

Welcome, all, to the Jan/Feb 1980 issue of Command Center! Our long-time members will note that this particular issue is traditionally late, for which I have always managed to come up with a variety of excuses. As I type this, I have no idea whether this issue will be keeping with tradition, but if it does, then: a) February is a short month; b) I had the flu; c) I had a cold and the flu; d) It snowed; e) I went to the STAR TREK Expo Convention over George Washington's Birthday weekend and took a week to recover; f) the typewriter had a nervous breakdown over the Christmas holidays and didn't recover for three weeks after (it helped a lot when I finally took it to the repair shop) or, the ever popular g) there's a lot of ice out there, and if you think I'm going to trudge up that hill with an armload of newsletter and the law of gravity working against me the whole way, then you're off my Christmas list. I may be a lot of things, but suicidal isn't one of them. And finally: h) All of the above. Didn't know this was going to be a multiple choice, did you? Actually, the real truth is that I don't start panicking until Mardi Gras time, which thankfully came early this year, so for the first time in the history of MMA, you may actually be getting this issue on time. Don't get complacent--I don't come equipped with a set of guarantees...

We are pleased and proud to announce the birth of Thomas Tate to parents Nick & Hazel Tate. Thomas arrived on November 10, 1979, and weighed in at a healthy, bouncing 9lb, 10oz. Members wishing to send cards and letters (the parents request that no gifts be sent, please) may do so through Main Mission Alpha (please include sufficient airmail postage) or through the British Nick Tate Fan Club (please include two IRC's) Mail directed through the William Morris Agency in London will not be forwarded, but mail forwarded through MMA or the BNTFC will reach the proud parents. Members wishing to make a contribution to Nick's favorite charity in Thomas's name as a birthday present may do so by contacting the BNTFC for further details.

CONVENTION '80: July 25-27, 1980, at the Neil House, 41 S. High St., Columbus, OH. Memberships are limited to 1500, and a three day membership for Alliance members is \$15.00 in advance. Non-Alliance members may purchase advance memberships for \$16.50; three day memberships for 14-yrs and under \$7.00. Also, one-day memberships, supporting (non-attending) memberships, and a family-plan membership available--please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for more information to: INTERNATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE, 86 First Street, New London, OH 44851).

Confirmed guests to date are Barry Gray and Prentis Hancock; tentative acceptances received from Martin Landau and Gil Gerard (BUCK ROGERS). Invited guests include all SPACE:1999 stars and selected stars from BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, BUCK ROGERS and DOCTOR WHO. Featured highlights of the convention will be the guest speakers, a costume party/contest, a star banquet, art show/contest and auction, fan writers meeting, fan club meetings and fantasy role playing games room.

Please note: the number of stars who will attend this year's convention will depend on their work schedules, the rising cost of airfares and most importantly, the number of people who attend. Get your membership early. Not only will you avoid having to pay a higher price for the con membership later on, but you will be helping the committee make a commitment towards how many SPACE:1999 guest stars they will be able to fly over from England.

MEMORY BOOKS: I've gone and done it again--lost my complete set of memory book volunteers. Reconstructing from memory got me into a lot of trouble last time, so I ask for a favor. On the other hand, I'm begging for a favor. If you volunteered and you are not included in the below list and the star you volunteered for is not included in the below list, then write to me and jog my memory.

MARTIN LANDAU: Charlene Scott, 3632 Linden Lane, Mobile, AL 36608
NICK TATE: Meta Campbell, 4919 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143
TONY ANHOLT: Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180
ANTON PHILLIPS: George Eichler, 1088 East 43rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210
PRENTIS HANCOCK: Deb Walsh, 1 Tufts Street #6, Malden, MA
ZIENIA MERTON: Larry McIrvin, 51 Main Street, Oceanport, NJ 07757

SPOTTED: Lynne Frederick (Shermeen Williams, A MATTER OF BALANCE) as Catherine Howard in the recent repeat of PBS/BBC production of HENRY VIII AND HIS SIX WIVES.

SPOTTED: Leo McKern (Gwent & Companion, THE INFERNAL MACHINE) in the PBS production of MYSTERY! RUMPOLE OF THE BAILEY.

SPOTTED: Barry Morse (Prof. Victor Bergman, Year One) as Hathaway in the third installment of the NBC special presentation of THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES.

SPOTTED: Deborah Fallender (Carolyn Powell, THE LAMBDA FACTOR) in an episode of the PBS series MYSTERY!

SPOTTED: Hildegard Neil (Elizia, DEVIL'S PLANET) in the feature film THE LEGACY. (Thanks to Tony Kluck for that information, and he goes on to note: "The film was dreadful, but Hildegard proved the most competent actress in the lot. Have you seen it yet? Hildegard's death is fantastic! It had me on the edge of my seat!")

SPOTTED: Barbara Bain has a small two-liner book review on the dust jacket of the book HOW TO BREAK INTO MODELING, by Nina Blanchard (Thanks to Judy Moore for that info)

SPOTTED: Martin Landau on: 1) Dinah Shore
2) 6:00 PM news (L.A. area) at Barringer Crater, Arizona for METEOR promo
3) Mike Douglas for METEOR promo
(Thanks again to Judy Moore for that info)

It is our sad duty to announce that Jay Winslow, husband of Diana Winslow, was killed in an automobile accident on February 1. Diana wished us to extend her thanks to all of those people who sent her messages of comfort and support, and hopes that all will understand that, under the circumstances, she will be withdrawing from active fandom. We know that all members will join with us in extending our deepest sympathy on her loss, and our best wishes to her and her family.

Announcing the SPACE:1999 Fan Awards! Sponsored by the SPACE:1999 Fan Fund and all participating 1999 fan organizations, the Fan Awards are designed to give recognition to singular achievements in the cause of advancing SPACE:1999 fandom. The vote will be determined by the memberships of the participating organizations, and the winner of the 1980 SPACE:1999 Fan Award will be announced at the 1980 SPACE Con. Our nominees so far include:

MATT BUTTS: Editor of ALPHA CHRONICLE, a SPACE:1999 newsletter
PHYL PROCTOR & EILEEN SKIDMORE: Presidents of the British Nick Tate Fan Club
CHUCK RAUE: Editor-in-chief of ComLoc, '99 fandom's first letterzine and committee member of the 1999 conventions.
MONA DELITSKY: Editor of COSMOCONNECTION, one of fandom's first zines, and committee member of the first 1999 convention.
DEBORAH WALSH: Author, editor and illustrator of CATCH THE FINAL SUNRISE!, one of fandom's first zines; also 1999 artist and author, editor of MOONBEAM and FELGERCARB, which regularly prints SPACE:1999 and related material.
STEVEN ERAMO: Editor of ALPHA NEWSLETTER, 1999 fandom's first publication and oldest continuing publication. Also 1999 artist and author.
DIANA WINSLOW: Editor and author of NIGHTMARE, a SPACE:1999 zine/novel
KATHI LYNN HIGLEY: Editor of THE LUNAR BULLETIN BOARD, a 1999 pen-pal listing. Also 1999 artist and poet.
MARY HARTERY: Organizer and president emeritus of MAIN MISSION ALPHA, 1999 fandom's first and oldest continuing fan club. Also editor of AVATAR, first fanzine to feature 1999 stories & artwork.

We encourage members to write in nominations. The final list of nominees for the 1999 Fan Awards will appear in March/April issue of Command Center. At that time, the membership will be asked to vote, and the winner of the Fan Award will be that person who receives the majority of votes. Send your nominations and votes to: MAIN MISSION ALPHA, 5 Lanson Street, East Boston, MA 02128. Remember, we need your votes to make the first annual SPACE:1999 Fan Award a grand success! Write today!

SNO-CON '80--THE REUNION
(or, "The Guest of Honor Melted...")

After an uneventful bus ride from Boston to New York (made even more uneventful by the fact that, after seven annual excursions to NYC for Trek cons, I actually remembered where the hotel was this time), Deb Walsh and I met up with the rest of our party, including Ann Hester, Alice Newsom, Marilea Mercer, Ron Butler and Juanita Cunningham from Georgia, Rosie Badgett from Kentucky and Gail Paradis and Linda Lanzi from Rhode Island. We also found that the quad and interconnecting double that the Statler had promised (in writing) to Ann had mysteriously become two twins down the hall from each other. Too tired and too late to think about standing on the registration desk and/or the hotel manager's face, we spent a cramped night. The next morning was filled with taking numbers for the showers, figuring out who was coming up to the room when and why, where everybody was going to eat breakfast and why, registering and repacking our scattered luggage for removal to the new rooms that we were assigned after someone stood on the registration desk and/or the hotel manager's face. Somewhere in all the excitement, we picked up two strays that went by the name of George Eichler and Mark Gonzaga (all right, George, I'll be fair--if it weren't for his table in the fanzine room, none of us would have had a place to congregate). Later on, Carol Blake, Larry McIrvin and Christine Hantzopoulos joined our happy throng and we set about making plans to ensure the success of SPACE:1999 Day.

George Eichler deserves full credit for the planning and execution of SPACE:1999, which in our opinion was rather a success. If one should point to the fact that we didn't exactly cause much of a stir, I should point out the fact that no one at that convention was particularly excited about anything, unless it was the \$25 the attendees were forced to pay out for a three-day con membership. George's table became the Command Center of SPACE:1999 Day, and our publicity stunt attracted quite a bit of attention. Determined to get some good shots of what was shaping up to be a very run-of-the-mill convention, we decided to restage the infamous Year Two "fire" publicity photos (these, for the uninitiated, were a series of photos taken by publicists that invariably depicted John, Helena, Tony and Maya, alone or in various combinations, being accosted by a variety of aliens, usually in a burning Eagle cockpit. The photos are totally unrelated to any aired episode). The first photos featured George (in Alphan jacket) and Rosie (in Medical uniform) in assorted expressions of terror and panic while Deb Walsh held a cigarette lighter up to the camera. Then we accosted a passing 'alien' and instructed him to "come up here and strangle this girl". He was very polite about it, and, after introducing himself as The Vorvan (see BUCK ROGERS), obligingly started to throttle Rosie while Deb reignited the lighter. By this time, we had attracted a bit of a crowd and not a few cameras. Not one to miss a golden opportunity, and realizing we had exhausted all our possibilities for further "fire" pictures (George had heeded the call of a huckster table needing to be tended to, and we lost The Vorvan to the siren call of the dealer's room), we then determined that all this medical talent (Chris, Rosie and Ann all wore Medical uniforms) should not be put to waste. We needed a victim. We had to look no farther than our own group, for in our midst was a Purple Sleeve--Alice Newsom, Professional Victim. She obligingly 'died' for the cameras, and, while Marilea Mercer/Han Solo took credit for the 'kill' by placing triumphant foot on Alice's chest, three Alphan medics tried in vain to revive Alice. When their efforts failed, the cry went up: "Doctor! We need a Doctor!" This brought us the immediate offer of services from a redoubtable Gallifreyan who, after finding that the sonic screwdriver had no effect, attempted to revive our unfortunate security person with the offer of jelly-babies. It worked.

The moral of this story is: if you want to get people to pay attention to you, you've got to first get their attention. We don't recommend 'killing' Alice with any kind of regularity, however...

THE ULTIMATE SPACE:1999 QUIZ!! =====

(brainstormed by Mary Bloemker, Steve Eramo and Deb Walsh)

The answers are rated on point value--you get five points for coming up with the name of the episode, five points for coming up with the name of the character, and five points for coming up with the name of the actor/actress. An * indicates that the point value has been upped for the real toughies. We're giving away a prize to the person who comes up with the most points. The prize is a SPACE:1999 45 record and story book put out by Power records, called RETURN TO THE BEGINNINGS (the record uses unknown voices for the main characters, such as Koenig and Dr. Russell, but it is an original story accompanied by the illustrated story-book). In the event of a tie, brother, do we have a humdinger of a tie-breaker for you! The deadline for all contest entries is January 30, 1980, so get out your Technical Notebooks, your MAKING OF SPACE:1999 and your cassette tapes, and go!

- 1) Name at least four people who have made guest appearances on both seasons of SPACE:1999 (This does not include regular cast unless--dead giveaway hint here--person in question was not regular cast in the other season)
- 2) Name at least two people who appeared in an episode of UFO and an episode of SPACE:1999.
- 3) *Name the only person to appear in an episode of STAR TREK and an episode of SPACE:1999. (Ten points for name, character name and episode name)
- 4) Name three people who appeared in THE OMEN and SPACE:1999.
- 5) Name at least three people who appeared in STAR WARS and SPACE:1999.
- 6) EXTRA CREDIT (one point each)--name up to five people who have appeared in DOCTOR WHO and SPACE:1999 (excluding William Hartnell and Patrick Troughton episodes for the benefit of American DOCTOR WHO fans who have never had the pleasure) Two points for any American fan who can come up with names from any episode after THE INVASION OF TIME. (Please note--in all cases, American also includes Canada)

command conference:

Daniel Pallotta, Traffic Director, The SPACE:1999 Society, P.O. Box 11123, Cleveland, OH 44111:

Fellow Alphans: This year, The SPACE:1999 Society will conduct a letter campaign directed at local television stations and the Independent Television Corporation. Although the Society has instituted the campaign, it is not intended to be a one-group effort. We have requested the participation of several SPACE:1999 organizations; because the Society's contacts in 1999 fandom are limited, we invite any other organizations which we have not directly contacted to actively participate. We would like as many fan organizations as possible to take an active part in the campaign, primarily to improve communication between groups and to give participating groups a chance to directly contact a large number of fans.

Our plans for the campaign are as follows: 1) Fans are requested to write letters to the most important decision makers, namely the local stations. The local stations make independent decisions regarding the purchase of syndication packages, and make those decisions based on ratings and viewer requests. The campaign to local stations would be most effective over the long term, and often-repeated requests (including phone calls, if possible) would be extremely helpful. 2) In addition, fans are requested to write letters to I.T.C., 555 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022. However, for this part of the campaign, we would like fans to send their letters addressed to ITC to the Society's Post Office box instead of directly to ITC. The letters would then be collected and the entire amount presented directly to ITC, in New York, during the Society's 1980 convention. The reason for this is to maximize the impact with ITC by presenting a large amount of mail at one time. A listing of fans who write in will be kept, and will be shared among the participating organizations, for their use in promoting their groups. All participating groups will be publicly recognized for their help in the campaign.

Each organization will be acknowledged as an equal participant. We would like to thank Main Mission Alpha for this opportunity to promote the campaign, and we would like to thank any other organizations in advance for their support. Further information on the campaign will be featured in the next issue of the Society's newsletter, available upon request (SASE please!) after March 13.

Tod Ellsworth, 3691 Sheridan Road, Portsmouth, OH 45662:

To Kathi Lynn Higley: Somewhere, something didn't quite click. Because somehow you got the idea that my previous letter applied to someone like yourself. Reread your letter and tell me that you are an apathetic person, thus affected by my comments. For goodness sake, Kathi, if everyone were as strong-willed and full of spunk as you, we would be ruling the Moon by now, not writing letters and holding conventions. When fan clubs fold, penpal lists fail, and spirit lacks, can there be nothing wrong? When membership books barely survive, and surveys are ignored, can everything be healthy? When con attendance falls, and ALLIANCE figures drop, can fan enthusiasm be at its peak? Both Steve E. and Mary B. have expressed concern over low memberships and renewals. They are virtually pleading for contributions. At Con II, ALPHA NEWSLETTER, EAGLE:1 and MMA held a joint membership meeting to discuss club changes, problems and apathy. Out of three fan clubs, we nearly had thirty whole people attend. MMA alone has nearly 150 members! Surely these presidents are not imagining problems, too. Sure, many people are giving their best. But if everyone involved were, the above mentioned facts would never have existed. The enthusiasm surfaces in spurts. Let's channel these spirits into an all-powerful stream. My letter was not intended as a "put-down", but rather, a gentle prodding. And it worked--we ought to congratulate one another, for our letters certainly produced some of the contributions Mary so desperately pleaded for!

On the side: I plead ignorance about the supply of nutrients and proteins found on the ordinary postage stamp, but I can testify to a personal preference--raw macaroni.

Mare Fitzgerald, 123 Fawn Valley Drive, McMurray, PA 15317:

I want to comment on several of the letters in recent issues. First, to Karla Von Huben: I don't understand where you get the idea that the Alliance is telling everyone to go into 1999 paraphernalia production. Not only is that impractical, it's also technically illegal. When we've asked for support and fan participation, we are simply asking that members do as much as they are able to to keep 1999 in the public eye. This could be something as simple as telling a friend or two about the Alliance (as you've suggested), putting up a few posters, writing a letter to a local newspaper, or calling local TV stations just to remind

them that we're here. None of these things takes a lot of effort, time or money, but, done by enough members, they add up. By the way, with Con '80 coming up, you all might try calling local papers to see if they want to do an article on you--it's not all that difficult to get them interested in a feature story as long as it has a personal slant that might be of interest to people in your area (that's where your personal involvement with the Alliance comes in!).

To Karla Von Huben and Kathi Lynn Higley: Please reread the sixth paragraph in my original letter. I specifically state that I know there are fans who cannot afford to go to cons. I would never put anyone down because they lack money to attend. Those I address in the statements about a year being enough time to save for a con are those who complain if cons are held anywhere other than their home towns, who wait until a month before the con to decide to start saving, or who refuse to make any independent effort to contact others who may want to share a ride or room. "I can't afford to come" is not an excuse--in many cases, it's a simple fact. I do think that those who expect the cons to be specially tailored to their every need are those who make the real excuses. Let me add for Kathi that I know it's very difficult to make ends meet for many people. But it was also very unfair of you to be so negative toward Tod Ellsworth's comments, especially since you have first-hand knowledge of what Tod is trying to change. You say that fans lack interest, that your Bulletin Board couldn't survive; well, Tod pointed that problem out and his letter was aimed at those fans I spoke of earlier, not to put down anyone's financial status (at least I didn't read it that way). Sure, every group has members who do little more than 'belong', but if 1999 fandom is to keep going and growing, we have to make the effort. I admire Tod's enthusiasm; and rather than your putting him down for it, you should be happy to see that such devotion still exists.

As for your (KLH) comments about the insignificance of your Alliance post, I'm afraid you'll have to look to yourself for the problem, not at the Alliance. Alliance reps (either section or state) are chosen because they supposedly have the ambition to do something. If your whole approach was to sit back and wait for the letters to pour in, as you can see it just isn't that way (You say that those you wrote intro letters to didn't have anything to say--this is very frustrating, and it's all the more reason I wonder why you came down so hard on Tod.) As harsh as this may sound, if you felt 'useless' as a state rep it was your own fault. What the Alliance expects of its reps is the initiative to get things moving, and this doesn't necessarily mean spending lots of money, only exerting imagination. There are no 'glamor' positions in the Alliance, no 'cake' jobs. Whatever accomplishments we make are made with a lot of sweat, moments of doubt, faith in each other, and I suppose a touch of madness when you think that the whole thing is still together. Kathi, you sound very tired of fandom and I admit I feel that way sometimes, too. But one thing you are missing is the most important part--the friendships we've all gained. I would love to have you come to a con, not just to meet stars and see films, but to meet your fellow members. There are fascinating, warm, humorous, sparkling characters here among us. For that reason I am nominating you for the Fan Fund--I want you to see it for yourself.

Finally, once and for all, I want to make something very clear. The Alliance Board are no different than any other fans. We all have to plan our fandom around jobs and families. I have a business to run, friends to see occasionally, personal correspondence to keep up, a house to look after, and most importantly, a husband who deserves much more attention than he's given. Kindly refrain from telling me that I haven't a worry in the world and that I don't know what I'm talking about when I make statements about fan participation. Let me repeat: I know there are some fans who cannot afford to get to cons. My greatest wish is that all of us can get together and share the finest that fandom offers--friendship.

Tony Kluck, 1319 Thorncroft Ct., Westlake Village, CA 91361:

To whom it may concern: I, and others (so it's not just me) feel rather put off by the doom cries of fandom. So what if fandom is in a rut? The solution isn't to jump up and down, suggesting culprits and screaming "The fans clubs are going extinct!" Did you ever hear the proverb "two wrongs don't make a right"? Well, I'm putting in my two cents to see if I can't right a very great injustice.

When I read how fan interest is declining, and how we'd all better get off our duffs and do something ("or else"), it makes me feel even more dejected about fandom. The thought sometimes comes to mind: "Okay, so what's the use, after all..." I received two newsletters recently, and if it weren't for the momentary positiveness that breezed by as I read, I might have tossed them out altogether. Who wants to hear about how badly we are doing? Isn't the proper idea to concentrate on how positive fandom is? Let's hear more from those out there who are doing something for fandom and not from those who just want to use this as an excuse for dejecting everyone! And, if we don't hear anything, then we know where we stand, now don't we? The answer: reexamine our attitude!

If you care to send any angry letters, you may do so c/o the above address. P.S. Let's make 1980 a year of positive thinking! 1999 Lives (even if on Portuguese TV!)

Charlene Scott, 3632 Linden Lane, Mobile, AL 36608:

Well, I was very surprised at what I read in the last issue of Command Center. I'm surprised at you people! Why all these petty accusations? Have we forgotten what we stand for? What happened to the values system? If I may remind you, we're here to promote the SPACE:1999 series and fandom. (I quote the Alliance Constitution) It would seem to me that some of us have forgotten that. Sure that means writing letter after letter but there can be limits. There are plenty of people out there and there's plenty of work to do. I think the thing to do is share, let each person take a little responsibility. There's a lot of givers out there, but there's even more takers, so let's make some of the takers into givers. I'd really hate to see this whole fandom go down the tubes due to a few people. Let's do a little deep-thinking and then start again with a fresh outlook on fandom. One where everybody is more considerate of other people's problems and does their part to HELP them out.

Now that I've come down from the podium for the time being, I've got a message for you: PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!! This year, I'm the head of Martin Landau's memory book, and I'd like to make this really terrific, so please send me anything and everything. (Within reason--please don't try to stuff yourself into an envelope) Poetry, short stories, artwork, or just letters. Also, if you would like to include a picture of yourself I think it would be a nice gesture, but it is purely voluntary. Until next time--MAY KOENIG SMILE UPON YOU.

Bonnie Yoman, 174 E. Madison, Petersberg, Mich 49270:

Wanted: Information leading to the discovery of whatever happened to HAWK Magazine and its publisher Allen McClearn. A personal letter to Allen resulted in a loss of 15¢ postage. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of said Alphan should contact "Find the Missing Magazine" Contest in care of this address: 174 E. Madison, Petersberg, Mich., 49270. All reports will be kept confidential.

Elenore Claassen, 1740-47 Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 2S2:

To start off, I'd like to follow up to Kathi Lym Higley's suggestion as to how we'd get along with the BATTLESTAR GALACTICA gang, or should I say, crew. You've probably already read my SPACE:1999 bio. Here's my GALACTICA bio: I'm one of the bridge staff. Communications is my specialty, but when they need warriors, I became one of the elite Blue Squadron. But afterwards, I resumed my bridge duties, but I'm available on call. Here's my observation on the main Galactica crew:

Adama: I'll always be loyal to him, because both of us come from Caprica.

Apollo: Like the rest of the crew and squadron, we all admire and respect him, but we get along fine. We all know Apollo and Sheba are close.

Starbuck: All the girls like him, but we all know he mainly goes out with Athena and Cassie. Privately, most of us are taking bids on who he will choose. He's always on a personal basis with all the women.

Athena: We're close, actually, she's my boss on the bridge. She sometimes lets me in on some of the secrets she has.

Sheba: She's easy to get along with most of the girls, but she mainly stays close to Athena and Cassie.

Cassie: As a nurse and a lady, she's the one we all go to for our problems. She understands us and speaks to us on our individual levels.

Tigh: There's no monkey business when he's around. He expects top performance from us, but, off duty, he's an easy-going guy.

Boomer: When we are pilots, we go to him if there's any problems. He has a good sense of humor as does Jolly. He's also good at sports and games which most of us at least try.

Jolly: Like Boomer, but on a more personal basis.

Boxey: Last, but not least. Cute kid. When off duty, Apollo came to me a couple of times to babysit and the two of us get along fine. Really full of energy. Had trouble getting him to sleep, but I'd figure a way, saying that Apollo would be back when he wakes.

In a previous Command Conference, about a few issues ago, I asked fellow Alphas to list in order their favorites from both SPACE and BSG, but I didn't get a good response. So I'm trying again, but this time, from the following shows, list who you like the most. The shows are: STAR TREK, SPACE:1999 and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. I'd be interested in the results. That's all for this issue, I'm now signing off...

Marianne Tielesch, Goethestr. 11/2, 7316 KÖngen/a.n., Germany:

I was happy to see your list of episodes shown in Germany, because I didn't list them up. German TV indeed has some funny or crazy translations of original episode names. I remember an episode of STAR TREK which was named KIRK: 2=2 in Germany. That's real funny and not very good. But at one point you were wrong. You said that Germans can't pronounce the soft Zandor because TV wrote Zantor. How do you think we pronounce Sandra? Santra? In former times, the Germans said Teutschland instead of Deutschland, but that's light years ago.

Frank B. Rowder, 3530 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Ill 60657:

Grosset & Dunlap Publishing House in New York has been publishing scrapbooks on science-fiction series. SPACE:1999 should get recognition just like GALACTICA and STAR TREK have by the publishers. So let's start writing if we ever want to see a Year III and at the same time promote 1999 awareness. This is our best chance to get more collectable items on SPACE:1999. Also, I am conducting a poll on your five favorite episodes of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. Send the five to the above address.

Lis TherKildsen, Høgevej 37 2 tv, 8210 Aarhus V, Denmark:

I can say that I'm so fortunate that I CAN produce 500 copies of my material and I have offered--being a Danish resident I should be in the position of owning rare material--but when there is no reaction, you start to lose faith. (Why anyone would spend a long-distance call and then drop the matter completely is beyond me--are you listening, Thomas Charin? Carsten and I are getting real depressed!)

As for the financial problem with attending a Con, I must say that only a miracle could bring me to Con '80 (though I'm working on it) but I completely agree with Tod Ellsworth, Mare, Kathy, John and Jeff and all the Alliance people as well as all club and fanzine producers all deserve a medal. I am certain that all members agree with Tod. Any tiny information is worth gold bullion here in little Denmark (have you ever tried to find it on a map? It is a country!). We appreciate your work enormously and love you all.

Here I am with the first "staff" opinion from the Moonbase Alpha kitchen department, where little me works as an assistant-servant. How I got to work on Alpha is a very long story I won't bore you with, though it might have had something to do with a certain commander. I am 23 years old, single and spend a lot of time as an office assistant in a telephone company. I also love movies old and new.

Now, I could give you a first class description on how and what the main staff eat, but I don't suppose you'd want to hear that. I have managed to meet these people a few times (meaning that I haven't see all 48 episodes) so here is my opinion:

John Koenig: I just love that man. His devotion to duty is admirable. He is a quiet man, but when pressed, he can lose his temper.

Helena Russell: She has split her life between John Koenig and medicine. There is not much in between, except perhaps the developing friendship with Maya.

Victor Bergman: Also a dedicated person, dedicated to science. A calm and sincere man.

Maya: I really like her, she has a great sense of humor and she loves to tease.

Tony: What can I say about him? A likable fellow, handsome but quite ill-tempered when Maya and Alan start on their favorite sport of teasing him.

Alan: I think I've missed something here. I can't see anything special about him. One thing, though-- he's got a catching smile.

Paul Morrow: I think he likes his job, but he keeps much to himself and is very difficult to get to know.

Kano: He talks about computer all the time. One thing I like about him is that he never loses his cool.

Sandra Benes: Quiet, softspoken and yes, sensitive. She almost always gets lost in the crowd.

That's it, folks. Please write if you agree or disagree. I'd love to hear from you.

Daniel Pospula, 217 Dunn St., Rochester, NY 14621:

To Tony K: I think you should go into research. I am in it, and it is great. A lot of stuff to putter around with. It never gets boring. Right now I am working on an improved version of the laser cannon. I figure if I could decrease the diameter of the beam and increase the power input, I could double the effective range from one hundred to two hundred miles. All the conversion would entail would be to install a beam splitter and a power booster. Anybody else who has any ideas in Research, contact me and we could discuss them and maybe improve on them.

Amelia L. Rodgers, 22284 Mission Blvd #7, Hayward, CA 94541:

I am a brunette female in my late twenties, American born, presently working under Sandra Benes. At the time the Moon was torn from orbit, I was on Moonbase doing research for an article to be accompanied by sketches of the installation and its interiors. I have always been interested in computer and space technology, and the Moonbase was a project of peace. I had had quite enough of violence and war and was glad that the peoples of the earth were united in the Moonbase project. However, I never expected to get the opportunity to join Alpha. But I was on holiday in England and a friend told me I might be able to journey to Alpha to do the article, and naturally I was thrilled to have the opportunity. However, it was a one-way trip. The runaway moon claimed one very frightened and confused new member--but with Dr. Helena Russell's help, I adjusted and since I had no family to mourn my loss and only a few friends whom I worked with doing free-lancing, that was a plus. Also, Helena sort of sheltered me and took me under her wing. I am kind of quiet and intense, something of a loner and prefer the company of a few close friends instead of many acquaintances. I am liked on the Moonbase, as I sketch when off-duty and relish the idea of getting dressed up for a special dinner or dance. It's lovely to get out of one's uniform and wear a dress. I find myself very attracted to our Number One pilot, Alan, of course. But I shy away from him. Perhaps one day we will have a lasting encounter and then who knows what may happen?

Commander John Koenig: A bright, sensitive and courageous man. Kind of larger than life, the type of man who is a storybook hero. I do not envy the Commander his responsibility. His romance with our Helena is enchanting to watch. Once on a dare from Sahn, I sat in his command desk seat. Unfortunately, he and Alan came in and he grinned and asked me what I was doing. I mumbled some lame excuse and got two dazzling smiles, one from the commander and one from Alan. I very quickly got out of there. Sahn said later that Koenig wanted to know my name and my section but since we got an interesting signal from space just then. Koenig's attention had to be focused on that, and well, you might say that was a close call!

Dr. Helena Russell: A lady to be avoided whenever she wields a hypo! Otherwise, Helena is my favorite subject to sketch, a dear, dear, person a friend and a confidant. A real beauty.

Tony Verdeschi: Loves to flirt, is your typical male Italian, very macho, very protective of Maya but fun-loving. He delights in teasing her, which is just great with me. I then get to witness her transformations. Sahn and I once told him we squashed a bug which was crawling on Maya's console. We then innocently asked him if he had seen Maya, as we hadn't seen her all day. His brown eyes got very big and he looked horrified (he was play-acting) and a familiar giggle behind him gave us away. He threatened to haul us to detention if we joked that way again! When it comes to the welfare of Alpha, Mr. Verdeschi is top-notch. He's ever security-conscious. He misses his family quite a bit, but we are all family here.

Alan Carter: He often gets in on our teasing and joking. He has a charming accent, which I thought was Cockney when I first met him. I enjoy accents. He says that all Americans sound alike to him. He drinks more genuine artificial coffee than he does tea, avoids Tony's beer whenever he can, sings quite a bit both on-duty and off. Quite naturally he has different women around him. But somehow I get the impression that he is quite lonely, and that he is afraid to get really close to one woman. I am looking for a lasting relationship, and it is quite difficult to not be one of "Alan's women", but I couldn't handle it. However, if he ever wants a lasting emotional tie, then perhaps I will let him know how I feel. I shy away from him as anything else but a 'cobber'. He is a gentle, outgoing, bighearted Aussie, and Alpha wouldn't be the same without him.

Wayne Walls, PO Box 210, Wartburg, TN 37887:

I feel that I must voice my opinions about what I read in last Command Center. First to Kathi: I believe that you have done your best to get SPACE:1999 back on the air. I also believe that you have done your best to keep SPACE fandom alive. This means that you owe nobody an apology or an explanation. You have done your best. And I thank you for it. But please hang in there. You are too valuable a person to us to give up. I wish I had your spunk.

Tod, I wish I could incite people with my stories that I write like you can with your letters. I would be famous. I can also appreciate your efforts to keep up going in SPACE fandom. And your comments did cause a lot of people to write in very good letters. Can I detect a little poking in the hornet's nest? Did you say some of those things just to get a response? Just one more thing, everyone--if you are doing your best, then that is all that you can do, and you have my full support. If things aren't working for you, do the best that you can. But don't knock yourself out. A person can only do so much; after a while it is wasted effort that can be used for more constructive efforts. And to Mary--hang in there, you're the BEST!

To Sue, Judy & Barbara: I loved the detail and the love that went into this report. I could feel the fun and enjoyment that must have filled your day with that great man. I could almost feel myself there with you. I am sure it was an experience. Carsten: I liked your report. I didn't know that they changed the names so much. Lynn Mims: Where have you been? I have not seen a letter of yours in a long time. I am glad to see you back in the writing circle. Also to Kathi, Bob & Lynn: I really liked your bios. I hope you will let me use them in a story I am working on. I am sure you will enjoy it.

And now, we interrupt this letter for a BATTLESTAR GALACTICA bio!

On the Galactica, I am a bridge officer. I man the main weapons and fire control panel. My job is to target and track enemy ships for the main laser batteries (not the laser turrets) and the megaton torpedoes. I am also in charge of sending damage parties to repair battle damage.

Adama: I really look up to this man. He is a father figure to many of us. He still can get on my nerves by talking about the Word and the other stuff. I just want to find a home.

Tigh: My boss. We get along. I think he likes my work. But when I goof up, he's right on my tail. I'd rather have four Cylons in a pinwheel pattern around me than to risk having him mad.

Apollo: I really don't know him that well. I like his style, though. He is always on top of things.

Starbuck: The creep. He has beaten me about forty times at Pyramid since I have known him. He never loses. I have to admit, though, he can fly a Viper.

Boomer: A great guy. I would do anything for him. He always has time to talk to you. He can also play a mean game of Triad. Has a mean elbow.

Athena: I really am in love with her. She is so pretty and a very smart woman. She has guts. I have taken her to the Rising Star twice. And she seems to like my company. But I still think that she loves Starbuck. I hope she will look my way someday.

Cassie: I like her. She is very friendly. But I think she needs some more first aid classes. When I got cut playing Triad, she tried to seal my wounds with a screwdriver. I wonder if she was just kidding?

Jolly: Boy, can he put away mushies.

Boxey: He is always in my way on the bridge. But he isn't bad for a rotten, stinking, stupid brat who always has this stupid robot in my way and can get away with murder whenever he feels like it.

All my love, fellow Alpha, I'll see you at the Con!

Sheri Crowell, 3534 4th Street, East Moline, IL 61244:

When I first decided to join the staff of Moonbase Alpha, it was more a means of escape than of dedication. I had had a good childhood, coming from a large, loving family. Everything was peaceful then, but when I entered the later teen years, everything started moving too fast. Between conflicts of careers and broken romances, I felt swallowed up and confined. I had to get away. That's when I thought about Alpha. A couple of my brothers had been interested in the Alpha project, and suddenly it dawned on me that Alpha could be my getaway. I devoted myself entirely to my training, and eventually was sent to Alpha as a lab technician. I had only planned on a six month tour of duty, but September 13, 1999 changed all that. And you know what? I'm glad. Sure, everyday is possible the last, but I have a sense of duty here, of belonging, and I can handle that. As for my fellow Alphas:

Commander Koenig: I don't have an opportunity to see him often, but when I do, he remembers my name without looking at my ID badge. I appreciate that. I admire him for the strength he shows in carrying out such a burdensome position.

Dr. Russell: The poor lady thought she'd be treating minor cuts and sprains and ended up looking at death in many unheard of forms. I respect her greatly.

Tony Verdeschi: A sometimes misunderstood man. I know that when I hand in the lab reports that he appears to be a strict disciplinarian. A lot of my friends are actually a little frightened by him. I've had the opportunity to help him with his brew, and he's actually quite gentle. I love him like a brother.

Maya: A classic beauty, who strikes me like a type of goddess. Maybe because she's a mystery, or maybe because she's rescued us so often. Or is it because when she looks at Tony, she gets the same look in her eyes that we humans do when we're in love, and we were raised galaxies apart!

Alan Carter: A charmer. I feel nervous inside, because he's so outgoing it makes me dizzy. Yet, as soon as he starts talking, I feel comfortable and optimistic.

Professor Bergman: I considered him a teacher, and was always eager to learn from him.

Paul Morrow: Such a gentleman! I only know him through Sahn. She's a lucky lady.

Sahn Benes: A sweet, sincere lady. I can always depend on her to be there for a friend. Cute as can be.

Becky Eisenhuth, 9873 Palmetto, Bloomington, CA 92316:

I was on Alpha when it broke away in 1999, but I was only visiting an uncle who worked there. He died in that incident. It took me a long time to get over the fact that I would never see my family and friends again, but all the Alphans helped me on that part. We are a close-knit group. Anyway, now I am under orders from Captain Alan Carter, and I work on the interior of the Eagles. It's not a bad job, but I would rather be in Command Center where all the action is.

Commander Koenig: John and I get along great. Sometimes he treats me like a long-lost daughter. We joke about that all the time.

Helena Russell: I think Helena helped me more than anyone when the moon broke away. She's really understanding. She could sit for hours just hearing me talk about the way it was. She is probably my best friend right now.

Professor Bergman: I met Victor a few times, but I was never too science-minded, so I think he decided to give up on me. I was sad to hear about his death.

Maya: Maya has always fascinated me. How can such a great personality be so intelligent?

Tony Verdeschi: Tony is weird. One day he trapped me in the hall and asked me to try some of his home-brewed beer. I told him that alcohol was against my religion.

Alan Carter: Like probably every other girl on Alpha, I had a mad, passionate crush on Alan when I first met him. It wasn't until later that I realized that he was like everyone else, not a Roman god.

Oh, got to go. Alan's going to give me my first Eagle flying lesson.

Jeff Barber, 16 Westbrook Ct., Clayton, CA 94517:

Here we have a fictional Alpha biography. I wish to inform all readers that, regardless of what anyone may say, I am in no way similar to the fictional Alphan in this biography. I'm much weirder.

I guess no moonbase would be complete without the resident 'strange one'. Well, that's me! Before Breakaway, I worked in one of the radiation monitoring stations in Disposal Area Two (by choice, I might add!), and it seems there are some who have the idea that my brain sustained massive radiation damage from flying over the waste dumps too many times. In reality, I am the only sane person on this here moon, and no one will admit it! Anyway, it must have been decided that I am a lost cause, because since then I've been assigned to the nuclear reactor monitoring team. But, hey, my fellow workers were so gracious as to nominate me as the head of the team! That means I am granted the extreme pleasure of reporting to Commander Koenig. Maybe there is some truth to the rumor that I am blessed. Nevertheless, my frequent travels through Command Center have allowed me to become acquainted with a number of the personnel. I think no one can deny that I have "unique" relationships with many of Alpha's bigshots.

Koenig refuses to acknowledge my existence. Ever since that party where I was explaining to him that everything is an illusion, he has said, "You're an illusion, Barber, you don't exist," everytime I try to talk to him. Honestly, I think he is afraid of losing his command to me. Oh, well, at least he reads my reports.

Dr. Russell is always telling me there is something wrong with my mind and that I should come in for a mental health survey. I don't know where she gets her ideas. Maybe she is collaborating with Koenig.

What can I say about Professor Bergman? The man has taste. One of my favorite recreational activities is listening to obscure music from the '80's and '90's. Victor is the only person on the base that I know of who likes my favorite group, the Subatomic Particles. In fact, he has even seen them in concert! He has told me about it a thousand times: he was in Munich attending a conference when he witnessed their last live performance before their tragic 'disbandment' (they were in Switzerland in June of 1987 recording a new album when they literally became 'subatomic particles'). Victor is about the only human being on Alpha that can talk to me without being totally alienated, so I talk with him every chance I get.

Maya is a real brat. Every time she sees me she turns into Koenig and tells me that I don't exist, or turns into Dr. Russell and tells me that I need a mental health survey. It definitely must be a conspiracy.

Tony and I are good buddies, mainly because I like to drink his beer (did I not say that I am the 'strange one'?). But he is usually with Maya, so I don't see him much.

Alan Carter makes me sick! I simply cannot understand why a girl would rather go with him to the Eagle hangar than with me to the rec room to listen to the Subatomic Particles!

Kano thinks I'm normal. Or maybe it's the computer that thinks I'm normal. It's hard to separate the two. I have had a number of fascinating philosophical discussions with Kano/Computer: they agree with me that everything is an illusion! It's nice to know that someone with half a brain has a stake in running Alpha.

That's about it for now. I have to get a new petition started nominating me as the new Commander of Moonbase Alpha. Have you signed your name yet?

Susann Molnar, 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ So. Santa Rosa, Ventura, CA 93003:

My job is computer programming. I came to Alpha because I am one of those cock-eyed idealists who tired of spending a whole career working on weapons systems for the Dept. of Defense and thus leaped at the chance to be a part of a peaceful multi-national project such as Alpha. With my work background I have been assigned here mainly to help develop and maintain programs that evaluate test data from Eagles that have been out for repairs and/or modifications.

Impressions of senior officers: I can speak best about those I've worked with closely. I get along just fine with Alan Carter since we both want to keep the Eagles flying. He is much brighter than some people think. David Kano is a very fair, competent section-head--always eager to give extra computer time when we need it on special projects and very forgiving when I have gotten angry at Computer. Paul Morrow has been very good to work with when I've been detailed to his Resources Allocation projects. He is patient, fair, and knows what he is doing. One very good man.

Sandra Benes and Maya are both friends. We all share an interest in music, art and study of cultural differences. And sometimes we just simply get together for a session of giggling over little things; a little laughter sometimes does help to lighten the load. They both are also very helpful on technical specialties I don't know so well. One extra thing about Maya--she senses our longings for lost Earth things, like well-loved pets. She will sometimes transform into a remembered dog or cat--or a flowering plant we'll never see again.

Victor sometimes sits in on bull sessions; he is always welcome when we are hashing over The Meaning of It All. He is also blessedly neutral, and thus invaluable when there is a conflict--as there will be with over 300 of us confined in this one small space.

I just do not have much contact with either Commander Koenig or Tony, so all I can report here is a general impression that they are doing well at their jobs. My chief contact with Dr. Russell is mainly at the regular physicals--plus the one time I foolhardily drank a glass of Tony's beer and needed immediate medical attention.

If enough interest is shown, the Fan Fund will be setting up a Finder's Service for DOCTOR WHO material. DW is extremely popular in the Boston/Providence area (we are currently seeing the full run from ROBOT to INVASION OF TIME for the third time) and several SF stores in the area have STARBURST magazines from England (an excellent source of material for DW), the Target paperback novelizations from England (with thirty or more DW titles in print) and other assorted miscellanea, including the DOCTOR WHO birthday cards. If interested, please send your want lists with a SASE to the Fan Fund, c/o Main Mission Alpha.

Alpha News Service, Dick DiPirro, 160 W. Foster St., Melrose, MA 02176. Bi-monthly news zine, subscriptions available. Free novelette (original) with ANS 9. SASE for more information.

LASERSHIP:127 is coming! The new bimonthly literary periodical of sci-fi/adventure/fantasy and horror is awaiting contributions. For more info, send SASE to: Tony Kluck, 1319 Thorncroft Ct., Westlake Village, CA 91361 for explicit details on contributions and subscriptions.

WANTED: Paperbacks of THE PSYCHOMORPH, Warner edition and THE MOD SQUAD #2, the British SPACE:1999 annuals, the model kit of Moonbase Alpha, The Thunderbirds, Fireball XL-5 and Stingray. For info, write: Elenore Claassen, 1740-47 Ave., SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 2S2

PRENTIS HANCOCK FAN CLUB: Now fully operational (member of the Nat'l Assoc of Fan Clubs) Membership includes card, quarterly Communique newsletter, club binder with full color insert, bio and credits sheet. \$5.00 US/Canada; \$6.00 overseas (U.S. Funds only). 123 Fawn Valley Drive/McMurray, PA 15317

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FANS FOR MARTIN LANDAU AND BARBARA BAIN: Send self-addressed stamped envelope for more information to: Debbie Phares, P.O. Box 267, Nederland, TX 77627.

ALPHA NEWSLETTER: 1999 fandom's first and best publication. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for more information to: Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180

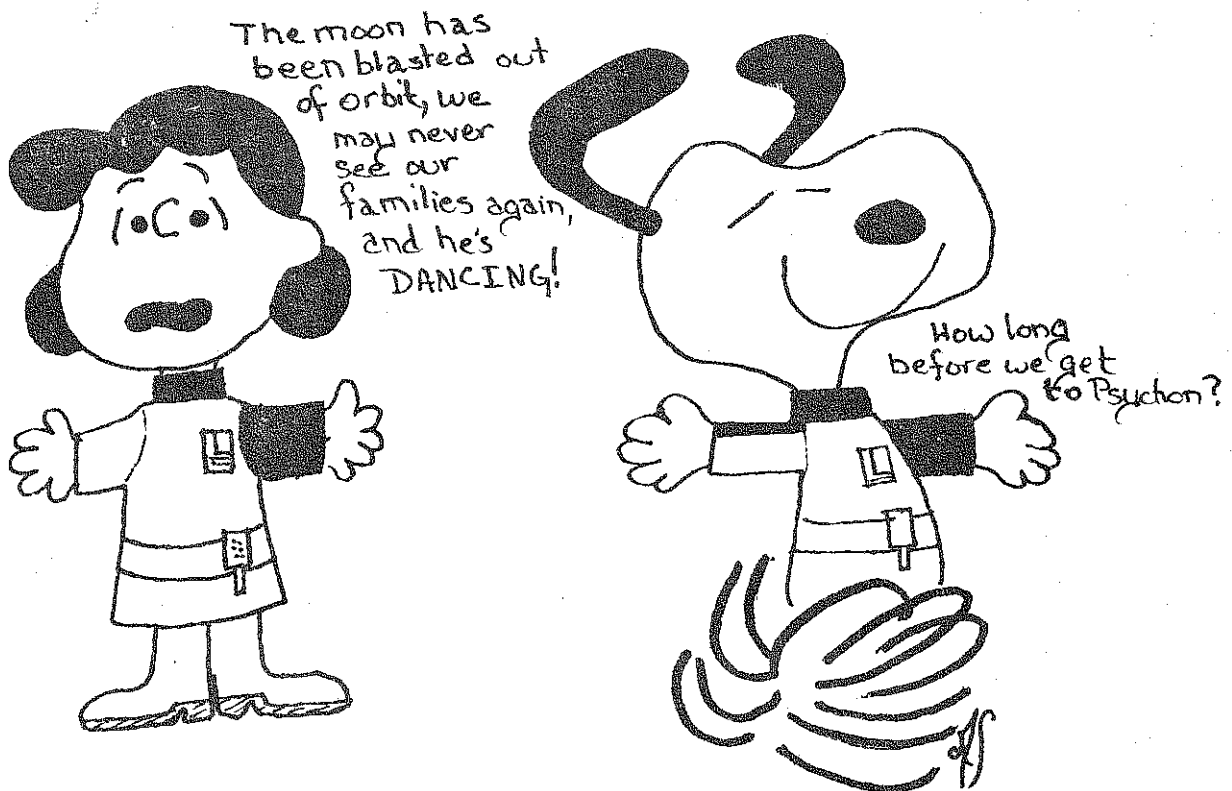
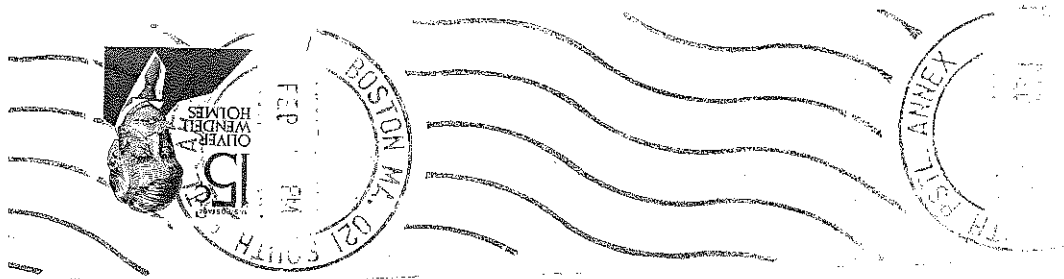
THE BRITISH NICK TATE FAN CLUB: Official fan club for Nick Tate (Alan Carter). For more information, send two International Reply Coupons to: 69 Francis Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6LT England.

THE SPACE:1999 FAN FUND: If you are looking for rare and hard-to-find SPACE:1999 material, the Fan Fund is the first place to look. We have scripts, bubblegum cards, photos, photos and more photos, paperback books, comic book adaptations, and much, more more. Send a business-sized self addressed stamped envelope to receive the Fan Fund's five page listing of 1999 and related material. By supporting the Fan Fund, you will enable us to bring more and more 1999 material to the fans as well as helping the Fan Fund bring a deserving fan to the 1980 convention. But hurry, all our supplies are limited!

FELGERCARE #6: Coming in March from Moonrise Press. SPACE:1999, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA & DOCTOR WHO material, stories, artwork, puzzles and more. Approx. 70 pages reduced offset. To reserve a copy of FELGERCARE #6, send \$1.00 in check or money order (NO CASH, PLEASE) plus two SASEs (one for notification of receipt of order, the other for notification on the final price) to: Deborah M. Walsh, 1 Tufts St., #6, Malden, MA 02148.

Now forming "New" BUCK ROGERS fan club. Membership is \$5.00 per year. Also, contributions are now being accepted. The first issue is due out March 1st, 1980. For more info and membership form, please send a SASE to NEW CHICAGO TRIBUNE, c/o Darryl Riley, 613 Garrard Street, Covington, KY 41011. Thank you for your interest.

East Boston, MA 02128
Main Mission Alpha
C/o Mary Bloemker
5 Lamson Street 2



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JAN/FEB 1980

Cover art: Allison Stein