

PULSAR

MAY



#91

40¢

PORSFIS Timeline
May 1986

- May 3 PORSFIS Meeting at 2 PM at the BPA Auditorium
 Programming: "...and how did you get into this?" Moderated
 discussion on our personal beginnings in science fiction and
 fandom.
- PARTY: "Holy Cow I'm Free Party!" at Jim and Linda Pilcher's.
 3722 NE 67th, 284-9115.
- May 4 ORYCON General Meeting at 4:30PM at John Lorentz's house.
 6323 NE Mallory.
- May 5 Editor's birthday.
- May 16-18 Miscon I, Missoula, MT.
- May 17 PORSFIS Meeting at 2PM at the BPA Auditorium.
 Programming: SF Limerick Contest.
- Houswarming Party at Keith Lofstrom's. 13795 SW Electric, #31,
 646-6296.
- May 23-25 V-CON 14/Convention 6, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
 BayCon '86, San Jose, CA.
- May 31 PORSFIS Meeting at 2PM at the BPA Auditorium.
 Programming: Make-up & Wig Workshop. Bring wigs, masks
 hats, feathers, and jewelery! Bring make-up, false noses,
 rubber ears, and adhesive horns! Bring cameras and mirrors!
- June 7 Alternate Reality Days #3, University of Victoria.
- Party at Sue O'Neill's (no details yet)
- June 21 SOLSTICE Party at Ariel's.
- Credits:
Editor: Pat Gulley
Articles: Debbie Cross & Paul Wrigley, assorted mail-ins.
Art Cover: Karen Kelleher
Cover Print: Marilyn Hagen
Timeline: David Levine
Minutes: Joyce Zimmerschied
Stories: John Gould and Buera Sarc

The editor wishes to apologize for all the different type in this issue, owing to a typewriter that has now joined the great abuse machinery in the sky, she had to take her typing where she could scrounge it.

MINUTES OF THE PORSFIS MEETINGS IN APRIL.

PORSFIS convened at 2:10 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 1986 at the BPA building. New officers for this year are David Levine, president; YaLeah, vice-president; Kate Yule, treasurer and Joyce Zimmerschied, secretary. About 30 people attended.

Various announcements were made. A Tacoma group, It Was a Challenge, is looking for poems, stories, art and comments (pro and con) about the shuttle Challenger. The PORSFIS library is to be moved, at some unspecified date, from Paul and Debbie's to David and Kate's. New bookshelves or money for same is being sought. Kate and YaLeah were going to scout out sites for the PORSFIS picnic and report back at the next meeting.

In further news, Pia Zadora has purchased part of the Portland Beavers baseball team and Dr. Demento returned to Portland radio on KAAR (1480) from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight on Saturdays. CON IV will be August 8-10 at the Nyberg Inn in Tualatin with R.A. McAvoy as guest of honor. Memberships are \$15 and those interested should contact YaLeah.

The meeting took a break at 2:37 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. with the Dictionary Game, in which officers read and spelled out odd words and members came up with creative and/or correct definitions. The meeting adjourned about 3:40 p.m.

The PORSFIS meeting convened at 2:05 p.m., Saturday, Apr. 19, still at the BPA building. About 40 people attended. YaLeah announced the date and site of the picnic as Aug. 23 at the Hoyt Arboretum and added that

it is directly on the #63 Tri-Met bus line. Requests were made for speaker ideas and David Levine, the president, stated that this was our annual general meeting and that he is keeping the timeline this year.

Gummi Transformers are now available in candy stores and Bob Flath is seeking a new home for an older, neutered cat. The Multnomah County Library is holding a speaker series at noon on Wednesdays, Meet the Innovators: The Challenge of Technology. Pam Davis sent a card thanking people for the long-distance shower and reannouncing the birth of Alexander Franklin Davis-Floyd.

Mell Beach announced the formation of Electronic Dreams, an electronic music interest group. Parties were announced for a number of upcoming times and reasons through July (see Timeline for further details).

The business part of the meeting involved deciding whether to stay in the BPA building or return to the library for the foreseeable future. On the pro-BPA side, Jim Pilcher said this site has plenty of free parking and John Lorentz added that we have virtually no competition for the meeting space. Paul Wrigley and Michael Pearce pointed out that it is close to a good bar with few other customers.

On the pro-library side, Anthony Pryor said the library is a better, more centrally-located spot and we could lose the BPA at any time as it's on a month-to-month sign-up. A member of the Dr. Who group said many of them were no longer coming to PorSFIS meetings because they still meet in the library and it's too hard to make trips between the two places. David Levine and Kate Yule argued for the library on the basis of aesthetic grounds, physical comfort and convenience.

After the Sue Petrey Auction and a break at 3:14 p.m., the meeting reconvened and a vote of the members was taken. The vote was BPA 19-library 11, so PorSFIS remains at the BPA for now. Since the business meeting ran extra-long, programming was cancelled and the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.



**Meet the Innovators:
The Challenge Of Technology**

Exchange Ideas and questions through a telephone hook-up with creative thinkers who are at the forefront of technology.

Lunch-Time Lecture Series
Wednesdays--12:10 to 1:00 PM
Central Library Auditorium
801 SW 10th Avenue
Multnomah County Library



APRIL 16

The Impact of Computers on Society with Dr. Michael Arbib, University of Massachusetts, Author of Computers and the Cybernetic Society and In Search of the Person: Philosophical Explorations in Cognitive Science. Local facilitator: Dr. Michael Phillips, Professor of Philosophy, PSU

APRIL 23

Out of the Cradle: Social Implications of Space Travel and Colonization with Dr. Glen Wilson, Executive Director of the National Space Society. Local facilitator: Dr. Jan Dabrowski, Director of OMSI's Planetarium.

APRIL 30

Innovation in Human Needs with Dr. Dennis Goulet, O'Neill Chair at the University of Notre Dame, and the author of The Cruel Choice: A New Concept in the Theory of Development. Local facilitator: Dr. Michael Seidler, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Portland.

MAY 7

Industrial Policy with John Donahue, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and co-author with Robert Reich of New Deals: The Chrysler Revival and the American System. Local facilitator: Dr. Richard Brinkman, Professor of Economics at PSU.

MAY 14

Artificial Intelligence with Pamela McCorduck, author of The Universal Machine and co-author with Edward Feigenbaum of The Fifth Generation: Artificial Intelligence and Japan's Computer Challenge to the World. Local facilitator: Dr. Michael Phillips, Professor of Philosophy - PSU.

MAY 21

Future Trends in America's Health Care with Dr. Arnold S. Reisman, editor of The New England Journal of Medicine. Local facilitator: Dr. Michael Garland, Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Medical Ethics - O.H.S.U.

This series was funded by a grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities. All lunch-time lecture series will be 12:10 - 1:00 at the Central Library Auditorium, 801 SW 10th.

A TALE OF TWO CONS: NorwesCon and Minicon; a study in Contrast.

It was the best of cons, it was the worst of cons.... Well, not really. However, our trek to two conventions, in two distant cities, on two consecutive weekends did prove to be a study in contrast. March 20-22, we attended NorwesCon at the Sea Tac Red Lion and five days later found ourselves, along with a surprising number of others at Minicon at the Radison South in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Of course, both conventions had their respective problems, starting with hotels that both screwed up reservations. Also, we do carry our biases with us. A Minicon, many years ago, was Debbie's first convention and therefore is the model by which all conventions should be judged. NorwesCon, being located so close to Portland, is the source of some rivalry between Seattle and Portland fandom. Each group being somewhat critical of the other's convention style. So, with no delusions about where our prejudices lie, and keeping in mind that we did enjoy ourselves at both conventions, we would like to tell you more about the differences we noted.

The most obvious difference was size. Both convention were larger than ever before, with Minicon numbering about 1500 attendees while NorwesCon was approximately 2800 strong. At NorwesCon, size alone caused major problems with over-crowding, long lines at registration (made worse by not having name badges and program books available), shortage of hotel rooms and parking, etc. Minicon did not appear to suffer these particular problems, although they did open registration slightly late on Saturday morning.

NorwesCon seemed to be compounding the difficulties caused by such a large membership, by allowing large numbers of obvious gate-crashers and actually encouraging the general public to visit the artshow and dealers rooms. While this may have increased sales for the artists and dealers, it certainly detracted from the enjoyment of paying members. As one of the main justifications for having dealers and artshows, at a convention, has been one of providing a benefit to the members of the convention, it will also be a factor if the IRS ever challenges their non-profit status.

Minicon, on the other hand, tries to limit their membership. No one is turned away from the convention, but publicity is kept to a minimum. They usually advertise only to previous attendees. This may have been a factor in determining the different make-up of convention membership. In general Minicon members were more mature, less media oriented, more literate, and and basically more responsibly behaved. In contrast to NorwesCons over-bearing, militaristic, and ineffective security "force", Minicon did not appear to have or need security. They did have a very effective team of "badgers" who monitored entrance to convention areas. They were particularly good at keeping Hospitality supplies in hospitality.

One area where security was evident at both cons, was the artshow. Having run several artshows, we've never felt it was appropriate or necessary to make people check their valuable belongings at the door. At NowesCon, not only was it necessary to stand in line to hand over your possessions, but then your bags or cameras were left unguarded or "returned" to the wrong person. At least Minicon gave out a number to insure that the possessions got back to their rightful owners.

There was no comparison of the artshow contents themselves. As usual, NorwesCon was exceptionally professional and well represented by artists from around the country. Prices reflected this. Most artwork was out of range of the average fan. Nonetheless, if you survived the unforgivably late openings, rude and inefficient security, incredibly crowded

conditions, the show was well worth viewing. Minicon's show consisted primarily of embarrassingly amateur art. An enormous portion of the show was taken up by two "artist's" 3-d depictions of Smurfs being mutilated in various ways. These pieces ranged from Smurfs with blood spurting from gaping wounds caused by swords to Smurfs smashed between two slices of bread. Of course, there were some exceptions, such as the art of Dell Harris.

Neither of us attended much programming. Although NorwesCon had many many tracks of programming, most of them had nothing new or interesting to offer. One of the best items, the Spider Robinson interview, was stuffed into a room far too small. Minicon offered mostly two-tracked programming. Even this was sparsely attended. Apparently its members preferred to hang around the pool or in the bar. The fannish programming, however, was well attended and refreshing. This varied from a silly play for voices to the Fred Haskel Show (He played guitar, passed around a portfolio of his photography, and chatted with the audience.) The favorite event we did not attend, was The Panel For Everybody Who Turned Up At The Last Minute And Wanted To Be On A Panel. Both cons offered the now requisite Pat, Feminism, and Fandom panel.

Which convention did we prefer for the pros? The answer should seem obvious. NorwesCon had what seemed like millions of pros, where Minicon had only a handful of recognizable names. Many of their GOHs and Honored Guests were local fans. However we preferred Minicon. What good is having pros if you never see them? At NorwesCon big names appeared for their scheduled programs and were never seen again except maybe Sunday afternoon in the bar. Apparently they cloistered themselves in editor's parties, SFWA gatherings and the "Writers of the Future" reception. One might have seen pros after the Banquet at the GOH speeches but attendance was restricted to those who had purchased a banquet ticket and selected others. The reasoning behind limiting the attendance was supposedly the small size of the room, but space twice the size could easily have been made available with just a little planning and forethought. Restricting attendance at the GOH speeches goes against the fannish grain and makes the flyers advertising the GOHs (and thus implying that one might hear their main speeches) blatant false advertising.

At Minicon the pros were few, but visible. Ironically, we had to travel to Minneapolis to see Damon Knight and Kate Wilhelm from Eugene. Diane Duane, Toastmaster, took her job extremely seriously. Friday night she was seen wandering through the hospitality area randomly approaching fans and asking if they were having fun.

Which brings up the subject of hospitality. We, of course, believe this to be the most important part of a con. It should provide a comfortable gathering place for fans and pros alike, a place to go when you want to run into your friends, and a place to get a cold drink. Both cons seemed to provide adequate drinkables and eatables. The similarity ends there. Although not the fault of the committee, the Red Lion's space was fragmented and smelled of the new construction. Alcoholic beverages were served only in a smoking area, so it was necessary to take a deep breath and plunge into the clouds for the reward of a Rheinland beer. Very rarely did the people we wanted to see hang out in hospitality. At Minicon, hospitality consisted of the entire 22nd floor. Half of which was previously a commercial bar area of 5 openly connected rooms. This was the non-smoking area. The other half of the floor was given over to smoking. Beer on tap, soft drinks, and the infamous Blog was available in both areas. Minicon, did however, offer the most disgusting thing ever seen in a consuite. An entire bathtub filled, not with cans and bottles, but with

Hostess Twinkles!

In general, Minicon was a party con. All the Worldcon bids were well represented. Each had its good points. St. Louis provided Rock 'N Roll beer, Cincinnati had a good bar and friendly folks, The Bermuda Triangle had pastel M&Ms and are pushing a bid decadent enough to get some attention, and New Orleans gets points for serving Mimosas Saturday afternoon. We always say why wait to the evening to start the parties. We hope, dear readers, that you appreciate the considerable sacrifice we made to bring you this bidding party update.

We can't fairly review the parties at NorwesCon, as we spent most of Friday at the Portland Westercon bid party and all of Saturday night giving the OryCon party in our room. Of course we thought that was a grand event. The highlight was having one of Portland's own security people accuse us of serving Friendly Fruit to minors.

NorwesCon got the best marks on Dealers Room. Theirs was filled with a good variety of dealers and merchandise. Getting around in it, however, was a bit like swimming upstream to spawn. Minicon had very few bookdealers and most of the other merchandise tended to be amateur jewelry, knick-knacks, food etc.

One of the highlights of Minicon, was registration. First you were handed a button type badge, of which there were many different designs. These were colorcoded to indicate legal drinking age. The real surprise came when instead of a standard program book, the new member was given what appeared to be a bad Sci-Fi game. It was a bright color box depicting monsters and sporting the title MUTANT. Inside was a more standard program book and a miniature game piece designed by the Artist GoH, Ken Fletcher. NorwesCon distributed (when they finally arrived) its usual slick book with pages of black and white reproductions of color artwork. The most interesting thing about the book is that it lacks the Convention name and other info on the cover. Apparently it was put together too late to include this vital information.

Actually, we had a lot of fun at both conventions. We griped a lot at NorwesCon, but sometimes that's part of the fun. There were too many screw-ups, but most of them did not affect us directly. Overall, it was too large, the committee was uptight and much too small. NorwesCon catered to pros who were not readily available to the fans. Its size meant that it was no longer a place where fans could meet all kinds of other fans, but rather smaller factions of fans gathered and isolated themselves. We had fun because we spent most of the time with people we already knew.

In contrast, Minicon managed to have a well organized committee and still maintained the fannish and fun aspects of a convention. We knew a few people before we arrived, but met many more new fans during the weekend. Minicon was conducive to relaxing, socializing, and generally having a good time. This extended even to the committee. We discovered later that they continued to have some sort of a party every night for the entire week following the con. So what did we learn? There's always a trade off. Minicon suffered from poor quality in the artshow and dealers room, and poor professional attendance but gained with its ambience of fun and relaxation. For our money, we'll take fun and relaxation any day.

Debbie Cross
Paul Wrigley

NEW CLUB !!! by Mel Beach

ELECTRONIC MUSIC APPRECIATION CLUB NOW FORMING---ATTENTION ALL
"TANGERINE DREAM-ERS"!

...and other fans of electronic music artists such as Edgar Froese, Jean-Michel Jarre, Vangelis, Kitaro, etc. Announcing the formation of a group for those who like synthesized music. At this writing this idea is still in it's beginning stages. This is your chance to get in on the "ground floor" where your influence can count for a lot as to what this project can eventually become. Your presence, thoughts and suggestions are needed. Suggestions for the group so far:

- meet for discussions and to trade records, tapes, information and opinions on electronic music artists and their albums.
- have our own radio show: target public radio stations for airtime.
- whenever possible, begin classes in synthesizer theory, composition, and performance.
- keep track of upcoming concerts (there is a strong rumor that Tangerine Dream will be touring America soon, most possibly on the West Coast.)
- Network with electronic music fan clubs around the US and Europe.

After the May 3 PORSFIS meeting, interested parties can gather together at the usual after-PORSFIS eating and drinking place. This informal meeting will be to help plan the agenda for the FIRST GENERAL MEETING of "Electronic Dreams" to be held at:

6:30PM May 17, 1986 Saturday

Riverway Inn Restaurant

1001 SW 10th (corner of Salmon downtown Portland)

Watch this space for results and more details in the next issue of PULSAR. For more info, write Electronic Dreams, P.O. Box 42385, Portland, OR 97242.

REMEMBER: NO MEMBERSHIP FEE!!!!

FANZINES

As you may or may not know, PORSFIS exchanges and receives quite a few fanzines each month and they are available for you to read. Simply show up for the bi-monthly meetings of your favorite fan club**PORSFIS**and they'll be there for your enjoyment.

Of particular interest to me(MAY ED.) was Scavenger's Newsletter. I am always interested in any publication that helps support and tries to help get published new and aspiring writers. Besides other articles, this one provides lists of publishers and small presses looking for all sorts of written pieces and art work in SF/Fantasy/Horror and what they pay. Sample 60¢, \$3.50/6 mo \$7/yr. Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523.

Here are a few other items of interest to the would be and published writer:

"IT WAS A CHALLENGE" publication: We are putting together an amateur publication in memory of our seven heroes. We are asking you for short stories, poems, artwork(7"x10" on an 3½"x11") or a statement or comment about the Challenger or the space program. They can be science fiction or non-fiction and the statements and comments can be pro or con. The net proceeds will be donated to the "PENNIES FOR SPACE-REBUILD THE SPIRIT" fund through the Rainier Bank in Washington state. Please send your literary and artistic donations to: "IT WAS A CHALLENGE", 1412 North Adams, #3, Tacoma, WA 98406. For more info send a SASE and please tell all your friends.

WILLAMETTE WRITERS WRITING CONTEST

WW is having their annual writing contest with cash prizes in 5 categories: Fiction(1500 word max), Non-fiction(same max), Juvenile(Pre-adolescence same max) Structured Poetry(32 lines), Unstructured Poetry(same).

If you are interested contact: Rachel Summer
5723 SE Bush St.
Portland, OR 97206
(503) 775-3267

Washington and Oregon residents only.

From Esquire Magazine. (At least that is where your editor saw the first ad) SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS (Your editor will vouch for the fact that they are one of the best tour operators on this planet) is now accepting reservations for Project Space Voyage, the first space flights available to the general public. Departures begin October 12, 1992. You'll orbit the earth up to 8 times in 12 hours. And experience the reality of space travel with expert scientists and lecturers. Entire cost: \$52,200. Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

To The Editor of The Pulsar:

Enclosed is an article for publication.

ALIEN MENACE: FRIEND OR FIEND?

By Buera Sarc

People of Earth, be warned. Recent evidence reveals that an alien force has existed amongst us, possibly for generations, and has infiltrated many aspects of our daily lives. At this time, it is impossible to determine what threat may be posed by these elusive invaders, whose outward appearance is strikingly similar to our own. Only now is the truth being discovered.

This shocking revelation alludes to natives of the planet Kevin, a small world located just far enough from Earth to enable it to hide effectively.

Humans have accepted the existence of the Kevins for many years, probably never suspecting their extra-terrestrial origins. Subconscious recognition, however has led to outward projections indicative of their true nature. Besides being frequently observed in everyday occurrences, examples of the non-human-ness of the Kevins is prevalent in the media. Three examples are noted here:

1. In a recently televised Monty Python episode, two alien creatures jump over a hedgerow. Their names are stated as Maurice and Kevin.

2. A Far Side cartoon shows two people, obviously awakened in the middle of the night, peering down stairs at an alien creature eating a sandwich in the living room. The caption is "Don't worry, it's just Kevin." (This cartoon may be found in the book, In Search of the Far Side).

3. A recently televised program about medieval castles told its story through a fictitious knight called "Kevin the Strange".

This last example may perhaps be construed as evidence that the "Kevin Menace" is a longer-standing problem than at first believed.

Consider the Kevins of your own acquaintance. Are they quite "down to earth"? Do strange things just seem to happen when they are around? Do they have unusual habits? Do they consume mass quantities of parsley?

As yet, there is no indication of malevolence or violent tendencies on the part of the Kevins. It is entirely possible that they are nothing more than annoying nuisances. Vigilante action is, at this time, discouraged.

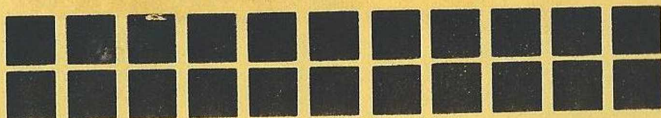
The Kevins should be given the chance to live among us in peace. There may be much to learn from the Kevins - - and then again, there may not be. In any case, we should be tolerant of the Kevins and allow them the opportunity to act like we civilized humans. Then if they screw up we can shoot 'em.

I'd like starting this article by explaining my definition of what a Martian is. We know by our technology Mars has no intelligent life forms regardless of what we hoped. The votes are not in yet for non-intelligent life forms. Therefore I say a true meaning for "Martian" does not exist, and the word "Martian" can mean anything I choose. I define "Martian" as a person who finds humans confusing, vile, and cruel. They wish to break away from them hoping to find other Martians instead.

Martians tend to be too thin or too heavy or too tall or too short. A martian may have one or more strange maladies just a bit off from the norm. For example, while common for humans to have an over-bite, I have an under-bite. That means I can move my jaw forward farther than humanly possible. Our Martian maladies are, of course, caused by incredibly large amount of nitrogen in Earth's atmosphere.

A Martian keeps a shovel just in case the space program needs people to dig ditches on the moon or even Mars.

Martians are very conscience of other people. I for one will not go to a certain burger place because of the cruel treatment they have given Herb. (Get your finger out of my food!) The fact that Herb has sold out does not sit well with me. A Martian would watch "E.T." and walk away reminising of his/her true childhood memories. Some years ago I was watching the new "Invasion of the Body Snatchers". When it got to the part where Leonard Nimoy explained they were entering a new world without Pain, sorrow, hunger, war, etc., what can I say? It sounded good to me I started rooting for the pods. I talked about it to some of my Martian friends and they felt that was too weird even for a Martian. Well, to each his own.



PULSAR is the monthly newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis). Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the original authors, who retain all rights to the material. Articles without a byline are usually by the editor. PULSAR has a rotating editorship, open to all PorSFis members. This month's editor is Pat Gulley

Issues of PULSAR are available free with PorSFis membership, by trade with other newsletters, or for 40¢ per copy at the Portland area bookstores. Contributions, (reviews, artwork, etc.) are always welcome and may be sent to the PorSFis address.

PorSFis meets on alternate Saturdays in the Bonneville Power Administration Auditorium. Check the Timeline in this issue for the dates and times of these meetings and other events.

1986/1987 PORSFIS OFFICERS

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