

PORSFIS NEWSLETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORTLAND SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY JUNE 1979 ISSUE 9

Conventional Calendar

July 4-8 - Westercon 32 - GoH: Richard Lupoff - Fan GoH: Bruce Pelz - Toastmistress: Marta Randall - Membership: \$10.00 - Sheraton Palace, San Francisco - Write: Westercon 32, 195 Alhandra St. #9, San Francisco CA 94123.

July 13-15 - Darkover Grand Council Meeting - GoH: Marion Zimmer Bradley - Registration: \$10 til Jul 1, \$15 after - Le Guardia Sheraton, Queens NY - Write: Armida Council, PO Box 355, Brooklyn NY 11219.

Sept 29-Oct 1 - Moscon 1 - GoH: Verna Smith, Alex Schomburg, maybe even Robert Heinlein!!!! Membership: \$6 til Sept 9, \$10 after - Best Western University Inn, Moscow ID - Write: Beth Finkbiner, PO Box 9141, Moscow ID 83843.

Oct 5-7 - Noncon II - Pro GoH: Gordon R. Dickson - Fan GoH: Eli Cohen - Toastmaster: Doug Barbour - Registration: \$8 til Sept 1, \$10 thereafter - Edmonton Inn, Edmonton - Write: NONCON, Box 1740, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 2P1.

Nov 9-11 - Orycon - GoH: John Varley - Toastmaster: Steve Perry - non-participating Fan GoH: Richard Geis -- Registration: \$6.00 til Oct 1, \$8 thereafter - Room Rates: \$29 Single, \$37 double - Sheraton Portland Hotel, Lloyd Center, Portland - Write: Orycon, PO Box 985, Beaverton OR 97005.

1980 (plan ahead!) Aug 29-Sept 1, 1980 - NorEasCon 2 (this is the Worldcon, folks) - GoH: Kate Wilhelm, Damon Knight - Registration: \$20 til Jul 1, '79 - Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Boston - Write: NorEasCon 2, PO Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge Mass 02139.

Steve Berry/PorsFis Newsletter
2835 SE Division
Portland OR 97202



What's this? No summer for Portland? Oh, I see, give them their allotment of sunny days EARLY, then hit 'em with the wet stuff when they're all set for their vacations. Gee, you're clever, boss! Bye-Bye



Sam Butler
2350 SE 50th #33
Portland Oregon 97215

4/2/79

ScB
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1979

JUNE

PORTLAND SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

SEND INFO TO: Bryce E. Walden 761-8768
13933 S. E. Mall St.
Portland, OR 97236

1 2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
	<p>19:30 ORYCON CONCOM Roger Wells, info 625-7521</p> <p>19:00 NEIGHBORHOOD FAIR JOHN WIKES COM 236-1366 Sam Butler Bryce Walden 761-8768</p>	<p>19:30 ORYCON CONCOM info: Roger Wells 625-7521</p> <p>19:00 FRIENDS of Darkover COUNCIL of the HIGH CASCADES Council House Bryce Walden 761-8768</p>	<p>19:30 ORYCON CONCOM info: Roger Wells 625-7521</p> <p>19:00 FAIR NEIGHBOR - JOHN WIKES COM 236-1366 Sam Butler Bryce Walden 761-8768</p>	<p>19:30 ORYCON CONCOM info: Roger Wells 625-7521</p> <p>19:00 READERS THEATRE 635-6868 Marc Wells</p>
	<p>14:00 PUBLIC SERVICE ADS at 13933 SE MALL Bryce Walden 761-8768</p>		<p>14:00 RIDES TO STONEHENGE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL Bryce Walden 761-8768</p> <p>20:00 WRITERS WORKSHOP 236-1366 Sam Butler</p>	<p>14:00 MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL DAY STONEHENGE Bryce Walden 761-8768</p> <p>14:00 "E" MULTICO PORTSFIS 231-9677</p>
			<p>14:00 PARTY 246-7357 Don & Fatty Smith #1 7140 SW OLESIEN #1 PHD OR 97223</p>	

SHADOWCON III, L.A. → JULY 2



by

Bryce Walden

A L I E N by Dan O'Bannon and Ronald Shusett. 20th Century Fox. Playing at the Eastgate and Westgate Theaters in Portland, 70mm & Dolby. Rated R. Opening Night: May 25, 1979, 19:30 & 22:00 hours. TECHNICAL NOTE: I saw this film at the Eastgate and there was an annoying distortion in the sound system that sounded like blown speakers (tear in speaker-cone). For \$3.50 admission they ought to have working speakers; perhaps the Westgate is better. You might also read the story of Ixtil, Chapters 13-21 in Van Vogt's Voyage of the Space Beagle. After you've seen the movie, of course!

A L I E N is terrifying. It is now an hour after I left the theater; I'm safely at home surrounded by comforting familiarity, and still there is a hard knot in my belly. In this sense the movie is very effective, in the tradition of the greatest horror shows. I still listen for noises in my house. I still glance over my shoulder. I see nothing. All seems still.

I do not want to tell you too much about the movie: it would be better to experience it yourself. The presentation of alien life-forms is excellent, as far as it is in my domain to judge. The sets and special effects are realistic, detailed, well thought-out and executed.

But I keep asking myself why it happened the way it did. The six-member crew of the interstellar ore-carrying ship Nostramo encounter an alien species, and almost every move they make in respect to this is wrong. Stupidly wrong. Only one crew-member has an excuse for his wrong behavior, but the others have no such excuse (and I won't tell you what that excuse is; part of the charm is the finding-out in the course of events).

Outer space is passively hostile to human beings. Like automobile driving, it will be a selective environment for intelligence. The people who habitually work in space will not be stupid, and will have strong conditioning not to let their emotions carry them into rash acts. This elementary premise is not realized in A L I E N. The particular alien species the crew of the Nostramo discovers seems actively hostile towards humans, albeit in a thoroughly impersonal, instinctual way. The thoughtless behavior of most of the crew in regards to its presence is practically unforgivable. (It is noteworthy that the most consistently intelligent person on board is one of the two women). One of the laws of survival is that stupidity kills. This at least is effectively demonstrated in the movie. There are basic violations of rules, realistic rules--even some stated out loud by the crew members!--concerning contamination and basic defensive survival.

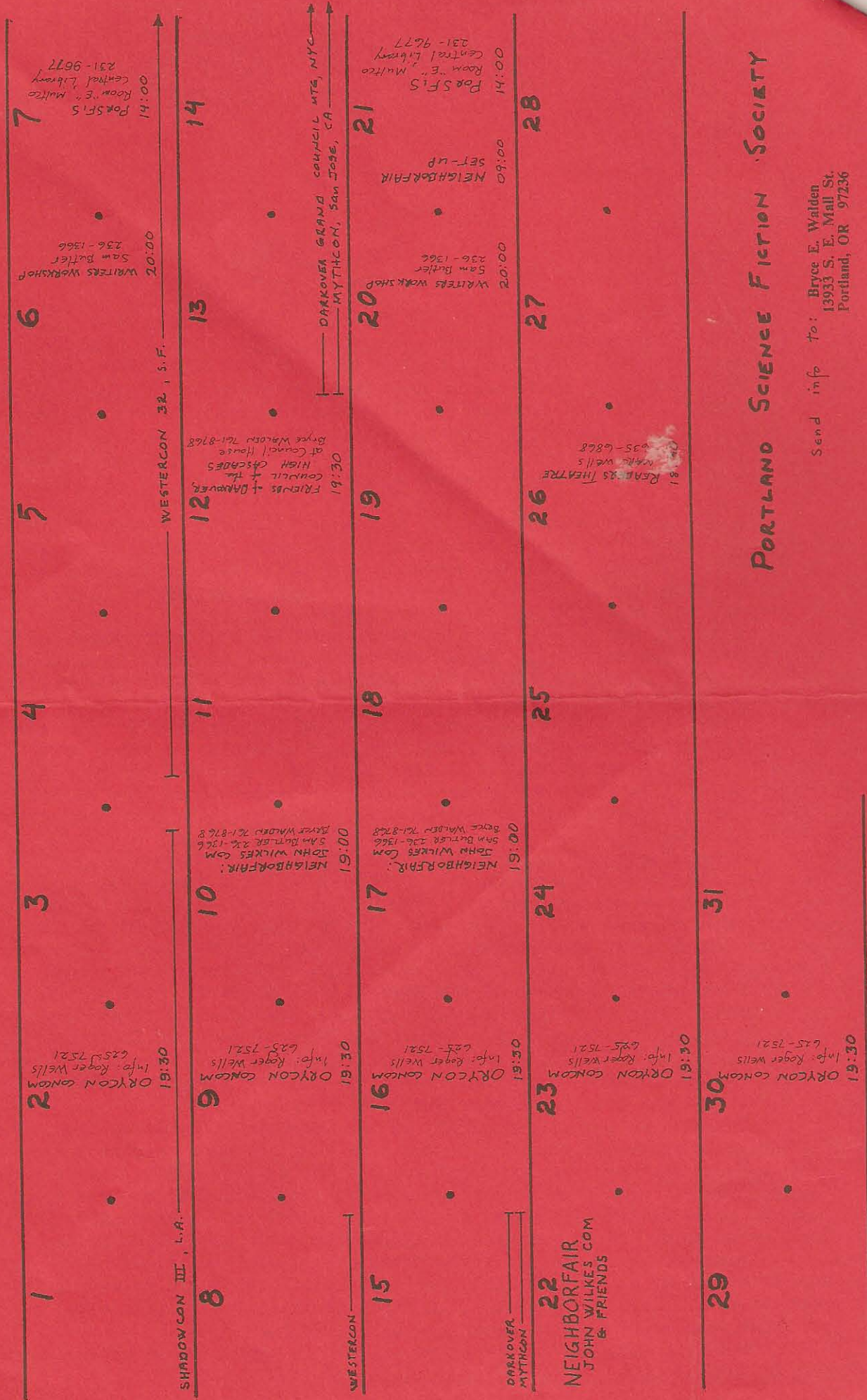
Perhaps the endemic stupidity of the crew is a calculated theatrical device; certainly it increases the tension and fear when you know they're making mistakes, when you can see what they're doing wrong. But I would still like to see how a more intelligent and well-thought-out approach to the problem might have been handled. As long as we're inventing aliens, we ought to invent one that clearly outmaneuvers us when we're sharp and on our toes. Anybody can catch us when we're dumb.

When you go to see the movie, consider it an intelligence test--of the crew, and of you as an observer of the crew's actions. You might go with a friend and compare notes, during and after. It might be kind of a fun exercise, especially if you think you might meet an alien yourself sometime.

Now it's late and I have to go to bed. I have to keep telling myself it's safe to fall asleep.

JULY

1979



PORTLAND SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

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New From The Mailbox

(or, how DO you come up with all these skiffy title ideas, Steve?)

RUNE 56, May 1979 (Lee Pelton & Carol Kennedy, 1204 Harmon Place #10, Minneapolis MN 55403, 50¢/copy, 4 issue sub./\$2.00)

Published by the Minneapolis Science Fiction Society, RUNE is an honest-to-goodness fanzine, LOCed by fen coast-to-coast. It does have a local Minneapolis slant, of course, but the articles were well-balanced. There was "hard" science (about the search for life on Mars), there was nostalgic humor (Poul Anderson's piece about the frolics of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society) and there was an unghodly funny series of cartoons about Minicon ("Minicon 15 in Weirds and Pitchers"). Minn-STF is the same wacky group that brought you "Midwest Side Story" last winter. The Letters Of Comment section was readable, too.

BCSFazine, June 1979 (Brittish Columbia SF Association, PO Box 35577, Stn. E, Vancouver BC Canada V6M 4G9) This is the newsletter you receive when you have joined the BCSFA (\$5 for USA residents). BCSFazine has a personal slant, it features many contribution from members. The June issue has profiles of the new club officers, more convention controversy (we're not alone, friends) and a cover collage of photos from V-Con 7.

PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN
by John Raymond Lorentz

The past few months were livened up by a couple of good science fiction conventions--V-Con 7, in Vancouver, and NorWesCon II, in Seattle. Financial problems (caused-in part-by NorWesCon. Both NorWesCons were able to find the highest hotel rates of any convention that I've attended) prevented me from attending V-Con, but this year's NorWesCon (with new, improved programming), proved to be quite enjoyable.

As mentioned above, the programming has picked up tremendously since last year. There were usually two good panels going on at all times, with the times well posted--something that was not done last year. The response by dealers was so large that there were two hucksters' rooms. And the art room this year was located with the rest of the programming rooms, instead of being on another floor. Having not attended the banquet (\$6.50 a pop was a little high), I am not able to report on that--but I am able to say that the Hyatt swimming pool must be the coldest swimming pool in the Pacific Northwest! I realize that Oly ("It's the water") and Rainier (with the mountain on the label) are both brewed in Washington, but they could get by without using mountain stream water, fresh from some glacier, to fill the pool.

The highlight of the convention was the DryCon room party, Saturday night. All over the convention everybody was asking "where's the DryCon party?". The party epitomized what is really nice about attending conventions, ~~the drinking~~ getting to meet and talk with other people who have similiar interests. If the convention doesn't get unmanageably large in the next few years, it will continue to be a pleasant activity to look forward to each spring.

Greetings, Earthperson! This is your PorSFis newsletter, late again. Since our last publication (I see members scratching their heads, trying to remember the last issue) PorSFis has gained many new members. We celebrated the New Year in fine style, partying like mad as April 1 rolled around. At the April 14 meeting, new officers were elected. Sue Renhard is our new president, Marc Wells is vice-president, John Lorentz is secretary, and John Andrews retained his post as treasurer. Look at the beautiful calendars that Bryce Walden has prepared for us and choose some summer activities to pursue.

John Lorentz, Sue Renhard and Steve Berry are your editors. We welcome any and all contributions to the newsletter. Call us at 231-8677 or 244-9698.

1979

AUGUST

PORTLAND SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

send info to: Bryce E. Walden
13933 S. E. Mall St.
Portland, OR 97236

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		WRITERS WORKSHOP SAM BUTLER 236-1366	FOR SF'S Room "E", MURCO CENTRAL LIBRARY 231-9677
		20:00	14:00
5	6	7	8
	◆	◆	◆
	ORYCON CONCOM Roger Wells 625-7521	◆	FRIENDS of DRINKOVER COUNCIL of the HIGH CASINOES at Council House Bryce Walden 761-8768
	19:30		19:30
12	13	14	15
	◆	◆	◆
	ORYCON CONCOM Roger Wells 625-7521	◆	WRITERS WORKSHOP SAM BUTLER 236-1366
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	FOR SF'S Room "E", MURCO CENTRAL LIBRARY 231-9677	◆	WRITERS WORKSHOP SAM BUTLER 236-1366
	14:00		20:00
25	24	23	22
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	WRITERS WORKSHOP SAM BUTLER 236-1366	◆	READERS THEATRE MARC WELLS 635-6668
	20:00		18:30
31	30	29	28
	◆	◆	◆
	WRITERS WORKSHOP SAM BUTLER 236-1366	◆	ORYCON CONCOM Roger Wells 625-7521
	20:00		19:30

SEACON (WORLDCON), BRIGHTON, ENGLAND

SEACON