MAIN COMPUTER

Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE Volume3 Number5

star scanning

Congratulations are in order for GERRY ANDERSON and MARY ROBBINS, who were married last month (April 11th) in Beaconsfield, England.

Last fall, TONY ANHOLT appeared as the lead in *WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY* at the Theatre Royal Windsor. The play tells the story of a man faced with a life of complete immobility after a car accident, and his arguments, witty and often desperate, with the authorities for the right to die.

BARRY GRAY writes: *"Had a very successful evening...when I conducted the National Philharmonic Orchestra at the Odeon, Leicester Square (London), for the Royal Film Performance. Everything went very well, and I was presented to Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret afterwards."*

....PATRICK MCGOOHAN *(THE PRISONER) plays Dr. Paul Ruth in SCANNERS*....PATRICK MCNEE *(John Steed in THE AVENGERS) is appearing in a series of Ford Granada commercials--as John Steed. He also plays a psychiatrist in the new film THE HOWLING*....DIRK BENEDICT *will be starring in a new two-hour adaptation of SCRUPLES*....LISA HARROW *(Anna Davis in "Testament of Arkadia") plays Kate Reynolds in THE FINAL CONFLICT*....

Home Box Office (pay cable-TV) lists GERRY ANDERSON'S *THUNDERBIRDS TO THE RESCUE* in its May program guide. Showings are May 20th and 26th. Check local listings for times.

(Information for this issue's "Star Scanning" segment was supplied by: TOD ELSWORTH, Portsmouth, OH; PHIL HANFT, Hatboro, PA; LINDA MCCAULEY, Ephrata, PA; KATHY and JOHN VON KAMP, New London, OH; and MARTIN EAST, England. Many thanks, folks!)

Will Buck Survive?

NBC has done it yet again. BUCK ROGERS is no longer alive and well in the 25th century. Ratings for the show dipped down to 19% for "The Golden Man" episode; the lowest Nielsen rating a network show can have and still stay on the air is about 23-25%. BUCK is usually around 23%, but since it's borderline, the network is seriously considering dropping it from the schedule.

Tony Wynn, editor of the SPACE:1999 Reconnaissance Newsletter, would like to see a letter campaign started to save lucky BUCK, and requests that everyone interested in the show write to NBC and say so. As always, letters should be brief and polite, typed if possible, and on letterhead stationery where appropriate. You should not write "Buck Rogers" anywhere on the outside of the envelope; this obliges them to open all letters to discover what they're about. Also, send individual letters, not petitions, as interest in the series is gauged by the number of individual pieces of mail received. Petitions are counted as one letter. Send your letters to National Broadcasting Company, c/o Mr. Fred Silverman, President, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

Eastern Section Rep Scrod--er, Tod--Ellsworth also says that, if you hurry, you still may be able to get Gil's newest autographed picture. His agent has produced a four-page PR packet on card stock, which is sent when you write Gil c/o the station. Inside is a 5x7 color portrait of Gil, in the hair style and uniform of the new season; a letter; and a life and career bio. The package is well worth the wait.

Dialogue Quiz

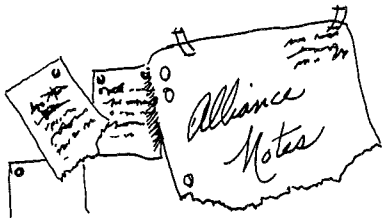
The response to these quizzes has been really great. The number of entries is growing each time, as is the number of correct answers. The winner of the third quiz (in the) ll *MC*) was Lois Nelson of Bloomington, MN. The correct answer was Maya in *All That Glisters*. And we have another quiz for this issue:

"If you want to check yourself out, that's your affair. Open any airlock."

To win a free 3½x5 in-stock color 1999 photo, plus a bonus 8x10 black and white one of Alan, Helena and John in Command Center, send the name of the episode and the person speaking to John and Kathy Von Kamp at Alliance HQ, 86 First Street, New London, OH 44851. The deadline this time is May 31, 1981. (And John and Kathy would like to thank Chris Hantzopulos and Debbie Sania for helping provide quiz material.)

Fan Fund

The recipient of this year's SPACE:1999 Fan Fund is Kathi Lynn Higley. The fund is still far short of the amount needed to fly the winner to Atlanta for this year's convention. Help Kathi and the Fund, and at the same time get some great 1999 and sf items for yourself! Send a business size, self-addressed, stamped envelope (Canadian members, the envelope and 20¢; overseas, an SAE and four IRC's) for a listing to Mary Bloemker, 5 Lamson Street, East Boston, MA 02128.



SECTION UPDATE, Eastern and Southern Sections. The Alliance was represented at Marshall University's MUNCHCON in Huntington, WV. Rosie Badgett, Joey Buchanan, Tod Ellsworth and Darryl Riley presented a slide presentation on the sfx, aliens and both seasons of SPACE:1999. Slides of our previous co rounded out the show. The presentation ended with a question and answer session. Models, photo albums and promo books were also on display. Much to the relief of the four moderators, the show was a success. But then, only people with a touch of insanity could have pulled it off. (Thanks, guys--now even West Virginia knows that 1999 lives!)

WHEN WE SAY 'INTERNATIONAL', WE MEAN IT. Welcome to our new overseas members, from Japan: Satoru Yamamoto, Hiroyuki Satou, and Kuni Tanaka.

ALLIANCE CALENDARS? John and Kathy Von Kamp, better known as our fearless Alliance Presidents, would like to know if members would be interested in getting an Alliance calendar. Information gathered so far indicates that for around three dollars each, one-picture (collage) black and white ones could be made up. One hundred orders would be needed to get the project in operation. If you would be interested in getting a calendar, let John and Kathy know soon; if there is sufficient response, a note will be printed in a future *MC* giving price and ordering information. Remember, send no money now.

input

Letters from Alliance members, being comments and opinions on sundry topics:

Terry Shewmaker, Visalia, CA: *"What a day! Watching Columbia come down safely, south of here at Edwards. It was worth getting up at 3:30am--twice--to see it go up, and everything else they went through to get up there again. A real-life Moonbase Alpha suddenly feels a lot closer, and that's exciting."*

Arthur Dinkin, Lebanon, NH: *"I would like to drop a line and commend Tod Ellsworth. I have always been a backseat sf fan, but when I met him on a 'Looney Run', he gave me encouragement and helped bring me into the world of fandom. It is people like Tod who keep the Alliance alive, and the world needs more people like him. Way to go, Tod, and keep up*

SPACECON '81 UPDATE 2

SPACE:1999 CONVENTION '81 -- AUGUST 7-9, 1981

in ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FROM THE PRESIDENTS:

This year the Alliance, like so many other clubs, is experiencing a decline in membership. Compared to last year at this time we have about 100 fewer members. We assume this is due to current economic conditions. We hope it wasn't due to the increase in dues or to a decline in interest. If you know someone who hasn't rejoined or if you feel you won't join next year, please contact us and let us know why. We want to be responsive to our fans and we will try to provide what you want to see in MAIN COMPUTER. Please let us know what you'd like to see in future issues. Merchandise sales are running slightly ahead of last year, but we've noticed a decline in orders in recent MAIN COMPUTERS. We hope this too is merely symptomatic of the economy, but if there is something else you would like to see on the merchandise lists, please let us know.

At this time con memberships are running somewhat behind the pace set last year. We're beginning the major portion of our ad campaign this month. If you would like to help the Alliance and the con, the best thing you could do would be to contact any of your friends who've not rejoined or who don't plan to attend the con and see if you can convince them to rejoin. There are still people out there who believe they're alone in their enjoyment of SPACE:1999. Those people are hard for us to contact, and require the efforts of individuals to locate. Efforts in this direction would be really helpful.

CON GUESTS:

We have sent out invitations to several possible guests. We have received acceptances from BARRY GRAY and SUZANNE ROQUETTE (Tanya Alexander in Year One). CATHERINE SCHELL, HARRISON FORD and ED BISHOP were invited, but are unable to accept. Others who have been invited, but haven't as yet responded, are: GERRY ANDERSON, ANNE LOCKHART, BARRY MORSE, STUART DAMON, TONY ANHOLT, MARK HAMILL, DIRK BENEDICT, MICHAEL BILLINGTON (UFO), JOHN HUG, MARTIN LANDAU, BARBARA BAIN, JANE SEYMOUR, GIL GERARD and CONNIE SELLICA, BRIAN BLESSED, and STACY DORNING (Zona in "Exiles").

We will be sending invitations to the following people this month: BRIAN JOHNSON, CHRISTOPHER LEE, ERIN GRAY, THOM CHRISTOPHER, ZIENIA MERTON, DAVE PROWSE, TIM O'CONNOR, MARGOT KIDDER, JOHNNY BYRNE, ANTON PHILLIPS, LAURETTE SPANG and CHRISTOPHER REEVES.

We certainly hope to add some of these people to our guest list before the con, but will have to have more support. Currently we do not have sufficient funds to pay for the hotel expenses and bring over the two guests who have accepted. There is still plenty of time before the con, and we are sure we'll be able to bring over the stars who've accepted at this time, but the number of additional guests we'll be able to bring from the lists above will depend on you.

BANQUET:

Yes, folks, there will be a banquet again this year, and plenty of tickets are still available at this time. Cost per ticket is $40 (price hasn't increased since 1978). Proceeds from banquet ticket sales are a major source of funds for airfare for the con guests. With that $40, you can reserve your place in the most congenial and entertaining gathering of the con, while at the same time truly helping and supporting the con. Hurry and order your ticket soon, as seating is limited to 100 members!

CHARITY AUCTION:

We thought we'd whet the appetites of all you big-spending collectors out there by listing just a few of the items we've already received for this year's auction (which will be held in two 2½-hour sessions--one Saturday and one Sunday). Just a sample:

Original scripts from various SPACE:1999, animated STAR TREK, BUCK ROGERS episodes, plus from GENESIS II, SPECTRE and QUESTOR; complete 1999 Year One and Two Italian gum card sets (400 cards each); one unopened Hawk model; a 1999 trailer (with episode trailers from "Last Enemy", "Testament of Arkadia", "Space Brain" and two more); sets of 1999 paperbac ; comic books; ALIEN publicity stills; MOON ZERO TWO and TIME AFTER TIME pressbooks; eight animated STAR TREK cels; film clips from ANDROMEDA STRAIN, ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU, STAR TREK, STAR WARS, PETER PAN, SNOW WHITE, LADY AND THE TRAMP, FANTASIA and JUNGLE BOOK; 35mm trailers from METEOR, SUPERMAN,WIZARDS and SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION....to name just a few!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NONATTENDING MEMBERS

We will also have an auction for nonattending members. This auction will have duplicates of some of the materials in the charity auction. You must be a paid nonattending member to participate. (Those who'll be at the con may participate only if they also have a supporting membership.) A list of auction items and a complete list of the rules will appear in the June MAIN COMPUTER, so sign up as a supporting member today!

CON HOTEL, TICKETS:

Remember, the ticket prices for those 15 and over go up on June 1st to $18.00 for a 3-day membership. Any mail orders postmarked after May 31, 1981 will owe this amount. All other prices remain the same. (Please see Update One in April's MC#4 for other prices; send a SASE to Alliance HQ if you've missed that update.) And of course, the con hotel is the Sheraton Inn--Airport, 1325 Virginia Ave., East Point, GA 30344. Reservation cards will be sent out with all con ticket receipts.

CON ADDRESSES: (include a SASE when writing for info)

*TICKETS & REGISTRATION--Kathy and John Von Kamp, Alliance HQ, 86 First St., New London, OH 44851.

*COSTUME CALL--you must preregister to enter this event. Write to Paul Bens, 2328½ Dixie Hwy, Ft. Mitchell, KY, or Rosie Badgett,1810 Garrard, Covington, KY 41014.

*AMATEUR FILM CONTEST & SHOW--Tom Cicirelli, 29539 Shaker Dr., Wickliffe, OH 44092; or James Driscoll, 2406 Station Rd., Erie, PA 16510. Preregistrations and fees should be sent directly to them.

*LOCAL CON CHAIRPERSONS--Ron and Marilea Butler, Castaways Apts. C-11, Leisure Lake Rd., Warner Robins, GA 31093.

*FILM/VIDEOTAPE PROGRAMMING--Ron Butler, address just above. All films and videotapes to be part of the scheduled programming (and not the amateur film competition) should be preregistered with Ron so he can work out the official schedule. Also, be sure and let Ron know what films or episodes you would like to see at Con '81.

*PROGRAM BOOK--Alice Newsom and Juanita Cunningham, 111 Vickie Dr., Warner Robins, GA 31093. All ads should be camera-ready; otherwise, there's an art fee of $5.00. Deadline for program book ads is June 20, 1981 for overseas ads, July 1, 1981 for domestic. The program book will be 8½x11 format, so full page ads should be no larger than 7½x10. Other sizes are available. Costs: ¼-page $2.50, ½-page $5.00, full page $10.00, for clubs. For dealers, ¼-page $5.00, ½-page $10.00, full page $20.00.

*ART SHOW AND AUCTION--Marty Siegrist, 1200 Pulaski St., Lansing, MI 48910. All art must be preregistered to show.

*CHARITY AUCTION--Chuck Raue, 804 Rowell St., Mobile, AL 36606. Donations welcomed!

*GO-PHER SQUAD--Ann Hester, 315 Willow Ave., Warner Robins, GA 31093. All volunteers for active duty at the con must have registered with Ann before the con.

*POST-CON REPORT COMMITTEE--we still need folk skilled and experienced in fan publication layout and design, as well as photographers. Film and graphic supplies will be provided by the Alliance. Write Alliance HQ, address above.

the good work."

Patty Baer, Fairbank, PA: *"A recent episode of BUCK ROGERS looked like a rerun of 'Bringers of Wonder'. There were a few minor changes, but in this episode, Buck was the only person on the Searcher to see the aliens as they really were. Familiar?"*

Allen Jones, Port Arthur, TX: *"In MC Vol. 3 #2, Mark Robertson of Baton Rouge, LA, requests the publication of supplements for the Alpha Moonbase Tech Notebook. I totally agree with him that it is high time STARLOG kept its word and published such supplements. In the same vein, I feel that it's about time Gerry Anderson's Starcruiser Two model kit (the follow-up to his highly successful SC-1, SC-2 was announced in the April '79 issue of STARLOG) was released to the public as well. I'm sure that those of us who enjoyed SC-1 and want to see SC-2 are getting weary of waiting."*

Frances Emerson, Geneva, NY: *"I commend Gerry Anderson for the gentlemanly reply he wrote to Fred Freiberger's interview in STARLOG a few issues back. It took a lot of courage not to throw punches at the man as David Gerrold and D.C. Fontana did. But I cannot help but feel the reply was filled with sorrow and heartache for a program that was made with total love and devotion that only a creator of fine art could give his work. // To me, the first year of SPACE:1999 was overflowing with British philosophies and ideas--and they were presented beautifully. SPACE was made as fine as any piece of fine artwork could have been made. I was appalled when SPACE:1999 was compared with STAR TREK. There was no comparison because the ideologies and philosophies behind the two were so vastly different. // I don't know how many of you out there read the Freiberger interview, but there was one question and answer in Part II that I definitely did read, and which made me violently ill: the accusation that the British writers of SPACE had no plots in their scripts. Ridiculous! If everyone on this earth thought that way, writers like Anton Chekhov and James Joyce would never have gotten into print. Nor would there be such things as sur-fiction, stream of consciousness, or avante garde literature. We cannot be --we must not be--spoon-fed 'plot' as producers like Fred Freiberger would have it. We are an intelligent people. We are diverse enough to understand minds unlike our own--we must welcome the challenge of understanding them--and not try to change a foreign substance to fit our own lifestyles just because it's too hard at first to understand."*

A little help from our friends is needed:

Eastern Section Rep Tod Ellsworth is looking for people who videotaped episodes of THE NEW AVENGERS. Anyone who taped any of the episodes, or knows of someone who did, please drop him a line at 3691 Sheridan Rd., Portsmouth, OH 45662.

Also needed is a Knight in Shining Armor. For you Sir Galahads out there, we have a damsel in distress. Stacie Moose needs to find a ConVoy for Con '81. If you can come to her rescue, write her immediately at 905 Maurine Dr., Columbus, OH 43228.

ads

*FAN CLUBS 'N PUBS**

PRENTIS HANCOCK FANCLUB--c/o Mare Fitzgerald, 123 Fawn Valley Dr., McMurray, PA 15317.

BRITISH NICK TATE CLUB--send two IRC's for membership info to Eileen Skidmore and Phyl Proctor, 69 Francis Rd., Acock's Green, Birmingham, B27 6LT, ENGLAND.

**Remember to include a SASE with your letter requesting information.*

SPRINGFIELD SPACE:1999 CLUB--c/o Chris Landry, 12 Maplewood Terrace, Springfield, MA 01103.

ALPHA NEWSLETTER--c/o Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Dr., Stoneham, MA 02180.

NEW CHICAGO TRIBUNE--Buck Rogers and 1999. C/o Darryl Riley, 613 Garrard St., Covington, KY 41011.

MAIN MISSION ALPHA--c/o Mary Bloemker, 5 Lamson St., East Boston, MA 01108.

IS:1999 ALLIANCE/NORTHWEST CONFERENCE--RECONNAISSANCE newsletter. SASE to Tony L. Wynn, 1660 Lorane Hwy, Eugene, OR 97405.

JOURNALS OF KOBOL--all-GALACTICA zine, SASE to Janice W. Sidwell, P.O. Box 40937, Nashville, TN 37204.

ALPHA NEWS SERVICE--newszine. For info, send SASE to ALPHA NEWS SERVICE, 160 W. Foster St., Melrose, MA 02176.

LODESTAR #2--all-fiction fanzine with art, stories and poetry from any SF books, movies and TV shows. 92 pages, $4.72. Issue #1 is also still available. 105 pages, $5.62. Make checks out to Gail Zehner, 889 Maple Lane, Meadville, PA 16335.

SHADO*USECC--UFO club. Due $7.00/year. C/o Jim Main, 121 Railroad St., New Milford, CT 06776.

CATACOMB ECHOES--1999 zine, will be available in Sept. '81. Write Mark Robertson, 9421 Sagefield Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70811.

ALPHA QUARTERLY #1--SASE to Daniel J. Pallotta, P.O. Box 11123, Cleveland, OH 44111.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE episode guide, available June 1st. Twenty-one pages, with photos. Seasons 1-3 only. Write Terry S. Bowers, 603 N. Clark St., River Falls, WI 54022.

THE INTERNATIONAL MARTIN LANDAU-BARBARA BAIN FAN ASSOCIATION. Join now! The next issue will be out soon...with a special added surprise. SASE to Debbie Phares, 1780 Ednamary Way, Apt. E, Mountain View, CA 94040.

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF FAN CLUBS--organized to promote fan clubbing. Membership fee is $2.00/year for clubs or individuals. The Association will be holding its third convention this year on Nov. 14th and 15th at the Holiday Inn, 301 W. Lombard St., Baltimore, MD. A salute to the unusual, the convention will honor Stuntman, Star Trek, Dark Shadows and Cosmos. For more information on the Association and/or the convention, send a SASE to Maryland Assn. of Fan Clubs, Rt. 1, Box 208D, Cordova, MD 21615.

FANDERSON '81--Convention books are available for this convention, recently held in England. They are printed on glossy, heavy stock paper, with color covers, and contain photos, biographies (including an excellent Anderson one), ads and more, with emphasis on Anderson supermarionation. Send $4.00 in cash, bank or postal money order to Pamela Barnes, 88A Thorton Ave., Chiswick, London W4-1QQ, GREAT BRITAIN. (Price includes air mail postage.)

MERCHANDISE (AND MORE....)

UNIFORMS--Alphans, Logan's Run, Buck Rogers and BSG. SASE for info to Dale Thelander, Box 1141, Elgin, IL 60120.

WANTED: Letters, photos, pictures, etc. for a memory book for Barry Gray. Send to Sue Cole, 2710 Rohlwing Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. Sue also has buttons, stationery, scripts, tapes and more for sale. Send large SASE for info.

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Personal replies require a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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