MAIN COMPUTER

Newsletter of the International Space:1999 Alliance

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BROKE- -AWAY

By Tom Cicirelli

Resuming where we left off in the last MC, John is discussing the condition of the Meta Probe astronauts as the ankle he got caught in the sliding double doors is being taped. And now we continue.....

Koenig asked Helena, "How long have they been like that?" "For about three days.....I keep having to make up I.Q. tests to find out how dumb they really are." "The highlight of the day was when they discovered they had fingers", said Nurse McLaren who was taping up John's ankle.

"Doesn't sound serious to me," Koenig evaluated. "That's because you're not a doctor," stated Helena. "Can they fly?" "Commander, (Even with love at first sight, this is still their first meeting.) humans walk," remarked Helena. John stared at Helena, "I mean, can they fly the Meta Probe?"

"Sure," said Nurse McLaren who was handing John his crutches, "give them a few years and they'll be up to it."

"A FEW YEARS!!!" Koenig cried, "We only have a few days." John spun around on the crutches and headed for the door. "Carter has a new job.....Meta Probe pilot." Helena asked John, "Can you do that?" "I'm gonna try," the Commander said as the doors of the Medical Center closed. A "thud" was heard in the few seconds after the doors closed.

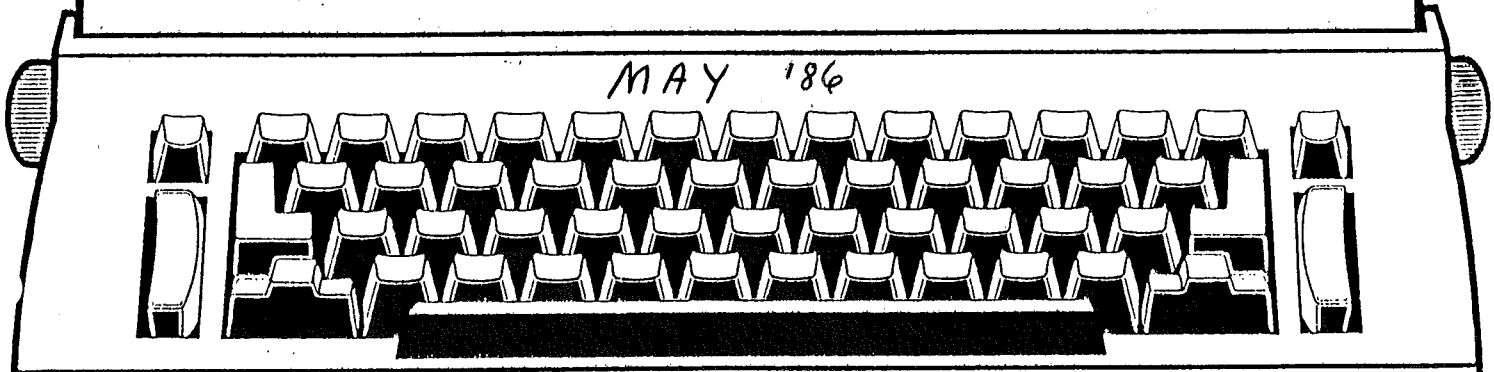
"I meant, John, can you walk on those crutches," Helena mumbled to herself. Helena went back to her I.Q. tests.

Koenig hobbled down the corridor very slowly and somewhat eratically. Eventually after many a double take by curious Alphans, John made it to the Hanger Bay where Alan Carter was preparing the Meta Probe final pre-flight check. Koenig had one last task; he had to remove the commlock from his belt and open the door with it. He lifted his hand from one of the supporting crutches and moved it over to his belt where his commlock was located. He reached his commlock, "I made it," he thought as the sound of the commlock's familiar "door-unlock" tone was heard. The tone blocked out the sound of his left crutch faling and when his hand returned to grab hold of the now missing crutch, he fell as the door opened.

"Aaaawwww, nuts!" he growled harshly from his reclining position. The door closed, and Koenig struggled back to his feet with his commlock in his hand now. He took aim at the doorlock when the door opened; and, unfortunately, he was standing too close and was knocked down by the two female duty personnel who did not expect a disabled Commander to be in the way of traffic.

"I'm sorry," said one of the girls, "but we gave at the office."

"CARTER!!!" Koenig shouted. Alan and his staff of ten female duty personnel sauntered up to the flattened Commander Koenig



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Alan in his deep Australian accent observed, "Need a little 'elp, eh Commander?" Carter smiled through his bright, white teeth; he turned to the girls, "Ladies, the Commander requires your assistance." The girls helped Koenig into the room. "Nice ta see ya, Commander. 'ven if ya are a little dirty from the floor," Alan brushed some of the dirt off the Commander's uniform, "'ow many falls you take, Commander?"

Koenig stared at Alan. John's pride was at stake here, but the contest of wits would occur at a later date, "Is the Meta Probe ready for launch?" "The Meterr Probe is set and ready to go." "That's "Meta Probe", Alan." "Wright," Carter said smoothly surrounded by his staff all of whom were female. "How long would it take you to learn to fly it?" "What's an "it" ?" "The Meta Probe." "The Meterr Probe." "The Meta Probe," Koenig corrected. "Wright, that's what I said," Carter returned as the girls giggled, "Ohh, seven days."

"Could you make it 72 hours?" "AAAAHHHH," Carter responded, "No." ".....Triple your normal pay?" "Aaaahhh, Yes." John grinned, "I knew you'd see things my way, Alan." Koenig moved to leave. Alan stopped Koenig, "Commander, you got a problem you're not tellin me about." "Carter," Koenig said, "I'm here to get the Meterr, ahh, Meta Probe launched. With you as it's captain, can you leave in 72 hours?" "Yeah, we'll make it."

Later in his office, Koenig was getting the hang of his wheelchair and remembered Carter's all female personnel. Carter would not be lonely during the voyage to Meta. BEE-BEE-DEEP BEE-BEE-Deep The Communications Post called him. Koenig pressed the button on his wheelchair and Commissioner Simmonds' face appeared on the screen.

"Ahh, John....." Simmonds smiled. ("Ahh, speak of the devil," Koenig thought to himself.) ".....settling in up there I hope?" "Into my wheelchair, yes" he traced. "I just wanted your first impressions of the situation." "Painfull? No, Simmonds would not go for that," Koenig thought. "The preceeding events would make for a good television show," Koenig told his superior.

"What?" "Well," Koenig wheeled to the Communications Post, "nine men have died and the only theory that is tenable is radiation sickness caused by that glowing pile of canisters on the darkside."

"Yes. I heard all about Russell's theories from Gorski." "Gorski?" Simmonds leaned forward, "John, this is a short story. You did not meet him."

Simmonds leaned back, "Ohh, she's a very competent doctor in certain fields of space medicine, John; but since she has had nine deaths in this case, she is dead wrong. I in all of my infinite wisdom am going to send you up a team of top medical people to probe....." "Hold it. Hold it." "Hold what?" "I'm not that settled in. In fact, I'd rather be settled out! Those two Meta Probe astronauts have had their brains turned to jelly by this illness...."

"John," the Commissioner urgently whispered, "We have to hold that story in....We have to....The International Lunar Finance Committee meeting is on the fifteenth. They are going to discuss the Meta Probe, the radio signals from Meta, and our jobs. Now, If one word, one hint of failure leaks out, we'll be peeling potatoes for the rest of our lives. The Meta Probe must be launched."

"All right Commissioner, let's trade off. You stop sending up radioactive waste and I'll get your Meta Probe launched. Deal?" Koenig proposed.

"Well," said the Commissioner rubbing his forehead, "a temporary delay in shipments. That's the best I can do."

"Temporary enough to last until you get me off of this rock after the Meta Probe is launched?" Koenig calculated.

"Deal." "Deal," said Koenig as Simmonds winked out. John had always been good at dealing with superior ranks and not intellects. John moved toward the door.

Suddenly, Main Mission Controller Paul Morrow, followed by Professor Bergman, burst through the door Koenig was sitting in front of, "Commander Koenig guess what!!!" they shouted frantically. Unfortunately, they had pushed Koenig and his wheelchair at an accelerated rate backward. Koenig and his wheelchair went down a grade of stairs and smacked against a very hard steel and concrete wall. When koenig regained his composure, he saw Morrow and Bergman stooping before him.

"Nuclear Waste Area One just blew up!" they shouted in his ears. "Is that something to cheer about?" Koenig querried. Morrow reported, "It was fairly spectacular. Look at these color prints!" Morrow handed the Commander a few pictures of himself and Sandra on the beach.

"Paul, these are pictures of your vacation," Koenig passed the pictures back. "Ohh, I'm sorry Commander .....Here, these are the ones." Koenig examined the pictures. True enough they were the prints of the explosion. A little blurry but what color!

"And, John," Victor rushed, "I found out that magnetic radiation is the cause of the illness." "That's great, Victor," Koenig said. "Also, magnetic radiation caused the explosion at area one." "Professor, how did you find that out?" asked Paul. Victor pulled out a plate and some paper, "By this magnetic recording device and reading ahead in the script. Koenig always knew Victor Bergman was a genius. "Wait a minute, if magnetic radiation caused Area 1 to blow it's top....."

"....Area 2 is next," Victor concluded. Paul always knew Victor Bergman was a genius, "What can we do, Professor?" "Well," Victor contemplated, "we could try to rip up the pile, disperse the mass. If we could disperse the mass over a wide area, that might do it."

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE.

Launch Pad

from Rebecca Eisenhuth / 16805 Randall Ave. #2 / Fontana, Ca 92335

Hi gang the last issue of MC delighted me (vol 8, no. 4) Everyone had such constructive gripes AND, for a change, there was some optimism too. I throw a BIG thank you in the direction of Kevin McCorry, who sounded very enthusiastic, just as a new member always does, and Janice Sparks - who was thrilled that CON '86 is in California! So am I! I know. WE have the right to be happy because we are not too far from where the action will be, right? I COULD remind everyone for the umpteenth time that it's long due but I won't because just as many dissappointed fans will echo - "Long due or not, it's TOO FAR away!" or any other convenient excuse to get away with not coming. Yes, I can hear a few of you now: "She has her nerve!" but just in case you NEED an excuse but haven'T come up with one yet, here's a list of possibilities:

40 REASONS WHY I CAN'T GO TO CON '86
(with apologies to H.R. BLOCK)
(choose by number please...)

1) The Con and Airfare are too Expensive
2) California is too far away
3) I'm planning a headache for that weekend
4) The Versateller chewed up my banking card

5) The bank heard where I planned to go and called to laugh at me

6) I stumped my toe
7) Too much sunshine makes me break out
8) I can't stand heat without humidity
9) I hate beaches consumed with sand
10) Disneyland makes me throw up
11) I can't eat fast foods
12) I can't eat NOT so fast foods
13) I can't eat (Ed. who has the time anyway.)
14) I might meet a star & won't know what to say
15) Universal Studios makes me throw up

16) I'll come back tanned and healthy and Mom will kick me out of the house

17) I have to have my teeth cleaned that weekend
18) I flew on the airplane once and got locked in the john
19) I don't have any clothes
20) The Hollywood Wax Museum isn't REAL
21) Traffic depresses me
22) I can't handle meeting new people who know of '99

23) Barbara Bain might ask for my phone number (and I'll forget to give it to her)

24) Martin Landau may FORCE me to join the Actors Studio
25) Knotts Berry Farm makes me throw up

26) Barry and Sydney MIGHT ask me up for a drink.....and I'll drink.

27) Toga parties disgust me
28) Dead Dog Parties irritate me

29) I'll be embarassed when people look at my costume and recognize it

30) My Dad says I have to mow the lawn 63 times before I leave (Ed. better get busy)

31) My wife doesn't want to have her baby in California
32) My husband hates birds that cough
33) What if the airsickness bag isn't in the right spot?
34) Hotel bathrooms are always too small
35) I might not respect myself in the morning
36) Big Cities make me throw up

37) Nobody ever believes me when I tell them where I'm going on my vacation. Why should this time be different?

38) The entire convention is probably an illusion
AND IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH
39) I have to work all weekend
40) I won't get a refund if I die before the Convention

(ED. Not bad. OK folks, now it's your turn. I know someone out there must be able to come up with "There Must Be 50 Reasons NOT To Leave The Convention.".

from Vivian Stanley / Box 1572 / Jasper, Alberta / Canada T0E 1E0

This should be "to Tom Cicirelli". I read your letter in Main Computer, and -correct me if I'm wrong- but Columbus, Ohio is definitely not a "central location". If you want a true central location, it should be either Kansas or Nebraska.

I've read several complaints about there being no Space:1999 guests. Now we have one (Martin), possibly two (Barry) attending, and it looks as though some people are going to veto the con because its in the west. A true Space:1999 fan attends regardless, or at least gets a non-attending membership. If Heather Von Kamp - at 8 years old - and John & Kathy - can make every con, why can't the rest of us?! I really think that Los Angeles will prove who the real Space:1999 fans are. What will happen in 1987 if the plans for England come through? How many will not go because it's not in Ohio? How many times have we in the West had to travel all day just to reach Con, then enjoyed it greatly once we got there? (I thought DC was great!) What will you do?

On a lighter note, I think of it this way: Take an extra week before or after Con and come up to Canada. Expo '86 is in Vancouver this year, the last North American location for a few years. See what Canada is really like.....the Canada Place Pavilion will tell you that.

Frankly, I would go to FLORIDA if there was a chance to see Barry and Martin together! Viv & Bev Stanley

from Terry Bowers / 603 N. Clark St. / River Falls, Wi / 54022

I want to respond to a couple of things that were mentioned in the LAUNCH PAD section in the last issue (Nov. MC #2), sort of concerning Con '86. As Tom Cicirelli maintained, those of us living East of the Mississippi -- we spoiled Midwesterners who are used to having Con in this area every year -- will have to find something else to do Con weekend. I'm sorry, but I don't agree with that. This is one spoiled Midwesterner living east of the Mississippi who plans to attend Con, in July, in L.A., and have the time of her life! I realize the cost of airfare is a concern for many of us in this part of the country, and perhaps may be prohibitive, but there IS hope. Having made more trips to L.A. in the past two years than I care to count, I am very aware of the outrageous cost. However, I've learned a few tips during all that travel, tips that have saved me a great deal of money, and I'd like to pass them on to fellow Midwestern Alphans despairing over the rates. Please keep in mind this is the advice, NOT of a travel agent, but of a seasoned traveller who is tighter with a dollar than the U.S. government's committee on Space Research and Exploration!!

HOW TO GET TO L.A. WITHOUT MORTGAGING YOUR LIFE!

1) Do not deal directly with the airlines. They aren't much help.
2) Do your homework. Call around well before you have to make your reservations to get some idea of what is available and what the going rates will be.
3) Find yourself a good travel agent (be sure it is one that does NOT charge for their services -- their ads, Yellow Pages or otherwise should say that) and let them make arrangements for you. That is their job. They do it everyday and know what specials are being run, etc. Tell them what you need, let them give you some price quotes, and work on it from there. You may even want to contact several agencies and see who can get you the best deal. Be a comparative shopper!!
4) Tell your agent not to overlook CHARTER flights. They are noisier and more crowded than commercial flights, but also cheaper!! on a charter flight I am able to fly -- ROUND TRIP -- from Minneapolis to L.A. for $199.00! On a commercial flight the best I can do round trip is $399.00. Quite a difference! Yes, there may be some restrictions as to when you can travel, how long you must stay with charter flights, but they are easily dealt with and worked around when you consider the money you are saving!
5) Make your reservations -- and pay for the tickets -- as much in advance as possible. Before May when rates go up for summer travel if possible. You will save even more that way.

A trip to L.A. is possible if you explore all the options open to you. I admit I've been lucky to have found a travel agent who simply takes all my bizarre arrangements in stride, helps me re-arrange schedules at the last minute, and always me a follow up call to be sure I had a good, successful trip. Marge is a rarity. But, with a little careful shopping, everyone should be able to do nearly as well.

The other subject I wanted to address was the idea that we hold Con in one place year after year. I'm sorry, but I can't agree with that either. Yes, it would give us some stability and publicity, but it would also be very boring after a couple of years. I've been to Columbus - twice -. It is a very nice city, but I7ve seen all I really want to see of it, and have no desire to go back. I like having new places to see and visit each year in connection with the convention. I like to travel and Con gets me to places (Atlanta, Springfield, Washington, D.C., Columbus, Pittsburgh) I'd never visit but for Con being there! The location and distance are not draws -or drawbacks- to my decision whether or not to attend. Con is and that should be given the most attention, not where. The side trips, city sites and new places are great, but not the reason I attend Con! I think we are all losing sight of the reasons Con was begun in our concerns over where and who. WHY -- to share our common interest in 1999, to raise money for our chosen charity, and have fun! Where we do it makes little difference, so long as we do it!! Moving around is only frosting on the cake for those of us attending who like to take in the sites as well. Staying in one place ditto.

Well, I've said my piece -- several times in recent issues, and all hate mail can be addressed to me at my home, but I hope this has given us all something to think about. Take care.

(JVK - I don't think it is possible for anyone to see all of any city in two, three or even six visits especially when they are attending Con. The only way a city becomes boring is when the other possible attractions are not fully explained. It is true that most of these extra attractions require a car or bus to reach, but this would be the case in any city. Columbus has many fine attractions that I'm sure few if any of the Alliance members have seen. The French Market, German Village, Columbus Zoo, Battelle Planetarium and the Garden of Roses are just a few. I'm not pushing Columbus, it's just that I know it better. I'm sure this could be said of any city. I don't feel settling the Con in one place would be a problem. That would normally be how I would vote if asked during site discussions but since this is a decision which would affect all members and the MC should be the clearing point for the voice of the members we need to know how ALL of you feel about this. Please let us know how you ALL feel about this as soon as possible so we can decide if this is what we want to do. If a decision to leave it in one place is reached, we will then ask which city you would most like to see the Con located in. If the majority votes to keep moving the Con we might want to go to every other year to allow a con committee enough time to provide a really effective con and to allow people to save enough money to reach con no matter where they lived, or we might have bids for the site as they do for World Con. Any way you look at it, we MUST know what ALL of YOU would like to see.

from Ron Butler / 343 Leisure St. S.W. / Marietta, Ga 30064

Got MC yesterday (MC #2, Nov 85) and was mildly appalled at Tom Cicirelli's letter. For brevity, let me sum up what i saw as Tom's main points:

REASONS TOM DIDN'T COME TO SPACECON '85:

1. No 1999 guests
2. Didn't like "V" and "Time Tunnel"
3. Was aced out of amateur film contest
4. Hotel was too expensive
5. Dates incompatible with Tom's school schedule
6. Airline fares too expensive
7. Con was haunted by 'Spectre of Springfield'

BAD THINGS TOM HEARD ABOUT CON '85

8. Video programming & con emphasis on V & Japanese animation
9. Food service overpriced
10. Dealers left
11. Another con in town same weekend
12. Mall next door closed early
13. Had to tip the doorman
14. Video room equipment went missing
15. Staffing problems

TOM'S OBJECTIONS TO HOLDING SPACECON '86 IN L.A.

16. Con may die in California
17. Nobody in the East will go to L.A.
18. Californians are just trying to 'run' things
19. Membership had no say in decision to go to L.A.

TOM'S PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE CONVENTIONS

20. Settle permanently in Columbus
21. Invite one guest
22. Let 'the old committee people' run the con

Is that everything? Have I been fair in my summation?

One thing I won't do is defend the '85 con committee. I've worked on numerous cons & run a couple. I've made my share of blunders & mediocre decisions thru inexperience or lack of sense, so I think I can claim to hold an informed opinion. I'll give Tom no argument on points 3, 8, 11, 14, or 15. The programming was sparse & unappealing. The video room & staffing arrangements were sub-par, and the con organizers hurt a lot of feelings and did themselves out of needed expertise by snubbing previous department heads.

Some of Tom's complaints I simply had no trouble with. I never saw a doorman, let alone tipped one. The closing time of the mall across the street didn't bother me - I don't go to cons to shop malls. The food was expensive - in the hotel. It always is. Actually, the '85 committee should get plus points on access to food. There were two fast food places & a Chinese restaurant within 200 feet of the hotel. All open late. Crystal City Mall had, within 1 to 3 blocks, a bakery, a supermarket and a cafeteria. All open late.

Another set of complaints are Tom's problem and nobody else's. I don't think the committee can be held responsible for interference with Tom's summer school schedule. (Couldn't take even one Friday off?). If airline tickets are too expensive, it's still possible to drive or get a ride. My Rand-McNally says it's about 450 miles, Bowling Green to D.C., say 8 hours.
(Cont. next page)

(The Georgia delegation came half again as far, in one day.). The hotel wasn't impossibly expensive, split four ways. Or you could've stayed with your relatives in the D.C. area. And Tom seems to be afflicted with what I guess you'd call 'Voodoo convention management'. 'The Spectre of Springfield'. Latter-day Spacecons lack 'magic' and 'sparkle'. The con may ..... DIE in California! Unsupported feelings and obsessions can't be argued about.

I do have to say something about Tom's comments on the selection of L.A. for '86. He implies the California group bid out of shear pushiness, and that they are incapable of actually running a convention. He complains that the membership got no chance to speak on the matter.

As things really happened, two proposals were put to the Alliance President for 1986 - L.A. and New Orleans and I thought con goers would talk of nothing else, neither was in a sufficiently detailed state to be decided on so the president made the choice after the con and after considering both.

I supported the New Orleans bid, but can see a strong case to be made for L.A. The California fans have been coming loyally East since year one, and I am still of the opinion that the presence of the World SF Convention in Atlanta will depress membership in all Eastern summer cons in 1986.

As for Columbus in '86....there was no Columbus bid. No hotel picked out, no committee or staff, no suggested guests, no financial projections. Tom seems to think this one-paragraph 'proposal' for Columbus is a shining replacement for the specifics of the L.A. bid and the solid commitment of Rosie and the California group. His consider-able ideas for an alternate con strategy are buried in the insults so they'll never get discussed.....

from Tony Wynn / Logman Division (Shape) / APO New York 09055

I want to reply to Tom's letter in MC. - Tom...you may have run past Amateur Film Contests, but now, because the 1985 Con Committee didn't select you to repeat your duties, you boycotted the con and now want to grind your axe in public. Well, launch Pad is a public forum and I bet your rude and sarcastic letter has launched a torrent of mail. It is just a shame that you are letting this cloud of bitterness and negativity cloud your thought processes.

You seem disturbed at the thought of the Con not being held in Cleveland (or Columbus--you apparently can not make up your mind). But I ask, how many people from Cleveland stepped forward to offer their services? How many committees formed in those two cities and found hotels and guest stars? Only one, as far as I am aware--the L.A. in '86 Committee has done this and more. Just think of the new life that will be breathed into fandom at this Con! Ten years after the demise of Space:1999 a historic reunion with the three main stars: Martin Landau, Barbara Bain and Barry Morse. Not to mention actress Bibi Besch, a truly wonderful lady who starred in Star Trek II and The Day After. Therefore, I am glad you were not listened to. It is doubtful that either Barbara or Martin would be able to attend a con outside of L.A.

The Con Committee includes some very good and talented people, people experienced in both conventions and fandom in general. Rosie Badgett, Eric Stillwell and Charlene Scott have individually been involved with fandom for years, whether in fan clubbing, conventions, etc. I suppose by bringing back "the old" people you mean Ted Hruschak and Mona Delitsky? Anyway, bringing back "old" people will not ensure the return of "magic". I think magic is a state of mind, and with your attitude,I don't think you'll find it.

Every 1999 con to date has been held on the East coast. It is time to expose new people to 1999 and let those members in the West have a Con closer to them. As I will be coming from Belgium, (Ed. Tony will not make it this year, not because of lack of desire or funds but because his military commitments will not allow him to come.) I cannot see your problem in flying or traveling to L.A. from Ohio. All major cities have flights to the coast at a reasonable cost--especially when booked in advance and when you shop around.

I nearly forgot. Since when does Columbus and Los Angeles have the same first letter? Sincerely, Tony Wynn

from Kevin F. Peterson / 855 W. Jefferson Lot 203 / Grand Ledge, Mi 48837

Hello there, Alphans

The flyer for the con was im-pressive. I'm buying a non-attending membership for now; hopefully I'll be able to change that status later on and FINALLY get to a con after all these years. And "all y'all" out there -- whether you're going or not, SUPPORT YOUR CON! For those who've been to one or several, I'm sure you'd like to keep going; and those who haven't gone yet certainly wouldn't like to suddenly awaken to find they can't ever go. Life doesn't revolve around the con, but for heavens sake, if you have a good thing, keep it.

I read through the last 2 1/2 years of MC's I've accumulated, and I realized two things: Tom Cicirelli is someday going to break into the writing market, I'm almost sure, with an effort as clever as Virgins or Metropolitan Life, albeit science fiction versions. His "A Mission Posssessed" was a howl, as was his "Spaced Out:1999 Presents Year 9". Love to meet this person. I love nut cases, and 1999 fandom seems to have, fortunately, more than its share of those.

Speaking of which, Susan Wilt & Robbie Perkins are a trip. (ED. You can't say you've experienced it all until you have both of them at your place for New Years late at night doing captions for slides in your collection. My sides still hurt and it's been almost 3 years.) (Cont. next page)

The second thing I realized (this is actually the third but who's counting anymore) is that I have no idea of what ever happened to the M. U. F. 'zine that was (supposedly) being put out by Karen Domain and Char Chester. Is it still around, did it die, or what? I'd love to see it, as it was the continuation of the late M.M.A. club's newsletter, "Command Center" which was a lot of fun.

I'd like to hear from members in Michigan and in Canada, especially. (Any stations broadcast 1999 up there?)

That's it, gang. Ciao for now....Kevin

from Debbie Phares / P.O. Box 267 / Nederland, Tx 77627

I have been reading the letters in Launch Pad in MC these last few months and have decided to stay quiet until now. It seems that everyone has a complaint of some kind whether it be against the Alliance or the past conventions.

This gets old after a while. I have been a member of the Alliance from the very beginning (although I missed out a couple years due to personal reasons) and I'll support them in any way I possibly can.

I have made a lot of wonderful friends through the Alliance and have managed to meet a lot of them at past conventions. Anyone who is or has been a member of the Alliance and been to at least one of the conventions should be able to find something good still exists in the Alliance.

Everyone has their share of problems, I know I have, so why not and S.F. organization. I went to the Cons in '78-'79 & '80. The past few years I have been unable to attend, but I still felt a part of the Con by reading Con reports and hearing from friends who attended.

I personally felt that Con '78 was the best and it will be hard to top. But I also feel that Con '86 in California is a step in a positive direction. I feel it is time for a change. If it doesn't work, try another direction next year, but give it a chance, don't condem it before it gets off the ground.

I'm sure a lot of you live in areas where Cons are like an everyday event. I live about 100 or so miles from Houston and you'd think Cons would be popular, but they aren't. They haven't had a good con in three years. It's really a bummer.

I guess all in all what I'm trying to say is for everyone to stop complaining and be glad that the Alliance is still here and giving it their best shot. If we all stick together, Con '86 will be successful. Let's give it a try, okay?

from Adrian de la Vega / Terrero 1225 / (1642) San Isidro / Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hi!!!! Greetings from Argentina a land so far away from this galaxy! We are not in summer anymore but we still have warm days, anyway winter is not hard down here, we do not have snow in Buenos Aires.

Well....I know I did not write for a long time but I followed everything through MC, and I have to say it has improved, I think it's a good idea to discuss matters like cons in it, and as a matter of fact I would like to give my opinion on this. I had read Tom's letter about his disappointment for the last con and the place for the con. We can not forget that Space:1999 was what made all this and it should be at least equal in importance with the other shows. I know you have heard this a thousand times but I wanted you to know my opinion on this.

Space:1999 was on the air last month for two weeks. The network screened eleven episodes of the first season, then as usual they changed to some other program. Anyway, I taped them all on videocassettes. Another Anderson program that was recently on the air was UFO and I also taped my favorite episodes like Sub-mash, Timelash, The Cat with Ten Lives and The Sound of Silence. This was the first time in ten years that I watched UFO and I noticed some common things on the characters of Koenig and Straker. Do you think I am crazy? What do you think about this?(ED. Sounds like a nice idea for an article for MC. Comparisons of persons or plots from UFO and Space:1999. OK all you authors out there, here's your chance.)

I have to keep this short because you can not imagine the letters I have to answer because I delay them. But since I am going to the university and taking a course at my father's office, time is quite short. Put this together with my bad organized spare time and it makes a big mess.

Sincerely yours, Adrian

Hey! We're almost caught up with the letters for Launch Pad. This is great because it means that all responses are current and you read the replys to the letters in the last MC. It also gives the editors gray hair wondering if there will be enough letters to put in the next MC. So please keep those letters coming folks. If you feel like reviewing current motion pictures or fanzines, please feel free to share your opinions with the rest of us.

Creation IS Better

We would like to thank Martin East / 6 Beechcraft Rd. / Chesham, Bucks / Great Britain HP5 2HW for the submission of this artwork for MC. We appreciate any and all artwork of a serious or comical nature which we can use in MC.



THANKS TO TOD ELLSWORTH / 7415 HOLLY HILL / DALLAS, TX 75231 FOR FINDING AND SUBMITTING THIS AD FOR OUR USE.

Advertisement

Advertisement

Famous Hollywood Secret Revealed...

How To Take Years Off Your Looks Without Going To A Plastic Surgeon!

Would you like to look younger? A lot younger?

If so, before you go through the pain and expense of having a facelift, there is something you should know. It is a secret formula that was developed in Paris and now, for the first time, *it is finally available in America!*

Just listen to this. As you already know, Barbara Bain (pictured at right) is a very special lady. She is incredibly beautiful and she is also an extremely busy and successful actress. She is the star of Mission Impossible and Space 1999 and winner of three Emmy Awards as best dramatic actress. Naturally, looking her best is very important to Barbara and she knows that when you work in front of a TV or movie camera that:

- You can't afford to have wrinkles!
- You can't afford to have tired, dry skin!
- You can't afford to have skin that sags!

We also know that as we age, our skin is unable to renew itself the way it did when we were young. And, therefore, our skin appears tired, dry and older-looking. Wrinkles form, skin sags.

What's the secret? The answer is simple. It's the amazing Parisian Formula Cell Renewal with Collagen and it's a scientific breakthrough that fights the aging process. It balances your skin's natural moisture level so your skin seems to lift from within. After just one application you'll see a wonderful change. Your skin seems glowing and radiant. Years younger. Women all over Europe are living proof.

Now At Last You Can Get It Too!

Parisian Formula was actually discovered by European Cosmetics while in France. You see, Europe's most respected doctors have been working with Collagen Cell Renewal products for over 20 years to fight the signs of aging. Extensive clinical research conducted on women of all ages finally led them to perfecting the formula. However, until recently, this product was *not* available in the United States.

But now, everything has changed. The testing is all finished and Barbara Bain wants you to know that this fabulous formula is *finally* available to women of America.

You Too Can Have Younger Looking Skin

How does this amazing new substance work? Obviously you'd have to be a scientist to understand completely but, probably, you have heard of collagen. Collagen is found naturally in the skin. It gives your skin softness and elasticity. However, once you reach the age of 30, collagen starts to disappear and your skin begins to age. Well, Parisian Formula Cell Renewal *actually helps replace the collagen your skin has lost!*

The result? It's simple: *You start to look younger instead of older!*

An Amazing Scientific Discovery From Paris

No More Plastic Surgery

Let's face it. Many women today have a facelift and many of them are unhappy with the results. You see, although a facelift can make you look younger, they are often unnatural looking. And of course, that's why beautiful women all over Europe prefer Parisian Formula Cell Renewal. It's as easy to use as a skin lotion and all you have to do is apply it once in the morning and once in the evening.

The Results Are Incredible

When you start using this product you'll see the results *instantly!* All your friends will notice a radiant younger looking new you! When you look in the mirror you will hardly be able to believe your eyes. Parisian Formula Cell Renewal actually helps speed up the cell renewal process to revitalize your skin and keep it more youthful. It nurtures the skin's own moisturizing process, promoting a special younger look and feel.

The net result is that Parisian Formula Cell Renewal not only makes you look younger, it *keeps* you looking younger! Day after day! Year after year!



Photo By: Harry Langdon

GUARANTEED RESULTS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

This is the best news of all. We guarantee that just like women all over Europe, you will be able to see the difference *immediately!* If not, just return the empty product container anytime within 30 days and you will receive a 100% refund of every penny you have paid.

So why wait? You have nothing to lose except years off your looks!

It Is Easy To Order

All you have to do is fill out the simple coupon below and send it to us with your payment to:

EUROPEAN COSMETICS
1617 PONTIUS AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

Or, if you prefer, you can use your Master Card or Visa and call our toll-free phone number at any time, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Just dial **1-800-862-6262** and ask for extension 101and tell the girl who answers where to send your order.

That's all there is to it. Either way, as soon as you order, you will have taken the first step to achieving the sparkling beauty shared by glamorous women in Europe and Hollywood. Thank you!

NO RISK ORDER FORM
(Please fill in and mail today!)

Yes, I want to share the secret to younger skin. Please rush my order for 4 oz. of PARISIAN FORMULA CELL RENEWAL. Enclosed is my check or money order for $19.95 (plus $2.00 postage and handling (Total $21.95). I understand that if I am not completely satisfied I may return the unused portion within 30 days and receive a prompt refund.

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Signature _____

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NOTE: Checks and money orders should be made payable to European Cosmetics and California Residents must add 6½% Sales Tax ($1.30) for a total payment of $23.25.

Mail to: EUROPEAN COSMETICS
1617 Pontius Avenue, Dept. 101
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Or Call: 1-800-862-6262

REVIEW

SOME GRAVITY AND SOME LIGHTNESS: IT TAKES ALL KINDS

(Reviewing "LunaVisions 2" edited by Denise Miller)

Upon paging through the latest LunaVisions effort, you may find it disappointing that there is virtually no artwork throughout--but have no fear, that is still on its way, and (as I found) has nothing to do with enjoying this 'zine. Artwork which patrons of the 'zine will later receive will only serve to enhance what enjoyment is already there.

The reason for that is that the authors featured in this 'zine paint their pictures effectively enough that artwork is a plus but not necessary to make their images clear.

The first story spotlighted is "The Other Time, The Other Place" by Terry S. Bowers. Immediately recognizable as the flip-side story of the 1999 episode, "Another Time, Another Place" by johnny Byrne, the reader may think the outcome, well, predictable. Hold off on the judgements. It's got a few surprises in store for us. The story delves into the characters themselves, their lives, and the might-have-been's contained in their other selves. Some of it, especially the developments between John and Helena, seems a little too restrained, but overall enjoyable and ties in very nicely with the episode. Someone's done her homework very carefully.

The next one, "Eine Kleine (Bier Und) Nachtmusik" by Kevin Peterson, probably indecipherable to all but the most fannish of fans and Mozart lovers, sometimes reads like the Mr. Bill Show....Who is this guy, anyway? He should be ashamed of himself! (Ed. Before we go any further, please be aware that this review was put to paper by none other than Kevin Peterson.

"Turnabout", another serious effort by Terry S. Bowers, has a good, captivating plot, and an interesting premise--but it has its problems. Not many, fortunately. I was never a lit major, or even an English major, but I ask you: What kind of punctuation is three and four exclamation points? It detracted from the story's tone; two exclamation points would have been quite enough to get across the characters' hysteria. John's reaction I can understand, floating between life and death deep within himself--which incidentally was an ingenious plot device to show the readers, as well as John himself, his real feelings without any macho posturing. But Annette's reaction seemed overblown, and seemed to indicate a cloying rather than close relationship. Everyone on Alpha knows the risks in doing what they do. It was the only element of the story that made for a real loss of perspective. Despite the problems, though, Terry gave us some wonderfully light-hearted banter during the course of the story, and some nicely effective pathos in the closing scene.

"Circumstantial Evidence" by Rebecca Eisenhuth is about three cuts above her previous work. In the story she mixes a fannish sense of fun into everything she does with the characters in the beginning of the story, and again at the end. This gives the story a good sense of balance. Mid-plot there's a Hitchcockian twist, though there is no hint of Hitchcockian maliciousness in the outcome. The best character portrait here is of Victor, and the relationship that develops between he and Molly feels very right. Kudoes all the way.

Finally, "A Comedy Of Errors", by Abby Hayhurst, not for a moment meant or taken seriously, would make wonderful sitcom fare. Might even make a good play, heh heh. This story is a treat for anyone who has ever worked in the theater (Karla take note!), and the writing is good. A warm round of applause.

The only other comments I have are for the way the 'zine itself was handled. Obviously resources were limited, and I realize we can't all have word processors, but the editing wasn't always what it could have been. The punctuation problems, for example. in one case there was such a hiatus in tone that it could only have been because a full line of the author's original manuscript had been mistakenly omitted. Typos sometimes clouded the meaning of what was being said.

Looking at the other side of things, the cost of the 'zine is not prohibitive, and the story choices are, all in all, good ones. I'm looking forward to the next "LunaVisions", and hope it comes along soon.

Kevin Peterson

Thanks, Kevin. I'm sure all the writers appreciate the critique of their work, and those who may not have purchased the 'zine appreciate the review so they get some idea of what they will be purchasing. If anyone else has comments or reviews of current or past 'zines. Please pass them along. We're sure everyone would be interested.

SPACE:1999 CON 9 * SPACE:1999 CON 9 * SPACE:1999 CON 9 * SPACE:1999 CON 9

A letter from your Space: 1999 Con 9 committee.....

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that a new hotel has been found for our convention and with a lot of help fromJudy Moore, Mark Gonzaga, Becky Eisenhuth, Sue Ginter, Bonnie Troll, Chris Link and Keith Young there will be a convention. On a smaller scale, but a con nonetheless!!

To make this convention a success, we need your help. After discussing this with John and Kathy, I would like to ask each of you to donate another $5.00 so that we can rent a larger room on Saturday night for the costume call. This room is on the 27th floor of the hotel with a beautiful view of the Hollywood Hills. It would make this convention more financially secure and an added insurance that we can bring Barry Morse to join us. My last conversation with Viv Stanley still had him looking forward to coming..... . I know we can count on your support and we hope to arrange some 'surprises' for you. We're looking forward to seeing all of you!!

ABOUT THE HOTEL:

Hollywood Holiday Inn
1755 North Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, Ca 90028

(213) 462-7181 or 800 HOLIDAY

Room rates: $60.00 SINGLE or DOUBLE

There are rooms with two double beds or kingsize (some with couch that folds out into a bed. Please call and make reservations AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!! Make sure you tell them you are with the Space:1999 Convention!! This is a popular hotel in a very good area and the rooms will go quickly!!
The hotel has a revolving restaurant on the top and tours that leave from the lobby to various points of interest...plus you will be in walking distance to Hollywood Boulevard and Mann's Chinese Theatre, the Jollywood Wax Museum and the Walk of Fame!! Also, if any of you are considering renting a car, parking at the hotel is free!!

Another thing I'd like to know is who will be coming in early so that a 'group' trip to Disneyland can be arranged. Can you see all of us riding Space Mountain?! Also, anyone willing to 'work' during the convention....let me know!! In mid June you will all receive a further update on con activities. You are all a special group of people who deserve the best! We'll do our best to see you have a good time! Rosie Badgett

COSTUME CONTEST

For those of you who will be entering the COSTUME CONTEST at our L.A. '99 Convention, PLEASE write and inform me. I'll need your name, who or what you'll be dressing up as and a phone number (important in case of an emergency). Anything else I might need from you I'll get at the Con. There will ALSO be costume registration at the Con bt it's important for me to know approximately how many people will be participating in order to have enough prizes to award. Now, for those of you who have asked, even if you don't plan on entering the costume contest - DRESS UP for this convention! Do you have any old '99/Trek/Battlestar or V costumes? Do you have an imagination? Great! One of the biggest complaints of late from your average con goer is that nobody wants to 'play' or GET INVOLVED. Let's change this impression in Los Angeles!

MATCHGAME

Yes Virginia, there WILL be an Alphan Matchgame '86. Registration for this event will ALSO be taken, as usual, at the Con. Both the sign up papers and 'rules and regulations' for the costume contest AND Matchgame will be posted at the Con registration desk at the Hollywood Holliday Inn. Rosie and I have come up with some funny (almost hysterical) questions and fill in the blank''s, so you DON'T want to miss this semi annual event. We're going to need at least sixteen (16) peope for Matchgame so don't forget to add your name to the list!.....SEE YOU IN LOS ANGELES! Becky

Send all costume contest and Matchgame info and questions to: Rebecca Eisenhuth / 16805 Randall Ave. #2 / Fontana, Ca 92335

MAYA'S MOONBASE MERCHANDISE MART

Here we are again. STILL no catalog but we're working on it. We are trying to get the fanzine out before we do any more work on the catalog.

GET YOUR ALPHAN COOKBOOK!

"THE OFFICIAL ALPHAN COOKBOOK" IS READY!! Learn the culinary secrets to such delights as: All That Glisters TRock Candy; Mission of the Darians Meatless Chili; Captain Zandor's Cidered Eggs; Victor Bergman's Favorite English Muffins; Harvest Moon Salad; Steak Diana Morris; Koenigsburg Meatballs; Alan Carter's Banana Jam; Moonpies!; Maya's Turtle Cake; and many many more! Find interesting ways to use mushrooms, beer, and shrimp. Be prepared for our soon to be planetfall!! Order your copy today. The cost is $3.00, postage is included.
NUMBER OF COPIES DESIRED'_____'

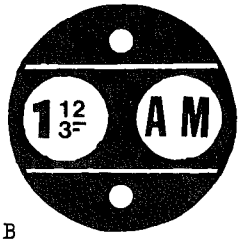
MOONBASE ALPHA PATCHES

Unsolicited comments. I have just one word for the patches - Fantastic! They are really beautiful. - Kerry Keene

Please send me another set of the Space:1999 patches. Yes, I said another set! Those patches were fantastic! In fact, I think the patches are one of (if not THE) best items I have seen offered by the Alliance since I became a member in 1982. - Erwin Stank



A $3.25



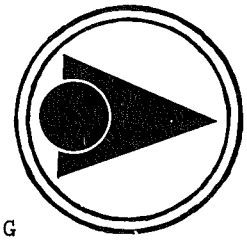
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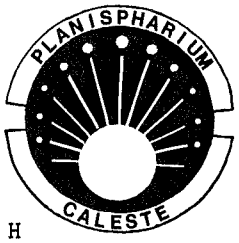
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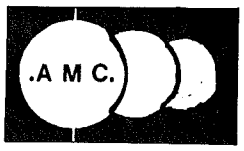
F $3.75



G $3.75



H $4.25



D $4.50



E $3.00

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_____

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

xerox copies are OK

BARBARA & MARTIN PINS





Pins (actual size) have a clasp style back. They are gold on white color. (John's hair is black) These are the first ones we have done. If you like the idea we will add others. The cost is now $2.00 each or $3.50 for a pair.

NUMBER OF PINS JOHN'____' HELENA'____'

(Cont. Next Page)

LIMITED OFFER

We have only three of these items left. They are 90 minute audio cassette tapes of science fiction music from Space:1999 and other TV shows and films. Some of the arrangements include: Theme from Space:1999, Dragon's Domain, Last Sunset, Breakaway; also UFO, Lost in Space, Invaders, Time Tunnel, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Doctor Who, Buck Rogers, 2001 & 2010 and many more. These were recorded and donated to us by Keith Tennant. They are excellent tapes and were copied using high quality equipment. The cost is $6.00 postage paid per tape.

NUMBER OF TAPES DESIRED'_____'

ADS & NOTES

LUNAVISIONS 2

is now available! This 90 page collection of "Space:1999" fiction by Terry S. Bowers, Kevin Peterson, Rebecca Eisenhuth and Abby Hayhurst and art by Candace Olsen can be ordered by sending $6.00 ($10.00 overseas - US$ funds only) to: Denise Miller / P.O. Box 179 / Estill Springs, Tn 37330 (NOTE: A DIFFERENT ADDRESS). Also accepting submissions of Space:1999 fiction, poetry, and art for "Lunavisions 3". Deadline for submissions extended to July 31, 1986.

FULL MOON,

the first "adult" 1999 zine is nearly ready to go to print. Stories include: Insomnia by Rebecca Eisenhuth; Primeval Circle by Dallas Hadaway; Variety is the Spice of Life by Denton Williams; Barracuda by Isobel Hoy and much more. Art by Rosie Badgett, Rebecca Eisenhuth and Clare Deere with cover art by Lew Place. For advance notice of size, final price and release date, please send stamped, self-addressed envelope to: FULL MOON c/o Terry S. Bowers / 603 N. Clark St. / River Falls, Wi 54022 USA

I MUST HAVE 25 ORDERS TO WARRANT PRINTING COSTS.

WHAT A WAY TO FLY TO CON!



MAIN COMPUTER

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Main Computer # 5 Volume 8 May 1986

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

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