

# Pulsar

The newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society

September 1989

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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 2:00 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.

**Sep. 2 PorSFis meeting.** *Programming:* TBA. *Restaurant:* Chang's Mongolian Grill, 1 SW 3rd, 243-1991

**Sep. 10 OryCon General Meeting** at Finity's End, 1710 SE Belmont (232-1899), at 4:00 PM.

**Sep. 16 PorSFis meeting.** *Programming:* Favorite Kids' Books Reading. Bring your favorite children's books (I'll be bringing Daniel Pinkwater) to share with the membership. You're never too old for kids' books. *Restaurant:* Rose's, 315 NW 23rd, 227-7792.

**Sep. 30 OryCon Flyer Distribution.** If you would like to help distribute OryCon flyers to bookstores and campuses, call David Levine at 224-6427 for more information. A car is desirable but not essential.

**PorSFis meeting.** *Programming:* TBA. *Restaurant:* Pattaya (Thai), 8729 SE Powell, 774-0369

**Nov. 10-12**

**OryCon 11** at the Columbia River Red Lion Inn, Portland, OR. GoH: Michael Bishop. Special Guest: David Langford. Memb.: \$20 until Oct 31, \$25 at the door. Call (503) 283-0802 or write to P.O. Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228.

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**BOOK REVIEW: The "Callahan" Series of Spider Robinson****by Arlene Hills**

Well, somebody's gotta write copy for this newsletter, and several former friends (who shall be unnamed here - you know who you are) that I asked for newsletter copy have deserted me, so here I am, the Night Before Collation, taking this opportunity to let you all in on one of my newest discoveries: the series of "Callahan's" books (*Callahan's Crosstime Saloon*, *Callahan's Secret*, *Time Travelers Strictly Cash*, and the newest relative, just out this summer, *Lady Sally's*).

My first introduction to these books was through a filksong ("Callahan's Bar") in The Westerfilk Collection, and it sounded like an interesting place I'd like to know more about someday. But being preoccupied with the filking continuing around me, I kind of forgot about it, until one evening in Powell's, prowling the SF shelves, a title (*Callahan's Crosstime Saloon*) leaped out at me. For those of you familiar with the mythology of Callahan's, that probably means I needed to find it just then. So I added it to the stack of Yet More Books that I was putting myself in hock for, and home it came with me.

Folks, I ought to warn you that I'm a short story lover and a punster to boot. So, when I found myself smiling over frequent pun-chlines, and rooting for the regulars to help the latest down and out soul (only a buck a drink, fifty cents if you *don't* make a toast at the "firing line") who'd found the way to Callahan's, I thought I'd stumbled into ... well, my kinda place. So, after devouring the book (and three bheers in as many hours) I decided I needed more of the same.

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But it was not to be, until my recent birthday, when my lovable but ever-procrastinating boyfriend (you know who you are too) took me out for dinner on the day **after** my birthday, and then for a shopping spree at Powell's as my present. Among the treasures I chose for myself from Powell's many sections, I returned home with *Callahan's Secret*, *Time Travelers Strictly Cash*, and about 10 other books in or about various Earth languages.

Needing time to digest the rich dinner I had consumed, I stayed up until 4 a.m. reading *Callahan's Secret* and trying to solve the riddles in "Pyotr's Story". I rarely stay up past midnight (except at cons and SCA events), but it was worth it. Callahan's is a place of many unexpected revelations, and though the final story was definitely bittersweet, the lot of them gave me that feeling Spider imparts so well, of respect for the human race, and the compassion of humans and the other sentients who frequent Callahan's place.

I've started reading *Time Travelers Strictly Cash*, which has non-Callahan short stories, Spider's first book review for Jim Baen, a couple of Spider's convention speeches, and the stories of the nights when the Shaggy Dog, and later the Interstellar Traveling Salesman, dropped by. Spider's anecdotes about each piece, which follow instead of precede them (a much more sensible arrangement, I think), are almost as fun as the stories themselves.

I haven't bought *Lady Sally's*, because it's just out, and about \$18 in hardcover, besides, I'm not only frugal, I'm broke. But, for those of you who've already discovered Callahan's and (may you) have deeper pockets than I, it's out there, Powell's has it, and if it's even half as good as its predecessors, it's well worth the price. And if anybody out there does get it, can I borrow your copy when you're done reading it? I'll take care *real* good care of it, and get it back real quick, I promise.

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**Minutes of the PorSFis Meeting of July 22, 1989**  
**Respectfully Submitted by David D. Levine**

After a few minutes of reading people's T-Shirts, the meeting was called to order at 2:08, with 20 people present, counting Sean.

**Announcements:**

Eric announced the 20th anniversary of Apollo 11, and proposed a moment of silence for the space program. Bush has proposed a mission to Mars, but he put Dan Quayle in charge.

David Johnson: How many Messiahs have there been? *Free Thought Today* lists 12, most of whom were born of virgins and were crucified.

John Lorentz: Jane Yolen is speaking at Powell's next Wednesday, this weekend is the Second Annual Oregon Brewers' Festival... Bigtime Brewing from Seattle will be serving "Bhagwan's Best India Pale Ale." *UHF* has gotten tolerable good reviews and has a video; *Batman* is legal for discussion at PorSFis events as of today.

Roger Wells: Based on his experience in India and its liquor laws, anything calling itself "India Ale" is probably pretty darn pale...

Michael Pearce: *Comic Book Confidential* is playing at Cinema 21 for a week.

Paul announced his and Debbie's upcoming joint birthday party; the deadline for cheap Con memberships is July 21. Books for sale: Michael Bishop: *Apartheid, Superstrings, and Modified Nirvana* (\$10), *Guardman* by Hamilton and Beese (Real Fans know why this book is significant; \$2.95) ["Oh yeah?" - Ed.] *Sword Maker* by Jennifer Robinson (3rd book of a trilogy).

David Levine announced the Annual Convention of the National Stereoscopic Association, coming to Portland in August, and the existence of "Star Trek: The Marshmallow Dispenser" (from Kraft, the Official Marshmallow of the USS Enterprise)

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Roger Wells is moving to Woodinville, WA (just north of Seattle).

**Mail Call:**

An invitation to a picnic from the Humanists of Portland/Vancouver Area. *File 770:80* (including mention of some things that happened at a PorSFIS meeting, as reported in the Pulsar... Great Ghu, you mean somebody READS this stuff?!), *De Profundis* #210 (including an ad for "Parallacs-2," an SF club in the USSR that's looking for pen pals), and some info from In-Con and ConDiego (this information appeared in the Timeline in the last Pulsar; John A. declared that, at \$65 for an attending membership one year in advance, ConDiego is too expensive).

**Old Business:**

David J: I haven't made contact with Diana.

David L. asked whether John A. had verified that our accounts and the Service Center's agree. John said he hadn't heard anything from them, so we must be OK.

There was a Sue Petrey Auction.

**Programming: Extraterrestrial Personal Ads.**

We spent an enjoyable half-hour writing gems like these on the blackboard:

TGA looking for free quartette.

Φ&ΔΣ seeks ΦPT, 20-30, for PTE&O, XOEP, light Σ & Γ.

Tripedal Denebian seeks bipedal Terran for kinky encounters. Batteries not included.

Full-blooded Betazoids invited to party at my place at the correct time.

Reptiles only sought for cold fusion.

You had three noses, one of them lithe. I waved my tail. Must see you again.  
10-Forward, third shift.

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Stuck on Earth for duration. Looking for anyone with spaceship.

Bipedal Terran foot fetishist seeks tri, quad- or more-pedal Denebians for fun, laughs, pedicures.

Gateway party. Informal dress only.

There is no Destination. The Ship is the Ship.

MX seeks methane-breather FX 120-150 for serious relationship. Only those ready for 2-3 lifetimes' commitment need apply.

Adventurous Androids wanted for experimental social interactions. Fully functional only need apply. M, F, or other welcome.

Single neutral seeks nubile (F) and reproductive (M) for conjugation. Send hologram please.

Tribbles !!!FREE!!! to good home.

Trisexual Altairian seeks self for good times.

**Minutes of the PorSFis Meeting of August 5, 1989  
Respectfully Submitted by David D. Levine**

There were about 16 people present at 2:05.

**Announcements:**

Diana Callihan announced the picnic, which will be held in lieu of the next meeting.

John Lorentz announced Con, which is next weekend. He had some Con flyers and progress reports.

Dave and Sue have moved. Their new address and phone number are:

Sue & Dave Moreland  
103 Lee Street  
Seattle, WA 98109-3179  
(206) 283-5957

David Johnson called (on the phone) with the news that he was stuck at a Burger King with a dead car. Diana volunteered to go and help him out.

OryCon meeting Sunday the 20th at John L.'s; future meetings will be at Finity's End (Andrew & Ceil's place)

Kate: The KBOO Book and Record Sale is Sat Aug 26 at the Pass Club on SE 8th just off Burnside.

Paul is trying to get a tape of the Secular Humanist Revival Meeting, and plans to bring it for future programming.

#### **Business:**

We are not currently marked on the Service Center's whiteboard for meetings past this one (well, actually we are marked down for next weekend, but we will be at the Picnic instead). John said he was sure we were all paid up through the end of the year and penciled in for the foreseeable future. He promised to check into it.

#### **Mail Call:**

OASFiS *Event Horizon* #27, *WestWind* #140 (the fanzine column refers to Pulsar as "Clubzine Lite"), and letter from "Semi-Active Wonderboy" (Scott Lee Spence) in Sunnyvale, CA, enclosing a check (!) for \$0.60 for a *Pulsar*. I figure it's got to be either Bandit or Jim/Linda Pilcher publicizing PorSFIS in the Bay Area. Why else would someone from Sunnyvale write to us for a *Pulsar*?

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

We have about \$400 in checking, \$300 in savings, and \$7 cash. John L. asked how many members we have: there are about 50.

#### **New People:**

No actual new people today, but PorSFIS now has its newest ambulatory member (yes, Sean is walking). Kate observed that he falls down in place, like a building with clothing.

#### **Programming:**

There wasn't any programming. (We've got to do something about this.)



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## PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN

by John Raymond Lorentz

V-Con (that convention up north in Vancouver, British Columbia) has a theme each year. I'm not talking about the **official** theme (last year's was "The Science in Science Fiction). No, I'm talking about the **real** theme of V-Con. Last year's was "Food"; this year's was "Noise".

For those of you who haven't attended this fun convention, V-Con is located on the campus of the University of British Columbia. Last year's was held in the Gage dorm complex. This year, unfortunately, they moved to the Totem complex. I say "unfortunately" because (although the Totem complex is a better fit for the convention) Totem has the traditional dorm layout -- long hallways with paper-thin doors. At first, this seemed to be no real problem, since last year's V-Con staff shut down the parties at 2AM, meaning I'd get **some** sleep. Unfortunately, this year's staff decided that the party wing was on its own -- meaning that parties could run until whenever (indeed, "run" describes how many of the people transported themselves down the hallways). Sleep was not an activity in which I spent much time.

(Several of us stayed in the party area so that we could throw an OryCon/Westercon Party. We didn't know that there were lounges that could be used for throwing parties. Next year, I'll take a non-party room.)

"Noise" carried over to "Hospitality" (called that even though everything had a price tag. It was actually a noisy, smoky bar.) It being the only gathering place for socializing, we spent many hours in there, drinking cider and yelling at the person next to us.

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On the other hand, they **did** have cider (one of the major reasons for the six-hour drive). And they did have a lot of fun programming. Spider Robinson gave a Lord Buckley-style rap about Heinlein, and those of us who didn't make it to England got a chance to hear Bob Shaw speak.

And the food's just as good as ever (we've added an excellent Japanese restaurant to the list of good places to go in Vancouver).

V-Con is an excellent convention. Even with the noise this year, it was a fun weekend. I've already got my membership to V-Con 18 ("Worlds of Fantasy", with Elizabeth Lynn and others). And the 1991 Westercon was won in a very close race by Vancouver. It will be a combined V-Con/Westercon, with Pro GOH being William Gibson.

By the way, next year's Norwescon has announced that, in order to stay in the main hotel, **you must stay a minimum of three nights** (and those nights must be Thursday, Friday and Saturday). This is a step which not even the Worldcons have taken, and makes Norwescon one of the most expensive local cons around. ["Con indeed!" - Ed.] So start saving your money now. (Better yet: take the same amount of money and go to **two** V-Cons. You'll have a much better time.)

**PorSFis**

**P.O. Box 4602**

**Portland, OR 97208**

**PULSAR**, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (**PorSFis**), comes free with membership (\$10 per year). It is also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased for 60¢ at Portland area bookstores.

Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the writers, who retain all rights to the material.

**PULSAR** has a rotating editorship. This month's editor was Arlene Hills; next month's is John Lorentz. Deadline is generally the 20th of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the P.O. Box above.

PorSFis meetings are open to everyone. Check the Timeline for meeting times and places.

**PorSFis Officers:**

President: David Johnson (649-8650)

Vice President: Eric Simonson ((206) 696-2666)

Secretary: David Levine (224-6427)

Treasurer: John Andrews (771-2894)

**PorSFis Information Lightline: 283-0802**



DICK LYNCH  
P.O. BOX 1270  
GERMANTOWN MD 20874

