

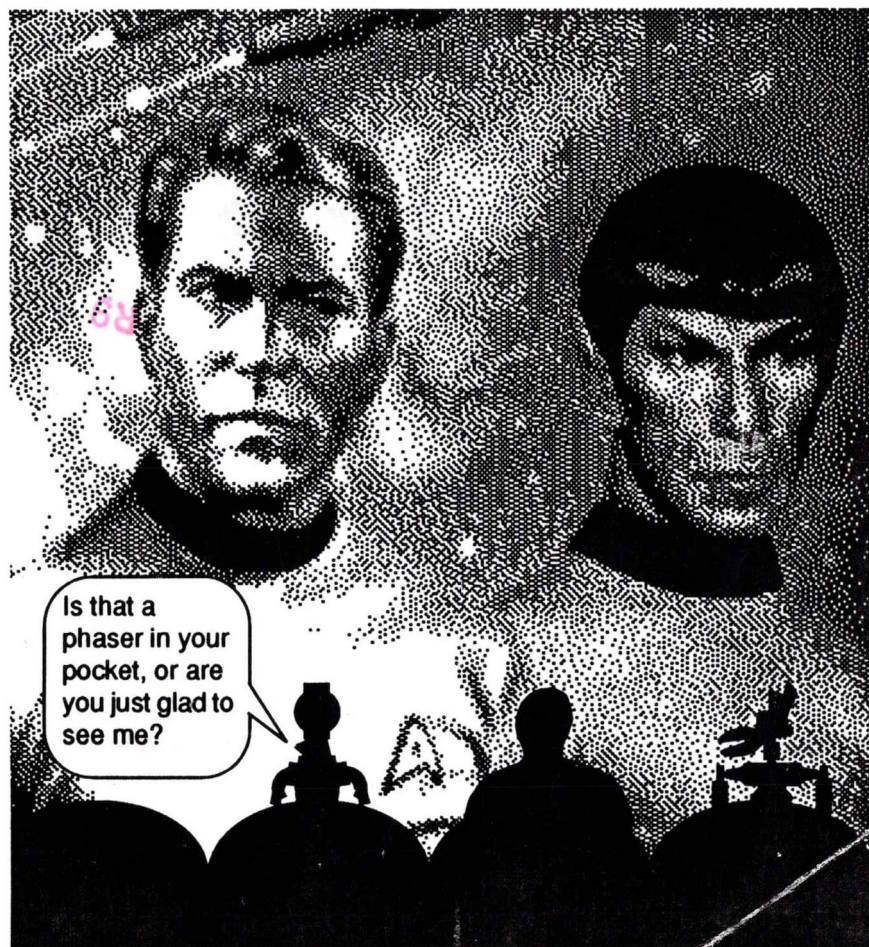
# Pulsar

The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society

Number 165

September 1992

Thirty Cents



## PorSFis Timeline

Compiled by your nouveau middle-aged, pretty much exhausted because it's been a rough week, but still efficient (because of Page), brilliant and lovely PorSFis Officers.

Held at the NW Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, PorSFis meetings are at 2 PM, unless otherwise noted. Afters are back at the Ram's Head at NW 23rd and Hoyt. The listed restaurant is where some folks gather for dinner, usually around 5:00 to 5:30. Non-members are always welcome.

### Saturday, September 12

**PorSFis Meeting 2PM** at the NWSC. **Programming:** "I am a gourmet. You overeat. He'll eat anything that doesn't eat him first or can't get away."—Improve your insult and writing skills with the Irregular Verb Exercise stolen from a recent (sort of) *Writer's Digest*. **Restaurant:** Ron Paul East, 1441 NE Broadway, 284-5347. (American)

### Sunday, September 13

If we read his survey correctly, today is **Stuart's birthday**. Congratulations!

### Sunday, September 27

**OryCon Meeting 5PM** at Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001A SE Powell.

### Saturday, September 26

**PorSFis Meeting 2PM** at the NWSC. **Programming:** "Real Swords Don't Do That..."—Local science fiction author Tara Harper, (*Wolfwalker* and *Shadow Leader*) talks about realism in writing. **Restaurant:** Chez Jose, 2200 NE Broadway, 280-9888 (Mexican)

### Saturday, October 3

**The PorSFis Bicentennial Party Part Three.** Postponed from an earlier date because of extraordinary circumstances. 7:30 PM at Wrigley-Cross Station, 5429 SE Bush. 774-7592.

**Imagine your birthday (age optional) listed in the Timeline!!!** contact your exciting PorSFis officers to make sure your friends have no excuse for not remembering!

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## PorSFis Minutes

by Sam Butler

There were no scheduled meetings on Saturday August 1 (the PorSFis picnic) or on August 15 (day 2 of Con 7) so there will be no minutes to place in the *Pulsar* this month. However the following thoughts and comments are hereby submitted to the *Pulsar* Editor.

As reported in the August 2, 1992 *Oregonian*: "The House rejected an amendment to the VA-HUD appropriations bill that would have eliminated funding for the space station Freedom. The vote was 181- 237. OREGON: AuCoin (D)-Y, DeFazio (D)-Y, Kopetski (D)-N, Smith (R)-N, Wyden (D)-Y. WASHINGTON: Chandler (R)-N, Foley (D)-N, McDermott (D)-Y, Miller (R)-N, Morrison (R)-N, Swift (D)-N, Unsoeld (D)-Y." I believe a no vote was a supporting vote for continued funding of the space station, and that a yes vote was for cutting the funding. If you disagree with your representative's vote let them know how you feel.

An overheard comment at Con 7 "at least the overflow from hospitality is outside, and not down some hallway".

Overall I enjoyed the picnic even if I didn't get to it quite on time. I also enjoyed Con especially since the weather had calmed down a little bit and was almost reasonably temperate. I have many proprietary feelings about Con, but feel that this one was well managed and run. From what little programming that I attended this was also good. Things seemed friendly, and although I can't ever stay up late anymore things didn't seem to have died by the time that I left, all in all a good job.

## Announcements

by our members

**Marilyn Mork** has a box of early 1960's *Analogs* and misc. which she says she would hate to throw away, but it's in her way. Call her at 281-8606 if you're interested.

**Alan Olsen** is the November *Pulsar* editor (no, not next month, the month after that), and he asks that you get your contributions to him as *EARLY* as possible—preferably before October 1. (You'll understand why after it comes out, he says.) Contributions on PC disk in ASCII or MS-Word format would be preferred.

# Convention Calendar

by John Lorentz

**Magicon (Worldcon<sup>SM</sup> 50)**, Sep 3-7 at Orange County Convention Center, Peabody & Clarion Hotels, Orlando FL. \$135 at the door. \$25 Supporting. (They do take plastic.) GOH: Jack Vance. AGOH: Vincent Di Fate. FGOH: Walter A. Willis. TM: Spider Robinson. This year's worldcon. Hugos, monstrous dealers room, and Disney World! Still some hotel rooms. (Call 800-258-7666.) Magicon, Box 621992, Orlando FL 32862. (407) 859-8421.

**MosCon XIV**, Sep 11-13 at University Inn Best Western, Moscow ID. \$22 at the door. GOHs: M J Eng & Vicky Mitchell. FGOH: Mr. Science. AGOH: Armand Cabrera. MosCon XIV, PO Box 8521, Moscow ID, 83843.

**Armadillocon 14**, Oct 9-11, 1992 at Wyndham Austin at Southpark Hotel, Austin TX. \$25 until 9/30/92, more at the door. GOH: Neal Barrett, Jr. FGOH: Al Jackson. AGOH: Darrell K. Sweet. EGOH: Gardner Dozois. TM: Kim Stanley Robinson. Hotel: \$55 single/double, \$65 triple/quad. Armadillocon 14, PO Box 9612, Austin TX, 78766. (512) 453-2199.

**Dreamcon 7**, Nov 6-8 at Quality Inn, Everett WA. GOH: David Brin. Dreamcon 7, c/o 10121 Evergreen Way #103, Everett WA 98204. (206) 283-8090.

**OryCon 14**, Nov 20-22 at Red Lion Columbia River in Portland. \$20 until 10/31, \$25 at the door. GOH: Esther Friesner. AGOH: James Warhola. FGOH: Steve Forty. Special Guest: Peter S. Beagle (sponsored by Friends of Filk). Rooms are \$61 for single-to-quad. No weapons. Dealers room is sold out. OryCon, Box 5703, Portland, Oregon 97228 (503) 283-0802. CIS 74007,3342. GENIE J.LORENTZ.

**Loscon 19**, Nov 27-29, 1992 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott. \$30 until 11/1, \$35 at the door. GOH: Barbara Hambly. FGOH: Mike Glycer. EGOH: David Hartwell. Rooms \$73 single/double. Info: LASFS, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood, California 91601. (213) 772-1511.

**Silicon '92**, Nov 27-29, 1992 at the Santa Clara Westin Hotel. GOH: Robert Jordan. FGOH: Michelle Sagawa. AGOH: Richard Hescocox. TM: James P. Blaylock. Silicon '92, PO Box 8029, San Jose California 95155-8612. (408) 977-0562.

**Smofcon 9**, Dec 11-13 at Doubletree Hotel, New Orleans LA. \$40 until 11/16, more at the door. Hotel rooms \$69 single/double, \$74 triple/quad. The annual gathering of con-runners and SMOFs. Info & checks to: Bill Jensen, 8331 Donoghue Street, New Carrollton, MD 20784.

**Westercon 46**, July 2–5, 1993 at Red Lion Inn/Bellevue (and neighboring hotels), Bellevue WA. (The same site as the 1993 Norwescon.) \$40 until 12/31/92, more later. Supporting \$20. GOH: Greg Bear. AGOH: George Barr. FGOHs: FM & Elinor Busby, Wally Weber (The Nameless). TM: George Alec Effinger. Westercon 46, PO Box 29422, Seattle, WA 98123. (206) 742-8943.

**Conozoic (Westercon 47)**, July 1–4, 1994 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton & Towers. \$35 until 9/15, more later. GOH: George R. R. Martin. FGOH: William Rotsler. The 1994 Westercon, brought to you the same people who produced the 1989 Westercon and the 1984 Worldcon. Westercon 47, c/o SCIFI, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, California 91409.

## Science Fiction/Fantasy Day

by Patty Wells

The Central Library is hosting another Science Fiction/Fantasy Day on Saturday, October 17 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. (As you will note from your calendars, this is *not* a PorSFIS Saturday.) As they have done in the past, the event will feature programs and speakers on science fiction and fantasy, as well as tables staffed by related groups.

PorSFIS has agreed to staff a table for this event. The officers will put materials together (any suggestions on appropriate materials for display are appreciated). We need volunteers to help staff the table in two-hour blocks. If you would be interested in attending this interesting event, please let one of your charming officers know. We welcome your help.

Details of the program are not yet set. However, they should be available in time for inclusion in the October *Pulsar*. Look there for more details.

Rigorous scientific investigation at the Con 7 Dead Dog showed that yes, a kid *will* eat the middle of an Oreo first—provided she can get the chocolate cookie outside to cooperate. Uncoached, Zoe went straight for the frosting. Elizabeth clearly had the same goal, but someone must have screwed the cookie on too tight: she just couldn't get the lid off.

## Movie Reviews

by John Andrews

### ***Mom & Dad Save the World***

This is a very light-weight movie. This is a send-up of SF movies, but, unlike *Spaceballs*, it goes back to the original Flash Gordon type of movies. Also, it is not all that funny. While it has some humor, it's not the type that keeps you laughing through the movie. Unfortunately, many people are not familiar with Flash Gordon, especially kids, which this movie seems aimed at. The story is much like the standard Flash Gordon story. An usurper has taken over a small planet, inhabited by idiots. For no particular reason, he is going to destroy the Earth. (Ming never had a real reason either, as you may recall.) However, while looking at Earth, he falls for a married Earth Woman. Postponing the destruction of Earth, he brings the woman and her husband to his planet. While she is being prepared for a wedding, the husband joins the son and daughter of the former king of the planet. This movie had some problems in getting released. (I saw a pretty complete preview of it at Norwescon in '91.) It is not being promoted very much by its studio. As a matter of fact, it lasted two weeks in the major Portland theaters. Mildly amusing to those familiar with the originals, it's worth seeing only at a discount or at a con or on cable. Overall rating: 4.

### ***Batman Returns***

[Note: This review contains spoilers for *Batman Returns*. — ed.]

This movie suffers from the fact that the first was rather outstanding. (My rating: 8) Like most sequels, this is somewhat disappointing. Not that it is a bad movie—it's pretty good, but it doesn't equal or exceed its predecessor. It will be successful financially but, at least to fans, not as successful story-wise. The story isn't bad, but it really is several stories, occurring at the same time, that join together at the end. While common in books, this is much more difficult to do effectively in movie length. The story opens thirty or so years in the past with the birth of a severely deformed baby. Unable to accept it, its parents throw it into the sewer in a basket, where it is found by penguins and raised by them. We then move to the present. Max Shreck, an evil businessman (is there any other kind in the movies?) is trying to build what he calls a "Power Station" in Gotham City. He is opposed by the mayor and Bruce Wayne. Meanwhile, the Penguin (as he

now calls himself, though he does discover his real name eventually) engineers a kidnapping/rescue to make himself appear a hero and emerges from the sewers. Selina Kyle is a secretary in Max Shreck's office. She accidentally stumbles on the fact that the "Power Station" is really a power siphon and storage device. When Max discovers this he pushes her out a window, quite high up. She wakes up with a hoard of wild cats around her. So, for revenge, she becomes the Catwoman and attacks one of Max Shreck's businesses. In that she runs afoul of Batman. To remove the obstacles to his plans, Max runs the Penguin for mayor. And the Catwoman and Penguin team up to discredit Batman, making him appear to be a kidnapper and murderer, and, by taking over the Batmobile, sending him on a rampage through the city. There seem to be some real problems with the story. Now, this may not be the fault of the director. It is quite possible that, to keep the movie from running too long, the studio cut out parts that would have made things more clear. But, even so, there seem to be a lot of questions left unexplained. For example: How did all those penguins end up in the sewers? The motivation to discredit Batman seems weak. He may have interfered with Catwoman a bit, but he did little to the Penguin when the Penguin was running for mayor. (As Batman at least. Bruce Wayne was different.) What was the "Power Station" for? It's never explained and creating a power shortage seems too minor a reason. Batman remains discredited at the end of the movie as well. This entire movie is very dark, both figuratively and literally. I can remember only two scenes that take place during the day, and those are pretty dark also. Instead of focusing on Batman's problems, this time it focuses on the villains. This is all right, as long as you have seen the first movie. There are a few light moments. Bruce Wayne romances Selina Kyle. While they are spending a evening together at Wayne Manor, they both scramble to leave so they can become their alter egos. (One nice touch, Bruce Wayne explains why Vicky Vale is no longer around.) And, when they mutually realize who each other is, while dancing, Selina says: "Does that mean we have to fight now?" Batman does seem more grim and violent than last time, but this may have been from the situation, which is entirely different from facing the Joker. The Penguin is just not a down-right evil as the Joker, his plots seem pretty-much ineffectual and not that destructive. And the Catwoman always has been a good/evil character, but well matched to Batman as Batman realizes at the climax of this film. The actors all play their characters well, especially Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman. Danny DeVito is pretty good as the Penguin, really just an expansion of the roles he usually plays. Christopher Walken has played this role before and knows it well. On the whole, while not as good as the

first, this movie is a worthwhile one and well worth seeing. See it on a big screen if possible. More effective that way. (But not for special effects as in SF films.) Overall rating: 7

*Post-review comment:* I have my doubts that there will be any more sequels after this one. While the studio will be willing, a story will be difficult to come up with. **\*\*Spoiler Warning\*\*** If you haven't seen *Batman Returns* and don't want to know part of the ending, skip the rest of this paragraph. While Catwoman is still alive, the Penguin is dead. Of the four prime Batman villains only the Riddler is left, always the weakest of the four villains in my opinion. Of course there's still Robin to consider, but I'm not so sure that would work with the situation the movies have set up. Robin wouldn't really fit. Also, it is likely that the director, who has had a lot of input into the movies, would not be interested in doing another. Finally, Michael Keaton, in a recent *Playboy* interview, said that it would have to be a really good script for him to do another one.

## Not The Minutes 2

an article by Sam Butler

As I said last issue, everybody gets mad, it's just that some of us get mad and don't know how to properly handle it. Anger is something that you need to recognize is a reaction to other events and not a primary emotion.

Time outs are a tool that should be taught to all people. Children are taught about them, but unless they see that parents use them too then they might think that they are only used for punishment. That is not what they are for. Time outs are for the purpose of calming down, or getting away from the situation that is causing problems, it is a time for you to get yourself back into control. Time outs are a time for you to leave the situation, to go for a walk, to take a run. It is not time to jump in the car, not time to do violent exercise. It is time to burn the adrenaline that your body has released in response to a perceived dangerous situation. This adrenaline needs to be burned up, otherwise it will be there waiting to be used, and it probably will be used in an inappropriate and uncontrolled manner.

Control is a loaded word, just like anger. The only person that you can control is yourself. You can't control your mate, your children, your boss, the person in the car behind you, or anyone else. You can only control yourself, and when you don't, when you are out of control, then you have given someone else control over you. "They make me so mad..." is a statement that shows that you have given this control to someone else. When



you give this power to someone else you may think that you've given up your responsibility, but you are wrong. No one can make you mad, only you can make you mad.

Our instructor tells us about an incident in which he comes to a stop light and the light is red. Just as he is sitting there and the light changes he hears a horn behind him. Thinking to himself, "well I'll show this impatient jerk, I'll just take my time to go through the light" he goes as slow as he can go. Looking up after a few moments he discovers that there is no one behind him. No one was there to make him mad. He made himself mad.

The responsibility for your inability to control yourself rests on your own shoulders. You can't pass it on to someone else. The anger that grows begins in your own brain and you are the only one to blame. Situations can cause anger, people can be part of these situations, but your own reactions are to blame. If you realize that doing such an activity, or being around a certain person, causes you problems, then attempt to avoid both.

The problems caused by anger are not worth the effort to ignore them. I hope that this article and the previous one may have helped someone.

## **A Brief Summary of the OCA and its Activities**

by Patty Wells

**WARNING:** this is a shameless editorial. It qualifies as one on the grounds that if you can't figure out my political opinions from this you need a seeing eye dog who can read.

As those of you who know me are aware, I'm always involved with some liberal cause or another. At least a couple of these have brought me into some conflict with the OCA. Well, I'm at it again. This time I'm helping with an auction to raise money for the No on 9 Campaign. I'm sure that many of you are aware of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance and Measure 9. However, some of you may not know as much about these people and the impact of this measure as is prudent.

The information on the OCA is drawn from research conducted by the Lesbian Community Project, with assistance from the Coalition for Human Dignity and the Right to Privacy.

The OCA grew out of Joe Lutz' 1986 GOP senatorial race. In his attempt to beat Packwood he drew 42% of the vote. Lon Mabon, now head of the OCA, was one of Lutz' aides. They were two of the people who founded the OCA in 1987 in Klamath Falls. Lutz ran the OCA until 1988. As those of you who love falls from grace may remember, this far-right Christian left his family for an affair with a married woman. But did you know that he has remarried, asked for forgiveness and is resurfacing in Oregon politics?

Lon Mabon and his entire family now run the OCA out of Wilsonville. As far as I can determine they are still involved in a real family activity. They're trying to argue with the IRS over back taxes.

Meanwhile, the organization has raised over \$1.5 million and used some of it to prove their pro-family values stance by opposing programs like Head Start and parental leave.

More ominously, the OCA organized the successful ballot measure that rescinded the Governor's order banning discrimination against gays and bisexuals in state employment. They were also the organizers behind the 1990 ballot measure which would have outlawed abortion in Oregon. As you know, this one was defeated.

Their current ballot measure, number 9 on the state ballot, would serve to mandate all levels of government to "assist in setting a standard for Oregon's youth that recognizes homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism and masochism as abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse and that these behaviors are to be discouraged and avoided."

The potential consequences of this measure are far-reaching. At the very least, it is an open invitation to censor books in public libraries based on a positive or neutral treatment of homosexuality. At its worst it will lead to open harassment of persons who are gay, or are perceived to be so. Identifying a minority group as "abnormal and perverse" makes them an easy target.

As I mentioned, I am helping the No on 9 Campaign by working on their fundraising auction, to be held on September 10. I suggest that donating time, money, or both to the campaign is worthwhile. Beyond defeating it on grounds of fairness, there is the frightening issue of legislating censorship. Censorship imposed by either end of the political spectrum is a slippery slope for the country and particularly frightening for notoriously free-thinking SF readers.

For more information contact "No on 9" at 232-4501.

## Portrait of the Writer as a Young Fan

by John Raymond Lorentz

In a world as rotten as this one's been recently, it's nice to know that there are a few refuges of true insanity. Television on Saturday brings us three of them.

**Bullwinkle** (Saturday mornings at 10AM on Channel 12—it also runs weeknights at 7:30 on Nickelodeon [the Nick shows should catch up to KPTV by November])—If you haven't watched Bullwinkle for a while, it might be time to tune in again. It is as good as you remember it. Written (like the old Warner Brothers cartoons and *Beany & Cecil*) not for children (or adults), but for its creators, Bullwinkle's humor remains fresh thirty years later. (Admittedly, some of it is dated—Rocky, on seeing a fortune-telling machine deal cards: "Bullwinkle! Look, four aces!". Bullwinkle: "What are they going to sing?"—but part of the fun is trying to catch all the references.) The puns are dreadful, the animation primitive—but it's still a lot of fun.

**Mystery Science Theater 3000** (Saturday evenings at 7PM on Comedy Central—channel 46 on Paragon)—I've mentioned MST3K before, but now they've started a new season, with *fresh* rotten movies. The format is this: Joel Robinson is marooned on the "Satellite of Love", where he and his robot friends are forced to watch rotten SF movies. They pass the time by making (very carefully written) off-the-wall comments about the films. At worst, it's amusing. At best, it's hilarious. I've decided that even Joel and friends can't really improve the dreadful mid-60's "mod"/"hippie" SF films, the Italian ("Hercules and the Moon Men" was on last Saturday) films are OK—but they sparkle with the 50's films and the Japanese monster movies. And at 9PM, it's time to turn the channel to:

**The Ren & Stimpy Show** (Saturday evenings at 9PM on Nickelodeon—channel 37 on Paragon [older shows are on Sunday morning at 11AM])—This is the Bullwinkle of the 90's. It's kids' humor. No, not the mindless Disney stuff that parents think kids like—this is *real* kids' humor, dealing with things like farts and picking noses. Bonkers, off-the-wall, sick—all these adjectives fit. And a new season of 20 (or so) episodes has finally arrived to satisfy those of us who've had to settle for seeing the original six shows over and over. We've seen the adventures of "Powdered Toast Man" (starring Gary Owens as PTM and Frank Zappa as the Pope!); soon to come—"Stimpy's First Fart." Happy happy, joy joy!

Not on television on a regular basis, but certainly deserving of recognition, was Comedy Central's *Indecision '92*, their coverage of the Democratic and Republican conventions. Comedy Central actually covered *more* of the conventions than the major networks, sending their reporters out on the floor to interview key players (OK, so they slipped up occasionally—like telling Calvin Trillium that he was going to interview George Bush, only to discover that it was *George W. Bush*, the President's son [who happily went along with it all]), producing short features (like a ten-minute piece titled "Who is Al Franken") and covering most of the major speeches in the manner of *MST3K*—tossing in (real) ad-libs and displaying vital information (when Bill Bradley was addressing the Democrats, they listed his career stats with the New York Knicks; when Dan Quayle was speaking to the Republicans, they mentioned how important he was—to the talk show gag writers all over the country). Hey, it even got me to watch Bush's and Quayle's speeches last week!

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I want to give my thanks to Alan and Nancy Smith for a very enjoyable Con 7 last weekend. Everything was great (OK, so I would have liked more grass and a friendlier setting for the swimming pool)—the programming was well-organized (setting up tables and chairs in the parking lot outside Hospitality was an inspired idea), the banquet was fun and we even found some books to buy in the Dealers' Room (something we *couldn't* find at either of the last two Westercons!) It was a lot of fun.

## To Think That I Saw It On Sixteenth Street!

Pilgrim

To those of you who do not know, this is Jim Pilcher. Pilgrim is my SCA nickname, and William Jamieson Oakenshield is my full SCA name. I prefer Pilgrim these days.

Historical researchers and a forensic anthropologist are trying to find the bones of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. It seems there is some valid argument as to where and when they actually died. The hope is to find the skulls, and use genetic testing and facial reconstruction techniques to make a positive identification. The first skull found has been shown not to be Cassidy, but it still might be Sundance.

There is a program, begun in 1977, to save the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle. The plan involves picking up turtle hatchlings, raising them in a lab, then releasing them back to the sea. In fifteen years of this program, not one of these tagged turtles from the program has returned to its release point; apparently, there is some mechanism in the homing instinct of the turtle that is disturbed by removing the turtles from their birthplace. The program was to have its funding cut, by recommendation of peer review. The people who run the program, and who started it, want it shut down. Incredibly, southern congressmen insist that it be kept: seems that shrimp fishermen who catch turtles in their nets want to raise turtles to replace the ones they kill, so that they will not be forced to modify the nets to let the turtles escape. Bad science marches on, with federal approval.

Recombinant bovine somatotropin is a hormone that makes cows produce more milk, produced by recombinant DNA methods. The agricultural industry has pushed this project to be the first high profile high tech aggie product. The Office of Technological Assessment would like to know why it is so important to push a drug to make more of a product which is already overproduced, to the point that large numbers of dairy farmers are going out of business.

If anyone is interested, government funding of AIDS research is up 1000% since 1985. The boost is equally split between the Reagan and Bush years.

Research is in progress to trap proteins in porous glass, then use them for biosensors of various types.

One Dr. Patarroyo, Bogota, Colombia, is testing a vaccine for malaria. There are 270 million cases of malaria every year, and after so long a time, a vaccine would be a godsend. Unfortunately, his results are controversial, and there are problems duplicating his experiments with animals. While he claims that the vaccination of 20,000 indians was 70% effective, he has not published important data, and does not use controls or double blind methods in his research. Translation: bad science.

Kate has heard through the square-dance grapevine that *Desert Peach—The Musical* opens early November in Seattle for a one-month run. (Hey, would we make this up?)

## Trust Me?

by Linda Pilcher

Trust me, I trust you. With that as his watchword, George Bush opened a new campaign theme in Jacksonville, Florida right after the Democratic Convention. He trusts parents. He trusts taxpayers. He trusts people who need medical care. He trusts people with money, people without money. He trusts anyone to make intelligent decisions without government interference—anyone except women!

Bush stood in front of a crowd and said that he wants people to make their own decisions concerning personal aspects of their lives. Yet he believes that a woman cannot make a decision concerning a pregnancy without the permission of her physician, parent, spouse, government and the moral imperative of the stagnant, controlling religious right.

He trusts parents to make the decisions concerning child care, but he vetoed the parental leave bill. The administration claims it was because they feel it is best handled through the private sector to avoid an undue burden on business. He trusts Business to make the decisions about the choices available to families, as long as those choices are limited to the ones he wants. These choices that are not necessarily the same choices parents (usually Moms) of new babies or sick children want. They are not the choices that people with ill family members want to have. Do you go to work, or do you stay home and not have work to go back to?

Who was Bush trusting when his administration "improved" the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program by cutting funding and reducing the amount of food for each child pregnant woman or nursing mother? WIC itself said, attempting to defend this ridiculous position, that at-risk children were being better served by receiving less. This leaves great choices for poor women. Maybe cut-backs in the program get rid of a few people that are cheating. I would rather we provide extra food for people who don't need it to ensure that we feed little kids. Cutting back on good programs like WIC leaves some women to make those decisions that George Bush trusts them to make: food or medical care, paying the rent or a check-up for the baby. No woman should have to make those choices. These are the decisions that George Bush trusts the people to make.

You bet I'll trust George Bush—as much as I would any other autocratic pater familias! Just get me a body transplant with a middle-aged rich white guy with insurance who attends church every Sunday and I'll be more than happy to trust George Bush. Until then, if I ever meet Mr. Pres-

ident, I'm gonna count my fingers twice after I shake his hand and trust that he understands that my choice for president isn't him.

And he wonders why he isn't popular with women!

## Con 7 Report

by David D. Levine

Con 7, the Summer Fun Con, was held the weekend of August 14-16 right here in sunny Portland. Although the hotel was in a pretty inhospitable (and inaccessible) spot between the Coliseum and the train tracks, and the con suite was in the parking lot, the committee's energy and fresh ideas turned it into a fannish amusement park. For example, the convention's official dress code of Hawaiian shirts and humorous hats turned the con-goers into hall decorations; a "make-your-own-humorous-hat" panel added quite a few creations to the mix.

The committee's ingenuity overcame many other limitations arising from the convention's small size. For example, there were few "name" guests, but the program made good use of local resources: an exhibit designer from OMSI gave a presentation on their *Federation Science* exhibit, and local folkie Merle Korn performed at the excellent filk concert. PorSFis could take a few leaves from this book. The dealer's room (billed as "The World'O'Stuff") had only seven dealers, but there was little overlap among them, giving a very nice selection. And the video program was an unqualified win for me—I could easily have spent all of Saturday in the video room (watching mostly obscure British TV series I've heard of but never seen). Fun, fun, fun in the sun, sun, sun—that was Con 7 for me!

### PorSFis Discounts

#### Future Dreams

1800 East Burnside and 10508 NE Halsey (10%)

#### Great Northwest Bookstore

1234 SW Stark (10%)

#### Wrigley-Cross Books

8001A SE Powell (Powell Street Station) (10%)

Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFIS)  
P. O. Box 4602  
Portland, OR 97208



*Pulsar*, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society, comes free with membership (\$15.00). It is also available in trade with other fanzines and can be purchased for the amazing low price of 30¢ at Portland-area bookstores.

*Pulsar* has a rotating editorship. This month's editor was David D. Levine; next month's editorship is open. Deadline is generally the 20th of the month. Contributions are *always* welcome and encouraged, and may be sent to the P. O. Box.

Your PorSFIS officers:

President: Patty Wells (232-5692)  
Vice President: Linda Pilcher  
Secretary: Sam Butler  
Treasurer: Page Fuller (254-0552)

For more information call the Timeline at 254-0552.

LASFS

11513 BURBANK BOULEVARD  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
91601



# PorSFIS!

The Portland Science Fiction Society

*"Where Portland Fandom Meets"*

## Programming for August through November

August 29 The Clarion Experience

Mark Bourne, recent graduate of the Clarion West writer's workshop shares stories of the experience.

September 12 The PorSFIS Irregulars (verbs, that is)

I am a gourmet. You over eat. He eats anything which doesn't move fast enough. Improve your writing and insulting skills with the irregular verb exercise.

September 26 "Real swords don't *do* that..."

Local science fiction author Tara Harper, ("Wolfwalker" and "Shadow Leader") talks about realism in writing.

October 10 Crafty Threads

Local artisan Carl Mork talks about weaving tapestries. A modern practitioner this Medieval craft, he will explain the use of textures, colors and fibers in the creation of woven images.

October 24 Quick, Bones, the bipolar sub-cellular knitting needles

Karen Rodland, Ph.D., micro-biologist at OHSU, discusses upcoming medical techniques and their impact on 21<sup>st</sup> century medical care.

November 7 "It all started when..."

Brush up on OryCon with this presentation on Portland Fanish history and our convention roots.

November 21 **OryCon**

Join us at OryCon, Red Lion Columbia River Hotel, Friday November 20 through Sunday November 22. Call 283-0802 for more information.

PorSFIS meetings are open to anyone and held at 2:00pm on alternate Saturdays at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett St. in Portland (unless otherwise noted above). Remaining 1992 meeting dates are:

August 29   September 12   September 26   October 10   October 24   November 7  
November 21 (OryCon)   December 5   December 19

