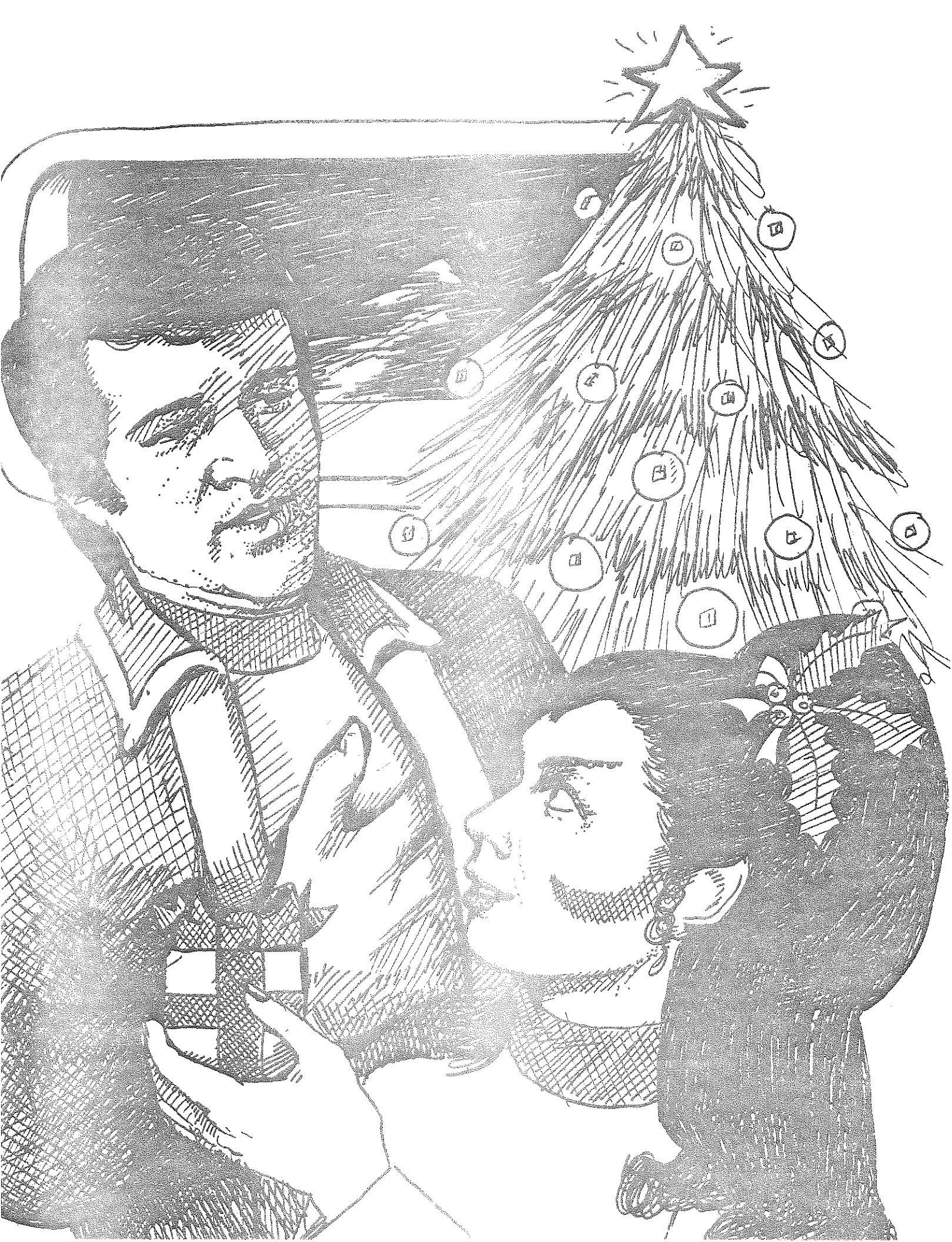




COMMAND CENTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Thank you, all who have sent us Christmas cards and greetings, and most especially for your encouragement and kind words. As this year draws to a close, both Gail and I would like to convey a special thanks to each and every member of Main Mission Alpha for helping us make 1978 such a success, and hope you will all join us in our efforts to make 1979 even better! We've come a long way since the club first started in a hotel room in the middle of a STAR TREK con in early '76--we've witnessed and been part of the first SPACE:1999 convention, we've grown from a handful of members to a membership of well over 200 from six countries, and in 1979 we'll see the SPACE:1999 movie, DESTINATION: MOONBASE ALPHA (more on that later). We've had our share of problems as well, but the successes, we feel, far outweigh them, and with the continued support of our membership, 1979 will be a banner year for Main Mission Alpha!

Now, the news you've all been waiting for: SPACE:1999 Convention '79! The convention has been scheduled for the weekend of July 27-29, 1979, at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All the stars of the show are being extended invitations, and as of this writing, Gerry Anderson is already confirmed as a convention guest. Ticket and hotel information will be available in issue #3 of Main Computer, the official publication of the National SPACE:1999 Alliance, and we will have more information for you in the Jan/Feb issue of Command Center. When requesting convention information from the Alliance, please be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope to expedite reply--in Canada, a self-addressed envelope and 15¢ for postage; overseas, please send two International Reply Coupons for airmail reply. Many of you have expressed your desire to attend the convention because you missed the first one, or because you had such a good time; we hope to have a turnout of MMA members equal to or bettering last year's attendance, so make your plans now to attend!

As to the question of the memory books: (Tod, you really started something...) There seems to be support for the idea of presenting every guest of the convention with a book similar to the one given to Nick Tate for and by the members of Main Mission Alpha in appreciation of his work on SPACE:1999 and his special efforts in helping this club get its start. I'm all in favor of this idea as well, but the problem is that it would be difficult for us to handle the volume of work all those books would entail. Also, unless we were to prepare the books for every invited guest, we could face the same kind of situation that arose last year, where scheduled guests unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute, and a special, surprise, very unscheduled guest showed up in their stead. Therefore, we will hold off on our final decision regarding the memory books until the Mar/Apr issue of Command Center, when, hopefully, we will have an idea of the confirmed guests of the convention. In the meantime, we are soliciting volunteers to handle the respective memory books. (Please note: We already have volunteers for the memory books for Nick Tate and Martin Landau--and if you haven't guessed who they are, then perhaps Gail and I haven't been obvious enough...) I'm going to pull my benevolent tyrant number when I choose who of the volunteers will have their addresses printed in the Mar/Apr newsletter for members to submit their contributions to the memory books, so be forewarned! (SPECIAL NOTE: If either Nick Tate or Martin Landau happen to be reading this paragraph, pretend you haven't read it. The books are supposed to be a surprise...)

As to the kind of materials you might consider submitting to the books, we are open to suggestions. Past suggestions have been as varied as biographies of our club members with accompanying photos to artwork and poems pertaining to the honoraries. When you write to us to volunteer for the memory book, let us know what kind of format you plan, so that we can print your suggestions in Command Center. Also, please note--when volunteering, keep in mind two things: only one honorary per person, and our decision as to who will handle each book will be final. If we don't choose you, it's nothing personal, honest, but we will try to pick the best person to handle this responsibility.

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your letter when you write to volunteer, and remember--although we will allow one person to handle each memory book, all members are invited to contribute to all books, so start planning your submissions now!

PROBLEMS: We've had a few. The latest are:

- 1) The puzzle/trivia book. Delayed again because of the holidays. We have all the wonderful submissions you've sent us, but no time to work on it. It's the first thing on our list-of-things-to-do, honest, and we hope to get to it as soon as the holiday flurry dies down.
- 2) Recent photo orders. Delayed because Gail Paradis' enlarger, an older model, needs a new bulb and so far a new replacement bulb has been as hard to find as another surviving Psychon. As soon as a new bulb is obtained, all photo orders will be completed and sent out faster than the speed of light.
- 3) Script orders. We have to hold back on some orders because we have the scripts done bulk rate at the copy center, and we need enough orders to constitute the bulk for bulk rate. All scripts will be sent out the same night I get them home, promise!
- 4) The photo list. Ahem. This isn't a very complicated list, it's just that we are still working sorting out our material and trying to judge what is suitable and what is not, which is rather difficult when you're squinting at a negative by the dining room light. All those who have paid for their list have their names and their SASE's on file, and they will receive them in the mail within two days of their being finished.
- 5) Alpha Log #3. A lot of really good stories, not enough artwork. Some of the artwork that we have received is really good, but it's been done in pencil, which does not reproduce when offset printed, which is how we have the Journal (and the newsletters) printed. When submitting artwork, please make sure that it is done in black ink (not blue or ball-point) on white paper. We are also limiting members to only two pieces for the Journal, which means that you may submit as many contributions as you want (please do!) but we will select a maximum of two contributions from each member. This is to be fair to our less prolific members who nonetheless have produced some excellent work. All contributions should be in by January 15, 1978 for the Alpha Log Journal. If you wish material returned after use, please include sufficient postage for return.

Now, about that movie. Anyone who has seen both parts of the Year Two episode BRINGERS OF WONDER has already seen most of DESTINATION: MOONBASE ALPHA. We understand that BRINGERS OF WONDER is being released in this reworked version with some added special effects footage, and it's not certain at this time whether DESTINATION: MOONBASE ALPHA will see a release in the United States (sort of like the deal where the movie version of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA is not being shown anywhere in the U.S.). This isn't a new wrinkle on ITC's part--we'd heard about a 1999 movie as far back as February of 1976, and the sketchy plot that we'd had outlined to us at that time sounded suspiciously like what we finally saw as BRINGERS OF WONDER Parts I and II. So, it seems fairly certain that BRINGERS OF WONDER was meant to be the talked-about 1999 movie from the start--why it took them this long to come out with it is another question altogether.

As in previous issues, we're printing con reports from attendees of the 1999 convention in Columbus, Ohio. We've also received con reports from people who have attended other conventions as well, and although space wouldn't permit us to print them in this issue, we hope to eventually print them all in future issues of Command Center, so keep them coming! Also, we want to encourage all those who have already submitted 1999 con reports--if you thought of something else you'd like to write about, feel free to write another one! As we've stated in previous issues, we want to keep the con reports going in Command Center until next convention and beyond, so sent them in today! We've received a great deal of positive response to the 1999 Con reports, both from people who missed the con and from those who found that the reports brought back incidents that they'd forgotten. Keep up the good work, Alphans!

SPOTTED: Leigh Lawson (Zarl, ONE MOMENT OF HUMANITY) on the BBC/PBS Masterpiece Theater production of THE DUCHESS OF DUKE STREET.

SPOTTED: Prentis Hancock (Paul Morrow, Year One) and Ina Skriver (AB CHRYSALIS) and Kevin Stoney (Talos, THE LAST ENEMY) in various episodes of THE NEW AVENGERS.

SPOTTED: (Or, rather, heard) The voice of Clifton Jones (David Kano, Year One) as the rabbit Blackavar in the recent film release WATERSHIP DOWN. His character doesn't show up until well into the second half of the movie, just after the rabbit Sigwig infiltrates the ranks of the Efrafaan Owsia (it makes more sense after you've read the book or seen the movie, believe me...).

(When submitting spottings of 1999 stars/guest stars in other productions, please only include recent sightings--reruns of old shows and movies don't count because they aren't shown in all parts of the country)

SPOTTED: Lucy Bolognese (my landlady!) in the final crowd scene (the police line) of the new movie THE BRINK'S JOB. She's on the left, at the bottom of the courthouse stairs, wearing a brown print dress... Also, the bubble-gum factory at the end of the street here in East Boston was featured prominently in the movie as (get this!) a bubble-gum factory! (Terribly original of them, don't you think?) THE BRINK'S JOB was filmed on location here in Boston, in the North End, where the heist originally took place, and in East Boston, where they filmed some exteriors because the place hasn't changed since the time the movie is taking place, the 1940's-50's. (It hasn't changed since 1890-1900...)

1999 CON

by Judy Moore & Barb Meisenheimer

Oh! What memories...We remember the feeling when we and our friend Sue Cole first saw Dave Prowse at the Columbus Airport and when about an hour later Gerry Anderson, Barry Gray, Dave Hirsch and Darlene Palenik came through the airport gate--a dream come true!

About 3:00 p.m. Friday, our small group arrived at the Sheraton, quickly changed into our Alphan tunics, went down to the lobby and awaited Martin Landav. I (Judy) had just gone for a moment, came back and waved to Barb. She looked at me with a funny smile, mouthed something and pointed to a man standing next to me. I turned and my jaw dropped three feet as I recognized Martin. Barb and I suddenly felt silly in costume as we realized this was our Commander Koenig!

Nick and Clifton arrived soon afterwards and we tried to get an autograph. I (Judy) tried to get one because I thought it was my only chance. Now or never is what I say. Nick signed one for me and one for Sue Ginter, who then was in England watching Tony Anholt in SLEUTH. I am a Tony fan, Sue is a Nick fan, so we collaborated. I'd take care of Nick for her if she'd take care of Tony for me, so...I hugged Nick for her. I still can't believe I did that. Now, I keep telling myself...it was for Sue, for Sue only! (Nick has such gorgeous blue eyes!)

We were so wrong about that time being our only chance to see Nick. Jeff Jones had Barb, Carla and I stand aside and wait until Nick registered, then he said, "Come with me." We said, "But we're getting autographs!" He said, "Don't worry, Nick's coming with us." (With us? Instant lump in the throat!) Jeff escorted the three of us, a bellboy, and Nick to an elevator. Clifton rode up the opposite elevator with his luggage. Wow! Just us in the elevator. We stopped on the 21st floor. Nick and Clifton went to their rooms. We were taken to a room, and Jeff knocked on the door. He said to us, "You're not seeing this." (We weren't? Oh, boy!) Out stepped Martin--he had just called his wife, Barbara. Jeff asked him if he was ready for the TV interview and told him Nick and Clifton had made it there and were down the hall. Martin's eyes lit up and he swished past us. Nick stepped out of his room (perfect timing, I'd say!) They saw each other and ran together like one of those slow-motion TV commercials. They greeted each other with hugs and pats on the backs. Clifton came out hearing the commotion and they did it all over again. Reunion '78. In a scene like that, we felt like intruders. A TV crew had come from the elevators. We were all taken, via a service elevator, down to and through the kitchen, to an adjoining semi-private room where a mobile TV unit was set up. The cameras rolled and we Alphans and two costumed UFO girls were used as decoration for the interview. Martin was asked about the contrast of STAR TREK to SPACE:1999 and said he'd have to think on that. Nick and Clifton clowning a bit as the girl reporter mistakenly switched their names. They enjoyed coming to the States.

Afterwards, we had a few quiet moments with the three stars. Martin wasn't talkative, was very nervous, and smoked up a storm. Nick and Clifton were Bo-Jo clowns.

The opening ceremony followed...

On Saturday, the MMA party was a great opportunity to meet new people and long-time pen friends. Our group left before Nick arrived. We went and dressed for the banquet. 6:00 PM rolled around and Chris, Bonnie, Barb and I went to the elevators. When the doors opened, Nick stood amidst the whole female population of MMA and then some. Asked by Nick to join the crowd, we said "No", but we'd see him at the banquet.

The banquet was a bit disorganized and discouraging. Our table got all the guests except Martin and Clifton. Nick arrived last and for only five or ten minutes. By then, Barb, Bonnie and I had to change into costumes for the costume call which bumped into the dinner.

As Entr'act huntresses, the three of us had the most fun when we came out of the elevator, we spotted our pal, Sue Cole, (Kreno monster), but before we could take another step we began to be photographed for about 10 minutes it seemed. I guess they liked us. We were nervous and began to tremble but at the same time felt like celebrities! The contest was quite different from those on the West Coast. Our group came away with second prize. After the announcements, we were ushered to the deserted banquet room, to have pictures taken with the stars (wow!) In the room, all the stars got to take off the masks (so to speak) that they'd been wearing all day. They plopped down in chairs, exhausted and relieved. Conventioneering is hard work! We all got into a laughing gig during the photo session. A private party followed later--a great way to end a day!

Sunday, we all wore our Alphan duds again, only I (Judy) dressed as Maya in a pink mini-dress from the episode THE EXILES. In between lectures and the auction, we filmed a short sequence of Maya transforming into the Kreno monster. That was fun. Boy! What a costume can do--every con-goer should have one. I actually signed a couple of autographs.

We were three days at the Sheraton and never saw the films or SPACE episodes. We were that busy. We also helped make buttons at Sue's dealer's table.

We never knew quite what to expect and had far more than our share of experiences (all good!). Although the con needed better scheduling, it can be said that some of the best things can happen when not planned.

Sunday at 6:00 PM sharp, the con area was deserted and a sense of loss overwhelmed us. Hucksters tables were bare and remnants of the con were evidence that something special had happened. In the ballroom, the maintenance man quietly stacked the rows of chairs to be put away.

We can say we all suffered slight withdrawal symptoms, but looked on the bright side and hoped that there might be a SPACE:1999 con next year. We drove back to Chicago and flew home to California, the land of sunshine and oranges.

CON REPORT

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A KISS AND A SONG
by Sandy Doyle

When I recall my adventures (yes, adventures) at the con in Ohio, I get a tight feeling inside and I almost start to cry. Can any of you girls imagine what it's like to actually be kissed by Nick Tate? Not just once, but four times? That's something I'll not soon forget! Early the first morning of the con, I found David Prowse sitting by the pool. I spoke to him for a while, took some pictures and got my first autograph. Dave is a super great man, I love his voice!

After I got registered, I noticed a TV camera by the table at which Dave was to be sitting. I zoomed over to it, and asked the cameraman what was going on. He said there was to be a live interview in 20 minutes, so I decided to hang around and watch. I'm glad I did! After a while, the cameraman moved his stuff into another room. I followed him in and started to get my camera ready. Suddenly, I heard the familiar voice of our beloved commander. I looked up, my eyes widened--Martin Landau entered the room! Followed by Clifton Jones. Then, my mouth fell open. Nick Tate walked in. (Be still, my heart! He's handsomer in person than on TV!) I started taking pictures like crazy. The interview didn't start for a few moments. I got pictures and autographs from Nick and Clifton and after the interview, as they headed for the elevators, I stopped Nick before he got in, shook his hand, and said, "I'm really glad to meet you." He smiled at me, leaned over and kissed me! At that moment, I think I died and went to heaven!

On the last night of the con, I went up to the restaurant on the top floor of the hotel and spent a little time with Nick and Cliff. I sat with Barry Gray for a while--he's such a sweet man! "You're probably too young to remember a show called FIREBALL XLS," he said to me, in that lovely English accent. "Oh, I remember it, yes!" "Well," he said, "I've rewritten the words in honor of the convention." "I'd love to see them," I said. Barry reached into his pocket, pulled out the paper, and sang the entire song to me!

Clifton and I had breakfast Monday morning. I begged him to let me ride with him and Nick to the airport. On the way to the airport, the car ran out of gas! We all pushed to the nearest station. At the airport, Nick gave me a really nice goodbye kiss and a big hug. I hated saying goodbye! So many other things happened, I don't have room to write it all now. I'd like to finish this report by saying thanks to all the stars for being the warm, wonderful people they are. Thanks to all my new friends and acquaintances for being the nicest people I've ever met--Pola, Janie, Carolyn, Shell, Jeff, Judy, Vickie, Marty, Ted, Mary B., Darlene, Gail, Pat, you're all a super bunch!

CONVENTION REPORT

by George Eichler

All right, now. I have been to several cons in the past, mostly for STAR TREK, which is not one of my favorites. Let me tell you, The SPACE:1999 Con may have had its flaws but it was still the best con ever. The fans made the whole con, Mary especially. I found that when I left on Sunday that I felt as if I was leaving a group of friends I had known all my life. I had only known them since Thursday and yet it seemed like I had known them all my life. You all know who you are, so I won't go into names, but I have a special thanks to Mary, Rosie Badgett, Mary Turner, Jolina Mattison, and of course Alice Newsom and cohorts.

Now since Diane Stietz brought my favorite experience up I might as well describe what really happened at that little spaghetti luncheon. It started out when my roommates and I took a little walk around the hotel and found this little spaghetti joint about two blocks away from the hotel. It was a fairly small place that could only fit around 100 at a busy time. We decided that the three of us would go there tomorrow at lunch. When we returned back at the hotel, I found that Rosie Badgett had finally arrived. My roommate kidded me and said I should invite her. Well, needless to say, I went up there to find that the room was filled with people, including Mary. Well, after a little conversation, I invited the whole room to lunch, about 15 people. That night I went to bed and the next morning I found out that the people I had invited had invited some of their friends. That's not too many people, but that was no the end of it. Lunchtime rolled around and we all met in the lobby. I was sitting there and a huge crowd of at least 75 surrounded me. We were waiting for two people who had to go change. I was sitting there wondering who all these people were. Time arrived to go and I said to the person next to me, "Time to go." She replied, "You had better say it out loud." It turned out that the whole lobby was going. We walked down the street with the usual amount of stares from onlookers. We arrived there and one of the girls who worked at the restaurant saw the mob and sighed a loud, "Oh, my God!"

Everything worked out okay, though. The lunch was great and so was the whole con. The stars were all courteous and although I ended up paying \$4 more a night for my room, I really enjoyed myself. I hope the next time we go that there is not another con for George P. Perdell in the same building. All those dried up people! Hey, Mary, come to think of it, did you ever get a room?!!?

(Ed. Note: I'm not sure--does anybody remember if I ever got a room? The whole thing is a blur...! Mary.)

CON REPORT

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"CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?" or
WOULD YOU BELIEVE...
"THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR STUDENT"?
by Jolinda A. Mattison

What would you say if your favorite star was signing an autograph for you? If you're like most people, you'd gulp, say "Thanks," and high-tail it out there. But, of course, there are those odd-balls who are the exceptions to the rule. An example: Having spent ten to fifteen delightful minutes conversing with Martin Landau during the stars' table-hopping jaunt at the banquet. It was all too soon for him to move on to another table. As he was signing my color pix of him and Barbara the question I've long wondered about stars popped out. I asked him if he had learned to write faster since becoming famous. He laughed and replied, "Yep, I took lessons from the 'Six Million Dollar Man'!" Hence, the sub-title of this con report.

Martin is a truly fine gentleman, with a keen sense of humor. When one of the guys' first comment after we'd all introduced ourselves was "I'm in love with your wife!" Martin laughed and said, "That makes two of us!"

And Nick Tate. What can I say about Mr. Tate? I went to the con not knowing quite what to expect. Although I am not a great "Alan Carter" fan, Nick is fantastic! When he and Clifton walked into the MMA party the astonishment in their eyes was evident. I don't think they were prepared for the friendly horde that enveloped them!

And having Nick eating right behind me during the banquet was a bit nerve-racking. Especially when I almost elbowed him when he turned around to talk to us between courses. Gulp!

Clifton was really something else. He talked freely with us about everything from his life in Jamaica to whether or not he was 'involved' with anyone (you get one guess who asked him that question!) He seemed to really be enjoying himself and everyone enjoyed talking to him. And it was really great seeing "Kano" smile. (They should have let him do it more often on SPACE--his smile is captivating!)

There has been a bit of controversy in SPACE-dom in the past couple of years over the title of the episode ALL THAT GLISTERS. In ComLoc 8, Terry Lemons suggested that we ask Gerry, soooo...I did. To borrow a line from M*A*S*H, "Here's the poop:" The correct title is ALL THAT GLISTERS. Gerry said Fred Freiberger wanted the Old English word because it sounded classier. He's right--it's right out of Shakespeare's THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, II.vii.

"All that glisters is not gold,
Gilded tombs do worms enfold."

Barry Gray is one of the nicest men I've ever met. We discussed everything from his music to the American-British television exchange program. It you think about it, the British are definitely on the losing end of the deal. While we get such great shows as I, CLAUDIUS and POLDARK, they get BARETTA and KOJAK. He was also astonished at the number of channels we can get through cable TV. In some areas of this country we can get up to thirteen (and in some places more) channels, the British get only the two BBC channels and maybe two independent stations.

Although we didn't get to talk with Dave Prowse because the dinner was already an hour overschedule, he was definitely a presence in the room (to put it mildly!)

All in all, the banquet was the high point of the convention for me, and to any of my table-mates who are reading this--Wasn't it great?! And especially to Tod and Jeff--Let's do it again next year, huh?

As my friend George says, "SPACE:1999 Con Year 2--bigger, better, more exciting than ever!"

CON REPORT

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This convention was a dream come true for me. When I arrived at the Sheraton, there were all sorts of people with comlocks, shirts that had SPACE:1999 printed across them. Everybody was excited and in waiting for the convention to get under way. During that time I started introducing myself to everybody. A hour later I saw Gerry Anderson coming into the lobby! In a flash, I went up to him to tell how much I admired his work, and got his autograph. At this time large groups of fans came and gathered around. When I could not see Mr. Anderson, I left, and lo and behold, comes Dave Prowse. Again I got a chance to talk and get an autograph. During that time I felt if I was talking to a giant.

Later that afternoon, I went with some other fans to get something to eat. It was there I met Mary Bloemker who (God bless her) gave me a full description of Barry Gray, knowing I wanted very much to meet him. During the lunch, I got to know some of the other fans and found them to be very friendly and fun to be with.

When the convention opened, one could find all sorts of rare photos from most of Gerry Anderson's shows. There was a lecture by Jeff Jones explaining how the con came to be and who couldn't come, such as Ed Bishop (UFO). Then the episode BREAKAWAY was shown. During the show, fans clapped, shouted, etc. It reminded me of a play with the way everyone reacted. Then came the time for the stars--Gerry Anderson, Barry Gray, Nick Tate, and Clifton Jones. After all of them, came a surprise--Martin Landau! The house came down! All the stars had something nice to say.

Later that night I saw and met Nick Tate for a few brief moments. At two in the morning I went to bed. In the morning I went back to the con. I enjoyed very much Nick and Clifton's lecture, along with Martin's. Then I attended Barry Gray's lecture. The music he played on the piano was a delight to the ear. Mr. Gray was witty and informative at his lecture. After he was done, I got the chance to meet him. For a few minutes, I saturated him with praise, then I asked him questions about his music. He is one of the nicest men I have ever met. During the rest of the day, I went to Gerry Anderson's slide show. The costume party was a lot of fun. Late Saturday night, I saw an episode of THUNDERBIRDS and the movie JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN.

The last day was sad, people were getting ready to leave. That night I went and saw Gerry and Barry together and told them how happy I was to meet them and hope to see them again. After that, I ran into Nick Tate and had a very nice conversation with him. I saw everybody again in Dave Hirsch's room talking about next year. Then, real late at night, I saw and talked to Clifton.

That was my time at the con. I guess what was so nice for me was that I met all the stars and found them to be greater than I thought. I hope the next con will be just as nice. Being my first time at a convention this one will be always a special one to me.

--Timothy Lacey

command conference

Tony Gene Morris, Rte 7 Box 202, Concord, NC 28025

It seemed to me when I joined MMA that most of the fans who write to this fine fan publication would lay down their lives to defend and preserve SPACE:1999. I must have been wrong. Out of the 275 names on my petition only 42 are the names of MMA members. But I only received 24 letters from MMA members who want to do something to help their show instead of talking about what should be done. When I wrote to the companies on my list I raved about the show and the fandom it has generated. I told them how the fans would stop at nothing until 1999 received the rightful credit and position it was due in the science-fiction society. What have we done, anyway? We got a few fan clubs going and a convention started. They were started because of the love and work of a few great people. This petition gives everyone who has ever said they loved, liked, or warmly appreciated SPACE:1999 to help keep it alive. I am still receiving letters from most of the already mentioned companies. But if I do not have 500 names by March 1, 1979, I will have to junk the petition and write to the companies telling them that I was wrong about what the fans wanted. Take two minutes to write me a letter allowing me to use your name to help keep SPACE:1999 alive in the minds and hearts of the public.

Anne-Marie Lubner, 2333 E. Glenn St., #201, Tucson, Arizona, 85719

I was surprised and very disappointed to read in the Sept/Oct newsletter that only 19 members responded to Jeff Barber's episode poll. I can't understand the hesitation in participating. It seems strange to me that people can spend large bucks on books, pictures, fanzines, cons, etc, but they can't afford to send a 10¢ postcard for a club poll. If the members don't participate in the club's activities, soon we'll have an organization where the club officials provide all the materials and the members have no voice at all. I unknowingly joined such a group and let me tell you, it's very boring. The members of MMA have a great thing going for them--let's not ruin it. Here's hoping that the rest of the membership gets on the ball and gets their votes in!

George Eichler, 1088 East 43rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210

This time I would like to talk about why I think SPACE:1999 has become a popular show. Many people can not understand the fans that flock around a show like 1999. Many people say that 1999 is scientifically imperfect and this may be true. SPACE:1999 is still more imaginative than most SF shows. Most SF shows try to be scientifically perfect and instead of being exciting they get bogged down in technical doubletalk. Directors and producers call their shows and movies 'science fantasy' for fear of breaking those strict scientific guidelines. In a genre as misunderstood by the general public as SF, fans fight over which is better rather than sticking together to prove that SF is worth respect. 1999 fans say to hell with those guidelines for they know that under them, imagination dies. If we put scientific guidelines around SF, then it becomes as boring as technical material. If I had a choice, I would say, let us keep our imaginations. Many 1999 fans would agree.

Rickey Jones, P.O. Box 65, Caruthersville, MO 63830

I'm writing to see how many other 1999 fans spotted the very beginning of the WONDER WOMAN episode aired November 10, 1978. As I was turning my TV over, I came across WONDER WOMAN, which started out showing the ship Satazius flying in over, of all things, Moonbase Alpha. Then, they showed the city domes Texas City and Metropolis. Borrowing scenes from the two 1999 episodes THE LAST ENEMY and JOURNEY TO WHERE were the only things worth watching in this particular WONDER WOMAN episode. How many other Alphas spotted this?

(Ed. Note: In addition, the three shots were subtitled--they were supposedly the Earth in the 2150's. More off the wall, who noticed that Adam, the man from the future, made a phone call from a pay phone using a dime that dropped out when he hit the phone in frustration? Phone calls from pay stations are 15¢ in Washington D.C.)

Sandra Sprecker, Box 111, Battleford, Sask., Canada S0M 0E0

A lot of different topics came up this time round and I'd like to comment on them. I think next year we should give books to every star. There seems to be an agreement on this subject. Maybe we should put more than letters and artwork in the books. How about poems for the people/characters? Or maybe a short article or story?

And Sharon, thanks for the addresses. I've noticed that SPACE:1999 is being shoved aside in those magazines. And Evelyn I don't think this SPACE/Trek hatred is as bad as it seems. Sure, some people are this way but not all. I for one feel that they both have their good points. As a preference, it's 1999, but I'm not going to throw something at the TV when STAR TREK comes on.

Whatever happened to the original plan of questions for the Forum? I really enjoyed the answers. How about it, you Alphas? Questions, anyone?

Daniel Pospula, 217 Dunn Street, Rochester, NY 14621

I have bought a couple of SPACE:1999 Year I and Year II books and have noticed pictures from other shows have been used wrongly for other shows. Like they use a picture of the AB CHRYSALIS girl for the wife of Pat Osgood in the picture section. To Evelyn B: Concerning your comment about the fight between SPACE:1999 and STAR TREK. I think it shows loyalty of fans to their shows and how they defend it. It shows how observant they are to detail. I don't think SPACE fans are blind to other sci-fi shows.

I think the most moving show of Year I was THE TESTAMENT OF ARKADIA. As I watched it, a funny feeling swept over me. Did anybody feel this?

Paul Bens, 2328 1/2 Dixie Hwy., Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

I have a question. Can anyone tell me how did Alpha get the nuclear waste domes if in the first season it was a dumping ground. Then in SEANCE SPOTRE where the nuclear waste is stored in the tower-like structures. I have never understood why in those episodes it changes. In answer to a question that Evelyn Baker asked everyone in the Sept/Oct issue: I feel just like you do. The ST and 1999 feud has been going on too long and it is a bit monotonous. Also, I think you're right about 1999 fans that are not interested in any other form of sci-fi are just as bad as Trekkies.

I believe that Sandra Sprecker is right about giving all the guests memory books. I don't feel that it is right to give just one a book, do you? To Sharon Ghag: Right on, Sharon! 1999 should get a section in STARLOG just as STAR TREK does. That would be great. Rose Marie Badgett: Great job defending Barbara Bain. Hey, everyone--we all like the show for what it is. Sure, we all have our favorite stars but why put down other stars? I feel this spreads the fans away from each other.

Now, something funny happened at the '78 convention. Many people don't know this, but my city, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, is only four miles from Rose Marie Badgett's city, Covington, but we never met until 11/13/78. The funny thing is that we were both at the con but never met there. It turns out that at the opening episode BREAKAWAY she was one row behind and two seats across from where I was sitting. Then when we finally met after the con it turns out that she had met my whole family except me. I found that really strange. Now, I would like to say a few words about one of the best episodes of the second season, NEW ADAM, NEW EVE. I feel that this is one of the best thought-out, and planned episodes of the second season. The script was very well written and I really enjoyed Guy Rolfe's acting as the part of Magus. I especially liked the music by Derek Wadsworth. The music I really liked in that episode was when Magus first appeared on Alpha. Well, until next time....Year Three on ABC!

Allison Stein, P.O. Box 303, Camden, SC 29020

I agree with Evelyn Baker. The STAR TREK/SPACE:1999 feud has been going on too long. Why is there a feud to begin with? Both shows are great in their own rights. Personally, I enjoy both 1999 and STAR TREK and I have never attempted to compare the two and never intend to. STAR TREK was The Show of the 60's. SPACE:1999 is The Show of the 70's. What can we expect in the 80's? Will we attempt to compare it with Trek and 1999? We shouldn't but we probably will. Let's look at everything as it is and not as it should be or could be.

Judy Moore, 1812 Redwood Ave, Anaheim, CA 92805

This is in reference to the review of Year One Music--Part II. After I read the review, when I could, I went out and bought the Adagio piece from DRAGON'S DOMAIN and The Seasons Ballet album containing Autumn from THE LAST SUNSET. I already have Holst's Planet album. All of the music is beautiful and I listen to it frequently while working on my art projects. Adagio and Autumn are particularly soothing.

Adagio is 10:14 minutes and well worth purchasing by any SPACE fan. When I listen to it, I can picture the probe ship floating silently in space. Autumn is very happy music. I am not one for ballet music and find the best piece on the album is Autumn. It's just so SPACE:1999. It lasts about four minutes.

Holst's Planets is a beautiful album as a whole. Mars was used for SPACE BRAIN and Jupiter was suggested for NEW ADAM, NEW EVE for the appearance of Magus, the Christ-like man. All of these albums are worth looking into.

Also, I would like to know if there is a title for the Brahms-like music from THE TESTAMENT OF ARKADIA. That's all for now, I'm off to Mars and Jupiter!

Sharon Ghag, 8381 Kent Ave., Live Oak, CA 95953

To Diane Steitz: BATTLESTAR GALACTICA is a really fantastic show. If you get bored of the action (which I haven't) there are always the cute guys to look at. Long live Benedict & Hatch! To Evelyn Baker: I think SPACE:1999 is a great show and I think STAR TREK is a great show. I will give any science fiction show a try. The only ones I've found I don't like are the old shows and movies with poor special effects and monotonous scripts. To whom it may concern, or anyone who went to the con: I want to know exactly and word for word what Nick Tate said when he received the 'gift' from Linda and I. I heard he liked it, but what did he say? How did he react? What kind of person is he?

Amelia Rodgers, 22284 Mission Blvd, #7, Hayward, CA 94541

Somebody mentioned, I think, that at times Alan stepped out of character on various episodes. I am curious about which ones that person had in mind. And some things that have always been on my mind--when Sandra was a prisoner of the reverted Alphans from FULL CIRCLE, her apparent danger didn't seem to ruffle Paul too much. He was grim, but that was it. Alan was near-hysterical about her possibly being hurt. I don't get it. In JOURNEY TO WHERE, Alan removed his jacket to cover a shivering Helena, something that a troubled Koenig over-looked. And in AB CHRYSALIS, one of my favorites from the second season, he gets burned out of a desperate act to plead with the aliens. Just three incidents which are facets in the gem of a pilot called Alan Carter. Just reasons why I like the Aussie. I wish that he could have had a relationship with Sahn.

One thing I regretted--in NEW ADAM, NEW EVE, Helena and Tony are brought together. Why couldn't it have been Carter? That would have been interesting. In the episode ONE MOMENT OF HUMANITY, the android Zamara says that Carter is not suitable when he volunteers to go to Vega with her and Koenig. Boy, that lady is crazy. Why was he unsuitable?

Thomas Chafin, PSC #1, Box 579, Offutt AFB, NE 68113

Fellow members of MMA: I am somewhat upset about a member of this organization who insists on comparing us with Trek fans. (S)he is making subtle references to them and is quietly, in his/her own way, saying we shouldn't be like them. I am a Trek fan. I am sorry (s)he feels this way. However, I would like this practice to stop. Tod E.: What in the world is "Vernors" and please pardon my ignorance.

From the looks of the reviews of the SPACE con, maybe next year it should be called a Gerry Anderson con. Of course, maybe it would have looked more like a SPACE con if there had been more SPACE episodes. I know that the con committee was having trouble about films and I commend them on what they did get. But, I think it would have been better if they had gotten one episode from Year One and another from Year Two, instead of two from Year One. Any comments?

Here's a new idea. What would you people think of a MMA "Source Pool"? A place that would have a listing of materials (articles, fanzines, scripts, etc, etc) that members of MMA would be willing to make copies of on request for other items or even money (ouch!). Any suggestions? I'd like to hear ideas one way or the other.

By the way. NASA is in trouble. They (the government) want to cut its budget again. Write to your congressman if you ever want Alpha to become a reality.

Anthony DiPietro, 66 Evans Street, Medford, MA 02155

The response to the petition was not that overwhelming. To date, I've received only eight names. (Special thanks to Sandra S. for supplying three extra names) Therefore, the petition has been changed slightly. Instead of sending the petition to ABC, I've decided to send it to NBC, for many reasons. First, ABC has BATTLESTAR GALACTICA and has a pretty good line-up. Second, many shows have been cancelled on NBC, leaving at least five or six new slots open. Third, NBC will want a sure-fire series to get it back into the ratings race. But I still need 250 names. So, please, double please, send me your name and address if you haven't already. Thank you very much.

ALPHA LIFE CHRONICLES

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CUPID

Cupid has been a busy little fellow in Alpha since the Breakaway, but his arrows have been particularly in evidence for the past few months. Three weddings during the last month show the results of his efforts.

The newlyweds, in case there is anyone on Alpha who does not already know, are Bob Jenkins of Hydroponics and Carla Danvers of the Astronomical Monitoring Unit; Lyle Talbot of Biological Sciences and Monica Veretti of Galley and Food Service; Jason Carstairs of Eagle Exploration Team #3 and Paulette Papadakos of Atmosphere Control.

The ceremonies were attended by an many Alphans as duty would permit. Personnel remaining on duty were not slighted, as the weddings were televised. Chaplain Barbutta performed each ceremony, even though John Koenig, as commander of Moonbase Alpha, is empowered to perform such functions as well. Religious ceremonies have not been in fashion on Earth in many areas for the past quarter century, but that seem to be changing as we daily face the challenges and risks of the universe.

Short honeymoons were arranged for each couple at the Nuclear Waste Monitoring Station located several kilometers from the Moonbase. The staff there is generally two people, with a minimum of duties and more privacy than is usual on Alpha, so it looks to become a popular place for much of our personnel. There is no lack of volunteers for the short training course offered in operation of the Monitoring Station equipment.

The proximity of other Alphas, and the lack of places to go and things to do make Cupid's work difficult here, but he generally obtains his desired results anyway. Many attachments have been formed, or are in the process. Watching the development of these is a favorite and wide-spread interest on Alpha. Of those especially interesting, Commander John Koenig and Dr. Helena Russell head the list. There is talk of a betting pool on the date of their marriage, but what is being wagered, or the prizes to be won, has not yet come to my attention.

The most fascinating pair to observe is Tony Verdeschi and Maya. While Maya's responses to Tony's persistence are not, as a rule, easily visible, he seems to get some encouragement, for he never stops trying. The happiness and success of this couple is of great importance to everyone, as we wish to see the Psychon race preserved to the extent possible with the necessary mixture of human characteristics.

A late development in the romantic life of Alpha is the quiet, slow, but steady pursuit of Professor Victor Bergman by Anya Corveltdt, head of Housekeeping Services, and several years Professor Bergman's junior. Rumor has it that the Professor considers the age difference an obstacle, but Anya is intelligent, beautiful, and a general favorite of everyone for her warmth and generosity. Signs of the good Professor's eventual surrender are beginning to be noticed, to everyone's pleasure and amusement.

Captain Alan Carter and his frequently changing ladies are a source of great interest and more wagering on when he will make a decision, and who she will be. Personally, I think she will be a very fortunate person, and am eagerly awaiting my chance to affect Captain Carter's decision in my favor.

Until next month's column, here's hoping you have much fun and happiness if you should stray into the path of one of Cupid's arrows. The chubby little imp will get all of us yet, as lack of space on Alpha makes dodging difficult--if anyone really wants to.

--Lt. Bobbie M. Smith

BOOK REVIEW by Larry McIrvin

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Breakaway by E.C. Tubb

This book is the first in a series of ten books on SPACE:1999 published by Pocket Books. The first six novels are based on Year One episodes of 1999, and the last four are stories devised by the authors.

The book is well written, and Mr. Tubb does an excellent job at describing the characters and the situations in the stories. There are some slight differences in the book from the series. In the novelized version of BREAKAWAY, Commissioner Simmonds is killed when the moon is blown out of orbit, thus meaning there will be no version of EARTHBOUND in the series, which there isn't. The Triton in the version of RING AROUND THE MOON warns Commander Koenig that they will be drawn into a black sun, which never happened in the series, but does help to intermix the stories in a logical order.

The novel contains novelized versions of BREAKAWAY, MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, RING AROUND THE MOON, and BLACK SUN. It's a really good book, so by all means, read it!

WANTED: Pix of Sandra (Zienia Merton). I at present can only buy the pix. I am unable to trade at the present time. Also wanted--submissions for the fanzine MOONBUGGY. Sent to Paul Bens, 2328 1/2 Dixie Hwy, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017.

ATTENTION: Need some people who have anything on BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. Will accept anything and would like to trade with others. Send to: Tim Shaw, Box 121, Kennedy, Sask., S0G 2R0 Canada.

ALPHANS CLUB: Started centered on SPACE:1999, with parts on THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS and STAR TREK, now has a newsletter open to all sci-fi. Contributions and requests determine what is in each issue. Lifetime membership to Alphans Club is now \$1.00. The newsletter, 3 to 5 pages each, are 25¢ and a SASE for members, 50¢ and a SASE for non-members. Alphans Club, C/O Diana Majesty, P.O. Box 254541, Sacramento, CA 95825.

CURRENTS: Issue #1 \$3.25 plus \$1.75 first class postage, \$1.00 third class. Available in the winter of 1979. For more information, send self addressed stamped envelope to: Patricia A. Munson, PSC Box 7565, F.E. Warren AFB, WY 82001.

Trying to get out some sort of short newsletter that would bring together people who tape record TV programs so that everyone could obtain copies of shows they want, but that are not being shown in their area. If interested, please send SASE to: Miss Joni Hurley, 112 Carriage Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

HELP--Anyone wishing to share a room at the con contact me, could be male or female, single or group. Could meet at con or somewhere in or near Rochester. Contact: Daniel Pospula, 217 Dunn Street, Rochester, NY 14621.

THE NATIONAL SPACE:1999 ALLIANCE: SPACE:1999 information service. \$3.00 for year's subscription to newsletter MAIN COMPUTER. Also available: Convention 1978 reports, 1979 SPACE:1999 calendar. Send self addressed stamped envelope with all inquiries to: NS:1999A, C/O Ware Fitzgerald, 123 Pawn Valley Drive, McMurray, PA 15317.

THE PSYCHON 100 SOCIETY: Newsletters dealing with the history, culture and background of Psychon and its people. Send self addressed stamped envelope and 25¢ for the first issue, which contains information about the club and a membership form: Issue #2 is now available for SASE and 25¢. Mary Bloemker, 5 Lamson St., East Boston, MA 02128

THE LUNAR BULLETIN BOARD: SPACE:1999 penpal servie. Send SASE for info and form to: Kathi Lynn Higley, 354 Hewitt Road, Mystic, CT 06355.

THE BRITISH NICK TATE FAN CLUB: Official fan club for the man who played Alan Carter. Dues are \$5.00 yearly (international money order only). For more information, send two international reply coupons to: Phyl Proctor, 69 Francis Road, Acoccks Green, Birmingham, B27 6LT, England.

THE HELENA FUND: Still going strong! Material for sale include:

STATIONARY: \$2.00 for 25 sheets of assorted designs. Designs include: Koenig/grey paper, Maya/pink, Tony/blue, Alan/green, Sandra/yellow and Maya & Tony/ivory. All designs are offset printed pen and ink drawings.

SCRIPTS: DORZAK, IMMUNITY SYNDROME, SPACE WARP and LAMBDA FACTOR. \$5.00 per script, includes postage.

BACK ISSUES: March/April 1977; July/August 1977 (Barbara Bain special); Christmas 1977; Jan/Feb 1978; Mar/Apr 1978; May/June 1978; July/Aug 1978 and Sept/Oct 1978. 75¢ each, includes postage.

EPISODE GUIDE: Official ITC episode guide for Year One, with plot synopses and cast lists. \$6.00, includes postage.

BOOKS: My Limitless supply of Year One books has temporarily run dry. I have available only two titles: COLLISION COURSE and PHOENIX OF MEGARON. Still no Year Two books available, still trying. If you are interested in either or both of the above titles, they are \$2.50 per book, which includes postage.

Those Viewmaster reels mentioned in last newsletter are of the episode WAR GAMES--GAF Corporation did not issue any other sets or episodes. We have access to them, if anyone has any difficulty locating them in their area.

PHOTO LIST:

All photos are black & white 5X7, glossy finish. 75¢ each, price includes postage. Remember to order by number. (All photo orders temporarily delayed until Gail's enlarger is fixed--not too long, we hope!)

12A Clifton Jones at Friday Star Intros
18A Nick Tate at podium
20A Nick Tate at podium
25A Martin Landau at podium
28A Martin Landau holding microphone
32A Gerry Anderson and Dave Hirsch at podium

12B Nick Tate, Saturday speech
14B Nick Tate at podium
23B Nick Tate, broad grin
24B Nick Tate, hands raised
28B Nick Tate at podium
(All photos telephoto closeup)

16D Nick Tate & Clifton Jones, Sunday speech
17D Nick Tate at podium
21D Clifton (full face) Nick (profile)
22D Clifton, close-up 3/4 profile
29D Martin Landau & Gail Pardis, med. shot

1S Nick Tate from SUMMERFIELD, seated on fround.
2S Nick Tate " " , w/Michelle Jarman at desk.
3S Nick Tate " " , seated on couch next to Michelle Jarman
4S Nick Tate " " , hat and sunglasses smiling

1: Nick Tate, in 1999 uniform, holding his best actor award for THE DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND on the Command Center set.

COMMUNIQUE, from Lt. Boomer, Blue Squadron, to Battlestar Galactica personnel whom it may concern: I hereby state that I have no knowledge of the alleged existence of two unauthorized Viper squadrons, and am certainly not the squadron leader for the alleged Orange Squadron. The shuttle pilots who were overheard to have addressed me as 'captain' must have had me confused with Captain Apollo. Although orange socks are not exactly regulation wear, I have been known to wear them because I like them, and Lt. Starbuck wished me to add that he also has been known to wear purple socks only because he has a preference for them, not, as has been suggested, because they are a badge of membership for these two supposed, unauthorized Viper Squadrons. The existence of the Purple and Orange Squadrons are most likely an amusing myth perpetrated by bored shuttle pilots. And I respectfully submit that Lt. Omega's report of an unauthorized viper flight from the Galactica six centons ago was in error--it is more likely that the lieutenant was tracking space dust. (Hang it, Starbuck, I thought you said Lt Beta was going to man those scanners when we took off?!)

ARTWORK CREDITS:

Front cover: Mary Bloenker
Back cover: Judy Moore

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