

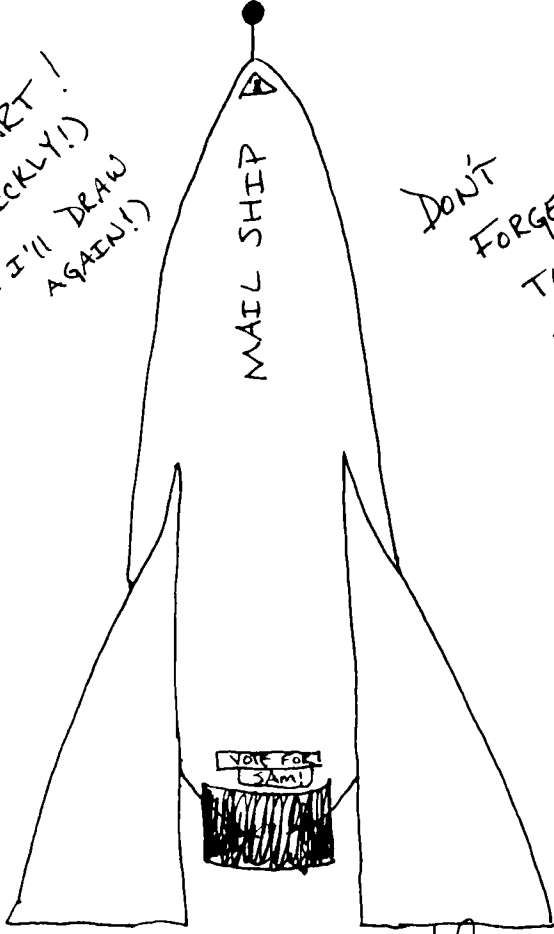
# Pulsar

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society

40¢

SEND ART!  
(QUICKLY!)  
(OR I'LL DRAW  
AGAIN!)

DON'T  
FORGET  
TO SEND  
IN YOUR  
VOTES!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Issue No. 243

January 1999

# 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 social gatherings in varying locations on the fourth Saturday. Lately this has been a video party at the home of two of our members. Everyone is welcome to attend both the meetings and the gatherings.

Saturday January 9, 1999 PorSFIS Meeting 2 P.M.  
Portland State University Room 229  
Smith Memorial Center

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Sharon Rodland

One of our favorite geneticists will return to provide us an educational updating on the latest developments in the genetic bionome project, as well as the latest gossip on what it being cloned, and what it all might mean.

[Do remember this is a clone free zone, so if you want to find out you've got to come in person.]

**AFTERS:** Market Street Pub SW 10th & Market Street

Dinner is open for suggestions.

**Saturday January 23** PorSFIS Social Event (Insert favorite name here)

There again will be movies at Jim & Linda Pilcher's apartment. Call for details: 236-0349. Bring your own munchies, etc. They usually start at 7 PM.

## NEW YEARS EVENT

Again, as in the past we have been treated to an open house party on New Years day by Marc and Patty Wells. I hope everyone had a wonderful time!

This will most assuredly be the last New Years Day party held at this location.

## **PRESIDENTS QUOTES:**

### **FIRST SUBJECT: ADOPT A FAMILY**

We adopted a family for Christmas through the Volunteers of America Adopt-A-Family Program. For a complete report please see the article by Debra Stansbury who did the shopping this year and met the family that was selected. A hearty thank you to all those who were part of this project.

### **SECOND SUBJECT: ELECTIONS NEW OFFICERS**

We have a slate of volunteers that wish to be officers.

For President: Debra Stansbury Sam Butler  
For Secretary: Chuck Wells  
For Treasurer: John Andrews

### **THIRD SUBJECT: FILM GET-TOGETHERS**

A small party went to see Star Trek - Insurrection. If you wish to be part of a group for Star Wars I, it might not be too early to discuss details.

### **FOURTH SUBJECT: WHAT'S IT COST TO BE PORSFIS?**

We will be discussing this at the January Meeting.

Each month that PorSFis holds a meeting at Portland State University it costs: \$39.95  
Each month that PorSFis prints a newsletter, the printing costs: \$25.20 [3 double-sided sheets (12 half-pages) x 0.05 cents per page x 84 copies]  
Each month that PorSFis mails a newsletter, the postage costs: \$19.52 [\$0.32 x 61 copies] - postage rates will rise next year.

Therefore it costs 4 full PorSFis memberships each month, and this does not count the picnic, post office box rental, the telephone answering service or any other costs. Twelve full months costs approximately 48 full PorSFis memberships just for the newsletter.

At this moment in time we do not have 48 full memberships, and we need to talk about this income draining hole. We do save money by not having a meeting or two each year, such as November when the convention happened, and also during the month that we have the picnic the same weekend, but this really doesn't save us a whole lot of money. The bottom line is that we need more than 50 members.

## Sad News

Richard Wright, long-time Seattle area fan, fan guest of honor at several conventions in the early 1980's, died of heart problems recently.

## Adopt-A-Family

Yes, PorSFis adopted a family for Christmas, and thanks to all your generous donations, it will be one they never forget.

Our adopted family was a small one, a mother, Dion, and her six-month old daughter, Dionesha. Since Dion is currently living in a women's shelter and Page informed me that the two of them have nothing, I decided to spend all the money on them, instead of perhaps adopting a second family.

We found or bought for her everything on her list, including several large Santa bags full of baby clothes, and a little bitty tree, complete with Baby's First Christmas ornament. Skip and I completely filled the back of his car with presents and other donations. When we started bringing them all in, Dion was just thrilled. She said she'd never had such a Christmas. She got a picture of herself, Skip and I standing next to the gifts in the entrance, and is intending to send us all a thank-you card.

I want to say especial thanks to Skip for the transportation; to Linda Pilcher for the stroller; and to all the people who helped me find the things on Dion's Wish List—including my mother, my sister, Cay Callen and her employers Rene and Vernon, and Tony and Becky Kyle.

## A MOVIE REVIEW

### *The Wizard of Oz*

OK, it's not a new movie, but it was a new print and it might be the first time that I've seen it on a big screen.

Yes, I know you've probably all seen it, and what's the point, but I've got some questions that I'd like to get some answers for:

Who was moving in the background among the trees as the Tin Man, Scarecrow, Toto and Dorothy started down the yellow brick road, and how did the Tin Man's house get on the other side of the road? Hint, it was not the witch, she had left before then.

When the party enters the Emerald City they are taken to Brush & Clean Up Co. where the scarecrow is restuffed, and the Tin Man is buffed. How many scarecrows visit the Emerald City that there would be a sufficient trade for a business like this to be economically viable?

When the Tin Man breaks the pot in The Emerald City to place on the Cowardly Lion's head it breaks nicely, but when the Lion takes it off it bounces like rubber, so how do you break rubber? - I don't think they froze it.

PORSFIS OFFICIAL BALLOT

1999-2000 YEAR

Please mark and return to: John Andrews  
SE Cora  
Portland, OR 9720

- PRESIDENT     Sam Butler  
                   Debra Stansbury
- TREASURER:  John Andrews
- SECRETARY:   Chuck Leon

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## Ask Mr. Know-it-all

A Mr FM of Gorst asks: I recently attended a concert of Handel's *Messiah* and when the *Hallelujah Chorus* was performed, for some reason everybody in the audience stood up. What was this all about?

*When the Messiah was performed in London in 1742, it happened that King George II sat on a tack and immediately jumped to his feet, just as the Hallelujah Chorus started. In those days, when the King stood, everybody stood. The Tradition continues, although audiences today are no longer expected to sit on tacks.*

A Mr LC of Santa Monica asks: With MS-Windows®, why is it that you *end* your session and *stop* by entering *Start*?

*Essentially, this is Microsoft® habit and tradition. Early on, when developing MS-DOS®, the developers noticed that UNIX® would use forward slashes to separate parts of a file's path name, so they purposely used backward slashes. Most architectures were what is called 'big-endian' so they hunted down a chip manufacturer (Intel®) that used 'little-endian.' By the time that MS-Windows was in the design phase, where everyone else used Stop or End, it was just second nature for them to do the opposite and use Start.*

A Mr HM of Manchester asks: When a book title is printed sideways on the spine of a book, publishers in English-speaking countries run it so it reads from top to bottom. I've noticed that German publishers do it the opposite way, so the title reads from bottom to top; why is this?

*Prior to World War II, when the German Fraktur script was in common use in Germanic countries, it was so difficult to tell which way was which (especially when the title was set in all upper-case Fraktur) that nobody noticed that they were doing it backwards. Even though they now use the same modern fonts as everybody else, the tradition persists.*

A Mr MO of Boston asks: I always understood that to 'table' an issue meant to set it aside for a while. Recently, while in England, I was attending a formal meeting and it seemed that they were using 'table' to mean just the opposite. Am I hopelessly confused?

*Quite probably you are, but bear in mind that you Americans like to do everything backwards from the way the British do things; you drive on the other side of the street, you call your public schools 'private schools' and you even get something as simple as 'table' backwards. The British 'take from the table' to set something aside and 'lay on the table' (or simply 'table') to consider it again; you Americans manage, yet again, to do it all backwards.*

You may contact Mr Know-It-All in care of the *Pulsar* or e-mail on [r wells@i lluninetSS7.com](mailto:r wells@i lluninetSS7.com)

