new processor and will have the rest out soon. In order to prevent this problem from recurring, we will purchase enough pictures in advance (based on previous orders) to fill most orders immediately in future listings. We are sorry for the delays but all orders will be filled.

At this time we would also like to announce that we will be sending all *MC*'s first class rather than bulk rate. We hope this will get them to you as fast as possible and in readable condition. In order to do this, and in light of the fact that postal rates are going up in January, we must raise the dues rates to $5.00 for the United States and Canada and to $8.00 for overseas. We would appreciate any comments you might have regarding this change.

We would also like to continue in the vein of the infamous Alpha humor book *Force of Laugh*, sold at the con and conceived by Mare Fitzgerald and Doug Pelton. If you have any Alpha humor you would like to share with the rest of us, please send it to Marty Siegrist, 1200 Pulaski Street, Lansing, Michigan 48910. Include return postage if material is to be mailed back.

Kathy and John Von Kamp

Fan Fund

Dear friends,

On behalf of Phyl Proctor and myself I'd like to thank all of the people we met in Columbus at the convention, and all who contributed to the Fan Fund, for making it possible for us to go to the con, and once there for being so warm and friendly toward us and making this visit to your country so wonderful. Most of you we'd never met and had only ever communicated with on a limited, often business basis, and yet you greeted us and included us in your activities as though we were old friends. We really appreciated that, and it made us really happy; we felt so at home amongst you. We feel a bit guilty that we didn't thank you to your faces when John invited us to at the opening ceremony, but you see we haven't had any *Space:1999* conventions in England, and at the *Star Trek* cons we've attended we've just been anonymous con-goers, so we've never had cause to address the audience and we were rather shy. We're sorry for this lapse and hope you'll accept our belated but heartfelt thanks. Our apologies also to anyone who greeted us and received only a dazed response. We really did feel dizzy and our minds were racing with the excitement of it all. Attending this con meant a great deal to us--more than words can express. It was marvellous to get to know the people, to put faces to names. Your politeness, enthusiasm and warmth will always be remembered by us. You're a great crowd. Thanks, and love to you all.

Eileen Skidmore
President, The British
Nick Tate Club

Looneys

Alphans, Darth Vaders (both Mr. and Mrs.), a Wookiee, Commander Kermit, and many more marvelously done costumes made our first annual Looney Run, under the guidance of Tod Ellsworth and Ann Hester, a definite success. Thursday afternoon, a group of Looneys discovered the "feel" of Columbus. The following day, nearly forty Looneys hit local sites, had lunch at a Wendy's (causing great consternation among the natives), then put in an appearance at the "Rally in the Alley", another prime target for the Looney Task Force. On Saturday, the Center of Science and Industry gave the Looneys free admittance, while Arthur Dinkin provided them with a personal tour. Negotiations produced another success for the Looneys; Rodog, C.O.S.I.'s answer to K9, performed at the Costume Call (even Doctor Who would have been impressed!). C.O.S.I. also arranged for two local TV stations to cover the Looneys, but a freak earthquake upset those plans.

Tod expresses his thanks and appreciation to everyone who participated in this year's Looney Runs. He urges all Looneys to write and express their opinions of the first runs and give their suggestions for making next year's even better. Tod can't mold the Looney Runs around his Looneys unless they make their preferences known.

Thanks are in Order

The International Space:1999 Alliance and the 1980 Con Committee wish to thank the Center of Science and Industry for their interest and support. The hospitality bestowed upon congoers, the loan of their mechanical dog, Rodog, and other services were very generous and greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping to make Con '80 the success it was.

Con Site '81

There are two old sayings: "Nothing is sure but death and taxes", and "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray." This could not be more true than for what has come to pass in our search for a con site. At the con we asked you to vote on a site. The result showed the top cities to be Boston and Cincinnati. We announced that we would try to choose one of these cities for the con. We asked members in Boston and Cincinnati to check on hotels in their areas and to report to us which ones would be available. In Boston, the hotel which was considered was finally removed from consideration when it was found that the cost of a single room was $67-$71 per night. We felt that this would be prohibitive to many of our members (maybe even the presidents....). The problem in Cincinnati was that of all the hotels contacted, only one hotel bothered to reply, and when they found it was going to be a science fiction convention they said they did not want that type of con in their hotel. We then were contacted by people from Chicago, New Orleans and Atlanta. Chicago was eliminated due to the cost of the sleeping rooms ($58 for a single) and the cost of the events rooms ($4,800). New Orleans was removed from the running by request until 1982. There are two hotels in Atlanta that are eager to host the con, each with much to offer. They both meet our con requirements and are in what we feel is an acceptable price range. Like Chicago and Boston, Atlanta offers an international airport, which will help reduce the cost of bringing over the guests and should make it easy to get flights to the city from anywhere in the United States and Canada. For these reasons and others it was decided to hold the 1981 con in Atlanta, at the Sheraton Inn at the airport. More information about the hotel and the con prices will appear in upcoming issues of *Main Computer*.

Spotted

In *The Empire Strikes Back*: Norwich Duff (Journey to Where); Julian Glover (Alpha Child); Michael Sheard (Dragon's Domain); and Michael Culver (Guardian of Piri).

Recently Barbara Bain was seen in a repeat of her 1972 made-for-television film, *Goodnight, My Love*. Unfortunately, she--or rather, her character--is killed near the end of the film. *(information supplied by Susan Gibb)*

Tony Anholt has reportedly done an episode of the *Kelly Monteith Show* on CBS. *(information supplied by Mary Tchir)*

Members' Impressions of Con '80

Just wanted to drop you a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed Con '80. It was great! I'm already looking forward to Con '81, no matter where it is. Terry Bowers, River Falls, WI

I want you to know that this was my first 1999 *con, and I had a blast! I wanted it to go on for two more days. I really had a wonderful time....This con renewed my faith that there really are* 1999 *fans out there.* Keith Young, Lancaster, CA

I don't know what other people think about this year's convention, I can only say that this was my first con and I loved it. The best part of the whole weekend was the entire atmosphere of friendliness everyone showed. The entire event was casual, relaxed and still managed to come off organized. Bonnie J. Yoman, Petersburg, MI

Just thought I'd drop you a line to say that I really enjoyed Space:1999 *Con '80. It was, by far, the most enjoyable con I've ever attended. It was very well run. I'm looking forward to another great Alliance year....* Dale Thelander, Elgin, IL

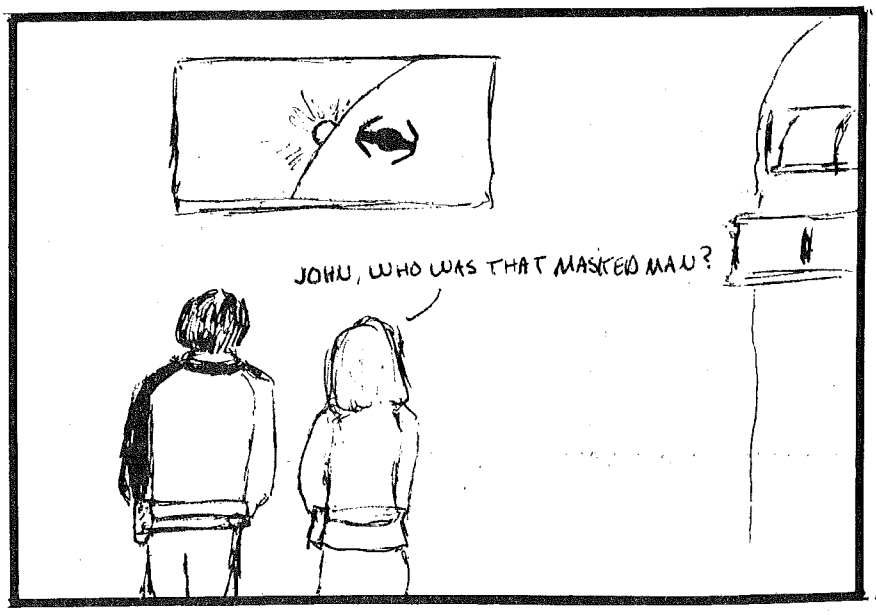
I was one of the many people to attend Con '80. I am writing to say thanks for a great time. The guests were great, the films were out of this world and the art show was beautiful....I would like to thank the entire Alliance staff. I just hope I am able to attend Con '81. Mark Rader Jr., N. Royalton, OH

The convention was great! My brother and I never had so much fun in our lives. Congratulations on a beautifully run convention. Mark Spalding, Phoenix, AZ

It was small but the quality was quite good. I really enjoyed the films and Space:1999 *episodes that were shown this year. There was a large variety, not just the same ones shown over and over. The banquet (though a bit crowded) was the best part of the con for me personally. I really enjoyed the stars you had this year; the best of the last cons and a refreshing new guest. I hope the next convention can keep this friendly spirit alive as it was this year.* Robin Thomas, Wyandotte, MI

I was unable to attend the first two cons, and had made up my mind not to miss the third one. I came to the con not knowing what to expect, and with certain apprehensions as to whether the con would do justice to Space:1999. *I was not disappointed in the least. A great many people said that this con was not as good as the last. For me, it was fantastic nevertheless. These cons provide a great platform from which to keep the cause of* Space:1999 *alive. They provide an opportunity for fans from around the country and around the world to get together and meet and know one another. The con had a very comfortable, homey feel to it, unlike any other con I've been to....Whether the con was as good as past ones or whether it broke even or not on a monetary basis is totally academic....If nothing else, you've made one die hard* Space:1999 *and Gerry Anderson fan extremely happy. Keep up the good work! I'm looking forward to the next con, and the next ten after that. The future is fantastic.* Michael Liebich, Chicago, IL

We welcome your comments and criticisms about Con '80, as well as your suggestions for Con '81.



by Hugh Greentree
Columbus, OH

Help!

Member Jeff Thress asks your help in bringing *1999* to his area. To help, write letters to the following stations, address and stamp them, then put those letters into another envelope and mail to Jeff Thress, 213 Thayer Dr., Richland, WA 99352. Don't put your return address anywhere on the letters to the stations; Jeff will mail them for a local postmark. KREM-TV Ch. 2, 4103 South Regal, Spokane, WA 99203; and Programming Dept., KSTW-TV Ch. 11, P.O. Box 11411, Tacoma, WA 98411. Good luck, Jeff!

Editor's Note

Hello, and welcome back to MAIN COMPUTER, now in its third year. My apologies for the delay in getting this issue out to you; it was a victim of unforeseen difficulties.

Editing MAIN COMPUTER is going to be a real challenge. The excellent job of editing that was done first by Chuck and then by Mare makes them a really tough act to follow. I can only try to match the high standards they've set. Of course, I'll be counting on you, the members of the Alliance, to keep sending your news, views, and even the occasional cartoon or joke for use here. You may not get to see your name up in lights, but you will see it in print, and you'll win my heartfelt thanks, besides. (That and 50¢ will get you a Coke at Mc Donald's....)

All material for use in MAIN COMPUTER, letters to the editor, and requests for information regarding ad rates should be sent to: Marty Siegrist, 1200 Pulaski St., Lansing, MI 48910.

Moonbase Alpha lives!
Marty

Fan Clubs

BRITISH NICK TATE CLUB, Alan Carter's favorite fan club! Giant-size newsletters, lots of excellent photos for sale. 69 Francis Rd., Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6LT ENGLAND. Two IRC's for full details.

THE PRENTIS HANCOCK FANCLUB: Getting bigger, better, more exciting all the time! SASE to 123 Fawn Valley Dr., Mc Murray, PA 15317 (Member: NAFC and FCA)

MAIN MISSION ALPHA: Send SASE for info to Mary Bloemker, 5 Lamson St., East Boston, MA 02128.

SPRINGFIELD *SPACE: 1999* CLUB: Send SASE for info to Chris Landry, 12 Maplewood Terrace, Springfield, MA 01108.

& Publications

PERIPATETIC #2 will be a general SF zine with a heavy *Space:1999* influence. We are desperately looking for any and all *1999* stories! Don't let this fanzine die from lack of interest (as LUNAR did). For more information, please write: George Eichler, 1088 East 43rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210. (Include a SASE if possible)

COMING SOON: Chapter four of *A SPACE:1999 TRILOGY*, "Blutsauger". Follow the Alphans' struggle to survive after the destruction of Lemo. "Blutsauger" will be available soon. Must have fifty orders (advance) to warrant printing. Send $4.50 to Rosie Badgett, 1810 Garrard St., Covington, KY 41014, to reserve a copy.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER!

DOUBLE EPISODE, a *1999* fan novel.

The original printing was sold out before our Columbus gathering. If you missed your chance at buying a copy at Con '80, now's the time to act. If enough orders are placed, an encore printing will be made. The zine contains two new *1999* stories: "ETA to Alpha: Unknown", and "Return of the Taybor", by Bonnie Yoman, art by Jeffrey Smith. Send $5.00 check or money order (U.S. and Canada, add $1.00, overseas add $2.00 for postage and handling) to:

Bonnie J. Yoman
174 E. Madison
Petersburg, MI 49270

THE NATIONAL *SPACE:1999* MERCHANDISE LIST & FAN CLUB: Complete *1999* merchandise list; notes on *1999* instruments and personnel, and a six-part story, plus more. Notes on SF TV shows; reviews of SF movies and more. Subscription $6.00/year (six issues/year), U.S. and Canada. $10.00/year overseas. Order now to be sure to get the first issue (it's going to be full of surprises). Write: The National *Space:1999* Merchandise List and Fan Club, c/o Leonard Hamby, 3021 Ave. I, Apt. F15, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

ALPHA NEWSLETTER; Send SASE for info to Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Dr., Stoneham, MA 02180.

INTERCEPTOR ONE; Australia's first *UFO* fanzine. Over eighty pages of fiction, poetry and an abundance of artwork. Price is $2.00 Australian, plus $3.75 postage (air mail). Write: Geoff Allshorn, 17 McAuley Dr., Rosanna, 3084, Melbourne, Victoria, AUSTRALIA. (Please include SASE, or SAE and international reply coupons.)

FOR SALE: Con '80 photos, *1999* stationery, FORCE OF LAUGH/ Alpha humor book. SASE to Fawn Graphics, 123 Fawn Valley Dr., Mc Murray, PA 15317

FOR SALE: Back issues of MAIN COMPUTER, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. Limited quantities. 35¢ each. Send to Alliance headquarters, 86 First St., New London, OH 44851.

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ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS: INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE/86 First St/New London, OH 44851
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INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE
86 First Street
New London, OH 44851
U.S.A.





Tony Wynn - NW Conference
1660 Lorane Hwy.
Eugene, Or 97405