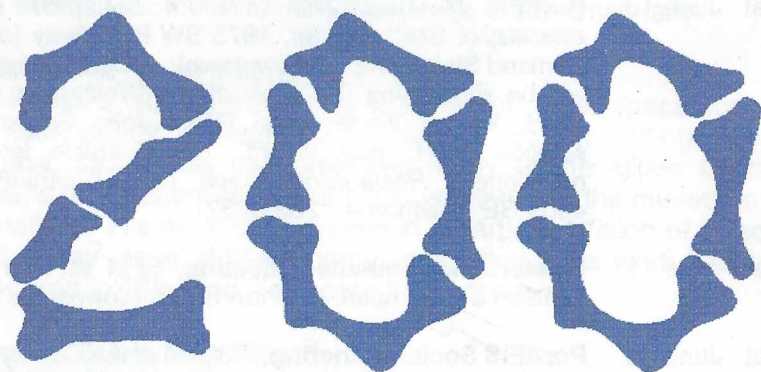


Pulsar

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society



Number 200

JUNE 1995

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PORSFIS TIMELINE

Compiled by Barbara Oldham

PorSFIS holds a formal meeting on the second Saturday of each month, and a social gathering in varying locations on the fourth Saturday. Everyone is welcome to both. Some folks gather after the meeting for dinner at the place listed in the timeline.

The formal meetings are held at the Smith Center of Portland State University, in room 229 (the Alumni Room). There is *free parking* in the garage across the street from Smith Center.

- Sun June 4 **OryCon Committee Meeting**, 5PM at Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001A SE Powell (in the Powell Street Station shipping center). Everyone is welcome.
- Sat June 10 **PorSFIS Meeting**, 2PM in room 294 (*NOTE ROOM CHANGE*) of Smith Center, 1875 SW Broadway (on the Portland State campus, downtown). *Programming*: We will be discussing the work of the Westercon writer GOH: Vernor Vinge, artist GOH: John Foster and science GOH: Ray Villard. (See article later in newsletter). *Restaurant*: Thanh Thao (Vietnamese), 4005 SE Hawthorne. 238-6232.
- Sun June 11 **Westercon Committee Meeting**, 5PM at Red Lion Jantzen Beach hotel, Overton Room (downstairs).
- Sat June 24 **PorSFIS Social Gathering**, 7:30PM at the County Cork Pub, 3632 SE Hawthorne. (Non-smoking, children welcome). Subject to Change.
- Sun June 25 **Westercon Committee Meeting**, 5PM at Red Lion Columbia River hotel (*it's in the other hotel*), Santiam Room (upstairs).

June 30-July 3 Westercon 48
Red Lion Jantzen Beach and Columbia River Hotels,
Portland, Oregon. Starts Noon on the 30th.

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PorSFIS to Talk About Westercon GOHs

by Barbara Oldham

At the June meeting there will be a discussion about the works of the GOHs for Westercon 48 (writer GOH: Vernor Vinge; artist GOH: John Foster; science GOH: Ray Villard). Since the convention is June 30-July 3, I thought this would perk our interest for the coming event. Below are a few of the GOHs' accomplishments. This is by no means a complete list. For information on John Foster and Ray Villard, I relied on information in an article by Mark Bourne printed in Westercon Progress Report #4 and from a short conversation I had with Mr. Bourne.

Writer GOH: Vernor Vinge

I have read several of Mr. Vinge's books; two being, The Wittings and Marooned in Realtime. I am sure many of you have read at least one of his works. He tends to write hard science works and is a Professor of Math at the San Diego State University.

Artist GOH: John Foster

Mr. Foster's work is mainly starscapes and other space scenes, i.e. alien worlds, planets and starscapes, etc. According to Mark Bourne, Mr. Foster has produced many of the slides used in OMSI's planetarium shows and has worked with the museums for sometime. His work can be seen in an article, "Vision of Space," in the May issue of "Astronomy" magazine. His work has also appeared in "Sky and Telescope" magazine.

Science GOH: Ray Villard

Mr. Villard is the Public Information Manager for the Space and Telescope Science Institute at John Hopkins University in Baltimore Maryland. He is responsible for disbursing news and information about the Hubble Space Telescope. He has also develops planetarium school programs, teaches astronomy courses and produced participates in public seminars through John Hopkins. He was the associate editor for "Astronomy" and "Star & Sky" magazines. He has written many articles and even scripts for planetarium shows at several east coast science museums. To round out his communication skills, Mr. Villard contributes regularly to the radio series Stardate.

— Timeline concluded —

- Sat July 8 **Young Adult SF Book Club**, 11AM at the TransCentral Library. See elsewhere for more details.
PorSFIS Meeting, 2PM in Room 229 of Smith Center 1875 SW Broadway (on the Portland State campus, downtown). *Programming*: Since people seemed to enjoy the vampire debate, we decided to try another. We will be discussing the differences treatment of Elves/fairies in Fantasy and SF literature from the folk/fairy tales of old to the modern incarnations. *Restaurant*: Chez José East (Mexican), 2200 NE Broadway. 280-9888.
Wrigley-Cross Books joins with other members of the Portland Area Used Booksellers Association for a SALE. For one day only, starting at 10AM, Wrigley-Cross Books offers 25% off all used books.
- Sat July 15 **Science Fiction/Fantasy Day** at the Gresham Region Library, 1-5PM. See elsewhere for more details.
- Fri July 29th—
Sun Jul 31st **Oregon Brewer's Festival**, Waterfront Park.
- Fri July 28th **Westercon 48 Wrap-Up Meeting**, 7:30PM at Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001A SE Powell, Portland (in the Powell Street Station shipping center).
- Sat July 29 **PorSFIS Picnic** (*this month's PorSFIS Social Gathering*) at the Rose Garden Shelter, Washington Park. Please bring your grills so we don't have to eat raw hamburgers. We have the site from 8AM, but will probably set-up around noon, with hamburgers to be ready by 2. Be aware this is the fifth Saturday this month, rather than the usual fourth.
- Sun July 30 **OryCon Committee Meeting**, 5PM at Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001A SE Powell (in the Powell Street Station shipping center). Everyone is welcome.

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MINUTES

submitted by Ann Hoffert

May 13, 1995

15 people attended this meeting, including all of the new officers (President: Barbara Oldham; Vice-President: Chuck Leon; Secretary: Ann Hoffert and Treasurer: Page Fuller) except the Treasurer. This is the official annual corporate meeting.

John Lorentz asked about the picnic. It will be held at the Washington Park shelter near the Rose Test Garden on July 29th. Reservations are taken care of.

After recovering from the shock of finding out that *Sam's Hofbrau* is closing, suggestions were given for a replacement. The *Cheerful Tortoise* was as the first choice, with *Hot Lips* a close second.

Joyce checked with the Library to see how current their PorSFIS information was. John Bartley and Marc are still listed as contacts. Steps will be taken to update this information.

On a sad note, Patty's brother passed away in early May. Our condolences.

Ruth Sachter is selling raffle tickets to benefit the Humane Society. A ten-dollar ticket will buy you a chance to win a Harley Davidson motorcycle! So enter early and often—it's tax-deductible [*Editor's note: Actually, it isn't*] and helps our furry friends.

The programming this month was a discussion of literary vampires through the ages. Many interesting and obscure facts were unearthed. The discussion for the June meeting will center on the works of John Foster, Vernor Vinge and Elayne Pelz (the Westercon GOH's). So come prepared (with visual aids, if possible—some of us are not familiar with their work).

The June meeting will be held at PSU's Smith Center, in room 294 (note the room change).

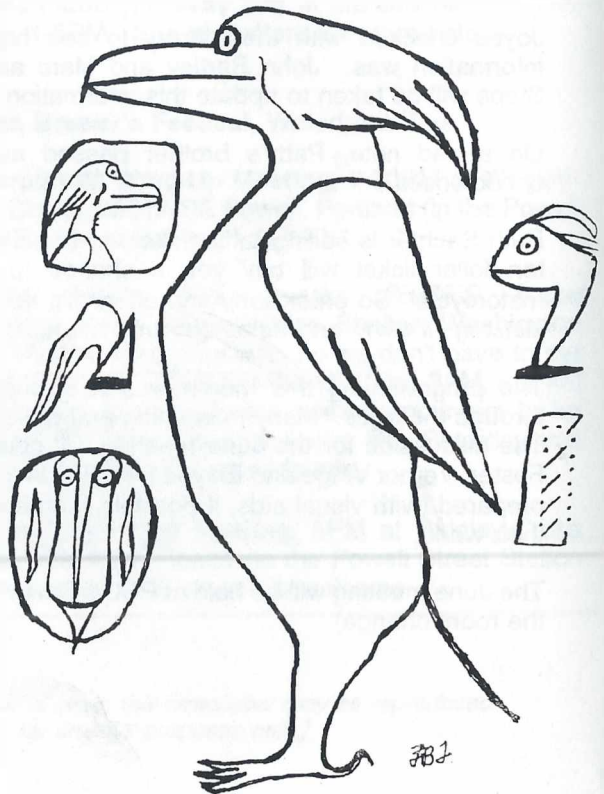
NORWESCON 18

Norwescon 18 was held April 6th through 9th, 1995 at the Sea-Tac Red Lion Hotel, near the Sea-Tac airport. The Guests of Honor were: Robert Silverberg, Writer; James Gurney (the person behind *Dinotopia*), Artist; Dr. Jane Robinson, Science; Danny Rudesill, Volunteer (chosen in a drawing for all volunteers at Norwescon 17); and Dragon Dronet, Toastmaster.

Norwescon is often the biggest regional con on the west coast, and by far the largest in the Pacific Northwest. This year, there were 2655 members at 11PM Saturday. However, unlike other regionals, Norwescon seems to have had a slow but steady decline in attendance. Attendance peaked at 3000+ at Norwescons 8 and 9. They moved to the Tacoma Sheraton for 11 through 15. (Four years—they skipped Norwescon 13.) Attendance dropped sharply after the move, but has declined further after they moved

back to the Red Lion. Still, it is a large convention, though it never seems too crowded.

Though Norwescon presents itself as a four-day convention, it really isn't. This year, they didn't even try to do anything Thursday afternoon. The first item of programming was the Opening Ceremonies at 7PM. They also seemed to be rather weak on Sunday afternoon. (*This is not a problem unique to Norwescon. Even Worldcons are often weak*)



on Monday.) I found nothing of interest after 4PM on Sunday, so I didn't stay for the Closing Ceremonies. (From experience, they mostly consist of endless thank-yous.) They did have some programming from 9PM to Midnight on Thursday, including the first of their four dances. (Norwescon is big on dances.) Starting on Thursday has some drawbacks. Though they are able to have a full schedule on Friday as well as Saturday, a lot of people—both fans and guests—can't get both days off, and don't arrive until later on Friday. Friday morning panels have light attendance, and are often missing panelists as well.

This year's⁴ theme was Dinosaurs and Dragons—somewhat more interesting to me than last year's theme. Their Science Guest of Honor has done a lot of work with dinosaurs, and gave several interesting talks—including one of the Extinction theory, and another on Nessie. During the day on Friday and Saturday, they had about a dozen tracks running. Mostly standard programming for a regional con. Nothing really stands out in my memory. Filking was weak on Thursday night, I understand, starting at Midnight. (I had hurt my foot and couldn't get to the filk room.) It did better on Friday and Saturday nights, starting at more reasonable times. The sessions are more or less run by Steve Dixon. They did not, however, run on Bardic circle most of the time, but were run on chaos—where anyone can jump in at any time. Not quite as fair as circle, but a lot

faster moving with fewer of the old, tired standards.

The Sea-Tac Red Lion is one of the best hotels for a convention I have ever experienced. (It has as much function space as Portland's Jantzen Beach and Columbia River Red Lions combined.) All of the large function rooms are in one central area. Two large ballrooms, four medium-sized rooms and a dozen small rooms. It has a tower, as well as the standard Red Lion satellite wings. Though the hotel is within the letter of the ADA, there is one area of the hotel that is inaccessible to handicapped fans. (Naturally, it's where they schedule the filking.) There is an elevator, but—on the main floor—there is no indication of how to find it. It requires, at the very least, going through the kitchen or maintenance areas of the hotel.

The hotel also has a large parking lot. This leads to a lot of commuting fans who do not stay at the hotel overnight. (Though it was reported that there were a lot more reservations at the hotel this year.) So there are a lot of casual fans at the convention, forcing the con to provide something for everyone. Trying to provide for everyone means nothing is done especially well.

The Art Show took up one of the three large parts of the large ballroom. They had a lot of art of—mostly—high quality. (And high prices.) Very little of the traditional portraits of TV and movie actors. The Dealers Room took up all of

Lee, Gentry	<i>Bright Messengers</i> (Independent novel by co-author of Rama books)
McCaffrey, Anne	<i>Freedom's Landing</i>
McCaffrey, Anne and Elizabeth Anne Scarborough	<i>Power Play</i>
Miller, Linda Lael	<i>Pirates</i> (time-travel romance)
Nolan, William F.	<i>Night Shapes: Excursions into Terror</i>
Park, Paul	<i>Celestis</i>
Reed, Jeremy	<i>Diamond Nebula</i>
Robinson, Spider and Jeanne	<i>Starmind</i> (part of Stardance trilogy)
Scott, Melissa	<i>Shadow Man</i>
Thornley, Diann	<i>Ganwold's Child</i>
	<i>Tombs</i> (ed. by Edward E. Kramer and Peter Crowther)
Weis, Margaret and Don Perrin	<i>The Knights of the Black Earth</i> (features Kris, the cyborg warrior)
Wells, Martha	<i>City of Bones</i>
Wingrove, David	<i>Chung Kuo V (Beneath the Tree of Heaven)</i>
Young, Jim	<i>Armed Memory</i>
Zelazny, Roger & Robert Sheckley	<i>A Farce To Be Reckoned With</i>

Flora Jane Persons
 Librarian
 Popular Library Section
 Multnomah County Library
 248-5471

Can You Guess What the Following Names Have in Common?

John Andrews, Steve Berry, Sam Butler, Debbie Cross, Mike Garlock, Dwight Lay, Harold Metcalf, Barbara Peters, Sue Renhard, Dan Rutter, John Shirley, Gale Sumner, Randy Towne, Marc Wells, Roger Wells, Lauri Powers, Bryce Walden, John Henley, John Lorentz, Tim King, Sue Petrey, Donna Haines, Chuck Leon, Joseph Gamble, Anders Wallquist, Marcia Courtney, James Farley, Robert Niermann, Norman Hartman, Billie Turnbal, Pam Murphy, Rosalind Malin, Anne Davenport, Donald Smith/Firesmith, Patty Smith/Wells, Margo Flenner, Shawn Wall, Michael Mahoney, Steve Perry, Steve Forty, Kevin Karvonen, Walt Matson, Thomas Walls, Joe Scanlon, Tami Wiley, Sue Mooney, Kris Reinkø, Kevin Nelson, Michael Elmer, Michael Pearce, Pam Davis, Fred Torck, Tom Billings, J. H. Williams, Diana Tuttle, Martin Buchanan, Jim Pilcher, Abraham Salzberg, Susan Dahlstrom, Gini Potts, Mark Chapman, Jennifer Firesmith, Leonard Ericson, Stephen Dennett, Anthony Pryor, Rick Hawes, Mitch Cunningham, Emma Leyba, Paul Wrigley, Joyce Zimmerschied, Adrian Bush, Bill Madera, Perry Bailey, Phil Erwin, Phyllis Eide, Keith Lofstrom, David Dean Lee, Carrier Green, Sally Senior, Margaret Lidster, Mary K. McClosky, George Guthridge, Karen McClymonds, Phoenix Morgan, Bruce Duncan, Tim May, Beverly Reams, John Schwab, Anna Doehle, Dennis Reeder, Steve Swanson, Steve Gaskill, Mike Scott, Sandi Homán, Jeff Peck, James Fiscus, Gary Page Sandra Monical, Michael Parker, Sharon Parker, John Chuck, Ariel Shattan, Mark Stravens, David Lewis, Jim Sells, Duane Oldham, Mike Mahoney, Robert Hahn, YaLeah, Don Dever, Cheryl York, Janice Murray, Linda Hoffer, Renae Scott-Smith, Ron Northway, John Teal, Bill Sage, Don Gangwere, Dale Smith, Le Ann Smith, Jeff Lipton, John Rosenstein, Scott Casebeer, Holly Graser, Richard Pilz, Pat Williams, Karin Waller, Curt Waller, John Zimmer, Stefano Zegretti, Diane Butts, Mike Butts, Tom Martini, Malinda McFadden, Dana Bell, Linda Rausher, William Sandberg, Pat Gully, Holly Thurman, Mike Demmers, Pauline Hains, Crayton Williams, Mike Dever, Kristie Hall, Michael Golding, Alison Woodfield, Kris Demien, Scott Smith, Karen Corkum, Rob Bailey, Diana Bailey, Hal Stein, Earl Nelson, Daryl Nichols, Mary Marshall, Sam Mesplay, Ruth Panas, Eric Stromberg, Mary Balliston, Sue Robinson, Robert Strong, Starthys Clark, Signe Landon, Scott Johnson, Duane Campbell, Jamie Hunger, Kate Brennan, Renee Waring, Tom Haertel, Jerry Haines, Lisa Reay, Christopher Glenn, David Levine, Jane Larson, Dick Henderson, Jill Pruett, Calvin White, Linda Clark, Larry Baker, Virgil Belt, Steve Groves, Tom Buccola, Anita Oakes, John Mean, Conan Walker, Carl Mork, Marsha Manning, Little John, Corey McCloskey, Rebecca Provo, Morgan Dair, Ken Long, Steve Culliton, David Johnson, Kristen Blakowitsch, Barbara Oldham, Zoë Bacon, Aaron Bodor, Kate Yule, Chaz. English, Chris Oldham, Annette Matthews, Tony Panzica, Bryan Peterson, Eric Simonson, Mark Bossen, Frank Stearns, Joel Hobart, Craig Williams, Michael Gray, Max Bell, Patty Havens, Richard Havens, Marilyn Mork, Thaddeos Plate, Robbie Holder, Jeff Levin, Sue English/O'Neill, Allen Siefert, Hugh Everett, Gary Peressinni, Alan Roberts, Doug Marcks, Bob Pownall, Shawn Instones, David Meyer, Arlene Hills/Peterson, Craig Walbridge, Greg Salter, John Gould, Phil Jansen, Beth Rigsby, Alexander Paxendell, Sue Yule, Tash Robb, Andrew Nisbet, Kevin Hicks, David Meyer, Bob Harland, Sam Will, Mel Beach, Seth Alford, Sharon Martin, Richard Threadgill, Allen Moore, Sam Klein, Cindy Ellis, Julia Fisher, Barb

PorSFis
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PULSAR, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis), comes free with membership (\$15 a year). It is also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased at Excalibur Books, Future Dreams/Burnside and Looking Glass Books, all in Portland.

Your editor has been John Lorentz; next month's is unknown. Deadline is generally the 20th of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO box above, or to 74007,3342 (CompuServe) or J.LORENTZ (GEnie) or john_lorentz@planar.com (Internet).

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

PorSFis Officers:

President	Barbara Oldham	(503-254-1971)
Vice-Pres.	Chuck Leon	
Secretary	Ann Hoffert	
Treasurer	Page Fuller	(503-254-0552)

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