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Pulsar

The Newsletter of The Portland Science Fiction Society



Columbia
STS-107

Issue 292

February 2003

Columbia STS-107

“The Columbia is Lost. There are no survivors.”

President George W. Bush spoke these words during the presidential news conference February 1st 2003 when he gave us the official news of the Space Shuttle disaster and the loss of the seven astronauts on board when the Columbia broke up over North Central Texas during reentry from orbit.

Communications were lost with the Columbia and its crew at around 8:00 a.m. CST, while the shuttle was traveling about 18 times the speed of sound at an altitude of 207,000 feet. The Columbia was 16 minutes from landing at the Kennedy Space Center when flight controllers at Mission Control lost contact with the vehicle. The Columbia and her crew were returning from a 16-day scientific research mission. It was 28th flight of the vehicle, which launched on January 16th 2003.

Aboard Columbia were:

Commander Rick Husband
Pilot William McCool
Mission Specialist Dave Brown
Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla
Mission Specialist Laurel Clark
Payload Commander Mike Anderson
Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon of the Israel Space Agency

America and the World mourn the loss of these brave Astronauts.

Memorial Service

The Portland Science Fiction Society feels that the members of the science and science fiction communities of Portland need an opportunity to express their grief and their respect for the crew of the Columbia. Therefore, PorSFIS will be holding a Memorial Service on Saturday, February 8th, at PSU, beginning at 2pm. This service is open to everyone who wishes to attend.

As we are expecting a larger turnout than for our regular meeting, we will be holding this service in the PCAT building (the blue building just north of the PSU Urban Plaza) in Room 118.

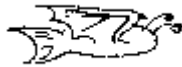
Directions and additional information will be posted to www.porsfis.org as they become available.

-Debra Stansbury
President, Portland Science Fiction Society



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First Fan	Ed Foster	edfoster@porsfis.org

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm afraid to tell you that your editorial comment that PorSFis will celebrate its 25th birthday on April 1st 2003 is incorrect.

Let us turn to PULSAR #100 (Dated February 1987), which carries the banner "Celebrating 10 Years of the Portland Science Fiction Society." Inside, on Page 13, we find an historic timeline of PorSFis events. For February 1977, we have "PorSFis first meets at the Illustrated Store." Also, on page 11, the PorSFis timeline for February 1987 lists the PorSFis 10th Anniversary Party for February 14th 1987.

Having established that PorSFis was founded in 1977 you have missed the 25th anniversary in which was in 2002. There are still many 25th anniversary events to celebrate in 2003.

February 18 First PorSFis meeting at the Library. Election of Marc Wells as President and Debbie Cross as Secretary/Treasurer.

May 6 Mailing of the first PorSFis newsletter

May 13 PorSFis constitution approved

August 5 First PorSFis picnic

November 11 Symposium

In addition, in 1978, there was the first Writer's Workshop meeting, the first Friends of Darkover meeting and the first Xmas party

- Paul Wrigley & Debbie Cross

Subject: 25 years from when?

Dear Editor,

You keep saying it's PorSFis' 25th anniversary. Well, some of us old-timers remember meeting in Carl's bookstore as early as March/April 1977. I also remember a PorSFis 5th anniversary celebration, complete with cake, at OryCon in 1982.

So, yes, we started really advertising PorSFis, meeting in the library, and adopted the constitution in early 1978, but we've been around as a group of people meeting at something called PorSFis for almost 26 years now.

- Roger Wells

rwells@whitties.org



Thank you Society Members for your letters.

While attending the December Business Meeting it was announced that The Portland Science Fiction Society would be celebrating its 25th year by President Stansbury. (Yes that was in the meeting minutes only there was this rabbit see and this... ahem never mind.)

Anyway after it was brought to my attention by you fine folks that PorSFiS had actually been around for 26 years I sought out the current President of PorSFiS and dumped the question in her lap. Her response is in her notes in this Pulsar but I will summarize.

The Portland Science Fiction Society was officially incorporated in the state of Oregon on April 1, 1978. A constitution (which can now be viewed on www.porsfis.org) was adopted and by-laws established by the founding members. Going from that date that makes the Society 25 years old this year even though informal and organizational meetings were held before April 1st of 1978.

*And here is a great place for me to put a plug in for all of you who do remember the beginning of the Portland Science Fiction Society. *hints big time to PorSFiS Member #5**

Send in your remembrances and anecdotes of that time. Help us rebuild institutional memory by sharing them with us in the April Pulsar. Submission cut off date for inclusion is March 25th 2003.

*Thank you again,
Kris Picio
Pulsar Editor-in-chief
editor@porsfis.org*

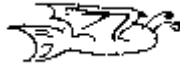


From the office of the President

By Debra Stansbury
president@porsfis.org

1. Afters—February Afters will be held at the Pizzacato's in the trolley plaza on 6th & Mill (PSU has an official name for it, but I don't remember it!). It will start after the meeting, as usual. In addition to being a refreshing alternative to the same ol' same ol', it is more conveniently located for those of us who mass-transit. This is not a permanent change, but rather a chance to try something different. We will be checking out other options as well.

2. Meeting times—We do have *some* flexibility as to when we hold our meetings. (We tend to start on fan time, which can be exacerbated when the room is still locked.) We changed the meeting time last year to 2-4pm, mostly because PSU charged by the hour, and frankly, we were always leaving early. However, the scheduling person at PSU has always said that if no one has the room after us we can stay late. Plus, they've changed to a slightly different billing method that, while costing us the same, could give us more time. I hope that January's meeting will become typical, and we will have well attended, interesting meetings from now on! (And yes, I know the burden of that is on me, and I have pledged to rise to that challenge!)



3. Election: As this is the Election Issue, I feel the urge to campaign....

Please vote for me!

4. New ideas—At the January meeting there was a wonderful outpouring of ideas and energy. We will be implementing some of these ideas in the near future, so I hope our energy level stays high! (See January Meeting notes for more details).

5. Artists- We have some great ideas for t-shirts, tote bags, and other artifacts—what we need is an artist or two who can draw them up for us! Please volunteer your friends!

6. New Members— We're working on bringing in new members. Our membership is making a *very* slow recovery from an all-time low a couple of years ago, and we really need to bring in new blood. Partially for the money to keep the Society going, but more especially for their energy, enthusiasm, and their ideas!

To aid in this, starting April 1st, PorSFIS will be offering an Introductory Rate. This is \$10 for a year's membership, and is available to new members and to anyone who has not been a member since before 1997. In order to make this work, these special members will receive their Pulsars via email, rather than through the Postal System. And yes, you can give this Introductory Rate as a gift to your non-PorSFIS friends.

7. Business Meetings—after some discussion at the last meeting, it was decided that, for now, we will continue to meet at PSU in the non-classroom space. This is made possible through the generosity of John Andrews, who subsidizes our meeting space. In order not to be such a burden on him, however, we will be putting out a donation jar at meetings from now on. **THIS IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY.** We are not going to be twisting arms, checking who donates or not, or making sad eyes if we don't 'make quota' or anything, so please don't feel obligated to give when you can't, or to not attend at all!

8. Fundraising Ideas— One thing I didn't get to at the January meeting was Fundraising Ideas. So, please bring your ideas to the February meeting! We're looking for ways to raise money for PorSFis and for our Project—SF for Schools (donating SF books to local area school libraries).

9. Just to clarify—I am aware that the Portland Science Fiction Society has been around for more than 25 years. However, I haven't been around that long, and therefore was not aware of the important dates, so I decided to go by the founding date per the Bylaws. True fact says we're fast approaching our 26th year, but, like the Millennium Celebrations, we're going to be off a bit! So—let us celebrate this next year as a milestone, regardless, and make PorSFis a fun society that people want to join, once again!



Business Meeting Minutes 01/11/2003

Attending: Deb Stansbury, Dave Moreland, Matt & Kris Picio, John Bartley & Leah Rush, Barbara Oldham, Scott Sanford, Paul Borte, Carl Eckrode, Roger Eckrode, Anne Manning, Tracey Hiersche, Brad Fox

Mail Call: Portland Arts & Lectures, South Florida SFS, Otherworlds Sci-Fi, De Profundis 360, BCSFanzine 356, Instant Message 712

Discussion of meeting space options: 1) Status Quo: \$600/yr. 2) PSU classroom \$360/yr. 3) Rose & Raindrops (5th and SE Morrison) Must eat/drink \$100/mo.-backroom, 4) Hollywood Library (Free), 5) Tigard Waterworks (Free)

Discussion tabled, suggestion made that everyone keep an eye out for good meeting space. We will put out a donation jar to help defray John Andrews cost for renting the room.

(President's version—Thanks to John Andrew's generosity, we will remain at PSU in the Smith Memorial Center, we will keep in mind alternate meeting spaces for future need, and will put out a donation jar to help pay for the room, so John A. doesn't have to.)

Discussion of reincorporating PorSFIS and re-establishing our tax-exempt status. Deb will check into this.

Discussion of changing the location for Afters. John Bartley will check into alternate possibilities.

February Alt.PorSFfiS will be at John Andrews. March will be at Dave Moreland & Sue Renhard's (Dave, Deb, & PorSFfiS collective birthday!)

(President remembers discussing labels to put in books being donated to Schools and requesting artists to draw up current concepts for tote bags, t-shirts and other artifacts.)

Suggestion made to request permission of the various fanzines we receive for the use of some of their artwork and articles to "flesh out" the Pulsar. (After the Editor requested artists for original art.)

(President also remembers suggesting a Promotional Item Design Team, and suggesting that people canvas their local book/game/comic/video shops for permission to put out flyers or bookmarks. The Webmaster had a few words to say about looking to change the format of the website, and that he was looking for suggestions (and the President agreed to finally finish up the Top "25" list for him to put up). The Treasurer says we currently have some money, and that we are officially not doing the "Christmas Family" anymore.)

PorSFfiS memberships will be \$20/singles, \$30/family, \$10/email memberships (new members only)

(President's version: When talk turned to ways of bringing in new members, Kris Picio suggested a \$5 introductory membership rate. After some discussion, we decided on a \$10 introductory rate. This will start April 1st and run to March 31st 2004. (Depending on the success and retention rate, we may wish to reevaluate at that time).

These new members will receive their Pulsars via email, rather than U.S. Post. Regular memberships remain \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families.)

Suggestions for fun things to do at PorSFis meetings:

1)Pictionary 2) Charades 3) Debra talking for 2 hours 4) Special Guests 5) Round robin SF story

Special Guest Suggestions: 1) Portland history—especially the shanghai connection 2) PDX wireless folks 3) Things from Another World 4) Looking Glass Owner (and other sponsors) 5) Joyce Z. – how to repair books 6) Book Reports – rants and raves 7) owners of Rimsky-Korsacoffee house & Sylvia Beach Hotel 8) Bodacious Classics 9) Movie Madness 10) Research Assistant 11) Alan Batie (Agora.com) 12) Oregon Film Board 13) Black SF – Steve Barnes(Black Future History Month!) 14) Roger Eckrode volunteered possibly coming in and talking about the tech at his company.

Debra- Still not King!

Suggestions for Group Activities: 1) Volunteer for OPB Pledge breaks 2) Bit of Earth Garden project 3) SF Day at the library 4) Summer Reading Programs 5) OMSI Events – Haunted House, Suggest a SF/science discussion thing 6) Commando Business Card Dispersal

Event Calendar

February 2003

- 1 Disintegration of the Space Shuttle Columbia during reentry
Chinese New Year
- 2 Birthday of author Thomas Disch
Birthday of actor Brent Spiner (Data)
Birthday of actor Michael Weiss (Jarod from The Pretender)
Launch of M-47 Soyuz U to International Space Station
- 4 Publication of "Drowning World" by Alan Dean Foster
Publication of "Evolution" by Stephen Baxter
Release on DVD of "Predator 2"
- 6 Birthday of actor Patrick McNee (Steed from The Avengers)
- 7 "Faster than the Speed of Light" Author Joao Magueijo at
Powell's Books – 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Jules Verne's 175th birthday
- 8 Columbia Memorial Service at Portland State University
(two p.m.)**
- 9 Cyberpunk writer William Gibson at Powell's Book – 7:30
p.m.
- 11 Release on DVD of "Spy Kids 2" and "X-Men" movie
Collectors Edition
- 14-16 52nd Annual Agate and Mineral Show at OMSI
RadCon 3C held in Pasco, WA – General SF and Gaming
Convention
- 14 Premiere of the movie "Daredevil", based on the Marvel
comic
Premiere of animated Disney sequel "Jungle Book 2"
- 16 45th Birthday of actor LeVar Burton (Geordi LaForge)
- 18 Release on DVD of "Tuck Everlasting", "Speed Racer"
(season 1), Stargate movie (Ultimate Edition)
- 20 Birthday of author Richard Matheson
"Egypt in Film: The Good, The Bad and The ridiculous"
Lecture by Dr. Stuart Tyson Smith at Loinonia Hall, 7:30 at
PSU
- 21-23 RingCon in Gig Harbor, WA – Lord of the Rings
Convention

February Event Calendar Continued

- 22 Birthday of author Joanna Russ
Free CPR Training at OMSI – does not include museum admission
- 22 **Alt.PorSFis (Hosted by John Andrews)**
- 24 35th Anniversary of discovery of the first pulsar (gee, what a neat name)
- 25 Release on DVD of "Deep Space Nine, Season One"
Don Brownless and Peter Ward, writers of "The Life and Death of Planet Earth: How the New Science of Astrobiology Charts The Ultimate Fate of Our World" at Powell's Books – 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Birthday of author Stephen Goldin
- 28 Progress 7 Soyuz Launch to International Space Station

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-BAR-TLEY
(503-227-8539) Or email john@503bartley.com



March 2003

- 1 Launch of space shuttle Atlantis
- 2 Birthday of actress Gates McFadden (Dr. Crusher ST:TNG)
- 3 Birthday of actor James Doohan (Scotty -ST)
- 4 Publication of "The Wellstone" by Wil McCarthy (sequel to "The Collapsium")
Release on DVD of "1984" (1984 version starring John Hurt), "The Day The Earth Stood Still", "Doctor Who: The Aztecs", "Half Past Dead", "Quest For Fire", "A Kid in King Arthur's Court", "The Ring", "Star Trek 4: The Voyage Home" and "Journey To The Center Of The Earth"
- 6 Final day for OMSI Omnimax showing of "Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West"
- 7 First day for OMSI Omnimax showing of "Coral Reef Adventure"
- 8 International Woman's Day
PorSFis Meeting at Portland State University (two p.m.)
- 11 Release on DVD of "Below" and "Inspector Gadget 2"
- 14-16 Game Storm 2003 - OSFCI Sponsored Gaming Convention at DoubleTree Inn, Columbia River in Portland, OR
- 16 Start of "Children of Dune" 6 hr mini-series on SciFi network
- 19 Birthday of actor Patrick McGoohan (The Prisoner)
- 21-23 12th Annual Telescope Optics Workshop in Bellingham, WA
Anime Oasis 2003 - Anime Convention in Boise, ID
- 21 Vernal Equinox 01:00 UT
Series Finale of "Farscape" on SciFi network
- 22 Birthday of actor William Shatner (James T. Kirk - ST)
Birthday of actress Mary Tamm (Romana I of Doctor Who)
Star Party - Vernal Equinox Celebration - OMSI East
Parking Lot

March Event Calendar Continued

- 22 Alt.PorSFis (hosted by Dave Moreland and Sue Renhard)**
- 25 Release on DVD of "Who Framed Roger Rabbit", "Futurama - Season 1", "LEXX, Series 4, Volume 2", "Femme Fatale"
- 26 Birthday of actor Leonard Nimoy (Mr. Spock - ST)
- 27 Birthday of author Kevin J. Anderson
- 28 Premiere of movie "The Core"
Release on DVD of "Ghost Ship"
Premier of series "Tremors" on SciFi Channel (so good/bad they delayed it three months)
- 29 Birthday of actress Marina Sirtis (Counselor Troi -ST:TNG)

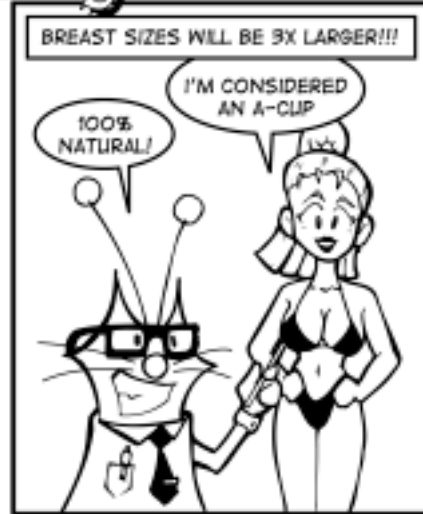


Mike Parker spends his time and energy researching the Event Calendar every month and getting it in on time so that you fine fen will have it all here in one place for your perusal. If you have any events you would like to see added to the calendar please email them to Mike at MIKPAR@prodigy.net or here to me at editor@porsfis.org prior to the submission deadline for inclusion in the Pulsar.

Zelda	
Randall	
Paul	
Interzone Comics	
Out-of this-world cards, comics, collectibles, and gaming arena.	
120 NW Miller St. Gresham, OR 97030 (503) 661-1815	
http://www.interzonecomics.com	

Ballistic Kitty

Episode 13
"In the Future!"



www.almostfunnyonline.com ©2003 Tomas Quinones

Featured Artist File: Tomas Quinones

a.k.a. "Krazy Q"

Location : Detroit, Michigan. Suburbs. That is all.

Q: Did you go to art school?

A: Not really...does it show? I did take some art classes in high school but none of them were of any use to me in the end. Most of my instruction has come from bugging other artists and reading how they make comics and such. Books too.

Q: What were some of your influences?

A: Well...Japanese animation (anime) and comics (manga) have been a huge influence in my style if you couldn't already tell. Some of my favorite artists out there are also American. But I'd have to say that the most influential artist that I mimicked the most was Akira Toriyama the creator of Dragonball. I could draw almost any character from memory when I was in high school and some people thought I was tracing.

Q: What's the history of BK?

A: Long story short BK was born on my 18th birthday when I went to a night club for the first time, got really bored watching people jiggle about and drink so I started doodling on a paper coaster, then a couple months later he became the subject of a student animation workshop in high-school. In 1998, I drew a mini-comic along the same story line with my friend Wolfgang and since then, I've been trying to get off the ground with him. I have other ideas I want to develop but I wanted to have some characters that could be well liked and remembered.

If you want to find our more about him visit www.almostfunnyonline.com where you can see his adventures as I draw them.

alt.PorSFis

On the fourth Saturday of the month the Portland Science Fiction Society commits **alt.PorSFis**, a social gathering in varying locations. Usually, **alt.PorSFis** involves movies, food, drink conversation and relaxation. All are welcome to attend.

Date: February 22nd 2003

Time: 6:30...ish

(Note: if you come early you will be put to work on party prep and cleaning.)

Location: John Andrews

4311 SE Cora St

Portland, OR 97206

Tel: 503-771-2894

Last alt.PorSFis was a heck of a good time at Sue and Dave's and we are looking for a repeat performance at Mr. Andrew's place. Check the website at www.porsfis.org to find directions and a map. When it comes to snacks and things, as with most alt.PorSFis's's's's's's, it's a bring your own and a bit to share kind of thing. If you have any questions feel free to email Debra at president@porsfis.org

So please come join us

At

alt.PorSFis

alt.PorSFIS Location Schedule

Every month Portland Science Fiction Society Members volunteer to host alt.PorSFIS at their home. Here is the schedule as of this month.

January – Sue Renhard
February – John Andrews
March – Dave Moreland
April – Matt & Kris Picio
May – Shava Navard
June – Marc & Patty Wells
July – Kier Salmon
August
September
October
November
December

Updates and changes may occur. Check www.porsfis.org for the most up to date information.

If you don't see a month filled you are welcome to volunteer to host alt.PorSFIS. Just contact Debra Stansbury at president@porsfis.org



BOOK REVIEW “Prey”

By Kris Picio

“Prey” by Michael Crichton

The Hype: “As fresh as today's headlines, Michael Crichton's most compelling novel yet tells the story of a mechanical plague and the desperate efforts of a handful of scientists to stop it. Drawing on up-to-the-minute scientific fact, Prey takes us into the emerging realms of nanotechnology and artificial distributed intelligence -- in a story of breathtaking suspense. Prey is a novel you can't put down. Because time is running out.”

-HarperCollins website

The Review: Crichton could have had a really good book here but instead he followed his standard formula and simply gave us a run of the mill tech “Thriller”. The formula? Man uses science to create “Something”. That “Something” is developed without control because man is greedy and dumb. The “Something” then escapes and looks like it is going to take over the world and kill mankind. Maverick Scientist steps in and saves the day in the nick of time. Sound familiar?

But formula aside, the book could have really hooked me with its story and writing which are inarguably good, were it not for one fatal flaw right in the beginning.

Crichton begins the book with a snippet from the epilog. Hello! Epilog! Shouldn't that be at the end of the book? You would think so wouldn't you? But not so here. No here page 1. Bingo. Here's the end. So through out the entire book you know what happens to the main character. This removes any sort of tension in the rest of book and frankly spoiled the whole experience for me.

It's obvious that the author did his homework and he does manage to translate what could have been a great deal of confusing scientific clap trap into a natural part of the story with out losing momentum. Had I not known the ending this would have been the type of book I probably didn't want to put down.

My suggestion is either skip the first 2 pages of the book and then try and enjoy it or to just rent Jurassic Park and watch it again. You can then hear the same sermon about man creating things before thinking about weather or not he should create them delivered entertainingly by Jeff Golbloom.

Overall Rating: 5 out of 10

Looking Glass Bookstore

318 SW Taylor St
Portland, OR 97204

phone:503-227-4760
fax: 503-227-0829

PorSFIS Members receive 10% off

Convention Calendar

RADCON 3C

Date: February 14-16, 2003

Location: Pasco West Coast Hotel

2525 N. 20th

Pasco, WA

Reservations: (509) 547-0701

Theme: General SF and Gaming Convention.

Website: www.radcon.org

RINGCON

Date: February 21-23, 2003

Location: The Inn at Gig Harbor

12016 134th Ave. KPN

Gig Harbor, WA. 98329

Tel:1-800-359-5948

Theme: *The Lord of the Rings* and other tales of J.R.R. Tolkien

Website: www.ringcon.com

E-mail: info@ringcon.com

GAME STORM

Date: March 14-16, 2003

Location: Double Tree Columbia River

Portland OR

Tel: 503.283.2111

Theme: Gaming Convention

Website: www.pdxgames.com

NORWESCON 25

Date: April 17-20, 2003

Location: SeaTac Doubletree Hotel, SeaTac, WA

18740 Pacific Highway South

SeaTac, WA, 98188.

Tel: (206) 246-8600

Fax: (206) 431-8687

GoHs: Jane Yolen; *AGoH:* Jim Burns; *SGoH:* Geoffrey Landis.

Special GoH: Michael Whelan. *Spotlight Publisher:* Del Ray.

Theme: Dragons, Drakes and Wyrms.

Mailing Address:

Norwescon

P.O. Box 686657

Seattle, WA, 98168-0547.

Email: info@norwescon.org

Website: www.norwescon.org

WESTERCON 56

Date: July 3-6, 2003

Location: SeaTac Doubletree Hotel

18740 Pacific Highway South

SeaTac, WA, 98188

Tel: (206) 246-8600

Fax: (206) 431-8687

GoHs: Bruce Sterling-writer; Saul Jaffe-fan; Lisa Snellings-artist;

Clair Eddy-editor; Connie Willis-toastmaster.

Memberships: \$75 At-the-Door

Westercon 56

P.O. Box 1066,

Seattle, WA 98111

Email: info@wester56.org Website: www.wester56.org

WORLDCON 61/TORCON 3

Date: Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 2003

Location: Metro Toronto Convention Center, Royal York Hotel
Toronto Ontario, Canada.

GoHs: George R.R Martin, writer; Mike Glyer, fan; Frank Kelly
Freas,

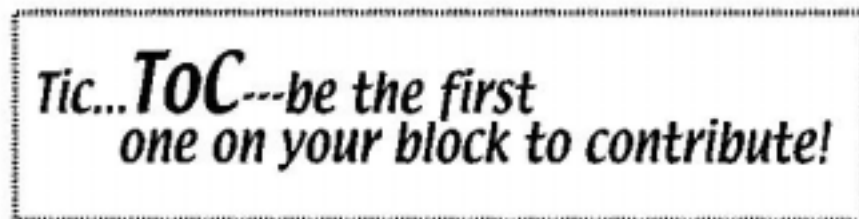
artist; Spider Robinson, toastmaster. Ghost of Honor: Robert Bloch.

Memberships: Attending \$170 (US), Supporting \$40 (US).

Torcon 3
Box 3, Station A
Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1A2
Canada

Email: info@torcon3.on.ca Website: www.torcon3.on.ca

Editors Note: The Pulsar is looking for a few good fan or fen who attend Norwescon. Send in your con-reports for publication here in the Pulsar. Email the editor at editor@porsfis.org



FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

Worldcon 62/Noreascon 4

When: Sept. 2-6, 2004

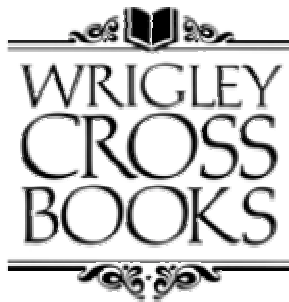
Where: Boston MA

Worldcon 63/Interaction

When: Aug. 4-8, 2

Where: Glasgow, Scotland

John Andrews, that's right the Portland Science Fiction Societies very own Treasurer, puts the Convention Calendar together every month. If you know of a convention coming up but don't see it listed send the information to John at john.c.andrews@att.net or to the editor at editor@porsfis.org for inclusion in the list.



MOVIE REVIEW-LOTR: 2

By John Andrews

LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

Peter Jackson & Co. have managed to avoid the pitfalls of a sequel in this movie, (Though everyone knows a third is coming) This movie is not just marking time, waiting for the climax. It is very necessary for the saga. As a matter of fact, I prefer this movie over the first.

I won't go into the story; it is, in essence, the book. The real change that I noticed is that, in the book, the destruction of Saruman's underground weapon and orc factory, by the Ents, took place off stage. In the movie it is shown. (This is understandable, being a visual medium.) Also they only have one flying ring wraith, I believe there were nine.

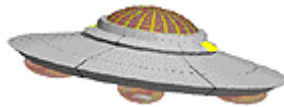
There is more action in this movie than in the first, divided into three groups, shifting between them for the audience to catch its breath. Frodo and Sam dealing with Gollum and heading for the "back door" into Mordor, Merry and Pippin with the Ents and Aragorn, Gimli, the elf, (Whose name I can't remember.) and Gandalf in Rohan.

One of the best sequences is the battle of Helm's Deep, hundreds of humans (And a few elves) vs. thousands of orcs. Great battle scenes, but bloodless. (Probably, Orcs don't have red blood, but you never see any humans bleed either, even though many are killed or wounded.)

Surprisingly, they resisted the urge to recap the first movie. However, this does lead to one weakness. The movie absolutely can not stand on its own alone (Though I realize it was not designed to.)

Overall this is a very good film, I just hope they can keep it up. See this film on a large screen; if possible, it's worth it.

Overall Rating: 9 out of 10



BOOK REVIEW: “The Dawn of Man”

By Ed Foster

“The Dawn of Man” by Elbert Lewis, Jr.

In November 2002 Mr. Elbert Lewis committed a heinous act. He sent the Portland Science Fiction Society his first novel. He describes it as “a hard hitting fast paced and imaginative tale of revenge, redemption, the bond of friendship and triumph against overwhelming odds.” (From his very own letter to us)

I describe the book as some of the worst drivel I have read since I encountered the “Eye of Argon”. Full of flashback, inconsistencies and a laughable premise that I wouldn’t let my dog pee on if I had a dog.

I am not even going to bore you with the details. Avoid this book. If you see it, run do not walk before it manages to dirty even the air you breathe with its putrid presence. I can’t believe I wasted my time on it.

Overall Rating: 2 (it was free) out of 10

Go forth and recruit! All species, races, creeds, colors, and planets of origin are welcome 😊
GIFT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
Memberships are still just \$20 a year, \$30 for the whole family! What a deal!

Ask Ed



Question: Suck it up? I bet you're going to vote for me, aren't you?

-Anonymous in Portland

Ed's Answer: Of course I am Debra. What part of "President for Life" didn't you understand?

Question: I am getting quite confused about how to pronounce the famous surname of our two distinguished Presidents Roosevelt. I hear some people say ROSE-ah-velt and others say RUSE-ah-velt (so the first syllable rhymes with "moose".) Which is correct?

- Baffled in Oyster Bay

Ed's Answer: Both are correct depending on who you talk to and which part of the country you are in.

shrugs

Question: Where did the expression "She who must be obeyed" originally come from?

- Wondering in Walla Walla

Ed's Answer: According to my sources the phrase is from H. Rider Haggard's adventure novel, "She". The title character, Ayesha, Queen of Kor, is known to her subjects as SWMBO.



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

The Editor is Kris Picio.

The Deadline for Pulsar contributions is 7 days before the end of every month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO Box above, or to the editor direct at editor@porsfis.org

PorSFis meetings are open to everyone. Check the [Calendar of Events](#) for meeting times and places. Membership per year: \$20 individual, \$30 family (1 newsletter per family membership)

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