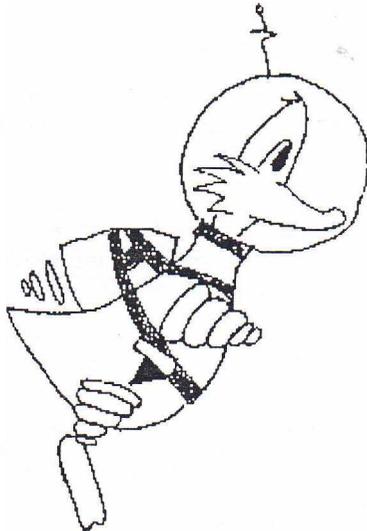


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# ***Pulsar***

The Newsletter for the Portland Science Fiction Society  
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**May 2001**

**Issue 271**

Issues, get your red hot issues!

## TIMELINE

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 (that's the gathering's name, not the restaurant. We tend to go to 10<sup>th</sup> & Market McMinnamins).

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.

**HELP! We need cover Art!**

### May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

A special treat this month—the Science Fiction Museum's Trivia Game! Come and play—show us you're as smart as you say! ☺ There'll be prizes....

It all starts up at 2pm in Room 323, Smith Hall, PSU (that's downtown Portland...just thought I'd mention that. Just in case ☺)

Still no free Parking at PSU anymore. ☹ We have a committee looking at some options, but for now, I can only offer my apologies, and remind people that PSU is located in Fareless Square. I hope that you all come regardless.

### alt.porsfis May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Thanks to Jim Pilcher, who organized our list, and to all the people who volunteered as hosts, we have an actual schedule for who, when and where for the *entire year!*

Callie Hills was in April

**Roger Wells in May** (See below)

Jim and Linda Pilcher in June

Marc and Patty Wells in July

Sue Renhard and Dave Moreland in August

John Bartley and Lea Rush have September

Matt and Kris Picio in October

Sue Renhard and Dave Moreland in November

Mike and Sharon Parker have the fifth Saturday in December

So, you are asking yourself, where is it, when, and what should I bring?

Well, Roger hasn't given us directions yet. Hopefully he will soon. Directions will be on the website, or give me a call closer to alt.porsfis and we'll see what we can do!

## **PRESIDENTS QUOTES:**

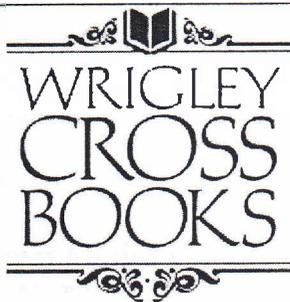
### **First Item: Time to RENEW!!**

Okay, that doesn't apply to everyone, of course. If you can't remember what month you signed up in, check your mailing label ☺ With a few exceptions, the date there should be when your membership expires. Don't forget to renew, you don't want to miss any scintillating issues! Plus, there's going to be a drawing soon! For something real fun, supplied by me! (Probably symphony tix ☺)

Memberships are still just \$20 a year, \$30 for the whole family! What a deal! And remember, Gift Memberships are also available ☺

### **Second Item: Electronic Newsletters**

No one has responded saying that they'd prefer electronic format...so, I guess I table this idea for now. If anyone changes their mind, though, let me know!



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### **Third Item: A Big Thank You**

Thought I'd say thank you to all of you wonderful people who have been hosting alt.porsfis. ☺ It really does make a difference, and I know we all appreciate it, and you ☺

## Fourth Item: Membership Drive

Here's the concept: We want more members.

How do we go about getting some? Well, one way is to have a membership drive.

So—We're going to have a drawing in August at the Annual Picnic. *Everyone who is currently a member in August*, will have at least one chance to win a prize!

At least one? Yup. If a new member lists your name as referring the to us when they join, you get an additional chance to win. Family memberships get two chances. So, if you are a family subscriber and you convince three more people to join, and one of them also becomes a family subscriber, then you have six chances to win ☺

What could you win? We're still cadging about for prizes, but so far, I've arranged for a donation of two Symphony Sunday tickets (next season, of course) from the Oregon Symphony, and Dancer has generously donated an Anime Action Figure (from Tenchi Muyo, I believe).

So, go forth and recruit! All species, races, creeds, colors, and planets of origin are welcome ☺

### SHAMELESS BEGGING

So, you know a lot about collecting, or early SF movies, or pulp novels, or just enjoy sharing your thoughts with others--but you're too shy to come forward and volunteer to be a guest speaker at a PorSFis meeting. What's a body to do?

Become a columnist for the Pulsar!

Yes, that's right, see your name in print, know that your content-starved compatriots will devour your article in far, far less time than it took you to write it, and earn the eternal gratitude of the editor!

How do you sign up, you ask? Why it's simple. Call, write, or e-mail me, Debra Stansbury, editor of the Pulsar, and tell me what kind of a column you'd like to write (and tell me the frequency I can expect it, like once a month, bimonthly, quarterly, semi-annual, etc.). (Writing examples would be appreciated.)

Come on, it's FUN! (It's not like we're asking you to, say, edit the newsletter, or anything) ☺

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The Deadline for the newsletter is the third Saturday of the month (the week after the meeting) Hopefully this will enable me to get the newsletter out in a timely manner ☺

### **Fifth Item: Group Events**

We're looking for more things to do as a group. ☺ Any suggestions are, of course, highly appreciated.

One suggestion is to go as a group to the Oregon Symphony's performance of The Planets and Star Wars (with NASA Film Footage)--conducted by Murry Sidlin, on October 16th, 2001. We already have a few interested people, and if we get enough, we can get a group rate ☺

Please direct all inquiries to me, Debra Stansbury, either at porsfis@email.com, via my phone (number's on the back cover) or send me a letter c/o PorSFIS at the PO Box. Thank you!

### **Corrections from last issue**

In the calendar, I mistakenly put that *Crusade* would be aired in Letterbox...Sorry folks, I was misled by the commercials. Mea culpa.

### **Suggestions Wanted for PorSFIS's Recommended Book List**

We're almost ready to put this up on our Web Site! Please, send in your suggestions! PO Box 4602 Portland, OR 97208 or porsfis@email.com Your opinion is wanted!!

### **And now for THE WANT ADS**

#### **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 503-424-8136, or email johnbartley@email.com

### **Other News on the Good Front—**

CD Releases, coming soon! ☺ Both from Heather Alexander, and from Echo's Children. Gee, good things come in threes...I wonder what other wonderful thing is around the corner?

## Animusings

### Ghosts in the Machine: The Big-O and Giant Robo by Carmen Spray

I was going to write about the anime being offered on Kids WB to round out the 'what's available on TV for free' column set, but I came across a realization- I don't think anyone under the age of 10 could possibly STAND what's on the WB right now. While I can still recommend Batman Beyond to fans of the comics and more adult audiences, the only anime offered on WB is that legendary and utterly unredeemable mess called Pokemon, and the absolutely hacked and butchered carcass of Card Captor Sakura, called "Card Captors" in the US.

I can't write about Card Captors because I don't watch it. I don't watch it because fan rumor says it's been completely rewritten to be nothing more than a Pokemon-with-a-twist, as well as extensively edited in US postproduction to depower Sakura as the central character and give her position to the male character Li Shouran, who was not as important in the original. As usual, I admit that all shows receive some tweaking, and that it may be hypocritical of me to say that I can watch Digimon and enjoy it and not recommend Pokemon to the same audience. I can't do that though- I know a lot more adult/teenaged fans of Digimon, for reasons I mentioned in my column last month, whereas I see few people over 15 that like Pokemon.

All in all, I just didn't want to go there. Apologies to any fans of either show; forgive me, but I just wanted to write about The Big O this month instead, since it just finished its run on Toonami. And talking about Big O usually leads to talk about Giant Robo, and since they both share a key staff member, well!

*Cast in the name of good, ye not guilty...*

I was really excited to hear that Bandai's "The Big O" was headed to the US and was going to debut on Toonami. I had seen the first episode in Japanese more than a year ago and was very captivated by it, but found the language to be a bit thick for my cement-level fluency in Japanese. Still, the style of the show was unmistakable then, with gorgeous jazz music and lush, fluid-looking animation. (As I would expect from any Bandai Visual production) We immediately pegged it as "Bruce Wayne with a giant robot", were amused, and then promptly somehow lost track of the show.

Our initial assessment wasn't wrong. Much like Blade Runner before it, Big-O does not necessarily forge new paths, but creates a new whole from many pieces. Toonami's own trailers identify the show as "part Batman, part Bond, part giant city-smashing robot." Its main theme, for example, is directly lifted

from Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and parts of the "Flash Gordon" movie soundtrack.

But if that were all there was to Big-O, I wouldn't have been nearly so interested as I was. Big-O is also philosophical, asking curious questions about memories. What value are they? Do we need them to live? Is society better or worse remembering its past? And is the power of an individual weakened or strengthened by possessing certain memories? Do memories allow us to enact free will? And should the forgotten past stay forgotten for the sake of a happier future?

40 years ago, in the world of Big-O, a cataclysm occurred, devastating almost the entire world, and nearly obliterating the human species. Those who survived the cataclysm became amnesiac, entirely without memories, and their children were raised into a world of forgetfulness. Somehow, though, with the help of a corporate group called Paradigm, the world was reborn in the form of a giant archology-domed city: Paradigm City. Somehow people learned again how to operate machinery, drive cars, and function as a society. The memory of religion has vanished, but older people still gather together and sing, without knowing why...

Roger Smith, Paradigm City's 'Negotiator', is a quirky, dashing man who always dresses in black, and insists his house staff do the same. When a problem comes up, he negotiates to resolution- taking the feelings of both parties into consideration. Negotiations can be money exchanges for hostages, a mother seeking to be reunited with her estranged son- not necessarily boardroom or political exchanges. Roger's wry and understands how people think. He cherishes women and children particularly. But he was also born after the Cataclysm...

Like Bruce Wayne, he keeps a bachelor-style mansion, a building in the center of the city, and has at his disposal a butler named Norman, who maintains the house and takes care of Roger's personal affairs.

Roger's first negotiation in the series places him in alignment with a curious android, R. Dorothy Wainwright, in the course of a botched hostage negotiation. Dorothy attaches herself to Roger, and becomes a maid in his house. She is something of a mystery, seeming connected to other relic machines that appear, but she also possesses a rather dry sense of humor, and knows how to play the piano.

Roger has one other tool at his disposal- the Megadeuce, a giant robot called Big-O. The Big-O predates the Cataclysm, and its origins are lost. Yet, somehow, Roger knows how to pilot it, and Norman knows how to maintain it...

Roger and the Big O battle other giant robots, archaic machines of the Cataclysm that would threaten the peace of Paradigm City.

The series is well-executed. Most people agree the dub is excellent, maturely written, and in places deeply touching. I was almost in tears after a couple of episodes, particularly "Legacy of Amadeus", an episode about an android piano-player. Big O reminds us about the burdens- and pleasures- of being flawed beings living in a world woven by experience and individual memory.

The only real problem with Big-O is that it's unfinished. In Japan, the final episode, "R-D", aired with a 'To be continued' card. Only one season's worth of the animation has been produced to date, though with the show's arrival in the US a letterwriting campaign has begun.

As a result of this, the last two episodes, which contain important information, seem rather rushed and are slightly bewildering on the first viewing.

The street date for the Big-O DVD is slated for June 19th, 2001, and it can (as of this current writing; check listings as Toonami is in constant flux) be viewed on Cartoon Network at 5:30 PM.

Big-O was directed by Kazuyoshi Katayama. Katayama, though not a newcomer, hasn't quite distinguished himself as much as an Ikuhara, a Sato, or an Anno as one of the 'new wave' of current Japanese directors. Some of Katayama's previous works were the "Appleseed" OAV (and there are definite hints of Olympus in Paradigm City!), and he served as production assistant on Hayao Miyazaki's legendary "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind". Writing was led by Chiaki Konaka, of "Serial Experiments Lain", who's now working on the third season of Digimon, "Digimon: Tamers."

Katayama was also animation director for the "Giant Robo" OAV series. It's partly because of this, and partly because of the mechanical designs, that Giant Robo usually enters any discussion about Big-O somewhere along the line. Yet, the staff are almost entirely different. This doesn't mean Giant Robo should be ignored, however...

*"I will bring the beautiful night to all mankind..."*

Giant Robo is a short OAV (original animated video) series I could recommend even to someone completely unfamiliar with anime. It is unmistakably one of the best works to come out of the genre in the last twenty years.

An animated revival of the series that was known in the US as "Johnny Socko and his Giant Robot", Giant Robo basically is a completely new take on the

story. The only thing similar between it and the predecessor it takes its inspiration from is the fact that a boy controls an Egyptian-looking giant robot with his watch. (And Kusama Daisaku is much more sympathetic than his twisted sibling-in-mecha, Ikari Shinji of "Evangelion")

Giant Robo is neither campy nor inherently funny, though it contains some very silly moments driven by its characters- rather it's an epic and intense meditation on communication, and what happens when communication breaks down. How individual statements can become ideologies, and what can happen when ideologies are not brought into question. Words and comments that are misperceived by listeners, who can't see past their beliefs, cause countless tragedies as people come to live and die by those misunderstood words, forging their beliefs and picking their ideological sides from their incorrect assumptions.

Driving the plot of Giant Robo is the Shizuma Drive, a revolutionary new device for creating energy. Created by a team of five scientists, the Shizuma Drive is considered the perfect fuel source, a grand miracle of science. It does not pollute, requires no drilling or use of natural materials, and is completely recyclable. The Shizuma Drive is now in use all over the world in Giant Robo, in everything from cigarette lighters to train engines. Unlimited power has brought on a cultural revolution, people being able to live peaceful lives. The wars and conflicts over fuel sources and mass pollution of the earth have come to an end- all thanks to the Shizuma Drive. However, the Drive has skeletons in its closet, including a devastating accident that annihilated the population of the entire city of Bashtarelle.

While Doctor Shizuma, the leader of the five-man team, went on to find acclaim and to receive the honor of having the drive named for him, Doctor Franken Von Fogler, another of the team scientists, is given the blame for causing the Tragedy of Bashtarelle. A terrorist organization called Big Fire has recruited Von Fogler's son, who burns for revenge against the slight done to his father's name and vows, as his father vowed, to bring to the world the "beautiful night."

Opposing Big Fire are the Experts of Justice, an international organization of superpowered humans, sort of superheroic Interpol agents. And joining the Experts is Daisaku Kusama, and his monolithic Giant Robo, who give the Experts a fighting chance against Big Fire's own destructive robots.

I haven't begun to scratch the surface of the plot here- all of this information is basically covered in the first ten to fifteen minutes of the first video. Giant Robo is a compact and mature tale that took several years to produce (we who waited in agony for over three years between volumes 6 and 7 bled over this...) and I can't recommend it highly enough. The question at the end as to whether Giant Robo is a true and terrible tragedy, or a paean to those who fight for their beliefs

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
29  <b>This space was available</b>	30	1	2
6	7	8  <b>This space is available</b>	9
13 Mother's Day  Orycon 23 Meeting Roundtable Pizza 2pm	14	15	16
20 Westercon Meeting	21	22	23
27 Harlan Ellison's Birthday	28 Memorial Day	29  <b>This space is available</b>	30

Day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3 V-Con, Burnaby, BC →	4 WOW (Western Oregon Wargamers) Open gaming <b>EVERY FRIDAY</b> 717 SE Main St Portland There is a fee, but it's fun! Contact Henry Thomspson 503-650-5007 for more details	5 Nova meeting 5pm Tigard City Hall <a href="http://www.novaanime.org">www.novaanime.org</a>  Cinco de Mayo  Richard Cowper's Birthday!
	10	11 Heather Alexander at Café Dolce, Banks, OR 7-9pm  IKU Raptor Meeting March 10 <sup>th</sup> Evergreen Pkwy Theatre 3pm <a href="http://www.ikvraptor.org">www.ikvraptor.org</a> →	12 <b>PorSFis meeting!!</b> <b>2pm Room 323 Smith Hall PSU</b> <b>Come Play the SFM's Trivia Game!</b>  <b>No Heather tonight!</b> (Will switch to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat in June and ever after)
	17  <b>This space is available</b>	18 Anglicon XIV at Radisson Hotel - Sea-Tac Airport, Seattle, WA  CONduit 11/2001: A Space Oddity - Salt Lake City , UT  Fred Saberhagens' Birthday	19 Nova meeting 5pm Beaverton Round Table <a href="http://www.novaanime.org">www.novaanime.org</a>
	24	25 Egil's XXVII Eugene OR (Adiantum) <a href="http://www.adiantum.peak.org/egils/">www.adiantum.peak.org/egils/</a>  Gatecon, Vancouver BC <a href="http://www.gatecon.com">www.gatecon.com</a>  New OMSI Exhibit "Theme Park" →	26 <b>alt.porsfis!! at Roger Wells'</b>  World Horror Con 2001, Seattle WA  Costumecon 19, Calgary, Alberta
	31	1 Miscon, Missoula, MT  ConComCom 8, Seattle WA  Enfilade! - Historical/miniature Gaming Con, Fife WA	2 Nova meeting 5pm <a href="http://www.novaanime.org">www.novaanime.org</a>

even when those beliefs be wrong, is something I leave to the judgment of the individual viewer.

Giant Robo is available on video from Manga Entertainment; you can usually find it at Suncoast. At seven volumes, it's one of the shorter available anime, but as it's been out for a while now, it may be harder to find. Although hardcore fans bash the dub, I find Giant Robo to be excellent in either dub or sub versions, thus, pick your choice- you get a great experience either way. (Even if the idea of a guy in a pink coat named Murasama Kenji with a terrible 'left-palate' French accent IS a bit ridiculous, as the Corn Pone boys pointed out!) Tentative street date for the DVD is mid-November 2001.

Both Big-O and Giant Robo, though very different individual works, are great science fiction stories, and examples of how the giant robot genre can be superior storytelling in the right hands. But the granddaddy of all robot shows, Yoshiyuki Tomino's internationally acclaimed "Mobile Suit Gundam", is also coming to the US, to Toonami, not too long from now... and that's the one most of us are holding our breath for, crossing our fingers and praying that Bandai won't screw up. I'll give you a peek into the complex world of Mobile Suit Gundam next time.

Until then!

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**Okay, found March's notes! Without further ado, here's Sam!**

March 9, 2001

13 members in attendance at the meeting & 2 guests [programming] renewals of membership were today and next months [for those who's year coincides with the PorSFis year]

Announcements:

PDQ Bach will be in town later this month [Peter Schekley]

Star Wars / The Planets will be done later this year [not counting Pluto]

SWFA sponsored signings by authors might be coming to the Portland Area later this year.

A teacher at the Metropolitan LearningCenter has written to us asking if we knew of anyone who could advise them on a world creation class, or writing

stories - Bob Anderson is teaching the class to 30 - 9th to 12th grade level - "Create the Universe" = looking for writing critiques - possible venue for publication of stories.

The officers for the year April 2001- March 2002 are: Debra Stansbury - permanent president, Barbara Oldham - Vice President [having ducked that bullet]; John Andrews Treasurer & Daniel - Secretary

Fund raiser at Westercon - Dancer will be putting together a set of her artwork on cards - these will be for sale - you will buy, you will buy, YOU WILL BUY

Heather will be performing at one of the two SCA events this weekend

SKIP - the Crazy Years - the US Army is purchasing black berets for all of its members, ps they are all being made in China.

Programming in April - should be the Annual Meeting

Several officers will be missing as they will be at Norwescon that weekend.

The Constitution of PorSFis indicates that the Annual Corporation Meeting is Held in April. It does not appear to provide for a manner to hold a meeting if all the officers are not available.

State Corporation Law needs to be consulted as to what is required for a meeting in this case. (Editor/President's note: We voted and decided to postpone it until the May meeting.)

Programming - June - 2 CD parties, one for Heather, and one for Jelly Joe & Cat Faber - Echoes Children

The PorSFis Top 25 Recommended book list is almost HTML'd, Debra is trying hard to find url's for authors on the list

The Alt.porsfis event, 2 weeks from today at John & Lea's.

Suggestions for future programming events:

Karen Rodland - geneticist at OHSU

Daniel - his cousin's husband is a neurology researching, also at OHSU  
SF Madlibs

Ed Stashy - artist, he's been getting the newsletter for sometime, perhaps it's time to have him as a guest

PSU Professor who teaches SF & Science

The Washington Park Zoo - traveling school tour

Today's Programming:

*Scorpius Digital Publishing* - ebooks

Marti & Bridget McKenna came to Portland from Seattle as our guests today. Their ebook product is displayed using Microsoft Reader [a free downloadable program off the internet]

They gave us a brief rundown of history as to why they chose this product as their ebook program, and on two laptops demonstrated the versatility of ebooks. And to top it off, they gave out a floppy disk sampler of *Ariel*, a book formerly only available on paper, by Steven R. Boyett, now out of print.

END OF THE MINUTES

comments:

after being an officer every year since April 1996 I get to retire, and it's about time. see you in the future. As of March 31 at Midnight I will still be an officer, as of April 1, 2001 at one second after I will be FREE

It's been real.

Been playing with Microsoft Reader/Writer in which you can create ebooks, kind of cool if you like that sort of thing.

Movie: if you haven't seen *CHOCOLAT*, then go and see it, it's amusing, and has so much pretty chocolate in it. Food heaven for some of us, number 1 on the food pyramid.

Good chocolate is almost worth killing over.

ciao

**MONTHLY MINUTES—April**

Well, I believe I was the only current officer to show up at the meeting. So, we voted and decided to hold the official annual meeting in May. Why should all of you be denied such fun? ☺

Our guest speaker was Andrew Nesbitt III. Boy, talk about fun! After an initial bit of silliness (at a PorSFis meeting???) I turned the room over to him and he entertained us with stories of Peru, and of Ammo Dumps, and much laughing was heard ☺

Then we went to Afters, where the stories continued and more laughing occurred. ☺

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### Skies of Pern by Anne McCaffrey Review by 'Dancer'

Anne McCaffrey's latest Pern novel picks up several years after the 'Dolphins of Pern'.

AVIS is still dead, and it looks like he's not coming back ever at this point. Which, in my not so humble opinion, is a good thing. As a plot device he was too much of a Deus Ex Machina. While old favorites do make considerable appearances; F'lar, Lessa, Sharra, Jaxon, Sebell, Menolly to name a few, the story really revolves around F'lessen, the only son of F'lar and Lessa and his newest (and for those of you who remember F'lessen's reputation, his first serious) love interest, a lady green rider Tai.

Naturally, there are still Anti-AVIS folks running around to make life difficult for our heroes, some dangers (other than Thread) falling out of the sky, and lots of interesting commentary between dragonriders and their dragons. McCaffrey also introduces a new draconic skill, although telling you what it is would be giving away too much. ^\_~

For the hard-core fan, this is another good novel in the saga of Pern, although personally I was left feeling a little disappointed by the way the book ended. While I like the world of Pern and how the characters have handled each crisis thrown at them this far, the introduction of the third draconic power leaves me thinking that the dragons are practically invulnerable once they learn how to control it. This would become an other Deus Ex Machina, and destroy the whole charm of the dragons, as incredibly strong yet fragile creatures facing terrible odds to defend their friends and partners.

If you're new to the whole Anne McCaffrey-Pern bit, this isn't the book to start with. Too much of this book relies on pervious knowledge of the other books in the series. Do start with Dragonseye, which is a good stand alone Pern novel.

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## AWARDS

There have been a few awards given out recently. Allow me to recap for those of you who may have missed them.

**First:** Michael Marshall Smith's novel *Only Forward*, published by Bantam Spectra, won the Philip K. Dick Award for distinguished science fiction, given to a 2000 book published for the first time in the United States as a paperback original. Smith won a certificate and a check for \$1,500. *Evolution's Darling* by Scott Westerfeld, published by Four Walls Eight Windows, received a special citation honor.

The awards were presented at Norwescon 24 in SeaTac, Wash.

The award is named for legendary SF author Philip K. Dick and is jointly sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Northwest Science Fiction Society.

**Second:** The 2001 British Science Fiction Association Awards were presented at a ceremony on Sunday, April 15, at Britain's annual science fiction convention, Eastercon. Mary Gentle earned the Best Novel award for her book *Ash: A Secret History* (Gollancz), Peter F. Hamilton won in the Best Story category for "The Suspect Genome" (Interzone No. 156), and Dominic Harman won for Best Artwork for his work "Hideaway" (cover of Interzone No. 157).

Also presented at the ceremony was the second Richard Evans Award, which went to Gwyneth Jones. This award—which includes a check for 2,000 pounds—is given to an author whose body of work within the genre has attracted critical acclaim without the commensurate financial rewards.

Finally, the winner of the Paper Tiger Art Award (best single piece in the Eastercon/Paragon artshow) was Jay Hurst for "Despatch Day." Honorable mentions went to Jackie Burns, Fred Gambino and Dave Hardy.

The BSFA Awards are presented annually by the British Science Fiction Association, based on a vote of BSFA members and members of the British national SF convention (Eastercon).

**Third:** The 2000 Nebula Awards® were presented at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 28, 2001.

Novel

Greg Bear, Darwin's Radio (Ballantine Del Rey)

Novella

Linda Nagata, Goddesses (Sci Fiction/Scifi.com)

Novelette

Walter Jon Williams, Daddy's World (Not of Woman Born, Constance Ash, Ed., Roc, Mar99)

Short Story

Terry Bisson, macs (F&SF)

Script

David Howard & Robert Gordon, Galaxy Quest (Dream Works SKG)

Also presented were the previously announced:

Grand Master: Philip José Farmer

Bradbury Award: Yuri Rasovsky and Harlan Ellison

The Nebula Awards® are voted on, and presented by, active members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. Founded as the Science Fiction Writers of America in 1965 by Damon Knight, the organization began with a charter membership of 78 writers; it now has over 1,400 members, among them most of the leading writers of science fiction and fantasy.

**Fourth:** The Cordwainer Smith Foundation announced the establishment of the Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award, an annual literary award for forgotten SF classics, named after the SF writer. The award will honor a science fiction or fantasy writer whose work deserves renewed attention or rediscovery and whose work displays unusual originality and embodies the spirit of Cordwainer Smith's fiction, the foundation announced.

Jurors also have the option each year of awarding a Cordwainer Smith Discovery Award for contemporary writers who achieve high literary standards and create a sense of wonder, as Smith did.

Science Fiction Weekly columnist John Clute, Science Fiction Weekly editor Scott Edelman and SF authors Gardner Dozois and Robert Silverberg will be founding jurors for the award. No date has been set for the first awards.

Smith--the pseudonym for Paul Myron Anthony Linebarger--was a U.S. writer, political scientist and military adviser in Korea and Malaya who died in 1966,

according to Clute's Encyclopedia of Science Fiction. Smith's 1950 short story "Scanners Live in Vain" is among the nominees for this year's "retro" Hugo Awards.

**Fifth:** The 2001 Harvey Awards were presented April 27 at the Pittsburgh Comicon, organizers announced. The awards, honoring comic books, are named for Harvey Kurtzman, a cartoonist, writer, editor and co-founder of Mad magazine. A full list of winners follows.

- Best Writer •Alan Moore for Promethea
- Best Artist •Jaime Hernandez for Penny Century
- Best Cartoonist •Al Jaffee for Mad magazine
- Special Award for Humor •Sergio Aragones
- Special Award for Excellence in Presentation
  - Jimmy Corrigan by Chris Ware, design by Chris Ware
- Best New Series •Luba's Comics and Stories by Gilbert Hernandez, edited by Gary Groth
- Best Continuing or Limited Series
  - Acme Novelty Library by Chris Ware, edited by Kim Thompson
- Best Single Issue or Story •Superman & Batman: World's Funnest by Evan Dorkin and various artists
- Best Graphic Album of Original Work •Last Day in Vietnam by Will Eisner, edited by Diana Schutz
- Best Graphic Album of Previously Published Work
  - Jimmy Corrigan by Chris Ware, edited by Chip Kidd
- Best Anthology •Drawn & Quarterly, Vol. 3, No. 1, edited by Chris Oliveros
- Best Inker •Charles Burns for Black Hole
- Best Letterer •Todd Klein for Castle Waiting
- Best Colorist •Laura DePuy for The Authority
- Best Syndicated Strip •Mutts by Patrick McDonnell
- Best Biographical/Historical Presentation •The Comics Journal
- Best Presentation of Foreign Material •Lone Wolf & Cub by Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima, edited by Mike Hansen
- Best Domestic Reprint Project •The Spirit Archives by Will Eisner, edited by Dale Crain
- Best New Talent •Michel Rabagliati
- Best Cover Artist •Adam Hughes for Wonder Woman
- Jack Kirby Hall of Fame
  - Guido Crepax
  - Mort Weisinger
  - Sheldon Moldoff

**Sixth:** The 2001 Aurora Awards, honoring Canadian SF, were presented May 5 at V-Con 25 in Vancouver, B.C., organizers announced.

The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association presents the awards in 10 categories. A full list of winners follows.

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Best Long-Form Work in English  | •The Snow Queen by Eileen Kernaghan                                  |
| Best Long-Form Work in French   | •Demain, les étoiles by Jean-Louis Trudel                            |
| Best Short-Form Work in English | •"Surrendering the Blade" by Marcie Tentchoff                        |
| Best Short-Form Work in French  | •"La Danse des esprits" by Douglas Smith, translated by Benoît Domis |
| Best Work in English (Other)    | •Science Fiction: The Play by David Widdicombe                       |
| Best Work in French (Other)     | •Solaris, edited by Joël Champetier                                  |
| Artistic Achievement            | •Jean-Pierre Normand   |
| Fan Achievement (Fanzine)       | •Voyageur, edited by Karen Bennett                                   |
| Fan Achievement (Organization)  | •R. Graeme Cameron   |
| Fan Achievement (Other)         | •Donna McMahon   |

### TREASURER'S REPORT (John Andrews, Treasurer)

Account	2000 Totals	Checking Account	Savings Account
		274.00	460.36
<b>Income</b>			
Memberships	600.00		
Contributions	20.00		
Interest	7.90 (Interest for March not entered)		
Library Liquidation	41.25		
Other	<u>0.00</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>	669.15		
<b>Expenses</b>			
Pulsar	(176.00)		
Meeting Space	(367.50)		
PO Box	(64.00)		
Picnic	(44.78)		
Banking	(0.00)		
Other	<u>(17.84)</u>		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	(670.12)		
<b>Christmas Family Contributions</b>	330.00 (OSFCI matching funds not yet received)		
<b>Expenses</b>	(465.00)		
<b>Totals</b>		\$86.75	\$386.67

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Pulsar, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis), comes free with membership. It is also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased at Future Dreams/Burnside and Looking Glass Books, both in Portland, Oregon.

Your editor has been Debra Stansbury. Next month's editor is the same. **Deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:porsfis@email.com) or [debstans@canada.com](mailto: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:

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Treasurer	John Andrews	503-771-2894
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