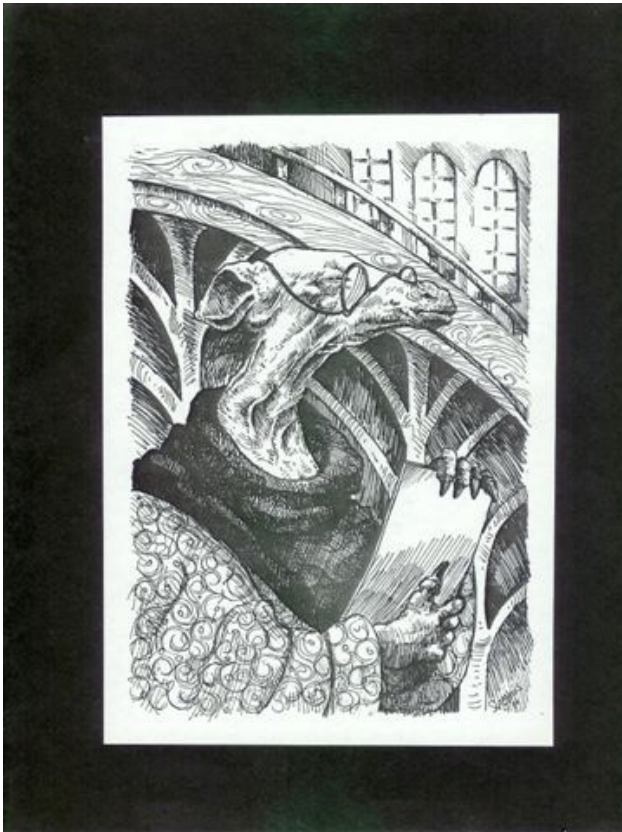


# Pulsar

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A publication of the Portland Science Fiction Society

## Issue 303



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Issue 303

May 2004

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

Editor in Chief	Lisa Goodwin	<a href="mailto:editor@porsfis.org">editor@porsfis.org</a>
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First Fan	Ed Foster	<a href="mailto:edfoster@porsfis.org">edfoster@porsfis.org</a>

### Cover Notes

Once again we are fortunate to have beautiful cover art by Susan Jarvis, friend to PORSFIS. The cover is titled "Old Man." Please also see page 9 for her second inclusion this month, "Pierce."

## President's Notes

Not much to report, president-wise, this month. Trying to keep on top of things, got stuff in the works, the Annual Picnic, the Orycon Room Party, the Chocolate Tasting at Orycon, the SF for Schools program...it's good to have a plan ☺

We are looking for someone to assist the Pulsar Editor, to be the Publisher—run the copies, mail out to those who prefer a hard copy. Unfortunately the people who have done it in the past are no longer able to, for a variety of reasons. This leaves us with a few hard choices...do we run the copies at the local copy center? At \$0.14 per double-sided page, usually 6 pages, it will add up fast—faster than we are bringing the money in, unfortunately. Or do we ignore the wishes of our members who prefer hard copy? Alienating members is not a favorite activity of mine, and it can cause us to lose them ☹ So...alternatives? Suggestions?

Got some exciting SF coming out this summer...reviews of books, movies, and shows will be welcome to our Editor, I'm sure! ☺ And no one would mind two reviews of the same thing! Alternate opinions make for interesting reading! (Keep our Editor happy! She's a nice person! ☺)

That's all I have for now, see you all at the business meeting and the alt.porsfis—in spirit if not in body! (Oh, there's a scary thought!) ☺

Debra Stansbury  
President



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## **From the Editor**

Change is in the air! Once again we have fantastic artwork from Susan Jarvis in the issue, and now some new work from 'Dancer as well! Lots of feasting for the eyes...

...an the ears! Check out the song lyrics written by Callie Hills.

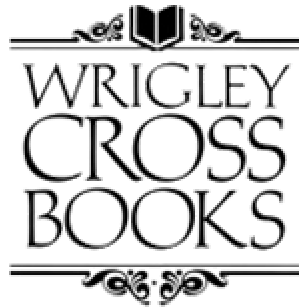
Thanks for all the great material!

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# Forgotten Fantasies

By Kier Salmon

When is a trilogy not a trilogy?

Well maybe when it wasn't meant to be a trilogy and was marketed as such. Hope Mirless was an author difficult to research twenty years ago when I first read her "Lud in the Mist," Leslie Barringer is even more obscure. Like Hope he published but a little and that little not well known past the '20's of the last century. His lifespan was 73 years, 1895 to 1968. What little is know is found in the preface to the third book. He was a Quaker, born in England, and served in WWI as part of an ambulance unit. He later became an editor for an English publishing house, married and was the proud father of four daughters. None of his fantasies won the acclaim they merit and his three historicals were equally ignored. My next ambition is to track down copies of the historicals and read them also.

His "Neustrian Cycle" was not meant to be a trilogy; although the action takes place in one world and one timeline; an alternate universe where dark ages Neustria becomes medieval France. The three books are quite distinctive, as well, in their themes.



"GerFalcon," treats of the troubles young "Ger," christened Raoul, son of a second son... and yet heir to Marckmont, a seaside fortress. His uncle, the firstborn son wishes him well dead. But it is not to be and soon enough Raoul comes to live at Marckmont with his cousin Charles and Robin, the sneering, sneaky child of his aunt. When they leave him alone in the castle whilst they go off to tourney, Raoul, in the manner of teenagers everywhere decides he cannot wait it out until his majority when he will take over his inheritance.

Follows his journey through Neustria, incognito, and his coming of age. Involved with a thief king, a highway man called Joris and his witch-queen Red Anne, Ger learns the lessons that all must learn to grow... in an appropriately medieval way.

The tale is complex and full, and involves treason on the part of his disliked uncle... The story leaves one quite satisfied as Ger finally routes his unwanted relatives and expels them from his domain and pledges his fealty to the king.

Although "Joris of the Rock" is billed as a sequel, it is not. Instead, it is the same time period, and a little before and after. But rather than tell the Robber Baron's story, the named "Joris of the Rock," it tells the much more complex story of Red Anne, his mistress, and, surprisingly, for an author who told the noble side of the story so well, he now tells the story of the poor, the dispossessed, the mean, the fugitive in a medieval society. Without Ger to anchor the action, the book is of a different order. Anne is a character of great strength and "smarts," yet, still a product of her time and involved in the complex tangles of her place and being. Barringer pulls no punches as to the difficulty of life in general for the under classes of a medieval kingdom or the particularly perilous position of females with power within it.



The third book, once again is not a sequel. "Shy Leopardess," changes the scene. Yolande, Duchess of Baraine, operates on a world one level above that of Ger, that of imperial politics. Orphaned by murder, betrothed by treason, imprisoned with malice aforethought, she manages to train herself enough to take out her "guardian" and his heir, and in the process gain for herself a considerable notoriety. Yet Yolande herself is but a simple child, who yearns for the sexual powers of the Byzantine empresses. She achieves that power and finds it no more what she expected than freeing herself from her captors... the satisfaction of a job well done. Ger makes a token appearance in this novel as her kinsman and one who will come to her aid if she can free herself from the legal tangle she is in.

Possibly Leslie's four daughters gave him the confidence to write such a strong woman and show her growing up and into her powers. All three books are now in print again and well worth the read.

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## **Member Services**

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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)

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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.

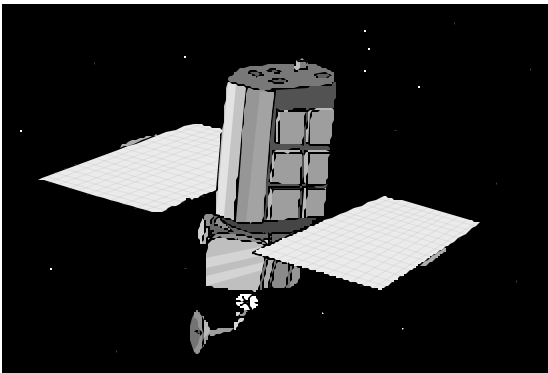
### 2004

May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	– To Be Announced
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	– Marc & Patty Wells
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	– John Bartley & Lea Rush
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	– John Bartley & Lea Rush
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	– John Bartley & Lea Rush
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	– Mark & Sharon Parker
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	– 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](http://www.porsfis.org) for the most up to date information.

**Thanks to Lisa and Chris for hosting in April!!!**

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](mailto:president@porsfis.org)





# "Pierce"

by Susan Jarvis



## The Klingon Korner

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

**batlh**

batlh = honor



rvtech.com

# Wild Goose Chase

Lyrics by Callie Hills

To the tune of: As Good As Any, by Echo's Children

I got me to the airport, set my bags down with a thump  
Stomach headed for my shoes, my head an aching lump  
For though I turned my pockets out, and looked both low and high  
Nowhere in the darkness was my wallet to be spied.

Well sure enough I'm sorry and I dropped a sigh or three  
That the flight I should have taken would take off, just not with me.  
But I had better things to do than sit around and cry  
Turned and headed home, for sure my wallet there I'd spy

To get the car from parking cleaned out all the change I had  
In minutes I was back at home, tore through the house like mad  
But though I looked extensively, my efforts came up dry  
For nowhere, not in any room, my wallet did I spy.

I went out to the car again and squinted at the dawn  
Grabbed the old gray duffel, dumped its contents on the lawn  
And buried at the knitting satchel's bottom there did spy  
That \*#&\$%! (lousy rotten) wallet finally looked me in the eye.

I voiced a string of curses and a howl of grief and pain  
Then locked the house back up and headed airport-ward again  
I parked the car and popped the trunk as overhead I spied  
My scheduled plane was rising up to kiss the friendly skies.

I finally reached the check-in counter, just to hear them say  
"It's spring break, flights are all sold out, for four or five more days  
We'll put you down for standby and your luggage can be checked  
If we can't get you on this flight, perhaps you'll make the next."

I let them have the luggage and went through security  
But when I reached the gate, they said there was no seat for me  
"The service center's down that way", I looked and saw the sign  
And slowly stumbled off to stand in yet another line.

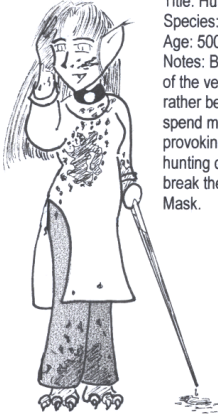
I reached the service counter, saw the tallies oversold,  
And sizing up my chances, dared to ask a question bold,

"Could I fly out from Seattle?" said the CSR, "Let's see"  
She tapped upon her keyboard as I waited nervously.

Well pretty soon she said, "A-HA!" and then she typed some more  
She said, "there's one seat left, it's on flight 7-1-2-4",  
She printed out my boarding pass, I asked about my bags;  
Already bound for Nashville, "When you get there, show your tags."

So then I headed out again upon my weary way  
I drove 200 extra miles so I'd be here today  
To get back where I flew out from, I've paid the hefty fees  
The moral of the story - KEEP YOUR WALLET WITH YOUR KEYS!

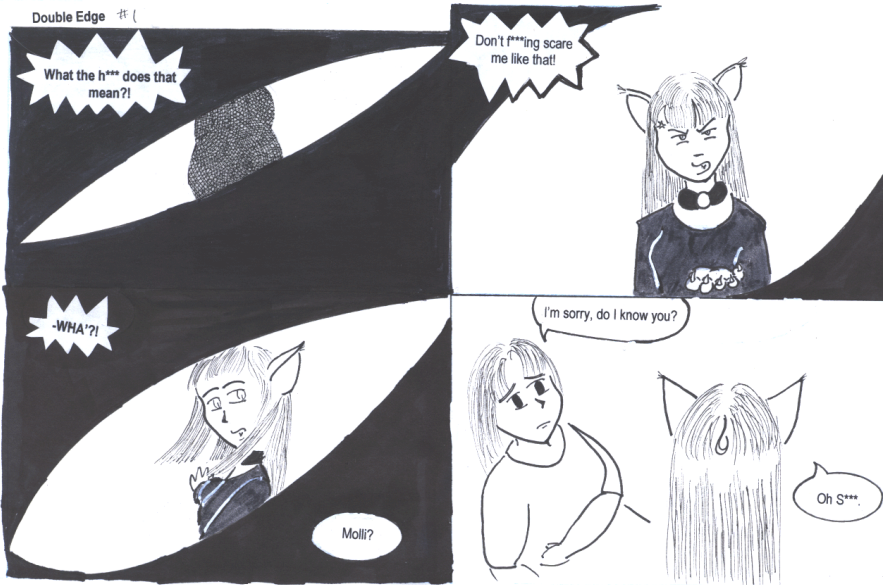
# Double Edge A Collection by 'Dancer



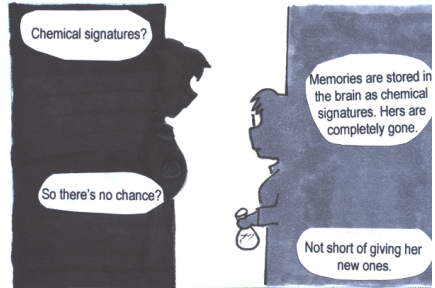
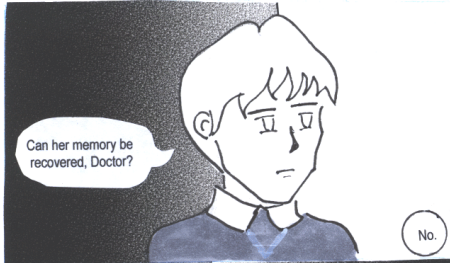
Name: Yasmin  
Title: Huntress  
Species: Demon  
Age: 5000+ years  
Notes: Bound into service of the very humans she'd rather be hunting, Yasmin spend most of her time provoking fights and hunting demons whom break the law of the Great Mask.



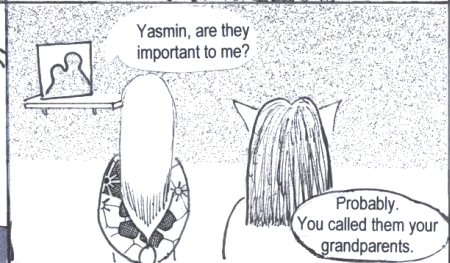
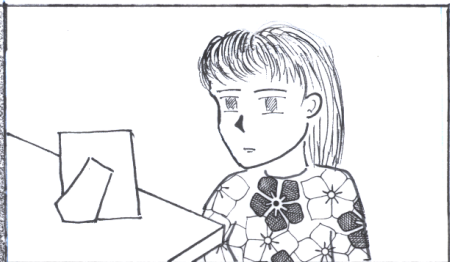
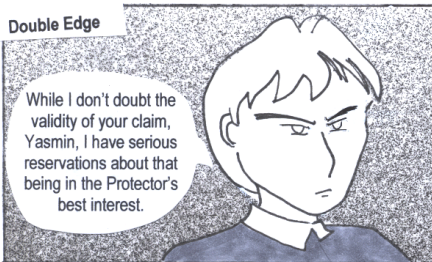
Name: Mollie Weatherby  
Title: Protector  
Species: Human  
Age: 22 years  
Notes: Only three years into the service of the Special Investigations Bureau (S.I.B.) Mollie works along side the Huntress as S.I.B.'s last line of defense. Due to an unfortunate accident in the field the Protector has recently suffered lose of memory.



Double Edge # 2



Double Edge



# Duologies vs. Trilogies

By Kier Salmon

At a recent Orycon meeting I heard an argument for calling SM Stirling's "Sea of Time" trilogy a duology with a wrap up book. Alternate history is one of my favorite genres of fantasy fiction and Stirling ranks high in my regard. The argument interested me enough to look into the triplet of books again.

Is it a duology or a trilogy? The chief "arguer" felt that the third book was really not even written happily by Stirling, but simply written to complete a contract. I don't think this is true, although I see where he could feel that way.

The "Nantucket" trilogy follows the adventures of people stranded when the Island of Nantucket is suddenly bounced back to a time just before the Trojan War. Proud Illium is vanquished in this timeline, also, but in a different manner.

The first book "Island in the Sea of Time," is the most cohesive and readable if one is looking for a "begin at the beginning, continue on through the middle and wrap it up at the end," kind of story. But a group of people, seven thousand or so, and mostly cantankerous New Englanders are not going to stay in a cohesive group very long. And Stirling doesn't try to make them. Instead, in each book he follows the main characters, who, during the first few days after the "event," take hold of the reins and begin to set into motion the different forms of governance that will guild their destiny in a very different world. From the speculations of how the British Isles evolved in this period, through the Greeks and Phoenicians, Stirling did a neat job of showing a world very different from our own. People's reactions and actions are very consistent... what can I say, if you've read it you either love it or hate it. And loving the first doesn't make you love the next two. Without giving away a large part of the plot, I found (as a person who grew up in Mexico) the sequence of events when the Island's anti-imperialists go to Mexico

to warn the Zapotecas and the Toltecas of the evil to the north... fore ordained. I winced, literally at that point in the narrative.

In the first book the Islanders consolidate their hold on their world and begin to expand in ways that seem correct to them.

In the second book, "Against the Tide of Years," they band together with various of the other nations in this more primitive earth to battle a renegade sociopath that came along with Nantucket. Walker has taken over Mycenae and most of Greece, humbling Odysseus to his yoke, and taking Helen and Hermione prisoner. Back home in



Nantucket, the Islanders begin to prepare for all out war. Walker is not blessed with the machine shops of the Islanders, but he made off with a considerable amount of technical information and one rather good smith.

Finally, in the last book of the series, "On the Oceans of Eternity," Stirling works with an increasingly unwieldy cast of characters and a sprawling geographical canvas, Stirling ties his knots and sets the loom for our imaginations to work on.

His knowledge of what little we know of ancient civilizations and his ability to put them together in believable human terms makes all of these books tinged with a gritty realism that offsets the heroic dimensions of his Nantucket characters.





# PORSFIS Informational Calendar

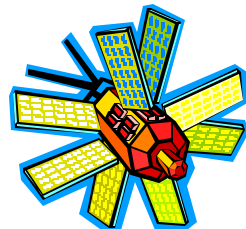
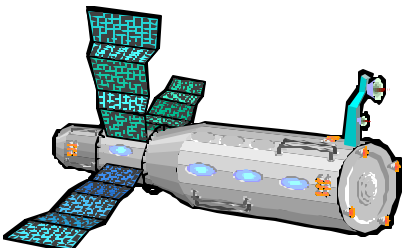
Thanks to Mike Parker!

## May 2004

- 2-3 10.5 miniseries on NBC about "the big one"
- 4 Release of Samurai Jack (Season One), Peter Pan (2003 live action version) and The Triplets of Bellville on DVD  
Science Fiction Book Group at Powells Books in Beaverton - 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower Peak
- 6 Premiere of movie Code 46  
Space Day
- 7 Premiere of Van Helsing
- 8-9 Northwest Classic Gaming Convention in Seattle
- 8 Fourth Anniversary of PorSFis E-List
- PorSFis Meeting at Portland State University (two p.m.)**
- 9 End of T Rex on Trial exhibit at OMSI  
Harry Potter & The Sorceror's Stone on ABC with 10 minute preview of Harry Potter 3
- 11 Release of Scary Movie 3 and Shrek 3-D (A short Shrek film in 3-D, plus the original movie in 2-D), X-Files(Season 9), Johnny Quest (Season 1) and The Jetsons (Season 1) on DVD  
Launch of "Messenger" on a Delta 2 rocket (Mercury orbiter)  
Sci-Fi book group meets at Powell's Books in Beaverton - 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Birthday of Bruce Boxleitner (Sheridan - Babylon 5)
- 14-16 TolCon - Northwest Tolkien Society Convention in Seattle, WA
- 14 Birthday of Producer/Director George Lucas  
Birthday of Director Robert Zemeckis  
Release of Dead Like Me (Season 1) on DVD
- 15-16 Otafest 2004 (Anime Con) in Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 15 A Wrinkle In Time tv movie on ABC
- 18 Birthday of writer Fred Saberhagen  
Release of Paycheck and Around the World in 80 Days (1956 - widescreen) on DVD



- 19 Birthday of actor Ian McKellen (Gandalf -LOTR/Magneto-XMen/X2)
- 19 Progress M-49 Soyuz U launch to International Space Station  
Smallville season 3 finale on WB  
Angel series Finale on WB
- 20 Kingdom Hospital season Finale on ABC
- 21 Premiere of Shrek 2
- 22 Comet Watch Star Party at Rooster Rock State Park  
(weather permitting) (Parking Fee)
- 25 Release of Bubba Ho Tep, Smallville (Season 2), Buffy (Season 6), Underworld (Extended Cut), Wizards (Special Edition) and LOTR-Return of the King (theatrical version)on DVD  
Birthday of writer Harlan Ellison  
PULSAR Deadline
- 26 Star Trek Enterprise Season 3 Finale
- 27 Birthday of actor Christopher Lee (Sauron-LOTR/Dooku-SW)
- 28-30 MISCON 18 (General SF) in Missoula, MT
- 28 Premiere of movie The Day after Tomorrow
- 29 Birthday of motion picture composer Danny Elfman  
Start of Titanic Science exhibit at OMSI



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# Convention Calendar

## **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](mailto:info@conkopilli.org)

Website: [www.az-sf.org](http://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](mailto:info@noreascon.org)

Website: [www.noreascon.org](http://www.noreascon.org)

Next Months *Pulsar* Topic:



"Rub her feet."

## **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 Society's 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](mailto:john.c.andrews@att.net) or to the editor at [editor@porsfis.org](mailto:editor@porsfis.org) for inclusion in the list.

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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!

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# **Journal of an Evil Security Chief**

By 'Dancer-chan Yomochi

Day 357: Fought off an alien invasion today. It all ended when I challenged the tall dark alien leader to one on one combat. He was rather imposing, but I had one advantage over him. I cheat.

Day 360: The Ladies called me into their office today to complain that I've been having all the fun. I asked them if they wanted to trade places with me for a day. They did, but I stipulated that I should be allowed a day between each trade day. Tomorrow I get to be Evil Witch.

Day 361: Played chess with the cat (the cat won), and did a couple tarot readings. Evil Witch blew up Chile.

Day 362: Staved off assassination attempts and sent my people into Chile to calm things down.

Day 363: Today I was Mad Scientist. Microwaved Peeps and made ice cream with her liquid nitrogen. Had her assistants show me all the neat toys in development. Mad Scientist let three spies into the base.

Day 364: Spent the day hunting and shooting enemy spies. Mailed them back to their owners in largish boxes with taunting letters attached.

Day 365: I got to be Mastermind. I made the bishonen clean my new house and build the solarium I've been meaning to add. Fondled one of the cuter ones. Mastermind was bored out of her skull.

Day 366: We had another meeting and everyone agreed that we were better off at our chosen jobs.

Sadly, this is the end. Thanks to 'Dancer for the series!

Read the previous entries in the Pulsar Archives at [www.porsfis.org](http://www.porsfis.org)

## **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

**Portland Science Fiction Society  
PO Box 4602  
Portland, OR 97208**

**Any way you want to join is OK by us!**

---

Yes, I want to be a member of the Portland Science Fiction Society, Here is my information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # : \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



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 Dream's/Burnside and Looking Glass Books, both in Portland, Oregon.

The Editor is Lisa Goodwin.

**The Deadline for Pulsar contributions is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:president@porsfifs.org">president@porsfifs.org</a>	503-620-3068
Vice President	John Andrews	<a href="mailto:veep@porsfifs.org">veep@porsfifs.org</a>	503-771-2894
Treasurer	Kris Picio	<a href="mailto:treasurer@porsfifs.org">treasurer@porsfifs.org</a>	
Secretary	Matt Picio	<a href="mailto:secretary@porsfifs.org">secretary@porsfifs.org</a>	
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