

COMMAND CENTER

jan/feb
1981

Welcome, all, to the November/December 1980 issue of Command Center, a slap-dash affair if I ever saw one. Er, that is to say, all of us here at MMA hope that each and every one of you had the merriest of holiday seasons and that 1981 will go a little more slowly than 1980 did (that is also a rather fervent wish for the inflation rate). A special thanks to all you thoughtful folks who sent along Christmas cards to us here at MMA. The other reason I hope you had a whale of a time is so you won't particularly notice (or care) that this issue is late (because that is the reason that this ish is so late, if you know what I mean, ho, ho, ho...). There are a few things to sort out before I had over the rest of this three volume set...ah, news- letter to all those folks that kept those cards and letters coming in. First, from the Casualty Ward of MaryB's Filing System, we have two contributions that have gotten separated from their owners. One is an Alpha bio written by hand on yellow legal pad paper, and other is a carbon copy typed report of a SPACE:1999 Boskone excerpt. The owners of these efforts can claim ownership of same by sending ~~the~~ ~~my~~ ~~my~~ their let- ter to me here at The Lost World. In the future, I'd like to ask all contributors to make sure their names appear on their contributions and other assorted materials so that they may escape this ignominious fate.

Secondly, despite numerous resolves to the contrary, we will again be present at the annual Townsley STAR TREK extravaganza, traditionally held on George Washington's Birthday Weekend for three fun-filled--well, for three days. This year, however, the con will be held the weekend before (Feb 6 & 7) for two days. So much for tradition. Because of this switch, however, we will, for the first time, be present at the annual Boskone convention, which is being traditional and sticking with the George Washington Birthday's weekend. We may be scouted out and otherwise pounced upon at either of these events, so don't be shy. And please, leave the sharpened knives at home...

And thirdly, the news about ALPHA LOG #5. We've received quite a number of contributions for the new issue; with the added responsibilities of holding down two jobs and with the onset of the holiday season, we've been able to fully go over and acknowledge only a handful of those received. As a veteran contributor myself, I know how tacky it is to hold you people in suspense like this; however, I humbly plead for more time and give you my assurance that Alpha Log will start receiving the major portion of our attention real soon now. Hang in there guys, we haven't forgotten you! If there are those of you out there who would like to reserve their copy of AL#5 now, we are accepting advance sales now. As of this moment, the projected issue cost of #5 will be \$1.50 postpaid (overseas \$2.75 postpaid). Therefore, those of you who send ahead will be assured of receiving #5 hot off the presses; if, in the event that we decide to go with an expanded issue or (gasp) the printing prices go through the roof again, your payment will count as a deposit and you will receive notification of how much the balance of payment will be. (Don't you just love inflation? Think of all the suspense it causes!) Remember, now, members who have had their contributions accepted for publication receive a contributor's copy of ALPHA LOG. That's called incentive!

THE FAN FUND is holding its own, but it needs your support. We have a listing of SPACE:1999 and related material, most of which was donated by MMA members to whom we are forever indebted. (Special thanks to Judy Sue and Don for their unflagging industriousness--is that spelled right?--and to everyone else who donated freely. We couldn't have done it without your help.) As of this moment, the Fan Fund treasury has about enough to get one person to Atlanta by bus from Peachtree. Since most of the MMA membership lives a little farther away than that, you can see that we really need to drum up more business. All we ask from you is a business-sized self-addressed stamped envelope; in return, we will send you the complete Fan Fund listing, in which you will find so many photo lists, it will make your head spin. We also have an ever-changing inventory of Year One and Year Two novelizations, both British and American versions. And we have high-quality photocopies of original SPACE:1999 scripts, too. We've got lots of stuff, and if you think you might want some of it, write to us today, before someone else grabs it...I mean, our supply is limited, so support the Fan Fund today!

Do you know of someone who has been longing to travel to the annual SPACE:1999 convention, but just doesn't have the financial umph to carry it off? That person is a likely nominee for the Fan Fund! We are accepting nominations for the Fan Fund now, so send the name of your nominee to us at MMA now. In this way, we can choose our recipient and set a goal for the Fan Fund.

SPOTTED: Jill Townsend (Sahala, DORZAK) in the film release THE AWAKENING, starring Charlton Heston.

SPOTTED: Brian Blessed (Dr. Cabot Rowland, DEATH'S OTHER DOMINION; Mentor, THE METAMORPH) as Vultan, the Head Hawkman in the new film release FLASH GORDON. (And was that Peter Duncan--THE EXILES--in the initiation scene in Arboria?)

SPOTTED: Barry Morse (Victor Bergman, Year One) and Billie Whitelaw (Zamara, ONE MOMENT OF HUMANITY) in the recent CBS tele-film presentation of THE TALE OF TWO CITIES.

SPOTTED: (By Mary Tchir) Nick Tate (Capt. Alan Carter) in the movie THE MAN FROM S.E.X. (retitled from LICENSED TO LOVE & KILL), playing theatrically in at least one U.S. city that we know of...any others?

Command Conference

Ware Fitzgerald, 123 Fawn Valley Drive, McMurray, Pa 15317:

To Don Palermo: I will make an assumption that I am one of the "big name fans" you referred to last issue, and therefore will speak only for myself. My first observation is that you obviously have never edited a publication. If an editor does not decide what is to go into a publication, then who, in Magus' name, is

supposed to? Do you think that a "good" editor is obliged to print every single word that comes via the U.S. Mail? It's nice if a zine has the space, but in the case of MAIN COMPUTER (and now Communique for the Prantiss Hancock Fanclub), and according to virtually every newsletter editor I've ever spoken to on the subject, space limitations and cost are of prime concern. MC's first priority was always to give first consideration to SPACE:1999 and other Gerry Anderson series and then to other SF of interest to the membership. However, if we had no news, no member input on 1999 or other Anderson productions, did you expect MC to pull articles out of the air, perhaps invent news? I never felt it of value to rehash "old news" and, judging from the relatively small amount of member input, had to make a decision about what did or didn't get published. That decision was based solely on what those who did bother to write in said they were interested in. MC gave GALACTICA quite a bit of space, but in my personal opinion, it wasn't a very good series. To put it another way, I didn't like GALACTICA. (I like BUCK ROGERS very much at first, then grew lukewarm. Right now I think it still has the potential to become first rate and I'm anxiously awaiting its second season.) Yet, members seemed interested in the series, so I felt it appropriate to give space to it. Now you'll say something like, "Aha! Then GALACTICA isn't quality SF--you are not following the Alliance constitution!" Well, Don, I seem to be between a rock and a hard place on that point if I place myself as the Almighty FinalWord Giver of the Alliance. Are you suggesting that the Alliance should or should not decree what is "quality" SF? Should the Alliance pass final judgement for members to accept or be scorned? Perhaps inserting the word "quality" into the by-laws was inappropriate. On the other hand, perhaps MC has acted appropriately in allowing the membership to make its own decisions about what it likes (and dislikes) and allots space on the basis of input. I personally loved LATHE OF HEAVEN, but aside from a very few letters, no one bothered to write in about it. I don't recall your writing in to MC about LATHE or about any of the other programs you mentioned. In all fairness, yes, you and I have corresponded, but I do make it a habit to never reprint any personal correspondence unless it is specifically marked for publication...just another of those silly little rules editors hold dearly.

As for your problem with DOCTOR WHO, I am sorry to have put you through all that agony, but I honestly don't see what the problem is. My reference to "the wise and wonderful DOCTOR WHO" was a single sentence in one editorial asking what members thought of the series. If any members disagreed with my editorial description I'd have given space for their objections. I've looked back over the MC's I edited and have to say I believe they fairly and accurately reflected the greatest interests of the membership, as judged by the mail I received as editor. It all comes back to member participation, Don. Either the membership starts getting more active in the whole system, or it must "suffer along" with the zine editors' efforts.

You criticized the handling of UFO at Con '80. I can't speak for the con committee, as I was not actively involved in the planning this year, but I understand that Ed Bishop would have been invited if he were available and if enough fans of UFO came forward and expressed an interest in coming to the con. Those fans of UFO just did not make themselves known. As for having to shuffle con events around, UFO was not singled out. Heck, the PHFC didn't get together until Saturday midnight!

Another distinction must be made concerning "your favorites" and those productions most mentioned in fanzines. Nobody is saying 2001, PRISONER, etc., are not quality productions. The fact is that most of your favorites are not seen currently, and, unfortunately, the rule seems to be "out of sight, out of mind". We can keep 1999 fairly strong because it's our main interest, but one major problem in our fandom seems to be that as 1999 is seen in fewer and fewer areas, so our membership decreases. That's just the way things are. If you personally want more emphasis on 2001, PRISONER, or any other series or film, why are you waiting for someone else to do the research and write the articles? In short, you are complaining about something you could help to remedy.

On the one hand, you want more 1999/Anderson emphasis, and want to deny the majority of the fans the right to their own tastes. Yet you set up standards for your own hypothetical zine which would, in fact, be guilty of exactly what you condemn in other publications. You admit you have preferred programs, yet deny others that same right.

I am a SF fan though I do not particularly like every SF series or movie that is produced. But I respect other fans' rights to enjoy whatever they choose and realize they may not agree with my preferences. So, hey Don, instead of complaining so much about what you don't like, take all that energy and do a couple of articles on what you do like. Zines are dying for some fresh new stuff. The "big name fans" are not on another planet; we can't read minds, and, speaking for myself, I'd welcome articles on virtually any area of fandom, but I, like everyone else, do have limited time for writing let alone editing. So--instead of griping--how about some articles?

On to other matters...Did everyone see FLASH GORDON? I keep hearing how much the critics hate it, and how poorly it's doing at the box office after its first week, but I thought it was one heck of a lot of fun. Finally a movie that's so bad, and the producers intended it that way, and that makes it terrific. Sure beats some of those turkeys that get all kinds of pre-publicity about being stupendous, colossal, positively the ultimate, and then turn out to be the biggest bores ever release. FLASH reminded me a lot of the DOC SAVAGE movie, another of my all time favorites. Anybody see that one? Too bad Ron Ely has been banished to Kiss America and game shows...he made one super SAVAGE. Another little tidbit here, for all you DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL fans (See, Don, I do have other interests!); a sequel is being produced though it's beyond me why they have to keep tampering with a good thing. At least Ray Bradbury is supposed to do the new story. Speaking of messing with good stuff, I half wish they wouldn't do another ALIEN film. I was the very fortunate recipient of a tape of ALIEN for Christmas, and watching it again reminds me of what they always say about good music: the more you listen, the more you can pick out of it. ALIEN's like that and it's got so many nice things happening you can go for days and days thinking about it and deciding for yourself what did happen and why and what will happen and what might or could have happened. I don't think I want some money-hungry producer telling me any more; I'll make up my own mind on that one.

Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Dr., Stoneham, MA 02180.

Hello to everyone out there! You're probably wondering why I'm writing this letter to Command Center--shouldn't I be trying to get my own newsletter out? Well, as I sit here in my TARDIS, eating some jelly-babies just given to me by Harry and Sarah, and wondering just why the Brigadier called me and K9 back to Earth, I thought, "Wow, why don't I write a response to the letter sent by Don Palermo in the last CC". Seriously, though, I thought a response should be sent to at least clear up some misconceptions and accusations raised by Don P. Don's major argument was that the 1999 editors and writers, or in other words, the

BNF's in 1999 fandom, were promoting more series and movies rather than others. Going in order of the letter I present the fact/insinuation that we are abusing our status in 1999 fandom. Of course we decide just what goes into our zines, but I thought that word was 'editorial discretion' rather than 'abuse'.

Next, Don states that all 1999 clubs and organizations are supposed to be devoted to promoting all Gerry Anderson productions. Alpha Newsletter was set up to promote SPACE:1999 and its actors and actresses. The only other Anderson series which I have materials on to promote is THE PROTECTORS. I have only seen a handful of UFO episodes and have little or no materials to put in the newsletter. The same with all the Super-marionation series. But I'm straying from my original point--AN is here to promote 1999. It is not a Gerry Anderson club!

Also, I don't go along with the point that incessant and thick coverage on particular SF shows are apparant in all 1999 publications. I will admit here and now that I do promote DOCTOR WHO occasionally; though I do enjoy BUCK ROGERS, I've little or no info on it. Same with BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. You mention other shows such as THE PRISONER, 2001, STAR TREK, LOGAN'S RUN and THE LATHE OF HEAVEN that have not had any promotion in the various publications. I think STAR TREK has enough of its own publications and doesn't need to be mentioned in 1999 publications. 2001, LOGAN'S RUN (the movie) and LATHE OF HEAVEN were one-shot things and not much new can be said about them. THE PRISONER is also limited on what can be printed. Did you ever try getting PRISONER material from ITC? I have. It's about as difficult as showing a Zygon how to smile. Also, I think the PRISONER publication The Green Dome is handling publication on the series quite well from what I've heard.

Your main point seems to be that DOCTOR WHO is mentioned more than your favorite UFO. Well, DW does have its advantages in this area; DW is still running, in its 18th year now while UFO ran one year; UFO has about 20 episodes while DW has over 125; there is much more available in the way of DW material than UFO, etc, etc, etc. I think you have a valid point in saying that DOCTOR WHO is not shown in your area thus you don't care about it. Don't you think the same thing can be said for UFO? Quite simply, DOCTOR WHO is currently syndicated nationwide, while UFO is shown on few stations--unfortunate, yes. In setting up and publishing a newsletter I must, as others do, take into account what the majority sees and likes--and I do try to please the minority when I can, let me assure you. However, the series I promote in my newsletter are those that are familiar to most of the members. 1999 heads the list, of course, with the bulk of the material on the show and its stars, then other series such as THE NEW AVENGERS, THE AVENGERS, DOCTOR WHO, THE PROFESSIONALS, THE RETURN OF THE SAINT and other British series. Again, British series as most of the members are familiar with these series because of their love of 1999. Don, let me assure you here and now that Doctor Who does indeed exist--and if I am lying, let a Dalek ex-ter-min-ate me on the spot.

You also mention what you would do if you ran a 1999 club--fill the pages with UFO, THE PRISONER and MONTY PYTHON. ?????? Why this? Granted, I do like the series, but ?????? Aren't you doing the same thing you're accusing 1999 editors of doing--catering personal favorites? Also, you don't head the list with SPACE:1999 and then list the three shows you would concentrate on. You're letting your personal preferences come out already. And it is not the case of personal preferences--it's what the public likes and what they are interested in! I would like to print more info on UFO, in particular, interviews with the cast--but it's not easy. I'm glad you enjoyed the interview with Gabrielle Drake--I enjoyed printing it and thought it extremely kind of Ms. Drake to take the time to do it for me. I am trying to reach others in the cast, but it does take time. Because of this and the fact of so little material (publicity material) on UFO available, I cannot do features on it. Also, when I do features on these other series, it is just that--features. Info on what the cast is doing and an occasional interview. I will not print short stories or reviews on other series because 1999 gets top billing and in all cases most of the pages. Also, so far as materials are concerned, the BBC and Time/Life are much more helpful in supplying materials to DOCTOR WHO fans than ITC is in supplying materials on Anderson series.

I am sorry that the areas of concentration that 1999 editors use are not of interest to you. I sincerely hope this is not the case with Alpha Newsletter as I try to put a little something in for everyone. Also, I know (hope) you were stating in general that zines and newsletters seem to concentrate on Nick Tate and SPACE:1999. Obviously I am a SPACE:1999 fan and very much a Nick Tate fan, but AN gives equal time to everyone on the series as well as both seasons. That I make sure of! And I most certainly have respect for everyone concerning their personal favorite (i.e. PRISONER, STAR TREK, UFO, etc). I do not base my respect of a person on which TV show they like.

I want to say that this is not an attack on you, Don, or your feelings or opinions. I think you might be misreading the direction 1999 clubs are taking. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my reactions to your letters and try to express an editor's view and opinion as far as putting a newsletter together and trying to decide just what will appeal to everyone.

Vernon Wells, Route 1, Box 150, Union Level, VA 23973:

I have a small gripe that I would like to bring attention to. I don't want to complain, but would like to correct an error. I know you work very hard, Mary, but last issue you made a little mistake. In my letter I described how I felt about other Alphans. Unfortunately, about one-half of the letter was left out; I had written something about everyone, and at least seven people I wrote something about were left out. I have since lost my copy of what I wrote and I can't remember everything I said, so I'm not going to write the letter a second time. I just wanted to make that clear because I didn't leave anyone out when I wrote. (I am not finding fault with Mary because I know she works very hard on this newsletter.) I'll just cross my fingers and hope that none of this letter gets left out. (Ed note: For the record, this instance was not a case of censorship--ghu forbid--just another example of MaryB's super-efficient *cough, cough* filing system at work. The missing page was discovered by me barely two hours after last ish went to print. By the way, I've decided to throw in my plea for you people to maybe perhaps invest in staples, paper clips, and/or tape? MaryB)

I'd just like to say that it is OK with me if dues have to increase because of the high cost of postage and printing. I hope the newsletter will continue to be bi-monthly and to contain as much as it does. My favorite part of the newsletter is Command Conference; I enjoy reading what all the other members have to say. As long as we keep writing as much as we have been, I vote that we keep the newsletter as long as needed. Anyone else feel the same as I do?

More bad news concerning STARLOG: They have dropped Space Report! I hope everyone writes in to STARLOG concerning this horrid action. I wrote to David Hirsch (thanks, Kathi!) c/o STARLOG and told him what I thought

about it. I wrote in several suggestions for future issues including interviews, new photo sections, and possibly a column letting readers write in and tell why they liked their favorite episode. I also reminded him again about the Technical Notebook Supplement. I hope everyone who cares about what STARLOG continues to do concerning SPACE will write in with some suggestions. If we can't think of a new column for them, then who will? So PLEASE write! Thanks!

I was wondering if anyone will be driving through Virginia on their way to the con in Georgia. If so, could I share the expenses and hitch a ride with someone? I haven't been able to go to any of the cons yet and I may be able to go to this one.

Don Palermo: Hey, Don, guess what. I agree with you, although I do not feel as strongly about it as you do. I also like 2001, Trek, UFO, LOGAN'S RUN (I thought Jenny Agutter was gorgeous), and THE LATHE OF HEAVEN. I have never seen DOCTOR WHO either, but I believe those who have should be free to talk about it as much as they want even if we are tired of hearing about it. (I felt the same way about STAR WARS the two months before I saw it, but afterwards my past feelings didn't stop me from loving it.) Also, I don't think the editors are putting more emphasis on any one show; they are just allowing the readers to express their opinions. Propaganda? Censorship? Hell, no! If they left out the criminal phrase (DR. WHO!) that you propose to leave out, then they would be rotten censors and I know they aren't. If this upsets you so much then why don't you just quickly skim over any place where it says DR.WHO and read on. I hope no one out there represses anything that they want to say about the show Don dislikes. Remember, just because one fan dislikes a certain show does not make the show verboten to all members of the club! Sorry, Don, but that's the way it is. Please define for me what you mean by Big Name Fans. Who are you talking about? Just because someone devotes a lot of their time to a show doesn't make them as BNF as you say. They aren't censors either. If they were, why would they print all of your gripes without editing it? I think you are a little bit mistaken and if you take the time to think about it you may agree with me. Also, don't get angry with me for saying these things. We respect your opinion, but please respect ours. Sure, BUCK ROGERS and BSG weren't perfect, but they weren't trash either. I taped most of BSG (which I will gladly make copies for anyone interested) and it did have some good episodes. The SFX were nice and they made up for some of the crummy episodes. BUCK ROGERS was fun to look at, but why did he always have to fight for some beautiful girl all the time? They aren't SPACE, but for some, they are all that is available.

Catherine Conrad: I think I'll register for your contest, so I can finally be sure that I'm last. Name: Vernon L. Wells, age 19 (by the time this is printed--after Dec. 24). Coloring? Caucasian, if that's what you mean; my bribe? Sorry, I'm not bold enough to mention it in the newsletter. I'll see you in your quarters about it, though. Why don't you get a panel of judges? I'm sure bribing all them would be lots more fun. Now, I have to find out who is willing to be judge of the First Annual Female Beauty contest. (Hey, wouldn't this be a great joke contest for the con?) I'm leaving the registration rules up to the contestant so she can say anything she wants to if she thinks it will help her chances. Snapshots might help. I really liked your bio--are your stories as good as the bio? If you ever get around to writing a SPACE story, sent it in for the journal, I'd like to read it. I've tried my hand at a little writing, but I had a big disappointment. I wanted to write a SPACE SF story dealing with a series of great ideas I had when I noticed someone had written a story with the same title (sob) of NIGHTWARE. Since I haven't read this story, it probably has something similar to mine. Could anyone tell me what happened in that story? I would really like to write my story.

Does anyone know of any computer games that deal with SPACE? I recently gained access and learned how to program a TRS-80. I would like to make up a game dealing with SPACE and I was wondering if anybody had some suggestions. I have a few ideas, but I'd like some from someone who has a TRS-80 or can program computers in BASIC.

I'd like to find out what your favorite SF books are. I've read some of the classics, and I'd like to find out what you think is good. Just list them when you write to CC.

I recently found an excellent source of SPACE stills. The five lists on SPACE are 25¢ and the list is very good so even if you can't afford the prices of the stills, the lists are nice. The address: George Schwartz, 3 Woodland Ave., Keansburg, NJ 07734. (Thanks, Steen, for the address)

Let's not forget the hostages in Iran, either. I hope that by the time this is in the newsletter, they will be free. I hope everyone voted even if we didn't have the best candidates to choose from.

Am I alone, or has anyone else noticed that most TV has gone from poor to bad? Sure, there are exceptions but there are also a lot of truly rotten programs on TV. Has everyone been watching COSMOS? It may get a little boring at times, but on the whole, I think it is very good. May the Force of Life be with you.

Don Palermo, 708 Kings Row, Denton, TX 76201

Well, well, it appears I owe considerable apology and explanation for a few recent letters here, right? (All right, all right, I hear you--keep it down. Gads.) Full explanation as to why my Sept/Oct CC letter is so full of misconceptions and factual errors would take 339 pages of this ish as I figure it out, so suffice it to say that the errors were indeed my fault exclusively, and they were committed in ignorance and (for the first time in my life) innocence. And for the letter, I apologize. To make an enormous story tiny, Mary Bloemker sent a letter pointing out quite a few weak spots in the letter that ultimately was printed in the Sept/Oct CC shortly after I sent it to be printed, and it struck me that it was indeed full of mistakes and problems. Not one to make a fool of myself if I can't do anything about it (!), I sent an entirely new letter to replace the first one I sent. When I finally sent it, I enclosed a little bit of junk for the Fan Fund with it and sent it surface, so it took three or four weeks at the very least to arrive; and a little while after I sent it, that occurred to me, and I realized the likelihood that Mary might not get it in time for inclusion in the Sept/Oct issue, so I sent a note asking her to drop the original letter (the one in the last ish) if she didn't get the replacement letter in time for that issue, and so not print anything from me that issue. Unfortunately, in my ignorance of the ignorance of the United States Post Office toward getting things mailed, I sent the note probably a week at the very best before Mary mailed--not edited, mailed-- the finished CCs, complete with my fandom-bias letter, just a slight bit late for her to retype several hundred issues, considering the note most likely arrived after she mailed the editions. (Ednote: Bingo. MaryB) I'm sorry, Mary. Among the rather numerous misconceptions of my letter is the deal about the UFO representation at Con '80 and 1999 fandom's attitude toward the series. I'm told that the SHADO-USECC meeting was hardly abused--it ran a fair amount and was bumped, quote unquote, only when its allotted time expired. (I still agree with Ted Trimboth on one point, however; I don't at all appreciate the misprinting of the Sunday slide presentation as a repeat of the Saturday trivia contest, and I would love to see Ed Bishop at a 1999 con,

too.) No UFO episodes have ever been shown at a 1999 con, I hear, because no videotapes or films of it have ever been located for use. I can sympathize with Ted on this, too, in that this is a rather weak excuse to my way of thinking, as I know of many possible sources, several of which are close to 1999 fandom. Apparently nobody tried very hard to make the link (I concede that I know of one certain person with the initials D.F. who could have tried). If the UFO representation at the con was meager, I concede that it's partly the fault of lack of strong enough effort from UFO fandom. If 1999 fandom isn't acknowledging UFO, it's more likely to be because UFO fandom isn't talking loud enough, from within and outside 1999 fandom, and that's for UFO fandom, tiny as it may be, to handle. I will admit, though, there is a lot more emphasis placed on UFO in 1999 fandom than I originally thought. Digging through past issues of 1999 zines recently, I've noticed a fair amount of UFO interest, including bits and pieces and a short story or two in Dick DiPirro's excellent Alpha News Service and various accounts elsewhere of the SHADO Moonbase of the '70s and '80s having been incorporated into Alpha. (In fact, I might admit the latter has been overdone.) I also apologize for unloading on DOCTOR WHO. It's just that I'm constantly hearing people scream about how super and wonderful it is and I'm forever seeing bits and pieces and big articles on it in STARLOG and (to a lesser extent) the 1999 zines, and I think I'm insanely jealous. (The "insanely" is right.) I just don't like to hear everybody raving about whether or not the Doctor and Sarah are going to lose K9 and if the Daleks are going to return and try to destroy the TARDIS when I can't even see the program. Weakness on my part, I suppose. Actually, I really would like to see it; it sounds wonderful. I only wish I could find out what it looks like. I also want to apologize very much to 1999's "big-name fans", and everyone, for that matter, about the direction in which I pointed the blame for the biases I discussed. I had originally intended the letter to read toward everyone in 1999 fandom, but as I edited it more and more, concentrating on the facts and examples I had (considerably less than all the facts and examples), I unconsciously and unintentionally let the direction slip to aim at the BNPs, the editors, presidents, and so on of 1999 fandom. It strikes me that if a zine or club is infiltrated by other SF interests, it can hardly be exclusively the fault of the editors, presidents, and so on. I accept that 1999's "BNPs" are indeed responding only to fan interest, including, naturally, their own; DW, BR, and BSG/G80 just happen to be the big news currently in SF circles--at least in non-purist "media" SF groups (Evelyn and Kathi Lynn, you're absolutely right about the purists--absolutely right). In the past I know there have been other programs as popular in 1999 fandom as GALACTICA, BUCK ROGERS and DOCTOR WHO are now (FANTASTIC JOURNEY comes to mind), so I can certainly bear these ravings if I have any spirit. What my letter originally meant, and what I still mean, is that I simply think there's too much emphasis currently in 1999 fandom on certain areas of SF and not enough on others which may deserve the interest and which may, by 1999 fandom's regulations, need its attention, including personal favorites of mine. I'll say this: if it were BR and PSG that were being ignored, and UFO, 2001, TLOH, TP, etc., that everyone was raving about, I'd still feel this way. I might not be so vehement about it, but I'd still feel this way. (Incidentally, I'm very shocked to this day that there's been so incredibly little said linking 1999 and 2001 together; there are, after all, especially 1999's first season, very much alike. Oh, well... That's just another story, I guess...) Anyway, I hope this gives some explanation as to why I freaked out about fandom, and my apology to everyone is sincere--especially to Ted, Karla, Kathi Lynn, and Mary. Now, can we be friends?

Catherine Conrad: That's right, I do indeed know of Palermo, Sicily (why does that sound so familiar to me? ...hm...) My not-too-distant ancestors came from there. ("Spaghetti on the brain", eh?) There are also three rivers in the world called the Don, running south-southeast of Moscow, in northeast Scotland, and in central England, if I'm not mistaken. (Egotism is the mother of knowledge.) I kind of think both are beautiful Italian names, if you can forgive me for saying that. As to this here fight, my definition of the fan ultimately is one who loves something; hence, I said "SPACE:1999 fandom is...everyone in the world who gives a damn about 1999" (Mar/Apr CC), and that's how I define the 1999 fan in his truest form. (By the way, that's also how I happen to define Ted, Kathi Lynn, Karla and Mary.) I realize nobody was deliberately trying to put down those who can't edit a fan zine, run a club, have a membership in the Con Committee, and own \$50,000 worth of 1999 memorabilia. It just seemed like it. I must say that I don't, however, believe I'm completely at fault; I believe everyone--well, most everyone--involved has been slightly careless (no sarcasm intended), though that of course includes me. Oh, well... I've probably lost every friend I made here... *sigh*... I'm kind of surprised that there's been so little response to my bit on the Fan Award/Fund so far and that what response there's been has been so positive. I was all ready for a lot of hate mail. At the time I wrote that bit (July/Aug CC) I thought the Fan Fund and the Fan Award were two totally separate entities. (Ednote: They are. MaryB) I was under the impression that different people would be elected for the Award (how we can stand for declaring a "Fan of the Year" is beyond me) and receives the money generated through the fund to allow primary con expenses. I thoroughly dislike the Award but support the Fund, too. The Award gives me the impression of picking the best fan of the year (Good Lord!), but the Fan Fund is simply a mechanism to help people; customers can get good SF paraphernalia at a decent price from a reliable source (definitely!), and the recipient of the Fund gets an expense-paid weekend at the con with a lot of wonderful people who love a terrific TV series. Maybe if we disposed of the awful title "Fan Award" and just granted the Fan Fund to some one person or organization (ponder that, everybody), there wouldn't be so much trouble with everything. Competition for the sake of gain would be decreased. Now competition can, of course, be very beneficial, as it encourages more from people, but if they start competing for the ego trip of being "Fan of the Year" (oh, god), as I'm afraid some subconsciously will, the Award/Fund won't be doing its purpose. It would be encouraging more material contributions all right, but in the name of the almighty ego as much as the spirit of love of SPACE:1999. I would so much rather see one lone page of material contributions, poems, stories, etc., in a 1999 zine given with real love than ten thousand sheets of perfectly executed, immaculately printed, grammatically impeccable things written with feelings less noble than love. I don't mean that any 99er would intentionally contribute in anything but honest love--some of the people I've been in contact with here have so much love for SPACE:1999 they would practically give their lives for it. God bless them--but the subconscious can make the most noble contribution a product of the ego. (Ednote: To help clear up some confusion, let us state for the record that the Fan Fund and the Fan Award were and are two totally separate entities. That they were awarded last time to the same people--Phyl Proctor and Eileen Skidmore of the BNFG--was coincidence brought about by the people who voted--separately--for both the Award and the Fund. The Award was established in an effort to acknowledge the fact that we did know there were people out there who went out of their way to promote fandom--believe it or not, those people put in a lot of physical and emotional effort, and get very little in return. How well we know here at the con ~~alike~~ how much just one little pat on the head can mean to a staff/person frazzled by endless mailings and typing and...that sort of stuff. The Award was that pat on the head, from us here at MMA, who understand, to them, who understand. The Fund is awarded solely on the basis of financial need; more about that later...)

Kathi Lynn Higley: I hope you can do a little forgiving. I'd been corresponding with Susann Molnar for a couple of months, and the fact was brought up that some CC letters recently had been so long, three and four pages in the issue, that it seemed hopeless for a primarily shy person to write something that could be as long or as effective. And it was mentioned that your CC letters are usually long, hence, "Talking about

letters in recent CCs, see Kathi Lynn Wigley's in the May/June CC. I agree." Neither Suzie nor I had done any conversation within the public forum of CC on the lengths of CC letters, nor on anything else, really, for that matter, and I admit it wasn't overly fair not to give an explanation. It had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the content of anything you've written--it was more just how much you had written. I was just flipping (I should put the period right there, I think) through some issue and it struck me that your letter was longer than any other, so I started picking on you. I had no real justification, you know--and I apologize. What I meant by the rest of my bit ("And see mine this issue. Hypocrisy reigns") was that when I wrote my letter then it seemed as long as yours did in the past issues, and it was the longest letter I had ever written to CC. (Here's some hypocrisy on my part--this CC letter!) Well, I hope you don't take any of it as any kind of insult--I swear, it wasn't meant as one. And I'm not in any way putting down long CC letters--quite the reverse, I completely favor longer letters in CC. MWA would be as boring as hell if people were afraid of writing in CC. Don't be insulted, please, Kathi. By the way, I thoroughly agree with you on the humor and humanity of Series One as opposed to Series Two (Sept/Oct CC). The grossly blatant, neon-lit, primitively literal character of Series Two was no change in the series SPACE:1999--it was a new series. It retained only the title, some of the actors, the basic situation, and some of the crew of the original. And, in my opinion, with the exception of the new uniforms, the new series is tasteless, bland, meaningless, useless, hollow, ordinary, colorless, common, shallow, etc., etc., etc. (Letter-bombs stamped with "Year Two is Terrific!" may be sent to the above address.) I tell you, what frightens me is that the non-1999 SF fans think only of Series Two when they think of SPACE:1999--they'll never remember the quiet (you'll never get that in Year Two), wonderfully human moments, the general mood, the philosophies, and the color of the first season, only the "obfuscation". The new uniforms are the only Freiberger change I like; everything else was, I think, worsened. (And the new uniforms still aren't all that much of a great improvement. They're more realistic and functional-looking, but they've lost the classical grace of the Series One uniforms.) Freiberger's attitude toward SF seems to be that of a Mundane who is sincerely but unsuccessfully trying to understand something utterly beyond his comprehension. I think he tries to get the love of real SF, but all he apparently seems to get are the cheap thrills of space opera. I think his idea of SF--or does he call it "sci-fi"?--is that of the ugly aliens kidnapping the sexy blonde girl (hey, what about us brunette freaks?) on the premise of their needing exactly sixteen pints of human blood for their species to survive (forget the logic that the 300 Alphans could give maybe a dozen drops per person and have everything solved--but then Freiberger wouldn't have any story of action, would he?), and the human hero zipping to the alien ship in his one-man ship and butchering every alien on board into burning tissue. The End. Moral: "Man is one tough cookie. Don't bother him." (It's a moral, too, not a philosophy.) In the short but sour interview in STARLOG 40, (they haven't completely forgotten us, I see) Freiberger was proud of the BETA "sci-fi" story of BETA CLOUD he wrote. Perhaps he thought he was doing some Romantic tale of a knight saving the world from a dragon. That was done quite beautifully and romantically in DRAGON'S DOMAIN but there was a lot more to DD--and it was a lovely, mystical, romantic episode, while BETA CLOUD, as far as I can see, is a cheap, useless show. Apparently, the most philosophy that can be obtained from EC is that nothing is utterly undefeatable. Cute, but any SF story, be it science fiction or space opera or pure fantasy, is going to have that as one meaning if it has any conflict at all, and no story is a story if it doesn't have conflict. (As my eighth grade English teacher said, "If it doesn't have conflict, it's just an after-dinner incident, not a story.") Most of why I love Series One so much is that it's good pure science fiction to me. Granted, with the Mysterious Unknown Force it has a heavy element of the fantastic (in both senses of the word), but it has the basic structure, the mood, the aura, of pure SF, like 2001 and the PBS LATHE OF HEAVEN, while Series Two is much more like the fantasy-pseudo-SF of the STAR WARS saga and GALACTICA. (I'll admit, thought, that Force of SW is a thoroughly wonderful concept that might suggest some good SF. And I really do enjoy the SW movies.) Strange how the line between pure science fiction and hardcore fantasy has become so fine lately. It's getting more and more difficult to define something as either one or the other. Perhaps, I concede, the problem is in trying to...

To: Ellsworth: I took your advice to go back over yours and Kathi's past CC letters, and I'd like to apologize. It's clear that you were trying to light a fire under fandom and get it doing something, but the thing is, you were enthusiastic with an element of pessimism, and that isn't a good way to get people to move if you ask me. It just makes people depressed and lethargic, or angry as hell. Either way, it's rare that you'll get a positive reaction and positive, constructive actions, and people will tend to think you're being pompous and trying to put them down, and much as I hate to say, that's the way I thought you were being, to tell you the truth. But I admit I was wrong, and I want to apologize to you. I sort of thought you were just trying to get us moving, but that was clouded over by a feeling that you were just being mean. I honestly appreciate you doing it, and I hope you can forgive me.

At the end of my letter last CC, I mentioned that I'd finally gotten to see 1999 again--well, now it's been lost. I saw IMMUNITY SYNDROME Sept. 13th, THE METAMORPH Sept 20th, and THE EXILES Sept 21st, but since then, as of Dec 16th, 1999 hasn't been shown here again. I can only assume there's a typewriter strike on in Chicagoland, or I'd still be getting 1999 (hint hint).

Please everyone who I haven't written to all summer, please forgive me. I'm finally recovered from an extremely wicked summer, so I'll be writing again at my usual rapid fire of a letter every two or three months. I just had a strange summer. All of you, please come to Con '81 if you can. I'll probably be there, but please come anyway. And hey, Viva Spazio:1999!

Andrea Gualco, Via Corsica 9/15, 16128 Genoa, Italy:

Hello, Alphans! Latest news from Italy about SPACE:1999: Gianni Garko (Tony Cellini, DRAGON'S DOMAIN) has played in a TV film in the role of Benvenuto Cellini, a famous Florentine sculptor who had an adventurous life (1500-1571). Carla Romanelli (Melita Kelly, SPACE BRAIN) has recently played for TV the role of Wilma Montesi, a young woman killed years ago under mysterious circumstances. The investigation incriminated famous politicians. A little observation: I read in the Tech notebook, STARLOG no. 2, the name of Giancarlo Prette. That isn't right; in fact, his real name is Giancarlo Prete (only one 't').

To Don Palermo: (Sept/Oct 1980) I'm not a tiresome professor, but if you want to say "SPACE:1999 I love you" in Latin, you have to to: "SPACE:1999 amo TE".

Bye for now! CIAO to everybody!

Ron Butler, C-11 Castaways Apts., Warner Robins, GA 31093:

I'm writing about Don Palermo's letter in the Sept/Oct Command Center, because his comments (and, by quotes, Ted Trimbat's) about SpaceCon '80 in Columbus touched on my job there--the video room. There were no UFO

eps shown for the simple reason that we had none available to show. The International SPACE:1999 Alliance does not own any films or tapes itself, but depends upon members' collections and donations for episodes that are shown at cons. I have been in the film room since the first con in 1978, and to my knowledge we have never been offered the use of any UFO tapes or had a source suggested for getting films or tapes. It is only this year that I have had anyone ask me to find and run UFO eps, and those requests were still outnumbered by requests for more THUNDERBIRDS eps.

Don says that UFO fans are trying hard to get eps shown at Con '81. Great, I'd like to see some myself. But what are they doing? I haven't heard a thing, despite being the head of the video sub-committee of the SpaceCon '81 convention committee. John Von Kamp, the Alliance president, hasn't passed any word of this good work down to me.

Sooner or later, you're going to have to get in touch with us. My address is at the top of the letter. We can handle both VHS and Beta format, and can dub out the commercials on fairly short notice, but we do insist on a few things: good copies to work from (no fourth generation copies, please) and a little advance notice for planning.

On another subject, I'm afraid Helen Weber is likely to be disappointed about seeing Ed Bishop at the next con. It is not a matter of the Big Name Fan oligarchy suppressing UFO; in terms of fan appeal Ed Bishop is, well, kind of minor. The most-wanted star guests, based on an Alliance poll taken a couple of years back and based on polls taken at the cons are: Catherine Schell (yes, it surprised me, too), Nick Tate, Martin Landau, and Prentis Hancock.

The conventions have included guests from other areas of media science fiction to broaden their appeal; also, often for the price of one transatlantic air fare, we could have two stars from the West Coast, so sometimes it is a matter of economics.

Ed Bishop was invited to the first SpaceCon; he accepted and at the last minute had to cancel due to work commitments. Instead, we were able to get Martin Landau, and we were very glad we could. I don't understand Helen Weber's reference to ironclad guarantees of air fare and a hotel room, unless she is calling on UFO fandom to start a special fund earmarked specifically to bring Ed Bishop over. If she is, she needs to contact John Von Kamp about it. Star expenses are where most of your con membership cost goes; Immigration and Naturalization requires us to pony up for a round-trip ticket before anyone sets foot on a plane, and in order to get the best rates possible, tickets are often paid for before we even know whose name will go on them.

I think most of the rest of the grievances fall in the "Why-don't-you-print-what-I-like?" category. It's the tone and rhetoric that bothers me. First, Ted Trimboth's not finding as much UFO programming and/or activities as he might have liked does not justify his claim of 'abuse'. In the video room (the area I know best) UFO fans have made no effort to encourage or provide such programming. The committees react to fan interest, concentrating on programs they feel, and have found from past cons, polls, etc., that the greatest number of fans will enjoy. Frankly, UFO, unassisted, comes in pretty far down the list. A special-interest group can help that situation a lot by pitching in to help with the organization of the con, or at least by letting the con committee know what they would like to see. UFO fans have not done either.

Second, I would like to thank Don Palermo for giving me a membership (ex officio?) in my first oppressive, power-mad oligarchy: the Big Name Fans. From my side, I find that no one seems to know my "Big Name", and con leaves me too hassled to get in any really good oppressing. Really, I've got the video room mainly because I've shown up at con, worked, and proven myself reliable, for the past three years, since the first con in '78. Don, too, can become a BNF, controlling 'zine contents to suit his own tastes (which I find fully as idiosyncratic as Mary B's, no offense intended): just start his own zine.

Thanks for running the National SPACE:1999 Society's terminal letter, for the record. I had little connection with the Society/Alliance disagreement; my knowledge extends far enough to say that the letter flip-flops the whole 'bad-rapping' incident 180°. It's sad to see any bit of fandom end in pettish rancor.

The Fourth Annual SPACE:1999 Convention will be July 24-26, 1981, at the Airport Sheraton Inn, Atlanta, Georgia. (A nice place and great rates). Memberships are \$15 right now. Y'all come.

Jenny Orsi; 2068A Poinsettia Ave, Clearwater, FL 33515:

Hi, all, back again! Don Palermo: Don, I really think you're being too harsh on the 1999 fans who also like to talk about BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, BUCK ROGERS and DOCTOR WHO. Obviously, they only write about these shows because they like them, they shouldn't be faulted for that. If you want to see more written about your favorites, you write it. I'm sure you'll get response from people who feel the same way. Myself, I (unfortunately) have never been able to see DOCTOR WHO or UFO, so praises of either don't mean too much to me. However, I realize there are other people who read the same newsletters I do, and want to read material singing the praises of these shows. So, you make the first move and others will follow suit. Okay? But don't condemn other people for voicing their opinions on what they like. I have one question, though. Not that I want to feed the what-makes-a-real-1999-fan fire, but in your letter you remarked that it wasn't your favorites that "official fandom was swooning over". What, in your opinion, is an official fan? I thought you were the one that held that you don't have to edit a zine, run a fan club, and own \$50,000 worth of SPACE memorabilia to be a devoted 1999 fan. So, aren't you just as official as everybody else?

Kathi Lynn Higley: Thanks for the advice, friend, but unfortunately, it came too late. Went in for my (ugh) quarterly physical last week with stomach cramps. I thought it was just from a little overindulgence in Tony's beer at the party in Rec Hall C the night before, but it turned out to be more serious than that. I had a bad case of food poisoning (drink poisoning?) complicated by an only just discovered ulcer! What a shock! I was sure the stuff was really harmless. Helena was pretty sure where my sickness had come from because she knows how I guzzle Tony's beer. She's forbidden me to drink anymore! (If I want to keep my stomach, that is). Now what am I going to do to get him to notice me?!! One thing did puzzle me for a while, when Dr. Russell told me the news: she seemed awfully guilty. I couldn't understand why then, but now I know...

Catherine Conrad: So she helps you, huh?!? It was you all along poisoning Tony's beer and causing me all that suffering! Between Sandy Doyle neutralizing the hops and you sabotaging the brew, I just can't win!

But, I guess I should be honest. At first I was really mad (and pretty envious, too--do you know what I would have given to have Tony come into my quarters at three a.m. singing Italian opera?) but then as I thought about it, I realized that if you hadn't wrecked his beer, then everybody would have drank it, and there would be nothing special about my killing myself everytime he brought out a new batch. Do you realize that I have digested (or tried to) 453 batches of that stuff? But, the reward is great. 453 bright smiles from him. So, I guess I should thank you for what you've done. I guess.

Tod Ellsworth: How would I have ended ESB? Well, as it was, I thought the movie was nearly perfect, but you're right, the ending was too big of a cliff hanger. Well, I know I would have had Han Solo rescued and safe. Not only because he's my favorite and I love him too much to wait three years to find out what terrible things they've done to him, but because it would have allowed for some passage of time. Because of the way EMPIRE ended, it just wouldn't make sense to have more than a very small amount of time pass at the beginning of THE REVENGE OF THE JEDI. I mean, I can just see Leia talking to JPO, "Well, Lando and Chewie have been gone for two years now, and still no word..." If Han were rescued, it still would have left plenty to be decided in the next movie. The passage of time would have allowed Han and Leia's relationship to strengthen and probably for Luke to go back and finish his training, which he still has to do, but can't because he has to look for Han, because if he didn't, Leia would never forgive him. Make any sense? Didn't think so. Oh, well.

Greetings from the Best Location in the Nation! As a newly commissioned Reconnaissance Lieutenant, having finally become an official WMA member, I came in search of a subject for discussion...and what better subject on which to whet the teeth of my typewriter than Don Palermo's comments re disproportionate coverage of non-1999 productions? I agree with Don's contention that Gerry Anderson's other works have been given the back seat in many cases, in favor of current media SF productions. But, I am not sure that doing so reflects the preference of "big-name fans", editors or the like. It's probably more an effort to draw fans of those current shows or films into 1999 fandom. Trek, LOGAN'S RUN, THE PRISONER, etc, fall out of the 'current' category and are ignored. It is my feeling that coverage given to any non-1999 show or film should be linked with discussion of its connection and/or relevance to SPACE:1999, even if a mere discussion of similarities or differences. This is, after all, SPACE:1999 fandom!

And so, with nothing else of relevance to write about, I turn the column back over to the the regularly scheduled lunacy...

Kevin Peterson, 305 Condon Manatee, FL 34608.

Howdy, folks! Yup, it's me again. First off, I want to thank you all for such a warm welcome. It's more appreciated than you know. To Don Palermo: Of the things you spoke of in your 'publishorial', so to speak, I agree with you on several points. I haven't been around long enough here at MFA to know whether or not the shows you mentioned are overemphasized, but I do know that there are shows and movies that are not mentioned at all that should be. The phrase 'quality SF' definitely does NOT describe shows like BUCK ROGERS or GALACTICA 1980. LOGAN'S RUN (the serial) wasn't the best, either, but at least it had a little more some thing to it. BUCK ROGERS I am beginning to enjoy a little more now that I've seen more of it, but G:80 is on my black list along with GODZILLA. Shows I consider 'okay' are BUCK ROGERS, LOGAN'S RUN, WONDER WOMAN, and THE YOUNG SENTINELS. Now, the good shows are SPACE:1999 (my all-time favorite series), FANTASTIC JOURNEY, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, LAND OF THE LOST, THE PRISONER, UFO, FLASH GORDON (animated), JONNY QUEST and STAR TREK (both live and animated). Also COSMOS. I've never seen DOCTOR WHO, and after seeing the comic, not sure if I'd really like it all that much. I missed THE LATHE OF HEAVEN. LOST IN SPACE had lousy SFX, but good writers. That is, if my assumption that it is a satiric SF show is correct. I think it's hilarious! The one other show I really like is DARK SHADOWS. However, I'm much more movie-oriented. Among my favorites here are the STAR WARS saga, 2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY, STAR TREK THE MOTION PICTURE, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, every Walt Disney picture ever made, LOGAN'S RUN, SUPERMAN THE MOVIE, THE OMEN, PAMEN: OMEN II, ALIEN, SOMEWHERE IN TIME, THE AWAKENING, HALLOWEEN, etc, etc, and on and on. And for the people who are constantly comparing everything to STAR WARS, don't do it, please. Movies shouldn't be nit-picked, they should be enjoyed according to their own merits, by rating it as whether or not it achieved what it was trying to. Whether or not the goal is worth achieving is strictly a matter of personal taste. As for the STAR WARS situation (are you listening, Catherine?) it's all the same story, isn't it? In an epic like that, there are high points and lower points in the action taking place. Everything can't always be as explosive as STAR WARS was, because it wouldn't happen that way. An opportunity for an occurrence like in STAR WARS doesn't present itself often--and if you're not blind, you'll be able to see that the whole action of EMPIRE is setting up for the type of grand-scale action we saw in STAR WARS, for the next movie. It takes time to prepare for something like that, especially is you still want full-bodied characters, and not cardboard cut-outs; and if you'll remember correctly, we did come in on STAR WARS right in the middle of the Rebellion and all, hm? And count yer blessin's--ye gads, what if they ended it just before the duel? Or when Luke was hanging on for dear life at the bottom of the city in the clouds? The ending was fine, just fine, in my opinion. Back to 1999, though, I thought Year One was much better than Year Two, although Maya wasn't in it. But Victor was, so it evens out. I even liked the title music better in Year One. DRAGON'S DOMAIN was my favorite, by the way, Don.

To Kathi Lynn Higley: Bio-less, huh? I wouldn't know if you've already done these or not, but have you tried UFO? Or maybe even BUCK ROGERS? And please, if you do the latter--no more 'hubba, hubba's?

To Elenore Claassen: My favorites in ST, S:99 and BSG are, respectively: Doc McCoy, Nurse Chapel, Mr. Spock, Captain Kirk, Mr. Scott, Paul Morrow, Sandra Benes, Victor Bergman, Helena Russell, Maya, John Koenig, Starbuck, Serina, Apollo, Cassiopeia and Adama. I've seen MISSION GALACTICA: THE CYLON ATTACK, which was pretty good, but 12(!) I hadn't heard about. Well, I have to cut the rambling and present my bio (ta da!) whether you're ready or not:

Having been assigned to Moonbase Alpha in July of 1999, I couldn't help feeling despite the untimeliness of the summons (2:30 AM) a long-awaited euphoria through the haze of a wonderful nervousness and a touch of unreality. I mulled over once more the prospect of working in Technical Section at repair on almost everything you can think of: data systems, communications and weaponry systems, propulsion and life support systems, and the structural aspects of transports, shuttles, edifiary architecture, and toasters. I was selected for this line of work due to my prowess in Technical Mechanics in the form of a Master's Degree. I also have a major in both Astronomy and Theoretical Philosophies.

Well, I was totally dead by the time I stumbled out of the travel tube into the briefing room for lack of sleep; consequently, I didn't consciously catch a whole lot of what was being said. I just sat there, eyes glazed over and quite mechanically taking in the information on how the base works, what the layout is, etc. I very vaguely recall something about Hawks, Eagles, Rovers, and Roaches protecting Earth and Lunar space. When I was finally allowed to get some much-needed sleep, I had horrid dreams of alien invasions. The base was defended by, quite literally, Hawks, Eagles, Rovers and Roaches. The aliens beat us hands down (or is it claws? paws?) using a supply of nets and a can of D-Con! I woke up screaming, "We're doomed!!" So much for trying to establish a sane image.

And if I had any visions of appearing sophisticated to anybody, these were equally impossible, which situation made possible by my brilliant bunglings-only occasionally, thank goodness, but nevertheless beauts when they did occur. Examples? Well, my first real boo-boo was dropping my commlock just after Lt L'Lawe handed mine over. Eep! I wasn't sure whether he was going to hand me the stungun or use it!

How about the time I was trying out some new poses out of my book of yoga positions--and got stuck? I barely managed to press up a sequence on my commlock to ring up somebody--anybody! Ten minutes later, I was being carried aloft by two of those "V" shaped guys from Security to Med Center. As a couple of meds were unpretzeling my limbs, remarks were made to me about how I must've been off my rocker to try a thing like that; so I, in a fit of facetiousness, insisted that no such piece of furniture existed in my quarters. In fact, I was so mad at me and at the world that I gave them a general all-around rough time of it. Which was, I admit, the wrong thing to do, as I found out soon enough. I had to tangle with Doc Russell. A bit of advice--never endeavor the mission impossible! She's got gumption, I'll say that much. And whatever else she's got that was in that syringe she injected me with sure packs a wallop. If you never have an intense compulsion to feel terribly hung-over in five minutes flat, then try some of that stuff. Unless, of course, you've ever drunk any of Tony's beer; either one will do the trick. At any rate, all I can say about the whole thing is, "How embarrassing!" I'll wager that everyone heard about it...at least everybody in my section did. I almost didn't think I'd live it down for a while. I was quite tempted to hide under my bed for a week. It seems as if I was constantly dropping things. Like hammers. On Alan Carter's feet. You can't know how hard it is to keep from laughing, even though what happened isn't funny, when a small crowd of people around the corner applaud at such occurrences. Alan was thoroughly convinced I was out to amputate his tootsies. All I can figure is that it was this damn artificial gravity. For some reason it made me jittery, and still does sometimes. It unnerves me more than seeing Kathi Lynn Higley's pig embryo Alex and Sandy Doyle's friend Rachael stare at each other. You'd swear they had some secret between them the rest of us don't know, the way Rachael keeps grinning! I do know for sure, though, that I've gotten used to the idea of artificial gravity; my toes have stopped gripping the floor!

Breakaway was certainly a no-frills flight. I'll never forget! I was lucky, really--bruises in places I wasn't sure I had (until then), but intact. At least now I can claim I was a colorful person at least once in my life! Seriously, though, it left me--left us all--so depressed and shocked. I used to sit for hours at a time when I wasn't working trying not to think. I was comfortably numb--for a while. Then the pain came when I finally began to accept reality. It helped me a lot to write songs to express my feelings during that time. Speaking of music, I would've went stir-crazy if the Rec Room was not equipped with a couple of pianos. Thank God for small miracles, as well as the big ones. I used to think, when I first came to Alpha, "I'll just have to drop everything (no pun intended!) and be prepared for anything if duty calls". Sounds nobilistic, but that's known as 'famous last words'. I found out that no one's such a purist as all that--especially not me! That's when I discovered I like to help drive everybody else around here crazy, without, naturally, detracting anything (well, not much!) from my attention in doing any particular task. Speaking of work, I recently transferred out of Technical into Recon. I figured I should know something about piloting sooner or later, and although I had been on an initial special assignment, I was supposed to, anyway. Besides, when I bolted myself into an Eagle in repairing the hull, I came to the conclusion that it was time I moved on to something else for a while, at least until I no longer had a mangled mess of tools, wires and electrical shorts on the brain. I'll tell you, though, I had a heck of a time trying to get my transfer cleared. Now that I'm under Carter, I just hope he doesn't try to get revenge on my for past toe-aches. In fact, I hope he doesn't even remember me. Our section manager, Catherine Conrad, is a total riot to tease. I've taken to calling her by a nickname I cooked up: Mrs. Chief. It's driving her bananas, and I love it! But I'll have to start being a little less of a pest, because she's judging the Beauty Contest; and, well really, she is a nice person. I'd rather she was my friend. Once I accomplish a friendship, then I can tease her again, with confidence! Even Wayne L'Lawe, who, despite our first encounter has become a pretty good friend of mine, is letting up on her in anticipation of the contest. Why, just the other day he asked her (quite unlecherously, even!) for a date. She slapped his face. Better luck next time, Wayne!

While on the subject of people, my opinions of various people I've either met or heard of are as thus:

Evelyn Baker: I don't know her too well as yet; but she seems interesting.

Jeff Barber: Am I sure I want to meet this person? I've heard enough about him to last me a while! Maybe I'll just hold off meeting him until I feel braced, say, in about three years? Oh, well, I'm bound to meet him before then--I just hope I ~~can~~ can take it.

Sandra Benes: I consider Paul a lucky man to call Sahn his own. Even though she laughs at everything, she's got a subtly neat kind of humor of her own. It kind of creeps up on you. She's also a good listener.

Victor Bergman: Whenever I got the chance, which wasn't too often, I liked to talk to him. He was brilliant and funny; he had sort of a deliciously dry humor. He had us all in stitches when he got into a real good

modd. He was one of the few people I could talk about deep subjects with.

Mary Bloemker: I think we should hold a party in honor of her. She really does a job and a half. She's a kind person, and can be fiendishly clever...when she wasn't to. Take my advice: when she gets a mischievous gleam in her eye, that's a day to avoid her! (Ed.note: This has been a paid political announcement, brought to you by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Harried Fan Editors...MaryB)

Meta Campbell: Quite a girl, in my opinion. I hardly think she knew what to say when I presented her with an old copy of "Sabella" (also called "The Blood Stone") which I had acquired at some church bazaar circa 1996. I don't know what they were doing with it, though, unless they were some kind of cult. I just figured it was her kind of book--it was about a female vampire (that does make them soul sisters...doesn't it?). It was funny how she opened her mouth, closed it and opened it again. "One thing lacking," I told her, "...words! Unless you're making a half-hearted attempt to bite my neck, you sly devil, you!" Needless to say, she chased somebody out of her lab that day.

Alan Carter: I'm not really sure whether he's out to get me or not. I'll have to watch it, he might just be lying low for the present...uh oh, just my luck; here he comes with the strangest look in his eye...

Elenore Claassen and Tom Chafin: I really don't know about yet, so I couldn't say.

Catherine Conrad: An okay gal to work under. She's had a snort of a time trying to teach yours truly to pilot one of those--er, things...um, what do you call those...

Sandy Doyle: She's a lot of fun, though sometimes it can be quite creepy in her lab, knowing that at any time she might come up with some monster plant that might eat Alpha and her unicorns. We met through Victor Bergman.

Becky Eisenhuth: I don't see her too often, but it's worth it when I do. She's friendly, funny. (In more ways than one) and good at her job. However, I think she wonders about me at times, ever since the yoga incident.

Tod Ellsworth: I met him once or twice. He seems like a decent guy, and definitely not the shy type. I'd like to become better friends, but those corny jokes he tells...!

George Eichler: The base is in capable hands when it comes to life support and not at all a bad guy once you know enough to stay clear of his control board. But he didn't have to get so upset just because I leaned up against a row of switches and shorted out the whole thing! It was an accident. Ooops! Becky Eisenhuth is after me! At least now George is safe...

Andrea Gualco: (Boy, aren't I lucky? Two escapes in one day! I just pray that Alan and Becky don't combine their forces against me--then I'd be in real trouble!) This one and Tony Verdeschi pal around and talk a lot--in Italian! I love to watch their hands in some of their more excited conversations.

Kathi Lynn Higley: One of the flakier ones on the base, but sometimes she does give us reason to doubt her insanity. I think it's just a front.

Karla Von Huben: (Since KLM and KVM can't be gotten to without causing structural damage to Alpha, and they've been holed up in there for more than two weeks now after making such mean remarks about everybody, I wonder--what in heck do they eat?) Karla, from what I know of her, is considered an all-around likable girl.

John Koenig: Even though the man is busy, he can still give the impression he's got all the time in the world. (Or is it that he just makes it seem that long when he stops to talk?) Well, he may be a little boring, but I like him a lot. His good points more than make up for that.

Maya: She always wins first prize at costume parties. Like last Halloween, she came as a vampire just to freak out poor Meta--I swear, that girl will become an absolute nervous wreck one day on account of her job. I like Maya, and she's a lot of fun, but her 'costuming' doesn't end at parties. I think that if she doesn't cut it out, her shenanigans of late, she'll have half of Alpha out to get her. I know of a few already who would like to meet her in a dark corner--including Tony, although I think his reasons are a bit different. (Good idea on the chemical inhibitor, Catherine; wouldn't she be surprised?)

Lynn Mims: Can anyone believe it? Her tango contest had a half-way decent turnout. I didn't stay the whole time, so I still don't know who won. I was lucky I made it through the first three rounds! Lynn was still going strong when I left--she's so energetic. D'you think we could put her on an exercise bike and hook it up to turn the generators when we need extra emergency energy, hmmm?

Paul Morrow: I don't know why so many people dislike this man. I'm happy to say he's one of my closer friends. I think he just needs a closer scrutiny than most to figure him out. He's a great guy, actually.

Jennifer Orsi: I suppose it's been left up to us and Cathy Conrad to educate Maya about Earth, where Computer left off and couldn't teach her any more. She now learns from people who know it first hand, so it's more fun for her, too. Jennifer's a wiz, as well she should be, on cultures, anthropology and social interaction through the ages. But some things I can help contribute on are the earth mythos, art and both literary and musical aspects of said planet. Maya has a huge range of appreciation, but she can't stand Picasso or polkas. I don't blame her. I find Jennifer a stimulating conversationalist.

Don Palermo: But she's small potatoes when it comes to that aspect compared to Don. He's one person I love to talk/debate with, in an intellectual sense. It's getting more and more interesting as time goes on, discussing deeper contemplations. He reminds me very much of Victor in that particular sense. Ah, 'tis a joy to be able to really let go, philosophically, with someone like that!

Steen Pederson: Oh, I'm certainly glad of a dentist here on Alpha--especially now! You see, Steen, this filling is killing me. It's the only one I've got and I don't want to lose it. It'd just BREAK my heart. What? When did it start bothering me? It probably had something to do with when I tripped over someone's foot which was thrust out in front of me and fell flat on my face, only about an hour ago. I don't know who it was! I'll bet it was Mark Robertson, trying to drum up some business!

Steven Rader: I don't know who he is; he's supposed to be quite an engaging fellow, though, from what I hear.

Mark Robertson: At least now we know of one person we could use in Security, if necessary. You do know, Mark, don't you, that Jerry is downright dangerous? I'm staying away from him.

Amelia Rodgers: Is she some relation of the Mr. Rodgers who worked with a Mr. Hammerstein years and years ago?

Tom Rose: Did you catch his review of the movie marathon which appeared in the newspaper?

Helena Russell: One fantastic lady. I quite admire the woman, and in spite of our first bout, we're not holding anything against each other. I like her mischievous side.

Anne Smith: She thinks it's funny when people call her "Little Orphan Annie", but lately she's been breaking out into a raucous rendition of "Tomorrow" every time someone does. I think she's getting her revenge for all the times people called her "Smitty".

Arthur Smith: All I know is that he's a Smith (Brilliant deduction, huh?)

Bobbie Marie Smith: Now you know that wasn't nice, putting in a whole extra page for the paper to give warning of Dr. Russell's "Chamber of Horrors", exhorting all to spare their lives by avoiding her physicals into which she incorporates such torture instruments as the Hyper Hypodermic Needles. But--heh, heh--it was funny!

Lia Therkildsen: She as a person is nice as the day is long (what days?) and full of surprises. But so is her cooking! Pleasant surprises, I mean. I'm not too hard to please, but she has a devil of a time trying to satisfy the more finicky palates around here. I know she's Danish, but her Swedish (soy bean) meatballs are the best!

Tony Verdeschi: Between saboteurs, Helena Russell, Cathy Conrad and Sandy Doyle, this man hasn't had a decent batch of brew yet--or a moment's peace over the lousy stuff that results! The poor guy. I must say, though, the job those three do is a thorough one. It's even worse than his actual recipe--that is, if it was his original when I first--er, experienced it. Once they put in four times the amount of yeast than is normal in there. Yeeeeeesh! It makes one's teeth chatter just thinking about it. It's driving him batty, but I think he just might figure out that his beer is being tampered with--someday. When he does, woe be to all involved!

Wayne(Walls)L'Laws: I like him. He has a finesse, like George Eichler, for thinking up a variety of ways to shock everybody. In Wayne's case, though, it's mostly just to shock--literally--Jeff Barber. I don't know when he'll put all those devious ways to work on JB, or even if he will, but...well, I feel sorry for Jeff!

Vernon Wells: I used to see him relatively often, as compared to the present, but that doesn't matter. I just use his suggestion box to drop him notes when I'm on the run. About that suggestion box: some of that graffiti on it is really awful! I haven't gotten much chance to see much of his microfilm library, but I can guarantee you that it's top notch. (And Lynn Wims' is just as good.) A neat guy.

Like I've said, I really enjoy the pianos. In fact, this Christmas, I want to do a recital piece as part of the evening's entertainment in honor of Sahn, as the poor creature never made it through hers last year.

I love reading. I'm quite a book worm, actually, and I suppose *sigh* it might as well come out...Lynn M and Vernon W aren't the only ones with libraries. It was incognito, but I just figured, what good is it if no one knows about it? So, after I saw how well everyone treats books up here--well, almost everyone--I wasn't afraid to let it become known anymore. I have all of Mary Stewart's novels, and loads of horror and SF, not to mention fantasy and humor (Dennis the Menace, anyone?). I was thinking, and I thought maybe all the people with books could set up a genuine library in one of the empty rooms, with a microfilm 'card' catalog and everything. How about it?

I considered it a for-true bummer when we found it a necessity to move underground. I liked the surface facilities. Besides, I knew my way around up there. As soon as I learn to fly the transports and have had some experience with them, I want desperately to get into the Alpha Expansion project. (Stop your malicious giggling, Kathi Lynn! It's NOT because I want to be close to Susann...although that isn't a bad idea, after all!) Right now, I'm in the process of trying to convince Paul into building an addition onto the lower level recreational facilities, located somewhere down here. Wherever there's room to construct a thing as huge as I'm suggesting, I guess. I imagine you could call this idea my contribution to the anti-boredom campaign, something new--a glideflight chamber! Tentative names for it floating around in my head are Aerousel or Volodome. Being involved directly in the expansion project would put me in more of a position to influence Paul and the commander. It's really quite simple. The principles involved would make it impossible for duplication on Earth; that's because we wouldn't be using artificial gravity in there, just merely the moon's own weak gravity. Then, donning wing-harnesses designed to catch the air, voila! You fly! The actual design of the contraptions everyone would wear isn't my department, but I do know it would be extremely maneuverable due to such small size and individualized control. That could then give way to lots of games played in the air with team names like the Eagles, Dragonflies, Fairies (if you're fantasy-inclined) or whatever. If I can swing this, I think I would dedicate the place to Mare, for there is where she would really feel 'free as an eagle'.

Well, there's my bio, and am I glad I'm done with it! It took me long enough. It's also longer than I'd anticipated. To Wayne Walls: If you want to use it, fine. I just hope it's something you can work with.

Are there any fans of horror, Erma Bombeck, comics (i.e., X-Men, Avengers, Spiderwoman, etc) Mary Stewart, and SOMEWHERE IN TIME out there? Well, ta-ta for now! Hope I haven't bored you!

Mark Robertson, 9421 Sagefield Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70811:

Alchal! Hello! Hi! Holiday Greetings and salutations to all fellow Alphans! I have kept my promise to return and I have. Even though I should have returned a long time ago in a letter between Jan. and now. Since I've been in here that long. But I was unsure of myself to establish myself with the group of crazy, zany, ~~idiotic~~ (some bantha-brains) group of people. Now, an update on my continuing bio/story. Don't you love it?

My insurance company, Robertson Lunar Insurance, Inc., hasn't changed, no better. Only worse. The Rice Krispies project is not doing well, either, so far. While I was working on it in the cafeteria, Jerry came over to help. He added some chemical. Anyway, I added the instant milk and WHAM! BLAM! It exploded!! Luckily, I was only slightly injured. I'm glad Lis dropped by at the right time to help me put out the small fire! I'm glad Lis didn't tell the commander. I might have been suspended or something--thanks, Lis. Jerry? He laughed his head off!!

You are probably wondering what Jerry Redden looks like. Height: 5'3", weight 87 lbs, wears goofy black plastic glasses and has dark brown hair. I really don't know how he made it to Alpha. I asked Dr. Russell to have a talk with him after the cafeteria incident. Later, I gave her a buzz on her commlock. She said, "He is a psycho case! I never want to examine him again! Well, Medical Center is now ventilated. He is scheduled for a talk with the commander. I'll let you know what happens. Jerry is now under strict supervision by security round the clock. I have no idea what the commander will do. Any suggestions? Jerry is still the unmild janitor of Alpha.

Kathi H: I heard a rumor that someone told Jerry where your quarters are located. It seems she is to 'get' Alan while you are preoccupied by Jerry. I don't want to mention any names, but I will say she works in Eagle Maintenance.

Catherine Conrad: My name: Mark Robertson; Age 33, coloring white. A bribe? How about a couple of policies? Land insurance? Flood? The complete Jerry-proof policy and a date to the live Subatomic Particles concert featuring Jeff Barber and Victor Bergman? Oh, yes, I ~~thoroughly~~ studied the stun gun manual and if Lt. L'Law has changed, I'll gladly repair or recharge your stun gun. NOTE: never let Jerry repair it or get hold of it. If he did he'd probably put a bomb in it or something.

For now, off the bio/story. The SPACE:1999 Society, in my opinion, wasn't all that much of a loss to fandom. If the IS:99A and the Society combined it would probably be alive today. I hope the Alliance carries on the Society's good qualities, even though it had it's bad points, but everything has its bad points. MARE: I agree, 1999 may not return to the air, but it still is our favorite show. Right, gang? We also should still keep our support and support on renewing it. DON P: I like 2001, THE PRISONER and I love UFO, STAR TREK, TLOH, SW and ESB. I still like GALACTICA and Buck. I also never saw DOCTOR WHO, you're not alone. CATHERINE CONRAD: I also like BQ better than G:80. BQ was much, much better. EVERYONE: If you own an Alpha Tech Notebook, look on page ii, the bottom. First paragraph, second column, read it. KATHI H: I completely agree with you on Year One. I liked Year One best overall. Oh, you forgot the great BLACK SUN, one of the top 10 on my list of favorites. Everyone, be sure to check out the ad section! I believe I overran this one, too. Don't forget, watch out for Jerry! Goodbye, everyone! Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!

Kathi Lynn Higley, 1082-4 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517:

Hello, dere, the proverbial bad penny returneth for another go 'round. I'm afraid this letter is going to start off on the wrong foot; namely, an address to Don Palermo in response to his rather scathing letter in the last Command Conference. So those of you bored by my foam-around-the-mouth tirades best skip this whole first part and continue on with this letter...

Good gravy, Don, who put the electric eel in your B.V.D.'s, anyway? I haven't seen such raving since Uncle Clyde got bitten by a squirrel--the poor thing--the squirrel, NOT Uncle Clyde--put on quite a performance before we administered the coupe de grace with a hand plumber's helper (toilet plunger, to you uninitiates). You put me strongly in mind of that squirrel. Admittedly you had a valid point or two to make, don't get me wrong. I just think you came off too strongly. You also sound as if you're running for election to the office of fandom conscious. Had it ever occurred to you that the main reason such programs as BUCK ROGERS, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, and DOCTOR WHO receive as much hype as they do by all and sundry is because they're seen by more people on more readily accessible stations? I, for one, have seen UFO a grand total of once, and then I had to hang my kid sister on our TV antenna to get the station in that it was on (I think the station was emitting from Nome, Alaska, but I could be wrong--it was that long ago). And I can't say I was too impressed with my first viewing of SPACE:1999 either, and look where I am now! And I believe you mentioned THE PRISONER as one of the other neglected shows you'd like to see vindicated. Fine. But again, it's a case of not having it shown on an accessible channel in most areas. Personally, I saw this show once as well, and again, wasn't visibly impressed with. Yeah, yeah, I know, I didn't give them a chance. I suppose I would give them a second chance IF they were shown in my immediate area (and I suppose it would help if I had a TV) but, to be honest, a show either catches me in that first viewing or I don't bother with it. That's how it was with '99 Year One. It wasn't until my first viewing of Year Two that I took an interest in it. It's the same with DOCTOR WHO as well. My very first viewing of that and I got hooked. Can't even begin to explain the whys and the wherefores, but that's the name of that tune. One man's junk is another man's treasure. As to the big name fans abusing their status in the fandom by broadcasting their viewing preferences and possibly using their influence (which is negligible) to win over other members of fandom to their shows: felgercarb. You can only be influenced if you want to be. I prefer to see their statements of viewing preference as enthusiastic suggestions. Nothing more. And if other people blindly follow their lead without expressing their own opinion, than that's their lookout. A mature person develops his/her own opinions. Obviously, anyone who would blindly watch any TV show simply because, say, Mary Bloemker (just using you as an example, Mar. Frankly, I've noticed that you don't use this newsletter as a personal soapbox at all) thinks it's excellent is immature, to say the least. (To say more would be inviting a libel suit). If I watch a show that someone recommends, I sit down to view it with an open mind and judge it on its own merits. For instance, I've heard oodles of stuff on BUCK ROGERS, seen it twice and think it's the pits. Don't know why, but it doesn't make my glands secrete (Buck himself does, but not the show), but that's the way it goes. But, on the other hand, I say down to watch DALLAS for the same reason and liked it. If you really feel so strongly about your own choices in SF viewing, by all means, hype 'em in your newsletter as you threatened--but won't you be guilty of the same thing that you just accused the big name fans of doing?

And now that I've wiped the foam from around my mouth, let me continue on with my letter...

I was appalled to hear of the demise of the '99 Society. I was not a member, I heard bad things from non-members, and some good from members, but either way, it's sad when a club drops by the wayside that way. Especially the manner for its demise upsets me. I think there was a fairly active smear campaign going on in other branches of fandom toward the Society. I think the circumstances by which the Society was formed helped start that smear campaign, but, nonetheless, I'm sorry to see that the same attitude that we '99ers encountered with the Trekkers has manifested itself in our ranks. I just hope we all learned a lesson from this.

My, aren't I getting downright moralizing this time around. Enough to make ya reach for the Pepto-Bismol!

To Vernon Wells: Oh, for crying out loud! Is nothing sacred anymore? No, you have to blab to all and sundry about that stun gun under my bed. And, naturally, everyone is going to jump to conclusions. Of course, if they jump to the conclusion that it's Alan's, they'd be right. I swiped it from his gym locker when he was in playing handball with Tony. Made sure there were plenty of witnesses to report who took it in the hopes of having him show up to claim it, but it's been three weeks now. Wonder what could be keeping him?

To Catherine Conrad--oops--Conrad: You and I will get along just fine, weenie, if you remember one or two little things. 1) The name's HIGLEY--that's Hig as in jig and Ley as in Robert E. (and being Southern, I hope you don't ask Robert E. who). I realize it's a turkey of a name, but it's the only one I've got until I land a certain hunky Aussie Eagle pilot. It also doesn't help when you're a bit on the, shall we say, for politeness sake, chunky side. Pigley or any such derivations for the last name tend to make me do an- other day and never got a chance to correct himself--he's still limping. No, didn't bite his ankle. Happen to be kneeling, putting an Eagle engine control panel back on, and lobbed him across the shins with my 10" adjustable wrench. As you probably guessed, this is being written from the nuke waste area--oh, Tom and Jeff say 'hi'. Oh, another little thing that annoys me: casting aspersions on my career choice (I.E., commercial illustrator). Honey, I wouldn't even see YOU a doodle done on a slip of toilet paper--I want my artwork to go to a good home, and I doubt you'd pass inspection. Thirdly, keep your hands off Carter. You can deny it all you want, but I've heard how you've taken to lurking around the empty travel tubes in the hopes of grabbing him, but it'll do you no good! I know, I've tried it. I've got a slightly dusty stun gun of his you can use for bait, however, but you haven't got a prayer. It'd just come back from L'Law's repair shop before I swiped--er, appropriated it, and Alan may be many things, but suicidal isn't one of 'em--he's got a brand new one from supply. And, lastly, always remember: I don't get mad, I get even. Other than that, tho', you sound like a pretty off-the-wall type. By the way, I'm looking for a judge for Daffy Doyle's latest morale booster. Namely, an Alpha Male Buns Revue (and by 'buns', I don't mean hot cross or cinnamon, either). Tell ya what, you make me a co-judge of the Male Beauty Contest, and you're a shoe-in for my choice as second judge for the Revue--whattayasay? Interested? Oh, and to answer your question as to the location for your free lobotomy (your prize for passing my Trivia Quiz), Medical Center. And hurry! Doc's having a special on 'em. Three Second Painless Lobotomies. She slams you one with a sledgehammer. Word of advice: Don't fidget around a lot, it can be painful. Especially since she gets angry after the first miss and starts REALLY screwing up her aim!

Susann Molnar: Thanks for your kind letter attempting to explain what Don Palermo meant in the ish before last of CC, but I'm afraid I'm still in the dark. I wouldn't written to you personally save for lack of time for doing so. But thanks anyway. And maybe this ish SOMEBODY will explain the situation in clear, intelligible Klingonese.

Lastly, to Mark Robertson: Get off my case, toilet face. I am sick and tired of chasing potential policy purchasers for you. You want Alan, talk to him yourself! If the guy won't even come get his stun gun, how do you expect me to find him to twist his arm--er--talk him into buying a policy? And as far as destroying your records go--now that IS the dumbest thing I've heard. Cause if you'll remember (and you evidently don't), I was one of the first ~~people~~ people to sign up for a policy when you first came to Alpha. I stand to lose a lot from this situation, ya know. Supposing I finally get out on deep-space patrol in good old Eagle 12 and buy the farm. How will my mystery beneficiary collect? (By the way, I'd identify my mystery beneficiary, except that person doesn't know that they are and I don't want to tempt fate--get the picture? And if you blab, Robertson, you're gonna buy the farm!) And my copy of my policy mysteriously vanished immediately after Breakaway (and guess who I suspect, kiddo) and you've claimed that so long as YOU have a copy everything's A.O.K. By the way, is the guy in the WWII bombardier's jacket your buddy Jerry? I noticed him around. Wonder why?

And I know I said last letter that I was plumb out of bioe, but thanks to Tony Laker, I'm back in business. (For those who'd like to 'get' Tony, his address is in the Sept/Oct newsletter--don't mention it, Tony.) Because, thanks to him, I got a trip down memory lane and began to remember the cast and characters of VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. So, needless to say, here's my VOYAGE bio:

Mother always told me a great way to meet men is in the armed forces, so, with licentious mind in tow, I showed up at my local navy recruiter. I applied for a land job 'cause I'm prone to seasickness. In fact, I applied for a position as a data processor. But you know the navy--or any of the armed services--apply for a position in it and they'll go out of their way to give you one dynamically opposite to the one you asked for. And never mind any previous experience in the desired position. *Sigh* So, I ended up training as a sub helmsman--er--excuse me, helmsperson as part of a program to co-ed the sub service. My first assignment? You guessed it--the U.S.S. Seaview. Outside of still referring to a head as a bathroom, and the deck as the floor and still having trouble determining starboard and port when facing aft, I guess I'm doing OK. Although an overheard conversation betwixt Captain Crane and Mr. Morton, after I deepdived the Seaview into the Marianas Trench when I'd been ordered to surface, has me feeling a bit queasy. They were debating whether or not to set me loose in an inflatable life dinghy headed in the general direction of Russia. But as I'm still here, I guess they changed their minds. *Phew* My opinions of the command officers and crew:

Admiral Nelson: A nice, fatherly sort. Always has a kind word for us ladies. The only time he's not his usually self is at the time of the full moon. Sprouts a lot of hair and likes to go on the foredeck, topside, to howl at it. He hasn't bitten anyone yet, however. And we're chipping in on some rawhide chew toys for his Christmas present. Nice guy.

Captain Crane: *Sigh* He can put his 'dolphins' (insignia for submarine crew) under my bunk anytime. Guess that's why it broke my heart when I heard Morton and Him plotting the course for my trip to Russia. After a all, everyone's entitled to at least one mistake. But for all that, he's a hunk.

CPO Sharkey: Is a pretty nice guy for a chief petty officer. I've heard all sorts of stories about CPOs and how rough they are on us noncoms, but Sharkey's pretty good. Altho', like Tony, I wish he'd stay out of the Kitchen--er--galley. He's no Julia Child. In fact, rumor has it he's a chief stockholder in Roalids Corp. Hmmm, oh, well, can't blame him from trying to drum up business, I guess.

Commander Morton: Well, Tony you should see some of the interesting things the good Commander dreams up for us female personnel. Like reverse Blindman's Bluff with all of us blindfolded with the exception of himself. And somehow he always ends up being 'it'. *Sigh* Had black & blue fingerprints for weeks. Now if we could only get the Captain interested in playing.

And that's all for now. One nice thing about subs--guys can't run too far in 'em, and if ya happen to spill a little oil on the decks between sections, they're really easy to catch. Mother would be proud...

Too!les!

Don Palermo: It sounds like your PBS station treats you very well. You'd like our stations here. I'm fortunate to be bathed by British humor, too. In phases, we get DAVE ALLEN, BENNY HILL, DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE, THE GOODIES, THE FALL AND RISE OF REGINALD PERLIN, and my favorites MONTY PYTHON, FAWCETT TOWERS and GOOD NEIGHBORS. One of these days, America will finally realize how pathetic America's idea of comedy is. Kathi Lynn Higley: A belated welcome to your new home! Andrea Gualco: Greetings from Ohio!

Talk about historical first--I finally won a bet for a change. It was a relief to discover Kristen did indeed shoot J.R.!

Hello again, y'all. First off, I want to address Mary Bloemer. In another of your infamous but entertaining excuses in CC last issue, you stated that your local postal service purchased their mail-sorting machines from natives living by the Amazon River. Well, I just wanted to say that that confirms my original opinion about you Yankees. (Pure badinage, I assure you. I don't want my CCs to start arriving in bad shape.) (Ednote: Ha. I'm a native Marylander, which no matter what the Post Office, the IRS, or the school districting authority may say is still south of the Mason-Dixon. Besides, it wasn't my local post office that procured the machines--they closed my local post office. It's the one they're routing the mail to now that uses trained monkeys to ~~sort~~ sort the mail...MaryB)

End of sermon. On to better and loonier things. Speaking of which, I think this Main Mission Alpha stuff is getting to me. I can only hope that if--when!--I attend the 1981 SPACE/1999 Convention in Atlanta, that I don't "Fly Over the Eagle's Nest." (**heh-heh**)

To Kathi Lynn Higley: Thank you for your positive response to my gripes about Fred Frieberger. He oughta be drawn and quartered for causing SPACE:1999's demise. (Is there any doubt about it?) And thanks for your advice about the Alpha bios. As you saw in the same issue of CC, I took it. I must've been on your psychic wavelength the day you wrote it to me. (Uh oh...) And now I've got some sisterly advice to you, about you and Alan Carter. (Yep. Even I know about your little affair.) Leave the poor boy alone, kiddo. He's a shameless runaround. Why, just the day before yesterday, I saw him alone with Mary Bloemker in a dark corridor. He was kissing her hair like mad. Y'see, word has it that Mary has developed a peppermint-flavored shampoo that's been wowing the boys all over Alpha. (Ednote: Spearmint. MaryB) How can you compete with that?? Also, I heard she borrowed some of Tony Verdeschi's questionable beer to make a shampoo out of that, too. Calls it "Tony on Tap". Well, I hope my bios were and are twisted enough for ya.

Alas, alack. WXIA-TV 11 in Atlanta has cancelled SPACE:1999. I wrote to the program director and he said he was going to use it as a filler program. At such terribly convenient times as 3:34 AM. He replaced it with SPAR TREK. (##grumble, grumble##) The film of the TREK episodes is so old that the Enterprise appears to be green and Kirk is growing grey sideburns. But at least the station's program director was kind enough to reply (a month after I wrote) and send me a picture of Alan and Tony. One I've seen a thousand times, but I suppose it was the thought that counted. To all of you who have been shy about writing the TV stations in your area, I say: do it. Most will be very cordial in their replies (sweet as my Grandma's Georgia Pecan Pie), and finding out for sure could save you from thinking yourself in circles about whether a show will be on the air or not.

Time now for Conrad's Believe It or Not. According to my calculations, September 13, 1999 will fall on a blue Monday. Most apropos, n'est pas? Secondly, I've found the Alphans characters' names in a book on the meanings of names. Here's a few: Koenig is German, meaning "King". "Alan" is Irish Gaelic for "handsome, cheerful, harmonious one". That's a laugh. "Tony", short of Anthony, means "Inestimable, priceless one" in Latin. That one's a laugh, too. "Sandra" is Greek, meaning "helper of mankind". (Just ask Paul Morrow about that one) "Maya" is Latin from "Great one". Hell's afire, she should have a name that means giggly, not great. In regards to the actors' names, "Martin" is Latin for "warlike", "Barbara" is Latin for "beautiful stranger" and Nick is Greek for "victorious army, victorious people". "Catherines", the name Catherine Schell and I have in common, means "The pure one".

In my last letter, I said that in my opinion, actor Michael Nouri portrayed "Dracula" in the TV show CLIFF-HANGERS better than Frank Langella's rather out-and-dried version in the movie DRACULA. Well, I recently saw the PBS version of "Count Dracula" starring Louis Jourdan, and I liked his portrayal as much or more than Nouri's. Anyone else out there have a favorite amongst the actors who played "Dracula"?

Recently, I saw an episode of Carl Sagan's COSMOS series that irked me. It was "Blues for a Red Planet", a about "ars, and the background music that was playing as they showed Mars' surface sound suspiciously like that of SPACE:1999 and STAR WARS. (Ednote: The music played during that specific sequence was "Mars, the Bringer of War" from Holst's "Planets" Suite, which was also used in the 1999 Year One episode SPACE BRAIN. MaryB) COSMOS, as a whole, is tedious and too self-conscious in my opinion. Though Dr. Sagan is a very good author of astronomy books, his dramatic approach for the TV screen flops.

Ah, the time for judging is drawing nearer. For my Male Alphan Beauty Contest, of course. "What do I get if I win?" some of you ask? Well, my first idea was that a date with Kathi Lynn Higley would suffice. But after I announced it, I started to get a lot of withdrawals from the contest for some mysterious reason. Got any idea, out there? I have nominated a few fellas, by the way. Alan Carter, for one, Steen Pederson and Kevin Peterson. I've heard Steen's got great legs. I know you're out there, Alphans, so nominate and register!

Now for my Alphan bio update...(drum roll)...It seems that the infamous Bobbie Marie Smith latched on to my comments about the Commander and others in the last issue of CC and printed them in the base paper. Every-one in Command Center just ganged up on me, and finally Koenig decided to assign me to be Alpha's food taster as punishment. That's right, I'm having to gtry to eat the grub we jokingly call food here before y'all eat it. A few days into my assignment, Lis Therkildsen decided to get even with me about my caustic comments about her. She told me to eat every bit of a casserole of green potatoes au gratin. That's right, GREEN. I took one bite and threw the dish at her. As my luck would have it, she got out of its path and it hit the person just walking in--Koenig. He didn't really look all that bad with potato casseroles on his head--it covered up his bald spots. I can't understand why he got so angry. This was the last time I trusted Bobbie Marie, let me tell you that.

Last but not least, I'll be seeing y'all (hopefully) at the 1981 SPACE:1999 convention in Atlanta. I'm proud that Atlanta was chosen as the convention site, and I hope that the location won't be changed. None of you will be disappointed, at least where the city is concerned. Atlanta has right been called the capital of the entire Southeast. It's an interesting city to visit, anyway, above and beyond the reason of the convention. Here I must say farewell. (**Sot**) But not for long. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lynn Mims; 1511 Grand Ave., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

To Don Palermo: You're right about UFO. The program dovetails neatly with SPACE, especially the first season episode. I'm in a different situation than you. I have never seen THE PRISONER, which many of my friends love. Ranking your list of programs seldom mentioned in 1999 'zines, in order of preference: STAR TREK, THE LATHE OF HEAVEN, FANTASTIC JOURNEY (a show of great, partly realized potential that didn't get a fair shake from NBC--what else is new?), LOGAN'S RUN and 2001. UFO gets separate treatment because I haven't seen it, merely heard half a dozen taped episodes. What I heard fascinated me; I didn't care too much for the xenophobia, but the ideas seemed thoughtful and often downright bizarre. I keep hoping I'll either attend a convention where I can see the thing or else that some TV station will pick it up as a package deal.

About BUCK ROGERS, GALACTICA and GALACTICA:1980. GALACTICA started well, then went downhill fast, picked up again when Patrick Macnee guest-starred, dipped a bit and ended on a note of excellence with THE HAND OF GOD. It could have been a very good show. GALACTICA:1980, on the other hand, was trash. It was embarrassing. I was not sorry to see it go. BUCK ROGERS was pretty awful, too, but it has one redeeming grace in is SF in-jokes ("Capt. Christopher Pike, report to Veteran's Affairs", indeed!) Apparently ROGERS is getting a face-lift which may make it a bit better. If it ever comes on, we can judge for ourselves.

The problem with the shows in the last paragraph is in the scripts: none of them had decent, consistent writers. With the exception of Donald Bellisario, who did THE HAND OF GOD, even GALACTICA had hacks grinding out Standard Plot #141--a Western transported to outer space. And all of the programs in the first paragraph had good writing. TREK is the only one to have consistently good writing, for at least part of its career.

Where would SPACE go in my list? Well, you may all lynch me, but right after TREK. They sort of overlap, but TREK has the edge because it was positive; the crew of the Enterprise wanted to explore, they weren't on an involuntary tour of the Universe. Actually, I suppose TREK and SPACE cover two aspects of the same theme, but TREK keeps its lead. (On the other hand, I never fantasize about TREK, but Moonbase Alpha is a home away from home. Figure that out).

Kathi Lynn Higley: Let me add to the First Year vs. Second Year discussion. Like you, I got the chance to see some First Year episodes again after Second Year and they do wear much better the second time around. Little nuances I missed the first time come through. (How about the very quick scene of Paul Morrow playing his guitar during THE BLACK SUN; or any of the scenes there of Alphans preparing fro certain death?) But I enjoyed most of Second Season the first time around. The one thing I really liked about Second Season was that Koenig didn't save Moonbase Alpha every single time. In fact, my all-time favorite episode is BETA CLOUD, where Koenig conks out in the opening and Helena is gone halfway through. For once the 'little people'--Tony, Sahn, Alan, Bill Fraser and Maya (not really a little person, but not Koenig) got a chance to show their wits and nerve. BETA CLOUD was Sandra's finest hour.

All right. Changing subjects--FLASH GORDON is out, and believe it or not, it's pretty good! I wouldn't have bet on that after seeing that slide show at Worldcon. Throw away your credibility before you go and settle back for two hours of mindless fun. It has a strong BARBARELLA flavor; thirtyish decor, flamboyant costumes

and a sky like a Roger Dean record cover. The acting is fair, the story straight out of a comic book; but it's fun. It carefully skirts the fringes of campiness and succeeds most of the time. I think you'll all enjoy it.

Note to Catherine Conrad: Love the Male Beauty Contest. Will there be a swimsuit competition? Evening wear? Talent contest? Do we get to vote for Mr. Congeniality, or do the--ahem--guys do that? Can Maya enter if she decides to be Harrison Ford for a night? Can I help judge? My roommate is willing to kick in the Hootch of the winner's choice as a prize--just now she has an excellent batch of 'Bergman's Best' brandy ready to decant. It already has the John Koenig Seal of Approval, since she always ~~likes~~ gives him the first bottle from her batches. Job security, she calls it.

Well, one more thing and I'm off. I am going to produce a first: the first twisted UFO bio. My alter ego, like the one in SPACE, has shown up in stories, and therefore doesn't use my name. She appeared in Currents, issue II and will probably show up there again. But I'll let her speak for herself.

Hi there. My name is Norma Jean, but my friends call me Spike (don't ask me why. But it's a heckuvalot better than 'Abby-Normal', which is what I was afflicted with in school). I've been working for Harlington-Straker Studios for about a year. You see, my three roommates and I breached SHADO's security and had to blackmail them into hiring us. It was that or be shot, and I hate bloodshed.

My three friends were all placed quickly: one joined the Commander's staff, one works in the Psych Department and one is a Moonbase Interceptor pilot, the first woman to make it through the training. The shrinks put me through all the aptitude tests and finally assigned me to Security under Alec Freeman. When our team isn't working (the four of us are SHADO's first esper team) I'm usually keeping track of every outsider on the studio grounds. My 'cover' job is as a script consultant for the studio and that takes up a lot of my time. Yech!

My opinion of my fellow officers? Hey, this could get sticky. But anyone who reads this has the right clearance, so I'll talk.

Straker: A very complicated man. All ice on the outside, but inside is a human being who has built terrible barriers against other and is sometimes afraid of them. Storm (the leader of my strange group) is loosening up the armor; sometimes he smiles now, and his affection for his people shows up more. This may be because of the new thought-screens that protect them from our enemy's telepathic powers. It's safer now to care. Whyever, he still enjoys his golf and pistol-range workouts--and he still has the highest proficiency rating in unarmed combat. When he says 'Frog', I jump.

Alec Freeman: He's sweet. Ugly as sin, but sweet. He hasn't gotten the attention Paul has, but he hasn't wanted it. His concern has always been to anticipate Straker's needs and fill them; he's always where he needs to be, always does what he's sent to do and returns quietly, expecting nothing more than a word of thanks. We've been working together a lot and even been out a few times socially. So far he's been a perfect knight. I am told this can't last, but I'm enjoying it.

Paul Foster: We didn't get along for a while. When the four of us were dodging SHADO security teams, we had to disable Paul. He never has forgiven me for stealing his trousers. (But can you think of a better way to keep a man from chasing you down a public street?) However, shortly after we joined SHADO, all the awful things that used to happen to Paul started happening to me, and this has softened his attitude. His biggest problem is that he knows he's good-looking. And his love-life. But Time will cure both, I'm sure...

Dr. Doug 'Weasel-face' Jackson: No use hiding Doug's nickname, it showed up in my psych file the last time I was tested. He has a very strange sense of humor, which comes out in barbed comments and double entendres. But I will admit he did a good job on my claustrophobia. He tried to desensitize me and in the process found out that my fear wasn't of small enclosed places, it was of small enclosed places full of people. Other people's panic gets to me. There wasn't much he could do about it, but it got him an article in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology. Anything to stay on his good side.

Enough for now. Got to finish the Christmas card writing. Hope your Christmas is tops and have a Happy New Year, too! I hope to--I'm going home to Florida. Oh, boy. Have fun, everybody. I intend to. Peace.

Becky Eisenhuth, 9873 Palmetto, Bloomington, CA 92316

As a faithful member, I, for one, was sorry to hear about the demise of THE SPACE:1999 SOCIETY. The last issue of its Alpha News Service confirmed my belief that the zine was doing better and was well on its way to being excellent. I guess I was fooled by appearance. It's a terrible thing to happen to a club, especially when it's a club like the SOCIETY who has given their all to promote and support SPACE:1999...

"To everything that might have been...
...to everything that was."

Yes, there could be no better a quote.

To CATHY Conrad: Hi! I just had to tell you that I really enjoyed your Alpha biography and the idea about the MALE BEAUTY CONTEST. Would you consider making me one of the judges? Or, is it over with? If it is--how did I miss it? But, seriously, you said something last time that I really thought I should comment on. I mean, I know it was all in good fun and you didn't mean any harm, but don't you think you were just a little hard on Kathi Lynn Higley? For one thing, as far as I know, Kathi has been working very hard in school to become a commercial illustrator and to say something like: "I'll be sure NOT to buy anything you've illustrated..." I don't know, it just seemed a little mean (oh, well, I guess if Kathi doesn't complain, I shouldn't). But...getting back to the MALE BEAUTY CONTEST idea...I have yet another idea that might relieve boredom. How about doing a stage play? Really, I've been going over several dramas in the library in Rec. Center and I'm considering one of three. Either "Hello, Dolly" (Dr. Russell would be excellent as Dolly Levi), M*A*S*H (could you picture Alan Carter as Hawkeye and Tony Verdeschi as Trapper John?), or "The Sound of Music" (I need sopranos and tenors...anyone know how to play an instrument?). It's going to take me a while to figure out casting and such for whatever play I choose, so if any of you folks out there have a hidden acting talent, just let me know about it in the next issue. All decisions will be final. (Cathy--I'll need an assistant, if you're interested).

Vernon Wells: I must say that at first I was flattered by your generous offer to let me see your great sci-fi collection, but if you are wondering why I haven't taken you up on the offer yet...well, a reliable source has told me all about you! She told me that if I ever do meet with you, then I'd better stay close to a communications post and have a bottle of Tony Verdeschi's beer on hand (something about it causing temporary blindness). I was also told that you have a girl in every section and Alan Carter takes lessons from you! Geesh! And to think, I thought you were a quiet, dedicated scientist. Talk your way out of this one, mister...

To Kathi (you know who you are): Kathi, darling, really now...there is no need to be testy. When you caught me in the Eagle with Alan and we were locked in a 'clinch'--it wasn't what you thought it was. See, I told him I was a natural blonde, but he didn't believe ME so he was just looking at my roots (I can hear you all out there now... "Yeah, I saw that show"). And that accounted for the closeness. And, the reason we were in the Eagle in the first place was because he was overseeing some of the designs in the interior arrangement I had planned for Eagle 5. And...all during that time that I was there with him, all he would talk about was the night to come when you two were going to dinner. So, dear, relax. I'm not raining on your parade. By the way, Alan said the next time you cook for him he wants you to make pot roast, but not as salty as the meat loaf. Okay?

To Evelyn Baker: Are we in for a bio this time?

To Kevin Peterson: Thank you for the Christmas card. I was surprised to get it and it was a lovely gesture.

To Andrea Gualco: I write to several people, but I have yet to write to anyone out of the USA. I guess you might say I'm a little odd, but it always sort of frightened me to write to a foreign country because I'm not sure what the person might think of my intelligence. After all, it would be like representing America. But, I would love to hear from you (if you don't mind making the first move). I really want to hear about Italy and 1999 from your point of view and I, in turn, can tell you my side. By the way, I think your English is wonderful. I just wish I was that good in Italian!

P.S. Cute cover picture last time...

That's all for now, gang. Until next time...I hope you all had a grad Christmas!

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

Hello to all of my fellow Alphans out there in this small world. Hope that all of you have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. One New Year's resolution I'm gonna make this year is to resolve to meet all of you at the con next year. Staying with the con-any Canadian MMA members planning to go, too? I would like to meet up with you so that we could all go as one big happy family. Can you drop me a line on this idea? Have any of you seen a show that you like in a different language? I've now seen the following shows in French: STAR TREK, SPACE:1999 and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. It's kinda easy to follow the story if a person has seen the episode before in English. GALACTICA--the first season is now showing here in French. I just hope that I get to see Series One again in English very soon! I won't make any MMA bios 'til I get to know most of my fellow Alphans at con '81. Since I did such a poor job of my Alpha bio, here is a revised edition:

Actually, I'm on my second tour of duty on Alpha. My first tour, I was assigned in the Security Section as a guard. When my first tour of duty was over, someone down on Earth noticed my secretarial skills, so I was transferred to the Data Section and was made a lieutenant. Just three months before the incident, I was transferred to the moon and as my assignment was a senior secretary to all the department heads, but to the commander specifically. But when I'm not tied up with him--I'm available to the other department heads. A position to evaluate everyone. So here goes:

Commander Koenig: Treat him with deep respect at all times. He's very critical with my work, but appreciates a job well done. A great team man.

Prof. Victor Bergman: Treat this person with deep respect. A person to whom a person can come to with some of their problems. I have difficulty reading his notes sometimes.

Paul Morrow: Love his guitar playing. He and I are both into good music. If there was a piano on the base, he and I would make a great team. Not too much work from him lately.

Tony Verdeschi: A great sense of humor. Always keeps winking an eye at me in Command Center...when Maya's not watching! Also tries to get me to taste his beer!

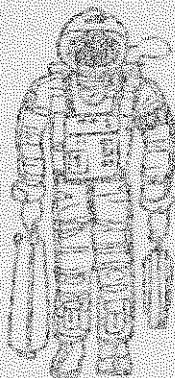
Helena Russell: A real work horse! Always seems to be next in line after the commander's finished with us. She's a neat person when writing notes.

Alan Carter: A joy to work with. Took a course that he conducted in training future Eagle pilots. We found out that we had a mutual interest--sports. He was surprised to see the size of my collection and knowledge. He asked me to be his partner in ping-pong, polo, or even tennis--which I'm still learning.

Maya: Is fascinated by my old typewriter that I have. Unlike most Alphans, I like her and love to see her laugh. Often the both of us have planned a few surprises for Tony. He always gives us the wicked eye.

Sahn Benes: Probably my closest friend on the base due to the fact we work closely together. She would make a terrific singer. Myself, Paul, and she would make a terrific trio. As for Dr. Ben Vincent, Dr. Bob Mathias and David Kano, they seem to keep to themselves indulging in computer games and a mini game of ancient basketball.

Well, that's my Alpha bio and in future I plan on putting in my STAR WARS/EMPIRE bio and in the very near future, a BUCK ROGERS bio! Thanks to Kathi Lynn Higley for her fav characters list and I wish that other fellow MMA members would take time out and write me their fav characters so that I can compile a good idea who we like. The shows are: STAR TREK, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, and of course, SPACE:1999. See you all next issue and I hope by then I have a better response to my survey. Signing off...



THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE: 1999 ALLIANCE

The International Space:1999 Alliance is a non-profit, fan service organization, dedicated to Space:1999, the programs of Gerry Anderson, and all worthwhile SF and Fantasy productions.

The Alliance holds a convention annually, with all proceeds going to a "future oriented" charity, such as a children's hospital.

Over its' three-year history, the Alliance has donated over \$15,000 to charities in Columbus, Ohio and Pittsburgh.

SPACE:1999

CONVENTION '81

The fourth annual Space:1999 Convention will be held Aug 7-9 in Atlanta, Ga. There will be guest and star speakers, a costume competition, a star banquet, art show and auction, fan club meetings, a war gaming room, dealer's room and a charity auction.

Previous years' guests have been:

From SPACE:1999

Martin Landau
Nick Tate
Prentis Hancock
Anton Phillips
Clifton Jones
Gerry Anderson

From STAR WARS/THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
Dave Prowse--Darth Vader

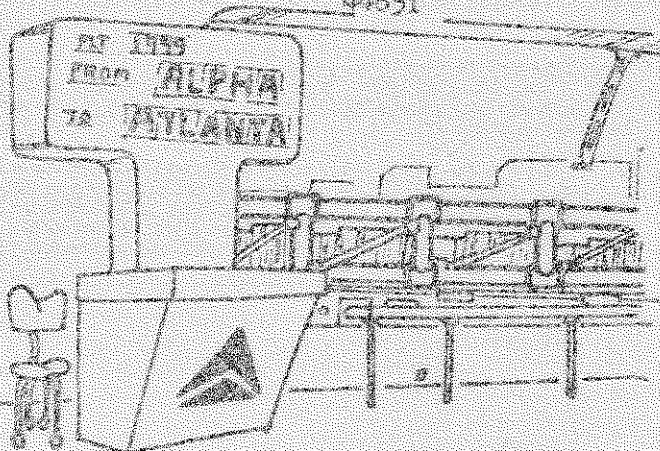
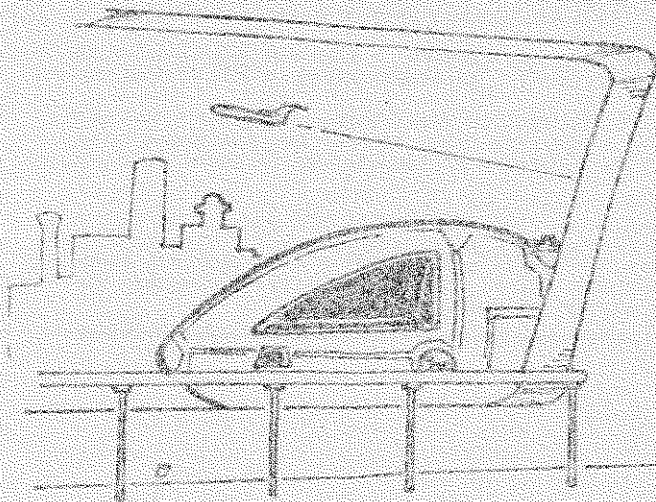
From Battlestar Galactica
Herb Jefferson Jr--Col. Boomer

Invitations for this year's convention will be sent to stars of Space:1999, Buck Rogers, Star Wars/Empire Strikes Back, Superman, Time After Time, Alien and other productions.

Convention membership will be limited to 600.

For information write:

The International Space:1999 Alliance
86 First Street
New London, Ohio
44851



SPACE:1999 PLANET PUZZLER

by Jeff Barber

For each planet in the list below name the episode in which it first appeared or was mentioned.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Ariel | 14. Hermosia |
| 2. Ellna | 15. Ultima Thule |
| 3. Zemo | 16. Sunin |
| 4. Vega | 17. Meta |
| 5. Astheria | 18. Kalthon |
| 6. Entra | 19. Triton |
| 7. Zemo | 20. Psychon |
| 8. Torra | 21. Progon |
| 9. Betha | 22. Kreno |
| 10. Colos | 23. Terra Nova |
| 11. Ultra | 24. Planet D |
| 12. Theselena | 25. Reitha |
| 13. Delta | 26. New Earth |

WANTED: British paperbacks: BIONIC WOMAN "Double Identity"; THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN "Solid Gold Kidnapping"; "Rescue of Athena One"; "Secret of Bigfoot"; SPACE:1999 Year One #2 and Year Two #6. Any and all of the Gerry Anderson annuals including SPACE:1999. STAR WARS bubblegum sticker sets. Canadian series 1 & 2 and American series 2 & 3. The complete set of cards and stickers for the first and second set of EMPIRE Canadian edition. Paperbacks: "Once an Eagle" by Anton Myrer, "The Three Musketeers" by Alexandre Dumas; "Elizabeth R" by Rosemary Sisson and "Edward & Mrs. Simpson". For further information, write to: Ms. Elenore Claassen, 1740-47 Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 2S2.

Attention! NOW is the time to join the National Alliance of Fans for Martin Landau & Barbara Bain. Send SASE to: Debbie Phares, 160 Edna Mary Wy #F, Mtn. View, CA 94040. Don't miss out SPECIAL Double December issue of "Mission:1999" #6/7! Write now!

CATACOMB ECHOES: Another new SPACE:1999 fanzine is in the works. C.E. is planned for a September, 1981 release. There will be four trial issues of CATACOMB ECHOES Sept '81, Jan, May, and Sept '82. If the trial issues succeed, CATACOMB ECHOES will continue. If anyone has ideas or just would like to help in anyway, please contact: Mark Robertson, 9421 Sagefield Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70811.

THE SPRINGFIELD SPACE:1999 CLUB: Membership includes subscription to ALPHA LOG newsletter and more. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Chris Landry, 12 Maplewood Terrace, Springfield MA 01108.

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

THE PRENTIS HANCOCK FAN CLUB: Membership includes card, quarterly Communiqué newsletter, club binder with full color insert, bio and credits sheet. \$5.00/U.S. & Canada, \$6.00/overseas (U.S. funds only). For more info, send s.a.s.e./IRC to: 123 Pawn Valley Drive, McMurray, PA 15317.

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

TIME FOR CHANGES: Original SPACE:1999 novella, written by Steven Eramo, with photo section, 60 pgs offset printed. \$4.50 (U.S. & Canada); \$5.50 (overseas). Price includes postage. Order from: Steven Eramo, 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180.

MOONRISE PRESS: Issues of MOONBEAM and FELGERCARR available, containing S:99, SW, BSG, DW, LOGAN'S RUN, and much, much more. Contributions also considered for future issues of FELGERCARR and for FALCONER (SW/ESB). Send self-addressed stamped envelope for catalogue of all publications to: Deborah M. Walsh, 1 Tufts St #6, Malden, MA 02148.

ALPHA LOG: Back issues available now. Issue #1 permanently out of print (sorry); issues #2, 3 and 4 are available now for \$1.50 per, price includes postage. Back issues of Command Center newsletter also available; send for the complete Fan Fund listing for a list of CC issues available. ALPHA LOG Journal contains stories, artwork, poems, etc, contributed by MFA members. Order from: Main Mission Alpha, c/o Mary Bloemker 5 Lamson Street, East Boston, MA 02128.

Also available from the Fan Fund: Color 3X5 photos from both Year One and Year Two; photos from the first three 1999 Conventions; photos from other favorite TV programs. Send a business-sized S.A.S.E. in order to receive the complete Fan Fund photo listing today!

ANSWERS TO SPACE:1999 PLANET PUZZLER

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. THE LAST SUNSET | 10. THE EXILES | 19. RING AROUND THE MOON |
| 2. DEVIL'S PLANET | 11. DRAGON'S DOMAIN | 20. THE METAMORPH |
| 3. MISSING LINK | 12. DORZAK | 21. END OF ETERNITY |
| 4. ONE MOMENT OF HUMANITY | 13. THE LAST ENEMY | 22. THE AB CHRYSALIS |
| 5. COLLISION COURSE | 14. THE TAYBOR | 23. MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH |
| 6. DEVIL'S PLANET | 15. DEATH'S OTHER DOMINION | 24. BRIAN THE BRAIN |
| 7. THE INFERNAL MACHINE | 16. A MATTER OF BALANCE | 25. THE FULL CIRCLE |
| 8. THE SEANCE SPECTRE | 17. BREAKAWAY | 26. NEW ADAM, NEW EVE |
| 9. THE LAST ENEMY | 18. SEED OF DESTRUCTION | |



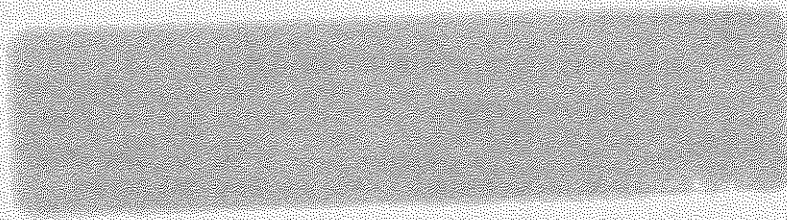
**MAIN
MISSION
ALPHA**

5 Lamson St
East Boston, MA 02128



Third Class
Printed Matter

To:



Postage Guaranteed