



Commander
John Koenig



SPACE: 1999

Command Center

Sept/Oct 1980

Welcome, all, to the September/October 1980 issue of Command Center. In an attempt to clear up some of the confusion that I have handily managed to cause, yes, I realize that I said last issue that I was back with the regular printers instead of the mimeo machine, and yes, I realize that I promptly printed that self-same issue on the mimeo machine. Between the time I typed the newsletter and the time I got it copied, I had managed to wangle a deal for the use of the mimeo machine that was located at my previous place of employment. I won't bore you with the minor details of the arrangement, but I do feel compelled to warn you that it looks as though it will be a few more issues yet before I can definitely state whether or not any particular will be mimeo or offset. At this point, I'm not even sure how this issue is going to be printed. The mimeo machine has its problems. Not only is it relatively inconvenient, it also requires a great deal of physical effort and is prone to 'glitches'--blobs of ink where you don't want them and words missing from where you do want them. On the plus side, however, it's cheaper than our regular printer (because yours truly doesn't have to pay for labor--she's doing it herself!), and the savings can then be put towards postage, which then means that MMA can afford to send out larger issues of Command Center. Mimeo is not neat, and it may look as though it were run off in someone's back room (because it quite literally is run off in a back room), but by using it we can expand Command Center. On the other hand, with the regular printer, we can depend on neat, crisp copies and a neat, crisp editor because all she has to do is drop off the originals and pick up the copies. We also don't have to depend on the vagaries of trying to get hold of the mimeo machine, which could delay the publication of the newsletter by several weeks. But we also have to start editing down the newsletters, because the regular printers have upped their prices (AGAIN!!!) and there is no way that we could afford both the printing cost and the extra postage. To wrap up this boring dissertation, and to make a long story short, if you receive a five page newsletter on white paper, that means that our quest for the mimeo machine failed, and we were forced to resort to the regular printers; however, lopsided printing on colored paper, with five and more pages, means that we were victorious. (Now, are there any volunteers to turn the crank?)

By the way, it has been brought to my attention that several of you have been receiving your newsletters in little plastic bags with a little note of apology from the U.S. Postal Service. Rather than try your patience with our tale of woe about the voracious mail sorting machines at the South Postal Annex (these machines were bought at great expense from some natives along the Amazon River, and are second cousins to the infamous man-eating plants found along the banks of that afore-mentioned waterway. They exist on a diet of paper and unshelled peanuts, and have been known to decimate an entire shipment of National Geographics at one sitting), we instead offer replacement of your mangled missives. All we ask from you is the cost of postage, and we will again attempt to get your newsletter past the jaws of these terrible instruments of destruction.

Last, but not least, you, dear reader, may have noticed a slight dearth of con reports in this issue of Command Center. Come on, you people, you were there--I saw you!! I know you weren't hiding in Wendy's for three solid days, so why not tell us what you did, hm?

Now, on to business. As most of you already know, the site of the 1981 convention will be Atlanta, Georgia. Boston, the leading contender in the voting at the 1980 con, was finally bumped from consideration by the exorbitant cost of hotel rooms. (Since we know that most 1999 fans don't have any more money than we do, and the Boston City Police tend to frown upon pitching tents on the Common, we reluctantly, but graciously, concede the point.) Since we realize that there are many of you out there who have just realized that Atlanta lies within your budgetary limitations, here is what you do. Send five dollars (\$8.00 overseas) to the International SPACE:1999 Alliance, 86 First Street, New London, OH 44851, and they, in turn, will keep you supplied with any and all information on the convention plans as fast as they can turn it out. You can also stay tuned to the pages of Command Center, where we will be doing our darndest to keep up with the stuff that they are coming out with as fast as they can turn it out.

SPOTTED: Freddie Jones (Dr. Logan, JOURNEY TO WHERE) as "Bytes" in the new movie release THE ELEPHANT MAN, starring John Hurt and Anthony Hopkins.

COMING: Starting in January, MASTERPIECE THEATER will air the thirteen-part DANGER UXB on local PBS stations. Appearing in various episodes of this series will be Nick Tate (Capt. Alan Carter), Prentis Hancock (Paul Morrow) and Anton Phillips (Dr. Bob Mathias). Also appearing as a semi-regular: Judy Geeson (Regina Kesslann, ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE)

HEARD: Music from the SPACE:1999 Year One Soundtrack album in a COAST deoderant soap commercial. (This same music has also been used in various radio markets to advertise local discos)

COMING: Julian Glover (Jarak, ALPHA CHILD) in the new James Bond movie FOR YOUR EYES ONLY.

FANDERSON 81, March 27-29, 1981, Dragonara Hotel, Leeds, England. Guest of Honor: Gerry Anderson. Registration rates: (U.K.) £6 attending, £3 supporting, £3.50 one day attending; (U.S.A.) \$15 attending, \$7.50 supporting, \$8 one day attending (After December 31, 1980, registration rates will rise by 50%). Registration for FANDERSON 81 entitles member to all Progress Reports as they appear, the convention book, two convention badges, plus entry into one of the two FREE raffles (one for attending and one for non-attending members.) Attractions will include guest stars, films and TV episodes, a dealers' room, auction, competitions for stories, artwork and fancy dress, and a disco. For more information send S.A.E (U.K.) or two Internations Reply Coupons (overseas) to: Pamela Barnes, 38A Thornton Ave., Chiswick, London W4 1QQ, England. Cheques, postal orders and dollar drafts must be made out to FANDERSON 81.

The following is a letter sent out by The SPACE:1999 Society to its members and to the 1999 fan organization with which it conducted regular publication trades. We have decided to reprint it here because we believe that it directly affects every single SPACE:1999 fan, whether they were a member of the Society or not. We feel that it is a sad thing when a fan organization, especially a 1999 fan organization, folds, and we find it especially discouraging to note the reasons why this particular organization is closing its doors:

"Dear Alphans:

With great regret and disappointment, we sadly announce that in a few weeks The SPACE:1999 Society will become officially inactive as an organization. Fan support has fallen off drastically from last year, and after long discussion, we have concluded that the continued operation of The SPACE:1999 Society would no longer be of service of SPACE:1999 fandom. Other factors which contributed to our decision were the cancellations of our 1979 and 1980 SPACE:1999 Conventions, as well as steadily increasing costs of operation and difficulties in producing goods and services. None of this has been helped by the comments which have appeared in the promotional literature and a few of the newsletters of one of fandom's largest groups, relating to disagreements which occurred between the co-ordinators of the SPACE:1999 Convention 1978, sponsored by the original Save:1999 Alliance. Although we will not qualify those attempts to damage our credibility with rebuttal, we will state that we consider those actions to have been both unfair and irresponsible, for the simple reason that we were unable to express our point of view to the same body of SPACE:1999 fans. Our single attempt to explain our views in Alpha News Service #2 was responded to with sarcasm, false accusations and by having our statements quoted out-of-context. As Shakespeare wrote, "All is not gold that glisters."

The result has been the development of an undercurrent of hostility in fandom which has manifested itself in the form of rumor-mongering and slander, directed at first against the DSociety and most recently against groups which only traded newsletters with us. We did what we could to put an end to it, but the hostility is still there. That, perhaps, is the greatest disappointment.

We sincerely thank all of our present and former members for their support, and we especially thank those who contributed letters and suggestions. We hope that everyone will keep foremost in mind the messages and ideals of SPACE:1999 and that hope for its renewal will continue.

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

Command Conference

Ware Fitzgerald, 123 Pawn Valley Drive, McMurray, PA 15317:

Con '80 was alot like our previous two, yet it was different, too. There was a little something for everyone this year. True, we weren't swamped with thousands of eager fans, but then, smaller more personal cons have that many more good memories. Seeing Prentis again was wonderful; he's... "charming" is the best word I can think of to describe him. I've come away from the con feeling positively privileged to handle his fan club. And it was good to see Nick again, too and to meet Eileen and Phyl. The stars and the con events were a great part of the con's best memories, but the best moments were 'after hours' when new friendships happen and everyone feels that life will be a carefree vacationland forever. It was a good weekend to forget about all the details of life, like going to work and cleaning the house, etc, etc, etc...and to feel free as an eagle.

As for helping SPACE:1999, well, I believe Nick put it very well when he told us that he doesn't believe the series will ever be revived. Now please, don't start painting picket signs and writing hate mail. Just because 1999 probably won't return doesn't mean it isn't the best SF ever produced for TV, nor does it mean we should turn our backs on it. 1999 is alive; it's more alive every time any of us writes to any other fan, or every time a new story or piece of art is produced. Do you realize how much power we have in fandom. Each of us has the power to make 1999 grow into anything we want it to be. There's nothing specific I can put my finger on about con '80, but it's made me feel "recharged" with spirit. As long as any of us can still feel that special feeling when we think about 1999, it will never die. I can only speak for myself; 1999's gonna be around for a long, long time.

Don Palermo, 708 King's Row, Denton, TX 76201:

I completely agree with popular opinion that continuous negative discussion of fandom tends to hurt the effort of fans, but sometimes it's absolutely necessary to point out the fault no matter how much it may hurt, and there's a malfunction in 1999 fandom that needs to be pointed out before it becomes hopeless. I don't know if anyone has thought about what I'm about to say, but I suspect at least a few people have. I've been getting a distinct impression lately that the big-name fans of 1999 are abusing their status in 1999 fandom, monopolizing it, and affecting its directions to further their own personal interests in SF beyond 1999. I'm sure, sans sarcasm, that it's unintentional, and I don't mean to attack or insult anyone, but the PNFs, the presidents, the editors, and so on, have a seductively tempting opportunity, in that they decide what does and does not go into their zines, to over-promote the series or movies they especially like, and I have reason to believe they're too often giving in to the sinful temptation of propagandising. Essentially, we are getting too much emphasis in 1999 fandom on certain shows and little or none whatsoever on others. Two of the primary purposes and functions of the IS:1999A and all other 1999 clubs, surely, are 'to support all Gerry Anderson productions' (direct quote from the Alliance Constitution--I suggest you read it) and 'to encourage and support quality science fiction/fantasy for television'. Thus I should think we'd be bound, morally if nothing else, to support any Anderson productions at least as much as non-Anderson ones. (Why is TV mentioned, but not motion pictures?) Support for non-Anderson productions is fine--indeed, is quite admirable--but the amount of support being expressed in 1999 fandom's public zines for non-Anderson SF, particularly BUCK ROGERS, GALACTICA and especially DOCTOR WHO, is incredibly and unproportionally greater than that expressed for Anderson brainstormed SF. This is very clearly evidenced by the often-enough chockingly

thick coverage and incessant editor ravings for these shows, while coverage and even mere mention of Anderson SF like UFO is virtually nonexistent. Speaking of which, UFO is very much a parent of SPACE:1999, no matter how much you may deny it, and we owe something to it. UFO deserves appreciation, not ignorance. This ignorance of UFO is very unfortunately lending itself to what would appear to be outright dislike, or at least utter apathy as to its future. In the July/Aug 1980 newsletter of SHADO-USECC, an excellent UFO club (there should be a half page ad in the Con '80 program book), Ted Trimbath said of the treatment of UFO at Con '80 and I quote:

"...I attended the SPACE:1999 convention in Columbus, Ohio. If this was the best the (International SPACE)1999 Alliance could do, they need help. I had a great time, but it was in spite of the Alliance, not because of it.

"The UFO faction was clearly abused; no (UFO) episodes were shown, Sunday's slide show was mistakenly misprinted as a repeat of the trivia contest, and the (SHADO-USECC) fan club meeting was bumped to the game room by an overflow crowd for Nick Tate...

"The fact remains that our (SHADO) representation at the con was meager...

"...Helen (Weber, a new USECC member) was firm in her determination to bring Ed Bishop to the U.S. for the next SPACE:1999 Alliance con. She is right; the appearance of Straker (at a 1999 con) could bring about a renaissance for the UFO series in America...an outright guarantee of passage and lodging (to a 1999 con) will turn the trick..."

And I am happy to say that, despite the apathy of most of official 1999 fandom, serious plans are now being made to get Ed and videotapes of UFO at Con '81. Another aspect of this monopolization that I object to is the choice of SF in terms of their quality. Why is it that, if 1999 fandom is trying to 'encourage and support quality SF...', seemingly only DOCTOR WHO, BUCK ROGERS and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA & GALACTICA 1980 are discussed through public channels so incredibly often, while other programs, like 2001, THE PRISONER, STAR TREK, UFO, LOGAN'S RUN and THE LATHE OF HEAVEN (with the exception of the scarce Main Computer letters) are practically never mentioned publicly? Keeping in mind the word quality, I'd love to know why BR, BSG and DOCTOR WHO are so much publicly accepted as quality SF (i.e., condoned and enthused over by the leaders of 1999 fandom) while THE PRISONER, 2001, TREK, UFO, LOGAN'S RUN and THE LATHE are not swooned over in the zines in the least, thereby implying that all 1999 fandom feels that they aren't quality SF. At least one of us here on Earth happens to think that 2001, TP, ST, UFO, LR and TLOH are almost as good as 1999, and he doesn't give a cow's chip about something that's either mostly silly and, as SF, useless, or just plain bad, like BR, BSG and G:80, and possibly FANTASTIC JOURNEY, which I've also heard a lot of discussion about although I've never seen it; nor does he give a damn about something that will probably not be seen by him for another three or four years, like DOCTOR WHO. (I don't even think DW really exists; I think it's just a legend dreamed up by New Englanders to confound Texans. (Ed.note: Darned clever, us Yanks. MaryB.) While I'm on the subject, I'd like to relieve myself on this show for a second. From what I've endlessly been hearing about DW, I think I might very well like it when I see it, but I don't see it, either on regular TV or the cable, and I don't think five years before I do get it here is too exaggerated an estimate. One of the most frustrating things I've ever experienced other than listening to a hardcore trekker excrete on SPACE:1999 is hearing an enormous amount of raving over something I'm totally unfamiliar with, and this businness with DW is getting me more ticked off than a clock. I imagine I'd probably like DW, for itself, but I'm afraid that by the time my area does get it, if ever, I'll be prejudiced against it and will hate it, even though it may be the kind of SF I like. Every time I see some 1999 editor writing about the 'wise and wonderful Doctor Who' and 'our beloved Doctor' I get this sudden nearly uncontrollable urge to put my machete to better use than just scaring girls.) Now, if you doubt the existence of reasons to support my argument, observe cases in point: The 1999 zines, seemingly, though not necessarily literally, invariably include at least a mention of BR, BSG and DW in every issue. And how often have 2001, TP, et al been mentioned in 1999 zines, other than the Main Computer LATHE letters and ads, which I personally have usually had to have placed with the exception of UFO fandom's Jim Main, to whom I again send my congratulations) and one lone interview by Steve Eramo with Gabrielle Drake in Alpha Newsletter 24? (Thank you, Steve. I'm sorry you had to explain in a subsequent issue who Gabrielle was. I guess people just tend to forget things like that. Anybody know who Martin Landau is?) and the con committee has considered at least quite a few con guests from BG, BR and DW, while the most non-1999 guests from Anderson shows is one, Ed Bishop. (No, I will not say who Ed Bishop is). Even the one other good bit of history is tainted. In the Alliance Con '80 Update 3 (MC 2/6) it says "An invitation has been sent to Ed Bishop, Commander Straker in the UFO series...", as if nobody had ever heard of UFO; it also says "Tom Baker is no longer on the convention invitation list", as if everyone was on a first-name basis with him and saw DW three times a day. I believe Tom Baker plays the title role in the current series of DOCTOR WHO, but that's all I know about him and about all I know of the series. And until there's a real chance of my seeing DW, that's all I care to know of it. And have LOGAN'S RUN or 2001, or any episodes of THE PRISONER, STAR TREK or UFO been shown at any 1999 con? These are the more obvious examples of this monopolization and bias in 1999 fandom, but there are far more instances I could mention. 1999 fandom seems to be giving a lot of itself to other, non-1999 areas of SF, which is certainly honorable, but it is far too much to the near utter exclusion of Anderson productions and many others which have rights as well. By way of possible reason why this bias exists, every single 1999 zine or club originates in some area of the West, usually the U.S., that is favorable to SF and fantasy; thus they can get more SF programming than they know what to do with, including DOCTOR WHO, and if it's as good as I've heard, the editors, presidents, etc, will, for all practical purposes, invariably fall in love with it. That in itself is wonderful, but now we have SPACE:1999 fandom being run by people who are very enthusiastically in favor of DW. (Ask any 1999 editor if he likes DW; listen for the eternal comment "Of course".) Fine, but I've never seen DW--and I am part of 1999 fandom. Now, why UFO and THE PRISONER aren't shown there as well as where I live is inexplicable. Only three SF series have done well in my area of Texas in the past twenty or so years: STAR TREK, LOST IN SPACE, and THE PRISONER. (Incidentally, STAR TREK fandom is hopelessly dominant above all other fandoms here. Help!) I'd love to start a major 1999 club from here in Texas. If I were the editor I wouldn't print the phrase DOCTOR WHO one single time; instead, I would fill up the pages each issue with info on THE PRISONER, UFO and MONTY PYTHON, the latter of which is also extremely successful here (British comedy in general is very big here, I'm happy and proud to say). And I wouldn't concentrate on Nick Tate and Series Two of 1999 all the time; I would give the rest of the cast, and Series One, a chance to live. Anyway, the hopefully unintentional bias that exists in 1999 fandom I think is a result of the fact that the people who control the processing of 1999's public correspondence in periodicals have allowed their own personal preferences in SF to come out; the problem in this lies in the fact that it is a very biased and dangerously powerful way: constant positive exposure. That, comrades, is propaganda, even if it isn't intentional, and I do not think it is intentional. I'll admit the main reason why I'm getting as many ants in my underwear as I am is because

I see so much incessant raving over areas I have little or no interest in, while there is little or no interest expressed in areas I have great interest in. I probably wouldn't give all this unfairness a second thought, or even a first one, if it were 2001, TP, TREK, UFO, LOGAN'S RUN and THE LATHE that people were apparently raving about, granted, because I like them and I can't get enough of them. But it ain't them official fandom seems to be swooning over, and no matter what it is that is being swooned over, it ain't right to swoon over it publically so much more than anything else which also deserves at least recognition. I often wonder if 1999 fandom is being monopolized by BUCK ROGERS fans, GALACTICA fans, Nick Tate fans, and DW fans, and I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. The argument that the nine editors are only responding to fan interest wears thin; how can there be only one person in all 1999 fandom who likes 2001, THE PRISONER, et al? I know for fact that I'm not alone in love for these, and I'd like to ask that anyone who considers himself a fan of 2001, THE PRISONER, UFO, STAR TREK, LOGAN'S RUN or THE LATHE OF HEAVEN to say in CC that you like any or all of them and/or agree with me. I want to prove that not everybody in 1999 fandom gives a f**k for BUCK ROGERS, GALACTICA or DOCTOR WHO, and that there are those who like lother programs, so that we can get 1999 fandom to have respect for those of us who do love 2001, THE PRISONER, et al.

And last but hardly least, I know for fact that SPACE:1999 isn't dying. On the appropriate night of September 13, 1980, at 9 pm Central, in WGN Channel 9 from Chicago on the cable, I viewed the first episode of 1999 I've seen in four years. A "To Be Announced" feature turned out to be 1999' IMMUNITY SYNDROME, which them brought the total number of times I'd been able to see a Series Two episode to twice (AB CHRYSALIS had the first honor.) SPACE:1999, amo tibi.

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

One of the things my job on Alpha requires is that I work just about everywhere for varying periods of time. I meet most everyone, but, unfortunately, I never stay at one job long enough to really get to know my fellow Alphans. Here is what I know about the ones I've met:

Beck Eisenhuth: I haven't been avoiding you, honest. I only recently discovered who made the reports on me. Although I didn't appreciate your announcement or Bobbie's newspaper article when it was first made, I have since changed my mind. At first there was some harassment, but later I enjoyed all the attention. To put an end to the rumor: I said I helped design Alpha--that is the key word. As my field is Electronic Engineering I helped the designers with technical suggestions mainly. For example: how much power would be needed by certain sections and which reactor should allocate the power, which computer would be the best choice for certain Eagles, and which circuit would be best for the commlock's transmitter, etc. Also, would someone please tell Commander Koenig that it was not my idea to have the communications posts in the center of the halls; I wanted them in the recessed areas along the corridor. After the barrage of complaints I received, I set up a suggestion box. Now the Commander has decided that my next assignment will be to look into those suggestions. I look forward to looking into some of the propositions some of the female Alphans have made. Although they did not sign their names (zut alors!) I feel it is my duty to look them up. After all, an order is an order. Becky, if you are interested, meet me at the solarium at 19:00 hours Friday. If you can't make it, my commlock I.D. number is T 80-007. Give me a buzz sometime. You might be interested in my huge S-F collection I smuggled in on microfilm.

Kathi Lynn Higley: There's no need to feel sorry for me. I think the day word leaked out everyone was in a bad mood--talk about gripes! Someone even said that I couldn't design myself out of a box! Not everyone was hostile, Maya had a few kind words for me. After the initial rush to my quarters, I set up a suggestion box and beat a hasty retreat to the Security Research Station for a few days. I was visting Kathi the other day when I noticed a stun gun under her bed. I first thought that it was a strange place to keep her gun, but I noticed she was wearing hers. I wonder who left it there. I didn't ask her at the time because I didn't want to seem nosy. I'm still curious though.

Lt. Wayne L'laws: I don't see him too often because I can usually fix my own stun gun. I do have an idea on how he can get his revenge on Barber. I could help him rig up a trick stun gun and then switch it with Jeff's. He could meet Barber and dare him to stun him because he now thinks that the gun is an illusion. When Jeff shoots, a stiff (but not harmful) shock is what he'd get. He will literally knock his own socks off. If that is not enough revenge for him, he might go as far as to get someone to hypnotize Jeff into thinking he is an illusion. That may be taking it a little far, though. Sorry about the power short, Wayne. In a prototype power switching system I was testing, there was one faulty relay which I missed because I was too anxious to throw the switch. Then everything shorted out. When I make a mistake, I make a big one! They only happen once in a blue moon, though, and there are many of those up here.

Tom Chafin: I've worked quite extensively with him on Eagles. I've tried like everyone else to get him to read some good books, but he is a confirmed junk book junkie. Next time I catch him reading one of those books on an Eagle, I will take that book, put it in the airlock and then flush it into space. He does a great job even is he reads that stuff.

Bob Lia: Can't say that I have had much experience with him. But once I was checking some circuits in communications by sending high-frequency signals through them; I must have checked one channel too many because I heard a "Yow!" I cut the power and found that I had given him a stiff headache. Sorry about that.

Lynn Wims: She's often helped me with all the repairing and redoing that needs to be done on Alpha. She has a great deal of skill in many areas and I think I've worked with her in just about all of them. I am crazy about her library. She is kind enough to let me devour all the science fiction books in the library. Although I have many books on microfilm, she can still supply me with book after book.

Lis Therkildsen: I must say I am glad I don't have her job. I must take real ingenuity to keep coming up with new foods for all us picky eaters. I hope she feels that we appreciate her because I know we complain too much about the food.

Amelia Rodgers: I worked with her a little along with Sandra Benes when we were switching communications control from Main Mission to Command Cneter. I've seen her artwork and I must say that she is talented. I've been trying to get her to paint a STAR WARS collage of all eight episodes, but she hasn't had a chance yet. (One thing that really makes me angry is the fact that Episode IX--the concluding episode of the three trilogies would not have been shown until May of 2001. Now we will never know what finally happens!)

Tony Laker, 611 Western Ave., Batesville, Ind., 47006:

Thanks to Sandy Doyle, I have come up with my own biography, a VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA bio. I am a medic aboard the submarine Seaview. I assist the Doc whenever I can and fill in for him when he is treating emergency cases in other parts of the sub. And what do I think of some of Seaview's crewmembers? Here are my opinions:

Admiral Nelson: Is a very nice person and I certainly don't envy his high position of responsibility and some of the jams it has gotten him into. I would have gone batty if I'd have gotten a werewolf virus like he did last year. As busy as he is combatting all kinds of menaces, he still finds time to begin the setting-up of the ship's Christmas decorations every Christmas.

Captain Crane: All the guys like him. He shows all the new guys around Seaview and also introduces them to everybody. Why, I remember how scared I was when I requested my transfer from the Navy sub to the Seaview. I was pretty nervous. I had heard all the scuttlebutt about how tough it was for a new man on Seaview. He introduced me around and I got to know everybody. He was very patient with me and only gave me a mild reprimand when I accidentally broke the gears on the Flying Sub.

CPO Sharkey: Sometimes he makes a lot of business for me. He got the 'A' in Home Economics in high school and he still thinks he remembers his cooking. So once he tried to help out the cook. Unfortunately, he didn't have a long-term memory and had forgotten a lot of his cooking technique. A lot of men were in sick bay that day with a twenty-four hour stomach ache.

Commander Morton: Is all business in the Control Room but off-duty he thinks up a lot of interesting things for us guys to do. He knows all the best card games as I sadly found out the first time I played him. I lost my mint copy of SPACE FAMILY ROBINSON #1 to him (I'll win it back someday!)

Kowalski: I think I see him most of all the crew. I think he's been in sickbay a dozen times. Like there was the time when he was turned into a pirate by Blackbeard and the time he was turned into a deadly amphibian. Thinking about that poor guy's troubles can make anybody forget theirs.

Patterson: Is a best friend. We both come from similar backgrounds (small town). He showed me the correct way to use the Flying Sub after that time I broke off the gear.

Riley: He's a lucky guy to have around. He has records for every occasion and every taste. He's let me listen to his rock'n'roll records on some of my off-duty time.

Whoops, that all I can write now. I think I hear an explosion...

Catherine Conrad, 320 Hartwell St., Royston, GA 30662:

First, I'd like to say THANK YOU to Mary Bloemker for running one of the craziest and best fan clubs I've yet joined. Pretty good for a damn Yankee. (Just kidding!) I'm very, very sorry you had to discontinue the tradition of the Memory Books. I didn't know of MMA or the books in time to contribute, much less find out what they are. But I understand your reason--you're doing the best job possible under this and other adverse circumstances that curtail all humane attempts at ultimate efficiency in the vicissitudes of life. (How's that for poetic license?)

In case y'all are wondering about why I'm calling myself Catherine instead of Cathy, I'll give you a brief explanation: for one thing, it sounds better with my last name. For another, there was a mixup at our local post office about my using both Cathy and Catherine. Some moron thought there were two of me, and put some of my mail in the dead letter box. I know you'd all like to have two of me, but that just ain't possible. So, to avoid that ninnul sending my letters to Zirndorf, West Germany, I'm using only Catherine.

I enjoyed reading Kathi Lynn Pigley's (oops, Higley's!) "Ultimate SPACE:1999 TRIVIA QUIZ." I missed only Question 7--who sleeps in Helena Russell's quarters. I thought both she and John Koenig slept there. As per your score ratings, Kathi Lynn, when do I get my free lobotomy from Doc Russell?

I agree with you about GALACTICA 1980. It was as bad as the original GALACTICA was good. By the way, I read that you intend to be a commercial illustrator--I'll be sure not to buy anything you've illustrated. (If that won't get a response, nothing will.) Look out, Kathi Lynn, I fully intend to top your record for zaniness. Believe me, by the time Convention '81 rolls around, you'll be willing to pay me to attend, just so you can meet that crazy 'Conrad' character. See you later, bantha-brain!

To Vernon Wells: Thanks for mentioning that STARLOG was not sending out the Alpha Tech book supplements it was supposed to. I was beginning to think I was the only one that wasn't receiving them. STARLOG is definitely slipping up in its service to SPACE:1999 fans. I applaud your efforts to make them do the contrary.

To Don Palermo: I see the feud is growing hotter between you and other MMA members as to who's a true SPACE:1999 fan and who is not. My opinion of the matter is, why argue about it? Something like devotion to a TV show is too intangible to judge in absolute terms. It's safe to say that someone who does something for or involving SPACE:1999, no matter how small, is a true fan. I agree with you, however, about the fan awards. The trouble with most awards, as this one, is that they turn out to be little more than popularity contests. I support the Fan Fund which backs it, however, and I think the ones who should receive the Fan Award are the ones in a real financial bind, who have missed the previous cons. Unfortunately, they are usually the same people who are the stay-in-the-background fans, who may be ashamed that they didn't have the money to go. The only solution would be another reason for fans to become active--write a letter, get some recognition... or notoreity as I shall get if I don't shut up. Oh, well! By the way, did you know that there's a city in Sicily named Palermo?

To Sandy Doyle: I enjoyed your letter in CC very much. Especially your slightly lunatic Alphan biography. It should be a lesson to all ye Alphas who think you can get away with wearing civvies. By the way, I'm in charge of this month's distraction from boredom on Alpha...(drum roll)...presenting the First Annual Male Alphan Beauty Contest! That's right, there's going to be a showing of male pulchritude in the rec room newsletter after next. I'm the judge and registrar. All male Alphas are invited to register, after giving the

required vital statistics: name, age, coloring, and what you are willing to bribe me with to win. I've already gotten a list of nominations--Maya just nominated a very embarrassed Tony Verdeschi, who quickly registered after being challenged by Alan Carter. He came by my quarters one night, of all things, with a bouquet of fake roses and a quart of his ~~spicy~~ ^{spicy} beer, singing Italian opera. Somebody shut him up! Anyway, he had the gall to try to sway my judgement in his favor. I'm sorry, Tony, but that dimple on your left bun I saw just shot your perfect image all to hell! Even Alan Carter tried to sway me--because I'm working under him, for now, he's been giving me shorter shifts and smiling at me more. Would you believe Koenig is trying to get his own two cents in? When we were alone yesterday, he whispered sweet nothings into my ear--they must have been nothings, I couldn't hear what the hell he was saying. Trying to charm me. Boy, did the you-know-what hit the fan when Helena Russell saw us! Next issue, all XM Alphans who want to be a contestant should say so.

To new MMA member Kevin Peterson: Welcome! The experience you described before finding out about SPACE:1999 fan clubs closely paralleled mine. I know the exultant feeling you must have felt upon discovering that there were loons like me who felt that same way about SPACE:1999--I just started joining fan clubs at about the same time you did. Again, welcome!

Now, I'll introduce myself properly to all ye MMA members, whether you like it or not. I'm a science fiction writer, as yet unpublished. I recently acquired an agent, however, and he's close to getting my novel sold. For now I'm writing short stories, in the hope of establishing a writing track record, which may speed the publication of my book. I'm a fan of SPACE:1999 primarily, and of SPAR TREK (to an extent), BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, DOCTOR WHO (Even though I haven't seen an episode since early '75) and of the cancelled '79 NEC miniseries CLIFFHANGERS. I especially liked the "Curse of Dracula" segment of it, which starred Michael Nouri. In my opinion, he portrayed Dracula better than Frank Langella. I've been a science fiction aficionado ever since I was privileged to watch the launching of an Apollo rocket from only a few miles away. If ever any of you saw such a majestic sight, you, too, would be influenced for life. OK, Mary, you needn't play your violin--I'll stop the soap opera. Incidentally, even though I'm a writer, I enjoy with equal fervor Sci-fi in the media. One form of science fiction is not better than another--they're merely different. Each has its own laurels.

I recently saw THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. Here's my personal opinion: I was disappointed. The movie, while good in itself, could not compare to the original STAR WARS. It had none of the epic feeling, the grand scale that SW had. It should have at least had the visual bigness of its predecessor--it was twice as much confusing, and it left too much unexplained. If TESB had been released as a book first, it would have bombed.

Now for my Alpha biography. I know you members have been just driving yourselves crazy wanting to know more about me, so here goes. I am one of the youngest to ever be accepted for Alpha. I was assigned in early 1999 and I arrived on September 12, 1999 (Can you beat timing like that?). I was in an Eagle ready for take off when the moon blasted out. After routine pilot duty, I was promoted quickly to senior pilot, where I now am. My ambition above and beyond putting up with Capt. Carter until promotion time lies in either the sciences or data section...but who knows? Fortunately, I went through Breakaway and survive, but Alan isn't making survival easy. He's the most infuriating person I know! But I'm truly enjoying my job. My proficiency in the areas of astronomy and computer technology is coming in handy on all those reconnaissance missions. (Bet you didn't think I could spell 'reconnaissance') I've also put my literary skill to work. I've been writing the scripts for the newscasts on the six o'clock Alpha News Service, and various articles for Alpha's newspaper.

Let me tell you about what happened after my last letter, when my stun gun got wonky. Naturally, I took it to Lt. L'laws for a repair. It turns out he made it malfunction on purpose. When he was searching for his damn wrench, he cut his eyes at me and said, "You're kinda new around here, aren't you?" Of course, I said yee. He came closer and gave me a lecherous look, saying "How's ya like to get promoted real fast?" I was shocked and promptly reported him to Commander Koenig, who promptly burst out laughing. Between licentious giggles, he told me L'laws does that to every new female Alphan, but no one ever took his offer up. He added that if I thought L'laws was bad, just wait until I encounter Alan Carter in an otherwise empty travel tube! Here's my opinions on each Alphan I know, as yet:

CMDR. JOHN KOENIG: Has a strange sense of humor. Even though he's losing his hair by the dozens, I still think he's handsome. I've always liked blue eyes and dark hair. Acts funny about the Male Alphan Beauty Contest--Dr. Russell's supposed to be giving him makeup lessons each week, but all you can hear from her room is giggling and his yelling "hush!". Russell must know I like him (the distinguished 'older man') because she keeps looking askance at me.

DR. HELENA RUSSELL: Started asking me the strangest questions ever since she caught Koenig trying to charm me into choosing him as the most handsome male Alphan. Got mad at me once for calling her by her middle name --"Susie". But she's really a nice person. She lets me help her sabotage Tony's beer once in a while. I won't forgive her, however, for jabbing me with that cow hypodermic during my last physical which just happened to be after that episode with Koenig.

MAYA: I say we invent a chemical that's prevent her from changing into other beings. For example, one day she turned into a bat and flew into Meta Campbell's lab. She nearly scared the girl into dropping Hematology. By the way, there's a town in Georgia named after our own vampire...er, hematologist: Metasville. Getting back to Maya, the girl's a pest! When I became a senior pilot, Maya started doing strange things, like changing into an eagle when I approached Alpha's type of Eagle. I yelled as it attacked me, and Alan came running. Maya changed back into herself and I started attacking her just when Alan arrived. Now he's angry! Maybe I'll get a chance to tell him what really happened.

TONY VERDESCHI: I have fun with this guy. Not the kind of fun you dirty-minded girls have, but clean fun. It's confession time--all along, Tony's been making his beer correctly. I contracted a terrible malady in which I have an uncontrollable urge to spoil his beer! I love doing it! But please, don't tell Tony. The poor, hapless guy. (##Evil laugh##) He's cute, but as many Italians I have known, this guy's got spaghetti on the brain.

SANDRA BENES: A closet maniac. She hurts my ears every time she lets off that high-pitched giggle--you can hear it reverberating all along Alpha! Did anyone ever tell you that it was she, not Tom Chafin, that put the whoope cushion in the Commander's seat? OH, NO! Sahn, I really didn't mean for that to leak out! Please don't try to get revenge--she's a real master at that.

ALAN CARTER: I hesitate to give my real comments about this guy, mainly 'cause he's my superior officer. (He's rather inferior in other ways.) He's become a pain since I refused to date him. He said he wanted to go walking in the moonlight, and I said, go ahead, and do it without a spacesuit. Oh, he begged and grovelled for weeks, but it was to no avail. Word is spreading fast that he's Alpha's equivalent of Hawkeye Pierce.

Now, for the Alphans I haven't met but have already formed an opinion on:

Lt. Wayne Anthony L'laws: You all know how I feel about this dipstick.

Dr. Meta Campbell: I think she seems like a very nice person, even though she's always got the blood on her hands. (Ha, ha, get it?)

Dr. Steen Pederson, D.D.S.: He's one of the few dentists I've ever met that I like. Even though I've never seen him, I just know he's better looking than Carter, whom he seems to have an aversion to (like many on Alpha). He's got a sense of humor, too. Glued braces on my teeth one night while I slept--he got my door open with his dental drill. I hope you know this means war. I'm going to put him in a robot Eagle, send him to the other side of the moon while he's sleeping. Boy, will he get a surprise when he opens the air-lock doors. But really, as Kathi Lynn Migley would say, he could put his filling under my bed anytime.

Kathi Lynn Migley: What does this girl do around Alpha besides create havoc, anyway?

Lis Therkildsen: Wish I could learn to say her last name. One day in the chow line, I asked her if it was one of those hard-to-pronounce Vulcan names. She must have resented it, 'cause the next evening she put a garlic clove in my dessert. I ate it, and had to go to Doc Russell with the worst case of halitosis Alpha has ever seen!

Jeff Barber: This one's the looniest of all! To think someone else could be a better seducer...er, commander than John Koenig. Blasphemy! He must be a Klingon agent.

Sandy Doyle: Really a nice person. I, too, enjoy photography, though I don't get much of a chance to print the pictures I take. Every time I try to get into the photo lab, Alan Carter walks up and says, "Let's go into the darkroom together and see what develops." Last time I threw my camera at him. Not only do I resent his lewdness, it was a very bad joke!

Lt. Kevin Peterson: A new kid. He's working under me, so I've got to watch him. He's becoming quite close to Lt. L'laws, and you know what disaster that could bring.

Sub-Commander Mary Bloemker: Must have a hard life. The only reason Koenig commissioned a Sub-Commander was because he wanted someone else to listen to the Alphans' complaints. I hear she's trying to transfer back to Recruiting--the easiest job on Alpha now that there's no Earthpeople left to recruit!

As much as these characters bother me, I'd really like to meet the real people behind them. I almost hope these people are figments of Mary Bloemker's imagination, 'cause after some of the things I said, I fear they'll make me into the Harlan Ellison of SPACE:1999 fandom. Even though it disgusts me, I just had to add to the fun-fun-fun and lust-lust-lust in the Command Conference column. I'm beginning to like it...as you can see from my terribly weird letter. I laughed myself silly at some of the letters in the July/August Command Center, and it inspired me to write a letter that hopefully will give MMA members as many smiles as their letters brought me. (Pleese, Mary, I swear I won't start the soap opera ever again, so please pack that violin away!) I'll be looking forward to the next ray of sunshine in the form of the September/October Command Center. Many thanks.

Kathi Lynn Migley, 1082-4 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517:

'Ello, 'ello, 'ello! Oh, and before I launch myself off on a tangent, welcome to MMA, Kevin Peterson! I hope it proves an interesting (if not downright off-the-wall) experience for you. And what plans would I have made of September 13, 1999? Hmmm, let me consult my appointment book...gee, I'm free that day, what d'ya know...Actually, I hope to have finished my Eagle pilot training and already be on the Moonbase by then (with plenty of pillows around me!)--but should that fail through, I'd like to see all the '99 fans gather for a special convention--hopefully in an accessible spot of the universe--complete with the entire cast from the show and fireworks. Now THAT would be the ideal celebration for the auspicious date! How's that for grand?

Steve Reder: You're right. Tony's "We don't die on request" remark not only sums up the gritty attitude of the Alphans, but of us fans as well. Another good quote to live by--Koenig's remark to a weeping Maya on the trip back to Alpha from Psychon: "We're all aliens until we get to know each other." It should apply to everybody on this planet as well.

Jennifer Orsi: Welcome to you also, Jennifer. And welcome to Moonbase Alpha! Altho' you won't be around here much longer if you continue to swill Tony's beer. Geez, no man is worth that kind of sacrifice! Besides, as me dear ol' ma would say: "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Make our resident ~~Alph~~ brewmaster some homemade pasta--just ask Lis Therkildsen for her recipe. It'll save wear and tear on YOUR stomach lining, at any rate! Oh, and speak a little Italian (after all, you did say you specialize in Linguistics) while you're dishing out the pasta--it'll have him eating out of your hand (although, considering Tony's eating habits, which, as an anthropologist, you might be interested in as well, you're better off putting the pasta on a plate). And I hope to see you get up your courage and over your paranoia to write a more complete report on the con for those of us who stayed at home (*sob*)...How's about it?

Catherine Conrad: No catcalls from me. I agree with your statement about Freiburger's heavy-handed attempts of humanizing and humorizing the Alphans in Year II. I think he overdid the levity a bit at times. Besides, having gotten to see Year I again recently, I don't find it quite as de-humanized as people constantly accused it of being way back when it first was broadcast. There are some really terrific touching human gestures and moments in Year I (Victor's last log entry in WAR GAMES, the frolics of the Alphans during THE LAST SUNSET, Helena's quiet and desparate grief in THE MISSING LINK, and so on and so forth. The humanity's there for anyone to see in Year I--and it's a quiet, subtle humanity; not at all like Freiburger's hit-em-between-the-eyes-with-the-obvious type in Year II. As to an explanation of the Alphan bios appearing

in Command Conference...simple, write a bio of yourself as an Alphan and add to it your observations (either "straight" or "tongue-in-cheek") of the main characters of Alpha--nothing to it, really. And you don't have to start out being a Lieutenant under Carter. You can be in launch control, maintenance, or whoever or what ever you wish (hey, just got struck by a thought--*ow*, that hurts--I haven't seen anybody write themselves up as a security guard--hmm, I wonder why?). But, by all means, write one. And join the lunc-y (sorry about that, folks) ranks of the rest of your fellow Alphans!

Steen Pederson: I have a bone (or should I say molar?) to pick with you! Have you any idea how unethical it is to make tapes of what your patients (in this case, yours truly) say under the influence of that joy juice you shoot us up with? And do you know how embarrassing it is to walk into the rec room and see people rolling around on the floor and YOUR voice coming from a tape recorder? All in all, tho', you're the best dentist on Alpha (what am I saying?!? You're the only dentist on Alpha--and those cutie-pies that you call assistants don't count...). But I'm taking my next root canal with a 'local', if you don't mind.

Elenore Claassen: Well, I believe I answered your survey questions a couple of issues back, so MY conscience is clear and you should already know which are my favorite TREK, SPACE, and BSG characters. (If you don't remember, they are Kirk, McCoy, Scotty, Chekov, Uhura, Chapel, Sulu/Alan, Maya, Victor, Sandra/Adama, Starbuck, Casseopea, Boomer, Jolly and Muffet, in that order.)

Vernon Wells: Your attempt at another write-in campaign is commendable, but, having had dealings with STARLOG in the past, I can pretty much guarantee we'll all get writer's cramp in vain and I have to save my hands for my courses at the art school I'm presently in. I believe you'd be better off writing directly to the author of the Alpha Tech Manual (Dave Hirsch, I believe? Or am I barking up the wrong tree--arf, arf--? Somebody out there help me, please.) and seeing what he has to say about it before you go butting your head against such a stout corporeal wall as STARLOG. As to FANTASTIC FILMS--that's the first I've ever heard of that magazine--but if it'll help somebody else who gets that 'zine (and STARLOG--I no longer subscribe to that felgercarb myself because their bias toward STAR TREK and nothing but made me nauseous--terrible to read a magazine with such infantile attitudes as to nearly always compare all other sci-fi to ST the way they do) then I'll TRY to write them.

Lynn Mims: *Phew* Glad to see someone else responded to Bobbie Marie's request for heroes. I got to feeling a bit lonely there until I ran across your letter in the July/August CC. Come on, people, let's hear who your heroes/heroines are. It's an interesting question and I would like to see your answers to it.

Becky Eisenhuth: Oh, yeah, if there's nothing going on between you and Alan, how come I found you two in a 'clinch' in the cockpit of MY Eagle the other day? And if you really think I'd believe that "I was just trying to get something out of Becky's eye" business, you got another think coming, bunkie! I mean, talk about insult to injury--first, you're messing around in MY Eagle, and then you think I'd fall for a line like that. Sheesh. Oh, and the only reason Alan thinks I'm a real clobber is because I lent him a pair of sweatsocks to wear for handball when he couldn't find his own...so don't try to sweet-talk me, kiddo! I'm keeping my eye on you two! So watch out!

Don Palermo: A bit of explanation, please. What the h--- did you mean when you commented to Susann Molnar "...Talking about letters in recent CCs, see Kathi Higley's in the May/June CC. I agree." Having just moved my entire lifegoods to my present new home (see address at the beginning of this letter) while I attend commercial illustrating courses at the nearby Paier School of Art, I can't find my last few ish's of CC. And not having them committed to memory (an oversight on my part), I can't remember what comment Susann made in one of them that prompted you to pull me into the 'conversation'...I got especially alarmed when you then commented: "...And see mine this issue. Hypocrisy reigns!" When you mentioned the hypocrisy part and its connection with YOUR letter, I can only assume that you mean MY last letter as well. And hating being a hypocrite above all else, couldja please enlighten me? I try not to make the same mistakes twice, if I can, but only when I know when I've pulled a boo-boo--and all this suspense has got me ready for a rubber room at the Hamden School for Deranged Gerbils. So PLEASE straighten this business out for me--if you have a drop of charity in your blood, that is, which I'm sure you do. Thank you.

Sandy Doyle: Well, I'm glad you like my letters in CC, but I'm not too sure you'd want to be my bunkmate. I make Felix Unger look like a slob. My last roomie is still taking shock treatments with good old Doc Russell (and you should see the mean tango THEY do). I just about drove her crazy. I think making her bed while she was still in it was the straw that broke the camel's back for her. But if you can put up with a maniac clean-nut, sure, I'll be happy to bunk with our resident, unofficial morale officer. By the way, I'd like to lay claim to being the one who made it through the entire movie marathon, but, unfortunately, I spent most of it trying to comb popcorn kernels out of my hair in the 'little girls' room. After which, I spent the next 24 hours watching Alan watch Kano. *sigh* Oh, and I have the perfect companion for Rachael--Alex, my pig embryo. I'm sure they'd get along famously; he thinks I'm for the birds, too, so they can compare notes. And what do you mean my idea for an all expense paid weekend in Las Vegas is out of the question? Seriously, tho'; I thoroughly enjoyed your Alphan bio. Bravo! (Oh, and are the mumble-peg competitions still on for next week? I'm a six-to-one to win.)

Well, as much as I'd like to do another of my bios this ish, I've run out of material to do so. And, altho Sandy Doyle's idea for bios on VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, THE INCREDIBLE HULK (I AM the Incredible Hulk so why write a bio? My life's an open book.), etc, etc, is an excellent one, I don't think it would work too well as not everyone watches the same shows. Most of us have seen ST, SPACE (hee-hee--bright observation, huh?) and BSG (not to mention SW--I told you not to mention that) and can take it from there when we read a bio taken from either of those programs. But writing up a bio from M*A*S*H, say, could be a wasted effort if few people know what you're talking about. So I'm bio-less this ish unless someone can come up with an idea for one based on a show we might have all seen. How's about it?"

P.S.: Wayne Walls: Are you still with us? How's your story coming? Make me look good, kiddo! (Or I'll break your face)

P.P.S.: By the way, I was looking thru some of my old CC's and do you know that the letter section covered maybe one or two pages of the newsletter in some of them? God, how we've grown!

And that's it for this letter. Tootles, everyone! May your Wookie never have fleas...

Evelyn Baker, 30 Snowcrest Ave., Willowdale, Ont., Canada, M2K 2K7:

Command Center is terrific, and it's getting better and better. I belong to many clubs with newsletters but none have such intense communications between the members. Reading many of the letters is like dropping in on a conversation but it's very interesting and you can bet that I and most other people read Command Center from beginning to end and don't miss a word in between! That's part of the reason I don't mind that the membership dues have changed. After all, inflation has shot up since Main Mission has started and only now has there been any compensation for it and even now the price has stayed down. You should take a bow, Mary, for doing such a good job. (Ed. note: Ah, muchos gracias. Methinks I shall have to remeasure my hat size before getting my new winter hat now...MaryB.)

To all those people who commented on or read my letter in the May/June newsletter: Thank you very much for your support. The fans in the U.S. are very different from the ones here. I went to Noreascon II and loved it. Not just because of the parties, dealers' room, costume show, movies and Hugos, although it made the con terrific and I enjoyed it all very much. I had never seen anything like it in my life. I don't know if all U.S. cons are like that (Ed. note: Not quite...but don't we wish, eh? MaryB.) but I've found myself addicted to Worldcons. But I'm glad they're only once a year. It wasn't just the activities that made me love this con so much, but meeting all the people I've written to and read about all these years. For me, it wasn't like I was going to a strange city, but to see all my friends. I wasn't disappointed one bit. Thank you for your hospitality and friendliness. After being with my own kind, I don't want to face Toronto fandom again.

What I found very surprising was there was no friction between the media fans and straight SF fans. I think we can all have a good laugh at the 'elite' fans that I talked about who came down to Boston for the con. They think they're all important to fandom, but I didn't hear from them and I don't think any other media fan did, either. Perhaps it was the size of the con, but I think their egos have shrunk quite a bit since Noreascon.

To Becky Eisenhuth: Yes! Yes! Yes! Toronto is living in the dark ages. There are no clubs, or newsletters for the media fan here. Organization of everything from cons to clubs is done by the very few and because there are no massive letter writing campaigns, the TV stations don't know we exist. For the first time in ten years, there are no syndicated SF shows on in the area, not even STAR TREK, which used to be shown 15 times a week--now, not even once. That's pretty bad. I have written stations several times and they were kind enough to answer back (which shows how many letters they get). Each time I got answers like: 'Thank you for your letter, but we don't have the rights to these shows.' I don't think they ever will. Toronto is definitely the black hole of SF.

To Kathi Lynn Higley: I agree with you completely. Thanks for your say on fanzines, I think I wrote that part more for me than any of the MMA members. I needed to convince myself I was right, but because of your support and others, I feel like I could take on all 'purists' and 'convert' them to a more open-minded position. Good luck with your career in commercial art. My involvement in media SF helped me choose animation as my career. I'm still in school, but one day I might work on STAR WARS 10 or make my own SF movie. That's how media SF and zines work for the good of the viewer or reader. I think we are both very grateful to them. Thanks for your encouragement.

I was going to write an Alphan bio, but I think this letter is getting a bit long-winded. For next time. To Judy Moore & Wayne Walls: Where are you? Have you stopped answering letters? Wayne, your stun gun didn't backfire, did it? Anyways, that's no excuse. Drop me a line, both of you, please.

To Sandy Doyle: I think it's a great idea to write bios from different shows. I'm looking forward to reading them and once I straighten my own out, I'll send it in.

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

Don Palermo: I suggest you reread the discussion Kathi and I had in the past few issues. While points were cleared up, they would not have been there if it hadn't been for the oversight on my part. Rereading our letters might help you to understand what we've been talking about. Without fully understanding the points and intentions of the material, you couldn't help but to erroneously assess the situation, and my views.

Kevin Peterson: Welcome to MMA and fandom! Whenever I hear a story like yours, well, it makes fandom all the more special. As for your idea on what we can do come September 13, 1999, I can offer a fun dream--a reunion in space on board the space shuttles.

I was sorry to hear about the Memory Books. When I proposed the concept two years ago, I hadn't foreseen such a sudden death for them. I thought last year's set-up (and this year's) was an ideal one, for it enabled members and fans to select from a variety of options. But, I guess even that wasn't enough. A funny thing, my imagination. This time, it's killed off the Memory Books.

In closing, Don, I hope you can now see that the intention of my initial letters was to gently prod the ranks, and generate a new spark into Command Conference. That accomplished, I leave two possibilities for everyone to toss around. I'm sure most of you will agree that the ending of EMPIRE was too much of a cliff hanger. If you were able to rewrite the ending, where would you end it? The second idea? Now that the Memory Books are simply that--memories--what alternatives can you come up with?

Kevin Peterson, 305 Condon, Manistee, MI 49660:

Hello! I feel like addressing a section of my letter to each and every one of you, but since I have to be practical about it (sob) I shall end these statements of superfluous functions and get on with this. The thing that really stuck with me that I should comment about is Tom Rose's remarks about liking more than one SF show. Ton, I couldn't agree with you more--I even would say it's not a good idea to restrict yourself to only one show. As far as I'm concerned, I think to deprive oneself of all those wonderful alternate realities in the vast realm of the imagination is a terrible waste. Treat yourself--it's fun! I even know some people who won't give anything a chance if it isn't SF. That's not good, either. If one doesn't allow himself a chance to fully develop, in human terms, then that's restricting your potential. And speaking of other interests, what does everyone out there like best besides SF? I myself love music (all kinds), most other kinds of fiction, volleyball, playing piano, working out, food, etc. etc. etc...

To Bobbie Marie Smith: Hercules, heroines...for me, I would have to say Lucille Ball, Danny Kaye, Ruth Buzzi, and all the comics of the world who can make us all laugh without desecrating the word "humor"; people like Melanie Safka, Barry Manilow, Ann Murray, Barbara Streisand, Bach, Beethoven, Clementi, Mozary, Haydn, etc, who've given the world something to sing about; but more than anyone, all the Nobel Prize winners who've contributed a priceless legacy to this old Terrae firmae; especially Mother Teresa, who, when a man came to her whose body was being consumed by cancer and as she worked on his ravaged body, he asked in disgust, "How can you stand the smell?" She said, "It's nothing compared to the pain you must be feeling." That's beautiful.

To all the bio writers: very enjoyable!

Don Palermo: My opinion about the ST-TMP soundtrack is that it's fantastic! The opening was very good and much more befitting the grandiose 23rd century; thankfully not a rehash of the old TV series theme. The rest of the soundtrack is provocative and exciting. Also, about the PFA: I LOVE the idea of it, but then again, I like the thought of using the money for something else, like the far-fetched idea of saving towards producing an all-new SPACE:1999 film. But to do that we'd need about five million members! That whole idea seems insurmountable, doesn't it?

Sandy 'Jess' Doyle: If you see Maya before I do, would you tell her that trying for a unicorn is going to be about as easy as transforming herself into a griffin or the flaming phoenix? Good luck to her, anyway. If she ever gets it, I'd love to have some photos.

Now I wish somebody would write to me and tell me how many, by whom and where-one-can-get-'em original fan novels/zines there are, and information as to what in the world the Psychon 100 Society is! Hopefully, next time will be Alphan bio time. Take care!

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

Hi! To fellow Alphans, I guess everyone knows about the twelve GALACTICA movies! After reading STARLOG's latest issue, they gave the complete guide to the twelve movies. They also gave a list of U.S. cities picking them up and lucky for me that the city we get our cable from is on the list. So far I haven't seen but I've seen it in French though our French station has shown two of them so far--the original movie and the second was MISSION: GALACTICA: THE CYLON ATTACK. This one was a combination of both of these episodes: THE LIVING LEGEND and FIRE IN SPACE. In this one, I believe that they left out some pretty good scenes from THE LIVING LEGEND and in FIRE IN SPACE when they put the two together to make one. When a scene was cut and missed I found myself trying to remember what happened in that particular scene. I'll save my STAR WARS bio for next issue so that this one won't be too long. Has anyone else noticed a new GALACTICA novel--fourth in the series? Hope that they do one for each episode 'cause I had a few favorite episodes. Would you believe that I'm already making plans to attend next year's con and I was wondering if there's anyone out there who would like to share a room with me. In closing, I'm still requesting members to send me their fav characters in the following shows: STAR TREK, SPACE:1999, and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. Well, that's all for this time and see you all in the next issue.

Suzie Molnar, 166 1/2 So Santa Rosa, Ventura, CA 93001:

First--I want to thank NMA for selecting Phyl and Eileen for the Fan Fund. They were both delightful people to meet, an excellent choice. Since this was my first '99 Con, it was also great fun to meet all the pen pals for the first time - just wish it weren't almost one year to wait for next time. And - for me - meeting both Prentis and Nick (SIGH on both).

And now, an Alphan bio update. I've been transferred to Paul Morrow's Alpha Expansion project. Believe me, all the talk I'd heard about how strict and unfriendly Paul can be had me plenty scared. Not to worry. One fellow (thank you, George!) who knows Paul really well clued me in on how to "read" him. And, sure enough, the man actually is friendly and even has a fine sense of humor. He just shows it differently. So now I feel Sandra is one lucky gal.

Becky Eisenhuth, 9873 Palmetto, Bloomington, CA 92316:

Hello to all my friends and foes!! After my last bio in Command Center, I may have more foes than friends but ...I just thought I'd splatter a few comment on the July/August issue of our faithful zine and also to let you know that I'm not as insane as I may appear (of course, there may be those who disagree with that statement...)

Firstly, for those who care, I not only passed Kathi Lynn Higley's THE ULTIMATE SPACE:1999 TRIVIA QUIZ, but, believe it or not, I am Security Guard material! Yes, it was a toughie and I had to battle books all night, but I came out the victor at the end. Although, I hardly admit that I had lots of trouble with the question "What are the Eagles called?", but after hours of intense research and unrelenting study - Commander Koenig would be proud of me!

To Keven P: Fantastic! Another SPACE:1999 fan lives! But, how sad that you've been shut out of the excitement for so long! If you keep up the enthusiasm, you will find that 1999 fans are all over the place and that fan clubs are popping up all around the U.S.A. Hey, and if you want to be educated into 1999 fandom, have no fear! Really, we are a friendly lot of people willing to let you know everything your heart desires. If we know it ourselves!

To Steven R: "We don't die on request." Yes, that just about sums up my feeling towards 1999, too. Great observation!

To Steen P: Hmmm, yes, Steen. I think we could become friends. I brush and floss everyday...whether I need it or not.

To Vernon W: Holy Cats! I was hoping someone would bring up the Moonbase Alpha Tech Notebook supplements. The last thing I heard about the supplements are that 'they are in the planning stages' and that was about a year ago! Just how long does it take to plan that little bugger? *sigh* I'm still hanging in there and you can bet that STARLOG will be getting a few letters from this Alphan.

To Don P: I'm glad to hear that we see eye to eye on 1999 random (Mary is right--you are sweet) but I have

a better idea as to where a new 1999 con should be. LOS ANGELES!! All the cons have been in the East, so why not let all us SPACE freaks out here have a chance. Seriously, I could name a whole list of people who would go. Well, it's something to think about, at least.

To Sandy D: Now I know who is passing around all those vicious rumors about Alan Carter and myself. Really, Sandy, the reason I didn't transfer out of Eagle maintenance was because...ah...well, you see...hmm, Eagle interior design is my life and...

SPACE:1999 IS NUMERO UNO!

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

Hello, Alphans! An Italian fan of SPACE:1999 is writing. Are you surprised? I'm a member of MMA since January 1980, but only now I decide to write. I'm the best and maybe the only fan collector of SPACE in Italy. SPAZIO:1999 is known to every Italian TV watcher; in fact, it was broadcast on either the first or the second channel of the national TV (RAI). But here there are not fan clubs, fanzines, conventions, as in USA. There are only some movie clubs, but everyone is 'very intellectual and sophisticated' ('NO S.F. TOO CHILDISH!' they say!) But no problems SPACE:1999 here is always the best; it's more famous than STAR TREK!

Kindest regard to everybody, especially to Vernon Wells and Steen Pederson. P.S. If someone wants to know more news about SPACE:1999 in Italy, they can write to me. I'm waiting for! (excuse my bad English!).

Mark Robertson, 9421 Sagefield Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70811:

Greetings, everyone! To Jennifer Orsi: You thought you were late? I am! I recently started to realize that I should get myself up and do something for fandom. One very frequent excuse: "I don't have the time" or "I don't need to worry, the 'others' will do the work and get 1999 back on the air. Less one person won't matter (?)". Sound familiar? What is it to look for time? Is five minutes too vital? It only takes about that much time to write a short letter to a pen pal or do an ink sketch for a club newsletter. I agree with Jennifer, every little bit helps. Three cheers for everyone who is trying! I'm sure many more excuses will turn up, but if those people who spend their time making excuses instead of using it wisely, fandom would have much more support. To the people out there who haven't done anything at all, get up and do something, anything, show your support! Support for our favorite show! Don't tell me you forgot!?

Well, here is my bio (whew!). Would you believe another 'slightly twisted' bio? In the almost tradition of Kathi Lynn Higley, Thomas Chaffin and Becky Eisenhuth, here it is:

First of all, Meta C., Lis T., George E., Vernon W., Tom C., Sheri C., Amelia R., Jeff B., Susann M., Kathi L.H. (something to interest her!), Wayne W., Bobbie S., and the others, since you know I don't know you, I won't mention you in my bio. Except--Kathi Lynn Higley. Attention, Kathi!

To tell you the truth, I don't even know her. To the rest, maybe we'll all meet each other one day!

I was assigned or rather, put to duty on a job I didn't like on Earth. A bodyguard for Commissioner Simmonds! I finally dropped from that field in 1996 to form an insurance company. Well, it wasn't doing too well and Simmonds offered me a small space on Alpha to form an insurance company. Only if I gave him a 40% share of the profit. I went ahead with the idea and moved to Alpha on August 26, 1999. I moved in, not acquainted with anyone except Jerry Redder, a friend from high school (More about him later). I called it Robertson Lunar Insurance, Inc. Would you believe in only three days, Simmonds wanted his share of the profit? It was a flop. The company was in a financial downfall. Then, along came September 13, 1999. I only had three people signed up. Jerry R., myself and Victor Bergman. I gave and proceeded to close the company. And then the explosion occurred. I thought to myself, "Ah, time to start breaking out the policies to get people to sign up. For sure I can get more people!"

My idea was dumb. I failed; except when people signed limited policies. For instance, when Meta was thought to be our home, when the black sun was a threat, Commander Koenig signed up for the whole base when Jeff B. and Victor Bergman wanted to make a new group of 'Subatomic Particles'. To have a live concert, of course. When it was announced, no one attended (sorry, Jeff). There were other times, but I had a record number in my files--twelve people! The Dorcons destroyed it, with a little help from some anonymous people.

Well, a regular day on Alpha for me is: Get up promptly at 10:30 am. Get ready, watch Alpha News Service at noon. Drop by the cafeteria for a ~~quick snack~~ and ~~well deserved~~ ~~like~~ breakfast/lunch (Hi, Lis!) Later, I make my rounds, trying to sell more policies. I'm still trying to get Alan. Kathi, why don't you have a talk with him about that? Also, you're one of my suspects for destroying my records. You signed, remember? You thought you and Alan had it going pretty well, and...I think I'd better stop. Getting a little too personal. After making my rounds, I drop by Jerry's quarters. Watch out! Jerry is a W.W. II buff. He loves airplanes and flying. Did you know he tried to start a 'dogfight' in an Eagle training flight? His license has been revoked permanently by order of Simmonds. Some say he was responsible for Simmonds being sent on a one-way trip to Earth. He was pulled out of the Eagle maintenance section. Why? He put bombs on the undersides! Even planted hand grenades in the cockpits to get some 'Jap' named Si Un Chang. It didn't work. Would you believe that he even had a love affair with Cathy Lee Crosby? In his mind the name is referred to as Kathi Lynn Higley! He had been tracking her down, thinking she was the host on THAT'S INCREDIBLE! I hope he doesn't hear about, you know, Kathi & Alan! Knowing him, he would put a bomb in his Eagle, or something. He is a fan of the Subatomic Particles. Hey, Jeff!

I caution anyone and everyone! Jerry's quarters are full of booby traps. Like mine field, live scale models of planes, tanks, etc. If you're not supposed to be there, you'll probably fall into a pit full of knives sticking straight up. Or get tangled in barbed wire. I haven't gone there in two or three years. No telling what he has now! Today Jerry is the mild-mannered janitor for Alpha. Kathi: Another warning. I heard he knows where your quarters are located. If I were you--MOVE!

My most recent project, with respect for Tony's beer: I'm attempting the greatest feat. Rice Krispies. Jerry is working on pretzels for Tony's beer.

I over-ran my so-called little story, so I'll close now and say goodbye everyone! Good bye, everyone! I will return!

SPACE:1999 TRIVIA QUIZ

by Tony & Anna Laker

- 1) Which astronaut went berserk at the beginning of BREAKAWAY?
- 2) What was the name of the planet in A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH?
- 3) After being returned to Alpha by the Tritonians in RING AROUND THE MOON, how long did Helena have to live?
- 4) What was the Servant of the Guardian in reality?
- 5) What two Eagle pilots were first affected by the Guardian of Piri?
- 6) In VOYAGER'S RETURN, which Alpha mentioned that his father was killed by Voyager 2?
- 7) On SPACE BRAIN, who played Kelly's wife Melita?
- 8) Who played the male alien in WAR GAMES? The female alien?
- 9) In DRAGON'S DOMAIN, what was the launch date for the Ultra Probe?
- 10) What were the names of Tony Cellini's three fellow crewmembers?
- 11) Who fell in love with Koenig in MISSING LINK?
- 12) Including John Koenig, how many commanders of Moonbase Alpha have there been?
- 13) What was the name of Alpha's science officer in THE METAMORPH?
- 14) What is Directive 4?
- 15) What state did Dave Reilly come from?
- 16) What was the name of the creature in A MATTER OF BALANCE?
- 17) In AB CHRYSALIS, Wava turned into a chlorine breathing creature. On what planet did the creature live?
- 18) In which episode is Tony Verdeschi first shown making beer?
- 19) What did Magus want to learn in NEW ADAM, NEW EVE?
- 20) In SPACE WARP, what starttime is it when the Menon commander is speaking?
- 21) What was the name of the man speaking on the holographic recording in IMMUNITY SYNDROME?
- 22) Who played Eva on SEANCE SPECTER?
- 23) Besides Eva, who joined Sanderson in rebelling against Koenig?
- 24) What year were the Alphans accidentally transported to in JOURNEY TO WHERE?

(Answers are given below)

All 24 correct: Congratulations! You either have an excellent memory, or videotapes of all the episodes!
 15-23 correct: Good. Your memory isn't so good, but you have the books and the Tech Manual handy for easy reference, don't you, you little sneak?
 10-15 correct: Fair. Your local TV station didn't bother to pick up Year Two, did it?
 0-9 correct: Pitiful. You either weren't trying, or you're one of those people who enjoy watching the show, and don't bother with the trivial details. In that case, what are you doing with this trivia quiz, anyway?

- advertisements -

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 first and best fan publication. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for more information to: Steve Eramo, 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180.

TIMEFRAME: The general fanzine for media-based and original science fiction and fantasy. Issue 3 is now out and contains STAR WARS, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, PLANET OF THE APES, original fiction, poetry and artwork, plus a Ringworld animated flip-book. Issue 3 is available at \$3.00 plus \$1.00 for postage in Canada, \$1.25 U.S. postage and \$1.60 for overseas. Issue 1 which includes SPACE:1999 and Maggie Nowakowska's "Corell Also Exports Pirates" will be reprinted for \$4.00 plus postage. (Postage is the same as for Issue 3). Submissions much needed for Issue 4. For more info, send SAE, plus 17¢ to: Evelyn Baker, 30 Snowcrest Ave, Willowdale, Ont., Canada, M2K 2K7. Please address all cheques to me and not to Timeframe.

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PRENTIS HANCOCK FAN CLUB: Membership includes card, quarterly Communique 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 self addressed stamped envelope 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 6UF, England.

SHADO HQ: New club for the UFO tv series, now forming. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: SHADO HQ, 2303 Ravenaden Ct., Reston, VA 22091.

TIME FOR CHANGES: Original SPACE:1999 novella, 60 pgs offset printed, written by Steven Eramo, with photo section. This novella is still available, but in limited supply only, so order today: \$4.50 (U.S. & Canada) \$5.50 (overseas). Price includes postage. Order from: Steven Eramo, 5 Kimball Street, Stoneham, MA 02180.

ANSWERS TO SPACE:1999 TRIVIA QUIZ: 1) Nordstrom; 2) Terra Nova; 3) 132 hours; 4) A robot; 5) Pete Irving and Ed Davis; 6) Paul Morrow; 7) Carla Romanelli; 8) Anthony Valentine, Isla Blair; 9) June 6, 1996; 10) Prof. Darwin King, Prof. Juliet Mackie, Dr. Monique Pauchers; 11) Vanna; 12) Nina; 13) Lew Picard; 14) To destroy the place the directive signal originated from; 15) Texas; 16) Thaed; 17) Kreno; 18) JOURNEY TO WHERE; 19) The secret of creating life; 20) Thirty two; 21) Zoran; 22) Carolyn Seymour; 23) Stevens, Carnik; 24) 1339

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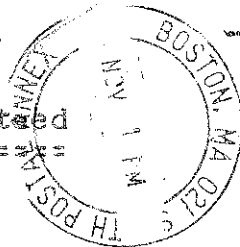


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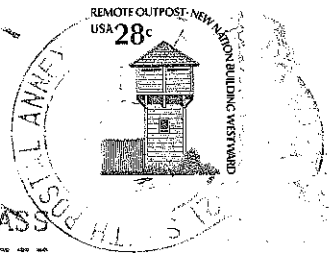
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