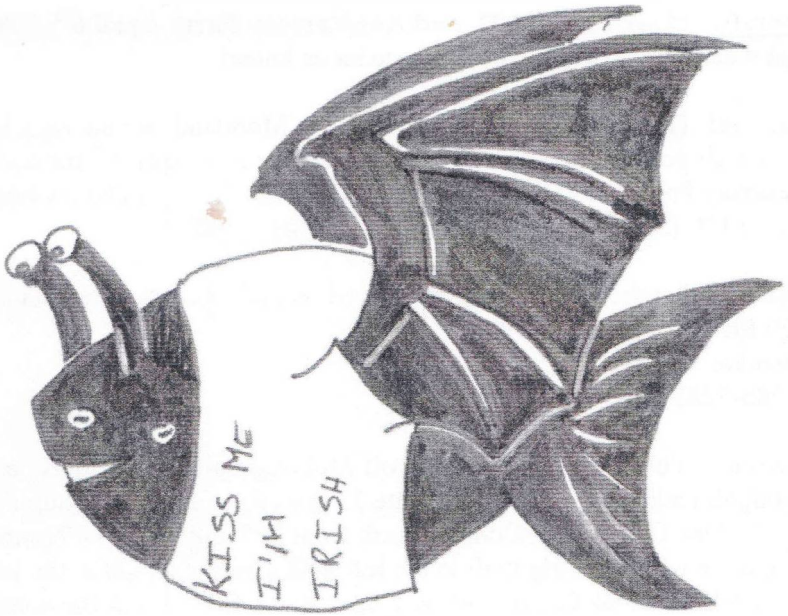


Only 40 Cents!

# Pulsar

For when the Best just isn't good Enough



Why Slug-Eyed Fish Bats enjoy Human Holidays!

**Issue 281**

**March 2002**

Issue 281

Business Meeting—March 9<sup>th</sup>

March 2002

Pulsar 281

PorSFis holds a formal meeting on the second Saturday of each month—and it usually has a program. After the meeting we adjourn to a social place for snacks, drinks and socialization—called Afters (that's the gathering's name, not the place) And as always, everyone is welcome to all PorSFis goings on!

**Guest Speaker: Brenna Sharp** ([www.robewarriors.com](http://www.robewarriors.com))

The meeting will be at PSU, Smith Hall Room 323 at 2pm! ☺ and Brenna will be discussing Costuming!! ☺ Come, see, hear, enjoy!

**Afters** At the Market Street McMinnamins...unless someone has a better tasting alternative. Starts no earlier than 4pm.

**alt.porsfis March 23<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and Anniversary Party April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

If you want to be a host in 2002, please let us know!

**Woo, hoo!** Thanks to Sue Renhard and Dave Moreland, we not only have a place for alt.porsfis on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, but also a place on April 6<sup>th</sup> for our 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party! ☺ Thanks oodles! ☺ (and don't forget Dave's birthday is on April 1<sup>st</sup>! (Just five short days after mine ☺)

Please note that their household has moved recently and are now located at:  
14620 SE Woodland Way, #6  
Milwaukie, OR 97267  
503-786-7283

Sue wrote: We're a couple of blocks off McLoughlin (address runs parallel to McLoughlin addresses). Tri-Met Route 33 goes right down McLoughlin, get off at the Oak Grove stop. Coming north from 205, take Exit 9 ("North on 99E"), there will be a strip mall to the left with a Safeway, get in the left turn lane, turn left on Oak Grove, just past Jack In the Box. From the north, take MLK Jr. Blvd south 'till it converges with Grand, and becomes 99E (aka McLoughlin), we're south of The Bomber restaurant, watch for KFC (Fred Meyer will be on your left), get in the right turn lane, turn right on Oak Grove. Once on Oak Grove, the next street to turn on will be Woodland Way, turn right on Woodland Way. We're in the brown, moss-covered townhouses, called Oak Villa (good luck seeing the name, small black letters on a dark-brown background!).

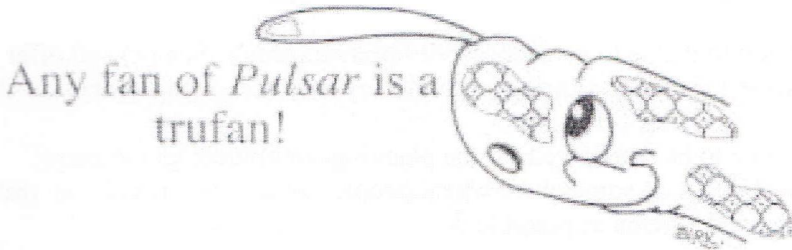
## **Presidential Ramblings:**

### **First Item: Elections!**

Ballots were due March 9<sup>th</sup> at the meeting...did you remember to send yours in? Results will be announced soon!

### **Second Item: The Lateness of the Pulsar**

Okay, should have the lateness thing licked for a bit...I'm still looking for an assistant or someone to take this in rotation...it's not as hard as I make it look—Honest!



### **Third Item: A Big Thank You**

Many thank you's to all of you wonderful people who have been hosting alt.porsfis. Especially Sue and Dave, who stepped in to host in February, and just after a big move, too!

And an even bigger thank you to Sue and Dave for stepping up, not only for March's alt.porsfis, but for the PorSFIS 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Birthday Bash!

### **Fourth Item: We want More!!**

Go forth and recruit! All species, races, creeds, colors, and planets of origin are welcome ☺

#### **GIFT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Memberships are still just \$20 a year, \$30 for the whole family! What a deal!

**Fifth Item: A New Project! ☺**

Last month (February) at the meeting, Skip happened to mention some of his concerns regarding the fact that most times, when the Libraries have to retire a SF book, there isn't any hardbound copies of it available to replace it.

So, the thought is—I, or one of my soon to be announced committee, contacts the library and finds out what books they have in the system but don't have copies of anymore, which books are about to be retired, or which ones they are looking for (in the SF/F genre, of course, Child, Juvenile, or Adult)...then we and our delightful minions (that's you all ☺) go forth and search used bookstores and the like for hardback copies in good condition and then we donate those to the Library (with a lovely bookplate inside with our name and web address).

- An addition to that is to contact school libraries (Junior, Senior) and offer to do the same for them...although, I think they may accept paperbacks as well.

- If you'd like to be considered for the planning committee, let me know. We'll put the list up somewhere where people can access it readily, so that we can get started as soon as possible ☺

**EVENT CALENDAR**

Look! Stuff!

- Mar 8-10 Gamestorm 2002 at Doubletree, Columbia River, Portland
- Mar 8 25th anniversary (1977) of discovery of the rings around Uranus  
Premiere of movie "The Time Machine"
- Mar 9-16 Brain Awareness Week at OMSI
- Mar 9 Einstein's Birthday Party at OMSI  
**PorSFis Meeting at Portland State University (2 pm)**
- Mar 12 Release of game "Trek Bridge Commander" for PC  
Premiere of movie "Clockstoppers"  
Premiere of movie "The Ice Age" (computer animated)
- Mar 19 Birthday of actor Patrick McGoochan (The Prisoner)  
Release of game "Jimmy Neutron" for Gamecube
- Mar 20 Vernal Equinox 19:03 UT

- Mar 21 Planned Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis to International Space Station
- Mar 21-24 Left Coast Crime 12 convention at Doubletree Columbia River Portland
- Mar 22 Birthday of actor William Shatner (James T. Kirk)  
45th birthday of actress Mary Tamm (Romana I of Doctor Who)  
Premiere of movie "Blade 2"  
20th anniversary re-release of movie "E.T., the Extra Terrestrial"  
Premiere of movie "Jason X"
- Mar 23 **Alt.Porsfis at Sue and Dave's!**
- Mar 25 Release of game "Jedi Outcast" for PC
- Mar 26 Birthday of actor Leonard Nimoy (Mr Spock)  
Release of book "A Caress of Twilight" by Laurell K. Hamilton  
Release of Star Trek-The Next Generation First season DVD set  
Release of the movie "K-Pax" on DVD  
Release of Directors Cut of series finale of Xena (30 additional minutes) on DVD  
Sci-Fi/Fantasy book club meets at Jantzen Beach Barnes & Noble - 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 27 **Birthday of most beloved and benevolent Fearless Leader! Debra Stansbury ☺**  
40th Birthday of author Kevin J. Anderson
- Mar 29-31 Norwescon 25 at Doubletree Hotel, SeaTac Airport
- Mar 29 Birthday of actress Marina Sirtis (Counsellor Troi)  
Premiere of movie "Halloween:Homecoming"
- Apr 1 **PorSFis's Official 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**  
**Dave Moreland Official Birthday!**
- Apr 6 **THE PARTY!** (see announcement under alt.porsfis) FUN!!

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**PorSFis Members receive 10% off**

## Traveling VEEP Picks!

Lookee! A new column!

Because my title will be changing, so will the title of this column. This month, it's called **The Traveling VEEPs Picks**. Next month it'll be something else, I'm not sure what just yet, but yes, you will have to sit through my mindless pattering *unless* this column makes you jump up and submit something of your own that could take up the space of my next column. (Hey, Editor, how's that for shameless advertising?)

The idea behind this column is once a month I sit down and give you my highly biased and subjective opinion about something... anything. This month, I'm going to take my recent visit to Geneva and give you some pointers, whether you like it or not. (Actually, it does occur to me that if you didn't like it you wouldn't be reading this to begin with, so if you're still with me then I'm impressed with your perseverance.)

As many of you know, I went into exile for the past month for my undercover mission to overthrow an unnamed South American government- just kidding! =) I was in Geneva, Switzerland for a course on... ::notices that people have fallen asleep:: Okay, it's not important why I was there, but what I found.

Most people who travel take the time in advance to actually look up and decide where they want to visit, so this isn't a travel guide. This is the supplemental guide, for the weary traveler who just wants to find something that looks vaguely familiar.

For the frugal wanderer **Migro** and **Coop** (pronounced Co – op) are excellent grocery stores. Their prices are reasonable, and at Migro I found a number of fresh produces I hadn't seen outside of South America, a big plus if you like exotic foods, and again let me stress the part about *very* reasonable prices. Coop generally has an amazing selection of 'exotic' meats, including croc and ostrich. Both chains are located all over the city, so just remember where you saw the one closest to your place of stay.

For the souvenir seeker there are any number of stores you could visit, but if you want to buy a Swiss Army Knife, there's only one place that I would recommend. **Coutellerie de Jef d'eau**, on rue du Monte-Blanc # 7, has the very best prices unless you have a good friend who works for the United Nations and can buy the knives for cheaper. Also le Coutellerie offers free engraving with each purchase.



Anyone out there like chocolate? The very best of the best can be found in a store on # 27 Quai des Bergues at **Chocolaterie des Bergues**. Not only is this a chocolate shop, but it's also a café of superb quality for >gasp< affordable prices! (And in case you were wondering, yes, a great deal of time and funding went into locating the very best of chocolateries in Geneva. Only the very best for PorSFoids!)

Okay readers, the next two are for you. **Payot SA** on #5 rue Chamtepoulet is the city's largest bookstore. Not only does it have a huge selection of books in French German and Italian, it's got a lovely Varity in English. But watch out! If you buy the English version books you're paying easily twice the street value for the same book back in the US. My recommendation, buy French/German/Italian and delight a bilingual friend. Of course if you can read/are interested in learning how to read in one of the three official languages of Switzerland, then buy the books here, as the new book prices are very good.

For the monolinguals, or those desperate for something *not* in a funny sounding language, **the Bookworm English Reading Room**, on # 5 rue Sismondi. The owner is a lovely British lady who's both charming and can recommend a good tea room.

Okay comic book fans, here's my recommendation for Geneva. **Imagination**, # 9 Quai des Bergues has just about anything, American comics, the French variety, some in Italian and German, and in the basement every manga that has ever been translated into French. (I told you this was a biased column.) The only drawback is that none of their products are in English. No biggy for Yours Truly, but if you prefer English, stick to Payot SA, they carry comics too.

Did I say this wasn't a travel guide? Well, I'm going to recommend one museum anyway. **Musée International de la Croix Rouge & Croissant Rouge** (International Red Cross & Red Crescent Museum) is the best museum to give you a general idea about what exactly all the fuss is about when people talk about Geneva Conventions and humanitarian aid programs. It's located on 17 Anvenue de la Paix.

The last pick on this list isn't a store or a museum. In fact, I'm not even sure what to call it, I couldn't find a name for it anywhere. So what I'll tell you is the crossroads I found it at, rue Louise Faure and Angle Grande-Pré. This is a group of four buildings whose architecture looks like it came straight out of a Dr. Seuss book. No kidding. Also there are parts that could have been

designed on the principles of fractals, so in the end the effect is like looking at an MC Escher drawing. I refer to it as the "Dr. Seuss Plaza" but I really don't know what it's called. But it's genuinely worth the time to find it and wander through.

## Letters to the Editor!

To the editor:

It seems that most that is being said lately is being done via the e-list, but here is a good, old fashioned "letter to the editor".

There have been a lot of e-communications on PorSFis's 24th birthday coming up on April 1st. Of course, what that means is that we are only a little more than a year from the 25th. Here is a suggestion:

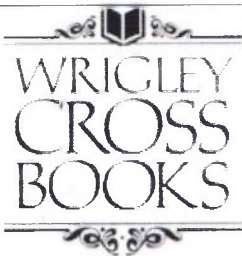
Starting with the April PULSAR, how about featuring a small section, say a page or two or more as needed, to go over two years of PorSFis history in each issue, beginning with year one, or even farther back. Within twelve issues, all 24 years will have been recounted. The President/Editor has some info borrowed from me (certain selected historical PULSARs like #100) that contain historical PorSFis and PULSAR facts. How about interviews with the founders? Most are easily found around the Portland area. Also, historical tie-ins, whether science fiction or not, could be used in the continuing story. Finally, the April, 2003 PULSAR could be an extra-large, extra-special newsletter, put together over the next year by officers, members, writers, artists and other volunteers.

Oh, and did I mention, we might look for some quotes or other tidbits from some big names in SF and Fantasy to salt into the Silver Edition PULSAR. The possibilities are only as limited as we make them.

And we haven't even thought about the get-together we are gonna have in April, 2003. AEFAP!!!

Mike Parker





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## **A Little Food for Thought by Sam Butler**

### **WHY**

Okay, so I've changed my mind

And you ask why?

Sometimes it's time to let go, time for a change, time for transition,  
time to let your fingers loose from the ledge and free fall  
and enjoy the fall down and see what will happen.

And still you ask why?

Life goes on they say.  
It's so busy everyday.  
Sometimes, it's just that way.

And still you ask why?

Sometimes the ends and the beginning are so close,  
so similar that closure is allowed.

Sometimes things just peter [or is it paul] out,  
and you don't know when to cut the losses  
and call it quits.  
Pick up the pieces  
and get on with your life.

And still you ask why?

I'd say that too many are too busy  
leaving those that chose to make time free  
left to face the reality  
that their numbers are dwindling  
past, below the point of return,  
below a viable number of bodies.  
So it's time to ask why.

Okay to tacks. Suppose you had a meeting once a month and it always met on a certain day, and the reason why? In the dim early days of PorSFIS we met on Sunday. When we moved to the library we changed the day of the week to Saturday. In the dim early days of PorSFIS we met twice a month, every other week, in this way we would meet 26 times a year. Later as interest faded, we started going to meeting once a month in the hopes that this would allow people to have three Saturdays open, and one left for PorSFIS.

When the meetings are down to five people attending, as was the last meeting it's time to question whether spending the money on a meeting room is really something that should be done. That meeting could have been held out in the public area of Valentine Smith Memorial Center, and not cost the club a dime. We could have had the meeting down in the cafeteria and not spent a dime.

Of course, having only five people show up it a symptom of the problem, not the problem. The problem is that no one feels like attending the meetings. There is either nothing to draw them to the meeting, they don't hear about it, they are too busy, or their needs are being met elsewhere.

Possible solutions:

change the meeting place

change the meeting time

advertise the clubs existence

stop having the meeting and focus on the alt.porsfis portion only

give up

Discussion of possible solutions:

Change the meeting place: every time we've moved the meeting place we've lost members, we're down to where if we lose any more we'll have the possibility of an empty room

Change the meeting time: it's only at the time that it is, and on the day that it is, because it's always been that way. PERHAPS it's time for a CHANGE. Different day, different time.

Advertise the clubs existence: this takes energy, bodies to do the work, money to purchase advertising [if that's the way you want to go].

Stop having the meeting and focus on the alt.porsfis portion: this seems to be the healthiest portion of the club at the moment.

Suggestions:

Changing the meeting place and time might work. Having it on the weekend during the middle of the day just might be worse than having it at the same time during a workday. Perhaps it's time for an early evening meeting during the week. I'd vote against Friday though.

Changing the meeting time goes along with changing the day, by moving the time to either earlier, or later allows more activities to be inserted into a Saturday, and rather than being squeezed in the middle you can either start the day with PorSFIS, or be closer to ending the day with it.

Advertising the club existence: honestly, in my opinion, the club has to have a reason to exist, a reason to exist allows you to attempt to persuade others that

they will gain something if they invest their time and energy in the club. I would suggest we need to discuss this at length, but not forever.

Stop having the formal meeting, and go to the alt.porsfis portion. This might be the most viable of all objects, and attempt to increase the energy level, and have a short [stress short] business meeting at the alt.porsfis meetings.

Conclusions: perhaps 25 years is the length of life of this club, it's certainly been longer than any other SF club in the Portland area.

And so I ask why?

Why should the meetings continue if so few care to show up that you can count their numbers one one hand?

Why should you pretend that time's haven't changed, and try something different?

Why should you bang your head against the wall, when it's obvious that no one is there to tell you to stop?

So, my question to you who are reading this:

Do you have any answers to WHY?

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

Become a columnist for the Pulsar! Yes, see your name in print, share your knowledge with your content-starved compatriots, and earn the eternal gratitude of the editor!

How do you sign up? Why, it's simple. Call, write, or e-mail me, Debra Stansbury, editor of the Pulsar, and tell me what kind of a column you'd like to write and how often. Come on, it's FUN! (It's not like we're asking you to, say, edit the newsletter, or anything) ☺

## CONVENTION CALENDAR

Wondering what conventions are coming up in the next few months? So were we ☺ John Andrews pulled together this list for your edification....

### **NORWESCON 25**

March 28-31, 2002

SeaTac Doubletree Hotel, 18740 Pacific Hwy S, Seattle, WA 98188, (206) 246-8600, fax (206) 431-8687. GoH: Jack Vance, AGoH: Brom, FGoH: Andrew I Porter. Spotlight Publisher: Wizards of the Coast. Norwescon 25, PO Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168

### **SAKURACON 2002**

April 26-28, 2002

Seattle Airport Hilton & Conference Center, 17620 Pacific Hwy S, Seatac, WA 98188-4001. Emphasis: Anime. SakuraCon, 900 Meridian Alocaion East #19-407, Milton, WA 98254-7019 (253) 503-2233 x 1675. [lappleby@backtalk.org](mailto:lappleby@backtalk.org) with a subject of SakuraCon 20

### **WESTERCON 55/CONAGERIE**

July 4-7, 2002

Los Angeles Airport Wyndham Hotel, Los Angeles, CA. GoH: Harry Turtledove, AGoH: Ross Chamberlain, EGoH: Beth Meacham, FGoH: Robert Lichtman. Memberships: TBA. Westercon 55, SCIFI Inc, Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409 [www.westercon.org/55/](http://www.westercon.org/55/)

### **WORLDCON 60/CONJOSE**

August 29-September 30, 2002

McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, CA. GoH: Vernor Vinge, AGoH: David Cherry, FGoHs: Bjo & John Trimble, TM: Tad Williams. Imaginary GoH: Ferdinand Feghoot. Memberships: Attending: \$160 to 12/31/01, Supporting: \$35. ConJose Box 61363, Sunnyvale, CA, 94099-1363 [info@conjose.org](mailto:info@conjose.org) [www.conjose.org](http://www.conjose.org)

### **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2002**

October 31-November 3, 2002

March 2002

Pulsar 281

Hilton Minneapolis and Towers, 1001 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN  
55403 (612) 376-1000 Rates: TBA GoHs: Dennis Etchinson, Jonathan  
Carroll, Kathe Koja, Stephen Jones, Dave McKean. World Fantasy  
Convention, c/o DreamHaven Books, 92 West Lake St, Minneapolis, MN  
55408 (612) 823-6161 [wfc@dreamhavenbooks.com](mailto:wfc@dreamhavenbooks.com)  
[www.dreamhavenbooks.com/wfc.html](http://www.dreamhavenbooks.com/wfc.html)



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## **The Homework Assignment**

Here's the idea. It's awfully difficult to write a good review, and let's face it, not all of us know how (myself included) (I'm going to see about a panel at an upcoming PorSFSiS meeting, but that's another story ☺). So, I thought of mini-reviews.

These can be of books, videos, movies, whatever. It must contain the title, who wrote/directed it, and who produced/published it. It wouldn't hurt to give some more details such as length, and any other identifiers that would make it easier to find! ☺ Then, in 20-50 words, write down why your fellow porsfisians should bother themselves to check it out...the spirit of the piece, or a little teaser, just a bit to tempt them and make them interested!

Roger Wells is starting us off with this little bit—



Elizabeth Moon. The Deed of Paksenarrion. Riverdale NY: Baen Publishing Enterprises. 1992. Consists of three books: Sheepfarmer's Daughter, Divided Allegiance, Oath of Gold.

Paksenarrion Dorthansdotter is a sheepfarmer's daughter in a fantasy world of knights, gnomes, and elves, and a world which accepts women equally as armed fighters.  
.....

Here's my offering—  
Eve Forward. Villains by Necessity. Tor Books; ISBN: 0812522281 March 1996.

The bad guys are the good guys, and check out the gratuitous Smurf Stomp!  
.....

Okay...your turn! ☺

Daniel Reitman is now practicing at Meadowland Legal Services, 17112 S.E. Powell Boulevard, Suite 2, Portland 97236, (503) 674-5111.

**The Obits ☹**

**From [www.sfw.org](http://www.sfw.org)**  
\*\*\*\*\*

John Buscema (1927-2002)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Long-time comics artist John Buscema died of stomach cancer, early on January 10th. Last year, he was been reported as being in the advanced stages of cancer.

Buscema was a long-term mainstay of Marvel Comics, having drawn nearly every character at one time or another. He was the definitive CONAN THE BARBARIAN comics artist, having drawn thousands of pages of various CONAN titles, mostly in collaboration with writer/editor Roy Thomas. He is also well-remembered for his run with writer Stan Lee on the SILVER SURFER, continuing the character co-created by Lee and Jack Kirby. Other titles he drew for extended periods include THE AVENGERS, SPIDER-MAN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR and SUB-MARINER.

Buscema had drawn comics since the late 1940s for many different companies (Dell, ACG, Charlton, Timely/Atlas/Marvel), but his peak years were during what amounted to a second career, starting in the 1960s. He had effectively left the business and was doing commercial art when Lee, needing more artists as Marvel hit its stride, invited him back. He more-or-less retired in the late 1980s or early 1990s, but returned sporadically for special projects and fill-in issues. The most recent of these was a new version of Superman, done for DC with Lee.

Buscema was not a great innovator and for most of his Marvel output, he followed other artists -- Barry Windsor-Smith on CONAN, for example, and Jack Kirby on THE FANTASTIC FOUR -- but he was an exceptional draftsman and storyteller who was highly regarded by his peers. He was prodigious in his output, often doing only cursory breakdowns for other artists to render so that he could increase his output. (Comics art is typically collaborative, with one artist creating the pencil drawing and another rendering it in ink. Marvel valued Buscema's storytelling over his draftsmanship and relied heavily on inkers to complete Buscema's pencils as well as to render them.)

He spoke out on more than one occasion about the industry economics that made it necessary for him to take this approach, but he also conducted classes and seminars teaching others how to do the same.

--Pierce Askegren

### **Jack Carroll Haldeman, II -- December 11, 1941 - January 1, 2002.**

Brother. Father. Husband. Friend.

True to form, he chose a moment when nobody was looking at him--he always did cringe at being the center of attention. He went peacefully, as the family was sitting around him, telling jokes and laughing.

I encourage anyone who would like to, to please visit my father's web site, <http://www.sff.net/people/jack.haldeman/>.

From Lori Haldeman

**Acknowledgements:**

This month's cover is by Dancer Cloninger

Interior art: Fillos by Sheryl Birkhead

Calendar guru: Mike Parker

**Feedback**

You know, feedback is always appreciated. I know you all love what we do and write...but working in a vacuum is a little hard. If you want, you can even email me at [president@porsfis.org](mailto:president@porsfis.org) and I'll print it in the next Pulsar.

**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)

**Portland Science Fiction Society****Minutes****Monthly Meeting**

January 12, 2001

**Business:**

2002-03 officers were discussed. Dancer Cloninger announced her candidacy for Secretary and Shava Nerad's candidacy for President with Shava's request to elect her Vice President. The current candidates are:

President: Debra Stansbury and Shava Nerad

Secretary: Dancer Cloninger and Daniel Reitman

Treasurer: John Andrews

Ballots have not yet been distributed because the Pulsar has been delayed.

Hosts for 2002 alt.porsfis and rec.porsfis are still wanted. Shava Nerad indicated that she might volunteer one month for alt.porsfis. Dancer Cloninger stated she might volunteer for rec.porsfis after she returns from Switzerland.

Content is again requested for the Pulsar.

Alternate sites for meetings was discussed. We are paid through 2002

to PSU. Because of the cost of most restaurants, the sense of the group was that libraries would be preferable. The leading candidates appear to be North Portland, Northwest Portland, and Belmont. Northwest Portland appears to be the preferred choice of the group, but further inquiries are necessary. Shava Nerad will check with Northwest Portland; it appears to be available and has an SF-friendly head librarian. Daniel Reitman will check with Belmont. John Bartley has been inquiring with North Portland and indicated that it was available.

(President's Note: Actually, we aren't paid up...we just have a reservation through 2002 with PSU)

Steven Barnes will have a book release party on March 2 in Kelso. Heather Alexander will have a CD release party (for the CD connected with Steve Barnes' book) on February 15 in Eugene.

There was no guest.

### **Tidbits from SciFi Wire**

#### **Amber Spyglass Wins Whitbread**

Philip Pullman became the first children's writer to win Great Britain's Whitbread prize, for his book *The Amber Spyglass*, the final installment of the magical *His Dark Materials* trilogy, the British Guardian newspaper reported. Pullman eclipsed rival J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter*) by writing the first children's book to take one of the big two British literary awards, the newspaper reported.

Pullman won both the Whitbread children's award and the overall book of the year prize. The judges took only two minutes to make up their minds, chairman and Channel 4 news presenter Jon Snow told the newspaper.

The trilogy tells the story of children who find themselves in epic battles between the forces of good and evil on which the fate of the universe hangs.

#### **Tapping Fills The Void**

Amanda Tapping (*Stargate SG-1*) told SCI FI Wire that she co-starred with Highlander star Adrian Paul in an upcoming straight-to-video SF movie

called *The Void*. Malcolm McDowell (*Star Trek: Generations*) also stars in the film, which is directed by genre TV veteran Gilbert M. Shilton.

"The character's not dissimilar to [SG-1's Maj. Samantha] Carter," Tapping said in an interview. "It's about a young woman who is avenging her father's death at the hands of a scientist whose ... experiment went wrong, and we went ahead with the experiment, even though he knew that it was potentially going to blow up. And so my father died in that experiment. He was the one trying to stop it. And so many years later, I realize that this scientist is going to do it again. He's going to try this experiment again."

Tapping added, "Adrian Paul ... plays my boyfriend, who doesn't believe me. I actually use him to get into this lab, because he works at this lab, so I initially start seeing him so I can gain access to this lab. Then I fall in love with him. Curses!" Paul doesn't fight in the film, "and I don't wear Army boots," Tapping said with a laugh. "And I get to have sex, and my boyfriend doesn't die. It's all good." *The Void* is set for a March 19 release.

## **X-2 Gets Release Date**

Twentieth Century Fox announced that the upcoming sequel to its hit film *X-Men* will be called *X<sup>2</sup>* and that it will be released on May 2, 2003. *X<sup>2</sup>* is scheduled to begin principal photography in May, 2002.

The studio also confirmed that *X<sup>2</sup>* will introduce several new mutant characters from the *X-Men* comics universe. The sequel will also reunite all of the principal cast members of the 2000 film, which theatrically grossed nearly \$300 million worldwide, the studio announced. The sequel brings back director Bryan Singer; producers Ralph Winter, Lauren Shuler Donner and Avi Arad; and screenwriter David Hayter.

- ❖ Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling told the Arts and Entertainment network's Biography program that her fifth book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, will come out this summer.
- ❖ Evan Katz, creator of UPN's paranormal series *Special Unit 2*, confirmed for fans that the network has canceled the series and rescinded its order of the current season's last nine episodes.

- ❖ UPN is placing its low-rated teen alien series Roswell on hiatus, beginning March 5, the network announced. The show will return with new episodes in late April. UPN recently ordered a full season of the show, whose renewal for next year remains in doubt.
- ❖ The SCI FI Channel announced that it is canceling The Chronicle, which will air its last episode, "Snitch in Time," on March 22.

### **Science Fiction Fantasy Short Story Contest**

Hi. My name is Robyn Herrington. I'm the chair for this year's Con-Version Short Story Contest. Con-Version is Calgary's longest running science fiction and fantasy convention, and this year, we're hosting CanVenton, the National sf/f/h con. Each year, we hold a short story contest. I've been wandering around the Web, sending information off to parties that might be interested, and found your web site... Here's the promo blurb for the Con-Version Short Story Contest.

If you or anyone else has questions, just email me: [rmherrin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rmherrin@ucalgary.ca)  
Thanks - Robyn Herrington

PS -- Calgary's not that far away from Portland... if you're not busy August 9 - 11, 2002 -- come on up! Our guests are George RR Martin, Geoffrey A Landis, Robert J. Sawyer, James Alan Gardner, and a great artist, Lar deSouza!

### **From Somewhere on the Web**

Editors of the authoritative Oxford English Dictionary have launched a project to identify and collect words associated with the field of science fiction. The effort is the first by the editors to include all words that are frequently used in a specific field of endeavor.

The OED is seeking input from SF aficionados about the earliest example of every sense of every word it can include in the field of SF literature. That includes earlier examples of terms it already includes, early examples of terms that have been slated for future inclusion and any examples of terms that have not yet caught the editors' attention, but are common in SF, the editors said. Words used infrequently, words associated chiefly with a single author or words so specialized that they are found only in a single sub-genre



are not high priorities for inclusion. Certain terms have been excluded because editors have already identified the earliest possible example. These include "dalek," "robot" and "grok."

### **Confessions of a Biblioholic**

The confessions of a Bookworm part 1.

I have strayed from the realm of SF and Fantasy to the realm of Mystery and I am enjoying it.

I have become addicted to a Mortuary owner who has the victims dropped of on his door step, A female sheriff, a cop who's second wife turns out to be the baddie and forces him to kill her in self defense thereby making him very very rich, a journalist who becomes rich and owns an amazing cat, a T Rex who is a gumshoe (and they are funny), a Navaho cop, a Bed an Breakfast owner who just can't resist a good puzzle (and will make you laugh yourself right out of your seat) and of course have just found another Amerid series that is also suppose to be funny as well.

That is not to say that I haven't been reading other stuff such as History mags and Archaeology mags and a few Brit Film (DVD and film) and one or two others. Then of course there are the five books by various authors that I have by the bed that are in various stages of completion (four chapters, eighteen chapters, six chapters, three chapters and nine chapters) that are SF(3) and Fantasy(2). That I read only when I leave the go to work book in my pocket. This is why it is dangerous to DE-BOOK a Biblioholic. We not only Know how to take over the world, we also Know how to make you droll over the printed word and make you like it.

Now to the confession part It all started with not having a TV and limited access to picture books. By the end of the seventh grade I was reading at a second year collage level and spending all my money on comics and books. I would haunt the public library stacks (even almost got locked in once, a biblioholics least fear) and not the children's section. I still dream about tying up the prude librarian that would not let me check out Hemmingway or Chaucer when I was eight. By my second year of high school I had read all the classics (Hemmingway, Cooper, DeFoe, Conrad, Melville, etc) and started

on the histories of America, World War II and had begun to read about the Maya, Aztecs, Romans, Greeks and all I could find on anthropology (us humans are a funny organism). SF and Fantasy joined the brain food chain after High School starting with Heinlien and of course Dune (no I am not going to tell you where my true first edition is kept).

I have been a reader all my life and would spend my last cent on a book before food (of course I would also con a beer to drink while I was reading it.) Life throws many things in a persons path and the written word of imagination and fact have help me to maintain a stable form of insanity that gets me though the hard parts. I've had one love and lost her to regionalism and have yet to find another. Thus my only true love now is words fresh on the paper (sad isn't it BUT that's life.) Next part will contain a list of authors to enrich with royalty payments. Signed Biblioholic Anon.

### **Movie Review** **by John Andrews**

#### **The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring**

Just about everybody seems to like this movie, especially if they have read the books already. And, the movie is obviously successful financially which will ensure that all three films will be release, (a TV network has already paid millions for first broadcast rights *before* the others have been finished or released. Still in the top 10 after seven weeks. Nearly \$300 million so far.) unlike the animated attempt some time ago. Even if the others aren't as well received, I think they'll make their money back. The second movie may suffer as second books in trilogies often do. Of course there are dissenters who don't like it, but they are definitely in a small minority.

Since it is so familiar, I won't go into the plot (NOTE: It's been at least twenty years since I last re-read the trilogy, so my memory may be somewhat faulty at times.) Basically all the essential parts of the first book are here, and the movie is long enough to get them all in. Of course Tolkien wrote so expansively that any complete version would be prohibitively long. But, with almost three hours, I think the movie is as complete as possible.

Of course there are a few problems. The main one is the size of the hobbits. The books keep referring to them as 'halflings.' This means that they should be about three feet tall. They did a fairly good job of hiding this problem, but, sometimes you see two characters and it just doesn't fit. Also, in major battles, though greatly outnumbered, they come through with no losses or injury. (Of course Gandalf does disappear with the Balrog, but we know he's not dead. And they do lose one of the humans at the breaking of the Fellowship.) The ending would seem rather abrupt if you didn't know what was coming.

Overall this is a very worthy effort with a difficult subject. Too bad we will have to wait a year to see if they can keep the quality this high. Overall rating: 8.

### Back Issues

When PorSFis decided to sell off its library a couple of years ago, I inherited the boxes of archives from Page, as well. Inside were several years of trades and several back issues of the Pulsar. My VEEP and I went through them all and pulled out the trades and donated them to the Science Fiction Museum's Research Library. I also pulled out a copy of each Pulsar we have and will be scanning them before donating them to the SF Museum as well. The SF Museum was quite happy ☺

However, there are lots more back issues...well, some only have one or two, but others have lots. This is by no means the complete set, however ☹ I'm also going to make sure the library gets any copies they don't currently have...then, if no one else wants any, I will recycle the rest. I'll bring them to the April Business meeting—if you want one, please come! ☺

### Speaking of April

**Renewal Time!!** Check your Pulsar label...if it says 4/02, then your membership is up for renewal. It's only \$20 (\$30 for a family!) ☺ Heck, get one for a friend! You get a cool blue card, this delightful and superb newsletter, discounts at some local area book and comic book stores, and...there is talk of a periodic fanzine for those fiction fanatics out there ☺ (Names already eliminated are Star Lust, Pulsating SF, Pulsed, and 'Fine Armadilly Wimmen' (okay, you had to be there)...)

Portland Science Fiction Society  
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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 Debra Stansbury.

**Deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month.** Contributions are always welcome, and may be sent to the PO Box above, or to the editor direct at [president@porsfis.org](mailto:president@porsfis.org)

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

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