

Pulsar

A publication of the Portland Science Fiction Society

Happy Halloween!





(Curses, foiled again, and again—Ed)



Issue 299

September - October 2003

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 **From the office of the President** 

By Debra Stansbury
president@porsfis.org

Boy, that Ed. If he isn't careful we may change his title from First Fan to Newsletter Bane! He's now only allowed to work on copies of the file...and never again on the Editor's computer!

Let's see, what other fun and exciting things have been happening since the last Pulsar?

The Picnic! We had 33 different people come to the picnic (counting our hostess's sister and friends). I think that's the best turn out in years! Certainly since I've been President. ☺ Many, many, many thanks to 'Dancer, who was our Hostess with the Mostess. Thanks also to Fred, who manned the grill, and to Scott who helped clean up afterwards, and to all of you who came and made it the fun time it was ☺. My favorite quote has to be from my Mom "It's like being in a candy store, so many people to talk to!" ☺ If you didn't make it—I'm sorry, you missed a great time.

Speaking of the picnic—we had our August business meeting at the picnic, but it was such a confusing time, and no one had a chance to review the new Articles and Bylaws beforehand, so we voted to table the discussion of them until September's meeting. Now, just to let people know—If things start to get rowdy and confusing like they did in August, I will make sure each person gets their guaranteed two minutes to share their thoughts on each suggested alteration, but no more. I say this now so that people will have a chance to put their thoughts in order before they arrive and don't waste their two minutes trying to figure out what they want to say. I will also do my best to make sure each person has a chance to speak uninterrupted, and no one has to raise their voices in frustration. I do strive to be fair ☺. Now, I highly suspect this discussion will take the entire two hours, so I will delay our planned discussion on "Favorite SF Authors others may not have heard of" until October. ☺ (For those of you who think this sounds less fun than a trip to the dentist...I heard a rumor that there will be treats at the meeting <grin>)

Many kudos to Matt and Kris Picio who stepped up and volunteered to host August alt.porsfis when I was unable to get a hold of our previous volunteer (who got a hold of me like two days later—go figure! Fortunately he was a very good sport about it.) Again, it was a well attended gathering, full of fun and food ☺ The pasta was wonderful, and the movies were just too much fun ☺ (I brought Princess Bride, and David Lohkamp brought Much Ado About Nothing.) We had *four* new people this month! Woo hoo! Hopefully they will like us and decide to join ☺ Thank you, Matt and Kris!

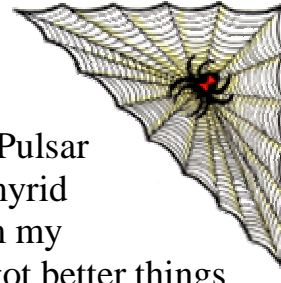
Other news...Kier is in charge of the Room Party at Orycon...if you'd like to volunteer to help, either before or during the party, please contact her at kiers @ ipinc.net There was some great brainstorming at the August Meeting—but I'm not surprised, PorSFis has some great imaginative people! ☺

Other Orycon news...PorSFis will be stepping into the vacuum left when the Friends of the Doctor vanished in their Tardis, and will be sponsoring a Chocolate Tasting at Orycon. Remember, this is a fundraiser and a publicity effort and we would, vacuum notwithstanding, like it not to suck ☺ If you would like to donate chocolate or money, would like to volunteer, or would just like more information about the event, please contact me at president @ porsfis.org ☺

Debra ☺



Letter from the Editor



Hello everyone,

As you may have noticed I missed another Pulsar issues and this one is late. I could list the myriad things that life threw at me to keep me from my volunteered rounds but I ain't gonna. We got better things to do with our time don't we? I could blame it all on Ed though....humm...

I really wanted to put a plug in for you to contribute to our next issue, which is the big 300th issue and a Convention issue to boot. So lets all show off and send in tons of stuff. Don't worry about size. I will be doing some creative printing in November to get everything in so that we have a batch of Pulsars to hand out at Orycon

Anywho, we have a great issue in this Halloween issue so I am just gonna let you get at reading it while begging for MORE reviews, articles, and art from you! Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!

.....

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PorSFis Members receive 10% off

Movie Review

By Debra Stansbury

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl

Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me.... At last, an action movie for women! In Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, we meet Elizabeth Swan (played by Keira Knightley). She fights, she swoons, she bargains, she lies...and she's got Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) willing to die for her. <deep sigh> Most action movies that have a "strong female" in them still tend to have her spending most of the movie screaming, crying and needing rescued, only "helping" the male lead at the last moment with a well-timed blow to some opponent's head or some such. Not Elizabeth, though! Okay, yes, she does need some rescuing, but she does her fair share! Definitely a kick-butt, take names kind of girl...and invariably she makes her Pirate Lore role ☺

As for the men—Johnny Depp *and* Orlando Bloom! Humor, good looks, swashbuckling expertise, and a definite sense of style...these guys know how to use a sword, or an oar, to great effect, how to apply the proper leverage, and of course, when the opportune moment is. Their on-screen buddy chemistry is a joy to watch. Even when you, like Will, aren't sure if Jack, 'scuse me, *Captain Jack Sparrow*, is going to zig or zag, it's always entertaining!

Okay, fun lines to watch for (aside from leverage comments): "No, that I deserved," "Parlez," "You want pain, try wearing a corset," "Parlez," "There'll be no living with her after this," "But why the rum?" and "Parlez."

The CGI is incredible, the costumes delicious, the music excellent and the scenery (filmed on location in the Caribbean) is near-unbelievable. Oh, and it has Geoffrey Rush as Captain Balbosa, a pirate with a thing for apples, and not one, but two pairs of bumbling comedic relief! Double talk, big words, fancy sword-play, daring damsels and men in distress, this movie rocks!

My final note—this is a must see in the theatre (and a must own on DVD!) ☺ (Oh, and stay till the very end of the credits—Bad Monkey!)

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And Now the More on the Brief History of the Calendar!



A Brief History of the Calendar

Part 2

By Roger Wells

46–45 BC: The Julian Calendar

The calendar had evolved from a lunar calendar to a solar calendar. Yet, it retained a characteristic of combined lunar/solar calendars, the intercalary month:

“Mother! The prom’s the Nones of Martius. It’s already Februarius and they still haven’t told us whether we’ll have Intercalaris this year. I don’t know if I’ve got over fifty days or less than thirty to get my new robe finished!”

“This is ridiculous. They’ve so messed up the calendar adjustments that I’m just starting my spring planting when the calendar says it’s Junius.”

In 46 BC, Gaius Julius Caesar returned from his military campaigns in Egypt to immense popularity and was declared dictator. He had the authority and popularity to impose a calendar reform.

“While in Alexandria, I consulted the astronomer Sosigenes. With his help, I learned that the calendar needs to have an average of a little less than 365¼ days.”

“I knew you must have been deep in the study of heavenly bodies, spending all that time with Cleopatra and her gang.”

“Hrumph. If we just add ten days to the calendar, then all we need is one extra day every four years, instead of periodically adding an entire month. One day can’t cause that much fuss.”

“But look at our calendar. Every day is set out for one special purpose or another. Add a bunch of extra days and look at the confusion.”

To add the days with minimal impact, Caesar added two days to Januarius, Sextilis, and December, and one day to the remaining 29-day months.”

“But that means five of the months have an even number of days.”

“Screw that superstitious nonsense; Rome is now a sensible republic.”

“And Januarius, Sextilis, and December will have 31 days, yet you keep the Nones and Ides on the 5th and 13th, instead of like the other 31-day months.”

“Do you realize just how much it would disrupt things to move the Nones or Ides?”

Since Intercalaris had come after the 24th day of Februarius, Caesar chose to make the leap year adjustment by doubling this 24th day. In leap years, the 24th was *ante diem VII Kalends Martius*, followed by *ante diem bis VII Kalends Martius* (again seven days to the Kalends of March.)

“How do we adjust the eight-day Nundinæ cycle for this extra day?”

“That’s the beauty of it. Both days count as one; as far as this market day cycle goes, Februarius always has the same number of days.”

In some specialized cases, the 24th of February is still considered the leap day, although this is being phased out; for example, normally the feast of St. Leander is 27 February, but in leap years it is 28 February.

“Hey, I was born on Feb. 29; you mean it’s really my brat of a brother, who was born on the 24th of Feb., that only gets a birthday once in four years? Nyaah to him!”

To bring the calendar back into step with the seasons, the year 46 BC had a total of 445 days. That year, the months had their traditional lengths with Februarius at 24 days followed by Intercalaris with 27 days. In addition, two months of Undecember and Duodecember, totaling 67 days, were inserted between November and December.

"You're keeping the start of the year on the Kalends of Januarius?"

"I wanted something more sensible, like maybe start the year on a solstices, but even I, Caesar, can only go so far."

"The priests objected?"

"Screw the priests. The politicians objected; don't mess with the date they take office."

At this point the calendar was, for most practical purposes, the one we currently use. Some of the month names were different, leap year corrections left a slight error, and the calendar still had the various feast days and special purpose days, coupled with the eight-day *Nundinae* cycle instead of the seven-day week. Nonetheless, 45 BC saw the first year with essentially the modern calendar. Historians are not certain whether this year was a leap year; it would have been according to the regular four-year cycle.

"You realize that leap year every four years is still not quite accurate?"

"Perhaps. But it keeps things simple, so even our priests can keep track of it."

"Betcha they still mess it up somehow."

Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of Martius, 44 BC and the month of Quintilis was renamed Julius in his honor.

8 BC: Augustan Reform

Unfortunately, there were still problems:

"You ninnies! Leap year is supposed to be every *four* years. What part of *four years* didn't you idiot priests understand?"

"But . . . but your venerable majesty. 739 AUC is a leap year: 739, 740, 741, 742; that's four years, 742 is a leap year."

"Blast this inclusive counting! We Romans conquer the world and yet can't count to four correctly."

To fix this error, Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus Augustus eliminated three leap years. Most authorities believe that 9 BC was a leap year and there were no further leap years until AD 8, although some claim that the leap years were omitted after 12 BC until AD 4. In his honor, the name of the month Sextilis was renamed Augustus. A urban legend started sometime during the middle ages that Sextilis had only 30 days and he took one day from Februarius to give his month as many days as Julius Caesar's month."

"Ridiculous. I may be vain, but I'm not that vain; besides I've been much too busy keeping a watchful eye on that Antonius character."

First Century: Emperors Learn to Leave Month Names Alone

It might initially have seemed reasonable to rename some of those remaining anachronistic months:

AD 37: "I, emperor Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, called Caligula, in keeping with the fine Roman tradition established for Gaius Julius Caesar, my noble ancestor, do hereby rename the month of September (which is the ninth month anyway) to Germanicus in the sacred honor of my father."

AD 42: "You wish to be honored as was Julius Caesar? Very well."

In AD 42, Caligula was assassinated, his memory was condemned by the Senate and the name September restored.

AD 89: "I, emperor Titus Flavius Domitianus, do hereby again rename the month of September (which still is the ninth month) to Germanicus—no, not after that Caligula character's father, but, um, in honor of my triumph over the Germanic tribes—Germanic, Germanicus, you see, heh, heh—and, well, while I am at it, let's also rename October, the month of my birth (and anyways the tenth month), to Domitianus."

AD 96: "Some people never learn."

In AD 96, Domitianus was assassinated, his memory was condemned, the names September and October were restored, and emperors apparently began to realize that it was not so very good an idea to try to rename months after themselves.

First Centuries to AD 321: Seven Days a Week

By the first century, the astrological seven-day week was common in many civilizations of the Mediterranean and Near East:

“Everybody, well, except those Romans, seem to be using the seven-day week.”

“Still, it’s mainly us Hebrews who put a religious significance to it. Oh, and perhaps that new Christian sect.”

As these lands were visited, and often conquered, the seven-day week slowly gained dual acceptance in Rome alongside the eight-day Nundinæ cycle.

“The kids were out all night again, celebrating Saturn’s day; and in a couple days they’ll be out partying for the Nundinæ.”

In AD 321, emperor Falvius Valerius Constantinus saw the seven-day week made official in Roman law.

“So now my kids have only one week-end a week to party, thank the gods, um, thank the Lord.”

AD 567: New Year’s Day

For over seven centuries, the new year started on the first of January:

“And every new year day, the populace engages in wild parties, drunken debauchery, and wonton orgies.”

“Yeh, and we sit at the monastery, twiddling our thumbs, um, that is, in pious study.”

The Council of Tours declared starting the year on 1 January to be an ancient and regrettable mistake. During the following centuries, at various times and places, the year started on Christmas, 1 March, 25 March, and the Saturday before Easter, as well as 1 January. Regardless, leap year was always calculated as though the year started on 1 January.

“You sure throw a real wild new year’s party, kiddo.”

“And since it’s the middle of March, it hasn’t occurred to the priests to check if anyone’s misbehavin’.”

c. AD 753: Common Era or *Anno Domini*

In approximately AD 753, the Scythian monk Dionysium Exiguus started numbering years from what he established to be the first full year after the birth of Christ:

“I cannot be proper to identify this or that holy event, as we have been doing, in terms of the reign of emperor Diocletian, who was so antipathetic to the Church.”

“At least we no longer call September *Germanicus*.”

He identified the year 754 *ab urbe condita* (in the year of the traditional founding of the City of Rome) as AD 1.

“By the way; how did you select that year? We know Herod had been dead for several years by this time.”

“I have my reasons.”

While there are several theories, nobody is certain. His reckoning put the birth of Christ halfway between the traditional founding of Rome (753 BC) and the current date (AD 753). Moreover, it conveniently had the leap years fall on those years evenly divisible by 4. It is speculation whether either of these were part of his considerations.

In modern times, where the use of the calendar has become almost universal, the term *Common Era* (CE) is sometimes used instead of *Anno Domini*.

“Well, if you must; just so long as you don’t go back to using Diocletian.”

AD 1582: The Gregorian Calendar

Even though slight, the error in the Julian calendar amounted to twelve days over the first sixteen centuries:

"Sosigenes and Caesar may have thought the error minor; they didn't have to determine the day of the full moon after the spring equinox."

"No; all they had were wild priests and even wilder daughters."

"Well, that's what we get because Easter started in relation to the Jewish Passover, and therefore the Hebraic lunar/solar calendar."

"You know, the Jews have had their calendar with its intercalary month for, what, thousands of years without that horrible mess of Caesar's time."

"Yes, well, the Jews have priests who can count to four."

To correct this error, the church slightly redefined leap year so that century years were leap years only if they were evenly divisible by 400. In other words, 1600 would be a leap year, but 1700, 1800, and 1900 would not. This gives an average year of 365.2425 days, which is very close to the current tropical year of 365.2422 days. In addition, to correct the past error, ten days were dropped from the calendar. This new calendar was decreed on 24 February 1582 (1581 in locations where the year started in March) by Pope Gregory XIII in a papal bull named *Inter Gravissimas*.

"But the calendar's off by twelve days since Caesar's time; why are we only dropping ten?"

"That's explained in this passage:"

Quo igitur vernal æquinoctium, quod a patribus concilii Nicæni ad XII Kalendas Aprilis fuit constitutum, ad eandem sedem restituitur, præcipimus et mandamus ut de mense Octobri anni MDLXXXII decem dies inclusive a tertia Nonarum usque ad pridie Idus eximantur [...].

"You see, it restores the spring equinox to 21 March (ad XII Kal. Aprilis) as it was established by the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325."

"Hey, cool; it's the sixteenth century and we're still using this Roman *Nones, Ides* and *Kalends* stuff."

In addition, January 1 was reestablished as the start of the new year. This eliminated the confusion caused by the variety of different dates used for the start of the year. Even the year in which Inter Gravissimas was issued differed for different countries; for communities that started the year in March, it was still 1581; where the year started on 25 December or 1 January, it was 1582. The Gregorian calendar was adopted immediately in many of the strongly Catholic countries, and gradually, over the following centuries, by most other nations.

Finis

For only a handful of years, little more than 1% of the calendar's existence, did the names of the last four months correctly represent their positions in the calendar. Nonetheless, these four month names in modern English, when written in uppercase, are *exactly* as Romulus, or whoever, first wrote them.

As for the seven-day week that merged into this calendar when it was less than half its current age, as far as has ever been determined, this seven day cycle comes down to us unbroken since it was first used, well over three thousand years ago.

Even though the Julian calendar was first established, with a few glitches, in 45 BC, historians date events hundreds, even thousands of years earlier. For this, they usually use the Julian proleptic calendar, achieved by calculating the Julian calendar backward to the date in question. Thus, this calendar, as it has developed over 2¾ millennia, is not only used, or at least acknowledged, everywhere on earth, it is used to date events that took place thousands of years before its existence.

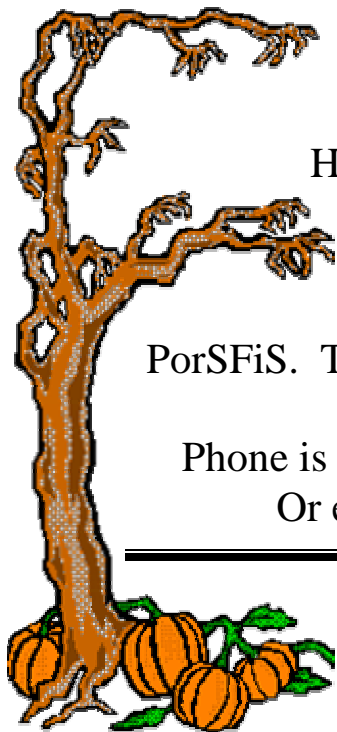
Not bad for something originally intended for one small village by the Tiber, perhaps the size of modern Scappoose, Oregon.

References

(and there are many) Available upon request (removed due to space constraints)

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Member Services



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

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Admitted in Oregon and Washington

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: October 25th 2003

Theme: Halloween!

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

Location: Dave Moreland & Sue Renhard's place
14620 SE Woodland Way, #6
Milwaukie, OR 97267
Tel: 503-782-7283

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'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.

2003

August – Matt & Kris Picio

September – John Bartley & Lea Rush

October – Dave Moreland & Sue Renhard

November – Dave Moreland & Sue Renhard

December – Mike & Sharon

2004

January – To Be Announced

February – Jim & Linda Pilcher

March – To Be Announced

April – To Be Announced

May – To Be Announced

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

If you don't see a month filled i.e. "To Be Announced" you are welcome to volunteer to host alt.PorSFis. Just contact Debra Stansbury at president@porsfis.org

We also need volunteers for 2004 don't be shy step up and volunteer!

Convention Calendar

ORYCON 25

Date: Nov 14th-16th, 2003

Location: Double Tree Columbia River, Portland OR

Guests: Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Ken Goddard, Toni Weisskopf, Martin Greenberg, Gail Butler

Membership: \$45 until October 31st, \$50 At-the- Door.

Website: www.orycon.org

RUSTYCON 21

Date: Jan. 16-18, 2004

Location: Bellevue Doubletree, Bellevue, WA

Guests: Octavia Butler, Todd Lockwood

Membership: \$40 to 11/30/03, \$55 At-the-Door.

Website: www.rustycon.com

NORWESCON 27

Date: April 8-11, 2004

Location: SeaTac Double Tree Hotel, Seattle WA

E-Mail: info@norwescon.org

Website: www.norwescon.org

WESTERCON 57/CONKOPELLII

Date: July 2-5, 2004

Location: The Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ

Guests: C..J. Cherryh, David Cherry, Heather Alexander, John Hertz, Diana Gabaldon

Theme: Mythology of the Southwest

Membership: \$65 to 10/31/03, \$70 to 1/31/04, \$75 to 5/31/04. .

E-Mail: info@conkopilli.org

Website: www.az-sf.org



WORLDCON 62/NOREASCON 4

Date: Sept. 2-6, 2004

Location: Hynes Convention Center/Boston Sheraton Hotel/Boston Marriott Copley, Boston, MA.

Guests: Terry Pratchett, William Tenn, Jack Spears, Peter Weston

E-Mail: info@noreascon.org

Website: www.noreascon.org

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:**Worldcon 63/Interaction**

Glasgow, Scotland

Aug. 4-8 2005.

(Note: NOT over US Labor Day.)

2005 NaSFic/CascadeCon

Seatac, WA

Sept. 3-6,2005

Worldcon 64/LACon 4

Anahiem,CA

August 23-27. 2006

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.

All species, races, creeds, colors, and planets of origin
are welcome ☺

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Introductory Memberships are still just \$10 a year!

What a deal!

PorSFis Event Calendar

October 2003

- 21 Birthday of local author Ursula LeGuin
Orionids meteor shower peak
Release of "Battlestar Galactica: The Complete Epic Series",
Stephen Spielberg presents "Taken", "George of the Jungle 2" and
the Indiana Jones Trilogy set on DVD
- 24-26 RingCon 2003 in Tacoma, WA - Lord of The Rings related
- 24 Fifth anniversary - Deep Space I launch
Premieres of "Gothika" and "Brother Bear (animated)"
"Free Friday" admission at OMSI for those 55 and up (9:30 a.m. to
3:00 p.m.)
- 25 AltPorSFis hosted by Dave Moreland and Sue Renhardt
- 26 End Daylight Savings Time
- 28 Release of "Space Jam", "Looney Tunes Golden Collection" and
"Looney Tunes Premiere Collection" on DVD
- 30 Premiere of Tru Calling on Fox
- 31 Halloween Theatrical re-release of "Alien" with missing footage
added, premiere of "Suspended Animation"



November 2003

- 1 13th Anniversary in-store sale at Wrigley-Cross Books
- 2-5 2003 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting & Exposition in Seattle, WA
- 2 Birthday of Author Lois McMaster Bujold
- 3 Taurids meteor shower peak
- 4 Release of Star Trek:DS9, season 6, and "Finding Nemo" on DVD
Publication of "The Wolves of Calla" by Stephen King - from the Dark Tower series
- 7-8 9th Annual Imaging the Sky Conference - Salem, OR
- 7-9 NerdCon 2003 (Gaming con) in Gresham, OR
- 7 Premieres of "The Matrix Revolutions" and "Elf"
- 8 PorSFis Meeting**
Total Lunar Eclipse Star Party at OMSI - eclipse at moonrise
- 9 Smithsonian Magazine's CultureFest at OMSI (12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- 11 Birthday of Author Kurt Vonnegut
Release of "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines", "Naked Lunch" and "FairyTale: A True Story" on DVD
- 14-16 ORYCON 25**
- 14 Premieres of "Looney Tunes:Back in Action" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
- 17 Leonids meteor shower peak
- 18 Birthday of Author Alan Dean Foster
Release of "LOTR: The Two Towers (extended edition) on DVD
- 19 50th Birthday of actor Robert Beltran (ST-Voyager)
Premiere of movie "Spongebob Squarepants"
- 20-23 AmberCon NW (Amber RPG Con) in Portland, OR
- 20 Progress M1-11 Soyuz FG launch to International Space Station
- 21 Premiere of "The Cat in the Hat"
- 22-23 Oregon Book Fair
- 22 AltPorSFis hosted by Dave Moreland and Sue Renhardt**
- 23 Birthday of Author Steven Brust
- 25 Release of "Bruce Almighty", "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, special edition", "Xmen II", and "Star Trek - complete motion picture collection" on DVD.
- 26 Premieres of "Timeline" and "Haunted Mansion"
- 29 Christian Doppler's 200 birthday - Let's do the red shift, again!!

Journal of a Evil Security Chief

Part 3

By `Dancer-chan Yomochi

Day 116: Deer have eaten all my thimbleberries.

Day 117: Let the wolves hunt.

Day 118: Replanted all the thimbleberries within the briars. Must make harvesting those a punishment too.

Day 121: The Ladies have returned this time looking very happy, except for Mad Scientist, who just looks tired. Asked Evil Witch what had happened. She told me to watch the news.

Day 122: Mad Scientist broke the racecar land speed record yesterday. Seems the engine is partially powered by mental energy. When she's recovered enough she's going to put the engine in a tank.

Day 135: Fight broke out between my subordinates and the pretty boys. Had to send EVERYONE out to pick berries.

Day 136: Explained to my boys and girls that they weren't suppose to pick on people stupider then them - there's no challenge in it. Told them if they wanted to do some antagonizing I'd arrange for a more appropriate diversion.

Day 142: The combined Armies of Antir and the West Kingdom descended on us overnight. I had the hench folk change into garb and charged a small camping fee to the visiting armies. Much fun was had by all. Granted, I didn't see much of the bishonen, although Mastermind assures me they were there. Made enough from the fees to buy some new toys. Must remember to ask Evil Witch to enchant my new bastard sword. Also, see if the Ladies will make this an annual event.

Read the next exciting entries in the November Pulsar!

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

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:

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