

PULSAR

APRIL 1990

NUMBER 138

60¢



The newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society

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.

- Mar 23-Apr 5 **Movie: For All Mankind** at Cinema 21, NW 21st & Hoyt. 7:00, 8:45, 10:15, weekend matinees. Collection of rare NASA footage of the Apollo missions, with non-NASA narration by the astronauts who filmed them. Should be worth a movie party on the 31st.
- Mar 29-Apr 1 **Norwescon 12** at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel in beautiful Tacoma, WA. GoH: Roger Zelazny. SGoH: John Cramer. AGoH: David Cherry. FGoH: Pat Mueller. VGoH: Joe Wheeler. TM: Dan Reeder. Memberships: \$35 at the door. Hotel (3 night minimum): \$185 single/double, \$205 triple/quad. Norwescon 12, PO Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124, (206) 248-2010.
- Mar 31 **PorSFIS Meeting** Programming TBA.
Restaurant: Alexis, 215 West Burnside, 224-8577
- Apr 1 **All PorSFIS Memberships Expire.**
- Apr 7 **Science Fiction and Fantasy Day** at the new Gresham Regional Library, 1 to 5 PM. See the announcement elsewhere in this Pulsar for more info. If you'd like to help staff the PorSFIS table, call Kate Yule at 224-6427.
- Apr 14 **PorSFIS Meeting**. Programming: Part 2 of Orson Scott Card's "Secular Humanist Revival Meeting."
Restaurant: Farrell's, 1613 NE Weidler, 281-1271.
- Apr 20-22 **Westercon Committee Retreat** in Seaside, Oregon. Call John Lorentz (283-0802) or Patty Wells (232-5692) for details.
- Apr 28 **PorSFIS Meeting** Programming: Local SF author Robert Sheckley speaks on writing for a shared-world anthology.
Restaurant: Vietnam's Pearl, 1037 SW Morrison, 241-4740.
- Apr 29 **OryCon 12 Meeting** 4PM at Finity's End (Andrew and Cecilia's), 1710 SE Belmont, 232-1899.
- May 12 **PorSFIS Meeting**.
Restaurant: Casa-U-Betcha, 612 NW 21st, 222-4833.

Fantasy/Science Fiction Day in Gresham

Multnomah County Library is holding a Fantasy/Science Fiction fair at the Gresham Regional Library on Saturday, April 7th from 1:00 to 5:00. Scheduled events are a talk by fantasy author Susan Fletcher and a Society for Creative Anachronism demo. PorSFIS and other local groups will be there with information tables. Think of it as a really mini-con...

For library junkies, note that this one is brand new, and intended as a major "regional hub" to complement the big Central Library downtown. And say, have you tried out the new computerized catalog system yet? See what it says if you ask about copies of the Pulsar!

The address is 385 NW Miller, Gresham (665-2222). See you there!

— Kate Y.

Goodbye to All That

David D. Levine, Outgoing Secretary

As I write this, it's March 19. Officers' terms don't expire until April 1, but I'll be out of town on March 31, so the PorSFIS minutes that appear in this Pulsar are the last ones I'll be writing. (For a while, at least.) I hope you've enjoyed reading my minutes at least as much as I've enjoyed writing them. It's been an exciting couple of years as Secretary, but right now I'm more than ready to pass on the quill to Linda.

I'll be keeping busy, have no fear. As many of you know, I'm the chair of OryCon 12 (gulp!). I'm also the Secretary for Westercon 43, so I and my faithful companion laptop will be clickety-clicking our way around town for a while yet. And, of course, I'll be at the PorSFIS meetings (I'm rather looking forward to heckling from the back rows again) and you'll probably see me in these pages as well.

It's been real.

Respectfully submitted,

-- David D. Levine

Portland Science Fiction Society Balance Sheet

4/1/89 to 3/16/90

Submitted by John Andrews

EXPENSES

Meeting Space	\$ 740.00
Postage	200.00
Printing	572.54
Picnic	87.06
Corporation Com.	5.00
Bank Expense	4.25
PO Box	39.00
Miscellaneous	41.60
Total Expenses	\$1689.45

INCOME

Memberships	\$ 565.00
Auctions	56.15
Pulsar Sales	3.00
Pulsar Ads	50.00
Donations	200.00
OryCon Donation	567.64
Interest	27.78
Miscellaneous	63.54
Total Income	\$1533.11
Total Expenses	(1689.45)
Net Change	(156.34)

Beginning Balance \$ 903.16

Income 1533.11
Expenses (1689.45)

Ending Balance \$ 746.82

DISTRIBUTION

Cash \$ 30.00
Checking 215.72
Saving 501.10

TOTAL 746.82

Minutes of the PorSFis Meeting of March 3, 1990 Respectfully submitted by David D. Levine

Meeting was called to order by a majority of those present at 2:05. 13 people present. There was some confusion over whether this was the PorSFis meeting or some computer group, and over whether the officers were David, John, Eric and David or the new officers: Kate Yule (President), Diana Callihan (VP), John Lorentz (Treasurer), and Linda Pilcher (Secretary).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It's time to renew your memberships. All memberships expire April 1; memberships are \$10 per year.

Don Dever: Dr. Who will not be renewed by Channel 10 if they don't get enough money. (But they say that every year.)

Michael Pearce showed up with the Pulsars.

Joyce Z: There is a Dr. Who movie in the works. John Cleese and Albert Finney are among those being considered to play the Doctor.

Kate: The Showtime cable network is showing two Monty Python 20th anniversary specials this month, one including some new sketches (finished the day before Chapman died).

Tom B: The Oregon Moonbase has finally received the first half of the money NASA owes it and is now in "functional running mode." (Applause.)

David J & L: The Hunt for Red October premiered yesterday; don't forget the 30-day ban on discussion at all PorSFis events. David J. liked it, but then he liked Star Trek V.

John L is selling OryCon and Westercon memberships and -- new this week -- presupporting memberships and T-Shirts (in eye-searing colors) for the Waikiki in '93 write-in Worldcon bid.

Debbie: there is a garage sale this weekend from someone who is getting out of the business of costuming skaters and dancers (lots'a'glitz).

Keith Lofstrom announced the formation of Keith Lofstrom Integrated Circuits (KLIC) -- after 17 years, Keith and Tektronix have parted company. (How's Tek doing? Keith: "Sell short.")

Diana: Buy Tek stock when it hits 10 -- Sony is likely to make a buy-out offer this quarter.

Paul had 50 years of Fritz Lieber, one story for each year of his life, in regular and deluxe editions, and a variety of other books for sale. Among other things, Paul is now trading in small-press mysteries and had cassettes of "Cats Laughing" (a Minneapolis folk group featuring SF authors Emma Bull and Steven Brust).

Debbie has received a request for a nonsmoking roommate at Westercon on July 4th-9th. If you have a room to share, contact Debbie.

Michael Pearce is having an April birthdays (and fifth anniversary of his 39th birthday) party on April 7th.

Kate Yule called for people to help staff the PorSFis table at the SF/Fantasy day at the Gresham Regional Library on April 7.

B. C. is looking for a ride to V-Con. (David L: What, B.C. needs to get to Vancouver? Well, if the mountain won't go to Mohammed...)

Joyce and Tom: There is a new Pern book out: Renegades of Pern. It finally

does some justice to the other 99% of the inhabitants of Pern.

MAIL CALL:

WestWind #145/146, January (?) 1990; Transmissions Vol. 13 Issue 4 (with an Anne Davenport cartoon of Worf collecting Data), junk mail from the Post Office, and two, yes two press releases from MagiCon, the 1992 worldcon: one announcing that the price for an Attending Membership went up from \$50 to \$65 on March 1 (children's memberships went from \$30 to \$35; supporting memberships are still \$20), the other announcing that the con now has over 2000 members and laying out its Operating Committee Structure. Write to MagiCon, P.O. Box 621992, Orlando, FL 32862-1992 or call (407) 275-0027 for more info.

There was much putting-down of the lateness of WestWind. Paul opined that this business with the double issue numbers was just to keep Pulsar from catching up! (Note that when Pulsar is mentioned at all in other people's 'zines, just about the only thing they have to say about us is that we're "incredibly regular.")

BUSINESS:

Diana Callihan is taking charge of the Picnic this year. It's time to get the permit for the picnic area. The new officers' first choice is Laurelhurst Park, which has many nice features but no picnic shelter. Other alternatives are Oaks Amusement Park, Sellwood Park, Mt. Tabor Park, and Columbia Park. We decided to leave it up to Diana (giving preference to someplace with a shelter).

Since it's easier to change our plans with the Service Center than with the Parks Department, we decided to try to hold the picnic on August 4 (but be prepared to reschedule if necessary).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

There will be a Treasurer's Report next meeting. Have we paid for more meeting space? We are paid up through March 31, and will shortly be paid up for the next three months and penciled in for the next six.

PROGRAMMING:

Programming was an excellent presentation on "Neglected Authors You Should Read: Fredric Brown" by Patty Wells, with dramatic readings by David Levine. Afterwards, Patty was descended on by several faneds begging her to write up her presentation as a fanzine article.

Minutes of the PorSFIS meeting of March 17, 1990 Respectfully submitted by David D. Levine

Meeting called to order by Eric Simonson at 2:17 in the absence of David Johnson, who arrived later. Approximately 22 people present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roger: Fritz Leiber has suffered a slight stroke, but is now out of the

hospital.

David L: The "Rose City Prose" readings will be featuring Robert Sheckley and a number of lesser-known local SF writers reading from their works and discussing the field on April 14 from 11 AM to 1 PM, right here at the Service Center.

Eric: Two space disasters for the price of one: a US spy satellite is disintegrating and will soon re-enter, and a recently-launched communications satellite has failed to separate from its booster and will soon re-enter.

Paul W: If anyone wants to sell any books, Wrigley-Cross Books is buying. They also have a large collection of Galaxy and Fate magazines for sale at very reasonable prices. (Ariel: Do you have Death Magazine? Paul: No... Ariel: Too bad. Fate's worse than Death.)

Linda: The US Postal Service now offers envelopes with holographic stamps. (The picture is of a space station.)

John L: There is an OryCon meeting tomorrow, and a Westercon meeting a week from tomorrow. The Westercon retreat is next month -- if you don't yet have your money in, do it now!

Kate: For All Mankind, a movie about the Apollo moon landings, is at Cinema 21 at the end of this month. (See the Timeline for more info.)

Diana: The PorSFis picnic will be August 4 in Columbia Park. We do have the permit.

MAIL CALL:

No mail, since I didn't get to the post office this week.

NEW BUSINESS:

John A. had the 1989 PorSFis financial report (reproduced elsewhere in this Pulsar). Basically, we have \$156.34 less now than we did at the beginning of the year. However, there are likely to be a lot of memberships coming in during the next few weeks and we have paid for our meeting space through the last meeting in June. Most of the money went to meeting space and printing. We need to think about some form of fund-raising.

There was a SUE PETREY AUCTION.

PROGRAMMING:

Programming was the first half of Orson Scott Card's Secular Humanist Revival Meeting on tape. (The answer to "Do you believeeeve?!?!!" is "IN WHAT?!") Part 2 will appear at a later meeting. Highly recommended.

PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN

by John Raymond Lorentz

It's hard to believe that there was a 5½ month period--from December, 1988 to May 1989--where I attended no science fiction conventions. Since then, I've been to at least one convention a month.

In January, the convention of the month was **RustyCon**, formerly held in Everett and now in Seattle (where it originally started). RustyCon began as a small, second con-vention for the Seattle people (to complement *Norwescon*). It's now a full-sized (about 900 people) convention--and is the only general sf con in town, since *Norwescon's* moved to Tacoma. As well as gaining an audience, RustyCon's also found an identity. After flirting with a trend towards gaming and costuming, the programming now includes a full spectrum of sf, including small-press publishing and home-brew beer-making. Michael Scanlon put together a very interesting schedule this year, and I enjoyed several panels. The Hospitality Suite was also quite nice, with pleasant people making their visitors welcome with solid food (I loved the bagels and cream cheese), and good beer. The one problem I had there was the fact that the non-smoking area was a small room (made much smaller by the food serving station), while the larger room was filled with cigarette smoke. This doesn't fit the ratio of smokers to non-smokers found in the general public, though maybe the rain in Seattle has caused more people there to start smoking.

The convention wasn't perfect. The main hallway is closed during the masquerade, so that it can be used as the entryway for the contestants. This meant that those of us who are not costume fans had to take a long detour to get from here to there. And the dances would have been vastly improved with a

different DJ. As it was, he was so obnoxious that several of us gave up and simply left.

It was a pleasant weekend. Although I'm not planning on attending next year, that has nothing to do with the high quality of this year's convention. RustyCon has come of age.

In February it was **Boskone**, formerly held in Boston, and now in Springfield, Massachusetts. (*Is OryCon the only convention that doesn't move from town to town? Even V-Con's been in several different cities.*)

Boskone weekend was one of the most *interesting* weekends I've ever had. It started several months before, when I sent in my hotel reservation request. Not surprisingly, there's been a general let-down in New England fannish energy since *Noreascon*. So some tasks are not being performed as efficiently as in previous years. The hotels used by Boskone are usually sold out by early December, so I was getting quite worried when I'd heard nothing by the end of that month--thinking that my request had gotten lost in the mail. (After all, I have *abysmal* hotel karma.) It turns out that they didn't process the requests until right before Christmas, and I got a room after all. What did get lost was a request for a change that I had sent in early in December, informing them that I'd be arriving a day earlier. Despite several written and oral requests, I never did get any confirmation of the changes. Finally, the Sunday before I left, I was able to call the hotel and find out that they were

expecting me on Thursday after all. (I thought that maybe Ruth and I would have to sleep in the hotel lobby that night.)

Then there was the trip to the convention. (My own personal version of *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*.) I left Portland on the morning of February 15th. For those of you who don't remember, it snowed in Portland that day, and in Denver, and in Chicago. My flight was supposed to go *through* Chicago. I ended up spending most of the evening before watching the Weather Channel to see what was happening in Chicago--as well as watching the Blazers and Lakers go into double-overtime. So much for getting to bed early. Marc picked me up that morning at 5:30AM for a 6:45AM flight. Upon arriving at the airport, I discovered that the departure time had been changed to "Cancelled". They were able to get me a 6:20AM flight to Dallas, which left about the time I got my seat belt fastened. I thought I could relax. I was wrong.

The new flight plan allowed me a half-hour layover in Dallas before the connecting flight to LaGuardia. However, the Dallas flight was scheduled to pass over the vicinity of Denver. Where it was snowing very hard. We didn't fly over Denver--instead we went by way of Las Vegas and Albuquerque. Needless to say, we arrived in Dallas late. The flight to LaGuardia was scheduled to leave at 12:54PM, which is the time we *landed* in Dallas. Luckily, our flight connected with several others in Dallas, so they held them all until at least 1:15PM. So my first trip ever to Texas lasted as long as it took me to walk very fast from one terminal to the next (at least I didn't have to run, like Patty and I did in Chicago last December). Once again, the plane left as I was

fastening my seat belt. I thought I could relax. I was wrong.

Sometime during this segment, I realized that--if we crashed--no one knew that I was on this flight. Marc had just dropped me off at the airport; Ruth (as it turns out) knew that my flight through Chicago had been cancelled, but (since she hadn't heard from me) figured that I was on my way somehow--she just didn't know *where* I was. (Actually, my assumption was incorrect. My mother, who worries every time I fly anywhere, called American, where a very nice person violated company policy and tracked down where I was. So *someone* would have known where I was if we'd crashed. Isn't that comforting?)

The flight finally landed in New York--late, of course. I called Ruth at exactly 5:37PM (I know, because she told me this), we decided that it was too late to meet her at work before we went to the train station, and that I would meet her at Penn Station to catch the 7:08 to Springfield. Guess again. I stepped outside to catch a taxi--only to discover no taxis for 20 minutes. They finally started arriving and I caught one to Penn Station. [Let's take a short pause here. I grew up in a small town (Springfield, Oregon) where just the sight of a taxi was unusual. Here I was catching a taxi in **New York City**.] Anyway, I arrived at Penn Station at 7:15PM. The train, for the first time in Amtrack history, had been on time and had already left. Luckily, Ruth had not. So we spent a pleasant couple of hours waiting for the next train (which was late) and got caught up on things. (The real bummer about cross-country relationships is that you only get to see the person you love once every couple of months.)

As we were traveling across Connecticut in the train, we noticed

that--as we got closer to Springfield--everything seemed to be covered with ice. We discovered how true this was when we arrived, and had to take a taxi the four blocks to the hotel because the streets were sheets of ice. Finally, we'd arrived. We collapsed into bed.

[I wasn't the only one with travel horror stories. Brian Thomsen came in right we did, having had his flight routed to Poughkeepsie (the Hartford/Springfield airport was closed), where they put the passengers on unheated vans for a three-hour drive. Laurie Edison came in the next day, after spending the night at the Dulles (Washington DC) airport. Larry Niven came in later, after spending the night at the Dallas airport. (The Hartford/Springfield airport was also closed the next day, this time due to fog).

We stumbled out to the real world the next morning, where Ruth and I helped set up Registration. (Gee. I've just flown across the country to help Ruth at Registration at a convention in Massachusetts. Why does this sound familiar?) Luckily, Boskone was not Noreascon, and we were able to see some of the convention, also. (I discovered that the Sheraton Tara coffee shop serves Stash tea, produced right here in Portland).

Boskone is a hotbed of fannish politics (no pun intended). Although it's roughly the same size as Ory-Con, far more of the people who attend this convention are apt to vote on Worldcon site selection. So, there was much discussion on the fact the San Francisco in '93 didn't send a representative (all their committee wanted to go to CostumeCon), while Phoenix didn't quite. Terry Gish (now Terry Berry--I kid you not) was going to come, but cancelled at the last minute. She asked Mike Glyer (of *File 770*)

to come in her stead (the bid paid for his ticket) and she gave him a letter to transfer her membership. Except that she didn't *have* a membership to transfer. With such efficient bidding by both sides, the Hawaii in '93 write-in bid took a great leap forward. At SMOFCON, several of us had talked about the bid, and decided it needed bid T-shirts. Eight dozen were printed for Boskone, and nearly ever one sold! As well as badges. Nashville in '94 was kind enough to share their room with a Hawaii party, and it was the hit of the evening. We couldn't keep the fresh pineapple coming out fast enough (we actually means Ruth, who cut it all up); many of us were wearing really loud Hawaiian shirts; and--at about 11PM--people *forced* us to start selling pre-supporting memberships. By the end of the weekend, we'd sold 50! [This bid started as a light-hearted effort by Lex Nakashima, an LA fan. He didn't know that there was going to be shirts, a bid party or even badges. I wish I could have been there the next weekend when Bruce Pelz, Mike Glyer and Robbie Cantor came in wearing their "Hawaii in '93" shirts.] [If any of you are interested in "Hawaii in '93" shirts (\$10), or pre-supporting memberships (\$5), I'm authorized to sell both. This is a legitimate write-in bid, and may well win.]

Saturday night was the Boskone banquet. Patty (who was sitting at a different table) told me that Marc Olson (chair of Noreascon Three) asked her when Portland was going to put on a Worldcon. After choking on her food, she explained that--although we do have an active fan group, we don't have the facilities (a nice safe answer). A few minutes later, he pointed out to her that Portland has a committee and no facilities, while Hawaii has facilities and no committee--so

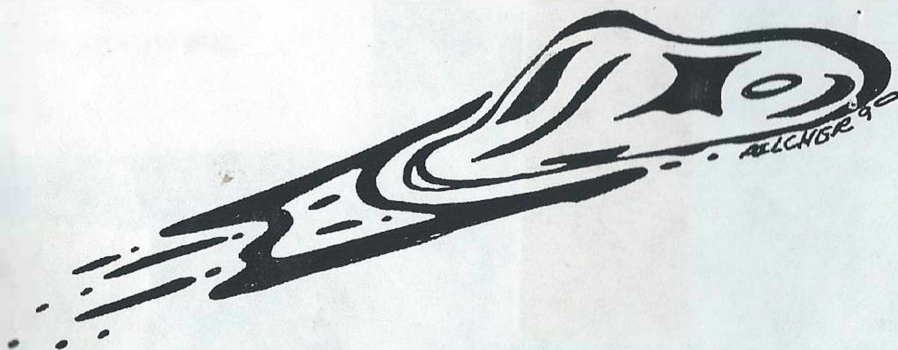
obviously Patty and I should co-chair Hawaii in '93! (At this point, I was summoned over to Patty's table, where I heard this and started giggling.) (She tells me she spent much of the evening choking on her food--Marc asked her later what our original membership rates would be). He then spent the rest of the weekend telling Patty that we should chair the convention. She kept saying "no"; I didn't have to--Ruth kept saying "no" for me.

There was actually a convention, also. Boskone is more oriented towards literature than OryCon, and had several panels that interested me (maybe next year I'll get a chance to see more of them). Overall, it seems to be a smooth-running convention, also. (I knew better, since I was on the committee, but I also know that the key to a successful convention is to have the *appearance* of competence.) It does feel a bit dry, though. Part of this was due to the almost total lack of costumes, and part of it is due to the lack of alcohol and the contrast to our (OryCon's) style of hospitality suite.

(Some years back, Boskone had grown to an unmanageable size--about 5,000 people--so they: moved out of Boston; dropped the masquerade; banned alcohol at open parties; discouraged costumes; and put in a size limit of 1,800 [which they've never reached]. This did get rid of the troublemakers, but Boskone is not as loose as OryCon.)

Boskone is an enjoyable convention, though, and I've already got my membership for next year. While the convention isn't as free-swinging as OryCon (and I'm the first to admit that OryCon is a bit more serious than other cons in the Northwest), the people are great. Most of the people putting on Boskone would fit right in with the folks in PorSFIS. And that's what's drawing me back. (Yes, and the fact that Ruth lives within spitting distance [if that's your idea of a good time] of the con.)

Next month: I have no idea. See you at the Westercon Retreat!



PorSFIS
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Portland, Oregon 97208

PULSAR, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFIS), comes free with membership (currently \$5 for half-year ending April 1st). It also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased at Future Dreams/Burnside and Lookingglass Books, both in Portland.

PULSAR has a rotating editorship. This month's editor has been William Ryan (with collation by John Lorentz), next month's is David Levine. Deadline is generally the 20th of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO box above.

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

PorSFIS Officers:

President	Kate Yule	(503-224-6427)
Vice-Pres.	Diana Callihan	(503-646-0768)
Secretary	Linda Pilcher	
Treasurer	John Lorentz	(503-283-0802)

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