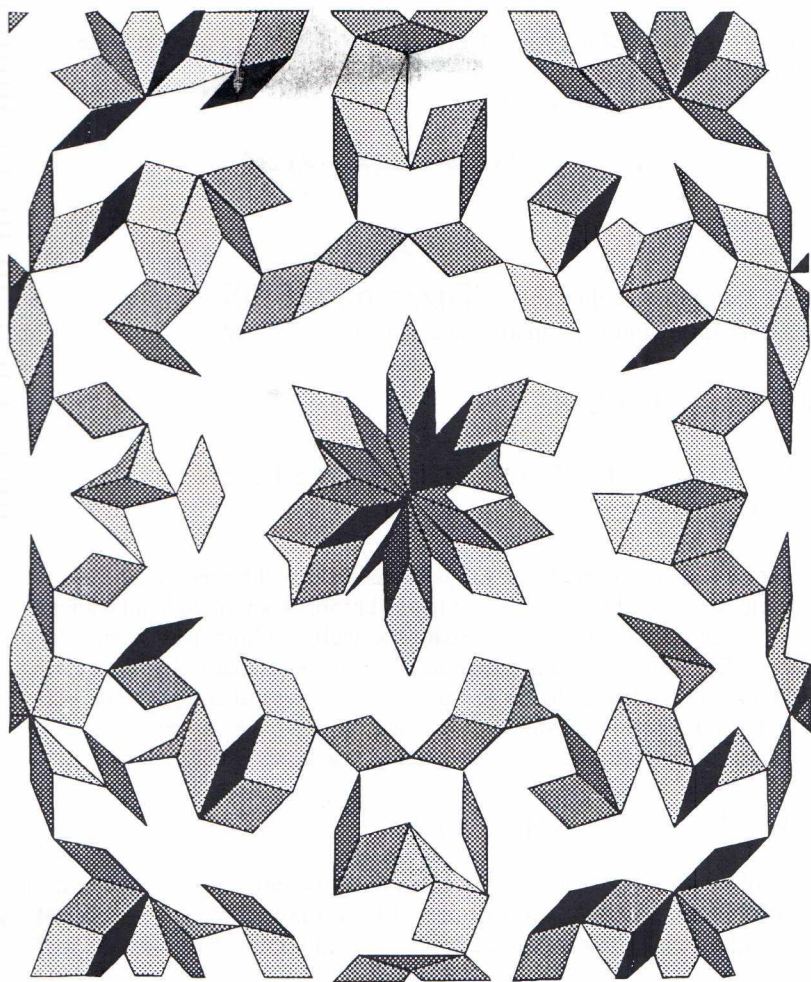


Pulsar 40¢

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society



July 1998

Issue No. 237

TIMELINE

Compiled by Sam Butler

PorSFis holds a formal meeting on the second Saturday of each month -- usually these are structured and have a program. After the meeting we adjourn to a social place for snacks, drinks and socialization. Some folks gather after the meeting for dinner at the place listed in the timeline.

There are often a social gathering in varying locations on the fourth Saturday. Everyone is welcome to both.

Saturday July 11 PorSFis Meeting, 2 PM Smith Memorial Center Portland State University Room 229

Discussion will include: Robert D. Young

AFTERS: Market Street Pub - 10th & SW Market - Afters

Dinner is open for suggestions.

Saturday June 27 PorSFis Social Event Bizzaro PorSFis

The movies at Jim & Linda Pilcher's apartment continue. 7 PM

PRESIDENTS QUOTES:

FIRST SUBJECT: THE CONVENTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Yes it is true, CON-8 has been cancelled. All paid members will be receiving their money back. There are several reasons for the cancellation. They include a lackluster outpouring of people purchasing their memberships as well as a hotel that seemed less than cooperative. After some serious discussions it was decided that rather than losing money [a lot of money] it would be better to cancel the convention and possibly plan for one in 1999. Look for details, if any, in this space. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer [or volunteer someone else] please let us know.

SECOND SUBJECT: THE PICNIC

A new suggested place to have the picnic was made at the meeting, are we are awaiting feedback from the Parkers. If Mike and Sharon will let us know, and if I can ever get hold of Page we might have a time and place for the annual picnic. More details will be forthcoming.

If Page were to hold it the picnic would occur August 8, the Saturday of the regularly scheduled PorSFis meeting for August and 2 weeks after CON 8 almost enough time for us to recuperate. This might not be the usual potluck, so watch this space.

THIRD SUBJECT: THE JULY SPEAKER

ROBERT D. YOUNG - just who is he?

Robert has been toying with computers since he taught himself BASIC by hacking into the Portland Public Schools system in 1970. After getting caught, he pursued an education in video production, until one day in 1976 he realized people in the local government would pay him good money (\$\$\$) to write programs for a living. Since he figured there wasn't that much a programmer could do all day, it would be easy pickings and leaped at the chance. That's when he discovered just how much additional work a management structure can add to a simple task...

Since that time, Robert has worked at almost all aspects of computer programming and administration of both large and small systems, has achieved both a BSCS and an MBA degree. He is one of the founding members of the local Novell NetWare user group, and was on the Advisory Board for Microsoft's Tech*Ed educational conferences.

In 1988 Robert was asked to assist a computer expert in an analysis of a computer system, in preparation for a lawsuit against the firm that had written it. The process was a real eye-opening experience, showing him just how little those who practice law know about those who practice programming. Since then Robert has worked on several such projects covering a wide range of forensic activities, including the recovery of evidence from computer systems and patent, copyright and trade secret infringement analysis. He has participated on raids with the US Marshals office, snooped through e-mails for sexually harassing notes and copied backup data in the dead of night to make sure a company could still function if a subpoena was served on them.

His clients have included 3Com, Symantec, CapCom Games, Netscape, Siemens, Levi-Strauss and some small software company up in the Seattle area... :)

MOVIE REVIEW

THE TRUMAN SHOW

I saw the Truman Show Sunday late afternoon at the Lloyd Center Cinema. I thought that it was a good movie, Jim Curry did a very good job acting and was only really really silly when the part called for. I did have trouble convincing myself that they could build a set that large that it would have it's own weather control, space for lots of car driving, a miniature bay etc. Of course if you consider that the show has been on for 30 some years it must have made a lot of money.

I ran into Joyce & David at the movie and she couldn't remember his first name. It's Truman, his name is Truman Burbank. Now was it a Warner's Brothers movie, no I think it was Paramount, so why Burbank?

WARNING: plot revelation

O.K. at the end Truman escapes, he leaves the building, he is outta there, but what does he do? What are his qualifications for work, how is he gonna earn a living? My suggestion is that he's gonna go on TV.

Well gee, what else. It's been what's he's been doing for 30 years even if he didn't really know it. Surely he's seen more television in his 'world' than "I Love Lucy", so he'd know about other things existing even if he didn't realize that he was just part of the show.

He could make appearances, for money of course. on talk shows. he could contact the lawyers and sue the corporation for his share of the profits from his life, after all once he turned 18 wouldn't he be of legal age and 'own' his own life?

Well it's food for thought, and perfect for a sequel, but then I don't think I'd be that interested in seeing it.

Later this summer, THE AVENGERS, SMALL SOLDIERS, and all those other things including that other "meteor movie"

IF MICROSOFT RAN A BAR

You order a beer but won't actually get it until next year.

When you do get your beer, the glass will be half full. When you complain about this, you get charged extra.

You are promised that the next beer you get will not only be full, but will actually brew you more beer. This turns out to be false. You still only get half a beer in a slightly different colour of glass. You will probably need to learn how to drink all over again.

Your glass of beer will explode at random intervals. Far from being seen as a fault, this is described by the bar staff as an "undocumented feature." You are assured that the next beer you receive will not explode. Of course it will - and it does.

You can only talk to people who are drinking the same beer as you.

You can order a different drink, but you will have to go to another bar.

You've heard that there is another beer called "Linux Real Lite", which is tastier, comes in a near bottomless glass and is free. But you can't drink it because you'll lose your job. Strangely, you'll keep your job if you continuously get drunk at MS Bar.

You can become a MS-Beer expert by paying the bar lots of money and then taking a test in which you lie about how good the beer is while overlooking all its faults.

The bar released NT-Beer, but it is so big that it won't fit on your table. You will have to buy a new table. The glass is still only half full.

For some obscure reason, you keep drinking at MS-Bar.

In order to satiate your science fiction needs we offer the following:

Robert D. Young visits

July 11, 1998 at 2:00 PM

Smith Center Rm 229 PSU **FREE!!**

forensic computer expert,
well you should know what that means

August 8, 1998 at NOON
The PorSFis Picnic

This is a pot-luck picnic with the club providing some food for members, all are encouraged to attend

K. W. Jeter visits:

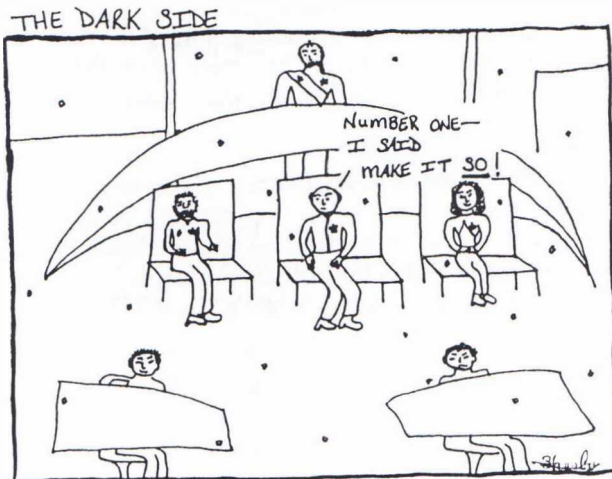
September 12, 1998 at 2:00 PM

Smith Center Rm 229 PSU **FREE!!**

Brought to you by The Portland Science Fiction Society (usually room 229).

Our information phone line: 727-3570

or catch us on the internet at www.europa.com/~jpilcher



FOR YEARS AFTERWARDS IT WAS KNOWN AS
THE U.S.S. ICEBERG

Book Review

Masterharper of Pern Hardback: Del Rey 1998

I just finished reading Masterharper of Pern by Anne McCaffrey. It's the story of Robinton from his birth to that of Jaxom. I highly recommend it to anyone who has ever read any of her Pern novels. But just make sure you have plenty of time on your hands before you start—because once you finish it, you get the urge to reread the Dragonriders and the Harperhall trilogies (because it blends so well). I'm currently rereading Dragonflight and although I loved it the many times I've read it before, I have a whole new appreciation for and insight into it. As much as I hate to say it—sometimes favorite authors run out of things to write as they get older, and their later works don't measure up to their earlier ones—or they've improved so much that their earlier works seem trite and childish next to their later and greater stories. Ann McCaffrey doesn't fit in either category. She's always had a wonderful depth to her stories that makes them a joy to read and reread and she has remained true to her earlier works. Masterharper of Pern answers a lot of questions, and provides welcome background on favorite characters and on the whole situation without contradicting already known facts (with the possible exception that now Fort Hold also tithed). And, as I said, it blends so perfectly into Dragonflight that you can't help but go back and reread it! (Or read it for the first time if you have not yet had the pleasure.) All in all, I truly enjoyed it and I hope you do too.

A side note—Del Rey has recently been rereleasing some older science fiction and fantasy books as classics, and they're classically priced, too! My only complaint is that I have all of them already! But, they make wonderful gifts to impressionable nieces, nephews, and cousins☺

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Pulsar, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis), comes free with membership. 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, Oregon.

Your editor has been Debra Stansbury. Next month's editor is the same. 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.

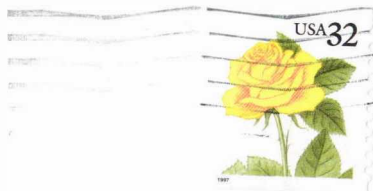
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