

Pulsar

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society



AUGUST 1993

ISSUE NUMBER 178

30¢

PORSFIS TIMELINE

Compiled by your seemingly medieval and vaguely excruciating PorSFIS Officers.

Usually held at the NW Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, PorSFIS meetings are at 7 PM, unless otherwise noted. The listed restaurant is where some folks gather for dinner, usually around 5:30. Non-members are always welcome.

Sunday, August 1

Debbie Cross' Birthday, stop by Wrigley-Cross books and wish her a happy 22nd birthday (she'll love you for it.)

Saturday, August 7

Steve and Stephani Perry will be at Wrigley-Cross Books talking about writing, collaborative writing and signing books. Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001 SE Powell (in Powell Street Station shopping center) 2:00pm. (Don't forget, desserts and great coffee drinks now available!)

Sunday, August 8

Paul Wrigley's Birthday. Another one, so soon?! Wish him well as Wrigley-Cross Books is taken over by...

Orycon General Meeting, Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001 SE Powell (in Powell Street Station), 5:00pm.

Saturday, August 14

PorSFIS meeting 2:00pm at NWSC. Programming: Continuing on a Genome Theme. Since we went to the brewfest on the 31st we'll do the "Mundane vrs Fannish Genetic Traits" this time. Restaurant: The Original Pancake House, 1002 SE Powell, breakfasty type food, cheap and good, 236-7402

Sunday, August 22

"A Celebration of Aubrey Beardsley's Birthday", British Tea at Wrigley-Cross Books. Lots of tasty goodies and good conversation (books, too). Reservations required, call 775-4943 for reservations or more information.

Tuesday, August 24

Your Editor's birthday. Tell Jim she wants Tea on the 22nd and Ernest if he's on video tape.

Join us for our next

British Tea

August 22

To honor artist Aubrey Beardsley



Wrigley-Cross Books celebrates Aubrey Beardsley's birthday with a traditional afternoon tea. Our tea is served in three generous courses and starts with rich scones and fresh clotted cream. The other courses include a variety of traditional and exotic treats, both savory and sweet. Now taking reservations 775-4943. \$7.50

Future teas: October 10

December 12

Wrigley-Cross Books
8001A S.E. Powell Blvd.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

VikingCon 14, August 13-15, 1993, Bellingham, WA. \$25 at the door. **GOH**: Vernor Vinge. **SGOH**: Howard Davidson **AGOH**: Kristine Kathryn Rusch. Viking-Con 14, Associated Students, WWU, Viking Union 202, Box V-1, Bellingham, WA 98225-9106 (206) 734-0919.

San Diego Comic-Con 24, Aug 19-22, 1993, at the San Diego Convention Center. \$50 at the door. Comic-Con, PO Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112 (619) 685-8118.

ConFrancisco (the 51st Worldcon), Sept 2-6, 1993 at the Moscone Convention Center (and neighboring hotels), San Francisco, California. \$145 at the door. Supporting memb. \$25. **GOHs**: Larry Niven, wombat, Tom Digby, Alicia Austin, Gay Gavriel Kay. ConFrancisco, 712 Bancroft Road Suite 1993, Walnut Creek, California 94598. (510) 945-1993. Fax (510) 945-8705. CIS: 72377,3523. Internet: confrancisco@tgv.com.

MosCon XV, Sept 17-9, 1993 University Inn/Best Western, Moscow ID. \$25 until 9/1, \$28 at the door. Children: 6-12—half-price, 5 and under—free. **GOH**: Barbara Hambly **AGOH**: David A. Martin. **Science GOH**: Victor R. Baker. **FGOH**: Steve Fahnstalk. MosCon XV, PO Box 8521, Moscow, Idaho 83843 (208) 882-0364

Spruce Con '93 (emphasis: Star Trek), Oct 2, 1993 at the Spruceland Elementary School, 3805 Rainbow Drive, Prince George, BC 10AM-7PM. Guests: a crew of Klingons. More guests later. Admission: \$1-\$2 (exact figure not set yet). Info: Spruce Con '93, c/o USS Endeavour, 1509 Edmon-on St., Prince George, BC V2M 1X5

InCon '93, Oct 15-17, 1993 in Spokane. \$15 until 8/31, \$20 until 10/7, \$25 at the door. **GOHs**: Spider & Jeanne Robinson **AGOH**: Betty Bigelow **TM**: Nick Polotta. **Science Guest**: Dr. Peter Buerger. **FGOH**: Scruffy. InCon '93, PO Box 1026, Spokane WA 99201-1016.

World Fantasy Convention, Oct 28-31, 1993 at Radisson Hotel South, Minneapolis. \$75 until 8/31, \$100 at the door. Supporting membership \$40. **GOHs**: Poul Anderson, Roger Zelazny, John Crowley **AGOH**: Tom Canty. **TM**: Neil Gaiman. **Special Guest**: Basil Cooper. Dealer info: Peter Wagtskjold, DreamHaven Books, 1309 4th Street SE, Minneapolis MN 55414 (612) 379-0657. Info: World Fantasy Convention 1993, PO Box 2128, Loop St. Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

Dreamcon 8, Oct 29-31, 1993 at Quality Inn, Everett, Washington. \$25 until 10/1, more at the door. **GOH**: CJ Cherryh **AGOH**: David Cherry **TM**: Nevin Mick Pratt **FGOH**: Yvonne Richardson. Dreamcon 8, 10121 Evergreen Way #1103, Everett WA 98204 (206) 283-8090

OryCon 15, Nov 12-14, 1993 at Red Lion Columbia River in Portland. \$25 until 10/31, \$35 at the door. **GOH**: Terry Pratchett **Special Guest**: Robert Lionel Fanthorpe **AGOH**: Mark Ferrari. Hotel rooms are \$63 for single-to-quad. **No weapons**. OryCon, Box 5703, Portland OR 97228. GEnie J.LORENTZ. CIS 74007,3342. (503) 283-0802 (*Watch the Timeline for meeting dates.*)

Coming in 1994:

Cascade Con '94, August 19-21, Shilo Inn/West Portland, Portland, Oregon. A Science Fiction & Fantasy media convention. **No weapons**. \$35 to 12/31/93, \$40 to 5/31/94. Cascade Con, 5427 SE 85th Avenue, Portland OR 97266-4833.(503) 777-0537

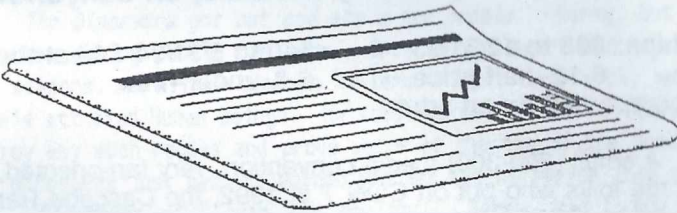
Coming in 1995:

Westercon 48, June 30-July 3, Red Lions Jantzen Beach & Columbia River (*it's back in the other hotel!*), Portland, Oregon. \$30 to 12/31/93. **No weapons**. **WGOH**: Vernor Vinge. **FGOH**: Elayne Pelz. More guests TBA. Westercon 48, PO Box 5703, Portland, Oregon 97228-5703. (503) 283-0802.

Saturday, August 28

The PorSFIS Picnic (in lieu of the usual meeting). Mt. Tabor Park. Come around noon to help with set-up. Food begins about 2 PM. BYOE. PorSFIS does provide hamburgers and hot dogs and fixings. Members with food contributions to serve 6 free. Members with no contributions--\$1.00, non-members with contributions \$1.00, non-member with no contribution--\$2.00, non-humans with no contributions will be grilled with the barbecue sauce of their choice. Bring grills, games, and helping hands!!

IMAGINE YOUR BIRTHDAY (AGE OPTIONAL) LISTED IN THE TIMELINE!!! CONTACT YOUR EXCITING PORSFIS OFFICERS TO MAKE SURE YOUR FRIENDS HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR NOT REMEMBERING!



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Sheryl Birkhead. Newspaper is WordPerfect clip art. Bigfoot picture from Ray Crowe. Computer drawn cartoons and quill are by your editor. Maps of Mt. Tabor Park are from the Portland Parks and Rec. Dept.

ELECTION RESULTS

Marc Wells, president of PorSFIS and noted for his beard and glasses, counted the ballots for the special treasurer election all by himself in his very own kitchen late at night. He reported a close vote--had it been in the real world, a recount would have been necessary. Linda Pilcher emerged as the winner over John Lorentz, who also sports a beard and glasses, in the grueling heavily fought grudge match. Sam Butler, who succeeded himself as secretary in the last election, also has a beard and glasses. Neither Jeff Paulsen, current vice president who has been in Denver, or Linda, who formerly pretended to be treasurer and a placeholder for the apocalyptic Page Fuller, have beards. Both allegedly wear glasses.

WARNING: CONSUMER ALERT AND OFFICIAL DISCLAIMER

This month's editor is editing the PULSAR at one ayem, a time when she normally sleeps. She has also been going to a creative writing group and is getting a bit silly in her old age.

A couple of new conventions are coming to Portland...

Cascade Con '94
August 19-21, 1994
Portland, Oregon

Cascade Con
5472 SE 85th Avenue
Portland, Oregon
(503) 777-0537

A Science Fiction & Fantasy
Media Convention

Guests to be announced.

Location: the Shilo Inn (formerly Nendel's) on Canyon Road.

Memberships: \$35 to 12/31/93 \$40 to 5/31/94 \$45 at the door
Children: 6-12--half price 5 & under--free
(both accompanied by an adult)

What it is: A small (200-300) media convention, very fan-oriented, run directly by the folks who put on CON 7 in 1992, the Cascade Rangers. It's sponsored by OSFCI, the same people who run OryCon and...

Westercon 48
June 30-July 3rd, 1995
Jantzen Beach & Columbia River Red Lions
("it's back in the other hotel!")
Portland, Oregon

Writer GOH: Vernor Vinge

Fan GOH: Elayne Pelz

Rates: \$30 until 12/31/93, more later.
(Children—same as Cascade Con above)

Westercon 48
PO Box 2584
Portland, Oregon 97208

(503) 283-0802
CompuServe: 74007,3342
GENie: J.LORENTZ

OK, so it's not a **new** convention. But Westercon is indeed coming back to Portland! And we need your help. Meetings will start in September, watch the *Pulsar* for more information.

Both Cascade Con and Westercon 48 are weaponless conventions

JURASSIC PARK: Smart Dinosaurs/Dumb Humans

by Anthony D. Ward

I loved the dinosaurs in JURASSIC PARK. I'll even admit I liked most of the movie and the Human characters in it. But I hated the underlying theme of the movie, that same old saw: *There Are Some Things Man Was Not Meant To Know (or Do) all over again.* Much of the engineering, and some of the science, was "movie stupid".

But I'll start this rant at the beginning, with the movie's basic axiom: *It Is A Bad Thing To Recreate Dinosaurs.* I was never convinced as to why it was a *Bad Thing To Do* in the movie. So let us look at some of the possible reasons.

1. *The Dinosaurs got out and ate a few people.* Sorry, but wild animals have been eating people for eons. Once we got smart and started building good weapons, we killed the man killers. Soon, only sick, weak or stupid animals attacked Human beings. We still go out of our way today to quickly destroy any such rogues and prove we're at the top of the food chain. The poor dinosaurs just hadn't learned who was top killer on this planet.

2. *Dinosaurs will ruin the ecology.* Sorry, can't buy that either. Dinosaurs are too big and slow breeding to be a real danger to modern Earth's ecological balance. The animals that "ruin the ecology," in our the short-run, Humanity centered view of things, are all small and fast reproducing like rabbits in Australia and starlings in North America. Or the AIDS virus. When we can recreate the dinosaurs, will anyone really worry about a T. Rex hiding out in Central Park and eating the muggers or herds of triceratops getting out of control and eating all the wheat in the Midwest?

3. *Recreating Dinosaurs is against God's will.* If it is truly against God's will, we won't be able to recreate the big buggers. If Humanity finds it is possible to do something, it may be stupid to do it (like use nuclear weapons) but it can't be against God's will or it would be impossible. Maybe we are fouling up a Divine Plan by bringing them back? More and more it looks like the dinosaurs were killed off by one or more large meteor strikes. Maybe God decided to end the dinosaurs like that, but if we can bring them back, obviously He has decided to give them a second chance by creating us and letting us bring them back. Maybe our entire purpose is to bring the dinosaurs back after a small Divine glitch with that old meteor.

4. *Dinosaurs are unkillable murdering and eating machines.* Sorry again. If a single modern soldier with modern weapons can easily kill a modern tank, do you really think it would be that hard for any Human to kill a dinosaur? They are poor simple animals for the love of Darwin! (It is the same reason The Aliens in ALIENS were no real threat to the Colonial Marines, until our heroes had their weapons taken away. Technology and our intelligence makes

us the best killers on the planet, ever.) Sure, a weaponless Human is more vulnerable. 'But even in the movie, an unarmed man and two kids survived a night out in Dinoland. I call that having and using your intelligence. When people do stupid things, like going out to the power distribution center unarmed when they know the 'raptors are loose, they get munched.

As a sidebar, did anyone notice how nobody started grabbing weapons when things started going wrong? Why not? I sure would have. If all four of the able bodied Humans in the control room had grabbed weapons and gone out after the 'raptors when morning came after the power failed, it would have been a shorter movie. Without our weapons we may be dinofood, with them, we are king of the pack.

Consider the weapons they *did* have in their armory! They looked very deadly, but they were just shotguns! Shotguns may make a T. Rex, or any other large dinosaur, a little itchy, but can produce little real damage, unless you are lucky enough to hit her in the eye with a pellet. With all the really deadly rifles, and even large caliber handguns, in the world, all the park rangers had were shotguns? Most street gangs have better weapons than this. More than a little movie stupid.

The stupidity of not grabbing weapons when things started going down the tubes starts me in on *Stupid Movie Engineering and Science*. There are a lot of wild animal and nature parks around today. Most have large carnivores of various kinds on exhibit, from sharks to lion prides. Unless someone climbs over the electrified fences and starts kicking the beasts, there is very little danger to the visitors. Now look at Jurassic Park. There are electrified fences, and for those times the power goes out, moats to keep the animals in. Various people climb up and down the moat walls several times in the movie. So how did the T. Rex get out? Did she jump over the moat? I don't think Rex could jump very high or far because of her high body mass and comparatively weak bone strength (square/cubed law, remember). Did she climb out? Her front arms just aren't that strong. So how did she get out?

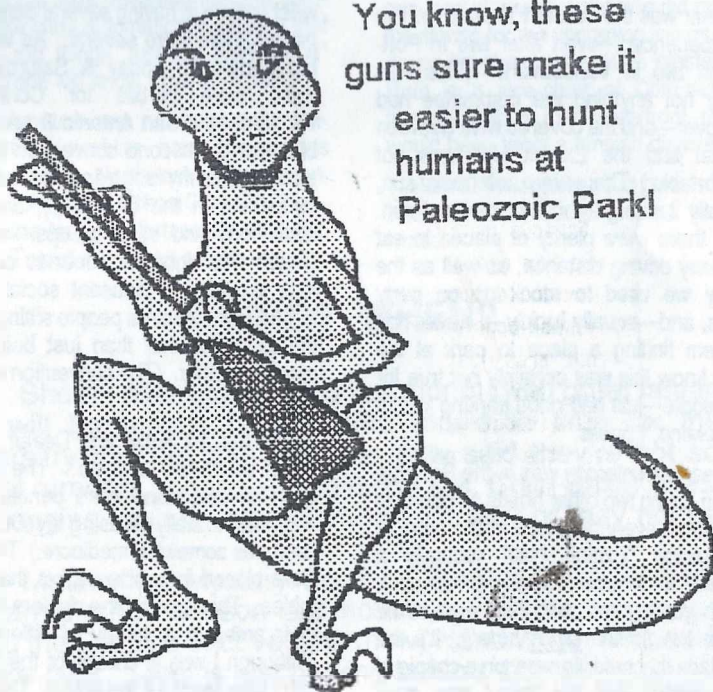
Another point, how did she know the power was out and she could now tear down the fence without getting fried? My great uncle had a farm when I was a kid. He kept the cows and bulls separated with an electrified fence. Once the cattle learned it hurt them to touch the fence, they didn't touch it again. Even if and when the power went out. I think modern cattle are at least as smart as dinosaurs. It is called a conditioned reflex.

As for the 'raptors, if they were as dangerous as they were presented in the movie, and their "cage" did look pretty tough, why didn't their cage have an *Uninterruptable Power Supply* powering the electric fence? A lot of computer centers, defense installations and medical centers have *UPS*. As soon as main power goes out, the *UPS* comes on line, automatically. If the 'raptors were so deadly, why no *UPS* or other power supply? Or even better, why were they

recreated at all? Do tourists really want to see small, nasty dinosaurs?

Bottom line is, people are going to this movie to see dinosaurs. If we ever develop the ability to actually bring back the dinosaurs, dodos, or woolly mammoths, do you really think we won't? A real Jurassic Park would be a wonderful thing. I just wish a few of the "scientists" in the movie were as thrilled as the movie's audiences have been to see the big beasts alive again.

Oh, for a movie some day where science is not presented as a *Bad Thing*. JURASSIC PARK isn't it.



You know, these
guns sure make it
easier to hunt
humans at
Paleozoic Park!

PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN

by John Raymond Lorentz

Westercon 46 Seattle Bellevue, Washington

*"It was the best of times.
It was the worst of times."*

No, it wasn't either of those. What it was—was a reasonably good first-time effort at running a Westercon. Sure there were problems. But there were also many **good** things. If anything, I'd say it was better than Portland's first effort in 1984. But I won't go into the behind-the-scenes planning, and the "fun" of trying to run a department from out of town (and no money/time to attend many of the meetings in Seattle), other than to say it was certainly more difficult than I'd expected—and that Linda Deneroff's presence on GEnie as electronic liaison was a god-send.

This year was the **coldest** Westercon I've ever experienced—even after two in Portland and two in Vancouver). (This was certainly not anything the committee had control over—and the covered walk between the hotel and the Exhibit Hall was not uncomfortable.) There were patches of sun, but mostly it was gray with occasional rain. Luckily, there were plenty of places to eat within easy driving distance, as well as the Safeway we used to stock up on party supplies, and—equally luckily—I never had a problem finding a place to park at the hotel. I know this was certainly not true for many people—just had good parking karma that weekend, I guess.

This year's Westercon was in the Bellevue Red Lion, using two other hotels as overflow space. Most everything was in the hotel or the adjoining "Exhibit Hall" (actually a converted underground parking garage), although gaming and child care were in the Bellevue Inn (*in the other hotel!*) It's the same place that held Norwescon a couple of months earlier—but the layout was quite different. (A lot more open and better light.) And so was the crowd. The average age of

the folks attending this convention was quite a bit older than Norwescon—meaning more people interested in socializing with other fans of science fiction, and less youngsters looking to "party!". It was a nice change.

The people running the programming were new to the job, but came up with some real good ideas. Unfortunately, their inexperience showed in the *scheduling* of the panels. There were quite a few panels on Thursday afternoon—the day **before** the con started—and Monday, the last official day of the convention, was quite sparse. They also had panels running until 9 or 10 at night (multiple tracks)—by which time most people are more interested in dinner, parties or dances. (They did follow the usual Northwest pattern in having several dances.) And parties there were several. As well as our bid parties on Friday & Saturday nights, there were parties for ConFrancisco/Winnipeg, the San Antonio & LA Worldcon bids (for the second convention in a row, I went against my long trend and actually won something in the LA raffle!), and several local cons and other groups. Hospitality (which was right next door to our rooms) also provided a pleasant social setting—aimed more towards people sitting and talking to each other than just being a loud place to gather. (The convention was *lively*, but not *rowdy*.)

Both the Art Show and Dealer Area had some innovative designs. The Art Show used several stand-alone panels, giving a very aesthetically-pleasing layout. (The art itself was somewhat mediocre.) The dealers were placed in booths, rather than lines of tables. This allowed the dealers to arrange their areas in a variety of different ways. (Although I was in charge of the Dealers, I can't take credit for the layout. That was the work of Denise DeLisle.) Gaming was in the other hotel, so I never saw it.

Of course, there were problems with the convention. (Every convention has problems.) Unfortunately, the higher-ups appeared to be very hostile towards children. Charging admission for every child—even babes-in-arms, demanding that all children 12 and under be with their parents (or in child care) at all times, canceling the professional child care people at the last minute, and not allowing anyone under the age of 18 to attend without being accompanied by a responsible adult were all things that made it seem that the committee would rather just not have the kids around. (Despite the fact that several committee members, and the Guest of Honor, have children!) In the Gripe Session, they explained that this had been a compromise—that they'd originally considered banning kids altogether! Another failing was that, many times, the committee forgot that they weren't running a Norwescon. Nor only does a Westercon have a history and traditions—but it has more people coming in from outside the local area, meaning that the committee folks can't automatically assume that they can run things "just like Norwescon" and everyone will know what to expect.

This convention was run be a collaborative effort of workers from conventions throughout the Northwest (Norwescon, RustyCon, Anglicon, DreamCon, OryCon—just to name few). Unfortunately, this also showed. To pull something off like that, you

need excellent communication. Westercon 48 didn't have it—especially at the highest level. But what it **did** have was a large number of middle-level folks who did a very good job. Their next Westercon should be a lot smoother.

As always—there was the convention outside the convention. It was great seeing old friends again, and meeting new ones. We discovered the "New Jake O'Shaunessey's" (I'm sure that's not spelled right) in Bellevue. It was great. (27 beers on tap!) One night, we went out to dinner with Debbie & Paul (from Portland), Sharon Sbarsky (from Boston), Kevin Standlee (Sacramento area—he's the ConFrancisco Secretary), David Clark (San Francisco—the ConFrancisco chair), Noel Wolfman (LA—the chair of next summer's Westercon) and her husband and step-daughter. (He's somewhat known also—he's Marv Wolfman, writer [currently] of *The New Titans*, *Team Titans* and *Deathstroke: The Terminator* for DC. I used his laptop at one point at the con, and was very good and did not look at the stories for the upcoming issues.) Considering I'm chairing the 1995 Westercon and Ruth is a vice-chair of ConFrancisco, a tsunami hitting that waterfront restaurant would have been a fannish disaster!

In all, a reasonably-good convention. I've been to better—but I've also seen a lot worse.

WHO? WHEN?

Shortly after announcing last month (with great fanfare) that there will be a new Doctor Who movie in time for the 30th anniversary this fall, the BBC has now said they're not so sure. Several rumours abound—Tom Baker's ill, Colin Baker doesn't like Tom hogging the role, whatever. So—it may or may not happen.

Meanwhile, Mystery Science Theater 3000 (aka MST3K), has started a new season last month! Sometime this year, Joel is leaving the Satellite of Love, and (now) Head Writer Michael Nelson will take over. (Joel is just moving behind that camera.)

I'm From the Portland Police, and I'm Here to Help You
Pilgrim Wrote

The subject for the day is the lazy, corrupt, sloppy, and underhanded Portland Police Department and some of their better scandals, ranging from drug dealing narcs, possum throwing idiots, choke hold murderers and T-shirt printing Jackasses. It is hard to beat the PPD for colorful antics in the name of the public good. If that seems a little strong to you, read on.

I moved back to Portland in 1978, at a time when the Special Investigation Division (the narcs) ran rampant in Portland. Over a period of two years, citizens filed over 200 complaints against the narcs for stealing drugs and money, planting drugs on people, and stealing personal valuables like cameras and watches. Under mayors Goldschmidt, Connie McReady, police commissioner Charles Jordan, and police chief Bruce Baker, in my opinion, the narcs had gotten to the point of being the largest drug dealers in Portland.

In October 1979, a shot through the front door of the Outsiders biker clubhouse laid officer Crowther in his grave. The narcs had tried to kick the door in without identifying themselves. Crowther had drugs in his pocket to plant in the clubhouse. The investigation of this incident resulted in the resignation and jailing of a number of SID

officers, and at least 19 lawsuits over actions that occurred between June 1978 and April 1980.

Frank Ivancie became mayor in November 1980. He was a former cop. Jordan retained his job as police commissioner because of demands from the black community. This did not last long, however; in march of 1981, a number of PPD officers laid four dead possums on the doorstep of the Burger Barn, a black owned late night restaurant on Union Ave. The fertilizer hit the ventilator with an audible splat. In June 1981, Ivancie put the police into his portfolio, fired Chief Baker, and appointed Ron Still chief.

Still and Ivancie were peas in a pod, old-time hard-core conservative cops. From this point, until Still resigned, there were very few incidents in Portland with the police. In October 1981, the narcs raided the apartment of Janie Burris, a 73 year old woman, by mistake; one officer Verhuel shoplifted two T-shirts. \$800 disappeared during a drug raid in March 1983. (Compare this to the 200 plus complaints of this nature ignored under Chief Baker.) Cliff Walker sued the police for stopping him on the street to see if he had an open container in his 'Gallo Gift Wrap.'

In November 1984, Bud Clark captured the mayor's office in a

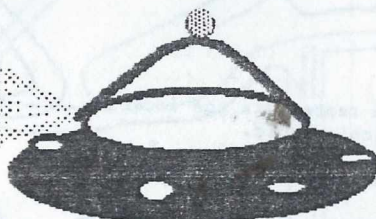
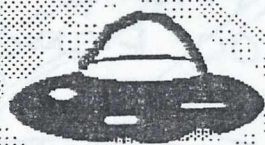
stunning upset. Chief Still resigned, and was replaced by Penny Harrington, our first woman police chief. This is a woman who, given a chance to do it again, probably would have taken up a safer career, like disarming bombs or jumping in front of cars.

In April of 1985, a policeman killed Tony Stevenson with a choke hold. In Portland, a black helping the police can expect this kind of treatment. The black community was seething. Harrington banned the choke hold. Certain officers, protesting the choke hold ban, printed up and sold T-shirts with the slogan 'Don't Choke 'em, Smoke 'em!' Few understood that the shirt has a valid message: if non lethal means are not available for subduing a suspect, then lethal means were the only alternative. It was, however, the poorest choice of words delivered at the worst possible time--on the day that they buried Tony Stevenson. The uproar was national, this time. Clark and

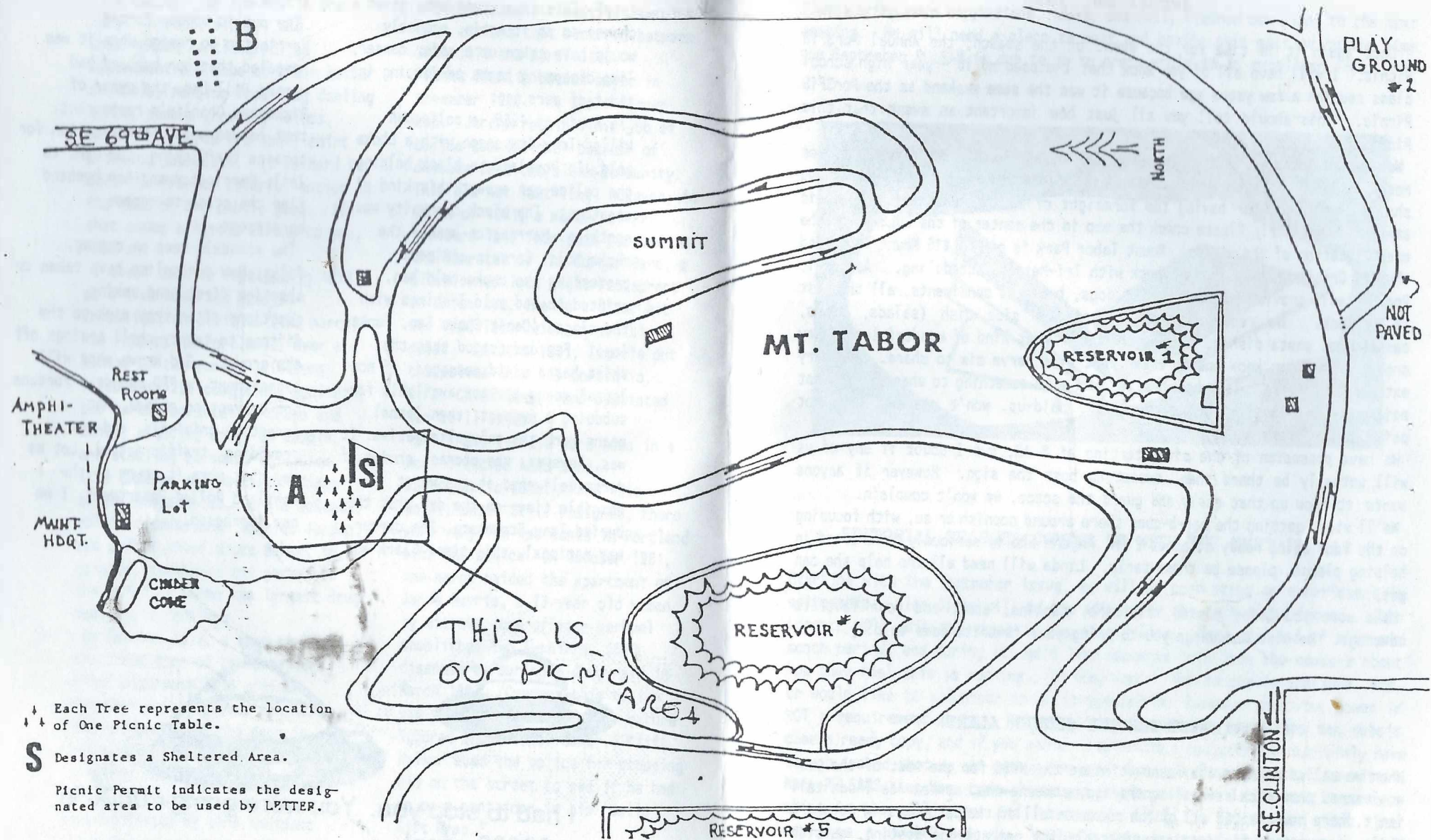
Harrington fired the officers; an arbitrator reinstated them. This incident created bad feelings all around.

The public uproar forced Harrington to resign when it was revealed that her husband had warned Bill Lee, the owner of Rickshaw Charlie's restaurant, that he was under investigation for cocaine trafficking. Lee went to jail; Harrington and her husband fled the state to escape harassment.

The scandals keep on coming, folks. Now our police have taken to shooting first, and asking questions after they pick up the fifteen to twenty shell casings off the ground. God knows what will happen next. PPD spends a fortune not preventing crimes, not arresting criminals, and not providing traffic patrol. Let me say that when it comes to the Portland Police Department, I am not impressed.



I had to stop you. You were going 40000 in a 20000 zone!



THE PORSFIS PICNIC 1993
August 28, 1993

Once again it is time for the event of the season, the Annual PorSFiS Picnic. I will have all of you know that I missed my 10 - year high school class reunion a few years ago because it was the same weekend as the PorSFiS Picnic. This should tell you all just how important an event that this Picnic is!

We are at Mount Park this year, SE Salmon and 60th. We have 12 tables reserved in the sheltered picnic area A. Considering the current weather, we should thank Marc for having the foresight of making sure that our picnic area has a shelter! Please check the map in the center of the PULSAR for the exact location of the picnic. Mount Tabor Park is on the #15 Mount Tabor and the #71 Crosstown bus lines. Check with Tri-Met for scheduling. As usual, PorSFiS will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments, all the rest is potluck. We request that you bring a side dish (salads, beans, casseroles, pasta dishes, dessert things or what kind of wonderful culinary creation that you know how to make) that will serve six to share. Monetary extraction follows this schedule: paid-up with something to share--free, not paid-up with something to share--\$1.00, paid-up, won't share--\$1.00, not paid-up, won't share--\$2.00.

We have possession of the site starting at 8 AM, but I doubt if any of us will actually be there then, except to post the sign. However if anyone *wants* to show up that early and guard the space, we won't complain.

We'll start getting the bar-b-ques there around noonish or so, with focusing on the food being ready at about 2 PM. Anyone who is seriously interested in helping please, please be there early. Linda will need all the help she can get!

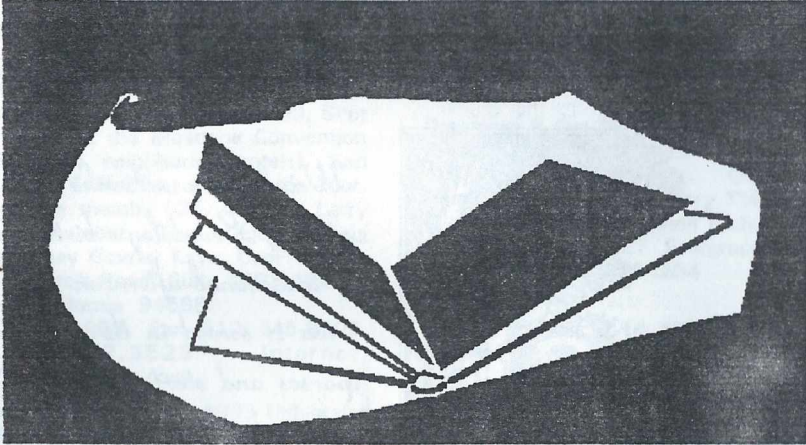
Make sure you bring plates, flatware, napkins, etc., and your favorite beverage. We also encourage you to bring your favorite game to play.

NORTHWEST SERVICE CENTER ALERT!

When we called to make the reservation at the NWSC for the rest of the year we learned that back several months ago, someone who, as near as I can tell isn't there now, rented all of the rooms on all of the Saturdays in October. While we can do a field trip comfortably for perhaps one meeting, outside forces are pushing us to make a decision and changes whether we are prepared or not. We were going to make this a report on the advisory vote, but it seems the point may become moot. However, the Blue Moon was considered an

okay place for the afters.

Please bring your suggestions, ideas, and fully fleshed out plans to the next meeting. We will need a place to meet and having this settled by the time the September PULSAR is due to go to press would be an excellent idea.



EDITORIAL CHANGES COMING UP WITH THE NEXT PULSAR

Starting with the September issue, we will be conducting an experieient in editorship. Alan Olsen will be the editor for the next three issues. John Lorentz will edit the three issues that follow. Near the end of this six month period, and during it, we'd like comments back from the members about how they feel this is working. If they would like to see it continue, end, or would like to volunteer to do it themselves. Remember computer power is NOT a requirement to be a PULSAR editor. Many article writers can submit camera ready copy, and if you *would* like to use a computer, we certainly have enough around that we can get you on one. But it's fine to use a typewriter. Many PULSARS have been typewritten and that's great, too! The most important thing is the willingness and interest in doing the job. Just think, you could be a PULSAR editor! Wouldn't that be great thing to tell your grandchildren! Wha. . .What? Oh. I'm going a little overboard, you say? Okay. I'll stop now.

PORTLAND'S BIGFOOT: SCI-FI OR FACT?

By Ray Crowe, Director
Western Bigfoot Society

(Note: Ray Crowe is a new—within the last six months—member of PorSFIS. This is his first submission to the PULSAR.)

Teenager Judith F. was camping off Germantown Road in Portland's Forest Park in the summer of 1991. At the first pink of morning light, Judy was awakened from a deep sleep by the sound of breaking branches. Sticking her head out of the sleeping bag, she was confronted by a blonde-colored, six foot tall monster with a big nose. . . watching her. She said the hair covering its body was about four inches long, and her girlfriend, also a witness, said it just went back into the woods.

Forest Park, a 3,700-acre reserve belonging to Portland and lying within its city limits, seems a strange place for a Bigfoot to live. Actually, members of the Western Bigfoot Society believe the creatures live in the Coast Range of Oregon, and come in when the salmon are running, slipping to the river's edge at night when the fish lie in calm water. Matter of fact. . . in April of 1991, Melody C. saw a strange upright log near the Saubvies Island Bridge. Then she noticed it move in the evening's fading light. It was a "Cave Man," she thought, six feet tall with long brown hair, hunched over with arms outspread, like it was trying to catch fish (another similar report comes from Stevenson, Washington).

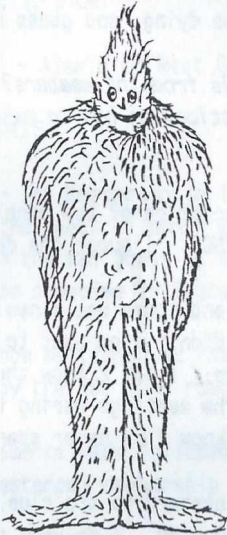
Back to the park, though. On the outskirts of Linnton, Bigfoot investigator Brad W. saw at 8 PM last December 6th, an eight foot tall Bigfoot standing near St. Helens Road, its back to the park. He couldn't believe the creature would be this close to the city, Brad's Bigfoot study area being in the Columbia Gorge where he's found evidence.

So how close will the creature come? Maybe take in a show at the Schnitz? Well, maybe not quite, but in 1975 or '76, Gary C. was working for Portland Security patrolling homes, cemeteries and such along Skyline Drive in the West Hills. He and his partner, Joe H., pulled into the parking lot of Skyline Memorial Cemetery and caught the flash of eyes reflecting orangish some distance away. What was odd, he thought was that the reflections were 8 - 10 inches apart and 7 - 8 feet high. They moved to another, closer parking lot and used a spotlight, but never did see anything more.

There are many other reports from Portland's outskirts: East County, Tigard, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Cornelius Pass (one was said to have killed a pony), but the 'creature' still remains 'science fiction' to most

people. Witnesses are considered liars, to be mistaken, or to have seen a bear or fire burned stump. Whatta you think? Maybe they are Wookie-like aliens?

Queries or sighting information may be directed to Ray Crowe, (503) 640-6581, 8622 North Lombard, Portland, Oregon, 97203. The Western Bigfoot Society has guest-speaker meetings, outings, and a newsletter THE TRACK RECORD, \$20.00.



WHITHER PORSFIS - 2

By Sam Butler

Overhead somewhere in Portland, a comment made by a Porsfis Member

"How come there aren't any parties anymore?"

My unspoken comment was, well when was the last time that you hosted a party?

It must be true, PORSFIS must be dying.

Look at the facts,

I wrote an article for the last PULSAR going through the reasons why I thought PORSFIS might be dying, and guess what

Did I get lots of denials from the members?

Did I get lots of suggestions on how to make PORSFIS alive again?

No. What I got, with the exception of two people telling me that they agreed with me, was SILENCE. I guess the dead don't hear, do they?

There we were last Saturday and there was a new person in the audience, he didn't stay, he didn't even want to let us know that he had never been there before. I don't know the reason why. We've had a few new people attend the meetings during the time that I've been an officer, as far as I know I've never seen them attend more than once.

I don't know how to attract members to the club, I'm not sure why people join now, or even if they do. I do know that if the trend continues, we won't be needing a meeting room anywhere expensive, we can meet in a telephone booth and comfortably fit all the members in.

If you disagree with these comments, have suggestions, recommendations, rationales how this club can grow let someone know, raise your voice. There was a chance last meeting in which we asked for suggestions on designing a recruitment flyer, thanks to the five or so people who helped in this.

Is there any life in this group, I don't know. It's been 16 years since I wandered into a dingy bookstore in Portland looking for people who also read science fiction and wanted to talk about it,

I sure hope there's more than 20 people who read science fiction in Portland who want to talk about it.

PORSFIS MINUTES
as submitted by Sam Butler

JULY 3, 1993

THERE WAS NO MEETING AS MANY OF THE MEMBERS WERE ATTENDING WESTERCON IN SEATTLE.

JULY 19, 1993

ATTENDANCE: 15 plus

RESTAURANT - Alexis on West Burnside

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Lorentz - The Westercon in 1995 will be in Portland. John told us that the guest of honor will be Vernor Vinge, and that Elayne Pelz is the fan guest of honor. The first organizational meeting will be sometime in September out at Wrigley Cross Books.

The Dr. Who show mentioned at the last meeting has been officially Un-announced by the BBC amid rumors of cast disagreements.

These announcements were followed by a number of people asking about their Westercon membership status.

The first of Mystery Science Theatre 3000 new series will start tonight at 7 PM, Saturday.

Next weekend will be the NW Brewers Festival at Waterfront Park, there will be about 200 micro-brewers there.

There is an European cut of Brazil at the KOIN Cinema for a short time.

August 8, there will be an Orycon meeting at Wrigley Cross Books.

Kate Yule - the Rosetown Ramblers (a square dance group) is sponsoring a private party at Oaks Park for \$5, ask Kate for details.

Ruth Satcher - selling OMSI memberships at the going rates.
If you want childcare at ConFrancisco you need to make your
reservations now.

Linda Pilcher - she will be editing PULSAR, she would like short
write ups of Westeron, rather than a few long ones. Deadline,
next saturday.

Joyce Zimmerschied - there will be a showing of all three Star Wars
movies on the sci-fi channel, along with a documentary on them

David Levine - you can now buy electronic copies of all of the Hugo
nominees ONLINE, or CD-ROM

Rose Software in Seattle is testing MS-TEST and looking for people
to hire at \$20 if you're a programmer.

Alan Olson - the new Cinema 21 schedule reveals that they will be
showing the directors cut of The Abyss with 35 minutes additional
footage, also a new print of Eraserhead

Michael Pearce - showed off a new smoking substitute, which came
in a little bottle. There were some jokes about weed killer.

OLD BUSINESS - ballots are due

Page Report - Linda actually, honest, really talked with her on the
telephone, she is still in Ohio.

Newsletter Editorship - there has been a consensus for trying a
three month rotating membership, the first stint will be filled by
Alan (I've got new software) Olson covering september, October and
November, with John Lorentz filling in for December, January &
February

Meeting Space - we are probably booked through August

Picnic - will be August 28 at the Mt. Tabor Park shelter

NEW BUSINESS -

there was none

MAIL -

art submission from Sheryl Berkhead

Instant Message #533

De Profundus Issue #255

Letter from NW Council of Writers - ref. their next meeting

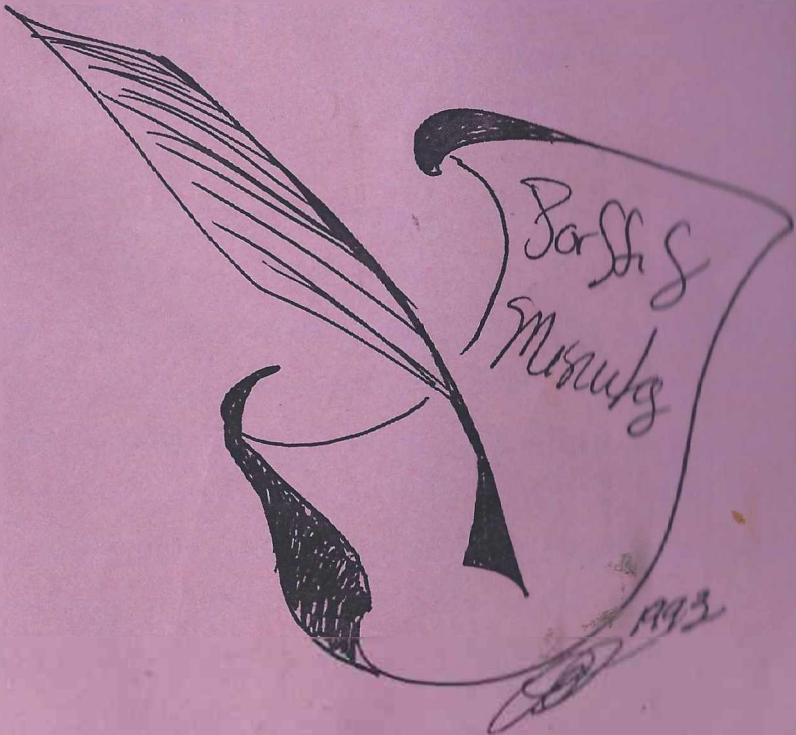
News release from Creative Screenwriters Group

News release from Wrigley cross Books ref. Stephani & Steve Perry

book signing

News release from NW Poets & Artists - calendar submission contact information

PROGRAMMING - design a new Porsfis Flyer



PORSFIS
PO BOX 4602
PORTLAND, OR. 97208

PULSAR, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis) comes free with membership (currently \$15.00 for the year ending April 1, 1994). It is also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased for 30 cents at Excalibur Books, Future Dreams on Burnside and Looking Glass Books.

PULSAR is experimenting with a three month editorial rotation. This month's editor has been Linda Pilcher, Alan Olsen will edit the next three issues. 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 meeting times and places.

PORSFIS OFFICERS:

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Treasurer	Linda Pilcher	
Lightline	503/283-0802	

