

EXTRATERRESTRIAL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the ALF Fan Club

Vol. 1 • No. 1 - Summer 1987

"All the News That's Print to Fit"

Price: 10 Melmacian Snocks



ALF Fan Club Draws Diverse Membership

When we organized the ALF Fan Club we had no idea what sort of people would join. We had received letters from children, middle-age adults, students, senior citizens--you name it. But who would join a fan club, we asked ourselves.

"What do you mean, 'Who would join?'" ALF barked, pounding his desk with his hand. "Who wouldn't?"

"Members of the Feline Protection League," a production assistant suggested.

"Nit-pickers," said ALF.

"The Alien Task Force," the co-producer chimed in.

ALF glared at him. "A fig newton of your imagination. You've been watching too many sitcoms."

"What about Susan St. James and Jane Curtin?" an executive producer volunteered. "They certainly wouldn't join the ALF Fan Club."

"Fine," replied ALF. "Who needs 'em? In fact, who are they?"

"They're the stars of KATE & ALLIE," the executive producer answered.

"Send them an application," said ALF. "And send an application to all those other people who've formed their own ALF Fan Clubs."

That was going to take some time because we get letters all the time from people who have formed their own ALF fan clubs. The diversity of people banding together on ALF's behalf is amazing. Sometimes it seems the only things they have in common are that they meet Mondays at 8:00 P.M. and that at some point they also join the ALF Fan Club.

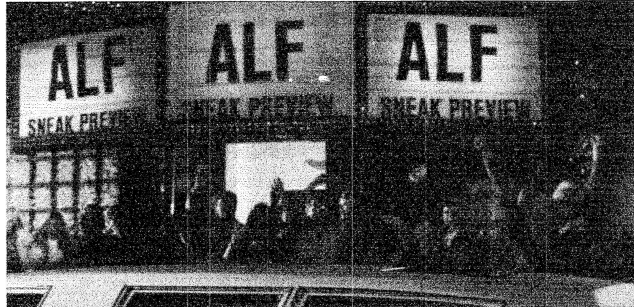
College students write to us to let us know they have seized their dormitories in ALF's name.

"College students?" ALF said, his eyes opening like saucers. "College students are among my favorite people."

And middle-age couples who have given up Monday night bridge games and Saturday morning lawn bowling to watch ALF on TV.

"Middle-age couples?" ALF's eyes opened wider. "I love middle-age couples."

A steel worker from Loraine, Ohio, wrote to say the whole town drops everything on Monday nights to watch the show.



Yo! Well, what do you know? I've got my own fan club! And a newsletter to go with it. This is the most exciting thing that's happened to me since I slayed the mighty cockroach. (You remember the cockroach....A real close encounter of the worst kind.)

What a way to make an alien feel welcome on earth! Your loyalty has pushed the ratings through the roof--and, as you've probably heard, we're going for a second season. And now this--my very own fan club.

I'm touched and humbled--if you can imagine. Thanks again for your support. I'll see you Monday night.

Love, **ALF**

"They drop all that steel? What folks!"

A tavern owner in Elmira Heights, New York, has a fan club with seventy-five dues-paying members.

"Dues-paying members," said ALF dreamily. "I like the sound of that."

"They donate the dues to charity."

"Charity?" ALF gulped.

"Interesting concept. We'll have to discuss it...sometime."

"Sometime soon?"

"Sometime."

William Maher of Hollywood, Florida, broke the age barrier when he joined the Fan Club. He's 83 years old.

"No big deal," said the alien. "I'm 229."

Whole grade school classes write to say they watch the show and discuss it on Tuesdays.

"Whole grade school classes?"

"And their teachers."

"You mean I've become just another homework assignment?"

"I'm sure it's voluntary," said the associate producer helpfully.

"How can you be sure of that?"

You're not even sure where your next paycheck's coming from."

A group of nuns in St. Louis wrote to say they watch the show religiously.

"A cheap pun," ALF sneered.

"I wish I'd said it."

"You will."

ALF tossed a handful of pencil sharpener shavings at his antagonist.

A truck driver in Wyoming reports that the interstates are empty on Monday nights from 8:00 to 8:30.

"Truck drivers, too? What a great group of people!"

"You say that about all your fans."

"I guess I'm just a people alien."

"People?" The producer was on his feet. "We're talking about more than just people here. We're talking about broad socio-economic groups. Mixed ethnic coalitions. Cultural cross-sections. Huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

"Doesn't sound very friendly when you put it that way. Are you sure you work here?"

"What he means to say," said one of the executive producers, "is we have a real Rainbow Coalition here. We've got Black Panthers and Gray Panthers. Housewives and feminists. Yuppies, hippies, groupies. Democrats and a Republican."

"Black rainbows...Republican hippies...yuppie groupies...feminist housewives...checkerboard panthers..." ALF was beginning to swoon. "When's lunch?"

-Matt Avallone

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We Get Letters . . .

Robert C., incarcerated in Florida, writes: "While debates as to which TV show we are going to watch sometimes result in minor bodily injury, and more often serious questioning of each other's paternity and ancestry, when it comes to watching ALF the situation is strictly 'NO PROBLEM.' It is without doubt the funniest sitcom I have seen in five years six months and eleven days."

Charles Smith, also of Florida, wrote a two page letter with this post script: "It may interest you to know that the cat I offered to send you has just given birth to six little hors d'oeuvres."

Robin Schan of Brooklyn sent us this gem:

You know you're an ALFicionado when...

...You put "YO!" in front of everyone's name (a habit your boss may not take to).

...You're 45 years old and you wake up early on Saturday morning to watch ALF host 4 hours of cartoons.

...You get insulted when a store refuses your ALF Fan Club membership card as proper ID.

...You hear the word "aliens" on a news-cast, and the first things you think of are Melmacians.

...You bang the closest table and shout, "You kill me!" whenever you hear a joke.

...You check to see if there is a Gordon Shumway listed in your town's telephone directory.

...You find yourself wishing the weekend were over, and the next day you say, "T.G.I.M." (Thank God It's Monday--ALF night.)

...You watch THE HOLLYWOOD SQUARES rooting for ALF to be the secret square.

...You write letters to PEOPLE MAGAZINE complaining, "Where's the ALF cover story?"

...You have friends who quote Lee Iacocca while you quote ALF.

...You intend to write "Cream of Chicken Soup" on your shopping list, but mistakenly write "Cream of Kitten."

...You can't wait for the next episode, even though it's only 8:31 Monday night.



Thanks!

The ALF Fan Club and Extraterrestrial Times owe a debt of gratitude to graphic designer Jim Mingin who so generously contributed his time, his computer, and his talent. This newsletter could not have been published without him.

We would also like to thank Ted Polmanski, Bob Fappiano and Wally Snyder who were kind enough to provide photographs.

Thanks, too, to Bob and Howard Bendetson for taking the time (and the risks) to interview themselves. (Now will you please stop hounding me about when the newsletter is going to be published?)

Finally, kudos and thanks (and an ALF doll) to Sheila Lauder, our first season's script supervisor, who won our "Name the Newsletter" contest.

Matt Avallone
Editor

A M E L B O R P O N E
Y A W M U H S C A T B
S L I I E N H L U A U
P H L E G M F C Y N L
A L L U O O U I A N C
C O I N C F R I D E N
E Y E T A K R D N R A
S K I P M B Y S O B F
H E M L L I K I H N C
I E F O E T I B R O R
P I H E M D A L E M W


Puzzle Instructions

The 27 words in the list are also in the puzzle. In the puzzle they read forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Circle all the words in the puzzle. (Some letters will be used more than once.) Then, starting at the top, find the letters which have not been circled. They spell three very special words.

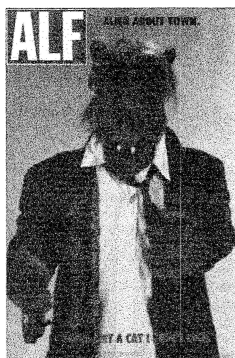
ALF	NBC
BRIAN	NO PROBLEM
CAT	OCHMONEK
CUTE	ORBIT
FAN CLUB	PHLEGM
FURRY	RHONDA
GORDON	SHOW
HEMDALE	SHUMWAY
HIP	SKIP
I KILL ME	SPACESHIP
KATE	TANNER
LUCKY	WILLIE
LYNN	YO
MELMAC	

Thanks to Robin Schan for contributing this puzzle. Robin also wrote an amusing letter which appears on this page.

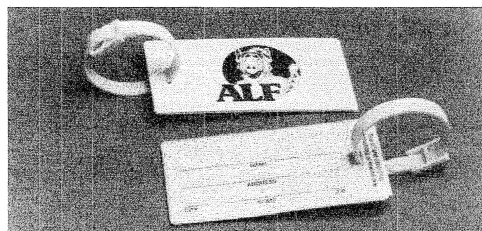
The ALF Store



So many of ALF's fans have written to say they have been unable to find ALF dolls, posters, and other products in their local stores that we decided to make them available through the ALF Fan Club.

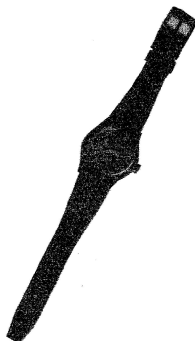


"I've never met a cat I didn't like" says ALF in his **Alien About Town Poster**. Decked out in sport coat, tie and sunglasses, ALF has never been cooler than in this hip new 22" x 34" poster. \$6 + \$1.50 postage & handling



Wherever you travel in the world (or even if you just carry a lunch box to the office or school every day), everyone will know you're an ALF fan with these **Luggage Tags**. \$5 for set of three + \$1.50 postage & handling

You can count the minutes til 8:00 PM Monday (7:00 PM Central) with this one-of-a-kind **ALF wrist watch**. Features black rubberized band and case, gray face with red picture of our favorite Melmacian. You'll want to wear this watch every minute of the day, but please don't wear it in the bath or at the beach as it's not water-proof. Made exclusively for the ALF Fan Club, this watch is not available in stores. Supplies are limited. \$30 + \$1.50 postage & handling



Coleco's famous **ALF Doll** has been selling out everywhere since it was introduced last Christmas. Demand has been so great that this cute and cuddly creature is still not available in many parts of the U.S. and Canada. In response to countless pleas for help from his fans, ALF convinced Coleco to set aside some dolls for his Fan Club. 19 inches of soft fur, this charmer even captured the granite heart of our Executive in Charge of Production. "He's almost as cute as I am," says ALF. \$30 + \$2.00 shipping & handling



Join The ALF Fan Club and receive

Six Giant Stickers
Full-Color Locker Poster of ALF
Full-Color Bookcover
ALF Picture Button
ALF's Favorite Menu
Official Membership Card
Official Membership Certificate
ALF's Personal Biography
Fan Club Newsletter

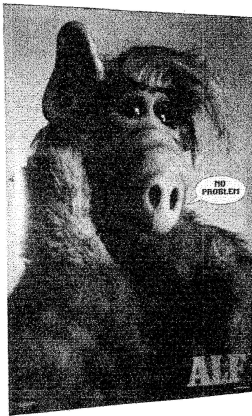
Only \$5.00 + 1.00 Postage & Handling

When applying for Fan Club membership, please PRINT on a separate paper, the name, address, age, birthdate and sex of each member

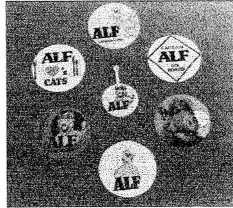
ITEM	PRICE includes postage & handling	QTY	TOTAL
ALF Fan Club Membership	6.00		
ALF Doll	32.50		
ALF Wrist Watch	31.50		
"No Problem" Poster	7.50		
"Man About Town" Poster	7.50		
ALF Coffee Mug	6.50		
Stickers & Buttons	4.00		
5 Book Covers	4.00		
3 Luggage Tags	6.50		
ALF Note Pads	6.50		
		Subtotal	
		Sales Tax*	
		TOTAL	

Canadian prices quoted separately. Please call 213/204-2277 for prices.

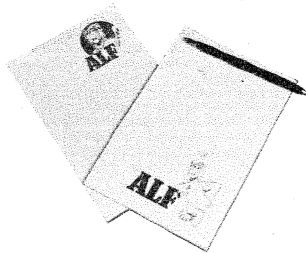
*CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ADD 6.5% SALES TAX



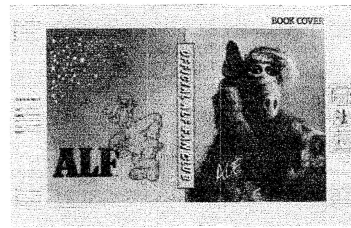
"NO PROBLEM" says ALF in this giant 22" x 33" **full color poster**. ALF, who was a professional model on Melmac, shows his stuff in this best-selling, hard-to-get poster. This is the one so many of you have written to ask for. Shipped to you in a cardboard mailing tube. \$6 + \$1.50 postage and handling



Here's an easy way to make ALF a part of your daily life—six 3-inch diameter brightly colored **Stickers** that let the world know who your favorite alien is. And two metal **Buttons** (with fold-over clasp) featuring ALF's smiling face and famous "thumbs up" salute. \$2.50 + \$1.50 postage & handling for set of 8 items.



When ALF leaves notes and messages for the Tanners, he does it with his own personalized **Note Paper**. Now you can show all your correspondents and friends who your favorite TV star is when you pen your notes on ALF's own stationery. Four pads of 50 sheets featuring two different designs. Black on white paper. (Pen not included.) \$4.50 + \$2.00 postage & handling






You say you want to take ALF to school with you? **NO PROBLEM** with these **Official ALF Fan Club book covers**. These sturdy full-color book covers fit most books. \$2.50 for set of five (\$1 postage & handling)



Your morning coffee or cocoa (or milk, even) is a lot more cheerful with ALF smiling at you from this 12-ounce **Coffee Mug**. White with black printing. \$4.50 + \$1.00 postage & handling



Sold To:		Indicate Method of Payment	
Name: _____		(Please do not send cash)	
Address: _____ (For faster delivery, give street address instead of Post Office Box)		<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	
Attention: _____		 	
Ship to a Different Address? Indicate here:		Credit Card No. _____	
Name: _____		Expiration Date _____	
Address: _____ (For faster delivery, give street address instead of Post Office Box)		Authorized Signature _____	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____		Name and address under "Sold To" MUST match name and address of credit card acct.	
Attention: _____		Mail To:	
This order is for shipment within the United States only. We cannot ship outside the United States therefore, this order must have a U.S. mailing address.		The ALF Store	
PLEASE ALLOW 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY		Post Office Box 85056 Hollywood, CA 90072	
			

Bob and Howard Speak (or: Speak, Bob and Howard!)

In which writers Bob Bendetson and Howard Bendetson illuminate the arcane world of television comedy writing

HOWARD: So, Bob, tell me about yourself. How long have you been writing comedy?

BOB: What time is it? (HE CHECKS HIS WATCH)

HOWARD: (AFTER LAUGHING POLITELY) No, seriously. When did you start writing comedy professionally?

BOB: First, there's one thing I want to make clear. I'm not a comedy writer. I'm a humorist.

HOWARD: What would you say is the difference?

BOB: Uh... (THERE IS A VERY LONG PAUSE) You know, no one said there were going to be essay questions on this thing.

HOWARD: We can get back to that question.

BOB: Thanks.

HOWARD: So what was your first writing job?

BOB: I was one of the original writers on "Your Show of Shows."

HOWARD: Really? That doesn't seem possible since "Your Show of Shows" went off the air in 1954, the year you were born.

BOB: You don't say? I'm glad no one caught that on my resume.

HOWARD: Tell me, how did you develop what is obviously an extraordinary sense of humor?

BOB: It's the old story about the school bully.

HOWARD: I know what you're going to say. You had to use humor to keep the school bully from beating you up.

BOB: No. I was the school bully. While I was beating kids up, I memorized the funny things they said.

HOWARD: I see. Let's talk a little about the show. How do you come up with stories for ALF?

BOB: We just think of ways to get ALF in a funny hat and work the stories backwards from there.

HOWARD: It must be a little more difficult than that.

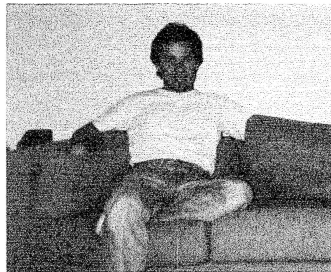
BOB: Well, sometimes we have to look through old TV Guides to get the ideas. You'll notice ALF is having experiences very similar to those of the girls on "Petticoat Junction."

HOWARD: I haven't noticed that.

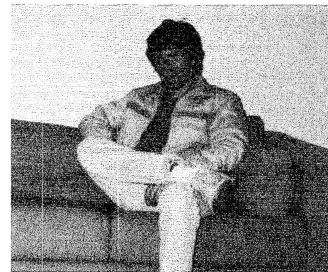
BOB: Watch next week's show where ALF has to save the Shady Rest Hotel from being demolished.

HOWARD: One last question. Are there any advantages to writing with one's brother?

BOB: Yes. Because we grew up together, we find the same things funny. Also we don't waste time wondering what the other person looks like naked.



Pictured are Bob and Howard Bendetson. That's Bob on the left. (Or is it Howard? Your editor can never remember.) Bob and Howard are full-time staff writers at Alien Productions. They wrote five of the first season's shows. An inseparable team, only this caption has been able to come between them.



ALF, Anne Schedeen, Andrea Elson and Benji Gregory accepting the People's Choice Award for Best New Comedy Show

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of The ALF Fan Club

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Please feel free to submit ideas,
contributions, or comments to:

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We thought you'd like to see the people who made ALF's first season on NBC happen. Gathered for this photograph are the cast, the writers, the producers, the production staff and the crew.



ALF

The ALF Fan Club

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