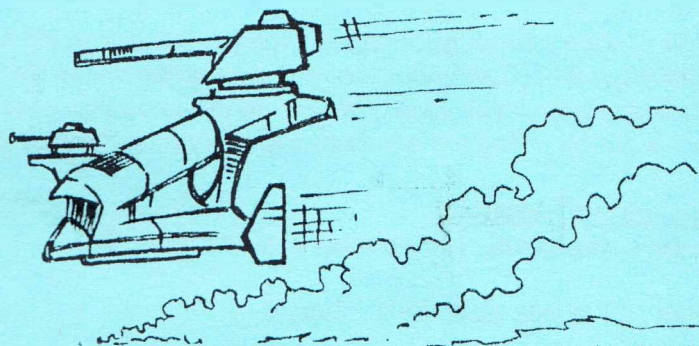
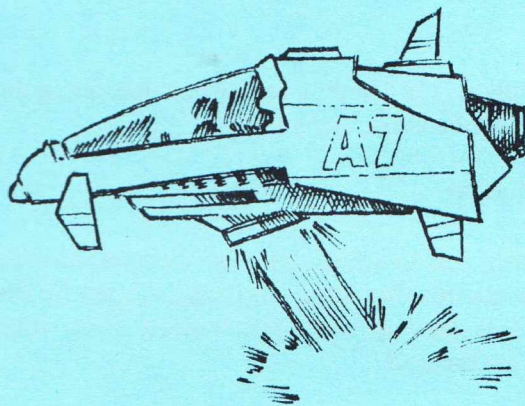


PULSAR

40¢



© Mats Ohrman 1999



© Mats Ohrman 1999

Back To School Shopping?

The Newsletter of
the Portland Science
Fiction Society

September
2000
Issue #
263

TIMELINE

Compiled by Debra Stansbury

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--called Afters. Some folks used to gather after the meeting for dinner—we're working on starting this up again. For more info, contact John Bartley!

There is often a social gathering in varying locations on the fourth Saturday, called alt.porsfis. Lately this has been a video party—by the way, if you want to be a host, please let us know...we can do this more than once a month...honest. And as always, everyone is welcome to everything PorSFis does.

September 9th Meeting:

No guest this month. Let's discuss T-Shirt ideas!! ☺

Room 225 Smith Hall PSU 2pm

October 14th Meeting

Callie Hills, ½ of Echo's Children (Cat Faber, a previous guest, being the other) will be our guest in October. Please come and enjoy ☺

alt.porsfis September 23rd, 2000

John Bartley (aka the Vice Prez) and Lea Rush (aka the Webster) host alt.porsfis (aka A Fun Time For All) this month. See <http://libertyhall.cjb.net> for directions, or call 503 BAR-TLEY...or just show up at 804 NE Prescott. Festivities begin at 6pm, Fun starts when you get there ☺

PRESIDENTS QUOTES:

First: Did you miss the Picnic?

A lot of you did. You were missed—but we still had fun ☺. We'll have one again next year, though.

Of course, you missed my mom's famous Potato Salad, a ton of wonderful conversation and the distribution of actual Frequent Flyer Miles to worthy folk (AirPorSFis—We can't afford to crash!). We even had a new member join (we'll give you your free beverage at the next Afters!). All in all, it was a fantastic picnic.

Second: Frequent Flyer Miles?

What the heck is PorSFis doing giving out FFM, you ask? Isn't that expensive? Nah, we're giving them out on AirPorSFis.

AirPorSFis—Flights of Fancy (Fantasy?) Leaving Daily ☺

Excalibur Books & Comics

Phone (503) 231-7351
<http://excaliburcomics.net/>

2444 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR 97214

PorSFis Members receive 10% off all purchases

Third: Let's Advertise Us!

Don't just keep us to yourselves! Share with your friends and family how wonderful, witty and entertaining we are.

Seriously, we have bookmarks available to hand out on the bus or at the bookstore and we're in the process of doing up a promotional poster. We, your officers, are doing our best to promote PorSFis...but, *you are all PorSFis ambassadors as well*. If you see someone reading SF material, or if you're at a party or meeting where there are SF friendly folk, tell them about us! Give them a bookmark! Drag them to the meetings! (As much as we desperately need new members, that shouldn't be our focus. They don't have to pay to come, the meetings are free!) This is your society too, get involved!

Fourth: Members

Okay, the meetings are free...but we still want paying members. We have some lovely benefits...this newsletter, a beautiful blue membership card, discounts at four fine local stores, an annual picnic...

What should we be focusing on? Who is our target audience? Do we want to offer a special rate to the under 21 crowd? Like \$15 or so...to offset the fact that they can't go to Afters since we hold it in a Pub?

Cost cutting is only a stop-gap measure, what we need is a bigger constituency. If you have any suggestions or would like to get more involved, please contact either me, or John Bartley.

Fifth: Reviews Wanted

Anyone seen a good movie, rented a good video, read a good book lately? Or a bad one (don't ask me about Highlander: Endgame, please!!!) Submissions are welcome, in fact, they're encouraged!

Sixth: A Book To Review

Paul Lonardo sent us a copy of his new book *The Apostate* to review. I'll bring it to the meeting...any volunteers?

NEW DEADLINE:

The Deadline for the newsletter has been moved up. It is now the third Saturday of the month (the week after the meeting) Hopefully this will enable me to get the newsletter out in a more timely manner ☺

Wrigley-Cross Books

Phone (503) 281-9449
1809 N.E 39th Avenue
Portland OR 97212

Toll Free (877) 694-1467
FAX (503) 281-9706

Email wrigcross@teleport.com

Home Page - <http://www.teleport.com/~wrigcross>

PorSFis Members receive 10% off all purchases

Sir Alec Guinness (1914-2000)

Actor Sir Alec Guinness Dies at 86

(AP) - Actor Sir Alec Guinness, whose roles in a 66-year career ranged from Hamlet to Obi-Wan Kenobi in "Star Wars," has died, a hospital spokesman said Monday. He was 86. Guinness became ill at his home near Petersfield, southern England and was taken by ambulance to the King Edward VII Hospital where he died Saturday, said hospital spokeswoman Jenny Masding.

Per Scifi Wire:

Sir Alec Guinness, whose 60-year career on stage and screen included playing Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Star Wars*, died Aug. 5 in West Sussex, near his home in Hampshire, England, the Reuters news service reported. He was 86. Guinness had been suffering from ill health for several years, Reuters reported.

Though Guinness won an Oscar for his role in the 1957 movie *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and praise for his work in such films as *Lawrence of Arabia*, it

was his career-capping role as the aging Jedi knight that brought him his greatest fame.

But Guinness was not happy about his association with *Star Wars*. He once told a British magazine that he had engineered the death of his character to escape having to say "those bloody awful lines." He added, "I'd had enough of the mumbo jumbo. ... I shrivel up every time someone mentions *Star Wars* to me."

Suggestions Wanted for PorSFis's Recommendation List

Here's a sample of what we've come up with so far. Please, send in your suggestions as well! PO Box 4602 Portland, OR 97208 or porsfis@email.com Your opinion is wanted!!

The Categories are in bold:

Fantasy

Oath of Swords—David Weber
Tea with the Black Dragon—RA Salvatore
The Recluse—Lee Modeste

Alternative History

Analytical Engine—SM Stirling
What Mad Universe—Fred Brown

Modern SF/Horror/Hard to Classify

Slow River—Griffith
Diamond Age—Stevenson

Juvenile

Only You Can Save Mankind—Pratchett
Star Swarm—Jerry Pournelle

General (or Hard) SF

The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress—Heinlein
Downbelow Station—Cherryh
Hyperion—Simons

Humor

Probability Broach—L Neil Smith
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy—Adams
Ye Gods—Tom Holt

Space Opera

Basilisk Station—Weber
Cordelia's Honor—Bujold
The Ship Who Sang—Andre Norton

Media SF

Alien Nation—Slag Like Me

Arthurian

Arthur, Pendragon—Stephan Lawhead
Copper Crown—Patrick McKinley

Graphic Novel

American Flag—Howard Shakin

Dark Knight—Miller

The Silver Arm—Jim Fitzpatrick

For series we generally just put down the first book...

Looking Glass Bookstore

318 SW Taylor St
Portland, OR 97204

phone 227-4760

fax 227-0829

e-mail lookglas@teleport.com

PorSFis Members receive 10% off all purchases

From SciFi Wire:

Trek I To Be Re-Cut For DVD

Paramount will enhance and re-edit *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* for its upcoming release on DVD, according to the official *Star Trek* Web site. Filmmakers will also overhaul the 1979 movie's visual effects.

Director Robert Wise will re-edit the film and include scenes that were cut out of the theatrical release. The DVD will appear in 2001 and will be the last *Star Trek* movie to be released on DVD.

Voyager Heats Up Next Year

Star Trek: Voyager's new executive producer Kenneth Biller told the *Fandom* Web site that viewers can expect the relationship between Tom Paris and B'Elanna Torres to heat up, starting with the episode "Drive." "I will tell you that one of the things that we are going to do this season is explore that relationship and see really where it goes," Biller said. "We've ignored it for a while, and we are not going to ignore it this year."

Biller added, "There are going to be probably about four or five episodes, over the course of the 22-episode season, which will touch on the progress of that relationship. We are going to explore that relationship as it proceeds through the various stages of adult relationships. I don't want to say too much about it because I don't want to give away too many goodies."

Biller also said he wants to resolve long-standing character arcs in *Voyager's* seventh and last season. "That's part of an overall scheme," he said. "It's the last year of the series. So we are doing an episode in which Harry Kim ends up getting command of an alien starship and really playing out what it means to

him to have an opportunity to pursue that dream. ... Seven is obviously going to be continuing her quest for humanity, and becoming more human."

Biller also has plans for the Doctor. "The Doctor has been, obviously, exploring his own humanity through the course of the series and his struggle for holographic rights. We are going to bring him front and center and up against that very issue in the big two-hour movie, which is called 'Flesh and Blood.' It's about a holographic uprising that the Doctor gets involved in. The Doctor becomes very politicized by these holograms and becomes a proponent of their cause."

Voyager Premiere Set

Star Trek: Voyager kicks off its seventh and final season Oct. 4 at 9 p.m. on UPN, the network announced. The season premiere, "Unimatrix Zero, Part II," will resolve last season's cliffhanger. (A repeat of that episode, "Unimatrix Zero, Part I," will air at 8 p.m. that day.)

In the final season, storylines will see B'Elanna Torres and Tom Paris take their relationship a step further; force Seven of Nine to confront the possibility of her own death; pit the Doctor against a bizarre HMO-type medical bureaucracy; and see the Maquis re-emerge in an unexpected way, according to the official *Star Trek* Web site. In addition, the season will resolve the question whether the *U.S.S. Voyager* will ever make it home.

RWA Prism Awards Announced

The Futuristic, Fantasy and Paranormal Chapter of the Romance Writers of America presented its 2000 Prism awards for SF&F romance novels published in 1999. The awards were announced before the RWA's national conference in Washington July 27. A full list of winners follows.

Time Travel

- First Place: *Beloved Warrior* by Judy DiCanio
- Second Place: *The Moonstone* by Claire Cross
- Third Place: *River of Dreams* by Jenny Lykins

Futuristic/Fantasy

- First Place: *The Veiled Web* by Catherine Asaro
- Second Place: *The Rainbow Bridge* by Karen McCullough
- Third Place: *Broken Vows* by Cory Daniels

Dark Paranormal

- First Place: *Touch of the Wolf* by Sue Krinard
- Second Place: *Beaudry's Ghost* by Carol Goodman
- Third Place: *Shadow of the Hawk* by Julie Miller

Light Paranormal

- First Place: *More Than Magic* by Kathleen Nance
- Second Place: *Love Potion Number 9* by Claire Cross
- Third Place: *Ghostly Acts* by Melinda Rucker Haynes

Best of the Best

•*Touch of the Wolf* by Sue Krinard

Witchblade

Yancy Butler, star of TNT's upcoming television movie *Witchblade*, told SCI FI Wire that she signed on for the starring role of NYPD detective Sara Pezzini before reading the Top Cow comic series of the same name on which the film is based. "I met with everybody, and then got the comic, and I totally panicked," Butler said of the comic books, which feature a buxom, scantily clad heroine festooned with spiky armor.

"I thought, what the hell?" Butler recalled. "Dog collars, well-endowedness, metal. I'm very happy our director chose to go in another direction." In the movie version of the comic, director Ralph Hemecker has toned down the more lurid elements and grounded the supernatural story more in reality, Butler said with relief. "It had the potential to not be cool. And it's so not cheesy. I'm so happy."

Like the comic, *Witchblade* tells the story of Pezzini and her inadvertent acquisition of a mysterious armored gauntlet that gives her supernatural powers. But the movie is "realistic and potent," said Butler. "You care about her, because we're playing it as if she were real, asking, 'What the hell is this thing?' She becomes [like] an audience member. Both of us don't know what's going on. [At the end of the film,] she still doesn't know what's going on. It's not better or worse [than the comic], but much more user-friendly."

Butler is no stranger to either cop roles or fantasy, having played a police officer in CBS's *Brooklyn South* and a robot in NBC's *Mann & Machine*. "People have asked me what it's like to be the star of *Witchblade*. But the God's honest truth is, I'm simply wearing the star on my wrist. What I loved about [Pezzini], and why I wanted to play this part and why I got interested, is her [dual] nature, which we would all do well to admit to ourselves that we have. She's extremely vulnerable and extremely sad where we pick up her life, but she's extremely tough and can kick some real royal ass."

Witchblade premieres on TNT at 8 p.m. Aug. 27. The two-hour film is being considered as a pilot for a potential series, depending on how the telefilm does.

UPN Rises To *Level 9*

UPN's upcoming cyber-thriller series *Level 9* deals with threats only a few years in the future, co-creator Josh Meyer told SCI FI Wire. *Level 9* tells the story of a fictional top-secret government task force set up to combat Internet crime. "One thing it's not is a science fiction show," said Meyer, a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* and consulting producer for *Level 9*. "It's a law-enforcement show. And we're trying to stick very closely to what's real and what's out there."

... We think that cyber-crime is the big tidal wave that's coming, and federal government's not ready to deal with it. And so we created what we think would be ... kind of what they should be doing."

The series stars Kate Hodge as team leader Annie Price and Max Martini as defense intelligence agent Jack Wiley. The series was created by Meyer, novelist Michael Connelly and *China Beach* creator John Sacret Young. "One of our biggest challenges is making sure that [the writers] don't slip something in that isn't real," Meyer said. "We spend a lot of our time doing research to make sure that stuff is very accurate. We're not going to make anything up." *Level 9* comes to UPN in the fall with a 13-episode commitment.

Cameron: *Angel* Is Like Film

Director-producer James Cameron (*Titanic*) said that his upcoming Fox SF television series *Dark Angel* will be like a 13-episode feature film, according to the *Mr. Showbiz* Web site. The series, unveiled last week to convention-goers at the International Comic-Con in San Diego, premieres Oct. 3.

"I think of it as a continuum," Cameron told television critics in a satellite press conference during the critics' fall preview in Pasadena, Calif., last week. "The whole first season, we've already mapped out the story. It's like this big novel ... in 41-minute chunks."

Dark Angel is set in a futuristic Seattle and centers on the character of Max (Jessica Alba), a genetically enhanced warrior on the run from sinister government forces. She hooks up with guerrilla journalist Logan (Michael Weatherly) to fight corruption while uncovering the mystery of her past. Convention-goers at Comic-Con viewed a trailer--which also began airing on Fox this week--depicting a *Blade Runner*-like cityscape with a cyberpunk feel and action familiar to fans of Cameron's *Terminator* films. *Dark Angel* will air on Tuesdays at 9 p.m., opposite The WB's hit series *Angel*.

(Editor's Note: Can we say "shooting ourselves in the foot?" Why do they air these things opposite each other? That halves their viewer base. They should put in on opposite Dawson's Creek or some such...something their viewers would flock in droves away from!!)

World Fantasy Nominees Announced

Organizers announced the nominees for the 1999 World Fantasy Awards, which will be presented at the 2000 World Fantasy Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, Oct. 29, according to *Locus Online*. A special Life Achievement award will also be presented. Members of the current and previous World Fantasy Convention and a panel of judges chose the nominees. The 1999 awards judges are Suzi Baker, W. Paul Ganley, Tim Holman, Marvin Kaye and Melissa Scott. A full list of nominees follows.

Best Novel

- *Tamsin* by Peter S. Beagle
- *The Rainy Season* by James P. Blaylock
- *Gardens of the Moon* by Steven Erikson
- *A Witness to Life* by Terence M. Green
- *A Red Heart of Memories* by Nina Kiriki Hoffman
- *Thraxas* by Martin Scott

Best Novella

- "Scarlet and Gold" by Tanith Lee
- "The Wizard Retires" by Michael Meddor
- "Crocodile Rock" by Lucius Shepard
- "The Transformation of Martin Lake" by Jeff VanderMeer
- "The Winds of Marble Arch" by Connie Willis
- "Sky Eyes" by Laurel Winter

Best Short Fiction

- "The Grammarian's Five Daughters" by Eleanor Arnason
- "The Chop Girl" by Ian R. MacLeod
- "Naming the Dead" by Paul J. McAuley
- "Amerikanski Dead in the Moscow Morgue" by Kim Newman
- "Human Bay" by Robert Reed
- "The Parwat Ruby" by Delia Sherman

Best Anthology

- *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Twelfth Annual Collection*, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds.
- *Silver Birch, Blood Moon*, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds.
- *Northern Frights 5*, Don Hutchison, ed.
- *Dark Detectives: Adventures of the Supernatural Sleuths*, Stephen Jones, ed.
- *999: New Stories of Horror and Suspense*, Al Sarrantonio, ed.

Best Collection

- *Moonlight and Vines* by Charles de Lint
- *Reave the Just and Other Tales* by Stephen R. Donaldson
- *Hearts in Atlantis* by Stephen King
- *Deep into That Darkness Peering* by Tom Piccirilli
- *Necromancies and Netherworlds* by Darrell Schweitzer and Jason Van Hollander

Best Artist

- Les Edwards
- Bob Eggleton
- Stephen E. Fabian
- Jason Van Hollander

Special Award Professional

- Seamus Heaney
- Warren Lapine
- John Betancourt

- Stephen Jones
- Kim Newman
- Gordon Van Gelder

Special Award Non-Professional

- Ken Abner
- The British Fantasy Society
- Dwayne Olson, Peder Wagtskjold, Scott Wyatt
- Rosemary Pardoe
- William K. Schafer
- R.B. Russell

Fury Reveals *Buffy* Spoilers

Buffy the Vampire Slayer writer David Fury told the *Desert News* newspaper that a new character, Dawn, will appear in The WB hit series' season-five opener, but won't be explained until later, according to the *Dark Horizons* Web site. The character, who will be the focus of the season's second episode, will have mysterious origins and will fulfill a prophecy planted at the end of the third season, Fury added.

"Everyone has memories of her being a part of Buffy's life," Fury said. "They all know her. She's been living in the house all this time. It creates this very bizarre mystery that is not always the focus of the episode; it's just something that's underlying that. It leaves the audience wondering. ... But, for all intents and purposes, there is a Dawn Summers that has always lived and shared a house and shared parents [with Buffy]."

Fury added that the character, to be played by Michelle Trachtenberg, will be tied to the season's main threat. "I'll just say this--we're moving into 'god' territory, ... possibly something along the lines of The Powers That Be on *Angel*. But more importantly, they're not just your run-of-the-mill demon-of-the-week or vampires looking to take control. They're pretty terrible and ancient and pretty all-powerful."

Fury said fans will also find out the meaning behind the phrase "Little Miss Muffet counting down from 730," uttered by the character Faith (Eliza Dushku) in a dream sequence at the end of the third season, which is an apparent reference to Dawn.

More *Buffy* News:

Clare Kramer (*Bring It On*) will play a recurring role on The WB's hit series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* next season, *Variety* reported. Kramer joins Michelle Trachtenberg, who takes on a recurring role as Buffy's kid sister.

Buffy supervising producer David Fury, meanwhile, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* newspaper that vampire Drusilla (Juliet Landau) will return, first on the

The SF/F and "Isn't It Cool?" Calendar of Events for September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|----------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 27 | 18 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Birthday of Timothy Zahn | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Robin Hobb at Powell's of Beaverton 7:00 pm | 7 | 8 Launch of the Space Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station | 9 PorSFis Meeting 2pm PSU Smith Hall Rm 225 No Heather today |
| 10 SF Museum Meeting Contact Debra at 620-3068 for Details NorthWest Science Fiction Society outing info@nwsfs.org for info | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Terry Brooks at Powell's of Beaverton 7:00 pm Wyn Wachhorst at Powell's City of Books 7:30 pm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Birthday of Damon Knight | 20 Birthday of George R.R. Martin | 21 | 22 Autumnal Equinox 9:27 a.m. PDT OMSI's Autumnal Equinox Celebration and Star Party September 23 rd → | 23 alt.porsfis Liberty Hall (home to John Bartley and Lea Rush) hosts alt.porsfis again ☺ Atoms Family Exhibit starts at OMSI |
| 24 NWSFS End-Of-Summer Picnic Event at Coulon Park (Seattle Area) open to all NW SF groups. info@nwsfs.org for more info | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 ↑ On Sept 23rd NOVA meeting, 5pm Tigard Water District Building |
| 1 | 2 Birthday of John Shirley | 3 On Sept 4th → 10:45pm PDT Launch of a NASA Orbital Sciences satellite from Kwajalein Missile Range | 4 6:49pm PDT Launch of the Space shuttle Discovery to the International Space Station | 5 | 6 | 7 NOVA meeting 5pm Tigard City Hall www.novaanime.org for details |

Buffy spinoff series *Angel* and later on *Buffy*. Fury also said "there's a very good chance of Amy [Elizabeth Anne Allen] getting de-ratted." The recurring character of Amy was turned into a rat two years ago.

Fury said *Buffy*'s fifth season will focus on family themes. The characters of Anya (Emma Caulfield), Tara (Amber Benson) and Riley (Marc Blucas) will return. Xander (Nicholas Brendon) will find a job "in the skilled labor industry," Fury said. *Buffy* will also formally ask Giles to resume his duties as her Watcher, which may necessitate a trip to England and a meeting with the Watcher's Council.

Carter Takes Care With *Gunmen*

The X-Files creator Chris Carter unveiled clips from his upcoming mid-season spinoff series *The Lone Gunmen* at the International Comic-Con in San Diego over the weekend and said to expect it to premiere on Fox next year. "We're starting to work on it now," Carter said. "We'll be filming it in October, and I think you guys will see it in March."

Carter said the series will be more light-hearted than *The X-Files*, but will have a mythology all its own. In the brief clips, convention-goers saw the *Gunmen* characters (played by Bruce Harwood, Tom Braidwood and Dean Haglund) in various humorous situations, including a takeoff on Tom Cruise's high-wire act in *Mission: Impossible*.

But Carter, apparently still stinging from the rapid cancellation of his last Fox series, *Harsh Realm*, said he would wait to introduce the mythology. "You've got to be careful," he said. "As I saw with *Harsh Realm*, if you introduce it too early, you lose your opportunity to get people to come to the show ... as readily. So you've actually got to build through straight storytelling before you start building mythology, and that's probably the way *Lone Gunmen* will work." Carter added, "Right now there are three or four stories in the pipeline ... but there are no scripts actually written past that. One is being worked on. So we're really right at the beginning of that. We want to be careful with it. And especially after *Harsh Realm*, we want to be careful to do it just right."

Carter: Expect Changes In *X-Files*

The X-Files creator Chris Carter said the eighth season of the popular Fox series will add one new face, feature the return of several old ones and answer a lot of questions left over from this year. And expect the return of Agent Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) in some form in the first two episodes of the season, Carter said during an appearance at the International Comic-Con in San Diego.

"He's coming back," Carter said. "Actually, he's in the season opener, believe it or not. He's going to be in a lesser number of episodes this year, but we're going to make it really interesting. It was actually something ... a happy accident. I had

to write the season finale, which was called 'Requiem,' ... not knowing whether or not we'd be back. So it actually set up an interesting problem for me in coming back now, in doing an eighth year. And that has actually worked with David's availability this year."

Carter provided more details of the new character, to be played by Robert Patrick. "The character that Robert Patrick plays, who is Special Agent John Doggett, is a member of the FBI fraternity, so he's like one of guys," Carter said. "He's like one of the hard core there. He's on his way up the ladder. He's a do-gooder, in a sense. But he's his own man. So what he represents to them is a threat to the ... X-Files, because it's a basement operation. So in coming to look for Mulder, to find Mulder, he is ... a part of the system and now he's attacking the X-Files. So he isn't working as Agent Scully's partner. But at some point, he will come to ... a place where they can agree to disagree."

Carter said he'd also beef up the roles of Assistant FBI director Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi), villainous Alex Krycek (Nicholas Lea) and duplicitous Marita Covarrubias (Lauri Holden). He added he'd love to bring back the character of Frank Black (Lance Henriksen) from his canceled series *Millennium*, depending on Henriksen's availability. Among the issues the season will explore: What happened to Mulder's sister, which was partly answered in the past season; whether the Cancer Man is really dead; what the deal is with the various alien races; and whatever happened to Gibson Praise, the mind-reading little boy. Carter also promised to tone down the slapstick humor and return to telling "good, scary stories."

As for Agent Scully's (Gillian Anderson) pregnancy? "We hinted at a relationship with Mulder. We're going to go back and explore that. ... And ... she's a very lonely character, and now she's even lonelier without Mulder. ... We're going to explore what happened this season. So while it may seem as if you missed something, and you did, you will not miss it in the end."

***Elfquest* Film Moves Forward**

Wendy and Richard Pini, creators of the comic series *Elfquest*, told fans at the International Comic-Con in San Diego that the animated movie version of the series was in storyboards and moving ahead, according to the *Comics2Film* Web site. The Pinis were joined by *Elfquest* movie producers Marv Wolfman and Craig Miller of Wolfmill Entertainment. Fans also viewed test footage from various animation houses.

Miller, who co-wrote the screenplay with Wolfman and Wendy Pini, told fans that the movie is based on the first four volumes of the comic series. "What we tried to do is to figure out what the heart of the story is, what the story's really about, and stay as true as possible to the flavor of it," Miller said, according to *Comics2Film*. "One of Wendy's main tasks was, any time Marv and I might

want to venture in some direction, to beat us about the head and shoulders and make sure we didn't take out anything."

***Roland 99* Coming To SCIFI.COM**

SCIFI.COM in the fall will debut *Roland 99*, the first Internet-based animated series to combine stop-motion and Flash technology. *Roland 99* will make use of a production technique developed exclusively for SCIFI.COM that offers fluid, broadcast-quality animation over the Internet.

Set in the year 4212, *Roland 99* will be a futuristic adventure thriller starring a heroine with the code name Roland 99 equipped with bionic gun gloves, a cyber eye and a trademark half-shaved head.

Roland 99 is co-created by Cameron Gray and Brad Schiff, the creative directors at Skyler Animation in Portland, Or, formerly with Will Vinton Studios, the duo worked on MTV's *Celebrity Deathmatch*, Fox's *The PJs* and *Gary and Mike*, a new prime-time series premiering on UPN this summer.

Anime Movies Come To Web

The *Sputnik7* Web site has partnered with Manga Entertainment to offer complete anime features on the Web. Eight anime titles are currently available for viewing in streaming video.

The titles include *Landlock*, *The Wings of Honneamise*, *Dangaioh* and *Violence Jack*. In August or September, *Sputnik7* will Webcast *X*, which is currently in theatrical release.

***Metropolis* Due In 2001**

Metropolis, the latest anime feature film from Katsuhiro Otomo (*Akira*) and Rin Taro (*X*), will have its Japanese theatrical release in 2001, the filmmakers announced. *Metropolis* took five years to make and cost \$10 million.

Otomo, who was the creative force behind *Memories* and *Perfect Blue*, wrote the script based on the 1949 manga by Osamu Tezuka (*Astro Boy*, *Kimba the White Lion*). Taro (*Final Fantasy*, *Galaxy Express 999*) directed, aided by animation director Yasuhiro Nakura and composer Toshiyuki Honda.

Metropolis follows the life of Kenichi, a human boy; Tima, a mechanical man; and a gender-neutral robot (which was the basis for *Astro Boy*). The three live in a society divided between the elite "Upperground" and the corrupt "Underground." *Metropolis* will combine advanced digital anime and Japanese-style cel animation.

The production is slated to be completed by the end of this year, and the movie will be distributed by Toho in Japan and through Sony Pictures worldwide in 2001.

Goddess Film Animation Done

Filmmakers have completed the animation production of Kousuke Fujishima's *Ah! My Goddess Movie* and are now undertaking music and sound production and the Japanese dub process. The *Ah! My Goddess Movie* will reportedly compile the original video animation series, which is based on the original manga series of the same name.

In anticipation of the movie's fall Japanese theatrical release, meanwhile, Japanese anime stores have begun advance ticket sales, offering collectible posters, telephone cards or clear folders to advance ticket holders.

Producers will release a three-DVD set of the *Ah! My Goddess OVA* to coincide with the theatrical premiere. The DVD set will include a movie ticket and a DVD storage box.

Indy Comes To The Rescue

Harrison Ford, known for his heroic roles in the *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars* movies, played a real rescuer on July 31 when he flew his helicopter to airlift an ailing hiker from a Wyoming mountain, according to the Associated Press. Ford, a pilot and part-time resident of Jackson, Wyo., offers his Bell 407 chopper for volunteer rescue missions.

Ford rescued Sarah George, 20, who was hiking on Table Mountain with her companion Megan Freeman, 22, the AP reported. George fell ill and Ford responded to a call for help. The actor transported the hiker to a Jackson hospital.

Bookface Posts Crusade Scripts

Bookface.com has posted three *Crusade* television scripts by Fiona Avery. Avery wrote the scripts for the *Babylon 5* spinoff series before it was pulled from the air.

Bookface.com posted the episodes "The Well of Forever" and "Patterns of the Soul," which were both produced, and "Value Judgments," which was not. The latter features the first *Crusade* appearance of familiar *B5* character Alfred Bester, who was played by *Star Trek* veteran Walter Koenig.

Seeds Of Sequel In X-Men

X-Men executive producer Tom De Santo told SCI FI Wire that the seeds of a sequel were planted in the current Fox hit movie. "If you look closely, or you

look back in hindsight when you see the second one, you'll say, 'OK, I know what that shot means, or I know what that is.' ... There's certain shots and lines of dialogue," De Santo said during an interview at the International Comic-Con in San Diego. He declined to give details.

De Santo said he and the crew were taking a well-deserved break before planning the next movie. Though neither De Santo nor *X-Men* director Bryan Singer has officially committed to the sequel, he added, "Hopefully we'll all be back. ... I've been thinking about it every day of my life for the past 31 years, so it never leaves my head. ... Both Bryan and myself have lots of ideas [for the sequel], and hopefully we'll make it happen." The major cast members, including Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen, are signed for at least one more *X-Men* movie.

But De Santo said it's unlikely that the filmmakers will shoot more than one sequel at a time. "Right now, the status is we're actually all going to take a big long nap. I wish I did have news. But right now, we just decided to take a bit of a break. We only finished the film about three weeks ago."

York Ready To Run Again

Michael York, who starred in the 1976 SF movie *Logan's Run*, told BBC Radio that he'd be willing to appear in a proposed remake, according to the *Dark Horizons* Web site. "Actually, they are talking about doing a remake," York said. York added, "I even said to them if they want me in it, I'll play the old man character that Peter Ustinov portrayed in the original."

Briefly Noted

- **The DVD of 1985's *Vampire Hunter D*** anime will come out Oct. 17, not Oct. 3 as originally planned. The later release date will allow for the completion of bonus features and will coincide with the release of a *Vampire Hunter D* game for PlayStation.
- **Bela Lugosi**, the son of the late actor of the same name who gained fame as Dracula, signed a deal with Universal Studios' consumer products division to produce merchandise based on his father's likeness, *Variety* reported. The deal puts to rest years of dispute between the Lugosi family and Universal.

UPN, home to *Star Trek: Voyager*, will become the Paramount Network on Jan. 1, the Hollywood trade papers reported. The new moniker comes on the heels of the breakup of United Paramount Network partners Paramount and the Chris-Craft/United Television Group.

- **The U.S. Postal Service** will issue a stamp to commemorate Chicon, the World Science Fiction Convention, in Chicago on Aug. 31. The service will also issue a special cancellation for Chicon 2000, using the convention's "rocket" logo.

From Fandomshop.com

Shojo: Japan vs. America

by L Jagi Lamplighter

webdate: 08/04/2000 9:06:19 AM

Devoted fans of any genre are fond of saying that nothing in the world compares with their favorite subject. So, the question arises: Is there anything like shojo? And, if not, why? Are Japanese young girls different from American girls? If so, why is shojo catching on so quickly over here?

The first step is to compare shojo with its Western counterparts; which raises the question: What is shojo, and what are its Western counterparts?

Shojo, put simply, is Japanese animation or comics for girls; either written for girls or published in a magazine intended for a female audience. More importantly, however, it features heroines with big luminous eyes, framed by floating flower petals, dreaming wistfully of lanky, longhaired languid bishonen with narrow piercing gazes. It has girls with mysterious magical powers who have to undergo costume transformations that usually require them to appear naked momentarily, and, ironically, stories of beautiful boys who fall heartachingly in love with each other, in a world that seldom includes girls at all. So, what do we have over here? Well, there are *Archie* comics, *Sweet Valley High* books, and romance novels. Hmm, not really the dramatic colorful impact of animated true love, is it? Okay, so there really isn't anything like shojo in the animated world, but what about *Archie* and romance novels? Do they cover the same subjects and meet the same needs?

Comics read by girls in America, like *Archie* and books such as *Sweet Valley High* seem to have little to do with romance. While romantic themes are often in the background, they are seldom treated as the main issue of the story. An *Archie* character may go on a date, or a *Sweet Valley High* character may have a crush on a boy, but long drawn-out, heartrending romance is not the stuff of these stories. They tend to be more slice of life matters, dealing with how to get a coveted job or how to finagle a ride on that special horse. Not really the 'stuff of [romantic]dreams', so to speak.

So, that leaves romance novels. How does shojo compare with the average Harlequin? Or, with the latest historical tearjerker?

In some ways, the two genre are very much a like. The romance novel is a story of love and romance, catering to the female audience. In romance novels, a heroine may be the girl next door, or she may be the girl from last century, or the girl kidnapped by Vikings, or trapped in a harem. These stories are much like the pure romance shoji mangas set in exotic locals such as Europe or India. As for the more fanciful shoji, now days, one can even find romance novels on the racks featuring ghosts, fairies, and vampires as the love interests. Basically, the average romance novel is not that different from the average shoji manga – with one great exception.

No bishonen.

Look at the covers of romances in bookstores, on the supermarket racks, and you will not see one longhaired, effeminate hero. The hero is always portrayed as manly and buff, often with his chest-hairs showing. Even the villains in romance novels tend to be vicious or silly, rather than the longhaired, languid, wine-sipping sort. Yet, while they are seldom the hero, bishonen or the ‘beautiful boys’ appear in nearly every shoji manga and anime in existence. If they are not the love interest, they are certainly the villain.

So, why is this? Do Japanese girls admire beautiful men with feline grace and a perchance for boy-on-boy love, while Western girls only like bruisers and Rhett Butler look-alikes? If so, shoji would not appeal to the American girl, who would disdain it and complain that the men were wimps. While some do feel this way, many American girls take to shoji, once it is introduced to them, like fish to water.

So, if shoji and romance novels both appeal to the secret dreams of their readers, and yet the dreams that fascinate those readers are not so different from each other, why are the men portrayed so differently?

It all comes down to the medium. When you are looking at a picture, beauty counts. A beautiful image draws the attention, beautiful mountains, beautiful flower petals, beautiful heroines, and beautiful men. The more beautiful the man, the more pleasant to the eye, and the more the feminine reader associates herself with the character. Readers enjoy seeing the bishonen on the page, with their long lines and their sense of style.

Underneath, however, the shoji audience recognizes that the qualities expressed by bishonen are feminine qualities: grace, beauty, subtlety, love of fashion.

What is more, they recognize, deep down, that these qualities are not good for the heroine, whose gentle qualities call for a masculine counterpart. Hence, the

romantic hero is usually a clean-cut shorthaired boy, while the bishonen goes without...or gets the other guy. The same instinct that makes the heroine shy away from the feminine grace of the bishonen, makes it more palatable to the reader when the bishonen himself seeks a more masculine counterpart. Hence the phenomena of perfectly ordinary and healthy girls fascinated with homosexual love stories no one would have expected her to enjoy.

The written word, however, is a different story. Images of beautiful boys might cause girls to sigh and long for romance, but descriptions of the same qualities do not do much for the feminine heart, especially in a novel, where even the most interesting character descriptions fall flat if the characters actions and behavior do not match the description. Words such as 'broad-shouldered', 'powerful', 'masterful', and 'compelling' have a much stronger impact than 'pretty', 'long-haired', or 'languid'. Bold daring heroes make for better storytelling as well, since the romance author cannot rely on visual impact to fascinate her readers. Hence, the fantasies served by romance novels tend towards imprisonment in a harem rather than seduction by a bishonen.

As for the boy-on-boy stuff, since the romance heroes lack the feminine qualities, they lack the tension that would make such unions appeal to the feminine heart. No girl wants to read about two macho guys falling in love with each other. Touga Kiryuu and Akio Ohtori, maybe; but Rhett Butler and Batman? Yuck!

There is one exception to the written word rule. Western fantasy novels written by female authors often feature homosexual characters. Like bishonen, these characters exhibit feminine traits -- usually because while the author claims the character is masculine, she has him express feminine-style emotional observations making the character no longer seem suited for a feminine partner. However, these stories are usually appealing (if at all) in spite of their homosexual heroes, rather than because of them. Girls may associate themselves with such feminine male characters, but they seldom daydream about them. So, while we in the West do have types of literature that cater to the female heart, we really do not have anything like shojo, especially in the animation area, where feminine interests are severely under represented.

So, keep it coming, folks! The more shojo, the better!

Future Dreams Bookstore

Phone (503) 231-8311

Email: fdb@hevanet.com

1800 East Burnside

Portland, OR 97214-1599

Hours M-F 10am-8pm Weekends 11am-8pm

PorSFis Members receive 10% off all purchases

Robert Sacks (1951-2000)

(Reposted from an e-mail sent to the International Costumer's Guild Members' mailing list, that was then sent to me.)

I hate these kind of messages:

I was just contacted by Stephen Sacks (see message below) concerning the death of his brother Robert Sacks.

Robert had high blood pressure, and was found in his bathtub Friday morning, August 18, 2000, preliminary prognosis indicates an Aortic Dissection to be the cause of death. Per his parents request he will be cremated and there will be a memorial service in the New Jersey area, date unknown as of this point.

Robert was to have been Fan Guest of Honor at Balticon 35, Memorial Day, 2001, his presence will be missed. One of the events that we were going to celebrate was to be his 50th birthday party.

Condolences via e-mail can be conveyed thru me or to his brother Stephen at stephen.sacks@ey.com. I will see that any sent to me will be delivered to the family.

His parents are not web connected, and can be reached via snail-mail at the following address:

David & Dorothy Sacks
8 Seneca Court Royal
Palm Beach, FL 33411

Details will be posted here and elsewhere. His family has requested that this information be posted wherever Robert might have been active and welcome contacts from any of these groups.

Thank you.

Hal Haag

Chair, Balticon 35

ABOUT THE COVERS

While wandering about the web, Carl Mork came across the site for this artist. To Carl's (and our) delight, he had posted permission to use his art as long as the copyright mark was kept and proper recognition given. Since it was in a style that suited the Pulsar, Carl decided to put together some covers.

So, without further ado: © Mats Öhrman 1999

http://sf.www.lysator.liu.se/sf_archive/

This Space For Hire.

Got a rant? A rave? A review? An opinion? What's your favorite website? What's your favorite color? Come, join in the fun, submit to the newsletter. I dare you ☺

Do You Have a Shameless Plug? Get it in the newsletter ☺

I Do! I Do! <begin shameless plug>

I've been noticing that the fan community here in Portland seems a bit...well, fragmented--no one knowing what all is going on, no place new people can go to find new groups and people with common (or not-so-common) interests--so I decided to try something.

So, I started an e-mail list at egroups.com. It's called porsfis@egroups.com and it's meant is to be a place where the SF fans of Portland can come together and share information. For example, PorSFis maintains a calendar of events (a hard copy of which appears in this newsletter), and the list helps gather and share that information. Groups can post meeting dates, people can find new groups/friends/trivial pursuit answers, or just chat.

Please feel free to share this with your friends! Advertise! Join!

John Bartley is GEEKING FOR DOLLARS

He is offering to perform computer consulting and related services—and to donate the proceeds (when referred by a PorSFis member) to PorSFis. TFN, of course. (Til Further Notice) Phone is 888-424-8136, or email johnbartley@email.com

PO Box 4602
Portland, OR 97208

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 the 3rd Saturday of every month.** Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO Box above, or to the editor direct at porsfis@email.com or debstans@canada.com

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

Current PorSFIS Officers:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--|
| President | Debra Stansbury | (503) 620-3068 |
| Vice Pres. | John Bartley | (503) bar-tley |
| Treasurer | John Andrews | (503) 771-2894 |
| Secretary | Sam Butler | (503) 289-2670 |
| Webster | Lea Rush | learush@email.com |

PORSFIS INFORMATION TELEPHONE: Out of service right now

PORSFIS WEBPAGE: <http://porsfis.cjb.net>

Richard & Nicki Lynch Trade
PO Box 3120
Gaithersburg, MD 20885

120 | 11111111111111111111 | 11111111111111111111