

PorSFis Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORTLAND SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY SEPTEMBER ISSUE 12

PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN

John Raymond Lorentz

Well, it's time for my turn at playing editor. Next month, we start the cycle again, and Sue will get to take charge of the blue pencil. So far, the new system (revolving editors and a set deadline) seems to be working. This newsletter also marks a year's time since my first column--on my impressions of the World Con in Phoenix. This year, we had three people in England for the World Convention there, and we should have some reports on that in the next issue. Since that first piece, I've only missed one issue--and that was when I ran afoul of my own idea, the set deadline.

This month, I haven't any earth-shattering events to report on, or even a movie review. I could say something about the total lunar eclipse last week but, truth is, the fog at our place blocked all sight of it. So I'll just have to remember the last one, some seven years ago.

What I can talk about is how enjoyable fandom can be. This probably isn't news to most of you, but I'm fairly new to this thing, having joined PorSFis only 16 months ago. Now I seem to be planning my honeymoon around a science fiction convention. But most of the pleasure in belonging to PorSFis is the joy of being able to get together with other honest-to-goodness thinking people! A short trip to the grocery store will show you how rare this is anymore. When there are people who cannot tell the difference between reality and The Tube (I'm talking about adults, not children), and only 2% of the people in this country buy more than one book a year (!), it's not too surprising that about 1/7th of those books bought were science fiction. It takes some thought to read an SF story--it's not as easy as allowing your mind to wallow in a Harold Robbins book. A good friend of mine dearly loves the type of book in which the heroine (for lack of a better term) is raped in the first chapter, and falls in love with her attacker before the end of the book! And she thinks that science fiction is "unrealistic." The next time someone speaks disparagingly of that "Buck Rogers' stuff" (it's a tired cliché, but I've heard it), ask them to show you where the reality is in The Love Boat or Three's Company, and go back to your Arthur C. Clarke or Harlan Ellison, and exercise your mind.

As you can see, I've somewhat wandered from my original course. But it's still all making a point. Nearly all my friends, and quite a few of my co-workers (I'm in one of those stereotypical occupations for SF fans--computer programming.), read science fiction--at least enough to admit it.

Well, enough for this month. Next month, Sue Renhard (my lovely roommate) is the editor. Please get any material that you wish to be in our pre-DryCon issue to her by October 20th.

(As a minor illustration of what I've been talking about here, I've included an article reprinted from the Oregonian. Though I disagree somewhat with Bryce Walden's thought that we share the blame for Eddie's death (Bryce's covering letter has also been reprinted here), the item is well worth our notice and thought.)

BOOK STORE REVIEW

FUTURE DREAMS

1808 East Burnside	500 SF Hardcover
Portland	700 SF Magazines
231-8311	750 SF New Paperback
Mon-Sat 12-6	1300 SF Used Paperback
Take the #19 (East Glisan) bus	3000 Non-SF Used Paperback

The address of this store is familiar to any PorSFis old-timers, who--for quite a while--met every Sunday in "Carl's Store." Well, Carl Bennett has sold the Illustrated Store, and it is now called Future Dreams. The emphasis of the store has changed somewhat. About half of the store is now given over to new and used comics, and related magazines. (The new owners are the sponsors of the Phoenix Comic Conventions, the next being on September 30, at the Masonic Temple--Plug!). The selection of science fiction literature is still quite good though a little high in price. (It could be me--I'm used to paying 1/2 to 2/3 of the list price for used books, but all the stores now seem to be charging 2/3 to 3/4 of list price.) The store also has a good stock of science fiction recorded material and Dungeons & Dragons paraphernalia.

As mentioned above, half of the store is now new and used comics. The selection and prices of these also seem to be good. As with Apache Books (reviewed last month), Future Dreams also has a new issue holding service, where new issues of comics will be held until collectors call for them.

In all, Future Dreams seems to be a worthwhile place to visit. Definitely do so if you haven't been there since it was "Carl's Store."

September 12, 1979

Dear John,

A couple of weeks ago, I read a most depressing and sad article in the Sunday Oregonian, which I have enclosed (see next page. Ed.). A "bright" and "gifted" 15-year-old became so attached and obsessed with Battlestar Galactica that he actually committed suicide because they took the series off the air. I suppose it's possible someone else has committed suicide over a TV show, but this is the first in my ken.

Granted, the young person was "disturbed," but I find it also disturbing that the TV show in question is science fiction. This incident shows us a glimpse of the power science fiction is able to have in the intelligent mind. They say Eddie's room was full of science fiction posters, spaceships models, and science fiction paraphernalia. I can identify with that from when I was 15. So, I suspect, could you, and many of us in PorSFis.

However, this article bothers me not just because I can identify with Eddie. I finally realized that I share some of the guilt for his death. I share it with every other science fiction fan who did not write to save the show, each one of us who did not speak loudly or firmly enough to demand well-written plots to empower the really excellent vehicle of the program. We each share the guilt of cancelling the show, of killing Eddie.

I think the Newsletter should reprint the article, alone on a page, in honor of Eddie. We're all in Eddie's shoes. He's one of us, and now he's gone.

Bryce Walden

TV addict kills self at age 15

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)

— The parents of a 15-year-old boy who jumped 200 feet to his death from a bridge after "Battlestar Galactica" was canceled say the boy's whole life was wrapped up in the television space show.

"I hope we never ever see it on TV again, because it would just crush us," Dawn Seidel, the boy's stepmother, said Saturday.

Eddie Seidel Jr. was buried Friday. He committed suicide in the pre-dawn darkness Wednesday after telling police from his perch on the High Bridge railing that he was upset that "Battlestar Galactica" had been dropped by the ABC network.

"I talked about suing ABC or doing something," Mrs. Seidel said. "But my husband said to just leave things like they are and not make a big hassle out of it.

"I know it's not their fault because they had the program."

Like many a teen-age boy, Eddie was deeply absorbed with outer space subjects.

For Eddie, said Mrs. Seidel, it meant a roomful of posters, magazines, plastic models and other paraphernalia about "Battlestar Galactica."

'Brilliant, bored'

"They made a lot of money off him," she said. "He bought everything put on the market. He also took tape recordings of all the shows."

Eddie's world was wrapped up in the programs he viewed on his own TV set in his bedroom.

His father, Edward Seidel Sr., described Eddie as a sometimes brilliant boy who couldn't find enough in life to keep him interested.

The father said he learned about four years ago the boy had been sniffing gas with friends so he sent him to a psychiatrist.

"The psychiatrist said he was just kind of bored with life, that there was nothing here for him to excel in," said Seidel. "There was no real challenge here on this earth."

His stepmother said he got Bs and B-pluses in school, and an occasional A, but that he was mostly bored with classes.

Seidel said his son came home from his job as a supermarket stock-boy about 5 p.m. Tuesday, apparently in good spirits.

Note found

The boy went to his room to watch television. The family did not see him the rest of the night. When his 19-year-old sister, Crystal, passed Eddie's door later that night, she found a note — his last will and testament. He had gone off on his motorbike.

He told his parents in the note they'd find his body under the High Bridge, a half-mile-long, two-lane link between downtown St. Paul and the suburb of West St. Paul. The Seidels reached it about 10 minutes after Eddie had jumped and landed on ground beside the river.

Seidel said when Eddie learned last spring that "Battlestar Galactica" was being canceled, he contacted the ABC network to ask officials to keep it on. The last rerun of the program was shown Aug. 5.

"I really should have tried to get him into a gifted children type situation," Seidel said. "But it's too late to look back and say I should have."

He said he didn't realize what an influence a TV program could have on his son.

"I was never sure it did influence kids that bad, but now I'm convinced it does," he said.

AUTHORS' DATELINE

By now, everyone has probably heard that several of OryCon's guests this fall have done quite well in award-winning this summer. John Varley, OryCon's Guest of Honor, won a Hugo and a Nebula for his novella, "The Persistence of Vision", and Vonda McIntyre was also a double winner for her novel, Dreamsnake. Ursula K. Le Guin was presented with a well-deserved Gandalf Lifemaster award in Fantasy. And our non-participating, Fan GOH, Richard Geis, won his eleventh fan Hugo.

Another of our guests, Steve Perry (the Toastmaster), has also been having a productive summer. He has a story in the current issue of Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine (written with a close associate, Jesse Peel), called "Solo". (A very good story) In the November issue of the same magazine, he will have another story, "Flamegame". According to Steve, the story is a rarity for SF, for it contains a competent female protagonist. Also, the second part of Steve's story, ~~Yippoff Mazy~~ "Star Warriors", will be in the next issue of Galaxy, which is published about as often as the sun rises in the west. Watch for it--it may actually appear one of these days.

Last, but not least, Steve also has a story in an anthology being published soon by Zebra Books, called Other Worlds. The story, called "Perfect Balance", is of particular interest, since it was Steve's first story. (See last month's newsletter for an account of its history.)

One last thing. If you run out right now, and buy the September issue of the Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, you will receive a marvelous story by one of PorSFIS' own. "Spareen Among The Tartars" is written by Sue Petrey, and it's very good.

This is the area of the Newsletter known as "fill it in with something", but there's really nothing left to write about. The Editors (especially myself, since it's my turn this month), want to thank everyone for contributing this month. A full newsletter is a nice thing.

Don't forget, next month is our first annual pre-OryCon issue. Please get any contributions in to Editor Sue, 4735 SW Luradel #37, Portland 97219 by the 20th of October. And remember--OryCon memberships go up to \$8 on October 1st, so get your membership now! The progress reports are in the mail to present members right now.

---John Raymond Lorentz

THE FOUNDLING OPINION POLL #1

1. Is PorSfiS large enough of a group? Too large?
2. Does PorSfiS strike you as being a group of cliques? If so, do you have any comments on how to break it of this?
3. Do you think that there should be more outlying groups in the suburban districts so you wouldn't have to drive all the way into Portland for everything? (i.e. something in Vancouver, something in Gresham)
4. Does PorSfiS hold you? Do you tell about it to others of your friends?
5. Do we have the things which interest you (i.e. the Writers' Workshop, the Readers' Theatre, the Con group, the Art group, the Costume group)? If not, what would you like to see?
6. What percentage of your life is science fiction or fantasy? What percentage of time do you spend reading, including newspapers?
7. Do you belong to other social groups? If so, how many? Why are they more important than PorSfiS (if you do belong to any)?
8. Is there a need for a more varied meeting time and place rather than just the regular bimonthly meeting at the library? Should there be something more like the convention meetings, but instead plan something for a more specific topic, such as a book or an author?
9. Why do you come to the meetings? Why don't you?
10. Is the Pub Crawl, after the meetings, an important aspect of PorSfiS?
11. Can you think why, of the over thirty members of the group, only about half attend the meetings regularly, and do anything with the others in the group? Where are you?
12. Do you know about the PorSfiS Library? Have you used it? If not, do you think that it should be abolished, or perhaps revamped so that more people could use it?
13. Would it be better if the meetings were held in people's homes more than in the Library?

Please send replies to:

Sam Butler
2350 SE 50th #33
Portland, Oregon 97215

or

John Lorentz
4735 SW Luradel #37
Portland, Oregon 97219

TIMELINE

GRAF ZEPPELIN

September 18; October 2, 16, 30

A Science Fiction Art & Design Graphics Group. Currently engaged in creating MidWinter Festival Cards and Co-ordinating artistic events for PorSFIS and ORYCON.

19:30 at Steve Berry's, 4616 SE Milwaukie #1, Portland 97202 (503) 231-9677

READERS THEATRE

September 20; November 1

Persons with a prepared reading to bring, be sure to contact Marc (635-6868) or Rosalind (222-4866) at least a day in advance to receive space-time co-ordinates. BY THE WAY, Dear Reader, The PorSFIS Library is safely ensconced at Steve Berry's (see above) and is meant to be used. There are some really excellent books there you may not have read.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS NOTHING September 21

This play, billed as a science-fiction musical, is playing currently at the Playback Theater, downstairs at the Long Goodbye Tavern, NW 10 and Everett. Call Rosalind at 222-4866 if you might go so we can make reservations en masse. We will meet at 19:30 and buy tickets at the door. Look at it this way. . .for \$3.00, you can support the Arts and your own bad habits as well.

BILBO AND FRODO BIRTHDAY PARTY & AUTUMNAL EQUINOX OBSERVATION

September 22-23

Friends of Darkover, Council of the High Cascades, in their continuing series of special observances of Cosmic Holidays, will observe the Sun's crossing the Equator with a campout on the Plains of Abraham on Loo-Wit (these days called "Mt. St. Helens"). Besides the planet Darkover, Tolkien's Middle Earth is another alternate world the Friends of Darkover are interested in. And so we will celebrate with joy the Birthdays of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins, celebrated in Middle Earth on September 22.

This will be an overnight camping trip, so bring appropriate gear. Drivers and riders will meet before 09:00, Saturday morning, September 22 at Mannings Cafe, Lloyd Center, Portland. We will regroup at 11:00 at the Information Center at Spirit Lake, have lunch, and hike 2½ miles in. LARAN GROUP studying psi phenomenae will meet during these Observances. Call Bryce (761-8768) for more details.

WALK FOR THE WHALES

September 29

Greenpeace co-ordinates this 20-km hike in Portland. I participated in this in Seattle last year and found it a very high experience. You meet the nicest, most interesting people! Hikers gather ahead of time "pledges", usually "per kilometer" amounts, from donors or sponsors. This is an excellent way to show our solidarity with other Sentient Beings, the Cetaceans. If a hiker comes to you for a pledge, please offer what you can. Better yet, become a hiker yourself and bring several sponsors on-line: Your employer; your Dad; the mail-person; etc. More information from Greenpeace (248-1123) or Patty (228-2899).

ORYCON CONVENTION COMMITTEE ORYCON PROGRAMMING

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

October 5, 19

They tell me it won't be changing for awhile, so I'll tell you: the new meeting place for the ORYCON Convention Committee is Sam's Hofbrau, 1850 SW 6th, where all ages are welcome. These meetings co-ordinate all activities anent ORYCON. We're entering the high-activity phase preceeding the actual Convention. Now's the time you should step up to help if you've been waiting. Of course we'll need all sorts of personpower at the Convention--go-fers, technicians, guardians, representatives, etc.--but we also have needs now for help in publicity, decorations, sales, etc. We meet every Monday evening, 19:30. ORYCON business meetings are followed by a pleasant Social Hour, too.

Programming Committee has two meetings scheduled in October. These are held at Steve Berry's, address above. 19:30

CASCADIA FUTURIA / L-5 SOCIETY

October 6, November 3

This is a new organization of Futurists who met in Portland September 8. There was a great deal of discussion about organizational structures and relationships among Cascadia Futuria, the general futurist organization, and L-5 Society, concerned specifically with humankind's growth into Space. We noted that most "L-5 ers" were futurists while not all futurists are "L-5 ers". However, most of the people were drawn to the meeting through L-5 interests, so it was decided at once to form a local chapter. Local L-5 Society elections were held and Susan Word (246-4432) became President, Patty Smith, Secretary, and Tom Billings, Treasurer. A group of futurists is currently engaged in writing a Constitution for Cascadia Futuria and preparing papers of Incorporation. Marc Wells heads this group. Interested in the future? Come to a meeting.

Multnomah County Central Library, Room "E" 14:00

OKTOBERFEST

October 6

Don Smith is holding this friendly little get-together at 7140 SW Oleson Road #1, Portland 97223 (503) 246-7357. If any of you could get into a party, just grab a six-pack or a bottle of wine and maybe some German pretzels and buzz on by. Starts 16:00.

AUDIO THEATER

October 13 20:00

Michael Pearce hosts this electronic frolic and brain food relaxocon. No meetings, no committees, just pure Social Hour all evening. A good time to pick up things you started at Oktoberfest or the Equinox. 11575 SW Greenburg #18, Tigard '23 639-5062, 20:00

FRIENDS OF DARKOVER, COUNCIL OF THE HIGH CASCADES October 18 18:00

Friends of Darkover exists for the sole purpose of discussion of Marion Zimmer Bradley's "Darkover" and other alternate worlds by various writers. In addition to this, our local Council of the High Cascades extends an invitation to all persons interested in creating or participating in any Science Fiction oriented project.

Since its inception, the Council has sponsored a MidSummer Festival at Stonehenge II in Washington, arranged-for and built a science-fiction group Booth at Portland's Neighborfair, cooked off-world dishes for the annual PorSFis Picnic, and spun-off several Special Interest Groups. It also has meetings regularly at the Council House (Bryce Walden residence), 13933 SE Mall, Portland '36 (503) 761-8768 and has recently started a trend of dinner meetings where home-cooked dishes are fixed. Please call ahead if you're not a regular--although all are welcome, it would help the food planning to have advance notice. Try to bring coins for the kitty if you come for dinner. Bryce Walden, Keeper.

PorSFis NEWSLETTER

October 20

DEADLINE for the Convention-issue of the Newsletter. Sue Renhard (503) 244-9698 is Editor at 4735 SW Luradel #37, Portland 97219. Our fair city of Portland is host for this Convention--this is the time to show we have talent as well as good looks. Get out that rusty typewriter or that clogged drawing nib and send mass quantities of creative sparkles for this issue of the Newsletter. C'mon, you've already had ideas--time to get 'em down and send 'em out. Thank you!

WAHKEENAH TRAIL DAYHIKE

October 21 09:00

MEET NEW FRIENDS: Members of Mensa, the high I.Q. organization, Portland Science Fiction Fandom, and Cascadia Futuria are invited on a beautiful 8-mile hike in the Columbia Gorge. The trail goes up Wahkeena Creek to its Spring, then sidles over to Multnomah Creek and passes several waterfalls on the way down. Rain or shine, since the waterfalls work even better in the rain. We'll meet in the Interstate Rest Stop Shelter at Multnomah Falls. Bring a pack lunch and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Returning 6-7 pm.

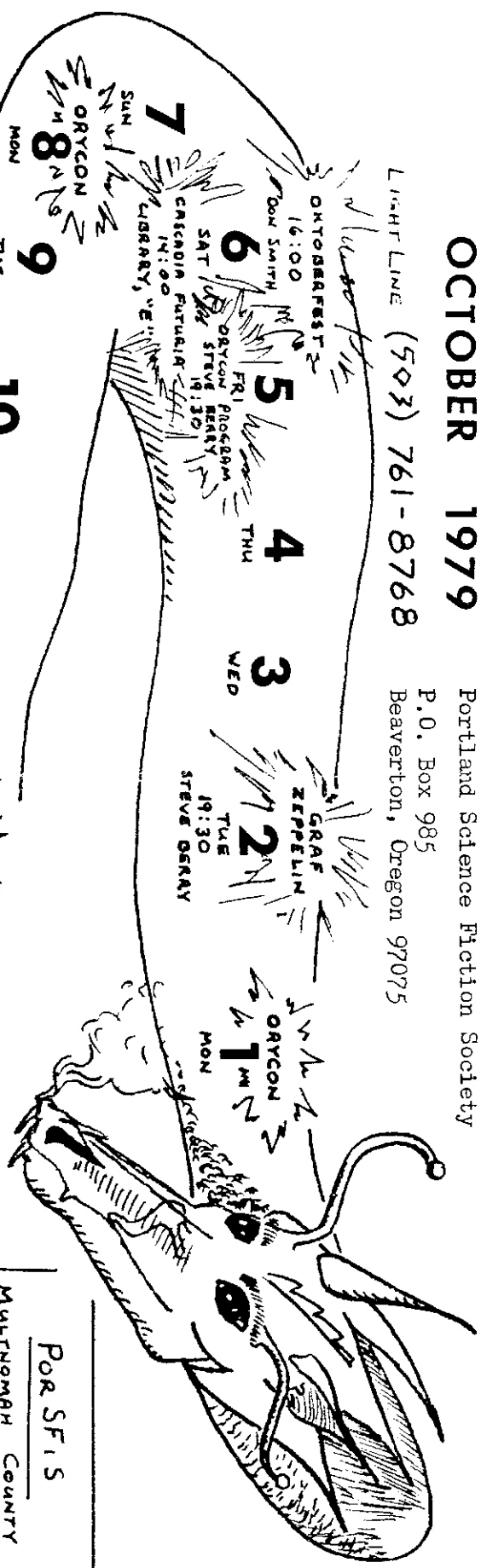
Bryce Walden, Co-ordinator (503) 761-8768.

OCTOBER 1979

Portland Science Fiction Society
 P.O. Box 985
 Beaverton, Oregon 97075

Light Line (503) 761-8768

Light Line (503) 761-8768



ORYCON
 NOVEMBER 9-11
 MEMBERSHIP NOW \$8
 DEALER #20
 MONDAY NIGHTS
 19:30
 SAM'S HOFGRAB - All Ages Welcome!
 1850 SW 6TH

AUTHORS
 PANELS
 COSTUMES
 MOVIES
 SCA TOURNEY
 & MORE!

MULTNOMAH COUNTY
 CENTRAL LIBRARY
 ROOM "E"
 14:00
 PUA INVESTIGATION
 BEGINS AT PC&S
 UNTIL 17:00

7	SUN	ORYCON	8	MON
8	TUE	9	TUE	10
9	WED	10	THU	11
12	WED	13	THU	14
15	MON	16	TUE	17
18	THU	19	FRI	20
21	SUN	22	MON	23
24	WED	25	THU	26
27	FRI	28	SUN	29
30	TUE	31	WED	

OCTOBER
 16:00
 BOB SMITH
 6
 SAT
 ORYCON
 STEVE BEARY
 19:30
 CRUCIDIA FUTURE
 LIBRARY, V

4
 THU
 5
 FRI
 ORYCON
 STEVE BEARY
 19:30
 3
 WED
 2
 TUE
 19:30
 STEVE DEARY
 ZEPPELIN
 GRAF

12
 WED
 13
 THU
 14
 SUN
 15
 MON
 16
 TUE
 17
 WED
 18
 THU
 19
 FRI
 20
 SAT
 21
 SUN
 22
 MON
 23
 TUE
 24
 WED
 25
 THU
 26
 FRI
 27
 SAT
 28
 SUN
 29
 MON
 30
 TUE
 31
 WED

LAST MEETING BEFORE ORYCON
 POS SF'S
 FRIENDS OF OAKHURST
 DINNER 18:00
 BAYE WALDEN
 ALL HALLOW'S EVE

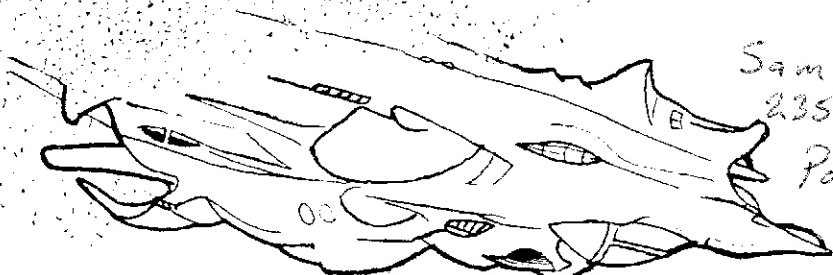
CONVENTION CALENDAR by Roger Wells

- MOSCON 1 Moscow, Idaho; 28-30 Sept: PO Box 9141, Moscow, Idaho 83843, (208) 636-5340. Verna Smith Trestrail, Alex Schomberg, Jessica Amanda Salmonson, Robert A. Heinlein (!?!). Dedicated to E.E. "Doc" Smith \$10.00
- NONCON 2 Edmonton, Alberta; 5-7 Oct: PO Box 1740, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 2P1. (403) 469-0719. \$CAN 10.00 (under 12, \$6) Gordon Dickson, Eli Cohen.
- MILEHICON 2 Denver, Colorado; 26-28 Oct: PO Box 11545, Denver, Colorado 80211. (303) 433-9774 \$8 Jack Williamson, Curt Stubbs, Ed Bryant.
- INTERVENTION Salt Lake City, Utah; 2-4 Nov: PO Box 15998, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. (801) 355-8076 \$10 Orson Scott Card, Don C. Thompson, Ed Bryant. One of the best reasons for being in SLC (BYOB--or coffee).
- ORYCON 1 PORTLAND, OREGON; 9-11 Nov: PO Box 985, Beaverton, Oregon 97075, (503) 761-8768. \$6 until October 1st, then \$8. John Varley, Steve Perry, Richard Geis, Ursula K. LeGuin, Reginald Bretnor, many others.
- RAIN TOO Vancouver, British Columbia; 15-17 Feb. 1980: PO Box 48478, Bentall Centre Station, Vancouver, British Columbia V7X 1A2 \$CAN 5 until Nov 30, \$6 until Feb 12, \$8 after. John Varley
- NORWESCON 3 Seattle, Washington; 28-30 Mar: NWSFS, PO Box 24207, Seattle, Wash 98124. \$7
- NOREASCON 2 Boston, Mass; 29 Aug-Sept 1 1980: PO Box 46, MIT Post Office, Cambridge Mass 02139. \$30 Damon Knight and Kate Wilhelm, Bruce Pelz. The next WorldCon.
- DENVENTION 2 Denver, Colorado. 1981 And the one after that.

PorSFIS Newsletter
 c/o John Lorentz
 4735 SW Luradel #37
 Portland OR 97219



STRIKE BACK AT CANCER
 AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



Sam Butler
 2350 SE 50th #33
 Portland Oregon
 97215

