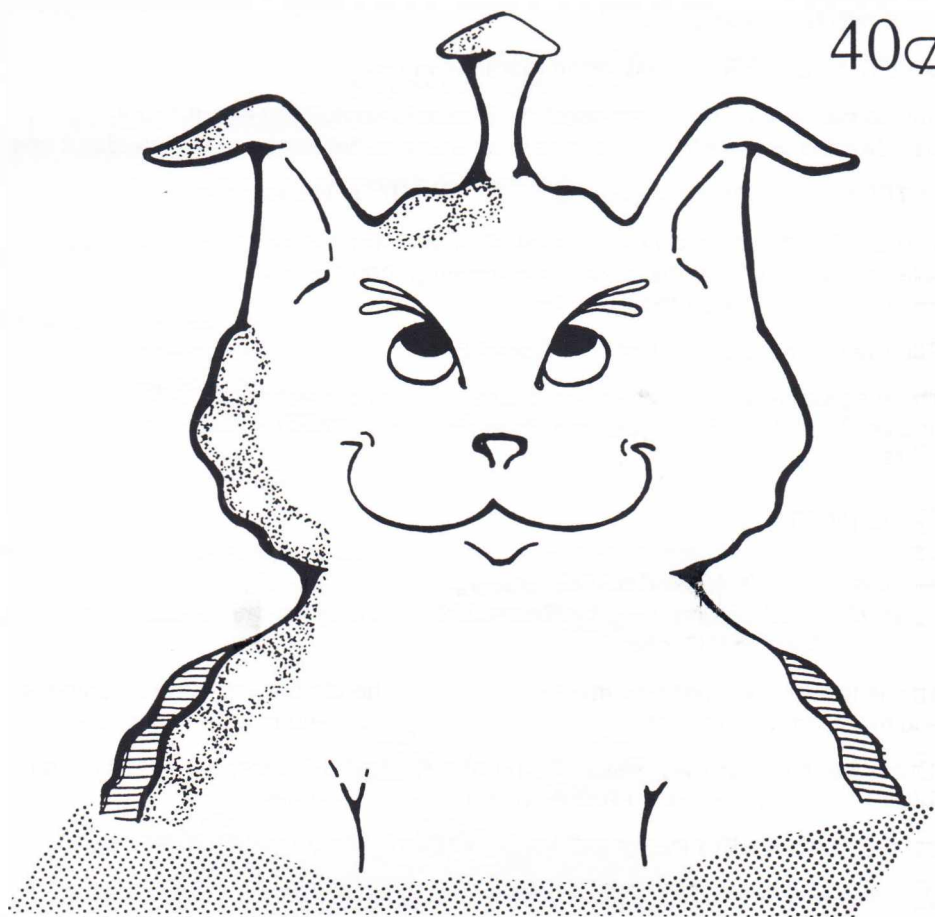


# Pulsar

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society

MARCH Issue, 1988 Issue 245

40¢



**Kiss Me, I'm Irish  
(Can't you tell by the ears?)**

# 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. Lately this has been a video party at the home of two of our members. Everyone is welcome to both.

Saturday March 13, 1999      PorSFIS Meeting      2 P.M.  
Portland State University      Room 290      **NOTE ROOM CHANGE**  
Smith Memorial Center

**GUEST SPEAKER:**      Adrienne Martine-Barnes

How to create a culture from scratch. She said something about taking a petri dish, but it is believed that she meant a culture in the sense of writing about one.

**AFTERS:**      Market Street Pub      SW 10<sup>th</sup> & Market Street

Join us after the meeting for a social bit of drinking and eating and talking at a reasonable venue. If this is your first meeting then the drink is on us, well the price of the drink is on the clubs tab.

Saturday March 20      PorSFIS Social Event

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

## APRIL MEETING:

Saturday April 10, 1999 PorSFIS Meeting      2 P.M.  
Portland State University      Room 229      Back to the regular room  
Smith Memorial Center

This is the Annual business meeting. There will be old business, new business and that kind of stuff such as: the picnic, Orycon 21 and maybe something else.

Our guest speaker will be Mary Rosenblum—What will Mary talk about? Well more information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

## SO WE HAD A NEW PERSON WHO ATTENDED A PORSFIS MEETING

Despite the offer below no old member showed up at the February meeting, however a new person did and received the traditional **free** drink. What kept you away? So we'll repeat the invitation:

As an **added** incentive, if you've never been to a PorSFIS meeting before, if it's been over a year and you are a member since you've **attended** a meeting you will be eligible for there will be a free **beverage** of your choice at the AFTER's

after [naturally] the meeting, but you do have to come to the meeting, coming to the after's doesn't merit the free drink.

### **PRESIDENTS QUOTES:**

#### **FIRST SUBJECT: ELECTIONS AND THE NEW OFFICERS ARE**

We have a new slate of officers, and the results are as below:

President:	Sam Butler
Vice-President	Debra Stansbury
Secretary:	Chuck Leon
Treasurer:	John Andrews

#### **SECOND SUBJECT: DUES ARE DUE**

With the exception of several people in the club who have multiyear, or 'lifetime memberships' all memberships will expire on the last day of March 1999.

Remember to bring your money to the meeting, or mail it to the Post Office address: PO Box 4602 Portland, OR 97208

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

We will be discussing this at the May Meeting, Honest.

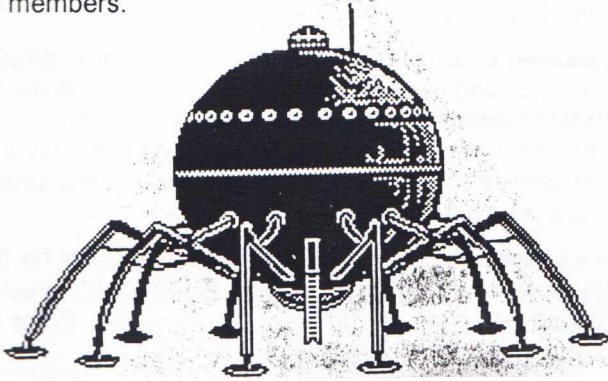
Each month that PorSFis holds a meeting at Portland State University it costs:\$39.95.

Each month that PorSFis prints a newsletter, the printing costs:  
\$24.60 [3 sheets - 6 pages - times 0.05 cents per page times 82 copies]  
Each month that PorSFis mails a newsletter, the postage costs:

\$20.79 [\$0.33 times 63 copies]

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.



## Recommended Reading

Steve Perry's recent article/essay in *Locus* on the state of SF in Publishing.

*Thong the Barbarian and the Cycle Sluts of Saturn* by Steve Perry and Michael Reeves.

*Netforce* created by Tom Clancy

*Resident Evil* and *Virus* books by Danelle Perry

## Words of Wisdom

One of the guests at our last meeting—Steve Perry, cautions against being prejudiced against 'mundanes.' He pointed out that they *are* the new fans, but some of them just don't realize it.

So be nice, and try to encourage them. Some key words to watch for are: Dark Fantasy (Horror) and Near Future Thriller, Techno Thriller, or Speculative Fiction (SF). Don't point and laugh, don't sneer, don't make them feel uncomfortable or they'll go away. Remember, the more fans there are, the more books, movies and tv shows will be there for them (and us)! Invite them to attend a PorSFis meeting (and we'll try not to scare them either!).

## Stanley Kubrick 1928-1999

From the Oregonian by Shawn Levy of the Oregonian Staff March 8, 1999

### Film Director Stanley Kubrick meticulously made new worlds

In painting you've got Vermeers and you've got Picassos—artists whose reputations are based on a handful of masterpieces and artists who overwhelm with the sheer number of their great works.

Stanley Kubrick, the film director who died Sunday at his home in England at the age of 70, was a Vermeer.

Apart from the several short movies he made in the early 1950s, his mature career consisted of 10 feature films made during a span of three decades, beginning in 1956 with the caper story "The Killing" and ending—thus far—in 1987 with the Vietnam film "Full Metal Jacket."

Just last week, Kubrick showed executives at Warner Bros. a nearly complete version of his newest work, the long awaited Tom Cruise film "Eyes Wide Shut," which the director had been developing under a veil of secrecy for half a decade. Although Kubrick, who fastidiously crafted even the advertising campaigns for his movies, cannot now supervise the film through its release, Warner Bros. said the psychosexual thriller will premiere July 16, as scheduled.

Kubrick strove to create a specific and entirely new world with each of his films, which is perhaps, why he made so few of them. Movie by movie, no director ever presented such a varied resume: a World War I court-martial, "Paths of

Glory"; a Roman epic "Spartacus"; a historical romance "Barry Lyndon"; a horror thriller "The Shining"; a science-fiction epic "2001: A Space Odyssey"; a farcically tragic romance "Lolita"; and two films that virtually defined their own genres, the nuclear war satire "Dr. Strangelove" and the apocalyptic teen gang film "A Clockwork Orange."

What brought all this wildly diverse material together was Kubrick's absolute mastery of craft. He was an obsessive framer of images, shooting take after take for hours to get actors, light and props into just the configuration he sought. (Unlike virtually every other director of his era or stature, he operated the camera himself.)

His films were edited with lucid grace and scored exactly to painstakingly chosen music: the waltz that accompanied images of spacecraft dancing in a void in "2001" for instance, or the impish ending of "Dr. Strangelove," which combined a montage of nuclear weapons exploding with Dame Vera Lynn's rendition of the World War II tear-jerker "We'll meet again."

Kubrick was born in 1928 in New York City to a physician and his wife. He was an indifferent student but was so avid for photography that he managed to land a staff position at Look magazine at age 17. Through the early 1950s, he made several short films, finally making a feature, "Killer's Kiss," in 1955. He was known to be a difficult director for actors to work with, and as he grew successful he became more openly eccentric and reclusive.

Kubrick was married three times, first in 1948 to Toba Metz. After they divorced he married Ruth Sobotka in 1954. Their marriage ended three years later, and in 1958 he wedded Suzanne Harlan, with whom he had three daughters. They moved to England in the 1960s and made their home there until his death.

Thematically, Kubrick returned again and again to stories about free will, obsession, tyranny, dehumanization and the futility of ambition. His characters frequently seemed brainwashed, whether literally, as in the case of Alex, the rebellious English lad of "Clockwork Orange," or figuratively, as in the case of the murderous Jack Torrance of "The Shining," the renegade General Jack D. Ripper in "Strangelove" or the psychotic Private Pyle in "Full Metal Jacket."

Kubrick never had a runaway hit, but each of his last eight films finished in the box office top 20 of the year in which it was released. That steady record of earnings, coupled with Kubrick's preference for working with low budgets and his enviable critical reputation, made him the sort of director for whom Hollywood bent rules.

Warner Bros., the studio for whom he worked exclusively after the 1960s, reportedly paid him a substantial annual retainer even when he wasn't actively working on a film. Criminally, his 13 Oscar nominations resulted in only one prize, for special visual effects in "2001."

He was the first real superstar movie director of what would eventually become a generation of them.

## So, what do I get for being a member?

Why should you become a member of PorSFis? Let's see:

- ❖ You get to vote in the annual elections (you can even run for office, if you like!)
- ❖ You get this lovely newsletter every month (and sometimes on time) filled with fascinating articles and lovely artwork (if you don't see any—send me some!)
- ❖ A 10% discount at:
  - ♥ Future Dreams on Burnside 1800 E Burnside
  - ♥ Excalibur Books & Comics 2444 SE Hawthorne Blvd
  - ♥ The Looking Glass Book Store 318 SW Taylor
  - ♥ Wrigley-Cross Books 1809 NE 39<sup>th</sup>
  - ♥ Great Northwest Bookstore 1234 SW Stark
- ❖ A monthly meeting in an enclosed space (yes, the meetings themselves are free and open to all who come, but the space itself costs money, unfortunately) with delightful, insightful, and witty guests!
- ❖ An annual picnic (oo, food! and fun! oo!)
- ❖ The company of your peers (though if you ask nice, we won't peer **at** you, just with you).
- ❖ And remember—if you haven't been to a meeting in over a year, or if this is your first meeting—stick around for Afters and get a free beverage of your choice!

## TV Movie Review

Though reluctant (after all, it was made by Disney for kids) I watched *Zenon, Girl of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* the other day. I was up at 2a.m. and it was on, so I figured I might as well.

And I'm glad I did. It brought me back to the Science Fiction of my youth—*Space Cadet*; *Tom Corbett*; *Tom Swift*; *Lucky Star* and the like. I just really enjoyed the nostalgia of watching as a preteen, living with her extremely intelligent and well-connected parents, saves the day using high tech devices and both old and new friends. It was liberally sprinkled with new words for "Omigosh!" and bright with colorful costumes (at least in space, on Earth the kids wore 'normal' clothes).

As much as I enjoy the science fiction movies of today *Independence Day*; *Men in Black*; *Wing Commander*; etc. with their high budget special effects and interesting developments, I just really enjoyed this step into the past. It was a refreshing change, no one died, the bad guys were brought to justice, and everyone had a happy ending (except for the aforementioned bad guys). (I don't feel this is giving away any spoilers—it is a Disney movie, after all, these things are rather expected.) I even enjoyed the song the band "Microbe" plays at the end—it was very bubbly and fun, just like the movie itself.

So if anyone is yearning for a taste of the past (but with better graphics) or an old fashioned "kid-hero" sci-fi movie, I highly recommend *Zenon, Girl of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.



## MOVIE REVIEW

## OFFICE SPACE

Okay, if you like DILBERT then you'll probably like Office Space. It's the story of office workers who get treated like dirt, or worse and a pompous boss. It's the story of a software programmer who has eight bosses all of whom love to complain to him about the same minor infraction. It's the story of a person who decides that he really doesn't want to do anything, and the downsizing that comes along with the territory. It's the story of nerds who can't pull off ..... oops that gives away a little too much of the story.

What this movie is, is funny. I don't usually laugh out loud at movies that I see. I did this once last year at "There's Something About Mary", and a few years ago at a Jim Carrey movie, honest. Oh all right, I did at "Shakespeare in Love" also, but that was an intelligent laugh, and not a gut laugh. Ask me over a drink what the difference is, and I'll tell you, make that two drinks.

Of course there are some problems, and what I'd really like to find out the person at the props department who thought that having a book on Dbase III on his bookcase at work, and a box that the program came in at his apartment were really cutting edge software explain themselves. Dbase!!!! Oh well, who said funny had to be cutting edge on historical accuracy.

## UPCOMING MOVIES:

Wing Commander March 12<sup>th</sup>

The Matrix March 30<sup>th</sup>

Trekkies May 16<sup>th</sup> (?)

Star Wars: A Phantom Menace May 19<sup>th</sup> (Notice date change!)

Reviews and movie parties are encouraged!

**Due to illness, Mr Know-It-All's column does not appear in this issue, but he will return next issue. If you have questions or comments for Mr Know-It-All, please contact him at [rwells@illuminetSS7.com](mailto:rwells@illuminetSS7.com) or care of the Pulsar.**



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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, OR.

Your editor has been Debra Stansbury. Next month's editor is the same. Deadline is generally the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO Box above, or to the editor direct at [shade\\_obeyon@hotmail.com](mailto:shade_obeyon@hotmail.com)

PorSFIS meetings are open to everyone. Check the Timeline for meeting times and places. Membership per year: \$20 individual, \$30 family (1 newsletter)

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Secretary Chuck Leon

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