

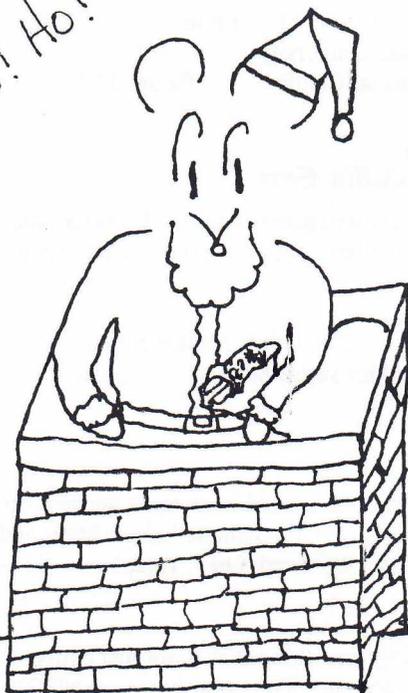
PULSAR

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The Newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society

Ho! Ho! Ho!

*Merry
Christmouss*



(Coming Soon to A Chimney Near You)

Issue No. 242

December 1998

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TIMELINE

Compiled by Sam Butler

PorSFis holds a formal meeting on the second Saturday of each month—usually these are structured and have a program. After the meeting we adjourn to a social place for snacks, drinks and socialization. Some folks gather after the meeting for dinner at the place listed in the timeline or chosen at the social gathering.

There is often a social gathering in varying locations on the fourth Saturday. Lately this has been a video party at the home of two of our members, Jim and Linda Pilcher. Since this month that falls on the day after Christmas, it will not be held, but be prepared for January!

Special events: Occasionally members organize movie parties as well, see below for details. Also, check out our New Year's Event.

Next meeting: Saturday, December 12th 2 p.m.
Portland State University
Smith Memorial Center Room 229

Guest Speaker: **Cecilia Eng**

One of our favorite folksingers will provide musical entertainment, please bring money so that you can shower her with your enthusiasm. (Or to buy her new CD *Harmony in Practice*—see review).

Afters: Market Street Pub SW 10th & Market Street
Dinner is open for suggestions.

New Year's Events

Again as in the past, we have been treated to an open house party on New Year's Day. It has been confirmed that it will again be held at Marc and Patty Wells' home, which is located at 819 SE 16th Portland, OR Telephone: 232-5692

The program is as follows:

Potluck—this means bring something that is not just chips. Drinks are always welcome and can be of all varieties. The event begins at NOON—if you show up earlier you will cheerfully be put to work cleaning the house.

The event will last all day, so don't feel you have to show up at noon, you can come later and stay later.

This will most assuredly be the last New Year's Day party held at this location.

PRESIDENT'S QUOTES:

FIRST SUBJECT: ORYCON 20

If I do say so myself it's good to have it over despite enjoying it very much. For the first time in a long time, I wasn't a prisoner of dealers' room. Instead I got to sit in front of the PSYCHO™ shower curtain. The view from the area next to the stairwell leading to the Art Show and gaming hole is quite different than the dealers' room, although most of the same people go by.

I manned the PorSFis group table with the help of Tony and Becky Kyle, Roger Wells, and Pat Gulley who took turns on Saturday allowing me to get away from the tables. We managed to sell 3 memberships to the club, however two of them were member renewals. We passed out a lot of flyers and membership forms, and time will see if we pick up any new members.

On Sunday we held a raffle for which we had sold over 25 tickets at \$2 per ticket. The four winners were:

Sue Ellen Yadkin of Sunnyvale, CA who got to take the Psycho curtain home.

Hahn of Portland, OR who snagged the Oregon license plate 'PorSFis' that John Lorentz had donated to the club last summer.

Barbara Hoffert of Beaverton, OR won a PorSFis membership for a year, which she donated to her daughter.

Sean Wells of Portland, OR won a "Soldier" t-shirt, x-large.

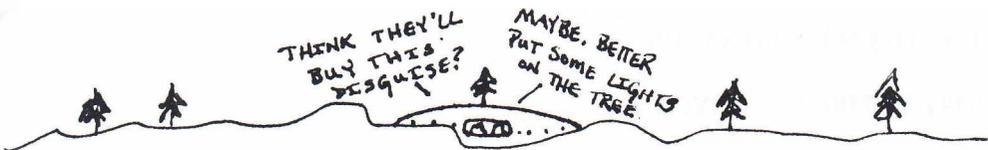
Thank you all for making the raffle a success.

SECOND SUBJECT: ADOPT A FAMILY

As is the usual PorSFis tradition we have been approached by the Adopt A Family program. For those who have forgotten, what we have done in the past five or more years is adopt a family, usually a single mother and a child or two, and ask for donations from our members. With the funds gathered we either do some shopping of gifts for them, or provide gift certificates. In the past this shopping has been done by Page Fuller, Linda Pilcher and Patty Wells.

Editor's insert:

Debra Stansbury is heading this up this year and would be grateful for any and all support and assistance in coming to this family's aid. Especially thanks to Page for her initial guidance and to Linda Pilcher for finding a stroller.



THIRD SUBJECT: FILM GET-TOGETHERS

Star Trek - Insurrection

There have been several attempts to gather together to view films. John Bartley usually attempts to bring these about. If you wish to find out more you need to let John know so that you can be placed on the notification list. His telephone number is: BAR-TLEY

I have received the application form from Volunteers of America of Oregon Adopt-A-Family program and will be sending it back soon after I write this. They recommend that we spend \$50 per person including food. Delivery of items needs to be done prior to December 19.

Quote from past Adopter: "Being able to buy gifts for a family who really need help brings out our Holiday spirit and reminds us of how lucky we are."

We were quite successful last year and would like to see if we can match last year's success. So in order to do this we're starting earlier this year in asking for contributions.

FOURTH SUBJECT: NEW OFFICERS

Since we won't be having a November meeting, it is time to remind you that we need to start thinking about having people run for the offices. Since our election is in January or February it's never too early to volunteer to be an officers. Remember, we have a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

FIFTH SUBJECT: SOME FUTURE PROGRAMMING IDEAS

We've had suggestions for some of the more popular speakers in the past, and I will keep this in mind for the remaining period of my term [which expires at the end of March]. What I had really been looking for was new ideas since I certainly know how to contact some of the previous guests. I try not to burn them out by asking them to appear too often, but then again, a year to a year and a half seems about right. Still I'd like to see some new guests so please keep thinking about possible guests.

SIXTH SUBJECT:

A CHANGE IN PARKING

Portland State University has changed their policy in regards to parking on Saturday. In the past parking in either of the two parking structures on Broadway has been without charge. At the last meeting they were charging \$2 to park there.

If you park there after 2 PM there would be no charge. The parking structure between 12th & 13th and about Montgomery does not charge anything. You can reach this parking structure easiest by taking I-405 from the Marquam bridge and then taking the Sunset Highway exit and turning onto the 12th street exit instead of going towards the zoo. Although this location is further from the meeting room, it is closer to the Afters on 10th & SW Market.

As usual the Portland Science Fiction Meeting, although scheduled to start at 2 PM, usually starts 5-10 minutes later, so if you're not parking in the Parking Structure until 2 PM we will understand.

EIGHTH SUBJECT

WHAT'S IT COST TO BE PORSFIS?

Each month that PorSFIS holds a meeting at Portland State University it costs: \$39.95

Each month that PorSFIS prints a newsletter, the printing costs: \$22.50 [3 sheets - 6 pages - times 0.05 cents per page times 75 copies]

Each month that PorSFIS mails a newsletter, the postage costs: \$19.20 [\$0.32 times 60 copies] - postage rates will rise next year.

Therefore it costs 4 full PorSFIS memberships each month, and this does not count the picnic, post office box rental, the telephone answering service or any other costs. Twelve full months costs approximately 48 full PorSFIS memberships just for the newsletter.

At this moment in time we do not have 48 full memberships, and we need to talk about this income draining hole. We do save money by not having a meeting or two each year, such as November when the convention happened, and also during the month that we have the picnic the same weekend, but this really doesn't save us a whole lot of money. The bottom line is that we need more than 50 members.

another stolen from the internet item:

HOW TO SING THE BLUES

(attrib. to Memphis Earlene Gray with help from Uncle Plunky)

1. Most blues begin "woke up this morning."
2. "I got a good woman" is a bad way to begin the blues, unless you stick something nasty in the next line.

I got a good woman--
with the meanest dog in town.

3. Blues are simple. After you have the first line right, repeat it. Then find something that rhymes. Sort of.

Got a good woman
with the meanest dog in town.
He got teeth like Margaret Thatcher
and he weighs about 500 pounds.

4. The blues are not about limitless choice.
5. Blues cars are Chevies and Cadillacs. Other acceptable blues transportation is Greyhound bus or a southbound train. Walkin' plays a major part in the blues lifestyle. So does fixin' to die.
6. Teenagers can't sing the blues. Adults sing the blues. Blues adulthood means old enough to get the electric chair if you shoot a man in Memphis.
7. You can have the blues in New York City, but not in Brooklyn or Queens. Hard times in Vermont or North Dakota are just a depression. Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City are still the best places to have the blues.
8. The following colors do not belong in the blues:
 - a. violet
 - b. beige
 - c. mauve
9. You can't have the blues in an office or a shopping mall, the lighting is wrong.
10. Good places for the Blues:

- a. the highway
- b. the jailhouse
- c. the empty bed

Bad places:

- a. Ashrams
- b. Gallery openings
- c. weekend in the Hamptons

11. No one will believe it's the blues if you wear a suit, unless you happen to be an old black man.

12. Do you have the right to sing the blues?

Yes, if:

- a. your first name is a southern state--like Georgia
- b. you're blind
- c. you shot a man in Memphis.
- d. you can't be satisfied.

No, if:

- a. you were once blind but now can see.
- b. you're deaf
- c. you have a trust fund.

13. Neither Julio Iglesias nor Barbra Streisand can sing the blues.

14. If you ask for water and baby gives you gasoline, it's the blues. Other blues beverages are:

- a. wine
- b. Irish whiskey
- c. muddy water

Blues beverages are NOT:

- a. Any mixed drink
- b. Any wine kosher for Passover
- c. Yoo Hoo (all flavors)

15. If it occurs in a cheap motel or a shotgun shack, it's blues death. Stabbed in the back by a jealous lover is a blues way to die. So is the electric chair, substance abuse, or being denied treatment in an emergency room. It is not a blues death, if you die during a liposuction treatment.

16. Some Blues names for Women

- a. Sadie
- b. Big Mama
- c. Bessie

17. Some Blues Names for Men

- a. Joe
- b. Willie
- c. Little Willie
- d. Lightning

Persons with names like Sierra or Sequoia will not be permitted to sing the blues no matter how many men they shoot in Memphis.

17B. Other Blues Names (Starter Kit)

- a. Name of Physical infirmity (Blind, Cripple, Asthmatic)
- b. First name (see above) or name of fruit (Lemon, Lime, Kiwi)
- c. Last Name of President (Jefferson, Johnson, Fillmore, etc.)

Excalibur Books And Comics

2444 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

Portland Or. 97214

(503) 231-7351

Mon-Thurs 11:00-8:00

Fri-Sat 10:00-8:00

Sun 11:00-7:00

We buy, sell and trade.

We have one of the largest selections of independant comics as well as mainstream. We also have RPG and Sci-Fi paperbacks.

Ask Mr Know-it-all

A Ms TW of Port Orchard asks: Where did we get that expression, so oft used at weddings, 'Till death do you part'?

In all likelihood it originated in Hollywood, where typically a married couple soon do part and remain thus parted until death.

A Mr JA of Olympia asks: According to the U.S. constitution, a president can only be impeached for 'high crimes and misdemeanours'. Suppose a U.S. president were to commit an act which is somewhat more serious than a misdemeanour yet still less serious than a high crime?

You appear to have stumbled upon one of the current President's main defence arguments against impeachment.

A Mr HG of Vancouver asks: what does it take to be published in *Who's Who*?

Inasmuch as the name *Who's Who*, by itself, is not a registered property, all it really takes is access to a printing press.

A Ms ND of Portland asks: I qualified for membership in one of those high-IQ societies, based on my Graduate Record Exam® score, even though the exam itself stated very firmly that it is not an intelligence test. Well, if it isn't an intelligence test how can this high-IQ society use it as such?

The secret with most of those high-IQ organisations is that the test itself is not so important; the actual qualifying requirements are demonstrated by the applicant's ability to fill out the application, locate the person who administers the test, and, most of all, once accepted into membership, the ability to actually find the events from cryptic clues planted in the organisation's newsletter.

A Mr RS of New York asks: In which city is it easier to drive, New York or London?

There are many things to consider when answering this but one item immediately comes to mind; it is noticeably easier to make left turns in the city centre of London than it is in New York.

A Ms KR of Sherwood asks: What is the difference between a 'bend sinister' and a 'bar sinister'?

According to the College of Arms in London, a 'bend sinister' is a particular heraldic device (and one that does not, in fact, imply illegitimacy) whereas the only bar sinister they recognise is located down a dark alley behind the College, and was recently raided and closed by the authorities.

You may contact Mr Know-it-all in care of the *Pulsar*
or e-mail on rwell@illuminetSS7.com

So, have you returned your survey's yet?

Why not?

In 300 words or more, explain why not.

Be sure to use lots of big words, silly examples and *embellish* a bit (after all, you aren't in school anymore, and this isn't for a grade—but the best ones *will* be published, Bwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!)

Artwork needed.

Can you draw? Can you fake it? Are you willing to try? Besides Sheryl Birkhead, we don't seem to get a lot of art submissions (heck, we don't get prose or poetry, either!) Please, submit, submit, submit!

Letter from Sheryl Birkhead

Hi—

Love the stamp—even though I haven't seen the whole sheet at the P.O. yet. Good luck with the holiday family—a noble project. In case you haven't heard—Ian Gunn died this last week.

Excuse—I was going to fill out the Survey, but I'd have to photocopy it (so I wouldn't destroy the 'zine)—and I don't want to wait (sic), so...hope everyone else does!

Thanks for thish!

Sheryl

CD Review

Harmony in Practice—Cecilia Eng Firebird Arts & Music \$18

I actually got one of the advanced copies sold at Orycon. I got it at the time because it had *Heart of the Appaloosa* on it, a song I've loved since the first time I heard Cecilia sing it at a con. However, besides that wonderful, but admitted ose song, there is also a little something for everyone on this CD, science fiction, fantasy, history, and most points in between. For the *X-Files* fan there is *X as in Fox*, for the Lackey fan there is *Price of Command*, for vampyrites there is *Dark Wine and Roses*, I could go on and on (and would if I had the space). Some are jazzy, some are up-beat, some are down-beat, but all are enjoyable.

And as a special treat, Cecilia is backed by Emrys Atkinson, a musician that must be experienced to be believed. I now eagerly await *his* next CD as well ☺

(Forewarning: Firebird Arts and Music will be releasing Three Live CDs by *Salamander* in the near future. Salamander consists of Michael Longcor and Emrys Atkinson. The first CD will contain war songs, the second will be romantic (and otherwise) songs—including the World's Most Evil Song, and the third will consist of those that didn't fit into either category, such as *Bob's Dog Obedience School and Taxidermy Shop*.)

FIREBIRD ARTS & MUSIC

OPEN HOUSE & ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1998 NOON-8:00pm

THE FIREBIRD WAREHOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF "HARMONY IN PRACTICE" NEW ALBUM FROM CECILIA ENG. COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, AND ALBUM SIGNING. BOTH CECILIA AND EMRYS ATKINSON WILL BE ON HAND TO SIGN CD'S. DO YOUR LAST MINUTE SHOPPING WITH FIREBIRD.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 1998 NOON-8:00pm ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 1998 11:00 AM-6:00 PM OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 1998 12:00 AM-6:00 PM OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 1998 11:00 AM-6:00 PM OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19, 1998 11:00 AM-6:00 PM OPEN HOUSE

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(503) 255-5751

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WE ARE OFF NE SANDY BLVD., ON NE 106TH AVE. NEAR HIGHWAY 205. 106TH AVE IS ACROSS SANDY BLVD. FROM PARKROSE HAREWARE. LOOK FOR THE LARGE RED PARKROSE SIGN. FIREBIRD IS UPSTAIRS IN THE SECOND BUILDING FROM THE CORNER OF 106TH AND SANDY BLVD.
FROM SEATTLE: I-5 SOUTH TO THE 205 JUNCTION. TAKE 205 SOUTH ACROSS THE BRIDGE INTO OREGON. THEN GET OFF AT EXIT 23A, THE EAST SANDY BLVD EXIT. HEAD EAST. TURN RIGHT ON NE 106TH AVE. WE ARE IN THE LARGE BEIGE BUILDING.

PO Box 4602
Portland, OR 97208

Pulsar, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis), comes free with membership. It is also available in trade with other fanzines, and can be purchased at Excalibur Books, Future Dreams/Burnside and Looking Glass Books, all in Portland OR.

Your editor has been Debra Stansbury. Next month's editor is the same. Deadline is generally the 20th of each month. Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO box above.

PorSFis meetings are open to everyone. Check the Timeline for meeting times and places. Membership per year: \$20 individual, \$30 family (1 newsletter)

PorSFis Officers:

President Sam Butler (503) 289-2670
Vice-Pres. Chuck Leon
Treasurer John Andrews (503) 771-2894
Secretary Roger Wells

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PORSFIS WEBPAGE: <http://rsl.net/porsfis>



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