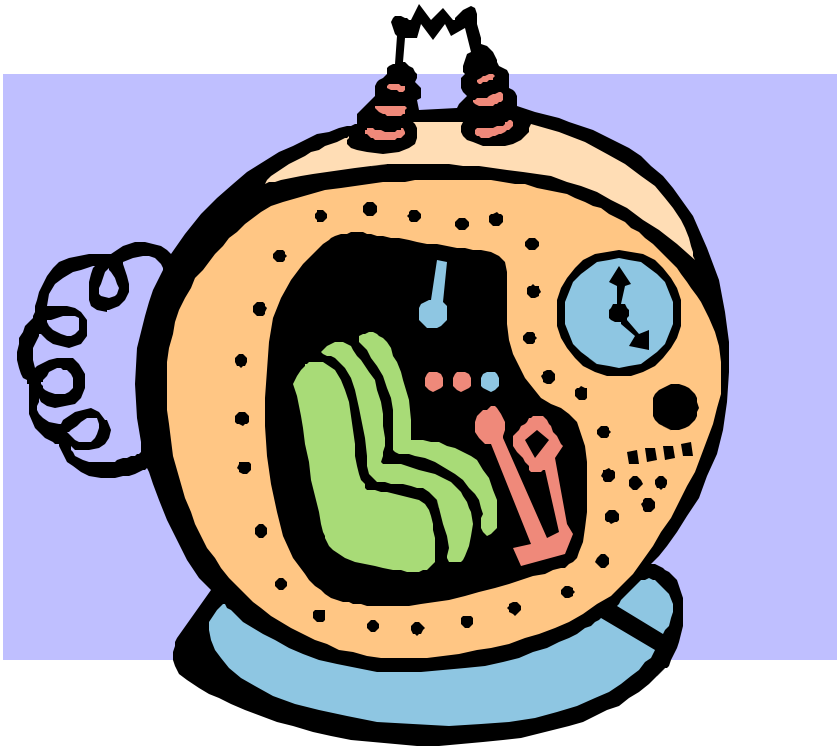


Pulsar

A publication of the Portland Science Fiction Society

Issue 301



Issue 301

March 2004

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From the President's Desk

By Debra Stansbury
president@porsfis.org

Wow, what a time these past few months have been!

First of all, let me extend a BIG thank you to Lisa Goodwin, our new Pulsar Editor!! Yay!! Please send things in for her to print! ☺

Second, but related to the first. In order to save costs associated with printing and mailing, we are encouraging people to get the E-Pulsar, rather than the print version. This does not mean there won't be a print version for those who prefer it, we're just exploring some options and are hoping people will sign up.

Third, ELECTIONS! ☺ That's right, get your ballot in! They are due by the meeting this Saturday! Don't forget to write your member number on the back, or they won't be counted!

Fourth: This Saturday—Callie Hills will be our guest! Come and see her and listen to her talk about the soup-to-nuts of producing one's own CD (or songbook), something she has experience with ☺ She will also have copies of Echo's Children's new CD "From the Hazel Tree" available.

Fifth: Next month—Bob Schmaling from the Oregon Film & Video Office will be there. Come hear about what happens when Hollywood comes to Portland! (And maybe some of the gaffs that appear in the movies ;-)

Sixth: alt.porsfis This month it will be at Matt & Kris Picio's house and will celebrate not only their undoubted victories in the polls, but also my birthday! (Shameless aren't I? It's also to celebrate PorSFIS's, and several other people's too!) Hope to see lots of you there! ☺

Seventh: Hope my Orycon report makes it in ☺



Eighth: Gamestorm was a blast! See next month’s Pulsar (hopefully) for my review of that. It will undoubtedly be mostly about hospitality and how wonderful my Mom is ☺

Ninth: Well...don’t have much else right now. Don’t forget, a lot of renewals are coming up! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions—my email is always open ☺

Debra Stansbury
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Letter from the Editor

First of all I want to thank Debra for the welcome, and Kris for the help in taking over this project. We are lucky to have such warm, caring people making this organization work!

It's been a few years since I've managed a newsletter, but I do want everyone to know that I believe in two things for this project: being on schedule, and being innovative. Please help me to fulfill these goals!

I would be happy to have submissions from many different people, and I believe this is a place where we can collect all types of expressions—prose and poetry, artwork, reviews of books, and movies, commentaries on current topics, and the possibilities I haven't even considered! Make me consider them...give me your thoughts!

I apologize for the lateness of this issue but hope to have the April issue out on time. That means I have a monthly deadline for submissions: let's make it the 25th of each month. So send things my way at editor@porsfis.org!

In the interests of innovation, I am adding a new section to the issue: a Klingon Korner. Klingon is a language I have never had a chance to learn, so here's what I'm doing. Each month I will submit a new Klingon word for readers to learn. Use the alt.porsfis events or the meetings as an opportunity to use your new word!

Have a blast!

Lisa Goodwin
editor@porsfis.org

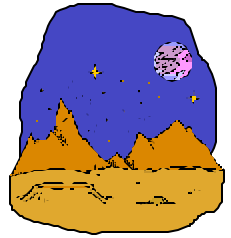


The Captain's Ultimate Presentation

By Ed Foster

On one of his adventures through the time transporter, Ed Foster ended up in the transporter room of the Enterprise, to find his old friend, the Captain, shaking his head, deep in worry. On enquiring, he learned that the crew had become more and more dissatisfied with the selections he had chosen for the Holodeck. It had reached the point that mutterings of rebellion could be heard, late at night, in the back hallways and byways.

"I did try to loosen up. I took them back to Paris in the 1890's. Were they satisfied? No--they complained that the Moulin Rouge was only serving domestic champagne. I took them to the first WorldCon; I took them to see the Berlin Wall come down; I took them to Mardi Gras in New Orleans—were they satisfied? No--Bourbon Street was too crowded. I even took them to the founding of PorSFIS --too much rain! I give up—just what do they want anyway?"



"Just let me take care of it, old friend," Ed assured him.

Ed Foster borrowed the uniform of a utility worker. He spent the next few days quietly prowling the hallways, catching scraps of conversation, muffled comments, whispered complaints. He then sequestered himself in the Holodeck for five days straight, only occasionally coming out for meals. Speculation grew among the crew as word filtered out that this strange specialist was arranging some exciting new location.

"It better be good this time, that's all I can say," one jetman reflected the general consensus.

At the end of five days, with excitement spreading through the usually well-disciplined craft, the Captain announced that, with great effort, he had arranged the ultimate presentation. His closing words were only that he had been advised that everyone should dress for very cold weather.

Slowly, the crew currently off shift gathered their winter gear



and filtered into the Holodeck, to find themselves in a remote Alaskan village by the Bering Straight. Crowds were gathered around a makeshift finish line down the main street of the community. Excitement rose as a sled dog team pulled into view.

Yes, a cheer rang out as Libby Riddles, the first female musher to win the Iditaron, pulled across the finish line. The Enterprise crew went wild, jumping for joy, out-shouting the Alaskan locals.

"I must hand it to you," the Captain said, shaking hands with Ed. "I will never know whatever made you think of that, but it apparently has given the crew exactly what they wanted."

"Actually, it was quite simple," Ed replied. "The whispered conversations of the crew recalled to me a famous saying. After all,

"There's no place like Nome for the Holodeck'."

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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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.

2004

March 27 th	– Matt & Kris Picio
April 24 th	– To Be Announced
May 22 nd	– To Be Announced
June 26 th	– Marc & Patty Wells
July 24 th	– John Bartley & Lea Rush
August 28 th	– John Bartley & Lea Rush
September 25 th	– John Bartley & Lea Rush
October 23 rd	– Mark & Sharon Parker
November 27 th	– To Be Announced
December	– To Be Announced (This won't be on our regular weekend due to Christmas)

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

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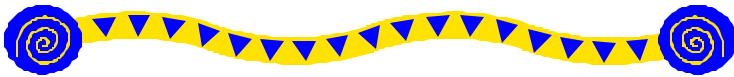


The Klingon Korner

Visit here each month to expand your horizons, and build your knowledge of this unique language...

Qapla

Qapla' = Success (must be shouted!)



PORSFIS Informational Calendar

With many thanks to Mike Parker!

March 2004

12 Premieres of movies Agent Cody Banks 2, Secret Window

Debut of Fox series Wonderfalls

13-14 Brain Fair at OMSI

13 Doctor Seuss Birthday Celebration at Powell's Books 11am-1pm



PorSFIS Meeting at Portland State University (2pm)

14 125th Birthday of Albert Einstein

15 Start of Nikon Small World exhibit at OMSI

16 Debut of CBS series Century City

Release of Cat in the Hat, Beyond the Stars, Dreamkeeper, Gnaw: Food of the Gods II,

The Last Unicorn, Uncovered, The Running Man (Special Edition), Scooby Doo (Seasons 1 and 2), and The Flintstones (Season 1) on DVD

18 "Beyond Infinity", by author Gregory Benford is published

19-21 Anime Oasis - Anime Con in Boise, ID

19 Birthday of actor Patrick McGoochan (The Prisoner)

Premiere of remake of Dawn of the Dead and Eternal Sunshine

Seventh Season Finale of Stargate SG1 on the SciFi Channel

20 Vernal Equinox 06:49 UT

22 Birthday of actor William Shatner (James T. Kirk - ST)

Birthday of actress Mary Tamm (Romana I of Doctor Who)

23 Release of Godzilla against Mechagodzilla, Gothika (Special Edition),

Vampire Effect, Splash (20th Anniv. Edition) and Hercules:The Legendary Journeys (Season 3) on DVD

25 Richard Morgan, author of "Broken Angels" and "Altered Carbon" at Powell's Books - 7:30 p.m.

26 Birthday of actor Leonard Nimoy (Mr Spock - ST)

Premiere of movie Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed



27 Birthday of author Kevin J. Anderson

Alt.Porsfis hosted by Matt & Kris Picio

Vernal Equinox Star Party at OMSI (weather permitting)

29 Birthday of actress Marina Sirtis (Counselor Troi - ST:TNG)

Asteroid 9000 HAL closest approach to Earth (1.431 AU) "I'm very afraid, Dave"

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Convention Calendar

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

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!

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Journal of an Evil Security Chief

Part 5

By `Dancer-chan Yomochi

Day 183: The Ladies have left again, this time they took all their henchfolk with them. Had to stop my subordinates from going through the bishonen's rooms and short sheeting all the beds.

Day 184: Made the offenders who had TPed the pretty boys' lounge tread water for 5 hours in the Mad Scientist's shark tank. Didn't tell them that the sharks had been fed recently.

Day 188: The German fleet is anchored above us. Nothing on the news about the Ladies. Sank the lot of them anyway. Saves time later.

Day 193: A wizard, an elf, a dwarf, two swordsmen and four short men with hairy feet showed up at the airlock today. They were asking for directions to some place called Mordor. I gave them directions to North Korea.

Day 196: The Ladies are back, and not looking very pleased. They have asked me to add "Justice League" to my shoot-on-sight list. I noticed the ranks of their henchfolk are fairly thin too.

Day 199: Evil Witch has left for her sabbatical.

Day 200: Mad Scientist is off to some convention.

Day 201: Mastermind has gone to the "Supervillains Trade Show" in Damascus. I hope she brings back some flyers.

Day 203: Henchfolk have taken to learning to surf in their free time. Most are amused to discover there is something I can't do. I take my aggression out on the whaling ships stupid enough to get into my sights.

Day 207: Norwegian navy is anchored above us. Checked the news after I sank the lot of them. Nothing about the Ladies.

Day 209: Something big with lots of tentacles and bat wings attacked the base. Got to try out Mad Scientist's new plasma harpoon. Cook made sushi for dinner.

Day 214: Greenpeace and a representative from PETA have shown up and demanded retribution for some aquatic life form called "Cthulu". Plasma harpoon works wonders on ships too.

Day 216: Am bored.

Day 226: Still bored.

Day 236: Still bored.



Day 237: A large tsunami, generated by the eruption of a volcano somewhere in the vicinity of the old base, swept through today. Two of my folk are still missing, one surfer made it all the way to Malibu before she wiped out. Asked her if she wanted a ride back or just a reference. She'll see what the job market's like and get back to me. The base is fine.

Day 241: Evil Witch is back looking exhausted. Seems she flew back on a borrowed rake. Have made all the henchfolk leave her alone and make sure her every need is take care of while she is resting. Her cat doesn't look too good either.

Day 241, 10:15pm: Cat just got sick in the Mad Scientist's lab. Am having some henchmaids clean it up before she gets back.

Day 242: Mad Scientist and Mastermind have returned within minutes of each other. Both are withdrawn and preoccupied. Evil Witch still sleeping. Girl in Malibu thinks she can get steady employment as a stunt surfer. Sent her a very nice letter of recommendation.

Read the next exciting entries in the April Pulsar!

Read the previous entries in the Pulsar Archives at www.porsfis.org

Orycon 25 Report

Wow! What a weekend! Leading up to it I was a stressed out worry-wart of a president—now I'm a happy contented president who is already making plans and taking notes to make next year even better!

The Room Party—Pirates abounded! ☺ We spilled out into the hall at least twice, maybe even three times, waves of people kept coming—it was fabulous! I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help, be it time, money or food—Kier, you and your Evil Henchperson threw a great party! A special thanks to Daniel who manned the stickers and nametags all party long—I still saw some holding onto their pirate tags on Sunday! (He also made an emergency run for napkins and forks for the chocolate tasting!)

And how did the Chocolate Tasting go? There were a few negatives, I have to say...no set up or tear down time, forgot the napkins and forks, and next year we definitely need to sell milk/soy milk to all those thirsty



folk—but there was chocolate galore and people came to eat it! Every time I could take a second to look up, there was a line still coming in the door! We ran out of the fudge my mom made fairly early (might have to do with my pre-event advertising strategy—walking through the dealer's room with the pan, wafting it about and reminding people the chocolate tasting was about to begin across the hall...), but Dancer's fudge immediately stepped up to the plate (okay, maybe a *small* pun intended ☺)

and everyone seemed to get enough (including the lucky woman who won what was left of the giant block of chocolate in the raffle!) Matt, Kier, Dancer, Daniel, Barbara, Joyce and everyone else who lent a hand—Thank you so much for your help!!!! And I want to thank David & Julia Samson, Kris Picio, Dancer, John Andrews, Page, Daniel, Kier, and last but not least—my Mom, Ann, and my sister, Linda, for ALL the Chocolate they donated to the cause! Even the leftover Halloween candy came in handy!

At the end of it all, all we had left were some cookies, some packaged candy we donated to the volunteers in the Orycon Office, and the crumbs and remains of all the chocolates we had brought. Next year—identifying

signs for the dishes, more time, milk, and more advertising!

We also had a raffle, which I think went well...thanks to Dancer and her helpers! People bought tickets and grabbed prizes, everyone seemed happy! So...this will also likely return ☺ Remember, it's not too early to donate stuff to the raffle! ;-) (Raffle donators included: Paul, Barbara, Sam, Daniel, Kier...and I'm sure one or two others—Thank you all!)

So, for PorSFis, I think we had a lovely Orycon ☺ And I can hardly wait for next year!

Debra Stansbury
President ☺



Next Months *Pulsar* Topic:
“Digging for bones in your own back yard.”



Join the Portland Science Fiction Society!

The Portland Science fiction society is looking for new members. There are several ways to join. Joining for the first time? You can fill out the form below and mail it with your check for \$10.00 to

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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 Lisa Goodwin.

The Deadline for Pulsar contributions is the 25th of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO Box above, or to the editor direct at editor@porsfifs.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 president@porsfifs.org 503-620-3068
- Vice President Matt Picio
- Treasurer John Andrews john.c.andrews@att.net 503-771-2894
- Secretary Barbara Oldham
- Webmaster Kris Picio kpapw@porsfifs.org

PORSFIS WEBPAGE: www.porsfifs.org

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