

Only 50 cents!

# Pulsar

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The Portland Science Fiction Society Newsletter



**PRESIDENT FOR  
LIFE**



Leading  
The Portland Science Fiction Society  
into the next Century and Beyond!

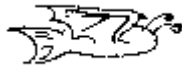
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Issue 294

April 2003

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## **The Portland Science Fiction Society Pulsar Crew**

Editor in Chief	Kris Picio	<a href="mailto:editor@PorSFis.org">editor@PorSFis.org</a>
First Fan	Ed Foster	<a href="mailto:edfoster@PorSFis.org">edfoster@PorSFis.org</a>

BTW this Months Cover is what happens when no one sends in any art.

**Future Dreams**  
 Portland's Quality Science Fiction  
 & Comic Art Bookstore  
 2205 East Burnside  
 (Our NEW Location)  
 fdb@hevanet.com 503.231.8311

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## Letter From the Editor

**Greetings!**

**“I have plans..yes many plans!**

**Muhahahahahaahahahahahhaahahahah!”**

**If you remember that quote from the January Pulsar than you may be prepared for what has happened to the Pulsar. As you may have gathered from the Table of Contents Several Regular items are missing! Well they have been moved to the Website! Tada!**

**Yes folks you can now find your Event Calendar, Convention Calendar and the Business Meeting minutes All on the website. This will afford us more space in the Pulsar for cool and interesting articles while still keeping you informed in an up to date manner about Events and Conventions.**

**Let me know what you think!**

**Kris Picio  
Editor-in-Chief  
[editor@PorSFIS.org](mailto:editor@PorSFIS.org)**

**Volunteer!**

PorSFIS is looking for volunteers who can guarantee follow through to help the officers with a project or two. Among other things, we are looking for an artist to draw up our idea for a totebag and t-shirt. Please step forward—your Society needs you! ☺

# Society Member Letters

Dear Pulsar Editor,

06 March 2003

**Re: your convention listing for Orycon 25. Have checked the perpetual calendar to insure that the date listed is a weekend and found that it is.**

**As I will not have time to access the con website I wonder if you could do me a favor and pass on the following questions:**

- 1) **Since I do not own one, will a time machine or portal be available as the year 200 is not accessible on Tri-Met? (Theirs operates forward only in the form of long waits and rides)**
- 2) **Will an advance site team insure that there are enough usable branches on the two trees for a three day habitation? (Five for con crew)**
- 3) **Due to the time of the year and the early age, will the con provide for a discount rental deal with a local skins and fur supplier?**
- 4) **Remind the committee that they will need extra volunteers for the following:**
  - a) **Firewood gatherers and fire tenders**
  - b) **Hospitality for gatherers, fishers and hunters**
  - c) **Moss gatherers (for those who run out of TP) and latrine attendants for sanitation stations (too late in the year for leaves).**
- 5) **Also remind them that we will need a Native American interpreter if there are locals at that time.**
- 6) **We'll also need to inform various societies that the Bigfoot Legend is most likely due to locals seeing some of our larger attendees wrapped in fur (Doc, Lurch, etc)**
- 7) **The restaurant guide will not be needed!**
- 8) **Our daily 'zine will be a Con Crier every hour of daylight (night security can do half hour All's Well check cry)**

- 9) **BYOB will affect the amount of TP, extra skins and furs that each member can carry. Time machines/portals cost per mass transported.**
- 10) **Logistics head will try to provide tools if #9 is wavered. For what it costs to rent trucks a lot of axes (steel that can't be left or mass anomaly will occur) can be bought as well as shovels and fishing and hunting gear. As well as fish scalers, skinners, spits etc for cooking.**

**Feel free to add to the list above from other Pulsar readers or PorSFIS members. The con commit(ed)ee will have eight months to arrange everything I hope.**

**Yours, an uninformed committee member (missed the first few meetings),**

**OryFred**

**p.s. Dibs on the mastodon rug and tusks and will pay a twelve roll TP pack for half of a giant elk and a couple of mince meat pies at Christmas as a bonus if I get the rack.**

**p.p.s. Remind all to bring snowshoes, matches and bundles of tinder (no extra charge for this mass per con member)**

**p.p.p.s. The at portal price surcharge needs to be determined**

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*Editors Note: I have a copy editor, I really do. But do I use her? Noooooo and that's the reason I get letters like this. Poor Fred. Not Worry folks he has been set straight but it does show you the commitment of some volunteers. His planning and prep work is solid.*

*The next OryCon is in November 2003 not 200 as was last printed in the Pulsar.*

## **From the office of the President**

**By Debra Stansbury**  
[president@PorSFis.org](mailto:president@PorSFis.org)

Well, here I am again—President! I'd like to thank all of you who voted for me. Despite my eye rolling and protestations, it's nice not to get voted off the island ;) I hope I live up to everyone's expectations. I want to make this fun for as many as I can! And to Roger—I will get you for that +70 years suggestion!

So, who are the other officers? Do inquiring minds want to know? Let's see:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Debra Stansbury</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Matt Picio</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Barbara Oldham</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>John Andrews</b>

There, are inquiring minds happy now? ☺ By the way, if you were at the meeting and heard a different result for secretary, it's okay, that's one that can't be used to prove you're crazy...we had a case where some votes, due to family emergency, came in later that day, which changed the result. No, Ed wasn't involved. Honest. (Though I did hear something about penguins...) ☺

I'm all excited about the New Year, and hope everyone else is, as well. We have our new Introductory Rate, we have Style and soon we will have Substance! Right? Right? Uhm, guys? Hello? (All teasing aside, I hope that this will be PorSFis's best year yet, and further hope everyone will pitch in to make it so! ☺)

**Speaking of memberships! It's April! And that means—  
Renewals! Time to renew your memberships, PorSFisians!  
And you PorSFoids, too! Not to mention you PorSFans,**

**PorSFellows, and PorSFems! ☺ If your membership date expires in April (or May, why wait?) please be sure to send in, or bring in, your membership dues. <wheedles> You get a nifty new blue card!**

**So, what's up for our first meeting of the PorSFis New Year? Well, we have to decide on our calendar critter...(hey, if it's good enough for the Chinese)...so what do we think? Will this be the year of the Robot? The year of the Nanobot? The year of the Telepath? Or shall we be even more fun than that and give each month a theme? April—Month of the Spaceship! ☺ Bring your suggestions to the meeting (I'll write them on the board and talk! Yes, come to the meeting and watch Debra talk! Won't that be fun??)**

**Okay, aside from me, we will have at least one other speaker. I have not yet heard from the other yet—he might not be available, in which case he will likely be our May speaker. But the other speaker promises she will be there. But I'm not going to tell you who it is. Let's just say, she flew in at great expense (not ours, but still, it cost a lot!) Yes, come to the meeting and hear someone *other* than Debra talk! (I'm all excited over that!)**

**More on Afters: So...which will it be? McMinamin's (which I can't spell! Sorry) or Pizzacato's (which I think I can spell. I may or may not be right...)? My personal preference kicks in if there are no suggestions (about Afters, that is), so if you have a reference, please let me know. Other wise, I'll decide on my own. If anyone has another option, please share! ☺**

***Tic...TOC---be the first  
one on your block to contribute!***

## **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 and relaxation. All are welcome to attend.

**Date:** April 22<sup>th</sup> 2003

**Time:** 6:30...ish (note: if you come early you will be put to work on party prep and cleaning.)

**Location:** **Matt and Kris Picio's**  
**926 NE 80<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Portland, OR 97213**  
**Phone: 503-253-1488**

See [www.porsfis.org](http://www.porsfis.org) for detail directions

**Theme:** "Escape From Detroit"

**Matt and Kris are celebrating their third year in Portland. Three years ago they fled Detroit and headed west. After driving across the country at 45 MPH in a Rental truck and towing their car they collapsed in Portland and found it to be good. So to celebrate their Great Escape they will be showing as many bad movies, that have something to do with Detroit or Escaping, as they can for you MST3K-ing pleasure.**

**Snacks and Drinks are Bring your own and some to Share.**



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# Portland Science Fiction Society & Me

By Sam Butler

When I move to Portland in 1995 I didn't know where the other Science Fiction fans were.

It took me a while to find them because they were in hiding.

My path came through "The Illustrated Store".

Some might recall it's location on East Burnside, but that was not it's first home. I don't know why I went to "Logan's Run" at the downtown Fox Theater [or The Movie Box - I can't remember which], but it was probably because it was the only theater in town showing it. Logan's run opened May 16, 1975 with a special showing in Los Angeles, when it opened in Portland, obviously a few months later I went to see it.

On my way to where I parked my automobile I passed by a store front, across the street from what is now The Galleria at 916 SW Morrison. Half of the block was parking lots, but there were a couple of buildings on the lot. One of the business's there was "The Illustrated Store". And there in front of me in the window were science fiction books and other items. I tried the door. It was locked. [Looking in the Portland Telephone books, there was no listing for The Illustrated Store in 1976, in 1977 it was in SW Portland, and in 1978 it was 1808 East Burnside.]

I had to come back, and I did. I can't say that I was a big customer of Carl's, but I'd come in every once in a while and talk for a few minutes, then the store closed/moved. The City of Portland decided to raze the entire block and put up a parking structure, and this is what they did, it's called Morrison West. Carl moved to East Burnside into a little store front near the corner of 18th. I'm not sure exactly which month this happened.

When I found Carl's store again I'd go in and make myself a pest, finally in order to get people to stop pestering him about the science

fiction world and other fans, he dragged several of us fans together. The 'official' lore has it that PorSFis began as a group on it's own just prior to us being asked to leave the store and create our own life about 1978.

In the early days there were about 10 of us. Marc Wells, his brother Roger, Debbie Cross, John Andrews and myself made the move from the store to Room C at the Multnomah County Library. Carl Bennett, Michael Garlock are two of the names that I remember that didn't, the other woman, her boyfriend and one other person didn't make the move and have disappeared into the lore of PorSFis history. It should be noted that part of the reason the boyfriend and the other woman didn't make the move was because they were in a rock and roll band; even had a record pressed and went that way. Somewhere in my collection is that record, so one of these days I'll look for the names.

So just when did STAR WARS come out? It must have been summer 1977, if so the members of proto-PorSFis [embryo-PorSFis] did have discussions about the movie before it came out, but also after. We weren't organized enough to see it as a group, but did discuss the various symbolism involved in the film, from the thrusting light sabers, to the organically shaped space ships.

It would be a full year before we were asked to leave the Illustrated Store so that Carl could have a life. He was spending 7 days a week in the store, and desperately needed an escape, that plus the fact that we didn't purchase a significant amount of books from him perhaps lead to this suggestion on his part.

We schlepped away in the night, rebounded and found a home at Room "E" at the Multnomah County Public Library Central Branch. From this bastion of literature and sharing we grew in number until we didn't know any better, starting doing community outreach, also know as The Symposium, and then that other thing called OryCon, with side trips through CON-GENERIC, Westercon, etc.

End of part 1

# GameStorm 2003

By John Bartley

Game Storm The First was born in the fevered minds of a few hardy Portland gamers, and took its first breaths in the meeting room of the Clackamas Denny's at 224 and SE 82nd. Since then, it has wandered the wilderness, seeking hotel facilities, which do not think that Gaming Is The Spawn Of The Devil.

Game Storm 2003 camped out this yaron on the top floor of the DoubleTree Columbia River, the same as last year. Last year we were under the under the capable leadership of Aaron Curtis; this year Fearless Leader was John Williamson.

Our goal (not excluding interplanetary domination) was 400 members, surpassing last year's 297 by a comfortable 1/3; instead, we had over 480 (counting both full memberships and day passes), overshooting our target in true Stankovite fashion by over twenty per cent and last year's edition by over sixty percent. More space will surely be found for next year's con. Forward the Glorious Gaming Revolution, Comrades!

Since we had only 500 event-seats including panels, things got a little cozy at times (not to mention the Inevitable Air Conditioning Breakdown for two hours Saturday morning in the Rogue Room), but there was always seating for ad hoc gaming if there weren't seats in the prescheduled gaming sessions. The well-stocked gaming library, using games purchased by OryCon and Game Storm as well as loaners from Dave & Melanie Schaber and Aaron Curtis, has a pretty broad selection of all varieties of non-computer games.

Two hundred and eighty-six games or events were planned, including board, games, card games, role playing games, collectible card games, panels with industry experts and even a gamer's movie about gamers. You can still see the schedule of what was offered at <<http://www.pdxgames.com/events.php>>.

There were seven dealers of various and sundry gamer's sundries, including three gaming publishers who demonstrated their wares nearly constantly. A custom embroidery shop offered while-you-wait customized garb, there was a dealer of Pretty and Pointy Things, and, well, there were two shops who sold, well, games (imagine that). Again, this was a 75% improvement over last year's offerings.

Two experienced industry professionals served as Guests of Honor. Peter Adkinson, doyen designer of AD&D 3E and one of the former leading lights of Wizards of the Coast, even ran a session of AD&D 3E, of which your humble editor can describe in greater detail, inasmuch as she went a-huntin' some orcs. Steve Long of Hero Games also illuminated some of the mysteries of his gaming universe. Both sparked fascinating discussions in the panels and games they led, as did other game and game module designers who attended, such as GURPS aficionado Brian Underhill.

Next year will surely include all the great things about this year, along with earlier publishing of gaming schedule and possibly even more features to amaze and amuse the hardened gamer. Another priority will be more space, for things did become just a wee bit crowded from time to time.

In summary, and con where you break even is a good con, and with the superb attendance by so many Cascadian gamers, Game Storm is rapidly growing a reputation of providing quality entertainment for gamers, and a whole lot more.

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](mailto:john@503bartley.com)

Have you hinted to your friends that it's time they joined PorSFis? We don't bite, much!

PorSFis is now offering a \$10 Introductory Rate! This is available to new members (and to anyone who has not been a member since before 1997) and is good for a full year! Our new members receive all the rights, privileges and fun of our regular members, though they 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!

#### Donations to offset room expenses

After some discussion at a recent 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!

Thank you ☺



## Ask Ed



**Question:** Ok, Ed, what's your take on this age-old question? As you know, there was a gathering of fans at Phil Rothman's in Philadelphia, which some claim is the first SF con. A while later, there was a more formal meeting at Leeds, in the UK, which clearly was an SF con. Some insist the Philadelphia thing was only a fan gathering and the Leeds thing was the

first SF con. Come to think of it, you were there at both of these, weren't you? Anyhow, what do you hold to be the first SF con?  
- *confused in Chicago*

**Ed's Answer:** Well Chicago I can tell you that the Leeds Meeting was the first Con. The first one we didn't charge admission for.

**Question:** Dear Ed: My apprentice keeps whining and won't listen to me. What can I do?  
- *O. Kenobi*

**Ed's Answer:** Dude you are felled. Run. Run now.

**Question:** Dear Ed: My daughter keeps 'borrowing' my books and reads them--before I get a chance to! How can I convince her to stop?  
-*D's Dad*

**Ed's Answer:** You want to convince a child to stop reading?!! What are you some sort of anti SF freak? ...where is my laser? I am going to teach you what we do with Child Abusers like you.



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Thank you ☺



# Pulsar

Issue 294

April 2003

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The Portland Science Fiction Society

Portland Science Fiction Society  
 PO Box 4602  
 Portland, OR 97208

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](mailto: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)

Current PorSFIS Officers:

President	Debra Stansbury	<a href="mailto:president@porsfis.org">president@porsfis.org</a>	503-620-3068
Vice President	Matthew P. Picio	<a href="mailto:acehunter@acehunter.com">acehunter@acehunter.com</a>	
Treasurer	John Andrews	<a href="mailto:john.c.andrews@att.net">john.c.andrews@att.net</a>	503-771-2894
Secretary	Barbara Oldham		
Webmaster	Matt Picio	<a href="mailto:tgapw@porsfis.org">tgapw@porsfis.org</a>	

PORSFIS WEBPAGE: [www.porsfis.org](http://www.porsfis.org)

Don't Forget to check your Label!! ☺