

Pulsar

January 1988 Number 123 60 cents



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

(Since I'm editing this Pulsar, I get to move my column to the front.)

Besides working on conventions, I have three main interests: computers (which helps a lot in my convention-working); comics (which shouldn't be a surprise, if you've been reading *Pulsar* during the last year); and **Dr. Demento**.

Every Sunday night (10PM-Midnight on KMJK, 107.7FM), Doctor Demento's radio show brings two hours of "wild records and crazy comedy". His show is hilarious. Between old comedy records and newer items, it's the funniest 120 minutes on radio. The newer items are split between commercial offerings--such as George Carlin, Robin Williams and (of course) Al Yankovic--and original tapes sent to him in the mail (this is how a 16-year-old Alfred Yankovic got started ten years ago). Many of the original items are parodies of existing songs, or of current TV shows and movies ("Star Trippin'", by **The Firm** has been popular this year.)

However, beyond simply playing funny records, the Doctor is a recognized expert in the field of music. New records, especially comedy, are sent to him immediately, because producers know he is a major force in publicizing them. His collection, hundreds of thousands of records, tapes, and CD's, seems to contain a copy of everything. (Regularly, listeners call in with "I bet you can't find this one". They're usually wrong.) His show contains special features on musical subjects, such as cats, beer or school, or interviews with special guests, such as John Cleese or Mel Brooks. Recently he did a show on songs less than a minute in length. In another show, he celebrated the 100th anniversary of the oldest existing record by playing at least one record from every decade since the 1880's.

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PULSAR is the monthly newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society ("PorSFis"). The opinions expressed within are solely those of the writers. Pulsar is included with memberships in PorSFis, is available for sale at Future Dreams-Burnside and Lookingglass Books, and by trade with other publications.

This month's editor was John Lorentz, who is responsible for any typos. Next month's editor is Paul Wrigley. Cover is by Steven Fox.

PorSFIS Timeline

Compiled by David D. Levine

Note: Unless otherwise noted, Saturday PorSFIS meetings are at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, at 2PM. We adjourn to Bogart's (which allows all ages during the daytime) at NW 14th and Flanders, after the meetings. Additionally, some people gather for dinner at the listed restaurants, usually around 5-5:30PM. Non-members are always welcome.

- Dec 31** **New Year's Eve Party** at John Andrews' house, 4311 SE Cora, at 8PM. BYOE.
- Jan 1** **New Year's Day Party** at Marc, Patty, and Sean Wells' house, 819 SE 16th, from 11AM until whenever. Bring real food, champagne, or your favorite beverage.
- Jan 7** **OSFCI Garage Moving Party.** 10AM. Details below.
PorSFIS meeting. *Restaurant:* Mazzi's, 5833 SW Macadam, 227-3382
- Jan 20-22** **RustyCon 6** (Seattle, WA). Note: The dates listed in the last *Pulsar* were incorrect. These are the correct dates. Promise.
- Jan 21** **PorSFIS meeting.** *Restaurant:* Hunan, Morgan's Alley (on Park between Washington and Alder), 224-8063. (No, they were not burned out by the fire.)
- Feb 4** **PorSFIS meeting.** Programming will be speeches by candidates for PorSFIS offices. *Restaurant:* Berhati, 19 SW 2nd, 226-2122.

MOVING PARTY

There will be a moving party on Saturday, January 7th at 10AM. The "movee" this time is the contents of the OSFCI storage garage (the new owner no longer wants us there). The garage is quite full, so we need all the bodies (not to mention vehicles) we can drum up. So, we hope to see you at bright and early at 1806 NE 13th (just north of the Lloyd Center Safeway).

Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of December 10, 1988 Respectively submitted by David D. Levine

There was no PorSFis meeting on November 12, due to OryCon. I, your Secretary, was absent on November 26 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no PorSFis meeting on December 24, due to the winter holidays. And the PorSFis meeting of December 10 was pretty informal, so these minutes will be pretty informal, too.

The informality of the meeting was due in large part to being bumped from our usual room, through an accident on the part of the Service Center staff. They were kind enough to find us another meeting place at the Immanuel Church nearby. Unfortunately, somebody dropped the ball and there was nobody to let us into the church, so we immediately adjourned to Bogart's.

At Bogart's, we had the usual series of announcements. The mailbag included three *BCSFazines*, featuring the long-awaited return of Mr. Science; an *OASFis Event Horizon*; *File 770*; *FTA/Phoenix*; three *De Profundi*; *Neology*; and a letter from Boxboro Fandom (reproduced elsewhere in this *Pulsar*). Also received from BCSFA was the latest BCSFA Membership Directory and *Fictions Free-For-All*, an anthology with short stories, poems and art by BCSFA members who have attended at least one writers' workshop. David Levine also passed out some items copied from computer networks and magazines: a *Star Trek: The Next Generation* parody, snippets from the *ST:TNG* Second Season Writer's Guide, and a Bestiary of computer viruses.

For programming, Kate Yule moderated another SF Spelling Bee. This one was intended to be easier than the one that David did earlier this year (which was pretty brutal, featuring words like *Ptaavs* and *Makrugh*). In fact, nearly everyone got nearly every word right. A tie breaker was required: the only one to spell both *Sucharitkul* and *Cthulhu* correctly was David Levine (hmm...), with David Johnson and Ariel a close second. The prize, a bag of Hershey's kisses, was shared out among all participants.

The meeting faded away around 4:45. Many adjourned to Rose's Restaurant for a kosher-style dinner on honor of Hanukkah.

ORYCON 10 COMMITTEE PHOTOS

The OryCon 10 Committee photos are available from John Andrews, for 50¢ each. The deadline for ordering prints is January 15th.

Steve Boheim
50 MacIntosh Lane
Boxboro, Mass. 01719
12 November, 1988

Dear SF Club Contact,

I represent Boxboro Fandom, an organization which throws open theme parties at the Boskone annual science fiction convention. Approximately 9000 of you have attended our parties, which we've been throwing since 1979! Some of our themes have been "Boxboro and Environs" (Noreascon II), "An SF Valentine's Day party", "Boxboro McFandom: Over 3000 Served", "Revenge of Boxboro Fandom", "20000 Leagues Under Boxboro Fandom" (you may have read about us in *Locus*, April 1985, page 25), and "Boxboro meets Ghodzilla Fandom" (described as "Best of Con" in the 1987 Boskone's *Helmuth 6*). No, these events aren't "just" parties, but rather are decorated meeting places where we provide music, food, drink, and a theme for a broad spectrum of fans. Strangers to a Boxboro party inevitably strike up conversations with other folks based on some of the funny decorations (like a 30 foot tentacle being passed around the room, or an authentic Tibetan temple with fannish modifications, or an 8 foot sf mural spoof of the mcburger chain, or a video showing Ghodzilla trashing all of Boston in search of a cure). The fan-as-family atmosphere is very much encouraged, and pretty soon all those strangers are participating in the theme, and **having fun**. In the past decade, many of these strangers have become acquaintances, then friends.

For several years, we have been planning to throw what we hope will be a truly unique and memorable theme party at Noreascon III, the 1989 world science fiction convention in Boston. Our theme is "Louis Wu's Birthday". Our party concept is an event spanning several suites or function rooms, each room being decorated in a different locale (to simulate Wu's birthday odyssey at the beginning of "Ringworld") and hosting a different set of activities. We've received the support of the Noreascon III committee so the party will be one of the Worldcon's "extravaganza" program events. We've also been in touch with "Ringworld" author and Chief Architect Larry Niven; he has expressed interest and plans on attending the event. Needless to say, we're quite excited about "Louis Wu's Birthday!"

We are still very much in the planning stages for this event. We are writing you (one of over 100 science fiction/fantasy related clubs around North America) because we need your help in three important areas.

First, we're very interested in your ideas. We'll almost certainly be doing a New Orleans room, featuring a live jazz band in a Mardi Gras cabaret atmosphere. Collection of Mardi Gras decorations has already begun (but we could always use more!). We're thinking about some sort of Mardi Gras parade, complete with trinkets, masks, and maybe some Puppeteers and Kzinti thrown in. Any costumes or costumers out there? Another room will probably be a cyberpunk version of Tokyo, complete with futuristic audio and visual effects, some of this being interactive with the fan attendees. We are working on an audio library of futuristic punk rock/jazz with a Japanese flavor; your suggestions for pieces to include would be appreciated. Yet another room could be a Boston Mad Harter tea party theme, tying Boston and the Worldcon to the other rooms (we're looking for "Alice in Wonderland" bric-a-brac...any ideas?). We're thinking about a puppeteer garden, perhaps with a puppeteer mural (any large-scale artists out there?). How about a map room from "Ringworld", complete with map, arcane equipment, and maybe some fan and pro art related to Ringworld themes (no art for sale, just for show)? How about a Kzinti embassy? What would you like to see? Is there any particular aspect of or place in/near the "Ringworld" that you would like to see simulated? Is there any event that you'd like to see occur at the party (one of our ideas is a "Ringworld" costume/character contest)? A preliminary sketch of all this is provided below; we want to hear from you on how to

Louis Wu's Birthday

Hi!! I'm interested in **Boxboro Fandom**, and "Louis Wu's Birthday" (a multi-room extravaganza birthday celebration being held Friday, September 1, 1989, at Noreascon III). My name and address are (please print):

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Street: _____ Apt: _____

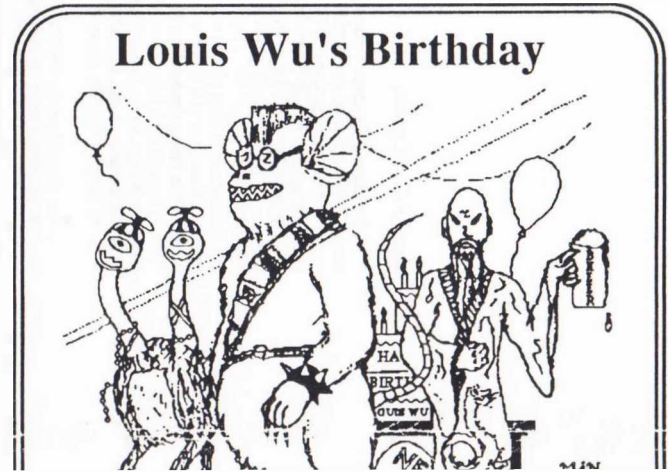
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

I want to help with organizing "Louis Wu's Birthday" as follows:

I want to help at "Louis Wu's Birthday" as follows:

I'd like to donate \$4 for a plastic 14 ounce translucent "bheer" mug (dishwasher and microwave safe) with the Boxboro Fandom logo [2 mugs for \$7].

I'd like to donate \$10 for a small Boxboro Fandom teeshirt (black logo on light blue, 50/50; only 10 left...larger sizes no longer available).





by

Boxboro Fandom

- [] I'd like to donate \$15 for a "Louis Wu's Birthday" teshirt, size: [] Infant, [] S, [] M, [] L, [] XL. I understand that the teshirt (black graphic on light blue) will be similar to that shown on the right. Available Jan. 88

- [] I'd like to donate \$10 for the "Boxboro Fandom Party Planner". This is a 40+ page compendium list of what to consider when throwing an open theme party at a convention...addresses pre-convention, at-convention, and post-convention activities, including advertising, decorations, food, fund raising, hotel liaison, logistics, and security.
- [] I'd like to donate \$30 for a "Ringworld" engineering office identification badge (this is not a Noreascon III membership badge). Enclosed is my photograph (passport, silly, or otherwise) for use on my badge. I'd like my office title to be:

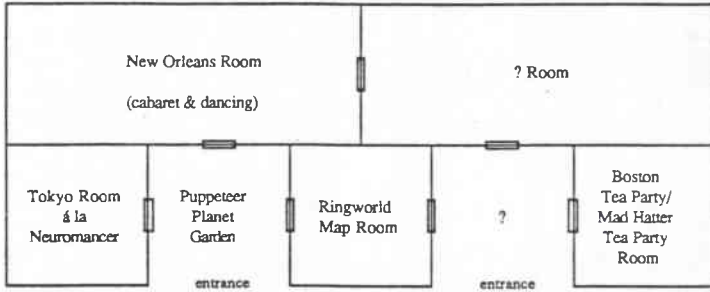
[Example office titles are (these are already taken!): Frequent Flyer Engineer, Retired Engineer, Good & Plenty Engineer, Invivo Genetic Engineer, Blackjack Engineer, The Little Engineer That Could, Weather Engineer, Cryogenic Engineer, Biomedical Engineer, Engineer of Human/Kzinti Relations, and Fiscal Engineer].

- [] I'd like to donate \$40 for "The Boxboro Retrospective". This VHS video includes "Boxboro McFandom" (1984), "In Search of the Lost Temple of Boxboro Fandom" (1986), "Boxboro meets Ghodzilla Fandom" (1987), footage from the "Boxboro is Missing" press announcement and the barbecue (1988), "Death of a Fandom" (1989), and photo stills of various Boxboro events from 1980 to the present. Available January 1988.

The usual small print...if you decide on a donation, please don't wait for the convention, since most of the items will no longer be available. All requested items will be sent to your address. Please make donations (*thank you* very much!) payable to Boxboro Fandom, and send to:

Boxboro Fandom
c/o Steve Boehm 50 McIntosh Lane Boxboro, Mass. 01719

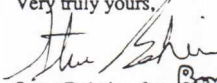

make it better!



Second, we're interested in your participation, both before and during the convention. Our theme parties need people to build, color, paste, mail, haul, etc. before the convention, and setup, tear down, and run things during the actual event. We try to get everyone to participate so that nobody gets stuck doing all the work and everyone has fun. All of our parties have always relied on fans to help out; if you're interested in participating at the convention, drop us a note, and we'll keep in touch. Better yet, if there are skills/resources/contacts you have that you'd be willing to share prior to the convention, we'd love to have you be involved.

Third, we need your financial support. Boxboro Fandom activities are supported primarily by our members, e.g., Joe and Joan Phan. The more people who support and help with Louis Wu's Birthday, the better it will be. Yes, we've been saving for this event for several years, and, yes, the Noreascon III committee will be helping out. But the realities of the world intrude: corkage fees, union regulations, and equipment rentals all could contribute to expenses that could easily run into a five-figure budget. We want this event to be a high quality, memorable extravaganza, entertaining lots of fans with lots of different interests. The number of function rooms and the theme for each has not yet been completely determined; budget considerations need to be addressed before we can finalize our plans. So, we are asking you to distribute the attached "suggested donation" form to your membership and to encourage your members to help us out. We have done this sort of thing (offices, buttons, etc.) for our past parties, and have been able to sustain a substantial budget. Another way to support us at the club level is with a club donation. If a club donates \$1 per member, or at least \$30, we'll make sure that your club name and address show up prominently at the party. You get some advertising, and help our cause at the same time!

We want your ideas and your help! We are very excited about "Louis Wu's Birthday," and want it to be fun for us and you. Thank you for reading this, passing it around to your club, and discussing it. We look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you at Noreascon III!

Very truly yours,

 Steve Boheim, for 

NEW YEAR PARTIES

PorSFIS' annual New Year's Eve Party will be held at the home of John Andrews, 4311 SE Cora in Portland. The festivities start at 8PM on December 31st, and last until whenever (though this is not a sleep-over event.) The party is BYOE--although PorSFIS will be providing some food. (Yes, this year it's a party, rather than a New Year's Eve dinner.)

The next day, January 1st, is Marc, Patty and Sean Wells' annual New Year's Day brunch. Bring real food, drink and board games for a laid-back afternoon. The brunch starts at 11AM, and is at 819 SE 16th in Portland.

CONVENTION MEETINGS

February starts the convention-planning season. The first OryCon 11 committee meeting will be held Sunday, February 19 at 4PM. The location, like last year, for all OryCon 11 meetings is the home of John Lorentz, 6323 NE Mallory. The next Westercon 43 (1990) committee meeting will be held the following Tuesday, February 21st. It starts at 7:30PM, and is held at Wells' house, 819 SE 16th.

We are still in need of many convention workers, for both OryCon and Westercon (especially Westercon). Prior experience is not necessary, just a willingness to work. If you're interested, or have any questions, call John Lorentz at (503) 283-0802.

REMEMBER--RATES ARE GOING UP AT YEAR END!!

Westercon is going up to \$25, Orycon to \$16. So get your memberships now and save money. (The current rates are good through the end of Marc and Patty Wells' party on January 1st--this is a hint.) There are no special committee rates for Westercon, and there may not be for OryCon, so these are probably the cheapest rates you'll see.

ELECTIONS

Yes, it's that time again. Nominations are open until January 21st for PorSFIS officers. The offices being voted on are: President (runner-up becomes Vice-President), Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations may be made at the PorSFIS meetings of January 7th and 21st, in writing to any PorSFIS officer, or by mail to the PorSFIS PO Box.

January 21, 1989	Nominations close
February 1, 1989	Ballots distributed (with Pulsar)
February 4, 1989	Speeches by candidates at PorSFIS meeting
February 18, 1989	Deadline for returning ballots
March 1, 1989	Results announced

Candidates are also encouraged to write a statement for the February Pulsar.

(Editor's Note: Please keep in mind that there is much to the job of PorSFIS officer than sitting in front of the group at meetings. Besides attending the meetings, keeping the group going takes several more hours of preparation each month.)



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(continued from page 2)

By listening to his show each week, it's possible to pick up an amazing amount of music history (he's also been listed as an information source in the radio show "The Lost Lennon Tapes").

Dr. Demento's show has had a checkered past on the Portland radio waves, with stations randomly picking it up, and dropping it again with no apparent reason. This is ironic, since he got his start as a DJ while attending Reed College here in Portland. Nationally, his show's been syndicated for nearly twenty years, including being broadcast on the Armed Forces Radio Network overseas. If you would like to be entertained, or to learn more about music, tune him in sometime. I started listening to him about 350 tapes ago, which means I have more than 6,000 songs in my collection from his show. (This, of course, is why I have a computer!)

Since--once again--I failed to get Christmas Cards out--Season's Greetings. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season.

PORSFIS OFFICERS:

President	Phil Jansen	(503) 246-4320
Vice-President	Ariel Shattan	(503) 246-4320
Secretary	David Levine	(503) 224-6427
Treasurer	John Lorentz	(503) 283-0802 (<i>PorSFis Lightline</i>)

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