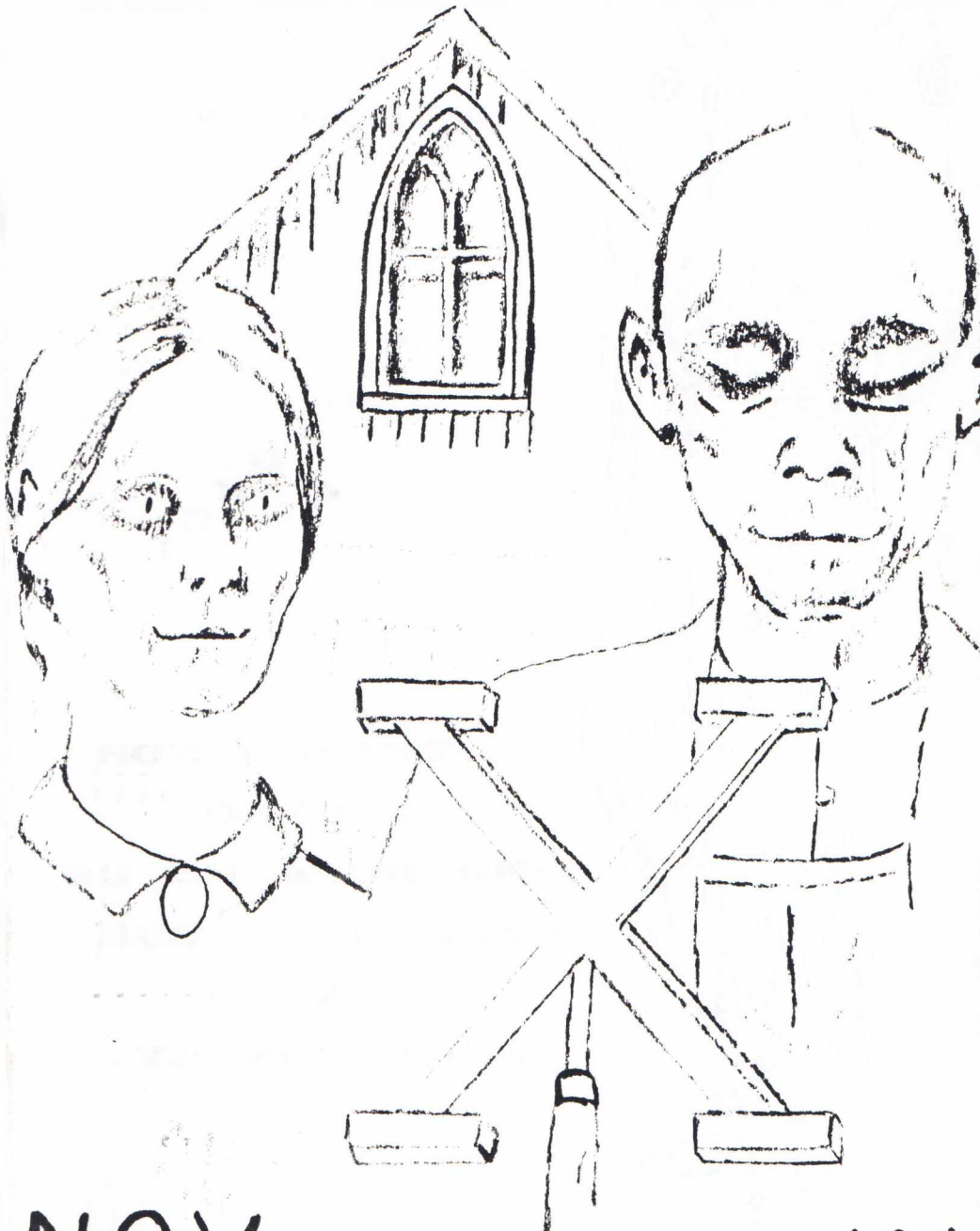


PULSAR



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**IF YOU ARE
READING THIS
AT
ORYCON X,**

**W
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!**

**THANKS FOR
COMING
AND HELPING US
CELEBRATE OUR
X
ANNIVERSARY.**

FROM THE EDITOR Pat Bulley

Surprise! Its not May and here I am editing. I'm a bit surprised myself. Notice anything different, My type. I finally got a computer. I told you sooner or later I would. But I found that I still do not prefer to type the whole PULSAR. So many people produce their articles and letters picture ready, I don't need to.

TELEVISION. Do my eyes deceive me or do I really see an entire evening of SF and Fantasy on one station on a Saturday night? KPTV has StarTrek, StarTrek: The Next Generation, War of the Worlds, Twilight Zone (new), Twilight Zone (old) all back to back. How long do you think this will last?

However, I must add something to the timeline, below, up here because of that.

Oct 29 restaurant will be BULLRING NW at 27th and Vaughn
Nov 26 restaurant will be BANGKOK KITCHEN at 2634 SE Belmont

COVER ART CREDITS: suggestion - Barbara Criger
artist - Karen Kelleher

PorSFIS Timeline

Compiled by David D. Levine

- Oct. 29 PorSFIS meets at the NW Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, at 2 PM. Programming and restaurant to be announced.
- Oct. 29-31 Halloween Party from noon on Saturday 29 October to midnight Sunday night, 31 October (that's 36 hours) at Cats' Cradle (4106 NE 10th) and the house next door. BYO Everything.
- Oct. 31 Halloween
- Nov. 6 OryCon General Meeting at John Lorentz's house, 6323 NE Mallory, at 4 PM.
- Nov. 8 Registration Packet Stuffing at John Lorentz's house, 6323 NE Mallory, at 7:30 PM.
- Nov. 11-13 OryCon 10 at the Columbia River Red Lion Inn. Memberships are \$25 at the door.
- Nov. 12 No PorSFIS Meeting.
- Nov. 26 PorSFIS meets at the NW Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, at 2 PM. Programming and restaurant to be announced.

Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of October 15, 1988

Respectfully submitted by Ariel Shattan

Meeting called to order by John Lorentz at 14:05. Ariel & Phil walked in at 14:07. David was at Mac Camp.

Announcements: Yaleah announced that there will be a Halloween party from noon on Saturday 29 October to midnight Sunday night, 31 October (that's 36 hours) at Cats' Cradle (4106 NE 10th) and the house next door. BYO Everything.

Terry Roff has for sale or trade the solitaire fantasy game "Barbarian Prince." Terry can be reached at Yaleah & Hahn's phone number.

Patty Wells announced a Dukakis fundraiser, and Ariel Shattan passed out No on Ballot Measure 8 stickers.

John Lorentz: *Nightfall*, a movie on Issac Asimov's story of that name, opened this week at various theaters around town. Check your local listings for times and locations. [I hear it's a real turkey.—DDL] John also had the standard set of meeting and membership availability announcements.

Joyce Zimmerschied: Forrie Ackerman plays the President in *Amazon Women on the Moon*, a very funny movie that isn't what it sounds like.

New People: Terry Roff, a friend of Yaleah and Hahn.

Mail Call: John found the *BCSFazine* with the new Mr. Science, but we're saving it to read until David is around. Also in the mailbag: two *De Profundi*; *Ice River*, a literary rag out of Eastern Oregon; another thing from Bridge Publications, including an L. Ron Hubbard pencil, which will be up for bids at the next Petrey auction; *File 770*; and a galley (!) copy of *Deep Quarry* by John E. Stith for our review (big time, folks!) from Berkeley. Ariel will read and review the book for the December *Pulsar*.

Treasurer's Report: We have about \$1000.00.

Programming: Just as we were discussing what to do for programming, and, having rejected the idea of the officers taking their clothing off and dancing around the room, we were about to settle for book and movie reviews when Mel Beach walked in with an armful of bad posters from worse movies to give away (we could never get a real answer from Mel as to why she had these monstrosities in the first place).

Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of October 1, 1988

Respectfully submitted by David D. Levine

Meeting called to order at 2:11 PM. 16 people present.

Announcements: Dick Pilz announced a wine and beer tasting at Early Days grocery tonight "for all you beer fans." For anyone else in beer fandom, there's a beer club called the Oregon Brew Crew. The newsletter is edited by Jeff Frane. If you are interested, write to Jeff at 3652 SE Yamhill, Portland, OR 97214 or call 238-4894 (days) or 231-7620 (evenings).

Ariel announced that the shuttle Discovery got off OK; Phil showed off some articles from *EE Times* about problems the Shuttle has had and might have again.

After that, several people in the audience asked if there was any good news. John Loretnz announced that Charles Addams died. That wasn't exactly what we were looking for.

Don Dever asked if there's an OryCon meeting tomorrow. "Of course," replied John, "there's always an OryCon meeting tomorrow."

Pulsars were passed out at the meeting.

Mall Call: 2 *BSCFAzines*, an *Event Horizon*, and *WestWind* (also the Norwescon progress report 1). John announced that Mr. Science has returned to *BSCFAzine*, which was greeted enthusiastically, but proved to be false. *Drat!*

In *WestWind*: Norwescon now requires people to purchase memberships in their real name (although you can have a fan name on your badge); you are required to present ID at registration and Hospitality and requested to keep ID with you at all times. Be warned. *WestWind* also reviewed fanzines, including a very favorable review of Roz Malin and Dick Pilz's fanzine *Renaissance Fan*.

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$1071.81; we're paid up for the room through the end of March.

New People: Nathan and Ben, his father, who found out about us by asking for information on OryCon.

Kate brought some PorSFis flyers and bookmarks; Share And Enjoy!

A short break was followed by the SF Spelling Bee. Phil Jansen, our President, trounced his opposition and walked off with the prize: two hazelnut cookies from Coffee People.

So, programming became "trash the movie poster." The person with the best quip for a given poster won that poster. The winners were:

- *He-Man and She-Ra — The Secret of the Sword:*
Terry Roff, for "There's nothing between He-Man's legs!"
- *XTRO:*
Chris for "A Great Argument for Planned Parenthood!"
- *Warrior of the Lost World:*
Yaleah for "Harley-Davidson's 1990 model"
- *The Being:*
Chris for "Substantial penalty for early withdrawal."
- *Warriors of the Wasteland:*
Chris for "Anybody seen a white whale around here?"
- *The Philadelphia Experiment:*
John Lorentz for "If they'll eat cream cheese, they'll eat anything!"
- *Superman III:*
John L. for "You do enough cocaine, you'll see anything."

(Ok, ok, so it's not much without the visuals, but we had a lot of fun with these posters. Thanks, Mel!)



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PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN
by John Raymond Lorentz

This month, it's time once again for an event that's been in the planning stages for months, involving an uncountable number of work-hours, and it goes by in the blink of an eye.

I'm not talking about OryCon. Just two days before we start putting up Art Show panels, voting takes place to decide who will be our next President. And, for once, the election **means** something! Nearly all polls taken indicate that the difference between Dukakis and Bush are within the margin of error of those polls. This election is a toss-up, and every vote will count. So vote, damn it! If you haven't decided yet, or haven't been paying any attention to the election, now's the time to wake up and do some research. Take to other people at PorSFis--heck, get into an argument with other people at PorSFis. But get involved, and be part of the decision. Anyone who knows me knows that I think that electing Bush would be a terrible thing to do to the country--I've been a Dukakis supporter since he appeared on St. Elsewhere. But I'm not telling **who** to vote for--just to vote.

And then, of course, spend the weekend at OryCon. It looks like the tenth edition will be the best one yet (don't we say that every year?). If you find yourself with some free time, or extra energy, help out at Registration, Hospitality or as a Gopher. Buy one of the Guests of Honor (Lucius Shepard, John Varley, Connie Willis and Mona Clee--there's a lot of *Hugos* and *Nebulas* in that group) a drink. Have a good time, be careful out there and I'll see you next month.

For the Record

The following were missing from the last issue:

- "Best Novel Hugo: The Uplift War, David Brin"
- "Special Hugo: The SF Oral History Association"
- "Cover art by Steven Fox"
- "Thank you to everyone who contributed something to this, my first issue; and especially, many thanks and all my love and two dead rats to David Levine for his invaluable assistance with layout."
- "the"
- "aglet"
- "stf"
- "...seldom dream noisily."

We apologize for any inconvenience.

—Kate Y.

How to Make a Kaleidoscope From Duct Tape

OMSI had a table at the Oregon Graduate Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration, where we learned this neat trick. (David points out that actually, according to the Federal Truth-in-Labeling laws, it should be "How to make a kaleidoscope **with** duct tape". Well, yeah.)

Take three long, thin pieces of clear plexiglass—similar in shape to a six-inch ruler, say. Lay them next to each other, with gaps between them about as wide as the plexiglass is thick. Now hinge the pieces together with a long strip of duct tape over each of those two gaps.

Fold the pieces into a triangle, duct tape side out, and tape the last edge. It may be necessary to pull it apart and adjust the distance between your pieces, if they won't fold into a neat triangle. (Triangular prism, that is.)

Et voilà! A kaleidoscope! Of course, it doesn't have the nifty little pieces of colored glass at the end. That is left as an exercise for the reader.

—Kate Y.

And now for the obligatory Letter to ForSFis, to show that I'm a true expatriate.

Dear ForSFis,

Well, I've been in the Windy City for about a month and a half now, and it has occasionally lived up to it's name, but not too frequently so far; I've been told to "wait until the winter hit", which has a very ominous ring to it.

I've been fingerprinted, had my picture taken for ID tags (just like the rest of you, I get to carry a picture of myself with me to prove that I'm who I am and that it's okay for me to be where I am...), and been hassled by Security Guards because it was a month before I received my ID (it seems that the laminator was broken...), and they had a hard time believing that I worked at the library (okay, so I wear a jeans jacket, headphones, and a weird leather satchel, the other librarians aren't so normal either!), but on the whole work hasn't been bad; if it weren't for the fact that the people I work with are neat, it would be hell. We've been in this building for two and a half months, and they *still* don't have all the terminals hooked up for staff use...***sigh***. Chicago, home of the lowest bidder; it used to be that the InterLibrary Loan (ILL) On Demand collection could be filled by buying books from B. Dalton's, but not any longer; City Hall found out, put it up for bid, and the people who got the bid have had their phone disconnected since we got to this building, two and a half months ago! AAAAAARRRRGGGGHHHH!!! Does this constitute breach of contract? No, of course not! Just because we can't contact them...

Anyway, Chicago is a nice town. I like it here, there are absolutely hoards of good Japanese Restaurants, Fandom exists, and permeates sections of the Library (I got in touch with one segment of it after overhearing my supervisor mentioning to another staffer that one of the librarians in SSH (Social Sciences, History) was at a Science Fiction conference in New Orleans ("Worldcon," I says to myself, "this looks like a person to investigate...")), including people who are helping run Windycon...my kind of Librarian! But I'm still moving back to the Northwest in several years...it's just not the same, even if the beach is only five blocks from where I live, and Lincoln Park six blocks away as well. Anyway, I've joined a readers group, just like Steve Berry did, and have been co-opted by a friend of David Levine's to help out with Capricorn Hospitality (Everywhere I turn in certain fan groups, I come across friends of David's: the truly strange thing is that they're like him.)

Congratulations on the 1990 Westercon bid; tell you what, I'll go to Westercon, and you can all come to the 1991 Worldcon, here in Chicago...

Gotta go, see you all eventually.



John Robert Mead
1036 N Dearborn St, #415
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 951-1781

Well, there you have it, the obligatory ForSFis letter.

October 3, 1988

Dear PorSFis,

I agree with what Ariel Shattan said to Anne Davenport in the October edition of *Pulsar* re RoseCon. I would just like to point out that this sort of thing happens all the time. At least once a year someone comes to a convention, plunks down 20 or 30 dollars for his membership and then notices all the hundreds of other people who also paid big bucks to be there. A little bit of multiplication and these people think "Gee, I can make some money at this!" So they print a few flyers and sometimes it works and most of the time it doesn't.

Although I have only been active in fandom for ten years I have seen four conventions like this lose money in a dramatic fashion, and have heard tales about three others. Judging from what I have observed the reasons these cons haven't done well seems to break down into one of four categories: a) scheduling the con for a weekend that conflicts with something else, like the Spokane Trekcon that was held on Labor Day weekend; b) inadequate or poorly aimed advertising; c) using a hotel that charges high rates for programming space - particularly likely if there won't be many sleeping rooms booked; d) bringing in many illustrious luminaries who charge thousands of dollars each for appearances.

Then there's the old story about the conrunner who absconded with the funds before the hotel was paid.

Not every for-profit con is going to go bust, but the odds of there being a second con are very slim. Looking at the con listings in *LOCUS*, and using the above formula, I can predict at least a half dozen cons will lose money. And the majority of those for-profit cons have never heard of *LOCUS*.

When I hear of a convention that does not have a few experienced conrunners on the committee (not just gofers) I will not go, and I will assume that someone, somewhere will learn a lesson or two about greed. There's nothing you can say to these people to convince them that it isn't as easy as collecting money. One of the disadvantages of being involved in conrunning fandom is having to deal with those neos who think fandom is all about money. It's depressing. It's aggravating. Sometimes it's funny. However, in a way I think that's part of what America is All About: the right to really screw up on your own.

The first time I heard about RoseCon was at OryCon last year when Debbie, Paul and Steve came into the Fan Room saying "You won't believe these guys. They couldn't answer our questions about the hotel, the programming, the technical support or their corporate status". My first thought was "Oh, boy. Here we go again." Obviously, I did not run right up to buy a membership.

So they pulled it off. Good. Some people tell me it was a good con; some tell me it stunk. Is the jury still out on this group or will there be another con next year? Should I buy a membership this time?

Yours in Fandom,

Janice

Janice Murray
P.O. Box 75684
Seattle, WA 98125-0684

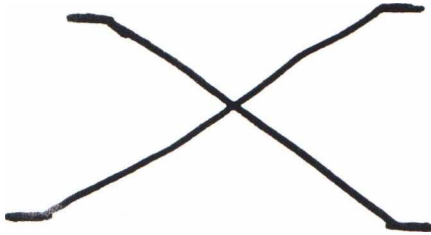
P.S. Congratulations on the Westercon!

BOOK RECOMMENDATION. Demon of Undoing by Andrea I. Alton. (only known book to me) I couldn't believe it, there I was at an airport facing six hours of flight time and no book to read. I scramble into the airport shop expecting to find nothing and am promptly taken with a book cover of seemingly intelligent catlike creatures. Get's me every time. Breed to Come, Tailchaser, Man-Kzinti Wars, anything about the Kzinti have all got me by cover art because I love cat books. I think it must be the mental control exerted upon me by the Kzinti I live with. So I bought it. And I liked it.

A Demon of Undoing is the name given to humans by a cat-like species named the Imkairan. Humans landed and withdrew from their world so long ago they are now just a legend. But a legend that still provokes hostile feelings for the dangerous thoughts and inventions that once came close to toppling the rigid Imkairan society.

The story centers around Fenobar, a cripple, seal-outcast warrior alive only because he is the son of a king and has learned to survive without a protector and by a very good warrior. He credits his survival to a Demon of Undoing who he has taken as patron early on in his hazardous life. He has painted its image on the inside of his shield and prays to it. He believes it sends him all his bad luck and misfortunes as a test of his loyalty and skill to fight with a deformed arm.

Never did he dream that he would ever come face to face with a real demon, but he does and THAT'S THE REST OF THE STORY which I believe you will enjoy reading.



PULSAR. is the monthly newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFIS). Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the writer, who retain all rights to the material. Pulsar has a rotating editorship, open to all PorSFIS members. This months editor is Pat Gulley. Cover art is by Karen Kelleher. Next months editor is Vandervecken.

Issues of Pulsar are available; free with membership, by trade with other newsletters, or for \$.60 per copy. Contributions are always welcome and may be sent to the PorSFIS address above right.

PorSFIS meets on alternate Saturdays. Check the Timeline in this issue for dates and times and place.



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