The Andromedan #55

June/July 1996

Vol. 5 #6

The official (almost) monthly newsletter of Star Base Andromeda

Lincoln, NE

ID4

Annual Club Picnic Set for August 25th at Roper Park

All Star Base Andromeda members, associates and friends of the club are encouraged to attend our 1996 Summer Picnic, to be held on Sunday, August 25th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The location for the gathering is Max E. Roper Park, in northwest Lincoln, along Interstate 180 between Cornhusker Highway and Superior St. (see map on page 4). We've also invited all the Lincoln Fantasy & Science *Fiction* club crowd, as well as the *LNE* SF club, and we placed open invitation

Martian Meteor reveals possible past life on Mars!

The big scientific news in early August is that a team of NASA scientists examining a Martian meteorite, located in Antarctica in 1994, have discovered possible fossil evidence of bacterialogical lifeforms on Mars some 3 to 5 billion years ago. We'll have a complete story on this next issue!!!

Remaining Summer Genre Film Releases

August 9 Escape From L.A. August 23 The Island of Dr. Moreau The Relic Robinson Crusoe Solo That Darn Cat August 30 The Crow: City of Angels Uncertain A Very Brady Sequel

flyers listing the basics of the event on the flyer table and at our room party at ConCussion.

In addition to picnicking, all attendees are encouraged to bring their frisbees - Roper Park is Lincoln's official "Frisbee Golf" course, with a full 18-holes designed for disc golf enthusiasts, and we plan to take full advantage of the course after eating. Keep score...we'll have a prize available to the golfer with the lowest score at the end of our competition — score

cards will be available.

Picnickers take note: SBA will provide charcoal for grilling, ice for drinks and keeping things chilled, paper plates (& napkins & forks/ spoons, cups, etc.) and a selection of chips. Everyone should bring their own main dish to grill (or otherwise prepare), and everyone is encouraged to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. We have Roper Shelter #1

Reviewed This Issue:

The Joy Machine

"Invasion" (Parts 1 & 2)

continued on page 4...

Gone Without a Trace...

Fans of Mystery Science Theater 3000 were surprised on July 24th to learn that Trace Beaulieu has decided to leave the show. Beaulieu, who has played the evil Dr. Clayton Forrester and the sarcastic Crow T. Robot since the series' inception, is the last remaining original "on-screen" cast member. Trace's departure letter, forwarded to the nets by Best Brains' netrep Juliewa, reads as follows:

To all my pals,

I will not be returning to the cast of Mystery Science Theater 3000 for the new [8th] season with the Science Fiction Channel. MST3K has been a wonderful part of my life, and I will miss working with all of the talented people at Best Brains. I will also miss the show and playing Dr. Forrester and Crow. This is not a decision I make lightly, however, after eight years, 150 shows and a movie, it is time for me to move on.

I am confident that Mystery Science Theater will continue to be a success at its new home. As for me, it's time to comb my hair, put down the puppet and step out into the universe. So if you hear me talking in the back of a movie theater somewhere, quietly tell me to shut up. You see, I'm not just a critic of bad movies, I'm also a customer.

Trace Beaulieu

Usenet newsgroups associated with MST3K have burning the wires with discussions about the future of the series. Many fans believe the departure of Beaulieu comes at a time when the series is particularly vulnerable. MST3K was recently picked up by the Sci Fi Channel for a 13-episode committment, with is future hinging on the performance of those 13 new episodes. With the writing staff now having to totally rehaul the primary cast, fans are concerned about what

New Feature: "Personal Logs" — See pages 2 and 5 this issue

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Letters to the Editor:

The Andromedan Log encourages Letters of Comment and/or questions from fandom at large, and will attempt to make room for pertinent letters as often as possible. Please indicate if your letter is to be considered for publication. All letters submitted must include name and full address (and e-mail address, if you have one). Only name and city will be printed if your letter is actually used. Please send Letters to the address above right.



Seeking Columnists

The Log is currently looking for any SBA members interested in contributing a monthly or bi-monthly column or feature. Subject matter can be as narrowly focused as Gaming, Animated Series, Comic Books, etc. or as open ended as you'd like (long-time readers of *The Log* will fondly remember Frank Dreier's *The New DC* column from the early '80s!). If you're interested in contributing something along these lines, please contact the editor. We'd like to see a sample of your writing style, and we only want you to do this if you're willing to commit yourself to writing it on a regular, ongoing basis.

We're also looking for any artists out there interested in contributing a monthly strip to *The Log*, either as a stand-alone feature, or as an ongoing storyline. Once again, contact the Editor for further information. Editor: Scott Clark (e-mail address at left) Contributors: Becky Wurm Clark, Scott Clark, Terri Muggy, Mike Ponte, Diane Taurins

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Annual membership dues for Star Base Andromeda are as follows: **\$6.00/Supporting** — Receives all club publications, however is ineligible to hold office or vote; **\$10.00/Full member** — Receives all club publications, is eligible for office, and is able to vote in all elections or on issues associated with the club. Only full members able to attend at least 20% of club meetings are eligible to hold office. All club publications are mailed first class. For postage outside the U.S. add an additional \$5.00.

The expiration month of your membership is listed on your mailing label. Renewal notices go out both the month before expiration and with your final issue of *The Log*. Club members wishing to join the SBA electronic mailing list, please send a request to the Editor's e-mail address.

Editorial Comments Another delayed issue...what's new?

Yeah...late again. I know, I know! And this time there's no good excuse. Well, there was preparation for ConCussion, and the fiasco of the Murder Mystery. Then there was preparation for the club picnic and the upcoming *Star Trek Celebration*. Then, of course, there's the ongoing problems with our computer. But am I trying to excuse the tardiness...nah! Anyway, the simplest solution right now is to just admit that we're never going to get caught up. This issue, cover dated June/July 1996, is really only a single issue, and the next issue (which I hope to have finished and ready to distribute to both club members and guests at the September 8th shindig) will be a bigger-than-usual issue (it covers the new fall tv series), but not a full-scale double issue. Suffice it to say that one month's worth of content is just going to have to slip through the cracks. If it makes any difference, I can see the size of the next several issues as being larger than the usual 16-20 pages. I promise to do my best to keep up with the newsletter in the coming months — it'll help if contributors can get things to me on a timely basis.

Our second new feature, **Personal Logs**, begins this issue. This feature is intended to encourage readers to contribute brief comments on a variety of ongoing subject matter. A collection of the best responses to each **Personal Logs** entry will be printed in an upcoming issue. For the first time, the subject is **Star Trek** (preferably Classic), as we observe its 30th anniversary next month. You may respond to **Personal Logs** by snail mail, or by sending the Editor e-mail. Please do not send your comments to the sbalist. This is intended to be a feature only to be seen in the pages of *The Log*. Please do respond to this feature — I'll be sending out an electronic copy of each **Personal Logs** subject whenever one appears, but I wanted to make sure that those readers of *The Log* who aren't on the sbalist feel encouraged to participate.

- Scott Clark

SBA Editor

Deadlines for contributions to upcoming issues of The Log: Issue #56 (August) — August 20th Yeah...it's already come & gone, I know! It's mostly assembled too! Issue #57 (September) — September 3rd Issue #58 (October) — September 24th [Submissions to "Personal Logs" continuously accepted]

Genre Series Represented Well in Emmy Nominations

When the final nominees for this year's Emmy Awards were announced in July, genre seriesor specials were featured fairly prominently. Below is a list of all the genre productions nominated in specific Emmy categories. Only the genre productions are listed here, to conserve space. If you are interested in a complete list of all nominees in these (or other) categories, please contact the editor.

Nominations by Program

Gulliver's Travels	10
The X-Files	8
Muppets Tonight	5
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	4
JAG	3
3rd Rock From the Sun	3
The Simpsons	2
Star Trek: Voyager	2
Alien Nation: Body & Soul	1
American Gothic	1
Babylon 5	1
The Beast	1
The Canterville Ghost	1
Cow & Chicken	1
Dexter's Laboratory	1
Duckman	1
Lois & Clark: New Adv. of Superman	1
Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree	1
Nowhere Man	1
The Outer Limits	1
Pinky & the Brain	1
SeaQuest 2032	1
Sliders	1
Space: Above and Beyond	1
Strange Luck	1

Nominations by Category

Drama Series The X-Files

- Lead Actress in a Drama Series • Gillian Anderson (Dana Scully in The X-Files)
- Guest Actor in a Drama Series • Peter Boyle (Clyde Bruckman in The X-Files "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose")

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Guest Actress in a Drama Series
    • Amanda Plummer (Theresa Givens in The
    Outer Limits "A Stitch in Time")
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- Lead Actor in a Comedy Series John Lithgow (Dick Solomon in 3rd Rock) From the Sun)
- Art Direction for a Series • The X-Files (Jose Chung's 'From Outer Space')

Cinematography for a Series • Babylon 5 (Comes the Inquisitor)

vwwebWatch

This month's first entry comes from long-time club member Diane Taurins, who writes:

"I don't know if you've used it before, but I'd like the HLLL page listed. I've had over 15,000 visitors since I started counting in March of this year. The pages have been up since June of 1995."

> http://www.unl.edu/uevens/mine/hlll.html Check it out! The Highlander Lust List pages...

Another entry is your editor's first stop when starting work on a new issue of The Log:

> http://www.indirect.com/www/leew/sftv/sftv.html Lee Whiteside's SFTV listings...a favorite spot for genre tv addicts!

If you are an SBA member or associate, we want to list your personal homepages! Send us your own URL, or the URLs for your favorite hangouts, at the snailmail or e-mail addresses on page 2 of this issue...

• The X-Files (Grotesque)

Costuming for a Series • JAG (Smoked)

Costume Design for a Series

• Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (The Muse)

Directing in a Comedy Series • 3rd Rock From the Sun (Pilot episode)

Editing for a Series - Single Camera Production • JAG (Pilot episode)

Hairstyling for a Series

- Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Our Man Bashir)
 - Star Trek: Voyager (Persistence of Vision)
 - 3rd Rock From the Sun (The Dick They Are
 - a Changin')

Lighting Direction for a Drama Series, Variety Series, Miniseries or Special

• Muppets Tonight (with special guest star Tony Bennett)

continued on page 5...

Mediawatch continued from page 7...

starring Tom Cruise will be released at an undisclosed price, around \$15.00, also in time for the gift-giving crowd.

Elijah and Contact

Fresh from their successful deal for Contact, Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan sold a script treatment for **Elijah** to Fox 2000 for mid-six figures. *Elijah* is the story of the cultural, religious, political and scientific implications of a potential messiah in the approaching millenium. The project is also expected to examine the nature of skepticism and belief. Sagan/Druyan's **Contact**, based on their best-selling novel, is currently being filmed by Warner Brothers, and deals with our first contact with extraterrestrials. Sagan and Druyan, who expect to begin work on the full screenplay for **Elijah** soon, were responsible for the acclaimed *Cosmos* TV series, and Sagan is the author of several renowned science and philosophy books.

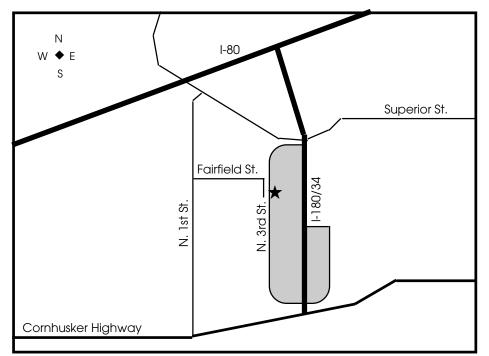
Robert Urich's Cancer

Actor Robert Urich, the perennial tv personality who has occasionally dabbled in genre productions, was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma in early August following a routine physical examination. This uncommon form of cancer tends to be near a joint, or in rare cases inside the joint itself. However, Urich's doctors say that standard treatments are generally effective, and Urich's "prognosis for recovery is excellent." Urich is currently starring in The Lazarus Man (on TNT and in syndication), which had been picked up for a full 22-episode second season, and which was to have begun production on that second season in August, before Urich's condition placed the show's future in question.

Star Base Andromeda

Official Club News & Announcements for June-July 96

How to Get to Max E. Roper Park...



Club Picnic continued from page 1...

reserved for our exclusive use from 1:00-6:00 on Sunday. To reach the shelter, go down the path from the parking lot, and across the small creek – all told, it is about 1/2 to 3/4 of a block.

With the unpredictability of our weather lately, you should be forewarned: We have no rain date set. If we get cancelled in August, we'll have to discuss rescheduling the picnic during upcoming meetings. Keep your fingers crossed, and pass the word to fellow club members who've been missing from recent meetings. See you there!

Trek Hits 30 in a Big Way

Sunday, September 8th is the 30th anniversary of the premiere of *Star Trek* — the show that brought this club into existance. To note this special date, SBA is hosting another open house at the library: The *Star Trek 30th Anniversary Celebration*. From 2:00 to 5:00, in our regular meetings areas on the fourth floor of the Bennett Martin Public Library downtown, we'll be showing Classic **Star Trek** and **Animated Star Trek** episodes in one room, and a **Next Gen**, **DS9** and **Voyager** episode in the other room. A multigenerational Trivia Quiz will be given during the afternoon, with a small prize available to the winner. Cupcakes or a flat cake will be provided during a

break in the festivities. A media release is going out to tv, radio and newspapers in the Lincoln/Omaha area a week before the event, in the hopes that the timeliness of our Celebration will garner the kind of "front page" publicity that led to our 25th Anniversary party being such a smash success. All SBA members are encouraged to attend...anyone who can be at the library when it opens at 1:30 to help with final preparations would be appreciated, as would be any STthemed decorations that club members could bring to help add to the ambiance. See you there, again!

No Meeting 9-1-96

Just a reminder to all club members who hadn't already heard: The library is closed on Sunday, September 1st for the Labor Day holiday. There will be no scheduled SBA meeting on that Sunday. The Tuesday, September 3rd meeting is unaffected by this closing.

Membership News

Star Base Andromeda welcomes two new members since the publication of the previous issue of *The Log.* Jeff Ifland and Mark Murphy, both of Lincoln NE, joined in July and August, respectively. Welcome aboard!

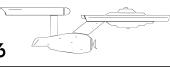
The Andromedan Challenge

First came **Escape From New York**, where the city of skyscrapers was a giant penal colony. Now **Escape From L.A.**, where the City of Angels is deportation point for the future America's undesirables. John Carpenter and Kurt Russell have jokingly said they plan to do **Escape From Earth** next. Where would you set the next **Escape...** film, and what would Snake Plisskin's mission be?

Entries can be as humorous or as serious as you want. Deadline for contributing to this Challenge is September 30th.

<u>Rules for The Challenge</u>: Entries must be typewritten or legible if handwritten. Each club member or reader of *The Log* is limited to entering The Challenge once each month, however they may submit up to 3 answers with each entry. Entries should be clearly identified as *Andromedan Challenge* submissions and mailed to the editor's surface or e-mail address (page 2). At least three different entries must be received in order to select a winner. Winning entry receives one free month on their existing membership, or one free issue of *The Log* if not currently an SBA member.





Emmy Nominees, from page 3...

Makeup for a Series

- Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (*The Visitor*)
- Star Trek: Voyager (*Threshold*)

Music Composition for a Series

- SeaQuest 2032 (Brave New World)
- Space: Above and Beyond (*The River of Stars*)
- Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (*Our Man Bashir*)

Main Title Theme Music

- JAG
- Nowhere Man

Sound Editing for a Series

- Sliders (Invasion)
- Strange Luck (The Liver Wild)
- The X-Files (*Nisei*)

Sound Mixing for a Drama Series

- American Gothic (Damned If You Don't)
 Lois & Clark (Don't Tug on Superman's
- Cape)

• The X-Files (*Nisei*)

Technical Direction / Camera / Video for a Series

Muppets Tonight

Writing in a Drama Series

• The X-Files (Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose)

- Miniseries • Gulliver's Travels
- <u>Art Direction for a Miniseries or a Special</u> • Gulliver's Travels

<u>Cinematography for a Miniseries or Special</u> • Gulliver's Travels

<u>Costume Design for a Miniseries or Special</u> • Gulliver's Travels

Directing for a Miniseries or Special • Gulliver's Travels

Editing for a Miniseries or a Special — Single Camera Production • Gulliver's Travels

- Hairstyling for a Miniseries or special • Gulliver's Travels
- Makeup for a Miniseries or Special
 - Alien Nation: Body and Soul

<u>Music Composition for a Miniseries or Special</u> • The Canterville Ghost

Supporting Actress in a Miniseries or Special

Alfre Woodard (Queen of Brobdingnag in Gulliver's Travels)

Sound Editing for a Miniseries or Special

• Peter Benchley's The Beast

Sound Mixing for a Drama Miniseries or Special • Gulliver's Travels

- Writing in a Miniseries or a Special • Gulliver's Travels
- Variety, Music or Comedy Series

 Muppets Tonight
- <u>Art Direction for a Variety or Music Program</u> • Muppets Tonight (with special guest star Tony Bennett)

Costume Design for a Variety or Music Program

Muppets Tonight (with special guest star Garth Brooks)

- Music and Lyrics
 - Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree (song: The Perfect Tree)
 - The Simpsons (Who Shot Mr. Burns [Song: Señor Burns])

Animated Program (for Programming one hour or less)

- Cow and Chicken in No Smoking
- Dexter's Laboratory
- Duckman
- A Pinky & the Brain Christmas Special
- The Simpsons

\diamond Officer Keports — July 1995

Presidio: Mike Ponte

Star Base Andromeda Sunday meetings, from 2:00 to 5:15 pm, are at Bennett Martin Public Library. Tuesday evening meetings, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, begin at Bennett Martin Library, but around 7:00–7:15, plans are for the group to move to a nearby food and/or drink establishment and continue the meeting.

General Manager: [vacant]

Currently vacant. If you are interested in applying for this position, which is responsible for arranging for meeting locations, maintaining copies of current club documents and records and moderating official club functions in the Presidio's absence, please contact the Presidio at the phone # or e-mail address on page 2.

Treasurer: Dave Teche

9607.18. Since my last report, we have added one full member to our rolls. Welcome Jeff Ifland! As a result, I received a deposit of \$10.00 on Stardate 9606.25. Also since my last report, I have been requested to make a disbursement for the cost of printing and mailing the most recent issue of the *Andromedan Log*. With the addition of \$10.00 and the one disbursement of \$16.00 from club funds, the treasury stands at \$57.54.

Editor: Scott Clark

With the publication of this issue, we find ourselves as close to being "back on schedule" as we're going to get. Deadlines for contributing to the next two issues of *The Log* are on page two. As usual, I'm seeking any/all contributions.

Correspondence Committee Chairperson: Scott Clark

Mail in since last report: One supporting membership payment received from Mark Murphy, and one flyer from the Vedek Bareil fan club seeking support in an effort to get that character reinstated to **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine**. Mail out since last report: Eight issues of **Andromedan Log** #53/54 to various club members. Approximately 20 copies of the Andromeda Awards TV Nomination forms were also mailed to club members, associates and other fans.

Librarian: Frank Dreier

No report this month.

Registrar: Mike Ponte

As of July, Star Base Andromeda currently has twelve full members and six supporting members, with the additions of Jeff Ifland of Lincoln as a Full member starting in June and Mark Murphy, also of Lincoln, as a supporting member starting in July. Current membership lists are available from me to all paid members of the club.



Publicity Committee Chairperson: Scott Clark

A new tri-fold flyer design was not completed before ConCussion, so approximately 100 copies of our older flyer were distributed there. Flyers advertising our upcoming Club Picnic and 30th Anniversary Star Trek event were also distributed at the convention. We continue (sporadically) to work on the *SBA Infopak*; Rod Vasek and Dave and Bev Teche contributed re-edits on a cover letter for the *Infopak* which can serve as a Purpose and Goals Statement, and a third draft was approved at a recent meeting. We have ongoing plans to contact the science fiction clubs at all of Lincoln's high schools at the beginning of the school year.

Historian: Mike Ponte

Updated versions of the SBA Timeline and the complete SBA membership list (1974– Present) are now available from me. A special thanks to SBA member (and former General Manager) Duane Bouchard, for locating an old General Manager's handbook, which has helped to fill in several holes in club history.

Rigel Committee Chairperson: [vacant]

Currently vacant. If you are interested in applying for this position, which coordinates any public events the club sponsors, please contact the Presidio at the phone # or e-mail address on page 2.

Mediawatch Genre News and Observations for June/July 96

Star Trek: First Contact

Trailers for *First Contact* have been attached to several movies this summer, although it varies per theater as to where you'll see it. In Lincoln, the trailer was recently shown before *Escape From L.A.*

Here's the facts on *First Contact* so far: All the regular cast members return; guest cast includes Alice Krige as the Borg Queen, James (Babe) Cromwell as Zefram Cochran, and Alfre Woodard as Cochran's assistant. Lily Sloan; Jonathan Frakes directs; the Defiant from **DS9** is destroyed (or nearly destroyed) in the Federation's defense of Earth against a Borg fleet; the film deals with time travel back to the first alien contact and first testing of Cochran's warp drive, and the Borg are the primary threat; Picard's role is said to be smaller than in **Generations**, to allow for more scenes with the supporting cast; Script is by the same folks who brought us Generations.

Shatner Laces Up

William Shatner has signed to star as former hockey superstar Gordie Howe in a film version of the sports biography **My Three Hockey Players**. The film is being put together by Shatner's longtime agent, Larry Thompson, who snagged the film rights to the bio from Howe's wife, Colleen Howe. The bio tells the story of how Gordie came out of retirement to play professional hockey with his two sons Mark and Marty in the upstart World Hockey Association, eventually leading the Houston Aeros to that league's championship in 1974.

Bolding Go Where No Dead People Have Gone Before

Some of the ashes of both Gene Roddenberry and Timothy Leary will be joining those of 13 others when Celestis Inc. of Houston blasts a satellite with 15 lipstick-tube sized containers filled with human ashes into orbit. The cost per passenger: \$4,800, which includes a video of the event for the family.

He'll Deliver For You

After years of talk about Tom Hanks in the title role, it was announced in June that Kevin Costner will be starring in **The Postman** — the motion picture adaptation of David Brin's awardwinning post-apocalyptic novel. The screenplay from Brin's novel has been adapted by Eric (*Forrest Gump*) Roth and Brian Helgeland, and although no director had been selected, filming is slated to begin in January.

Cat in the Hat

DreamWorks SKG has obtained the rights to do a live-action adaptation of the classic childrens literature work **The Cat in the Hat**, by Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel). The 1957 book, which has been translated into 20 languages, and has sold over 200 million copies worldwide, is one of kid lit's greatest success stories, inspiring a love for reading in several generations of children who had grown weary of the Dick and Jane primers. The book eventually earned Geisel a Pulitzer Prize in 1984.

Home Improvement star Tim Allen, who hit movie fame with **The Santa Clause** two years ago, has expressed an interest in starring in the Cat project. Eric (*Forrest Gump*) Roth (yeah, him again) has been assigned to do the screenplay for this adaptation. No acting contracts have yet been signed.

VQT Nominees

The nominees for the Quality Awards, as voted on by the members of the grassroots organization Viewers for Quality Television, included four genre selections, none of which went on to win in their categories. The nominated genre selections were: **The X-Files** (Drama), Gillian Anderson (Actress-Drama), David Duchovny (Actor-Drama), and John Lithgow (Actor-Comedy).

Can't Keep a Good Chan Down

Miramax/Dimension and Adelson Entertainment announced in June that they are teaming up to bring a new version of Charlie Chan to the silver screen, probably by 1997.

Russell Wong, most recently the star of the well-received syndicated series Vanishing Son (92-94), will be one of the first Asians to play such an Asian trademark character. Through the majority of the 48 film versions of Chan stories over the years, the lead role has been played by caucasian actors in vellowface, sporting singsong Chinese accents. The worst example of this was probably Peter Ustinov's turn in 1981. In addition to proper casting, the new film will modernize the characters, bringing them into the 1990s. Although no script has been finalized yet, the producers' initial rights to the property and to Wong only exist for three years, so plans for a series of Chan films are being rushed into production.

After all...Bush met with aliens

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington is apparently the residence of science fiction fans. In June, White House officials requested a Sci-Fi Channel hookup for both the White House and Camp David. The local cable system was actually in the process of adding SFC to its lineup for the White House, and Kay Koplovitz, head of Sci-Fi parent company USA Networks quickly authorized that the signal for the Camp David retreat's satellite be unscrambled to receive SFC there as well.

Then, in July, the producers of *Independence Day* received a request for a Presidential screening of their blockbuster film. Producer/director/ writers Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin grabbed a print of the film, as well as their own presidential star Bill Pullman and winged to the White House for a special showing. Republication Presidential nominee Bob Dole even took his wife to a showing of the film on her birthday, while prepping for a talk to Hollywood's elite on the campaign trail.

Seeing Stars

Johnny Grant, chairman of the Hollywood Walk of Fame Committee announced in late June the names of 14 upcoming Walk of Fame star recipients. Included among those are the following individuals with genre exposure: Penny Marshall, Alec Baldwin, Christopher Reeve and Patrick Swayze for motion pictures, David Carradine for television and Patrick Stewart for live theater.

Saturn Winners

The winners of the 22nd Annual Saturn Awards were announced June 25th by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror. In the television category, The Outer Limits and Alien Nation won for Best TV Series and Best TV Presentation (i.e. TV movie). In the motion picture category, Kathryn Bigelow won as Best Director for Strange Days; Andrew Kevin Walker won Best Screeplay for Seven. The Usual Suspects won Best Film (Action/ Adventure); From Dusk Till Dawn won as Best Horror Film and 12 Monkeys won as Best Sci-Fi Film. George Clooney won Best Actor for From Dusk Till Dawn, while Angela Bassett won Best Actress for Strange Days. Brad Pitt took Best Supporting Actor for 12 Monkeys and Bonnie Hunt was Best Supporting Actress in Jumanji. Christina Ricci won Best Younger Actor for Casper. The soundtrack for The Usual Suspects won for Music; Jumanji won for Special Effects, Seven took Best Makeup and 12 Monkeys won for Best Costumes.

Special awards presented were Life Career awards to Albert "Cubby" Broccoli (two days before he died!) and Edward Pressman. Bryan Singer and Robert Wise took the President's Award, and John Carpenter took the George Pal memorial award.

Roddenberry Heirs Denied

In what was described as "one of the largest disinheritances in U.S. history," the California Court of Appeals ruled that Dawn Roddenberry's \$500,000 inheritance has been revoked. Gene Roddenberry's will stipulated that his daughter Dawn was left \$500,000 and a share of a trust fund which would have been given to her upon Majel Barrett Roddenberry's death, provided that neither she nor any of the other inheritors from Gene Roddenberry's estate contested the terms of his will. Dawn contested the will, claiming Majel had undue influence over its creation, but withdrew her suit the day it was to go to court. The courts found no evidence of undue influence on Majel's part, and although Dawn's suit was withdrawn before it could go to court, the two years of legal wrangling it entailed were deemed to apply to the "nocontest" clause of the will, thus ruling against Dawn's inheritance.

This ruling comes not long after the California Court of Appeals reversed a lower court's ruling that ordered Majel to pay more than \$4 million in damages to Eileen Roddenberry (Dawn's mother and Gene's first wife). That secondary ruling indicated that Eileen was not due any of the profits from any of the **Star Trek** franchises which were created after she and Gene divorced a ruling against Eileen Roddenberry which was upheld by a second Court of Appeal in July.

Independence Day Records

• Highest five-day opening — \$83.5 million

• Highest 4th of July opening

• Fastest film to \$100 million (6 days), \$150 million, and \$200 million. Jurassic Park still holds the \$250 million record

• Biggest preview at \$11.1 million

Babylon 5 Robbery

The recent TV Guide (July 27-Aug 2) article on SF tv series developments has an interesting sidebar. Apparently, as part of the **Babylon 5** article, a new spread of photos was shot on the B5 sets. But when the negatives were sent by an overnight delivery service to New York, the truck containing them ws hijacked at gunpoint and the contents vanished. TV Guide ended up using photos from the series' archives to illustrate its article...the stolen negatives have never shown up.

Kull Castings

Tia Carrere was cast to star opposite Kevin Sorbo in *Kull the Conqueror*, which began filming August 6th. Carrere plays Akivasha, a sorceress resurrected after 3,000 who begins a new evil reign which Kull must combat.

Zen Differential

Michael Mann has been tapped to direct **The Zen Differential**, the motion picture adaptation of William Gibson's early cyberpunk story **Count Zero**. The film will be done for Turner Pictures, who have had the rights to both Gibson's novel and John Lloyd Parry's screenplay adaptation since 1994. No casting has yet been announced.

Steel news

The movie adaptation of the comic book *Steel* is turning into one of the biggest "name" games around. Shaquille O'Neal first signed to play the title character, a scientist who creates a suit of armor to allow him to fight against a fellow scientist who is developing weapons. Judd Nelson has now been signed to star opposite O'Neal as the corrupt scientist and chief baddy. Richard Roundtree also stars, as the junkman turned artist who assists O'Neal's character in constructing the armor. Kenneth Johnson (producer of V, The Incredible Hulk, Alien Nation and Shadow Chasers) is the writer and director on Steel, which will be produced by Quincy Jones, Joel Simon and Mark Allan.

More Camelot Voices

Christopher Reeve has more company on the animated film *The Quest For Camelot*. John Gielgud will portray the voice of Merlin, while former Reeve co-star (*Somewhere in Time*) Jane (*Dr. Quinn*) Seymour will voice an original character, Lady Juliana.

Twister & MI video

Warner Home Video is expected to release their spring hit Twister on October 1st, at the sell-through price of \$22.96. Actually, *Twister* was expected to be Warner's first release in the new Digitial Versatile Disc format, to highlight its impressive visuals and sound effects, however copyright protection issues have forced a delay in DVD releases and Warners still wishes to capitalize on Twister's popularity for Christmas gifts. Meanwhile, Paramount pictures is planning its biggest-ever promotional campaign for the November launch of its own Mission: Impossible video. The smash-hit summer film

Continued on page 3...

Channel Surfing

Genre TV news From June-July 96 (All times listed are Central Time Zone)

Strange Universe

Rysher Entertainment and Chris-Craft Television will bring us a daily half-hour syndicated magazine style show dealing with the strange and unexplained. *Strange Universe* is already cleared in more than 85% of the country, although mostly in fringe or late-night timeslots.

Other reality-based series with a genre bent that are currently in production include: *Miracles*, a show that recreates inexplicable but uplifting events; and *Psi-Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal*, a weekly series hosted by Dan Ackroyd, which dramatizes cases of the supernatural documented by the independent Office of Scientific Investigation and Research group. A weekly *Psi-Factor* newspaper column written by Ackroyd, daily *Psi-Factor* radio segments, and a series of *Psi-Factor* books and other merchandize are already in the works.

Undead May Not Be Dead

As of early June, tremendous response to the **Kindred** website (http:// www.kindredemb.com) was encouraging the series' producer to shop the show around to such cable outlets as HBO and Showtime, hoping to find a new home for the series following its cancellation on the FOX network.

Spoon!

The popular animated series, **The Tick**, preparing to enter its third and final season on the Fox Children's Network, has struck an unusual deal with the Comedy Central cable network. New episodes of **The Tick** will air in their regular Saturday morning slot in the fall starting Sept. 21 on Fox, then will immediately be rerun on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. on CC. After ten new episodes, Comedy Central will then run all of the episodes from **The Tick**'s first two FOX seasons.

MST3K on SFC, A.S.A.P.

Mystery Science Theater 3000, rescued from the dumpster at Comedy

Central by the Sci Fi Channel, is scheduled to have a February 1st premiere at its new home, depending on the producers' abilities to cope with the departure of Trace (Dr. Forrester/ Crow) Beaulieu. Only 13 episodes have initially been ordered by SFC, with an option for ordering as many as 60 more depending on the ratings performance of the first 13.

Fox Gets Marvelous

Marvel Comics Group and the Fox Children's Network entered into an agreement in late June that gives Fox exclusive rights to air animated adaptations of Marvel's popular comic-book characters for the next seven years. Fox currently airs two very successful animated series based on **The Amazing Spiderman** and **The Uncanny X-Men**. A new series based on **The Incredible Hulk** will premiere on Sundays this fall on the UPN network, and Fox plans a series based on **The Silver Surfer** for the fall of 1997.

This new agreement ensures that Fox will make at least four animated series, totaling 52 episodes each, and will share in licensing profits from sales based on these shows. Fox will also have domestic and international cable and broadcast distribution rights to these programs for 21 years. It hasn't been announced yet which additional Marvel comics characters will be adapted to television, although sources indicated that Fox was leaning towards Captain American and Daredevil. Also, although this new contract doesn't specify live-action adaptations of Marvel properties, Marvel and Fox are apparently also discussing this possibility following the moderate success of the tv-movie *Generation X*.

Saintly Developments

The revived RKO Pictures Inc. television division has a series of telefilms based on *The Saint* in development, although casting has only just begun. The first of these *The Saint in New York* is being written by Larry Cohen. RKO's production schedule is timed to capitalize on the release of the 1997 feature film version of **The Saint** from Paramount pictures, starring Val Kilmer.

If You Can Find Them...

Rysher Entertainment is developing a new syndicated action/adventure series to premiere in the fall of '97 under the title Soldier of Fortune, Inc. In these days of V-Chip discussions and politicians attacking the entertainment industry over family values again, it seems unusual to be working on what is described as "An A-Team for the 90's." However, Rysher executive Rob Kenneally hopes to find a happy medium between the action quotient that fans prefer and the low body-count that social mores demand. SOFI is about a group of ex-military types who have various specialities and who are brought together and funded by a government organization that sends them on missions — but they are also open to business from the average guy who comes through their front door. The emphasis in this cross between **The** A-Team and Mission: Impossible will be on the unusual missions that the group goes on, and the high tech equipment they use — an area that Navy SEALs are advising the producers on. The only link between the series and the magazine of the same title is that title, which producers paid to use.

The Dynamic Duo

Filmmakers Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin headed to Puerto Vallarta to relax after the blockbuster opening of their film Independence Day. While there, the industry pondered what their next project will be, after the phenomenal success of both Stargate and moreso ID4. High on the list of possibilities: *Godzilla*, for TriStar, if they can come up with an interesting twist on the original story. Other contenders: a remake of Fantastic Voyage, or Super*tanker*, a project brought to them by their ID4 star Bill Pullman. Devlin is also set to script a feature-length Gargoyles for Touchstone Pictures.

Meanwhile, in late July, word surfaced that the duo also had quietly negotiated a tv contract for a show of their own, about which little is known, except the title — "The Visitors" — and that they have a 13-episode committment from the Fox television network.

The Return of Robin

The New Adventures of Robin Hood is set to bow in the near future (no specific dates mentioned yet) as TNT's first exclusive original series. Cast members announced are Matthew Porretta (Beverly Hills 90210, Les Miserables) as Robin, Anna Galvin as Maid Marian, Richard Ashton as Little John and Martyn Ellis as Friar Tuck. The series, which is expected to cost less than \$1 million per episode, will be exec-produced by Fred Weintraub and Tom Kuhn, with Robert Nador producing. Producers describe their version as containing contemporary humor and "a tremendous amount of action and sex appeal".

Millenium to the Brits

Following extremely positive wordof-mouth at recent pilot screenings in L.A., Chris Carter's new series *Millenium* has reaped a record \$270,000 per episode from broadcasters wishing to air the show on BSkyB and ITV in the U.K. The proliferation of broadcasters and cable systems throughout Europe is leading to a much higher demand for U.S. product, especially new series.

Herc/Xena Strip For USA

The USA Network has purchased exclusive off-syndication rights to *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* and *Xena: Warrior Princess*. Beginning in September 1998, the network will premiere the two series in Monday-Friday strips, with 85 one-hour episodes of *Hercules* and 72 episodes of *Xena*. The 4 two-hour *Hercules* movies which originally aired as part of MCA's "Universal Action Pack" movie wheel during 1994-95 are not included in the USA package. USA is co-owned by MCA, Inc.

From Big Screen to Small

A number of movie spin-off series are being considered for syndication. Already in the works are upcoming series based on *Stargate* (from MGM) and **Total Recall**, which DSI Entertainment recently paid \$1.2 million to get TV rights to. Less certain, but still being discussed are series based on **Honey**, **I Shrunk the Kids**, **Beastmaster** and the recent hit **Species**.

Battleground Earth

Star Trek teams up with Babylon 5 in the fall of 1997, as Majel Barrett Roddenberry and Douglas Netter (an executive producer of **B5**) join forces with producer David Kirschner to bring us **Battleground Earth** — a series based on a lost pilot from the late Gene Roddenberry. The syndication wing of the Creative Artists Agency is backing the project, based on a one-hour pilot script written by Roddenberry in the early 70s. An expanded two-hour pilot will be followed by 22 one-hour episodes when the series launches amidst a splashy P.R. campaign in September 1997, which will focus on the Roddenberry legacy and the talents of the personnel involved. Although no casting has been done, a promotional tape was prepared and tested for audience reaction by several syndicators and received a very positive response. The set-up of **Battleground** *Earth* involves the arrival on Earth of apparently friendly aliens who bring with them new technology and cures to deadly diseases. However, a band of rebels believes the aliens are really out to dominate the human race and they set out to save the Earth.

Star Trek at 30 special

During the final day of the tv networks' summer press tour, UPN officials announced that UPN will carry a two-hour special, **"Star Trek: 30 Years and Beyond"** on October 6th (watch our local listings for when secondary affiliate KPTM will actually carry it!). In announcing the special, UPN's Michael Sulliven refered to the show as a "live celebration" — whatever that's supposed to imply!?

I fim Not Scotty...

James Doohan, Star Trek's Scotty, is joining the cast of the upcoming UPN sci-fi comedy *Homeboys in Outer Space*. He'll play Pippin, a mechanic who repairs the homeboy's spaceship, which is called the Space Hoopty.

The Cape news

MTM's upcoming action series **The Cape** has been sold in 66 foreign countries, something of a surprise for a first-year syndicated series. Producers are crediting the overseas popularity of America's space program with helping boost interest in this series about astronauts. On the production side, shuttle astronaut Bruce Melnick has been brought in as an additional technical consultant for a staff which is striving to ensure technical accuracy. Melnick joins Buzz Aldrin, already on the staff in the same capacity.

Triffids Remake

The Sci Fi Channel is planning a remake of the 1962 classic, *The Day of the Triffids*. Alliance Communications Corp will do this version, following two original science fiction films which will also see their premieres on SFC.

Let's Trade Stalkers!

Quantum Leap's Scott Bakula was granted a court order telling Tina Marie Ledbetter to stay at least 100 yards away from him, following charges that she sent threatening mail to Bakula and his girlfriend. Ledbetter was previously convicted of threatening actor Michael J. Fox in 1989 under similar circumstances.

<u>UPCOMING SCHEDULES</u> American Gothic

Previous Air Schedule The Beast Within (8pm) Jul 3 To Hell and Back (9pm) Jul 4 Learning to Crawl (8pm) Triangle (8pm) Jul 10 The Buck Stops Here (9pm) Jul 11 Requiem (8pm) CBS aired a marathon of 6 of the remaining 9 hours of filmed American *Gothic* episodes during the first two weeks of July. They have indicated no plans to air the remaining 3 hours, and the series has definitely been cancelled.

Babylon 5

- <u> Upcoming Air Schedule " [Week of]</u>
- Aug 5 A Day in the Strife (re)
- Aug 12 Passing Through Gethsemene (re)
- Aug 19 Voices of Authority (re) Aug 26 Dust to Dust (re)
- Aug 26 Dust to Dust [unk] Walkabout]
- [unk] Walkabout] [unk] Grey 17 is Missing
- [unk] And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place
- [unk] Shadow Dancing
- [unk] Z'ha'dum [season 3 finale]
- [unk] The Hour of the Wolf [season 4 premiere]
- [unk] What Ever Happend to Mr. Garibaldi?
- The final five new episodes of 3rd

season are scheduled to begin airing in either late September or October, with season four to begin immediately after Focuses on Lyta Alexander, testing the Shadow's psi weaknesses, and Franklin meets a singer in downbelow. "Grey 17 *is Missing*" — Garibaldi investigates the disappearance of part of the station. "And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place" — plot unknown. "Shadow **Dancing**" — Critical episode, rumored to be very violent. Only plot details known are a major subplot involving Franklin. "**Z'ha'dum**" — Season finale. Said to turn the series on its ear. Gueststarring Melissa Gilbert, and Ed Wasser Season premiere. No plot details released. "What Ever Happened to Mr. Garibaldi?" — 2nd episode of season 4. No plot details released.

Baywatch Nights

You may well ask why **Baywatch** *Nights* is showing up in this listing for the first time. After one season as a detective action series, **Baywatch** *Nights* is changing its focus in year two (96-97) to a paranormal bent, as a promotional blurb for the show says: the series will explore "a dimension where the thin line between this world and another is constantly being blurred and often crossed." Admittedly ripping off such recent genre successes as The X-Files, star and executive producer David Hasselhoff has said that where **The X-Files** is more cerebral — trying to explain and understand the oddities and monsters it encounters —

Baywatch Nights is pure action and won't try to explain the critters who pop up on the show, it'll just deal with 'em. Okay...

Due South

Upcoming Air Schedule Aug 9 Mask (re) Aug 16 All the Queen's Horses (re) Aug 23 pre-empted

Despite valiant efforts to find a new network backer, **Due South's produc**tion office finally closed up shop in late July, effectively abandoning efforts to revive this cancelled series.

Forever Knight [SFC/syndi]

Having ended the series on a rather final note, no news about possible TVmovies on the Science Fiction Channel has been announced. *Forever Knight* appears to have truly reached its end.

Highlander

Upcoming Air Schedule [Week of] Aug 5 Methuselah's Gift (re) Aug 12 The Immortal Cimoli (re) Aug 19 Through a Glass Darkly (re) Aug 26 The Wrath of Kali (re) Sep 2 Chivalry (re) Sep 9 Till Death (re) Sep 16 Judgement Day (re) Sep 23 One Minute to Midnight [unk] Double Jeopardy Two episodes were held back from the fourth season — "One Minute to

Midnight," which is the conclusion to the cliffhanger episode *"Judgement Day"*; and *"Double Jeopardy,"* which is supposed to feature the present-day return of Xavier St. Cloud (Roland Gift).

Kung Fu: The Legend Continues

This series was recently cancelled, partway through its fourth season on the PTEN network (and in syndication). New episodes which had been filmed are expected to continue airing sporadically until the end of the show's official "season" in December. Meanwhile, star Chris Potter has already segued into a role as the new male lead on the 1996-97 season of **Silk Stalkings** on USA.

Lazarus Man

The producers of this show had announced plans to add a new regularly appearing character to this western/psychological suspense series, to give star Robert Urich a breather from the grueling amount of on-screen time he had. Then came the news announcement that Urich had an uncommon form of cancer and would require an extended hospitalization for chemotherapy and other anti-cancer treatments. The producers said they'd continue with the casting of the new regular and that production would be worked around Urich's availability. Now (August 15th), the production company has announced that it is ceasing production on this series and will be removing it from syndication they felt that production would be halted too long while waiting for Urich's treatment and recovery, and since it was a star vehicle for him, it couldn't continue in his absence.

Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

News on the *L&C* front is that the New Krypton storyline will be wrapped up in a 2-part season opener, although the visiting Kryptonians may pop up throughout the season. Episode three will feature the long-awaited real wedding of Lois & Clark, menaced in that episode by *Designing Women's* Delta Burke. Other big-name guests are lurking on the horizon. Rumors floating around indicated possible appearances on-screen by other DC comics characters (Wonder Woman, or The Flash) in upcoming episodes, although this clashes with producers' earlier comments that they wanted to avoid this scenario. Production on the new season may start slightly late, as both Dean and Teri finish movie committments they've made over the summer.

Mappets Tonight!

Previous Air Schedule

- Jun 23 Sandra Bullock Host Jun 30 Jason Alexander — Host
- Jul 7 Whoopi Goldberg Host
- Jul 14 Martin Short Host

Although confirmed as a mid-season replacement series for next season on ABC, the network decided to try out four first-season holdovers on Sunday nights in June and July...once again to low ratings.

Mystery Science Theater 3000

- Upcoming Air Schedule
- Aug 3 [418] Attack of the Eye Creatures (4pm)
- Aug 4 [424] Manos: The Hands of Fate (6am)
- Aug 10 [705] Escape 2000 (4pm) Aug 11 [508] Agend Double 007 (6am)
- Aug 11 [508] Agend Double (Aug 12 (repeated at 1am)
- Aug 17 [604] Zombie Nightmare (4pm)
- Aug 18 [607] Bloodlust (6am)
- Aug 19 (repeated at 1am)
- Aug 24 [404] Teenagers From Outer Space (4pm)
- Aug 25 [407] Attack of the Killer Shrews (6am)
- Aug 26 (repeated at 1am)

Comedy Central airings are listed above for the month of August. September listings will be announced the last week of August and will be listed next issue. It has been indicated that the

Mystery Science Theater Hour syndicated airings (seen at 1:00 am Saturday nights on channel 7 locally) are currently airing episodes not previously seen in the *MST Hour* rotation. Broadcast rights to [611] *Last of the Wild Horses* and [612] *The Starfighters* expire in August. Broadcast rights to [614] *San Francisco International* and [615] *Kitten With a Whip* will expire in September, whether they air again or not. Comedy Central continues to run an on-line and telephone poll allowing voters to decide which remaining episodes they should air during the final months of CC's run of MST3K.

Nash Bridges

Upcoming Air Schedule Aug 2 Key Witness (re) Aug 9 Genesis (re) Aug 16 Aloha, Nash (re) Aug 23 Vanishing Act (re) Plans to scatter new episodes among

the summer reruns were apparently abandoned, in order to give **Nash Bridges** a healthy stock of unaired episodes to show at the beginning of the new season.

Nowhere Man

Upcoming Air Schedule [KPTM air dates listed] Aug 4 Calaway (re) Aug 11 Coma (re) Aug 18 Marathon (re) Aug 25 Gemini (re) [finale] Our local UPN secondary affiliate is

airing repeats of **Nowhere Man** on Sunday mornings at 11:00 for the remainder of the summer. Catch it before it goes away for good. Disney's hopes to resurrect **NM** as a series of two-hour movies appear to have hit a dead end.

The Odyssey

The Science Fiction Channel continues airing this unusual Canadian fantasy drama, in which a youth in a coma is actually living out his life in a nightmarish version of reality. Episodes are shown at 7:30 p.m. Sundays, with repeats at 11:30 p.m. Sundays.

The Outer Limits [Showtime]

Production on the third season of new episodes is scheduled to begin shortly. The second season of Showtime episodes will begin airing in syndication this fall.

Poltergeist: The Legacy

Production continues on new episodes of this poorly-reviewed horror/ action series for Showtime. First season episodes from Showtime are schedule to begin airing on syndicated stations in the fall.

The Sentinel

UPN continues to air this series, which was renewed for a new season in the fall, although our local UPN secondary affiliate has yet to show it. It's possible KPTM 42 will start airing The Sentinel in Nowhere Man's current

timeslot when the new season starts.

Sliders

- Upcoming Air Schedule
- Aug 2 Obsession (re)
- Aug 9 The Good, the Bad and the Wealthy (re) Aug 16 Greatfellas (re)
- Aug 23 The Young and the Relentless (re)

Production is in full gear on a third 22-episode season of *Sliders*. There are repeated rumors that John Rhys-Davies will not be returning in the fall. No word on potential replacements. The Kromaggs (seen in "Invasion") are intended to be an on-going antagonist for the Sliders this coming season.

Space: Above and Beyond

After announcing plans to air reruns of this series throughout the summer, FOX summarily pulled it from the schedule after 3 low-rated repeats in June. The network has not indicated any plans to air any further reruns.

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Upcoming Air Schedule [Week of] Aug 5 The Bar Association (re) Aug 12 Hard Time (re) Aug 19 Shattered Mirror (re) Aug 26 For the Cause (re) Sep 2 The Quickening (re) Sep 9 To the Death (re) Sep 10 Body Parts (re) Sep 17 Broken Link (re) Sep 24 Apacoalypse Rising [Season 5 premiere] Nov 4 Trials and Tribble-ations' "Apocalypse Rising" — The DS9

command crew infiltrate the Klingon homeworld in an attempt to reveal Gowron as a Changling imposter. "Trials and Tribble-ations" — Using state-of-the-art technology, like that used in *Forrest Gump*, the DS9 crew will go back in time and interact with the Classic Trek crew in a followup to *"The Trouble With Tribbles"*. Some tidbits from TV Guide: Grilka, the Klingon female who married Quark two seasons ago, will return for more Klingon romance; Kasidy Yates is unlikely to return any time soon (the actress wasn't interested in continuing the role); Andrea Martin will return as Quark and Rom's mother, Ishka; one hot, dirty, tense episode featuring the discovery of a downed Jem'Hadar ship will resemble an episode of *Combat*; and at some point the crew will visit the pleasure planet Risa, seen in TNG.

Star Trek: Voyager

Upcoming Air Schedule [UPN Air Dates listed]

- Aug 5
 The Thaw (re)

 Aug 14
 Tuvix(re) [Now on Wednesdays on UPN]

 Aug 21 Resolutions (re)
- Aug 28 Basics, Part 1 (re)
- Sep 4 Basics, Part 2 [Season 3 Premiere]

Sep 11 Flashback [30th Anniversary Episode]

- [unk] Sacred Ground
- [unk] False Profits [unk] The Chute
- "Basics, Part 2" Somehow, the season-ending cliffhanger is resolved,

and the Kazon are finally left behind. "Flashback" — This special 30th Anniversary episode features flashbacks to Tuvok's service aboard The *Excelsior*, captained by Hikaru Sulu. Guest-starring George Takei and Grace Lee Whitney. "Sacred Ground" - plot unknown. "False Profits" — The crew encounters the two Ferengi shuttle pilots who were stranded in the Delta quadrant several years ago in the TNG episode "The Price". They've set themselves up as despotic rulers on a primitive planet. "The Chute" - plot unknown. In November, a two-parter will find the crew time-and-space warped back to Los Angeles in 1996, featuring car chases and other contemporary mayhem. John DeLancie is also set to guest star as Q in another November sweeps episode in which Q gets the urge to procreate and chooses Janeway to be his partner.

Third Rock From the Sun

<u>Upcoming Air Schedule</u>

- Aug 5 Dick, Smoker (re) (8:30) Aug 8 Assault With a Deadly Dick (re) (8:30)
- Aug 11 Dick's First Birthday (re) (7:00)
- Aug 15 Frozen Dick (re) (special day & time)
- Aug 18 The Dicks They Are A'Changin'" (re)
- Aug 22 Dick Like Me (re) (special day & time)

After airing all over the schedule, **3rd Rock** settled into its new Sunday berth shortly after the Olympics, where it will remain throughout the fall. The season premiere will include a humorous reference to the discovery of possible life on Mars billions of years ago.

The X-Files

Upcoming Air Schedule Aug 2 Hell Money (re) Aug 9 Nisei (re)

- Aug 16 731 (re)
- Aug 23 Quagmire(re)
- Aug 30 Piper Maru (re)
- Sep 6 Apocrypha (re)

Fourth season premiere is scheduled for October 4. The move of **The X-Files** to Sundays at 8:00 to make room for **Millenium** on Fridays will take place on October 27th, after 3 new **XF** episodes have aired in the traditional Friday timeslot. *Millenium* will then premiere on October 25th.

Reviews

This summer Pocket Books has published a crossover series called Invasion, involving all four of its current **Star Trek** titles. Each **Star Trek** series has a book that examines a different point of view and a different moment in time as large pieces of ancient history fall into place. Reviews of the first two books follow below. Look for reviews of the remaining two in an upcoming issue.

FIRST STRIKE

by Diane Carey (Book 1 of 4) \$5.99 Pocket Books, July 1996

The Star Trek Invasion series begins with a simple physics equation. Energy equals mass verses velocity. The mass in a planetary system being explored by a Klingon patrol is being drastically reduced. This causes the star, it's planets, and the Klingon patrol to increase velocity to near light speed. General Kellen (the Klingon in charge of the patrol) manages to save all except one of the ships. While beaming back to his command ship, Kellen is drawn into a ship that appears out of an energy rift. In the dark, surrounded by organic growth and a growing sense of unease, the Klingon general famed for his almost Vulcan calm, comes face to face with a being terrifying enough to make James T. Kirk look like a Klingon's best friend.

Kirk meanwhile is fighting a land based skirmish where Spock sustains spinal injuries severe enough to keep him in sickbay for about half of the book. Kellen convinces Kirk to help but when Kirk does not destroy this new ship, Kellen takes matters into his own hands. When Kirk invites a delegation of aliens on board for a friendly tour of the ship, Kellen kills one of the visitors, beheads it, and broadcasts it's image to the whole Klingon Empire.

Captained by Vergo Zenner, the alien ship "Rath" is looking for the

conquerors who forcefully relocated a variety of races, including Zenner's, to the opposite side of the galaxy thousands of years ago. Spock and Uhura try to correlate the myths of races in the surrounding territories with what Zenner has said of the past. Kirk's attempt to assure Zenner that the Federation and the Klingons had nothing to do with past events is overruled by Dana Garamanus. The Dania (plural Dana) are leaders in the search for the homeland and the conquerors. The only evidence of the homeland's location is a star chart that points to a system deep in Klingon territory.

After McCoy dissects a poppet worn by the beheaded alien, he is kidnapped by Garamanus to be burned alive. The aliens consider the poppets to be their souls and reacted rather badly to one being scattered around sickbay. The files Spock was working on concerning various mythologies and a possible connection to the Furies were also taken from sickbay. McCoy is recovered during a major power struggle between Zenner and Garamanus. Zenner gains control of the files and believes they are proof that this is the Furies homeland and the local residents were the conquerors.

At this point a half-mile long ship appears through a rift in space (without a drop in mass) and attaches to Zenner's ship. With this addition of power, Zenner's ship averages major structural damage to three Klingon ships per single shot. The main Klingon fleet is nearly destroyed before the Enterprise manages to destroy the Furies ship with the Klingon's help.

Overall this first book in the series does a very good job of introducing the culture of the "Havoc" or the "Furies" as various mythologies call them. While few individuals are introduced, Zenner's crew is presented as a mixed society with many shared beliefs and respect for minor variations within those beliefs. They have, however, come to take back their homeland from whoever threw them out five thousand years ago and so have little tolerance for Klingons who refuse to leave their Empire.

The storyline moves at a rapid pace except for minor back-tracking when two major events occur at once. Effects described during the battles rival most summer action films in color and speed. Character relations are drawn upon with many jokes and straight faced one-liners keeping the book close to the television series camaraderie. I give this first book $\star \star \star \star$.

THE SOLDIERS OF FEAR

by Dean Smith and Kristine Rusch \$5.99 Pocket Pooks, July 1996 (2 of 4)

Lieutenant Young is introduced as an avid skier stuck in the middle of space at Brundage Station. He offended the wrong Admiral and is now in charge of listening posts scattered about an area called Furies Point. When a group of five ships show up and attack the station, Young manages to warn the Federation of the Furies return.

The book then cuts to Riker and his friend Redbay having an atmospheric dogfight in the holodeck. Redbay was a Federation test pilot before being assigned to the Enterprise as a roving crew member. Their game is interrupted by a senior staff meeting about the Furies. The Enterprise is the closest ship to Brundage Station and will be the Federation's first line of defense. The poppets from the previous book have been sent for and will arrive with two Federation ships, two Klingon ships, and one Vulcan ship as backup. More then once it is mentioned that everyone has been training for the day the Furies returned.

Riker leads an away team to the station. They find Young nearly comatose, two crewmen reduced to a pile of bones and one that was literally scared to death. While the station was left intact, the environmental controls were tampered with leaving it hot, damp, and smoky. Riker returns to the Enterprise with an uneasy feeling that he just can't shake.

When the Enterprise meets the Furies ships gathered around a wormhole, Picard hails them. In response, the furies use a weapon that sends each member of the crew back to the most frightening time in their life. Most of the crew is capable of standing again within a few minutes but there is still a feeling of fear left behind. Deanna is overwhelmed by the emotional response and Dr. Crusher carries her to sickbay. It seems that unlike almost every other race, Betazed has no history of the Furies. Data remains unaffected.

Redbay turns out to be a great help in engineering. He not only helps with minor repairs, but recovers quickly from immobilizing fear and manages to figure out the Furies super-weapon. The Furies weapon involves interspace. This is similar to the Tholian web technology from the original series on television. In interspace people tend to become paranoid or go crazy. Dr. Crusher mixes McCoy's Theragen derivative with Bajorian root tea to calm the crew. Riker warns the federation backup ships using a poker code he and one of the ship's captains made up years before.

Meanwhile the Federation has set up a secondary line of defense. When it becomes obvious that the wormhole surrounded by the Furies is being used to transport an invasion fleet, it's decided the wormhole must be destroyed. According to Data this can be best accomplished by a shuttle flying through the wormhole to destroy the device holding the wormhole open. One photon torpedo will do it but there is no way back.

Picard takes time out to talk to Guinan. She tells him that while the Furies did enslave basically the whole sector, part of the fear people are reacting to is from the Havoc. The Klingons mentioned in the first book that what they feared was the Havoc. They thought the Furies were the people who overcame their planet in the past. While that was true for some time, the Havoc are the conquerors that drove the Furies out. Deanna figures out that the Furies are still afraid the Federation might be the conquerors. All this leads to Picard taking the offensive and attacking the Furies once the Federation backup arrives.

The battle itself is well paced, with Furies ships arriving about one a minute. Worf and Redbay fly in shuttles as cover for Riker's shuttle. He must fly through the battle itself, into the wormhole, pass through the enemy's home territory, and fire a photon torpedo at a small but highly strategic area. Where's the Force when you need it? Both Riker and Worf are thrown off course and end up floating in space leaving Redbay to make the run through the wormhole. He's knocked around a bit but manages to make it through by using the Redbay maneuver he made up as a test pilot. Just like Beggar's canyon back home. The last scene with Redbay has him unconscious in the shuttle floating through space.

With the wormhole gone the battle winds down. The Furies admit defeat and ask Picard to add their poppets to the ones from the first contact with Kirk. Then they destroy their own ships. Worf and Riker are beamed back aboard with some injuries. The book ends with Riker telling Picard about Redbay over drinks in Ten-Forward.

This second book tells the story from many people's perspectives. While this can make a story more understandable and in-depth, it also leads to some choppiness in the flow of the story, and repetitive scenes from different views. I suggest reading not only the first book before this one but to go on and read the third book so some of the things mentioned by Guinan will make more sense. This book had many good individual scenes, though due to the frequent jumps between characters I can only give it ★★★.

- Terri Muggy

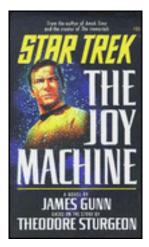
ID4

Independence Day, if anyone out there has not seen it yet, is the very entertaining story of the arrival of an alien fleet and their efforts to eradicate mankind through the destruction of major cities, as a prelude to invasion by a vast alien army. The characters followed by the movie include: U.S. President Whitmore (Bill Pullman) and his wife; computer expert David Levinson (Jeff Goldblum) and his father (Judd Hirsch); Marine pilot Steve Hiller (Will Smith), his girlfriend Jasmine (Viveca Fox) and his friend Jimmy (Harry Connick Jr.); a drunken cropduster and former jet pilot Russell Casse (Randy Quaid); and a number of others.

Which brings to mind the biggest problem of the movie for me: even though it is a long movie, they should have focused on fewer characters. The most extraneous example of this is the President's wife. She appears to have died in the destruction of Los Angeles, is later found alive by Jasmine but injured, and still later dies of internal injuries. I would rather have seen some of what happened to foreign cities, and what the rest of the world was doing in response to the alien invasion. We do get a brief glimpse as America's attack plan is broadcast by Morse Code to surviving militaries, but more would have been welcome. The initial attack by piloted jets also bothered me: my first attempt to attack would involve unpiloted cruise missiles or similar devices, to see what the alien ships' response would be. I can see why the director (Roland Emmerich) would opt for the jet attack, since there is more feeling generated by having jets attack with pilots whose responses we can observe, and sympathize with.

The pluses far outweigh the minuses, however. The initial movement of the alien ships to cover major cities was very impressive and aweinspiring. The initial attacks on Washington D.C., New York and Los Angeles were very moving to me, as each cities' buildings were destroyed by the expanding wave, along with millions of inhabitants. The jet attack on an alien ship and the subsequent attempt by Steve Hiller to evade a pursuing alien fighter were very exciting. The President's speech, as the surviving air forces prepared to launch their final attack, was also very moving, as were the fireworks at the end as pieces of the destroyed mothership entered the atmosphere. There was also much more humor than I was expecting, and none of it felt out of place. This was a very enjoyable movie. $\star \star \star \star$.

> - Mike Ponte June/July 1996 13



The Joy Machine

A novel by James Gunn, based on the story by Theodore Sturgeon \$5.99 Pocket Books, Aug 1996

This latest novel in Pocket's ongoing classic **Star Trek** line (#80) is an unusual specimen. Author credit goes to James Gunn, one of the midwest's most well-known general science fiction authors and a former professor at the University of Kansas. *The Joy Machine* is based on an original idea by the late, great Theodore Sturgeon, for an episode of the original series, which was never made. As enhanced by Gunn, it still could not be easily made into an episode, even with the state of today's special effects technology. However, the roots of Sturgeon's original teleplay are still in evidence.

Far from a rock-em, sock-em action-filled story, The Joy Machine is more of a thought-provoking philosophical exploration of the value of seeking happiness through true toil and effort, as compared with having all your desires handed to you on a platter.

The planet Timshel was once one of the most idyllic locations in known space, a modern Eden with the riches of knowledge, culture and natural beauty spread out before a society of contented, friendly inhabitants. Timshel was one of the Federation's most popular vacation spots - until it cut itself off from everyone else, without explanation. When two covert Federation agents disappear on the planet, also without explanation, Kirk and the Enterprise are sent in to find out what's going on. Having been to Timshel years

earlier, Kirk goes planetside alone to investigate the state of the populace, while the ship remains hidden from Timshel's sensors. Making contact with Kemal Marouk, a respected scientist and a long-time friend, the reality of Timshel's situation is revealed to Kirk slowly. Another scientist, one of Marouk's colleagues, feeling that the populace of Timshel enjoyed far too much worldly happiness without having earned it, has created the Joy Machine — an artificially intelligent computer system with the ability to stimulate the natural pleasure centers of the human brain. The Joy Machine is controlling the populace's behavior by making the people work at physical labor jobs to earn "paydays" of artificial Joy from the system, and by punishing violent or negative emotions or actions. The people of Timshel have become peaceful, robotic workers — engaged in mindless physical tasks to earn their next payday, while abandoning all the elements that brought depth andculture and meaning to their lives before the Machine's influence began. The Joy Machine is a rapidly growing and evolving intelligence, which has easily subverted the majority of the populace of the planet, with the exception of a small band of renegades who refuse to submit to the addictions of happiness that the machine offers. And having discovered that there is life beyond Timshel's boundaries, the Joy Machine is planning to fulfill its primary programming to bring Joy to humans throughout the galaxy.

As Kirk joins forces with the rebels, trying to find some way to disable or destroy the Machine's plans to provide everyone with Joy, the Joy Machine infiltrates the Enterprise's computers, eliminating the ship as a source of assistance, after Spock, McCoy and Uhura have all been beamed down and been captured by the local authorities under the Joy Machine's control. The Joy Machine's ability to track the elusive Kirk to a glacial compound and release a glacier from thousands of years of inactivity to become a weapon against the rebels, reveals the depths of the Machine's abilities to rationalize its actions towards its goals.

I don't want to give too much of the plot away, as this is very much a plotdriven novel. I would like to make a

couple of points however. The Joy Machine is a **Star Trek** novel which could easily have been set in another milieu. The only regular Trek character with any substantial role is James T. Kirk, with the other Trek characters serving as mere background flavor. The dialogue seems oddly flat, as though this was a script, with very little descriptive text — on the other hand, you can easily picture the actors saying these lines. The original supporting characters all seem somewhat lifeless or without any vitality — mere character types rather than true characters. Kemal Marouk may be the only exception to that. His character must range from sympathetic but duplicitous to desperate and anguished, and most of the time those states of mind come through fairly well. The remaining characters are all interchangable possibly a result of the homogenizing effects of the Joy Machine upon on the populace, but also another example of this story feeling like a not-whollyfleshed-out script. The story, on the other hand, is fascinating and very well thought-out. Though I'm far from a computer scientist, the workings and logistics of the Joy Machine seemed believable to me. The effects of its control over the populace of Timshel were both frighteningly natural and diabolically sinister at the same time all the more scary since its actions were the results of its basic programming – by humans! The "Trek" trappings seem to be tacked onto the story as handy frame of reference but also almost as an afterthought.

This is a strange little book. It starts slowly, and ends far too abruptly. The characters often seem flat and lifeless, the dialogue the same. However, the story that holds it all together, and the philosophical arguments that form the core elements of the book are nevertheless fascinating and make it worth struggling through the less worthwhile aspects of the novel. On the whole, I give The Joy Machine a rating of $\star \star \star$. Makes me wonder if there are other unproduced Trek scripts by wellknown SF authors still lurking out there, waiting to be turned into novels! — Scott Clark

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Passings

Actress **VIRGINIA CHRISTINE**, perhaps best known to television viewers as Mrs. Olson in the Folgers coffee commercials for 22 years, died July 24th at age 76. Christine appeared in over 400 movies and television productions, beginning with the 1943 Errol Flynn movie *Edge of Darkness*. Her genre work includes 1944's The *Mummy's Curse*, the classic 1956 *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, and at least one episode of the 1960's *Twilight Zone*.

Although not specifically a genre talent, writer JOHN FENTON MURRAY was born in Lincoln NE in 1917. Murray was a comedy writer who created lines for Red Skelton after WWII and Jimmy Durante, before become head writer for Gilligan's Island in the 1960's. Other shows Murray contributed to include McHale's Navy, Good Times and Chico and the Man. Murray also wrote for movies featuring some of the biggest stars of the day, including several Jerry Lewis films, Robin and the Seven Hoods with Frank Sinatra and Man's Favorite Sport, with Rock Hudson and Doris Day. Murray died July 24th at age 79 in Sherman Oaks, CA.

HERB EDELMAN, the flexible-faced character actor perhaps best known for his regular appearances on *The Odd Couple* and *The Golden Girls* died in Woodland Hills, CA on July 21st at age 62. Edelman was a familiar face on television, film and broadway, working extensively in all forums. His most recent television appearances were on *Murder, She Wrote*.

Actress **DANA HILL [GOETZ]** died at age 32 on July 15th in Burbank, CA. Hill, recognized as a teen actor in guest spots on numerous television productions of the late 1970s and 1980s such as **The Fall Guy** and **Magnum**, **P.I**. starred in only one ongoing series — **The Two of Us** with Peter Cook. In recent years, she'd done a lot of voice work, including the **Goof Troop** series and the voice of Jerry in the 1992 **Tom and Jerry: The** *Movie*. She also regularly provided voiceovers for *Duckman* on USA.

Noted individuals of genre significance who we've recently lost

ALBERT "CUBBY" BROCCOLI,

producer of the long-running James Bond film series, died July 27th at his Beverly Hills home at the age of 87. Broccoli, who had undergone heart bypass surgery in 1995, died of a heartrelated ailment. Broccoli devised the "Bond style" — lavish production values, outrageous villains, beautiful women, preposterous stunts, soupedup gadgets, glamorous locations and a heavy serving of tongue-in-cheek humor, although the first few Bond films had a more serious edge to them, much like the books by Ian Fleming on which the films were based. Partnered with Harry Saltzman on the first nine Bond films, Cubby has worked with his stepson Michael Wilson, as well as daughters Barbara and Tina, on the more recent productions, and in fact had pretty much turned over the mantel of authority to them on Goldfinger due to his own declining health. Broccoli was born in New York, the son of an Italian immigrant, whose forbear created the vegetable bearing the family name by crossing rabe and cauliflower. After a trip to Hollywood in 1934, Cubby moved to L.A., and worked his way up the production ladder through the 1940s. He moved to England in 1951 and co-founded Warwick Pictures, which became the leading independent production

company in England. In 1961, Broccoli teamed with Saltzman in Eon Productions, and one of their first deals with United Artists was a chance to finance and distribute six Bond films, beginning with 1962's Dr. No. On a side note, of further interest to genre fans, Broccoli also produced the 1968

musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, which was another novel written by Ian Fleming. In 1982, Broccoli received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' *Irving G. Thalberg Award* for his producing career.

Veteran character actor **VITO SCOTTI**, whose stock-in-trade was nervous little Italian men, died June 5th in Woodland Hills, CA at age 78. Perhaps best known for his numerous television sitcom and drama appearances, in such series as *Gilligan's Island, The Flying Nun* and *Columbo*, Scotti also appeared in many motion pictures as well. His credits included *The Godfather* and *Von Ryan's Express*, and his final onscreen performance was in *Get Shorty* this past year.

SAUL DAVID, a publishing executive and producer of such films as Fantastic Voyage and Our Man Flint, died on June 7th in Culver City, CA at age 74. In his publishing career, David brought authors such as John Steinbeck, Graham Greene and John O'Hara to the general public in mass market editions, as well as popularizing the movie tie-in edition with Leon Uris' Battle Cry. After arriving in Hollywood in the 1960s, David produced Von Ryan's Express, Fantastic Voyage, and two Flint... films with James Coburn for 20th Century Fox. Later, at Universal, Rastar and MGM, he supervised the development of Westworld.



With the 30th anniversary of the first airing of Star Trek coming on September 8th, 1996, our first entry in the Personal Logs readers survey is as follows: "What is the most profound impact that Star Trek has had on you, personally, in the last thirty years?" Please try to limit your response to no more than one or two paragraphs.

Please respond as soon as possible via e-mail at 71242.1306@compuserve.com or by mail to 5100 Emerald Dr. #16, Lincoln, NE 68516-4908. The earliest response will appear in issue #56; later responses will be in #57.

Mark Your Schedules...

Upcoming events in the Lincoln/Omaha area of interest to SBA members and other local genre fans

August 1996

	•	
2	7:00 pm	SBA "First Friday" Night Meeting ¹
4	2:00-5:15 pm	Star Base Andromeda club meeting ²
6	6:30-8:45 pm	SBA club meeting
7	7:00-10:00 pm	Lincoln Fantasy & Science Fiction
	-	club meeting ³
11	2:00-5:15 pm	SBA club meeting
	6:00 pm	ConCussion Two Planning Session ⁴
13	6:30-8:45 pm	SBA club meeting
14	7:00-10:00 pm	LFSF club meeting
18	2:00-5:15 pm	SBA club meeting
20	6:30-9:00 pm	SBA club meeting
	7:00-8:00 pm	Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club
		meeting ⁵
21	7:00-10:00 pm	LFSF club meeting
25	1:00 pm	SBA Annual Club Picnic ⁶
27	6:30-9:00 pm	SBA club meeting

¹ — "First Friday" SBA gatherings are open to all SBA members and non-SBA members by invitation only. For the location of the next "First Friday" gathering, please check with a current SBA club officer.

2 — All Tuesday night and Sunday afternoon meetings of Star Base Andromeda during June and July will be held in the fourth floor auditorium or conference room at Bennett Martin Public Library in downtown Lincoln at 14th & "N" Sts. Tuesday night meetings begin at 6:30, and move to a downtown restaurant at aroun 7:15 until the group breaks up. Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 and end at 5:15.

³ — LFSF meetings during the summer are held at the DaVinci's restaurant on N. 66th St. near East Park Plaza in Lincoln. It is presumed that LFSF

STAR BASE ANDROMEDA

5100 Emerald Dr. #16 Lincoln, NE 68516 28 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting

September 1996

3	6:30-8:45	SBA club meeting
4	7:00-10:00 pm	LFSF club meeting
6	7:00 pm	SBA "First Friday" Night Meeting
8	2:00-5:15 pm	SBA club meeting
10	6:30-9:00 pm	SBA club meeting
11	7:00-10:00 pm	LFSF club meeting
15	2:00-5:15 pm	SBA club meeting
17	6:30-9:00 pm	SBA club meeting
	7:00-8:00 pm	B&N Mystery Book club meeting
18	7:00-10:00 pm	LFSF club meeting
22	2:00-5:15 pm	SBA club meeting
24	6:30-9:00 pm	SBA club meeting
25	7:00-10:00 pm	LFSF club meeting
29	2:00-5:15 pm	SBA club meeting "Video Week"
	-	-

meetings will return to the UNL Student Union once school begins again.

4 — A wrap-up session for ConCussion One and the first planning session for ConCussion two is open to any and all fans who want to be a part of the next ConCussion Con Committee. It begins at 6:00 in the UNL Culture Center on 14th Street between "Q" and "R".

⁵ — The Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Barnes & Noble Superstore at 52nd & "O" Sts in Lincoln. The book under discussion for the next month is decided upon at the current meeting, and is posted in the store near the mystery section.

6 — **Star Base Andromeda**'s annual club picnic will be held the last Sunday in August. This event is open to all local SF/F fans. See article this issue.

Membership Status

The expiration date of your membership follows your name on the label above.

If this issue has a YELLOW sticker on it, you have only one more month/issue on your membership. If this issue has an ORANGE sticker on it, then this is your last issue unless you renew your membership. **POSTMASTER — DATED MATERIAL**