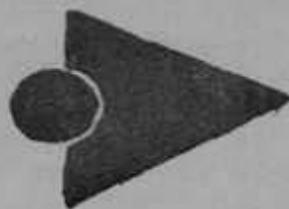


MAIN MISSION

ALPHA



After much deliberation, I decided that, at last, number two of the newsletter was due. There are sufficient members at this point, and enough to talk about to fill a dozen pages, which, I hasten to add, although I would love to fill that many, I'd best not.

The special edition of the newsletter, if you didn't get it already, is included in this edition. Since most everyone did get it already, I won't worry too much about that issue's fate.

You'll notice the logo on the newsletter: that is the official logo at this point, but we'll have more than one. Alan Carter has a strange design on his sweat coat; that might be added to the line. We got some good shots of it at August Party, so if I can get any brave artists to attempt the design, fine.

At this point, I'd like to tell everyone about the change in officers, about the new policy of the club, and anything new that I can think of.

The club is now divided in the way it will be run. We have two presidents, two vice-presidents, two chairmen, two alternate officers, and then, members. Ranks will still hold, but with some variations. As it stands, I am still commander, but Dale Jones, the other president, is a commander, too. The VPs and the other officers are of the rank of colonel, and the members are of the lieutenant rank. There is only one Captain rank - which Nick Tate holds, as honorary member and aegis of the club.

Dale and I have agreed to split the country down the middle, and handle members from our own side of the country. Depending wherever else in the world you are, the map will show which area of the club you will be a member of. That is, Australia, Japan, China, anywhere west of Moscow will fall under Dale's power. Europe will be under my power. (I sound like we're going to end up ruling the world, don't I?)

The same club materials will be allotted on both sides of the continent. The only difference will be where they are from. Newsletters may come out more frequently as we both may have a lot of news. There will be (hopefully) two journals a year. For this, I'd like to hear people writing to me, with questions for Nick to answer.

If someone other than Nick has to answer your questions, I'll do my absolute best to try to get your question answered.

MAIN MISSION ALPHA is not just a Nick Tate fan club, although Nick is the only one who is in communication with us. I'd like to hear from Martin Landau, Barbara Bain, Tony Anholt, Catherine Schell and Zienia Merton fans, plus those who are interested in the show for its special effects, for the scientific technology, for any one of a dozen things. The club will be as diversified as its members make it.

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The other officers of the club are: VPs; Mary Bloemker and Steve Sample; Co-chairpersons; Pat Brimer and Darlene Palenik; and Alternate officers; Lee Pappas and Stephen Bramo. Members that joined since the last newsletter are: Darlene Palenik, 1345-13-402; Steve Sample, 1345-17-402; Sharon Anne Hutchinson, 1345-18-951; Henry Chmielefski, 1345-14-951; Debbie Fraser, 1345-11-951; Linda Satkus, 1345-9-951; Leslie Anne Marshall, 1345-10-951; Jim Burns, 1345-19-951; Olivia Bottum, 1345-15-951; Patricia Munson, 1345-20-951; Dorothy Lynn Mims, 1345-21-951; Elizabeth Carleton, 1345-22-951.

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If anyone had told me 11 months ago that I would get to know an actor personally, be running a SPACE:1999 club, and be totally enmeshed in keeping the popularity of the show going strong, I would have said they were crazy.

Last September, I turned SPACE:1999 on just to see if any of my favorite actors from UFO were on it. I figured, it was a Gerry Anderson product - he used actors like Mel Brooks, in stock companies. JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN had Ed Bishop, George Sewell, Keith Alexander and Vladec Sheybal in it. Maybe at least one of them would be in it. That would make it worthwhile, at least. The first episode, "Breakaway", to me was really bad. The scientific inaccuracies were deplorable, and I almost gave up on watching the show completely. But the next couple of episodes got me hooked. Among them was "Collision Course", in which I noticed Alan Carter. It was not love at first sight, but rather, interest and wonderment. I found out who the actor was, a man named Nick Tate. To me, he was an unknown. I had never heard of him, nor knew of any of his endeavors, nor any of his past performances. But I started to like him very much, and he seemed to be the member of the cast that was most rough and ready. He reminded me of Paul Foster, from UFO. So, from about that episode on, I was a "Triple Niner" for life. I began to excuse some of the scientific implausibilities, and began to appreciate the plots. Some of the philosophy in several episodes was great, especially in "The Black Sun", "Voyager's Return", and "The Last Sunset."

So, here I sit, a devotee of SPACE:1999. I'm proud of it, and glad that there are others like me. When I was a UFO fan, I

got a lot of flak from STAR TREK fans who hated the series. I thought it might have been because they hadn't watched the episodes that made that series interesting. They might have watched one or two episodes, and that was all. But after seeing the same attitude directed toward SPACE:1999, I decided I was wrong. The people who maintained that attitude were very narrow minded people, whose only interest was in STAR TREK. I'll bet some of these people never read any science fiction at all. Because most science fiction fans would view all these series with a less than critical eye, knowing it was television, and certain allowances must be made. Of course, STAR TREK was more accurate in a lot of ways, but now, over these years, the characters, the most important factor of all, have lost their appeal, at least to me, they have. In fanzines, you get the same stories, over and over again. Same plot, same situation, same everything. But the UFO and SPACE:1999 characters hold my interest, because they are new, and so much can be written into their character. This is a summation of why I enjoy SPACE:1999; I'd like to know why others like it. It would be interesting to see other opinions.

Bad news and good news, now. Stu Grossman's International Space Con I fell through. It's a shame, because it sounded like a great con. As I was helping in some respects, it hurt even more.

Here's the good news. I'm seriously thinking about having a Con here in Boston, in late June. Right now I'm working on the committee and the guest list, but two people who are certainly being invited are Nick Tate and Ed Bishop. Among my other hopefuls are J. Allen Hynek, Michael Collins, John Wallis Spencer, Pete Conrad, Ed Mitchell, and others. At this moment, no one has been asked, as I am still getting details worked out. But if such a convention interests you, I'd like to know. If everything works out, advanced registration will start at the end of September. It will most likely be \$10.00. We need seventy-five percent advanced registration in order to hold the convention, as all funds come as a result of advanced registration. Of course, if anyone is willing to lend a thousand or two dollars, that would be nice, too. Anyhow, that's as things stand right now.

ITEMS NEEDED, OR FOR SALE

Steve Bramo's Alpha #4 and #5 are/will be available. #4 is 75¢; #5 is \$1.00, and will be available in November. It will be an all Nick Tate issue. Steve's address is 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180.

Desired are pictures of Michael York and David Soul. Send info to Pat Brimer, 22 Bowdoin St., Somerville, MA 02143

Available are Xeroxed copies of a Nick Tate biography, and an Alan Carter character sketch. Nick did both himself. Send 15¢ for the Nick Tate bio, and 10¢ for the Alan Carter bio, plus

a SASE for either, to Mary Hartery, 26 Asticou Rd., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Also available are b/w 8" X 10" pictures of Nick Tate. They are \$2.50 base price, for printing costs. First class postage is 25¢ for first ounce; I'll find out more on heavier parcels. There are 7 different shots in all, for from SPACE:1999. From your commander.

Lee Pappas is president of Future Products, Inc., and sells slides and prints from all sf shows and movies. Send SASE for info to: P.O. Box 200, Worcester, MA 01602

AVATAR #4 is available for \$3.50 til October 15; \$4.00 thereafter. Available from your commander. #5, with all those endings to the serials of #4, will be available in November, same price terms as #4.

SHADO - U.S. Central Control is Dale Jones' own club, for UFO devotees. Send SASE to: Dale Jones, 1808 1/2 Van Ness, Hollywood, CA 90028, for info.

Needed are articles, drawings, puzzles, anything for the newsletter. There is no deadline; if it doesn't make one issue, it'll make another.

Also wanted: info on people who took pictures of Nick at August Party, for myself, and for Mary Bloemker. Mary is trying to get together an August Party memory book, with pictures of Nick. I just want copies of any and all pictures for my own collection. Send info to Mary and me, Mary's address is 852 College Parkway, #101, Rockville, MD 20850. My address is already mentioned.

Ads for members are free. Just tell me what to write, and I will. Non-members pay 10¢ a line. \$1.75 for full page.

A quick contribution from Dorothy Lynn Mims: George Sewell, our own Alec Freeman, is in BARRY LYNDON.

Also, Pat Brimer once again donated stamps to the cause.

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When writing to any of the SPACE:1999 stars, write to the studios address. A rather complete address is: PINWOOD STUDIOS, Pinewood Road, Iver, Buckinghamshire, SLO ONH England. Nick said all mail that goes there gets to the stars.

Anyone going to Bi-Centennial 10? Save Saturday night; there will be a party in Mary Bloemker, Rich Kolker and my room. Just inform me by postcard, or locate me at the Con to tell me if you can come. I'll be there most of Friday, all of Saturday, and part of Sunday.

(4)

This is a bio of Nick, taken from the biography that Nick gave to me. It is less detailed, but gives most of the facts.

Name: Nick Tate

Age: 34

Birthdate: June 18, 1942

Where: Sydney, Australia

Parents: Australian theatrical couple, John Tate, and Neva Carr Glyn

Early youth: Parents dissuaded Nick from following a theatrical career, and a fairly normal childhood resulted.

Start: In the late 50's, Nick had six years of training to be a director. He finally was an assistant director, but then he couldn't deny his heritage, and joined an actor's workshop at 22.

Army: Still hesitant about life in an acting career, he joined the Army in a Commando division for one year. Then he was bit again, and played a role in "Sweet Bird of Youth."

Career: By 1965, in Australia, he had made a short series, "The Purple Jacaranda," and given the co-lead in the series, "My Brother Jack." At this stage, he went to England. Small parts gradually built into larger roles, and he was in such movies as "The High Commissioner", "Battle of Britain", and "Submarine X-1".

In 1969, he went back to Australia to be in the "Canterbury Tales", which he stayed in for 18 months. "It was the most enjoyable 18 months in my life."

Still in Australia, he was offered the role of Peter Mason in "Dynasty", playing with his father, John Tate, who was taken back to Australia from England for the role.

From 1971 to 1972, he stayed in Australia, playing some good support leads, and some leads, in Australian TV.

In 1972, he went back to the theater for some time, and in 1973, he went back to England. He met Gerry and Sylvia Anderson who offered Nick the role of Alan Carter. He accepted the role, and although Carter was supposed to be killed off in the first episode, he wasn't, and Nick stayed with the role. The first season took 18 months to film, after which, Nick went back to Australia for a role in a movie called "The Devil's Playground."

He returned to England, was in "The Day After Tomorrow", a sf movie; "Crown Court," and took the lead in "The Number One Rooster," at London's Royal Court Theater.

In 1976, he was considering a film role in Australia, and a TV series in England, when offered the role of Carter for the second season. He chose the second season of SPACE:1999. In June, he won the Australian Film Award for Best Actor, 1976, for "The Devil's Playground." The aftermath of this resulted in a publicity tour for ITC when he was brought over for the August Party Con.

Right now, he is back in England, filming the rest of the episodes of SPACE:1999's second season.

That's it for #2. See you next time. Have a good Labor Day Weekend!

⑤

Mary Hartley

MAIA MISSION ALPHA

This issue of the newsletter is getting out rather quickly, as I haven't much time before I go insane from keeping all kinds of wonderful things to myself.

This newsletter is a special edition, not really no. 2, but mostly about August Party, a rather small, fan oriented convention, that certainly changed my life, and probably others, too.

Back in April of this year, at the Boston Star Trek Convention, I decided to write a letter to Nick Tate, of SPACE:1999, just to tell him how much a fan I was of his, and how it was his presence on the show that made me constantly watch it.

That's how it started. I had a friend, Mary Bloemker, who had a sum of money that she was willing to use, and as I started my letter, she asked me to ask Nick if he would come to the August Party Convention. "Suit yourself," I mumbled, and set about asking Nick if he would come. Of course, as I quite readily admit, the idea was great, and I wanted to see him very much, too.

Let me tell you the surprise I got when I got a letter from Nick's agent, telling me that Nick would be delighted to come, only that he'd like more details.

PANIC. I called Mary, and said to her, "Mary, do you want to go through with this?"

"Yes," she replied, and that was that. We sent Nick's agent more details, and soon, the end of June, I received a telegram from Nick, asking that I call him. Which I did, not being too nervous - after all, it was only a voice on the other end of the phone, and having been weaned on the phone, it didn't bother me in the least.

Nick told me about Murray Horowitz in New York, who wanted to know more, as he was VP of Public Relations for ITC, and he wanted to make sure of the Convention before he recommended that Nick come. You see, there are infinite problems with a small convention at a University. No one knows about it. Mr. Horowitz, trying to find out about the Con, called the University of Maryland, and in doing so, found that no one knew about the Con. Which gave Mr. Horowitz doubts as to the authenticity of the letters I sent to Nick, and to my sincerity. At least that was the impression that I received when I initially called Mr. Horowitz to talk to him.

The details are blurred now, but three weeks later, after calls to Mary, and Rich Kolker, the chairman of the Con, and calls from Mr. Horowitz, it was set. Mr. Horowitz was convinced of the Convention's actually being held, and Nick was assuredly on his way to coming.

I called Nick not too long afterward, after receiving a letter from him. He told me in the letter that he had won the Australian Film Award for best actor, for a movie he did between the first and the second seasons of SPACE:1999, called "the Devil's Playground." We had a slight problem - he would probably have to leave early from the Con, but he had the week before the Con free, and ITC wanted him to do a publicity tour.

It was settled. Nick came on Sunday, July 25, to New York. I was leaving for Maryland on Monday. We would meet there.

Let me pause to say that the Convoy gang from UMAST like to frequent a restaurant called LEONIE'S, which, let me add, serves some spectacular pizza. On Tuesday, after we had arrived, we went to LEONIE'S for the Committee PARANOIA PARTY. The party had a theme: "What if...?" and what to do if something went wrong.

Noone foresaw the paranoia that came. Tracey Dougherty, our beloved Moonmaid, among other things, got a call during our restaurant meeting, from her mother. You see, I had told Nick to call Tracey's number if anything came up. Overhearing what went on in that conversation between Tracey and her mother was strange. It seems Nick was coming down the next day, and was presently staying in the Drake hotel in New York. SHOCK. The next day? Well, I figured it was better to release my hysteria then, rather than have to wait.

Mary, Tracey, Mrs. Dougherty, and I went to the airport to see Nick that Wednesday night. I was nervous; after all, it had only been phone conversations that I'd been having with Nick up to that point. We met him, and though he was being driven away in a limousine, we still had a chance to talk to him.

Friday, he was ours. Despite some infrequent foul-ups, and messy schedule changes, Friday went off okay. Saturday was better, and Sunday was almost perfect. I got a lot of chance to talk to Nick, and to be around him. After all, between Pat Brimer, and myself, we were Nick's "guards." Saturday night we had a party, and it was because of wonderful Joanie Winston that Nick agreed to let Dale Jones and I handle his club. Though, since I already ran a SPACE:1999 club, we decided to incorporate the fan club within the club proper, thus giving each fan his own favorite topic to discuss.

Sunday, we saw him off. I'm afraid, for me, it was a tearful farewell. It isn't everyday that one gets a chance to meet someone that they care deeply for, and in the process of those three days, I began to care very deeply for Nick.

Now that it is over, there comes the digressing for me. From being super incredibly happy, to being normal again. But now, the letters start to come in, and I am happy, reliving those experiences over again. I can't wait to see the pictures in a few more days!

SPACE:1999



MAIN MISSION ALPHA

The only original
SPACE:1999 club!

Join today!

Main Mission Alpha was established by fans, for fans. Its purpose is to keep SPACE:1999 fans in contact with each other, and to provide news as often as possible to the members. With a second year of SPACE:1999 coming along, the fans have to stick together and make it last. We have to show IFC that there is an active fandom, and gain their support through our efforts.

Dues for one year are \$5.00. This will pay for all newsletters, for a membership card to be printed, for a cast picture, and for any other surprise that my officers and I can dream up.

Please join today. We need your support!

Mary Hartery, President
Mary Bloemker, Vice-President
Lee Pappas, Treasurer
Patrick Kelley, Assistant Officer

If you like UFO, please join! There will be some UFO surprises, too!

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