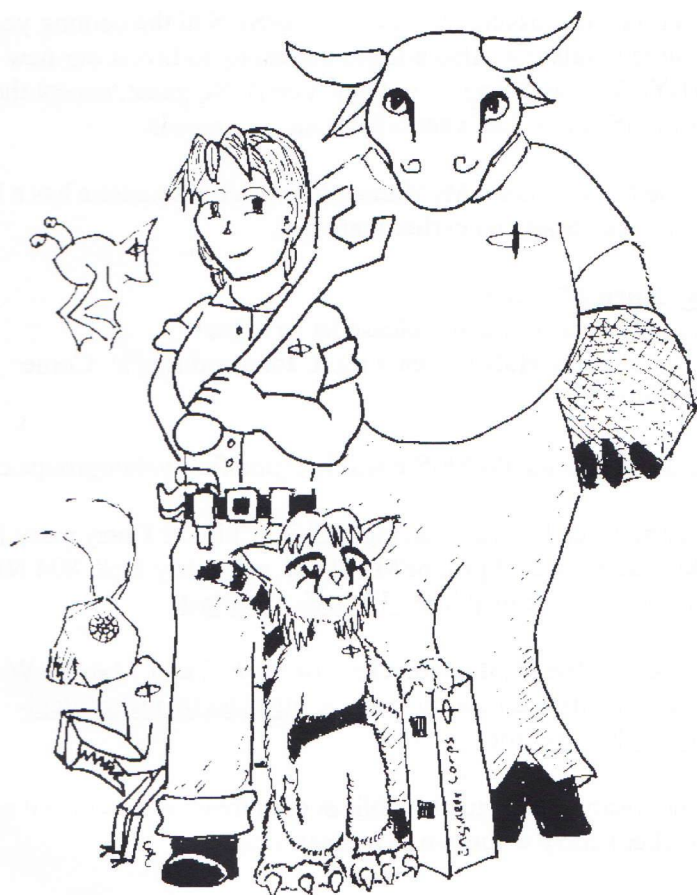


For when the Best just isn't good Enough

Only 40 Cents!

Pulsar



Engineers, Keeping the Future Together!

Issue 282

April 2002

Issue 282

Business Meeting—March 9th

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!

On the Agenda—discussing the future of PorSFis in the coming year. Come prepared to talk! ☺ Also a slight ceremony to invest our new officers. (BYOV, btw (Bring Your Own Vest)) No guest, except the members of PorSFis ☺ Let's see what's on your minds!

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

alt.porsfis April 27th, 2002

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

This month: Liberty Hall!! That's right, John and Lea's! Come prepared for fun!

Or, as John posted to the PorSFis email list (porsfis@yahoogroups.com)

John Bartley and Lea Rush are having a Chili, Chips & Curry party in three weeks, Satyrday 27 April, 6PM -11PM, at Liberty Hall, 804 NE Prescott in Portland -see map <http://libertyhall.cjb.net>

It's four block E of the #6, three blocks S of the #72 and 7 blocks W of the #8, so access is pretty easy for the carless; <http://go.tri-met.org/cgi-bin/plantrip.cgi> has specifics for you.

Meatless and meaty (elk, actually) chili & cornbread, meatless and meaty (pork & chicken) curry w/ brown & basmati rice.

This is a monthly floating party which PORSFIS (Portland SF Society) throws, to which you are invited. BYO beverage and/or special treats.

House holds two dozen people plus, and sometimes we get there. Smoking on the large covered front porch, satellite video in the living room, conversation in the kitchen, something or other in the dining room. Who knows, we might even break out THE COMPANY WAR or MISSISSIPPI QUEEN.

We have cats (and there's one you can take home!)

(The president would like to remind everyone that you don't just have to bring chips or desserts—At the 24th Anniversary and Birthday Bash, for example, Shava brought a wonderful sausage and beans dish that went fast! Experiment! Be daring! ☺)

Presidential Ramblings:

First Item: Elections!

Guess who won! ☺ Nah, I'll go ahead and tell you...

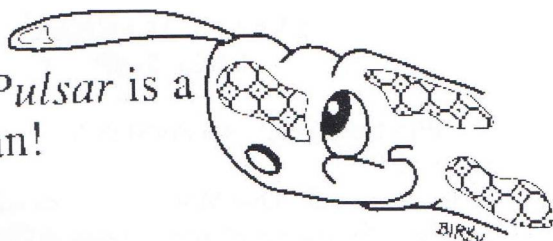
Debra Stansbury	President
Shava Nerad	Vice President
Dancer Cloninger	Secretary
John Andrews	Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who voted! ☺

Second Item: Pulsar Assistant

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!

Any fan of *Pulsar* is a
trufan!



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 March, **and** hosted the 24th 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: Looking Glass Bookstore

Thanks to the fine groundwork laid by John Bartley and Fred (Torck, in case anyone wondered ;) I can now reveal <drumroll> Looking Glass Bookstore is now under new ownership, however (before you start worrying) they are honoring the agreement we made with the previous owner with regards to the 10% discount and carrying the newsletter. Look in next month's issue for an ad regarding an upcoming event there (an appearance by a SF writer). Woo hoo!

Looking Glass Bookstore

318 SW Taylor St
Portland, OR 97204

phone 227-4760
fax 227-0829

e-mail lookglas@teleport.com

PorSFis Members receive 10% off

EVENT CALENDAR

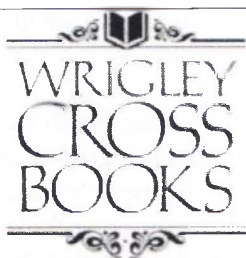
Look! Stuff!

- Apr 1 PorSFis New Year - All PorSFis Memberships are due for renewal!!!
Release of book "One More For the Road" by Ray Bradbury
Deadline for receipt of applications to Clarion, Clarion West Writing Workshops

- Apr 2 Birthday of writer Joan Vinge
 Release of the movie remake "Thirteen Ghosts" on DVD
 Release of the movie "Transylvania 6-5000" on DVD
- Apr 6 PorSFis New Years Party at Dave Moreland & Sue Renhard's
- Apr 7 Start of Daylight Savings Time
- Apr 8 Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis to International Space Station
- Apr 13 PorSFis Meeting at Portland State University (two p.m.)
- Apr 14 Orycon 24 Meeting at Roundtable Pizza on Foster 12pm-3pm
- Apr 15-21 Astronomy Week
- Apr 16 Release of the movies Highlander (Standard and Deluxe
 versions)" & "The Man Who Wasn't There" on DVD
 Release of game "Spider-Man" for multiple game machines
- Apr 17 Webmistress, She of the Dancing Hats, Lea Rush's birthday!
- Apr 18 End of IMAX movie "Thrill Ride" at OMSI
- Apr 19 IMAX Movie "Space Station" premieres at OMSI
 Premiere of movie "The Scorpion King"
 Birthday of Fred Torck! Oryfred, himself ☺ (I'm sure the beer
 festival that weekend is just a coincidence....)
- Apr 20 Astronomy Day
 Birthday of actor George Takei (Sulu - ST)
 Premiere of The Defiant Requiem (Oregon Symphony)
- Apr 21-24 AAS Division on Dynamical Astronomy Meeting at Timberline
 Lodge, Oregon
- Apr 22 Sixty-fifth Birthday of actor Jack Nicholson
 Lyrids meteor shower peak
- Apr 23 Release of book "Star Wars II - Attack of the Clones" by R.A.
 Salvatore
 Release of Anime movie "Metropolis" on DVD "Special
 Edition"
 Sci-Fi/Fantasy book club meets at Jantzen Beach Barnes &
 Noble – 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 25-28 Nebula Awards weekend - Kansas City, MO
- Apr 26-28 Game Faire 2002 gaming convention in Spokane, WA
 Sakura Con 2002 at Sea Tac, Washington
- Apr 26 Premiere of movie "Jason X"
 Stephen Hawking at Keller Auditorium - 7:00 p.m. tickets –
 \$49.50 to \$90.00

- Apr 26 Final episode of "LEXX" on Sci-Fi Channel
- Apr 27 Soyuz TM34 Soyuz U Launch to International Space Station
Alt.Porsfis hosted by John Bartley and Lea Rush at Liberty Hall
- Apr 28 Birthday of writer Terry Pratchett
- Apr 29 Birthday of Kate Mulgrew (Katherine Janeway - ST - Voyager)
- Apr 30 Birthday of writer Larry Niven
Release of book "The Shelters of Stone" by Jean Auel (fifth in series)

- May 3 Premiere of movie "Spiderman"
- May 5 End of exhibit "The Brain" at OMSI
Cinco de Mayo
- May 8 Second Anniversary of PorSFis E-List
- May 11 PorSFis Meeting at Portland State University (two p.m.)
- May 12 Birthday of Bruce Boxleitner (Sheridan - Babylon 5)
- May 14 Birthday of Producer/Director George Lucas
50th birthday of Director Robert Zemeckis
- May 16 Premiere of movie "Star Wars, Episode II - Attack of the Clones"
- May 17-19 May Crown in Stromgard (Clark Co. Fairgrounds) SCA Event
- May 18 Birthday of writer Fred Saberhagen
HEATHER ALEXANDER! at Alberta Street Public House.
\$5 cover. From 8-10pm.
- May 19 PDXBOT02 sponsored by Portland Area Robotics Society
from 10am to 5:00pm in Smith ballroom at PSU
Birthday of actor Ian McKellen (Gandalf -LOTR/Magneto -XMen)
- May 24-27 Egil's Tourney in Adiantum (Eugene, OR) SCA Event
- May 25 Opening of exhibit "Microbes" at OMSI
Alt.Porsfis - no host as yet
- May 27 80th Birthday of actor Christopher Lee (Sauron-LOTR)
Birthday of writer Harlan Ellison
- May 28 Sci-Fi/Fantasy book club meets at Jantzen Beach Barnes & Noble – 7:00 p.m.
- May 29 Birthday of composer Danny Elfman
- May 31 Launch of space Shuttle Atlantis to International Space Station



Phone (503) 281-9449
1809 N.E 39th Avenue
Portland OR 97212

Toll Free (877) 694-1467
FAX (503) 281-9706

Email wrigcros@teleport.com

Home Page - <http://www.teleport.com/~wrigcros>

Tues-Fri 11 am-7 pm Sat 10 am-6 pm Sun 12 noon-5 pm

PorSFis Members receive 10% off

Letter to the Editor

Oh dear.

I see that Sam Butler is concerned that PorSFis is failing. Sam, truth to tell, there have been several times during these last couple decades when it did seem as if PorSFis might be on its last legs. You cite one recent meeting when there were only five members present. Well, OK; now was this the meeting that was the same weekend as *both* Rustycon *and* the SCA's Twelfth Night? Or was it the meeting when many of us were helping our friends Dave Moreland and Sue Renhard move? We occasionally have low attendance because members are active in other science-fiction and fantasy events or because they are helping friends. Heck, sometimes new PorSFis members show up to help others they have not yet even met. I do not consider this the sign of a dying club; rather, it is a club that is very active and alive.

Let us be honest. If every meeting were drawing about five members, yes, I would not make long-range plans for the club. Nor would I endorse spending money on room rent. For that matter, if we only possessed the magical abilities of many of those characters who populate the literature we read--the ability to foresee in advance when attendance will only be

five or so--scheduling those meetings for free in the Valentine Smith hall would be practical.

Now that you mention it, the Valentine Smith facility has been aptly yclept for a group such as us, for are we not ourselves all strangers in a strange land? For the appropriateness of the name alone, it is truly a pity cannot have all our meetings there. However, except for an occasional meeting when a majority of our members are active elsewhere, my observation has been that our only problem is needing to scrounge chairs from other rooms to accommodate everybody who attends. Fourteen or fifteen, rather than five, is a more typical attendance these days--hardly a dying club.

Change--now that is the rub. PorSFis just is not as it was a couple decades ago--fandom is not as it was; the world is not as it was. Many amongst us, perhaps, have, in a moment of weakness, felt the urge to do as Faust attempted, to grasp this ever-changing world and freeze it at some particularly benign moment. I suppose it is heartening to know that some things do stay the same. I might, however, ask of the cosmic Ghods Who rule this vale, why it has to be that the one constant in this ever-churning sea of change is your apparent unfailing loyalty to the notion that PorSFis is always on the brink of failure. I recently came across my old copies of AVADAPA. Any of you fellow long-term members remember our brief attempt to create a PorSFis in-house APA (Amateur Press Association)? More than a couple decades ago--many of our currently most active PorSFis members were younger than my nephew and nieces now are--electric typewriters were the latest in word processing--I think we had just decided to go ahead with the second Orycon--there you were, Sam, with the same sense of exasperated futility, predicting the imminent demise of PorSFis.

-- Roger Wells
rwells@whitties.org



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 and I'll print it in the next Pulsar.

***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....

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.

appleby@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/

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 www.conjose.org

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2002

October 31-November 3, 2002

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
www.dreamhavenbooks.com/wfc.html

Effective Downsizing for Your Club **by Roger Wells**

Private Clubs and Organizations can be subject to the same economic forces as commercial businesses. Therefore, you may find yourself in uncomfortable positions similar to the CEOs of such industrial giants as Intel and Boeing and AT&T: you have to downsize. Unfortunately, since most such organizations do not issue pink slips, the challenge of efficient downsizing can overwhelm the skills of the average club. This need not be the case; by following these simple steps, you too can effectively discourage new members from joining, and motivate some of your current

members to leave. All this, without the need for cumbersome outplacement services or expensive severance packages:

1. When a new member, or potential member, is engaged in conversation with someone, have another club member walk directly over and start talking to the same person, as if the new member were not even present. If the new member tries to continue the conversation, turn briefly, tell the person to "shut up" and continue talking.
2. During the meeting, be sure that there are several members who can be relied on to interrupt anyone whom the chair has called on. To be most effective, this requires skill at timing; wait until someone has said about five or six words--never a complete sentence--then start talking as if the other person did not exist. For extra effect, have someone to tell the person who was originally called on to "shut up" so that the interrupter can be heard.
3. See to it that members who arrive late to meetings always inconvenience those who came early by asking them to get up and move to other seats. If possible, select those who came the earliest.
4. Always, while someone is addressing the meeting, have several others waving their hands. They want to do all the talking, and not listen to others, after all.
5. At a club party, if you have an announcement that is of no probable interest to half the members present, wait until several lively conversations are going, then interrupt them all to make your announcement. This is particularly effective if you have someone else standing by to "shush" all the conversations that you interrupted. By all means, do this without consulting the hosts of the party.

Simple, now, is it not? If only corporate downsizing were this straightforward. These procedures are so basic, they will probably come naturally, with no thought necessary.



Future Dreams
 Portland's Quality Science Fiction
 & Comic Art Bookstore
 2205 East Burnside
 (Our NEW Location)
 fdb@hevanet.com 503.231.8311

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) 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!

.....

John Bartley offers:

Here's my last month's fun reads, more or less (I won't inflict my review of ARC manual 3058, much less *Lotus Notes for Dummies* on you).

The Peshawar Lancers S. M. Sterling

Alternative history adds an extra burden; the world must make sense to the reader as well as the characters. Fortunately, Sterling's up to the task. This launches his third alternate history and likely his best. In the time of Disraeli and Victoria, gigatons of comet strike blasts create four years of non-nuclear winter in which the civilization decamps to equatorial regions and the southern hemisphere to survive. The British Empire moves to India, and in the Year of Our Lord 2025 we still have horse cavalry swashbucklers challenging a Very, Very Evil (Russian) Empire. My pick of the month.

The Best Alternative History Stories of the Twentieth Century Harry Turtledove, Ed. Not entirely sure these are the best; there's no Ha'ard Waldrop, whose alt.tale about Thomas Wolfe would seem a must, and Tilton's superb *A Just and Lasting Peace* is also absent, as is *Hewn In Pieces For the Lord* by Will Saunders. However, Lineaweaver's *Moon of Ice* is here, which is nearly adequate consolation, among other gems. Worthy of purchase for any alt.history fan.

Counting Up, Counting Down Harry Turtledove

The title stories are an interesting retake on *By His Bootstraps*. Worthy of a library check-out if not a purchase.

Channeling Cleopatra Elizabeth Anne Scarborough

After I lost traction in this contemporary semi-mystical, semi-scientific tale, I never could get a grip again. Part of the problem was the botched driving-around-Portland sequence, and I never could suspend enough disbelief after that to accept the heroine's improbable father. Sorry.

Lovelock Orson Scott Card & Katharyn H. Kidd

Card added a nice explanation of when an author should and should not collaborate to this tale of human failings in launching a generation ship. Worth a read, but requires some suspension of disbelief - even NASA could not screw up crew selection so badly..

Ham Radio Made Easy Steve Ford/American Radio Relay League

A light introduction to what's involved in Amateur Radio without the technical details.

Quincy Morris, Vampire P. N. Elrod

Waal, pilgrim, it sure ain't easy bei'n undead, fer darn tootin'! Worthy of a library check-out if not a purchase if you like cowboy vampires.

Soldiers John Dalmás

Unca Sven's epic make-a-man-of-you interstellar war novel seemed a little mushy in the romance scenes, and a little long. Some nice ideas, though.

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

Acknowledgements:

This month's cover is by Dancer Cloninger
Interior Fillos by Sheryl Birkhead
Travel tip and SEFBs by Dancer Cloninger
Calendar guru: Mike Parker

So What is a "Geek"?

Written and posted to the AnTir Steps by Sylverstone the Traveller

Reprinted (in two parts) with permission ☺

(Someone asked which was the preferred title, Geek or Nerd? I didn't edit this, aside from a bit of formatting...I thought you might enjoy it in its more raw state ☺)

okay. alpha geek / wizard / guru / lord high fixer / etc.
here we go.

computer geek

(or "turbo nerd", "turbo geek") one who eats (computer) bugs for a living. one who fulfills all the dreariest negative stereotypes about hackers: an asocial, malodorous, pasty-faced monomaniac with all the personality of a cheese grater. the term cannot be used by outsiders without implied insult to all hackers; compare black-on-black usage of "nigger". a computer geek may be either a fundamentally clueless individual or a proto-hacker in larval stage.

this is why it's insulting.

"geek" reverses the above, if used with reverence.

alpha geek

the head geek or geek's geek. when no one else knows the answer, or several techno-types give conflicting advice, or the error message says "consult your administrator" and you *are* the administrator, you ask the alpha geek.

lord high fixer

[primarily british, from gilbert & sullivan's "lord high executioner"] the person in an organization who knows the most about some aspect of a system. see wizard.

guru

an expert, especially in "unix guru". implies not only wizard skill but also a history of being a knowledge resource for others. less often, used (with a qualifier) for other experts on other systems, as in "vms guru".

wizard

1. a person who knows how a complex piece of software or hardware works (that is, who groks it); especially someone who can find and fix bugs quickly in an emergency. someone is a hacker if he or she has general hacking ability, but is a wizard with respect to something only if he or she has specific detailed knowledge of that thing. a good hacker could become a wizard for something given the time to study it.
2. a person who is permitted to do things forbidden to ordinary people; one who has wheel privileges on a system.
3. a unix expert, especially a unix systems programmer. this usage is well enough established that "unix wizard" is a recognized job title at some corporations and to most headhunters.

(see guru, lord high fixer. see also deep magic, heavy wizardry, incantation, magic, mutter, rain dance, voodoo programming, wave a dead chicken.)

4. an interactive help utility that guides the user through a potentially complex task, such as configuring a ppp driver to work with a new modem. wizards are often implemented as a sequence of dialog boxes which the user can move forwards and backwards through, filling in the details required. the implication is that the expertise of a human wizard in one of the above senses is encapsulated in the software wizard, allowing the average user to perform expertly.

hacker

(originally, someone who makes furniture with an axe)

1. a person who enjoys exploring the details of programmable systems and how to stretch their capabilities, as opposed to most users, who prefer to learn only the minimum necessary.
2. one who programs enthusiastically (even obsessively) or who enjoys programming rather than just theorizing about programming.
3. a person capable of appreciating hack value.
4. a person who is good at programming quickly.
5. an expert at a particular program, or one who frequently does work using it or on it; as in "a unix hacker". (definitions 1 through 5 are correlated, and people who fit them congregate.)
6. an expert or enthusiast of any kind. one might be an astronomy hacker, for example.
7. one who enjoys the intellectual challenge of creatively overcoming or circumventing limitations.
8. (deprecated) a malicious meddler who tries to discover sensitive information by poking around. hence "password hacker", "network hacker". the correct term is cracker.

(the term "hacker" also tends to connote membership in the global community defined by the net (see the network and internet address). it also implies that the person described is seen to subscribe to some version of the hacker ethic.

It is better to be described as a hacker by others than to describe oneself that way. hackers consider themselves something of an elite (a meritocracy based on ability), though one to which new members are gladly welcome. thus while it is gratifying to be called a hacker, false claimants to the title are quickly labelled as "bogus" or a "wannabee".)

9. (university of maryland, rare) a programmer who does not understand proper programming techniques and principles and doesn't have a computer science degree. someone who just bangs on the keyboard until something happens. for example, "this program is nothing but spaghetti code. it must have been written by a hacker".

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



heavy wizardry

code or designs that trade on a particularly intimate knowledge or experience of a particular operating system or language or complex application interface. distinguished from deep magic, which trades more on arcane *theoretical* knowledge. writing device drivers is heavy wizardry; so is interfacing to x (sense 2) without a toolkit. especially found in source-code comments of the form "heavy wizardry begins here".

deep magic

[possibly from c. s. lewis's "narnia" books] an awesomely arcane technique central to a program or system, especially one neither generally published nor available to hackers at large (compare black art); one that could only have been composed by a true wizard. compiler optimization techniques and many aspects of os design used to be deep magic; many techniques in cryptography, signal processing, graphics, and ai still are. compare heavy wizardry. especially found in comments of the form "deep magic begins here.". compare voodoo programming.

black art

a collection of arcane, unpublished, and (by implication) mostly ad-hoc techniques developed for a particular application or systems area (compare black magic). vlsi design and compiler code optimization were (in their beginnings) considered classic examples of black art; as theory developed they became deep magic, and once standard textbooks had been written, became merely heavy wizardry. the huge proliferation of formal and informal channels for spreading around new computer-related

technologies during the last twenty years has made both the term "black art" and what it describes less common than formerly. see also voodoo programming.

Travel Tip # 5



Make sure to check the weather at your destination in advance!

black magic

a technique that works, though nobody really understands why. more obscure than voodoo programming, which may be done by cookbook.

cookbook

(From amateur electronics and radio) A book of small code segments that the reader can use to do various magic things in programs.

One current example is the "PostScript Language Tutorial and Cookbook" by Adobe Systems, Inc (Addison-Wesley, ISBN 0-201-10179-3), also known as the Blue Book which has recipes for things like wrapping text around arbitrary curves and making 3D fonts.

Cookbooks, slavishly followed, can lead one into voodoo programming, but are useful for hackers trying to monkey up small programs in unknown languages. This function is analogous to the role of phrasebooks in human languages.

(to be continued, next issue!)

**PorSFis Business Meeting
March 9, 2002
Smith Hall, PSU**

Elections:

Last chance to vote ballots were circulated.

Recruitment:

A flyer for members to circulate at cons will soon be available. Invisibility of the web page was discussed. We need to get ourselves on the pointer lists of SF clubs and search engines. Keyword embedding will be discussed with Lea Rush. A distribution system for ad materials was discussed, possibly using zones around members' homes or workplaces.

Library Donation project:

Book contributions were solicited. Hardcover preferred. Make sure the books are on the library's list. We will be getting information regarding books wanted by Multnomah County Library. Volunteering to enter data on new books was discussed. Whether this will be desired by the library is uncertain. Query whether listings must be edition specific. School libraries may be able to take softcovers and books not on the Multnomah list. All districts in the area will be targeted. PSU was discussed and discouraged in light of probable nonreceptivity. Book Club editions are generally discouraged. More information is expected by the April meeting. A committee will be formed at a later date, as necessary.

Alt.porsfis and the 24th Anniversary Party:

Alt.porsfis hosts are needed for March. Sue Renhard and Dave Moreland may be interested, if people promise to attend. It was agreed to reschedule the anniversary party to April 6. Dancer Cloninger may host.

(Note: Dancer couldn't host, but Sue and Dave generously picked up both March alt.porsfis and the 24th Anniversary Party and Birthday Bash.)

Announcements:

Many members will need to renew April 1. Several renewals were collected at the meeting.

Trade zines are held by Debra Stansbury for review by members. From time to time, the collections are donated to the Science Fiction Museum's research library.

The March Pulsar is almost ready to go out. A pre-run copy was made available.

Cosmos Books has requested feedback on a paper by Keith Foote entitled "The Ultra-Space Field Theory."

Keith Lofstrom visited Alien Technologies' offices in Morgan Hill, CA, with the help of a friend who works there. Alien Technologies are in the fluidic self-assembly field and deliberately adopted an SF theme for the company, including Trek-style decor and security uniforms. See their website, which is either www.alien.com or www.alientech.com, for more info.

Many thanks to Dancer Cloninger for her Swiss chocolate fudge.

Upcoming Events:

Greater Portland Area Costumers Guild will have its second annual Alien Feast in the near future, date and time TBA. This is a potluck. Costumes are optional; clothing is required.

Urban League career fair will be March 28 at Lloyd Center Doubletree. (When this was a Sheraton, this hotel hosted OryCon 1!)

The Medical Report:

Idaho fan John Gustafson has suffered two strokes and is recuperating in Moscow. Get well cards can be sent via his wife, Vicki Mitchell. South Carolina songwriter Carla Ulbrich, who is making a name among filkers, has also suffered a stroke and is recovering in Florida. Get well messages can be sent via www.carlau.com. Paige Fuller's husband has suffered a broken collarbone in a bicycle accident. Paige should be back in town for Left Coast Crime.

(Update on John Gustafson—see following note by Roger Wells. ☹)

Additional notes from review of mail:

Oregon Literary Coalition's next meeting is April 5 at 2:00 at Mountain Writers Center.

The Guest was Brenna Sharp, of Greater Portland Area Costumers' Guild. She discussed the sources she uses to get ideas for costumes.

Obituary Notices

This is the best and most concise telling I could find—both are by Roger Wells and were posted on the PorSFIS email list:

It is with regret that I pass on this message (that Jon Gustafson passed away). Jon Gustafson was fundamental in starting Moscon, the convention in Moscow, Idaho/Pullman, Washington. This makes him among the founders of the conventions that started in the Northwest in the late 1970's. He also had considerable influence in the conventions, such as Radcon in the Tri Cities and Incon in Spokane, Washington, which started in the early 1990's. He was one of the Guests of Honor at Empirecon, the 52nd Westercon, in Spokane in 1999. As part of the "Empirecon" theme, he was dubbed the Emperor. (Eastern Washington is known as the "Inland Empire," where the "Empire" theme originally came from."

He is survived by his wife, Vicki Mitchell. My deepest condolences to her.

Jon will be missed.

- Roger Wells rwells@whitties.org

Roger also wrote:

With regret I have just learned of the passing of Denise De Lisle. She was quite active on the 1993 Seattle Westercon 46 committee; one of the two who turned the Bellevue Red Lion (now DoubleTree) inside parking lot into a semblance of a dealers' room.



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 CanVention, 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
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!

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly from SciFi Wire Real Sailors Board Enterprise

Crew members of the U.S.S. Enterprise--the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, not the starship--will appear in an upcoming episode of UPN's Enterprise, the official Star Trek Web site reported. Aviation Electronic Technician First Class Robert Pickering, Aviation Electrician's Mate Second Class Timothy Whittington and Personnelman Third Class Sara Elizabeth Pizzo will play starship crew members in an episode tentatively titled "Desert Crossings," scheduled to air May 8, the site reported.

Executive producers Rick Berman and Brannon Braga extended the invitation to the three crew members, who were selected as "Sailors of the Year" by a Navy committee. Their scenes were shot on March 7. During a break in shooting, the sailors presented Berman and Braga with a specially designed plaque in gratitude for all the support and encouragement the cast, crew and actors of Enterprise have given the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise, which was one of the first vessels deployed in the Afghanistan war. Cast members Scott Bakula (Capt. Jonathan Archer) and Connor Trinneer (Cmdr. Trip Tucker) were also on hand for the ceremony, along with a majority of the cast and crew, the site reported.

Kiwi SF Writer Wilder Dies

New Zealand-born SF writer Cherry Wilder died March 14 in Wellington, New Zealand, after a long battle against cancer, the Locus Online Web site reported. She was 71.

Born Cherry Barbara Grimm in 1930, Wilder wrote eight novels and nearly 40 short stories, including "Aotearoa" in the October/November 2001 issue of Asimov's Science Fiction, the site reported. Her first novel, 1977's *The Luck of Brin's Five*, was the first of a trilogy and won the Australian Ditmar Award. Her other works included the *Rulers of Hylor* trilogy, the *Torin* series, *Second Nature* and *Dealers in Light and Darkness*, a collection of her writing, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Web site reported. Wilder's most recent novel was *The Wanderer*, published in 2001.

Wilder is survived by daughters Louisa and Kathy.

R.A. Lefferty dies

R.A. Lafferty, an Oklahoma-based SF&F writer, died March 18, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Web site reported. Lafferty was a prolific short story writer in the 1960s and '70s and produced a number of acclaimed novels, including *Space Chantey*, *The Reefs of Earth* and *Past Master*. He won the Hugo Award in 1973 for his short story "Eurema's Dam" and a World Fantasy Life Achievement Award in 1990.

Two Rings Videos Planned

New Line will release an extended version of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* on video five weeks before the sequel, *The Two Towers*, hits theaters on Dec. 18, *Variety* reported. The extended version on VHS and DVD will include more than 30 minutes of extra footage that likely will generate an R rating, the trade paper reported. A four-disc DVD version of the extended edition also will include more than six hours of supplemental material, *Variety* reported.

A PG-13 version of the three-hour movie will be available Aug. 6, and the DVD of that version will include a 10-minute behind-the-scenes preview teaser of *Two Towers* as part of two hours of supplemental material on a double-disc set, the trade paper reported.

JLA Novels Coming Soon

Pocket Books will publish six paperback adult prose novels featuring Justice League of America superhero characters from DC Comics, the Cinescape Online Web site reported. The first novel, *Justice League of America: Batman--The Stone King*, by Alan Grant, will hit comic book stores this month. Longtime comic illustrator Alex Ross will contribute covers for the entire series, the site reported.

Each book in the series will be told from the point of view of a specific Justice League member, except the last book, which will feature each hero equally, Cinescape reported. The second book, *Justice League of America: Wonder Woman--Mythos* by Carol Lay, is slated for a September release.

Future books will include *The Flash* by Mark Schultz, *Green Lantern--Hero's Quest* by Dennis O'Neil, *Superman* by Kyle Baker and a finale by Christopher Golden.

.....

Cooking with your Computer

By Linda Pilcher

Frequently, over the last few years, I have used my computer as a cooking resource. Out on the internet there are a multitude of sites devoted to fine cuisine, bad food, home-style cooking and more.

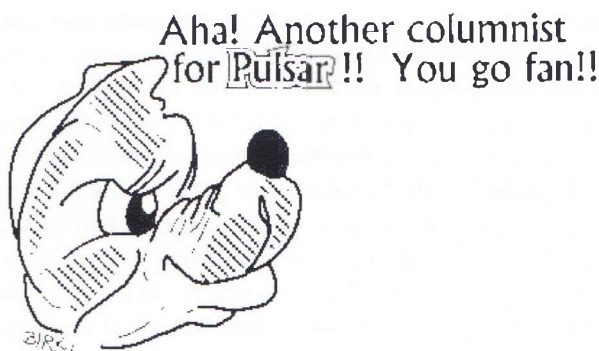
S.O.A.R. (<http://www.recipesource.com/>) is the searchable online recipe index from Usenet and one of my personal favorites. I learned how to make beer bread there and I never have to buy self-rising flour, because you can find a recipe for that on S.O.A.R., too. Good choice if you are just looking. It's got over 70,000 entries.

There is All Recipes (<http://www.allrecipes.com/>) that includes menu suggestions and brand name information.

Wanna trade recipes? Try Parenthood.com's Recipe Xchange at <http://www.recipeexchange.com/>. You can find all kinds of parent-oriented links there or even some minor parent prevention advice. Anybody want an ovulation calculator?

<http://www.ichef.com/> will give you a daily recipe from Emeril, noted TV chef and distributor of seasoning mixes and sauces and stuff bearing his name and image.

Like chocolate? Famous Chocolatier and naked rider of horses, Godiva, is online at <http://www.godiva.com/recipes/default.asp> with recipes that make you pant just by reading them.



Now you might think that with all of these wonderful sites that the only

cooking I ever do on my computer is looking up really cool recipes and inflicting them on my family. If you do, kindly reboot your brain.

It began with an urge for sourdough bread. I get them periodically. I'd bought one of those fancy loaves at New Season's Market. Chewy, crusty, if you closed your eyes you could imagine that you were in a distant French boulangerie, when you tasted the sharp crumb. I wanted more, but at over three bucks for 1 pound loaf, my inherent cheapness overcame dreams of France. I decided that I could make it myself. After all, any good science fiction fan is an expert on anything -- as long as they can find it in writing first. After a heated, and for me fruitless, internet search, I followed the only action that I knew would truly give me the proper way to make proper sourdough bread. I called my mother. She related a tale of a sourdough sponge she'd kept alive for seven years back in the 50's. She'd gotten the starter from some guy who'd brought it down from Alaska . . . When we got to the subject of actually starting one, she urged yeast as one of the ingredients for the sponge. I listened carefully and ignored the part about the yeast, but not the dire warnings of things to watch for if your sponge goes bad.

Armed with her warnings don't use it if it smells wrong or turns funny colors. Fr'instance, pink is a bad color for sourdough sponge -- and Jim's old time recipe (he did better searches and found a site that combined that old time San Francisco sourdough with modern science), we mixed equal parts whole wheat flour and water in a one liter lab beaker. Jim's internet site told him that the proper temperature for the type of bacteria (*lactobacillus sanfranciscensis*) and yeastie beaties (*saccharomyces exiguus*) for bread was a toasty 88 90 degrees. Jim grabbed his foot-long lab thermometer and stuck it in the flour sludge, then looked around for a steady heat source. He found one, cleverly hiding in the living room in the guise of a MAG1795 a.k.a. my 17inch monitor. We lightly covered the beaker with plastic wrap, sat it in one of the individual serving bowls from my pasta set and left it over night. I didn't want it escaping and killing the monitor in the process.

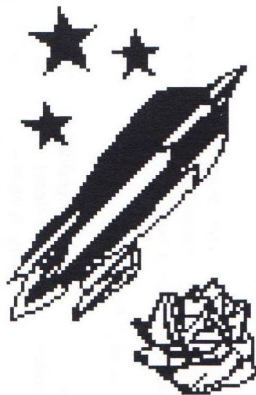
Any mad scientist or the three witches from Macbeth would have been proud of the bubbling mass we ended up with. Taking all of it but a cup, I

mixed up a couple of small loaves and set them to rise on a cookie sheet. On the monitor, of course. The loaves were maybe inch and half, two inches in diameter at most and about foot long. Certainly nothing spectacular, until the gentle warming radiation from the monitor hit them. The pair of them, sitting the long way on the cookie sheet (14 inches by about 19 inches), nearly covered the entire thing before I popped them in the over to bake their little hearts out. It was glorious. Indeed, it was glorious many times.

Then, one tragic day, the images on my Mag grew white, as if they were falling in to the light at the end of the tunnel known as death. I replaced the monitor with a CTL 7DLN 17" monitor. .28 dot pitch, but my eyes are old and the resolution is fine. Being a much newer monitor, the insides are of a much newer design, much more efficient design, a much cooler design. The bread is no more.

I sigh sadly remembering those glory days of sour dough and find myself looking covetously at the back of the TV. It's old. It's warm. But alas, unlike the monitor, it isn't even close to flat. I guess I'll just have go back to the store.

Auntie Linda



Portland Science Fiction Society
PO Box 4602
Portland, OR 97208

Pulsar, the newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society, comes free with membership. It is also available in trade, and can be purchased at Future Dreams/Burnside and Looking Glass Books, both in Portland, Oregon.

The editor is Debra Stansbury.

Deadline is the 3rd 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

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

Current PorSFis Officers:

President	Debra Stansbury	503-620-3068
Vice President	Shava Neraid	tba
Treasurer	John Andrews	503-771-2894
Secretary	Dancer Cloninger	

yomochi_stormdancer@yahoo.com

Webster	Lea Rush	lea@leftmiddleright.com
---------	----------	--

PORSFIS WEBPAGE: www.porsfis.org

Don't Forget to check your Label!! April is the traditional renewal month ☺ Please renew!