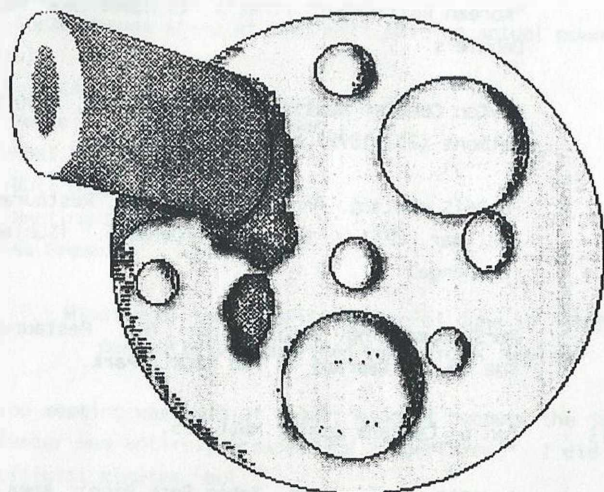


*The Newsletter of the Portland
Science Fiction Society*

July 1989

\$0.60



Pulsar

PorSFIS Timeline
Compiled by David D. Levine

Note: Unless otherwise noted, Saturday PorSFIS meetings are at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, at 2 PM. We adjourn to Bogart's, NW 14th and Flanders, after the meetings, and some people gather for dinner at the listed restaurants, usually around 5:15-5:45. Non-members are always welcome.

- Jun. 24 PorSFIS meeting. Programming: Botticelli (contact David Johnson for details), followed by Dave and Sue's wedding. All are invited. Restaurant: Potluck reception after the wedding.
- Jul. 8 PorSFIS meeting. Programming: TBA. Restaurant: "Korean Restaurant" (that's its name) near Paul & Debbie's.
- Jul. 9 OryCon General Meeting at Finity's End, 1710 SE Belmont (232-1899) at 4:00 PM.
- Jul 22 PorSFIS meeting. Programming: TBA. Restaurant: Shalimar, 2231 W. Burnside, 274-1603. (Subject to change)
- Aug. 5 PorSFIS meeting. Programming: TBA. Restaurant: The new restaurant in Tom McCall Park.
- Aug. 11-13 Con 6, Cypress Inn at Mall 205.
- Aug. 19 PorSFIS Picnic at Mt. Tabor Park Picnic Area A, food starting at 2:00. No PorSFIS meeting.

Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of May 27, 1989

Respectfully submitted by Eric Simonson

Typed by David D. Levine

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-John A. made a movement to ban discussion of summer films until after summer.

-U.S. News has discovered Outer Space.

-Pulsar is here.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Next meeting is at Bogart's.

NEW BUSINESS:

-None.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Super Heroes thing at OMSI will have an actual power suit.

MAIL CALL:

-No mail. No females either.

-Most people are at V-Con.

-Null programming.

-Meeting over.

-No Break.

Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of June 10, 1989

Respectfully submitted by David D. Levine

The meeting was held at Bogart's Joynt because the Service Center was entirely occupied by "Soberfaire." I did not take official minutes, but:

There were about 20 people there, including all the officers. There was some discussion of whether or not we wanted to have an official meeting on June 24, the day of Conjugal (Dave & Sue's wedding). We decided to have a real meeting; programming will be the game Boticelli (looks like fun). John Andrews will let the Service Center know that we want the space.

John Lorentz brought up the fact that we are not paid up (although we are penciled in) for future meetings. John Andrews said he would pay the Service Center and have us

penciled in for the remainder of the year.

John Lorentz also pointed out that we have been remiss in getting Pulsars to stores such as Future Dreams. None of the current officers go to these stores as regularly as previous officers did. Eventually, John volunteered to take the Pulsar to the stores if we would just give him copies, and the officers agreed to do this.

There was a tremendous amount of mail, including BCSFAzine #193 (She may only have been an old spacer's daughter, but Bobi was talented AND beautiful), De Profundis #209, OASFis Event Horizon #25 (including the program book from their convention, a nice touch), WestWind #139 (including Mark Manning's comment on Pulsar that "I like the Portland fans, but wish they'd get a permanent editor who cares."), Tip Sheet #5 from Carolyn Gladden and Associates (actually, I'd class this as junk mail), and two copies of Mickey's Hobby & Mail-order Advertiser, a newspaper full of nothing but classified ads from people who buy, sell, and collect... things.

Also in the mailbag: an announcement that Mike Jittlov's comedy-fantasy "Wizard of Speed and Time" will be released in mid-August '89 in "selected western states markets" with wider release in October-November; Phase II of the nominations for the Oregon Literary Map, in which we get to vote on all the writers that we and other people nominated (various people cast their votes during the meeting); and a request from InUNISON Publications for information about Oregon women working in creative fields (David Levine and Aaron Bodor culled a list of a dozen or so prominent Northwest women writers and artists from the OryCon guest list).

.Due to the heat and noise, we decided not to try to have programming. The meeting faded into an agreeable beer-soaked reverie sometime in the mid-afternoon.

A science fiction reading/lecture/discussion series entitled "Visionary Fiction: the Past, the Present, and the Future" will be offered this fall, thanks to a \$5,622 grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities. One of the programs in this free series will feature noted author Ursula Le Guin.

The series will examine aspects of science fiction, also described as "speculative" or "visionary" fiction, according to Ella Seely, the grantwriter who submitted the project. Participants, who will be asked to sign up for the series, will receive a reading list and be asked to read three books during the series, which is expected to begin in September. The program will be presented at the Multnomah County Library, Lake Oswego Public Library, and the Hillsboro Public Library. There will be four programs.

Contact: Ella Seely (221-7734)

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A (Very) Short Fannish Autobiography

By

Eric Simonson

Seeing as how this is the first PULSAR that I have volunteered to edit, it would be wise to let you all know a little about me. I was born in Seattle and raised in the lesser of the two Vancouvers. I got into fandom through the intervention of my parents, Sheila and Mickey Simonson. (You may have heard of my mother through the Science-Fiction Literature class that she has taught at Clark College.) They took me to my first Worldcon when I was four years old. I thought for a long time that everybody read Heinlein and went to cons.

After graduating from high school, I moved to Los Angeles to study film. (I produced more film on the dirty dishes in my sink than with a camera . . . but that's another story that I am not going to get into now.) My first act upon moving into my apartment, was to join the LASFS. I had not had much experience in club fandom when I joined, so I did not really know what to expect. It was like going to a con every Thursday, without the exhaustion.

After two years I moved back to Washington to complete my B.A. degree at the Evergreen State College in Olympia. This entailed a three year absence from club fandom. After graduating and moving back to Vancouver, I felt a club-less void in my life. To make a long story short, I hooked up with PorSFis. The rest is history.

As for some personal trivia: My first Film job was working in a recording studio that specialized in dubbing Kung Fu movies into English--sort of; My second film job was mixing blood for the movie "Mortuary."; I have written several s.f. short stories.

I have almost too many interests outside of fandom to list--but I will anyway: I have a certain obsession with high-end audio equipment; I write fiction semi-regularly; I read too many books and magazines; When I am in non-fiction reading mode, I read mostly about science, history, and architecture; I like pasta, good Mexican and Chinese food, and Bryer's chocolate-chip mint ice-cream (not all at the same time.)

PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN

by John Raymond Lorentz

A recent episode of **Star Trek The Next Generation** dealt in part with a planet that populated their planet by cloning themselves. They were encountering problems with **replicative failure**. Reproducing themselves by making copies of copies of the genetic material caused small genetic errors to magnify into large problems. This condition is prevented through sexual reproduction, whereby new genetic material is being constantly introducing. (And no--that was not intended as a salacious remark.) The rest of the episode had some major flaws in logic, but I realized that replicative failure was showing up in other places, such as in the films being released this summer.

Hollywood has fallen in love with cloning. **Friday the 13th** is up to #8, and I've lost track of the **Police Academy** films. The SF genre is just as bad. This summer, we have **Star Trek V**, **Ghostbusters II**, **Back to the Future II** and another Indiana Jones film. And they're suffering from replicative failure. No matter how good **Raiders of the Lost Ark** was, it just isn't as much fun watching Indiana Jones looking for another religious artifact. I do agree that **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** is better than ...**the Temple of Doom**, but there's nothing really new about this film, other than Sean Connery doing a good (not great) job playing Indy's father. The genre (redoing old pulp-style adventure films) is great, but we need a new storyline.

As **Star Trek** directors, Leonard Nimoy is kung pao shrimp, while William Shatner is fried shrimp. Both are filling, but given the two, I'd much rather be enjoying the slight bite of Nimoy than the blandness of Shatner. **Star Trek IV** was the best of the series--a good storyline with real suspense, as well as a few light moments. **Star Trek V** had light moments, but no real suspense. ("Star Trek Lite"?) It starts out with Kirk falling down a cliff--but you know he's going to be saved (it is only 10 minutes into the film, after all). Near the end, Kirk is once again in danger--but again it's no big deal (Kirk being killed in a film written and directed by Shatner?). The movie would have made a pleasant TV episode, but it was too bland (too safe) for a full-length film.

The current movie season started with **The Adventures of Baron Munchausen**. Although not a direct clone, Terry Gilliam has referred to it as the third film in a trilogy containing **Time Bandits** and **Brazil**. Maybe my "Gilliam standards" are to high, but this film disappointed me. I kept expecting something really neat to happen, and it never did. By itself, it's a good film; but as a progression from the other two films, it seemed lacking.

Some series films are good. **Godfather Part II** was better than **The Godfather**. **Star Trek IV** was the best so far. James Bond films go up and down (they've done 18 of them, after all). But to be good, a film has to have some originality--and not just be a clone of a previous film.

(Why is it that every sf or adventure film seems to be set in the desert? Surely there must be some planets in our galaxy with water!)

(Before Steve Forty starts complaining--there will be a review of V-Con next month. It's already been written.)

PULSAR is the monthly newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis.) Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the writers, who retain all rights to the material. Pulsar has a rotating membership, open to all PorSFis members. This months editor is Eric Simonson. Next months editor is David Levine. Issues of the Pulsar are available: free with PorSFis membership (full year for ten bucks,) by trade with other newsletters, or for sixty cents per copy. Contributions are always gratefully accepted, and may be sent to the PorSFis address listed below.

PorSFis meets on alternate Saturdays at Two in the afternoon. Check the timeline in this issue for the dates and location of these meetings and other events.

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