MAIN COMPUTER

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Newsletter of the International Space:1999 Alliance

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HEY!!!! If things don't go wrong this should be on schedule. Will wonders never cease. We know that it hasn't been that long since the last MC arrived, but we had enough material and we got some responses to the last MC which we wanted to (and were requested to) share with you. It isn't often we receive two letters so close together with such widely varying views. We are grateful to both individuals for taking the time to write and inform us of their ideas and opinions. They are the only people to respond so far but we hope to hear from more of you. We may not print all letters received as we have these two, but we will try to address all questions in a questions to the editors column to begin when we get some questions which deal with subjects which may be of interest to all members. The first letter printed is more supportive and is greatly appreciated since it means we are at least pleasing some of the people some of the time. The second letter is more critical but is just as appreciated since it deals with what people would like to see us do and what they think we could do better even if it may not be possible for us to do so. You can't please all of the people all the time. We will take time at the end of the second letter to try and respond to some of the questions raised. We hope this will explain a little better what goes on behind the scenes. If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Our first letter comes from Kerry Keene -

To Alliance Members:

I would normally be sending in material for Scanning or a story to be printed in MC, but when I read the introductory comments to the March '84 issue of MC, I just had to add some of my own comments to those of John and Kathy.

I, like John and Kathy, and I feel the rest of the fans, hate to lose a member. But I think that we must remember one thing when we are talking about the contents of MC. And that is, 1999 has been out of production for over seven years and thus (there) will not be any new information concerning 1999; unlike "Star Trek" which is just fininshing up production on its third film. We're not as fortunate, for so many reasons.

One of those reasons, in my opinion, is that ITC hasn't really supported 1999 since it left the air in 1977. I haven't seen it since that time, and unfortunately, many other parts of the country haven't either. It is extremely difficult to maintain fan support when the TV series of interest hasn't been seen for awhile.

And it isn't likely that Space will be distributed on a wide basis in the near future. I wrote one of the local independant stations recently, and according to them, Space is no longer being distributed as a series; only as a package called "Super Space Theatre", along with other Anderson shows.

I haven't been with the Alliance for very long (2 years), but I intend to support it as long as it exists (and I hope that is a very long time to come), and I feel that the fans we have now feel the way I do. Let's not let this club fall by the road as so many other '99 clubs have done. Let's not let this wonderful series fall into oblivion! It deserves better than that! Let's also give Rosie, Kathy, John and all the people who work so damn hard to put on our conventions each year, our full support. You know, they don't have to do this work. I'm sure they could find other things to fill their time. But they do it out of the enjoyment of publishing MC and planning and putting on the conventions. At least we can support them.

Alas, I want to be able to make the convention, but witin the time this letter is mailed and the time it appears in MC (if John & Kathy so choose to print it), I will have sent my money in for the non-attending tickets. I hope others follow suit. Take care, Kerry

Our other letter comes from Fee Rossi -

Dear John and Kathy:

Hello! How are things? I hope that you two and Heather are doing well. I'm okay, though overworked as usual.

I just got my MC for March, and two of the sections (membership and con '84) caught my eye. Since you freely solicited comments, I am sending mine along. ((Before I continue, I'd like to assure you that nothing I have to say reflects on anyone personally, so PLEASE don't take it that way. One of the best things about the Alliance is that it hasn't succumbed to the egocentrism other groups have, so remember -- I'm not pointing any fingers here!))

First, the matter of convention money. Every year, we hear the same story about "there's no money coming in, so maybe the con is off". Every year, we have a con. Relax, guys. I just sent my money in now, because before last Sunday, I had no idea that the con would definitely fit into my schedule. I'm sure most everybody else is the same way -- after all, why send money in January if you're not sure what you'll be doing in July?

Now, on to the important parts. . . .
As you know, I've been with the Alliance ever since '77-'78, when Jeff Jones was answering letters personally, and the newsletter was a page long. The Alliance was rather pleasant in those days; there was a certain fanishness about the whole thing. Then, it happened -- we got organized. Somehow, that became the kiss of death for any kind of personalized communication.

And that, I think, is the biggest problem the Alliance has -- lack of communication. I know I'm not the only one who has that "no one ever tells me anything" feeling, either. When it comes to anything having to do with the Alliance, I feel absolutely abandoned. Any news I get is most definitely third-hand, even if it involves me

personally. A case in point: the costume call/talent show business. Last year, no one bothered to inform me that Alice and Juanita were working on the call until Friday afternoon. They were listed in the program book, though, so it was hardly a new plan. Believe it or not, no one told me that I was running this semi-mythical Talent Show this year. I thought I was on Costume Call again. My mistake? I don't think so.

My example is a small one, though. (.....) I can handle it. On to bigger game, and essentially the most important one, the con. After all, the conventions are the only real activities that the Alliance has, and I think the stress placed on them is only logical. However, I don't feel that I have any influence or input into the cons. As to the location of the cons, membership numbers indicate that an Eastern con is the most sensible, no matter what our thirty-odd Western members feel. However, sensibility is not the chiefest aspect of this group, so a West coast con would only be fair. Aside from locale, though, what about the con guests? Who chooses them? Why, for instance, is Robert Colbert coming to this year's con? "Time Tunnel" is a vague childhood memory for me, and though "Young and the Restless" borders on thefantastical, it hardly fits the theme of our con. I'm all for having non-1999 guests at con. There are lots of actors out there that I would like to meet; I would just like to be able to recognize who they are! Essentially, I would just like to have my opinions count for something, and not feel that they're being made for me, as I do now.

Reading back, I see my letter is hardly calm. So, I shall give some rational testimony. A friend of mine, a section rep, said to me recently that he felt the Alliance was dying from lack of interest. Unfortunately, I found myself agreeing with him. There was a time a few months ago when I was trully willing to dump the Alliance altogether and move on to other things. The only thing that kept me in was the fact that I have a lot of friends in the Alliance, and I wouldn't get to see them if it weren't for the con.

Obviously, the Alliance is not what it was; things shouldn't stay the same, of course, but the change hasn't been for the better, as our drop in membership may indicate. The only improvements I can suggest are these:

1. More regular and frequent MC's. If that means that someone other than the two of you take over the editing, so be it. Main Computer is the only line of communication with the Alliance that most of us have, however flimsy. (I, for one, can't afford long distance phone calls to get news.)
2. Broaden the appeal of the Alliance. This idea may seem a little radicalto some, but really it isn't. Many of our guests have had nothing to do with 1999, and I don't think it's hurt us. 1999 is already an "old" show by TV standards, and SF is always changing. Instead of stressing the past, we should investigate new things. I'm not saying that we should forget the reason the Alliance was formed, just that we should become more open to the other fans out there that have other interests. [And other money.]

That's all I have to say about the matter without going off the deep end. Please pass this on to whoever would be interested. (I dare you to print it!) I'm sending a copy to Rosie.

I know from sad experience that whenever I try to complain/get involved/improve something, most everyone decides to get apathetic and defend the status quo. I'd hate to see that happen with the Alliance. After all, it's like John said -- ACTIVE participation is what keeps the club alive. So, thanks for giving me the opportunity to raise my blood pressure.

Hate mail may be addressed to . . . Fee Rossi

(Ed. -She signed it that way,not us . We appreciate her concern.)

Thanks to both individuals for taking time to express thier feelings. If anyone else would like to reply to either of these letters, please feel free to do so but we will now make a few comments on both these letters hoping that for each person who takes the time to write there are probably a dozen people out there with the same question.

We feel Kerry is indeed correct in assuming that part of the problem lies with ITC's support for the series. They have released the "Super Space Theatre" package (we have one of the promotional packages for this group of films in the auction this year) but while the pictures are nice, I have seen better promotional jobs done by fan organizations. In combining 8 episodes into 4 movies and removing them from series sales, they seriously reduced the series appeal to any and all TV stations. This, in addition to the high syndication costs charged because of the series high production costs, all but destroy its appeal to TV station managers. The same high production costs will probably keep "V" from being anything but a "mini-series" unless a small miracle occurs. Still, ITC is not entirely to blame. Hanna-Barbera also obtained the rights to Space:1999 in the U.S. They made a Star Trek animated version but did nothing with Space:1999. To get merchandising rights, you have to deal with them but unless you have a guaranteed $2000 in sales, most of the profits go to paying the license fees. All this plus the fact that ATV in England actually seemed to be trying to restrict the release or sale of 1999 related items did nothing to help promote the series. Perhaps the best thing going for the series is that it is becoming fact. The current Space Shuttle corresponds with the Falcon shuttle in the Space:1999 timeline (1981). The Centuri space dock was supposed to appear in 1982 but in actuality, a space station is more likely to appear in the early 1990's with a small permanent base on the moon shortly after the turn of the century. Perhaps the base will be called Alpha.

Now on to our second letter. Why do we keep asking for money in advance? Perhaps we don't need the actual money before June, but we really(!) need to know as early as possible how many people will definately be attending the convention. There are many reasons. Dealers want to know so they can plan how much to bring and if it will be profitable for them to attend. (last year only 1 outside dealer came) We also need to know about a month in advance, how many rooms the hotel should reserve for members at the special convention rates. Once the block of rooms we reserve is filled up, you will have to pay full regular price and we don't want to have the hotel turn away other customers to hold our block of rooms if they aren't going to be used. The number of rooms filled also helps determine the final cost of the convention floor rooms. The more we know earlier, the better off we are in planning where funds will have to be allocated. Another reason for requesting an early response is that it helps us to determine how many of the guest who want to come(more later) we can afford to bring. The cheapest airfare rates are given for tickets booked one month in advance. We need these rates to be able to afford as

many guests as we can but we can only go out on a limb so far without having a good idea of the attendance so we normally only have as many guests as we have money in hand to pay for. Going much over this limit can cause the same problem the Springfield con had. We don't want to wait until the last minute to "encourage" early payment. I'm sure you've all noticed that we've been having fewer guests and more non-Space:1999 guests. The reason is that the 1999 stars have been very busy (that's good) but it also costs over twice as much to bring a guest star from England (most 1999 guests) than it does to bring a guest star from the US (most non 1999 guests).

The question is; do we continue to hold conventions if we can't afford to have guest stars(more later) and we have no dealers other than current Alliance members with items to sell? If Ann Lockhart had not been available at the last minute and been willing to come for airfare and only a $500 fee instead of her usual $3000, that's about what we would have had last year. The decision is partly up to you. If you don't care if we have guest stars or dealers and enough people still come so we can afford the floor space and video equipment, we will probably always have a con. If this is not acceptable and enough people don't come, the choice of whether or not to have a con will not be the members choice to make.

As far as communication goes, the MC was designed to be the primary means(if not the only means) of communication in the Alliance. The information in MC concerns the workings of the Alliance as a club. Get-togethers between friends/members who met because of the club, but not generally open to all members are not normally reported other than in passing or as a filler if there is nothing else earth shattering to report because these are not scheduled but happen more on a spur of the moment basis. Generally speaking, not much else is done before the convention other than advertising which we ask for help with until about 3 months before the con. The guest invitations were sent in December as were the dealer notifications of the convention and about what would be happening at the con. From then until about April, about all we do is wait for responses and try and guage what the attendance might be from early responses based on previous history. From there on, it is just matching funds available with what we want to do and see if it is possible. (This is where your president tends to lose hair or turn grey.) This con is the only club sponsored event. If you would like to see other types of club functions, section functions or just more reports on what other members are or are going to be doing, please let us know. We will see what can be arranged.

Problems with communication will exist in any organization and when the group is as spread out over the globe as we are, its amazing that they aren't worse than they are. There are times when things don't get out as fast or perhaps as clear as they should but we do our best and if the fan network gets it out faster than our regular channels and you here it fourth or fifth hand before it comes from us we're sorry. Many cons depend on fan contact to spread the word in case of changes in schedule and it is only because they know how fast the word can be spread. If at any time you have a question, don't hesitate to ask for an answer or for clarification. A post card will do. We will try to answer as soon as possible within personal time constraints because even though the club is very important to us all, it is something we do in our "spare" time and that is hard to come by.

Next concern, con sites. We have asked for votes on the con site before and found that people tend to nominate and then vote for the area closest to them with no area getting a majority. Other factors affecting our choice are the cost of the rooms for those attending and the cost of the convention floor rooms. Ifcosts up to $80-100 per night are acceptable, we can have cons almost anywhere. We don't think many of our members couls afford those rates even if the rooms were booked as quads. In some cases it is the room rates which help dictate where we willl hold the con but it is not the sole reason. We also need a city where reliable members live who can check out the hotel and other facilities needed to support the con. They need to find the best rates and carry out a publicity campaign using all media which they can find and afford. It is hard to find cities where we have enough members to do the work and meet the other requirements. It is also very hard to try to do it with a group scattered all over due to communication problems. We know they exist, believe us. We do, however, wish to do what the members want and if the majority want to vote on the site, we will do our best to satisfy as many people as possible.

The matter of guests is easy. The guests decide who the guests will be. "WHAT?" you say. Its true. We send out about 30 or 40 invitations each year to various SF/Fantasy TV and film personalities such as Gil Gerard and Erin Gray (Buck Rogers), Richard Hatchand,Dirk Benedict(BSG), David Hasselhoff(Knight Rider), Christopher Lee (Capt. Zandor), Faye Grant (Dr. Parish, V), Dave Prowse(Beta Cloud Creature) and others plus the cast of Space: 1999. Our guests are selected from the people who accept our invitations. This is not as easy as it sounds. Some people just don't want to attend cons and never answer or state they won't attend any cons. If we get no reply after 2-3 invitations or if they ask us not to send any more invitations, we take the name off our list of people to invite. Often the people invited know when they get the invitations that they will be busy filming and express their regrets that they can't come. Still others agree to come but are offered work after accepting which they can't afford to turn down and have to decline. This is what happened last year with the Space:1999 guests we invited. All acceptances have the "if schedule permits" provision. Others are removed from the lists because the fees they ask can not be covered by our budgets. We currently provide airfare, hotel costs and $500 for the weekend for most guests. This is not enough when many celebrities ask $3000-$10000 for a one or two day appearance. We would have to consistently have over 600 people or dedicate all our auction money to guest fees to have a ghost of a chance to pay this kind of fee. We alo try to appeal to all our members likes and some of us (no names) do remember well things like Science Fiction Theater(1956), Fireball XL-5(1962), Time Tunnel(1966), and others. Honestly, everyone's opinions count but so few voice their opinions it is hard to know what everyone wants. If you agree or disagree with the letters or with the response, don't hesitate to write.

After having received other complaints about the time we spend on the con, it was hard to decide how much to print. We decided it was just as important to answer all the questions for eveyone's benefit. We have expanded the MC by one extra page so we will have almost as much material as would be in a regular MC.

We're All Aliens Until We Get To Know One Another

To get the full force of this bio, you should pull out your last MC and read the last bio.

ROBBIE PERKINS / 201 E. Reed / Bowling Green, Oh 43402

Sniff, Sniff I smell ..... I smell ..... Hey is Susie around! You can call me Robbie Bobbie Boo (To set the record straight I WILT! (sorry sue sue)). I live on Ultima Thule or as you earth people call it, Bowling Green, Ohio. I'm 20 years old, that is 300 years old for you guys! My hobbies are staying warm, art, SF, music, and the habits of hamsters. I discovered SPACE one night when I was running away from "Hee Haw" (my parents still rue that day). I also like Hart to Hart, and Wizards and Warriors. Sniff, sniff, I still smell something! I hope to one day be a janitor on Moonbase Alpha. (Get real guys, who do you think empties the trash cans!) My favorite character is Helena, and my favorite figment of my imagination is Margaret. Opps, I guess I should tell you my name, lets see, I used to know it. Here, let me get out my wallet ..... hmmmmmm ..... hmmmmmm. Oh, its Robbie Perkins. (and no I'm not a guy!) hmmmmm sniff .... hmmmm sniff sniff .... I smell ... sniff I smell EVIL!! Oh, I knew Susie was here! If she doesn't kill, I'll see ya at Con! Look for the Ewok!

(Ed. note: Susan and Robbie were at Rosie's house for a weekend when they wrote these.)

KAREN RENE DOMAIN / 26 Deepspring Ct. / Reistertown, Md 21136 or Bryn Mawr College / Bryn Mawr, Pa 19010

After almost two decades of life, I'm currently attending Bryn Mawr College, outside Philadelphia, majoring in Russian. Formerly a Trekker (a long time ago!), I've been entirely devoted to Space:1999 since 7th grade, but an avid SF fan since I saw "Lost in Space" when I was 5. "Death's Other Dominion", "The Taybor", and Maya, Tony, and Bill are my favorites. Other interests include Dr. Who, Battlestar Galactica, and astronomy. Together with fellow Baltimorean Charmaine "Shermeen" Chester, who calls me "Dragon", I co-edit a Space:1999 zine called M.U.F. (still working on Issue 4, folks!) which we started as a continuation of M.M.A.'s CC. Requests for more info and/or correspondence are welcome!

We have heard from some members that some persons stating they want persons to write to them are not answering their letters. If you want people to write you, please make every effort to answer the letters as soon as possible. Thanks.

SPOCC

As a member of SPOCCs - the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Creatures - I feel that I should speak out on the effect that horror films of today and yesterday have had on the subjects of the films. The movies of today have regressed back to the appalling films of early Hollywood; making the 'monsters' of these films out to be demons instead of the wonderful creatures that they are. Due to long hours of working late into the night with various students, I feel that I am more than qualified to share my vast knowledge on the subject with the eager young minds of the theatre-goers of today.

While the creatures of the horror films have changed from man-made beasts of plant, animal and mineral substances to man-made beasts of plastics, energies and fear - the problems facing these creatures are the same .... the brilliant scientist that is ignored because of this genius ... the snobby, self-centered daughter or niece of the scientist who teases the poor creature and never even talks to him and....the lab assistant who thinks the scientist is unstable and wants him stopped .... and the daughter. Can you blame the guy if he is a bit anti-social after growing up with that lot?

In the older versions of the story, the creature is depicted rather badly from the start; he is really a very muscular, aesthetically good-looking form, from a scientific point of view, who really wants just to sit and have a stimulating conversation with someone. He unfortunately finds that the daughter is the real monster while she spends her free time with the lab assistant after promising to at least visit him once in a while. The creature, driven by burning love, set off during the few scant minutes when the daughter wasn't looking in the mirror or deciding which pair of high heeled shoes to wear during her midnight stroll through the swamp with the lab assistant, usually ends his fateful existance at the hands of the lab assistant.

The poor creature never gets a chance to explain his real motivations. If a psychologist ever sat down and examined him we would probably find that he is a nicer chap than the lab assistant. While he may have a couple bad habits - eating electricity and brushing his teeth with ground bat wings and garlic - I'm sure it is nothing that snotty herself couldn't straighten out if she put her mind to it. Look what progress she made with the lab assistant?

I have only scratched the surface of the injustices done to these poor creatures that is compounded by every horror film made. Recently I saw "Saturn 3" in which a feat of scientific and medical wonder was destroyed by some old geezer who wanted to keep Farah Fawcett to himself. Creatures of today should be handled with care - while they are not so actively pursued as before, they arestill grossly misunderstood. An injustice that has gone on long enough.

I hope that I have been able to impress upon you the horror of what has been happening without our knowledge or concern. I hope that the movie going public will realise that they are pushing these creatures to the edge of destruction. If you would like to join our fight for these helpless creatures, please feel free to contact me at my office - 1313 Munster Rd. , Trannsylvania 00130

P.S. The views expressed by the author are not necessarily her own.

A Mission Possessed

by Tom Cicirelli

The story so far: Alan and Tara are cringing with fear at the door of the gigantic spacecraft that was launched from Earth many years after the moon broke out of its orbit. Commander Koenig is standing tensely in Main Mission chewing gum. Commander Gorski is not on the Moonbase and should not really have been included in this story.

In the waiting room of the craft, Alan and Tara slowly approach the now drawn away door. Behind the door was a calling blue light that filled the waiting room with a soft pattern of shadows. Alan took up a position behind the security guard as the two of them entered the room. Alan is getting smarter. Within the room, there were twenty angry space kangaroos.

Alan shook his head and screamed, "No! NOT NOW, NOT EVER! NOT AGAIN! NOT EVER!" The kangaroos disappeared.

"What?" quieried Tara.

"Ahhh," said Alan scanning the room seeing nothing but blue light, "Nothin. After 'ffects of Tony's Beer batch 347." Alan walked forward, but he bumped into a young woman suspended in the room, "Excuse me," Alan said and continued with his searching.

"You know Alan, I don't think that there is really anything to find in this room," said Tara who was looking on the walls for a light switch. She was having typical security guard luck: bad.

Alan said, "You think there would be a person here or something." Alan then stopped in his tracks, "I must be getting old," he thought as he turned around to see the suspended body of a woman next to him. "Tara, come here and have a look at this."

The security guard came forward and saw the body, "Well, we know what's here. Can we go now?" she asked.

"NO!" rang a voice from the surrounding area. "Take her back to Alpha."

Alan being curious asked, "Why?" "Because I said so." Alan said, "Good 'nuff reason for me."

"Now? Tara added. "The sooner the better," the voice said to them. Suddenly a slow hum began to cloud their minds. Alan began tosway, and Tara began to recite the alphabet.

"Alan. Alan Carter do you hear me? Alan. Alan, this is Alpha calling," Sandra looked at the Commander, "Nothing, Commander."

"Here let me try," Koenig said moving over to the communications desk, "Alan, I want to see you walk on the ceiling." Koenig waited for a response. "Strange, that always got aa answer before."

"Commander, the eagle is coming back!" Morrow said to Koenig. The big screen showed the eagle leaving the spaceship. There was a call sign.

Alan's face appeared on one of the monitors, "Hi. We're bringin back a body from the spacecraft."

"A body?" questioned Bergman. "Yeah, ya know. A person that used to be living."

"Isn't that a little strange, Alan?" "No. We're going t'bury her. Bye."

Koenig punched up Medical Center, "Helena, Alan is bringing back a body from the spacecraft. Would you send a team to pick it up, and do a post-mortum on it, please?"

"You mean Alan is bringing back a person who used to be living?" "Yes."

"You know I can't stand to touch icky, cold, slimy things like bodies that are dead." "Helena . . ."

"I mean, John, they are just too, you know, dead." "Helena!" "What ever happened to 'Take two aspirins and call me in the morning'?" "Doctor Russell!" "John, I'd rather do my nails."

"Doctor Helena Russell!" "Yes?" "Get a medical team to launch pad three, now!"

"Ok, John, but no more house calls for you for one month." She faded back into a test pattern.

"Tony, Victor, let's go." Koenig said to them. "Why do you need me, John?" Tony asked.

"It may be a security guard." The three of them rushed down the hallway to the travel tube junction. The doors opened. They took their seats, and the car was off. "Tickets please." "Victor, give the man the tickets," Koenig said. "John, we don't have conductors in the travel tube cars," Victor factually stated. "No?" Victor leaned over to his friend, "No. We phased them out when we installed the token machines." "Well, who is he?" asked Koenig pointing at the individual before them dressed in a conductor's uniform. Tony turned to John,"I think he's dead, John." "Why?" "His hand just passed through my coat, and retrieved three tickets." "Next time, John, I'm taking the moonbuggy," Bergman told the Commander as the car continued on its way.

At that very same moment in another part of the base, Helena Russell, one nurse, and two orderlies were rushing a stretcher down a corridor when suddenly a commlock beeped. (Author's note: Commlocks always beep suddenly.) They all stopped and looked at their commlocks. "Is it yours?" they all asked one another simultaneously. The beep was heard again. "The Bat Phone!" said Dr. Russell. "Dun-na-na-na-Na-na-na Doodoo Doodoo Doodoo Doodoo Doodoo Doodoo Doodoo" "Yes, John?" said the doctor finishing off the nice chorus done by the medical team. However, the commlock screen only showed two words: LOOK UP. Helena did so and saw the paneling above her team open up. "Move out of here!" she yelled at them as she was covered by several hundred mice. "AhhhhhhhhhH!" Helena screamed doing a quick impression of Sandra. The mice started to fall everywhere. Helena moved very quickly away. WWWHHHHHSSSSSSOOOOOOOOMMMMMMM!!!!!! "What was that?" inquired the orderly. "I dunno," replied the other orderly, "It was something fast. Do you like mice?" "Yeah," said the other, "they're pretty neat. Let's take them back to Medical Center." The orderlies started to herd the mice in the direction of Helena's hiding place.

The door of the travel tube opened, and the three men pushed and shoved to get out. When they were out, they realized that this section of Alpha did not have a travel tube station. "That is the last time I take car 13, John." Victor was not amused. The door before them was an outer airlock door. It opened, and (the three of them were swept into space. The end.) (Snicker. Just kidding.) Alan and Tara stepped out in full spacesuits.

"Alan, what happened?" Koenig asked the eagle pilot. "They wanted her to be buried for all of them," Alan said in a dreamy way. Koenig, Bergman, and Verdeschi moved forward. "For all of whom, Alan?" Koenig asked.

"For them," Tara said pointing out the observation windows. The five of them gathered at the windows. A group of ghosts had appeared next to the grave. They each threw a flower and disappeared. The spacecraft vanished in the blackness of space. Victor touched Koenig's arm, "This is a wierd ending, John." Commander Koenig smiled as they walked away from the windows, "Someone wrote themselves into a corner." (So.....I fudged a little.)

The End

FLASHBACK SPACE:1999

This month's flashback was the second newsletter issued to stations after they had decided to show Year II.

NETWORK NEWS ISSUE 2

Welcome to new affiliates of the SPACE:1999 Network! The SPACE:1999 Network has been formed by ITC to better service those stations telecasting the only new sci-fi series. The Newsletter will keep you abreast of advertising, promotion and publicity plans by ITC and stations across the country telecasting the spectacular sci-fi series of the 1970's

Quick facts ... Stations planning dual premiere of SPACE:1999, Year Two...Preliminary SPACE:1999, Year Two promotion kits sent to all stations...Year Two of SPACE currently being screened for some 80 national magazines. Editorial reaction of magazine editors to date highly favorable...Transatlantic phone interviews on Year Two of SPACE:1999 now available to local TV editors...Studio time set to record promos for your station...Bicentennial time capsule event in Hawaii features video cassette recording of SPACE:1999.

Many stations telecasting second season of SPACE:1999 to take part in a special dual premiere. Of these stations, some independants are planning to telecast the first episode of the second season during the Republican Convention in mid-August. It is felt that the counter programmin offered by the first episode of the second season, the episode titled "Metamorph", would result in a huge audience. All stations planning a pre-premiere of SPACE:1999 have committed an extensive advertising, publicity and promotion campaign to support the pre-premiere. Last year, a pre-premiere of SPACE:1999 was staged by KHJ-TV, Los Angeles. The pre-premiere was telecast in August and captured one of the largest TV audiences in the history of KHJ_TV. The same episode "Breakaway", utilized in the pre-premiere, was telecast again at the start of the season. The ratings at the start of the season were fantastically high. KHJ-TV, of course, supported the pre-premiere of the new season with a major advertising, publicity and promotion campaign. It is essential that you arrange with us immediately to set the pre-premiere date and advertising campaign.

The preliminary promotion kit for Year Tw of Space:1999, sent to you, contains the following material: a packet of news information; synopses of the initial episodes; a reprint of a feature on the Landaus done by People Magazine; a reprint of the program profile published in the trade paper "Backstage"; a reprint of the New York Times Sunday feature article heralding the many sci-fi motion pictures forthcoming; a set of black and white photos reflecting some of the many SPACE:1999 toys, games, and other products now being distributed throughout the U.S.; also letters and reprints from SPACE:1999 toy manufacturers; a set of black and white generic photos; color contact sheets and a table for color identification of the photos found on contact sheets. Color material is available to you at cost. Please order the color by number and specify whether you want an 8x10 glossy, 11x14 glossy, 4x5 color transparencies or 35mm color transparencies. Additional promotional material will be sent to you as prepared.

Catherine Schell and Brian Johnson, designer and director of special effects, to be brought to the U.S. for a round of interviews and appearances on all major talk-variety shows. Catherine Schell and Brian Johnson are due to arrive in the U.S. late August. In the meantime, ITC is scheduling transatlantic phone calls with Catherine Schell, Brian Johnson, producer Fred Freiberger and executive producer Gerry Anderson, as well as Martin Landau and Barbara Bain. If you would like your local TV editors to hold a transatlantic interview with any of the SPACE:1999 talent, please contact ITC in New York and we will arrange it. There are many exciting and new SPACE:1999 developments which your local TV editor would be most interested in. Why not take advantage of SPACE:1999 talent now!

Again you are urged to send your copy to ITC, New York, for personalized promos for your station. There still may be time! You already should have received a letter requesting copy for personalized promos. Martin Landau, Barbara Bain and Catherine Schell either as individuals or in a group are available to do your station's personalized promos.

The Bicentennial time capsule in Kauai, Hawaii was spotlighted by ITC's contribution of the video cassette recording of the first episode of SPACE:1999, which explains the premise of the new sci-fi series telecast in this Bicentennial year. In his letter to the people of Kauai, to be opened in the Tricentennial yoer of 2076, Abe Mandell, president of ITC, said "Our objective was to entertain television audiences throughout the world with exciting adventures in space. Based on the widespread acceptance of the series, we feel we accomplished that and, as an added benefit, hope that we helped stimulate interest in space exploration, an exciting endeavor we trust has continued and pray will continue for many, many years."

Let us hear from you...we are most interested in your local advertising, promotion and publicity efforts. By sending us your promotion plans, all affiliates of the SPACE:1999 Network will profit, for we will highlight local promotion efforts in forthcoming issues of the SPACE:1999 Newsletters.

* *

Section Patches

At this time we have only received one or two design layouts. We would like to have some more to use. The ones we receive in time will be displayed at the con so people can vote for the patch they would like to have as a section designation. If we don't get enough designs sent to us, we will add some designs from a previous effort which we think would make nice section patches. We would prefer, however, to get designs created by members from each section. If you are in a creative mood, whip up your section patch idea and send to:

International Space:1999 Alliance / 86 First Street / New London, Oh 44851-1196





CON · 84

Not much has changed other than the fact that the rate at which memberships are coming in does not seem to indicate that we will be able to afford to bring any of the Space:1999 stars over. If things pick up a little better, we should be able to have the convention. The number of guests is still questionable, we will have to let you know in the next MC (July) how things stand and how many guests there will be. We are sorry to say that Barbara Bain has expressed regrets that she will not be able to attend in a reply to Rosie. She will be in charge of the Los Angeles Arts Festival which will be running at the same time as the summer olympics. We're sure she'll be VERY busy from the start on June 1 to the finish on August 12. For new members, the following information is for the 1984 convention in Covington, Ky (Cincinnati, Oh area). - - - The hotel is the Quality Inn Riverview at 666 Fifth St. / Covington, Ky 41011 Tel. (606) 491-1200. Room costs are: $39 for a Sing; $49 for a Dbl; $54 for a Trpl; $59 for a Quad and $85 for a suite(1 queen size and a couch that turns into a double bed). There are only 4 suites. Admission rates to the con are: 3 days-$15 until May 31; $18 after and at the door; 3 days for children under 14-$8 until May 31; $10 after and at the door. One day rates are $6 for adults and $4 for under 14 until July 4; after July 4, 1 day rates are $7 for adults and $4.50 for under 14. Non-attending tickets are $10 at all times. Banquet with celebrities is $25 at all times. More thorough info in the next MC including the final guest list and a map of the area. Other info can be obtained from the following

General Info: Rosie Badgett / 1810 Garrard / Covington, Ky 41014 Also for the infamous Alpha Match Game.
Art Show: Susan Wilt / 1013 Old Boalsburg Road Apt. G 3 / State College, Pa 16801
Talent Show: Fee Rossi / 11357 Geoffry Dr. / Warren, Mi 48092
Costume Call: Preregister if possible. Alice Newsom /Juanita Cunningham / 130 Chris Dr./ Warner Robins, Ga 31093
Rooming Service: Want to share a room but don't know anyone else. Try the rooming service. Contact Alice or Juanita at the address above.

- -

CON 85

Yes we are at this time planning on having another con in 1985. The location has already been accepted. The convention will be held at the Stouffer's Concourse Hotel in Arlington, Va on July 19-21, 1985. The hotel is less than five minutes from Washington D.C.'s National Airport. Hotel rates have already been set up: $55.00 per night for single, double, triple or quad prior to 60 days before the convention; for reservations made within 60 days before the con, the rate becomes $60.00 per night for each type of accomodation. Much of the rest of the necessary information has already been set but room does not permit us to put it all in this issue. Look for more on what we anticipate to be a really great con in future issues.

- -

Fanderson 84

FANDERSON '84, the third convention to be held in the U.K. dedicated to the works of Gerry Anderson will be held August 17th to 19th, 1984. The location is the same as for the last Fanderson, the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, Coram Street, London WC1. Accomodations for the Convention should be booked only through Fanderson '84. Full details on rates and events will be included in their progress reports (the last one to be issued July 13).

The guests will include Gerry and Mary Anderson and Gerry's new partner Christopher Burr. Other guests to be announced. The programme will contain episodes from TWIZZLE to the present, plus a few surprises. As with the other two conventions, they will be having an Auction, Bookroom(dealers), and Display room. The competitions will include Art, Short Story, Model, Fancy Dress(costume) and Mastermind. For the first time, they will also be having an Amateur Film Contest.

The membership is limited to 800 members and the rates are as follows:
Fanderson Club members: Full attending 12.00 / One-day attending 6.50 / Supporting 5.00
Non-club members: Full attending 15.00 / One-day attending 8.00 / Supporting 6.00
Rates for children under 16 upon request. Children under five attend free. No-one under 16 will be allowed into the convention unless accompanied by an adult. (they serve beer in the bookroom)
Supporting membership entitles you to all progress reports, as they appear, convention book, badges, auction list and entry into a free raffle. Supporting membership may be converted to attending membership at any time prior to the convention upon payment of the difference between supporting and attending memberships.
Advertising rates are also available in their convention book, contact: Mark Jones / 16 Thorney Lane South / Iver, Buckinghamshire / Great Britain

Membership and General information requests should be sent to: Pamela Barnes, FANDERSON '84 , P.O. Box 308 , London W4 1QL Great Britain

This is a really nice convention to attend. Someday we hope to attend another one.

- -

That's all for right now on conventions. We are late again but some unpleasant news and a delay in merchandise information slowed us down again. The next issue will D E F I N A T E L Y be on time. We hope we will have good news. At this time (May 18) we only have 50 memberships for the convention. We are keeping our fingers crossed. With luck we will see you at con.



In Memory Of

BARRY GRAY

It is with great sorrow that we must report that BARRY GRAY, composer and conductor for many of the themes for Gerry Anderson's productions and a much liked and well remembered guest at Cons '78, '79 & '81, has passed away. Barry, who was hospitalized just before Christmas with a heart ailment, passed away and was buried on the Isle of Guernsey during the first week in May. This was confirmed by Fanderson chairman, Pam Barnes. At this time we do not have any further information. Both groups are considering ideas for a memorial and any suggestions would be appreciated. We will be in close contact with Pam and will let you know as soon as we have any further information. At this time we would like to reprint a short biography of Barry that appeared in the April 1980 Starlog after his appearance at our 1979 Con.

An essential part of Gerry Anderson productions (and some of the most memorable) is the music of Barry Gray. Over a period of 20 years, Gray has scored no less than 10 series for Gerry Anderson as well as three feature films.

As a young lad in Lancashire, England, Gray's first teacher unearthed his extraordinary composition talents. Soon after, he received training in harmony, counterpoint, orchestration and composition under the tutelage of the eminent Hungarian instructor Matyas Sieber. Gaining experience by scoring for various types of theatrical and radio orchestras while working for the English music publisher, Feldman's, Gray eventually became the composer-arranger for Radio Normandy until the outbreak of World War II. It wasn't until 1956 that Gerry Anderson and Barry Gray met on Anderson's first puppet production, The Adventures of Twizzle. Anderson and his company were hired by the program's creator, Roberta Leigh, to produce the children's series. Leigh had known Barry Gray from previous work and he was hired to arrange and conduct the music that Leigh composed. After continuing the same arrangement in 1957 for Torchy the Battery Boy, Anderson and Gray collaborated on their first independent production, a Western called Four Feather Falls. From that point on, Gray remained Musical Director of A.P. Films Ltd. (which became Century 21 in 1966), composing, arranging and conducting music for Gerry Anderson.

In 1959, while preparing Supercar, Gray acquired a French electronic instrument that was to enable him to create some incredibly eerie musical effects. Using the "Ondes Martenot", a "Spinetta" and other electronic instruments, Gray created many of the electronic sound effects for the Gerry Anderson productions as well as for the two Dr. Who films, Fahrenheit 451 and Island of Terror. The Ondes Martenot is featured prominently in the score for the 1969 feature Journey to the Far Side of the Sun.

During the course of his years with Anderson, Gray set up a miniature recording studio in his home. There he created various electronic sound effects by superimposing multiple audio tracks, thus producing the sounds required by the futuristic productions. His efforts resulted in such sounds as Supercar in flight, the whirr of a UFO and the buzz of Main Mission's computers.

After his work for Space:1999 (series 1), Barry was far from idle. As well as composing "library music" for film and TV, he made various personal appearances as guest conductor for orchestras and performing at Old Government House Hotel on the Island of Guernsey, where he entertained audiences with his piano and organ playing.



More recently, Gray was one of the guest conductors at London's Royal Albert Hall for the 1979 "Filmharmonic" concert. The program featured Gray conducting the National Philharmonic Orchestra in a suite of selected themes from Space:1999, Journey to the Far Side of the Sun and Thunderbirds. Sydney Samuelson asked Gray to compose a special fanfare opening for the concert. The composition so impressed Samuelson that he invited Gray to compose "Royal Fanfare" opening for the Royal Film Performance attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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We're sure that many of you who have met this talented, gracious and witty English gentleman at previous Alliance and Fanderson cons will agree that his presence will be missed. It is hard to express in mere words what it was like to meet and be around this extraordinary man. It was an experience totally unto itself. Many of you probably have fond memories of Barry's visits with us. Next issue we would like to share some of these memories with the rest of the membership. John and I have our own set but we're sure there are many others. Please submit your recollections or special moments with Barry Gray to Main Computer editors (address on back page) by June 25, 1984. Submissions should be preferably 1 page or less typed or be clearly hand printed. Photos also accepted in addition or alone. All will be returned.

Thank you.

NOTE: A more detailed biography can be found in the British magazine S.I.G No. 5 & 6 (summer & winter '82)

MAYA'S MOONBASE MERCHANDISE

The response to the patches is still going great, in fact, perhaps too good. We only had 15 of each patch made up in the initial order (its all we could afford) and they are going so fast we may only have a display set available at the con. We would like to have more but we will have to reorder now and it takes about 4 to 6 weeks to get them in the slow season and with all the baseball teams and other sports activities beginning the manufacturers have a tough time meeting an eight week delivery. Fear not, we will do the best we can and we will have the catalogs at the convention. We also introduce for your comment several other items which we think you might be interested in. Please let us know which of these items you would most like to see us offer. This will be the last merchandise list before the con and all items ordered will be shipped before con if stock holds out, if ordered by July 1, 1984. We will notify you if the items you order are out of stock and they will be shipped after the convention. All orders placed after July 1, 1984 will be shipped after the con.

3½ x 5 photos Cost: 80¢ each plus postage as figured below. Please circle the number of the picture you want.

#photos	US/CAN	Overseas	#photos	US/CAN	Overseas
1-4	20¢	40¢	10-15	37¢	$1.20
5-9	20¢	80¢	16-20	37¢	$1.60


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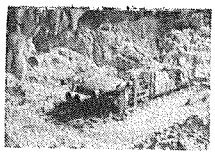

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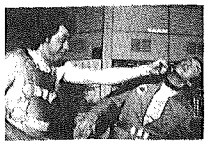

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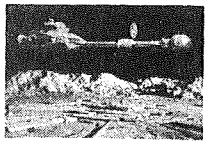

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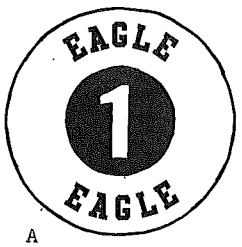

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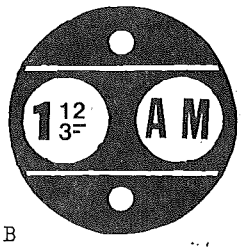

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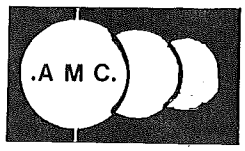
A $3.50



B $3.75



C $3.75



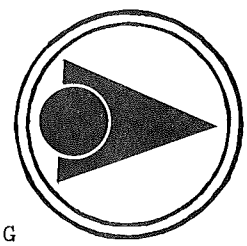
D $4.25

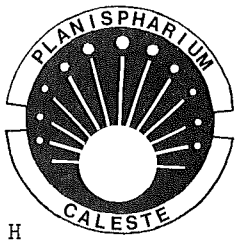
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$2.75



F $3.75


G $3.75



H $4.00

Please state the quantity of each patch you want on the line next to the letters below:

___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___H

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED_____ (both items)

SEND TO: INTERNATIONAL SPACE: 1999 ALLIANCE / 86 First Street / New London, Oh 44851

xerox copies are OK

List of possible new items on last page.

ads

AD RATES: Line space(members) first 20 words free, each additional 12 words/40¢ Non-members and dealers 12 words/$2 ; Full page (10 x 13) - $30 ½ page (10 x 6½ horizontal) - $15 ¼ page - $7.50

FOR SALE: One new unused Empire Stormtrooper Helmet - professionally made. Original cost $80. Wants to sell at $70 U.S. Funds. Send to: Robbie Perkins / 201 E. Reed / Bowling Green, Oh 43402

STARLINES - Excellent fanzine for fans of 1999 / BR / Hawk / BSG / UFO / SW / Empire / Jedi / Blakes 7 / ST Issue #4 ready - ask about #5 (include SASE) $6.00 includes postage - $8.00 overseas (US Funds) Send to: Mary Tchir / 4420 SE 22nd Drive / Gresham, Or 97030

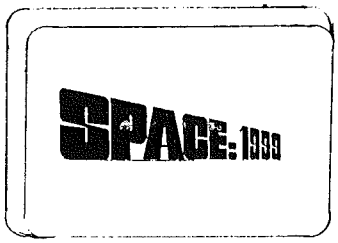
MEMBERS WANTED: Join the Don Bluth Animation Fan Club. Creator of the movie The Secret of NIMH and the video games Dragon's Lair and Space Ace, membership in the club gets you a membership card, subscription to newsletter "Exposure Sheet", a strip of 35mm film from The Secret of NIMH, an autographed photo of Don Bluth and associates and an 8 x 10 still from a Bluth production. Membership is $10 per year(US) and $12(overseas) Send to: Don Bluth Animation Fan Club / PO Box 398 / Tarzana, Ca 91356

FOR SALE: Avengers and Anderson items for sale. Please send an IRC and a SASE for further information to: Clare Deere / 16 Sandygate Close / Marlow, Bucks / Great Britain S17 3BA

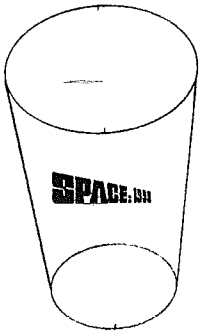
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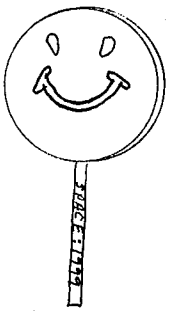
POSSIBLE NEW MERCHANDISE ITEMS





The items shown here are ideas for new merchandise. We would like your comments. The glass would be a 10 oz. plastic tumbler. The balloons would be 9 inches in diameter & 6 colors. Soap bar is 1.5 oz. guest size bar. Lollipops have Space:1999 logo on the handles.





FLASH * BARBAR BAIN WILL BE STARRING IN "LONG DAYS JOURNEY INTO NIGHT" FROM JUNE 8 to JULY 7
* AT THE INTIM (sp?) THEATER IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE CLOSE, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO SEE BARBARA IN A CURRENT PERFORMANCE.

MAIN COMPUTER

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Main Computer # 5 Volume 6 May 1984

John and Kathy Von Kamp, MC Editors, 86 First Street, New London, Ohio 44851-1196 USA

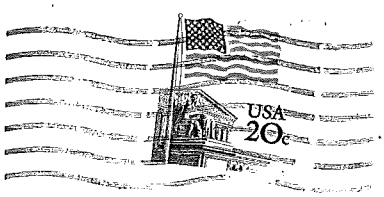
Rosie Badgett, President, 1810 Garrard Street, Covington, Ky 41014 /For reply send SASE or 2 IRC's(Non USA)No non US stamps

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Member of NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAN CLUBS, 2730 Baltimore Ave., Pueblo, Co 81003

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NEW LONDON, OHIO 44851-1196 USA





Tony Wynn Jan 85
PSC Box 2289
Randolph AFB, Tx 78150

AN X BY YOUR NAME MEANS
IT'S TIME TO PAY DUES FOR ANOTHER YEAR