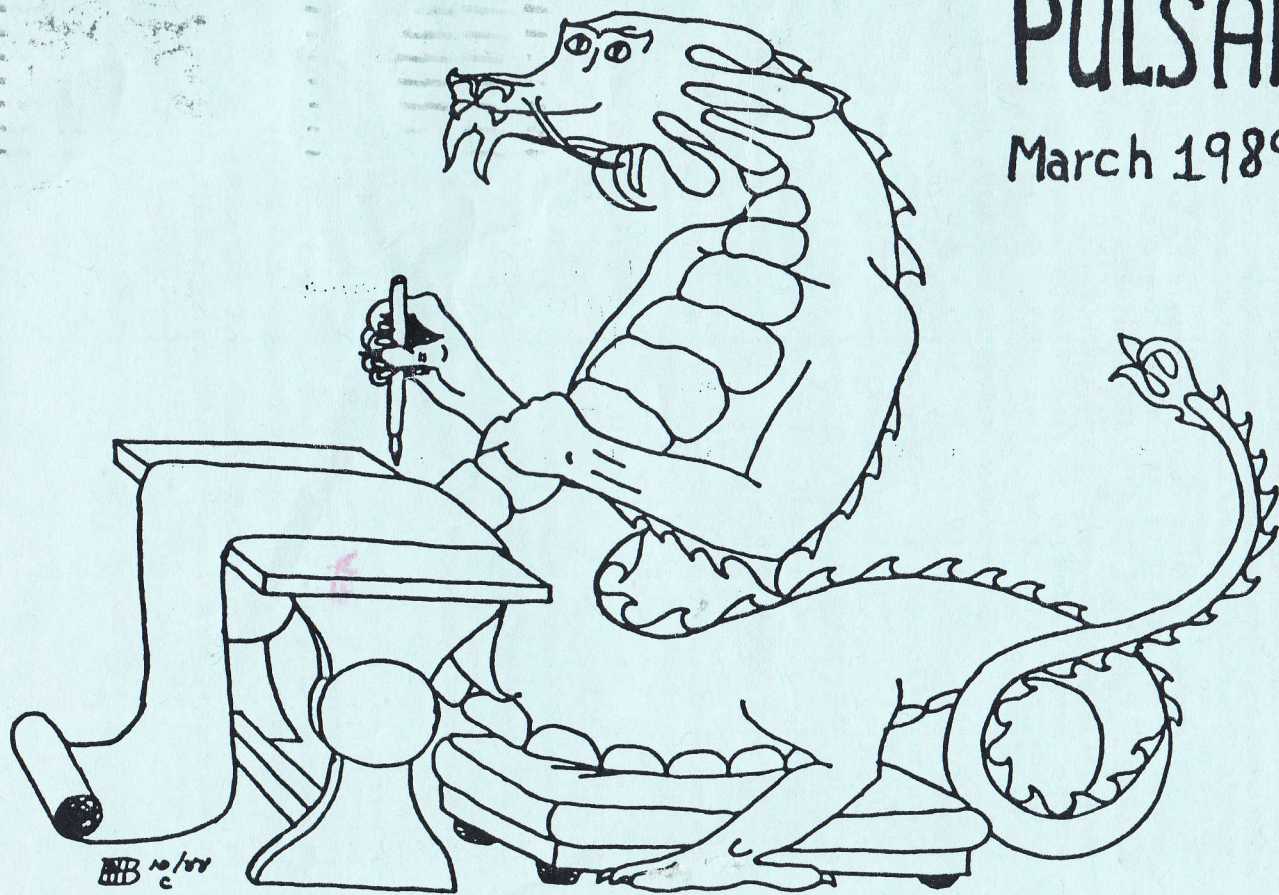


PULSAR #125

March 1989 \$0.60



AN EDITORIAL  
by Pat Steed

When I first read about B Dalton's decision to pull Salman Rushdie's The Satanic Verses, my immediate reaction was outrage at them and at Waldon Books who had earlier announced a similar decision. While I would not try to tell them what to carry, once the decision to carry a book or publication has been made, it is wrong to give in to censorship by any interest group. That kind of corporate cowardice encourages them, and others to use the same tactics.

I must admit there was a certain amount of selfrightousness in my position. I, a not overly strong female made a decision not to let the general attitude of "stay home after dark, or go out only en-mass" keep me in. I go where I want, when I want, and heaven help the man who tries to victimize me. If I can make that kind of decision, and live with the possible consequences, surely they could take a stand against censorship by terrorism. They can afford to hire more security for a few weeks while the controversy rages.

I had started mentally composing letters to both companies to tell them what I thought of their non-stance and that they had lost a customer because of it. I had also started an editorial calling on you to do the same. Then the thought occurred to me, "At least you can't accuse them of putting profits above their employees safety. Demand for the book must be up with all this publicity. There are lots of us who will want to read and judge for ourselves."

With that the righteous indignation started seeping away. More questions arose. I refuse to be intimidated into staying home after dark, or going out only in a pack, but I wouldn't let my 17-year old step-daughter go alone into some of the areas I'll go. It finally came down to this: "If I owned a bookstore that was threatened with bombing by people as well known for violence as the Ayatollah Khomeini's followers, because of a book I was carrying, would I take the risk of leaving it on my shelves?" My answer: As long as I was the only one endangered, yes. But if I had to consider the safety of employees, customers, and neighboring shop-owners? I don't know. Giving in isn't right, but ...

It sure is easier to be indigent when I only have to look at one side.

Note: Since this was written, B. Daltons has announced a reversal and will carry The Satanic Verses.

## PorSFis Timeline

Compiled by David D. Levine

Note: Unless otherwise noted, Saturday PorSFis meetings are at the Northwest Service Center, 1819 NW Everett, at 2 PM. We adjourn to Bogart's, NW 14th and Flanders, after the meetings, and some people gather for dinner at the listed restaurants, usually around 5:15—5:45. Non-members are always welcome. If you plan to join us for dinner and cannot make the meeting, please call us at Bogart's between 3:30 and 4:00 and let us know that you're coming!

- Feb. 25** **Rose City Press Reading Series** at the NW Service Center, 10 AM–12 Noon. Featured writer: Kristine Kathryn Rusch. Topic: Science Fiction.
- Mar. 3-5** **BayFik**, Oakland, CA.  
**Dark Shadows Festival**, Los Angeles, CA.
- Mar. 4** **PorSFis meeting**. *Programming*: Silly Super Heroes. *Restaurant*: The Matterhorn, 3 NE 82nd, 255-4213.
- Mar. 9** **Douglas Adams** at Powell's, 12:00 Noon.
- Mar. 11** **Rose City Press Reading Series** at the NW Service Center, 10 AM–12 Noon. Featured writer: Gabrielle Kraft. Topic: Mystery.
- Mar. 18** **PorSFis meeting**. *Programming*: Dr. Demento Music: PG-13. *Restaurant*: Al-Anbir, 223 SW Stark, 274-0010.  
For this meeting only, we will be gathering at the **Blue Moon Tavern** (21st and NW Glisan) instead of Bogart's after the meeting.
- Mar. 23-26** **Norwex**, Tacoma, WA.
- Mar. 25** **Rose City Press Reading Series** at the NW Service Center, 10 AM–12 Noon. Featured writer: Norma Williams. Topic: Romance.
- Apr. 1** **PorSFis meeting**. *Programming*: TBA. *Restaurant*: Yen Ha, 8640 SW Canyon Rd., 292-0616.  
**PorSFis New Year Party and Outing** at Ariel & Phil's, 3135 SW Florida St., 8:00 PM. BYO drinks and veggie snax.
- Apr. 14-16** **Logoscon**, Phoenix, AZ.
- Apr. 15** **PorSFis meeting**. *Programming*: TBA. *Restaurant*: TBA.  
**Rose City Press Reading Series** at the NW Service Center, 10 AM–12 Noon. Featured writer: Steve Perry. Topic: Science Fiction.
- Apr. 22** **Rose City Press Reading Series** at the NW Service Center, 10 AM–12 Noon. Featured writer: Gordon DeMarco. Topic: Mystery.
- May 5-7** **Anglicon**.
- May 26-28** **V-Con**, Vancouver, BC; **BayCon**, San Jose, CA.

## Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of February 4, 1989

Respectfully submitted by David D. Levine

It was very cold on February 4. Extremely cold. How cold was it? It was so cold that our words froze and we had to warm them over the fire to find out what we said. It was so cold that if you poured a cup of hot coffee out your car window it would break when it hit the ground. It was so cold that only 18 people were present when Phil called the meeting to order at 2:06.

### Announcements:

Michael Pearce announced "It's cold out there!"

Joyce Zimmerschied: February 23-25 at PSU, the Drama Department has somehow managed to snag five actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company. On the 23rd, they're doing Tom Stoppard excerpts, and on the 24th-25th they're doing King Lear. It's \$15 per ticket.

YaLeah: Does anyone know about furnaces and how to fix them? Phil: Sure, we'll get to you in a couple of weeks. (Laughter.)

David Johnson: Gallagher will be at the Civic Auditorium on February 23-24. John Andrews: You'll be safe if you sit in the balcony.

I announced SPACEPAC, the non-profit Political Action Committee for U.S. space exploration. Membership is \$40.00 per year; write to them at P.O. Box 611, Penn Yan, NY 14527. I also showed off a list of popular songs with an SF slant and a review of the truly trash movie *Outlaw of Oor*. All of these were culled from computer networks.

Phil Jansen: *Scientific American* has an article this month on the Soviet space program. They're doing real well. On a related note, David Johnson announced that you can now buy official reproductions of Soviet spy satellite photos of Portland (and other areas) for \$1000.

Wrigley-Cross Books has a new catalog; Paul brought a copy and announced their usual 10% discount to PorSFis members.

I announced that Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. (OSFCI) has just extended their Matching Grants program for another year. Donations by OSFCI members to qualified non-profit scientific, literary, and educational organizations will be matched by OSFCI (up to a certain dollar limit). Qualified organizations include the Multnomah County Library, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and PorSFis. The program also matches donations by PorSFis members to PorSFis. Donate now and double your money!



Joyce announced the *Portland Popular Fiction Reading Series*, which starts next week. The series, put on by Rose City Press, features presentations by published writers and readings by unpublished writers. Each session is from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the Northwest Service Center. A \$1.00 donation is requested. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Featured Writer</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Feb. 11	Mark Schorr	Mystery
Feb. 25	Kristine Kathryn Rusch	Science Fiction
Mar. 11	Gabrielle Kraft	Mystery
Mar. 25	Norma Williams	Romance
Apr. 15	Steve Perry	Science Fiction
Apr. 22	Gordon DeMarco	Mystery

John Lorentz had some convention news:

- OryCon 11 committee meeting Feb. 19
- Westercon committee meeting Feb 21
- There will be a Con 6 the second weekend in August; the first Con committee meeting is Feb 13 at Andrew and Ceil's. The best way to get a membership is to mail it, since the registrar lives in Eugene.

Also, KMJK, home of Dr. Demasio, has changed owners again...

**Mail Call:** No mail today!

**Business:** "They" have changed the rules for reserving picnic sites. Now you can't reserve a picnic site until March 6, and it costs \$35 or so to do so, so we can/ should rethink where we want to have our picnic this year. Cathedral Park, Blue Lake Park, Oxbow Park, and others were mentioned as possibilities. YaLeah suggested that we should discuss the parameters. Ariel: Anyone who actually steps forward to run the picnic should have extra say in the matter. In other words,

**We're looking for someone to organize the PERSIS Picnic.**

(It will take place on August 19, or possibly August 5). The issue was tabled for later discussion. Think about it.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have about \$920.

**New People:** Shellan Delahun heard about us via a Renaissance Fair, via the SCA, via OryCon 9, via Norwescon, via Con V, via OryCon 10 (she helped out with Hospitality), via YaLeah.

Samuel came because Shellan offered him a ride to work, but with a little stop on the way...

(Samuel and Shellan are living across the street from YaLeah in her rental house.)

**Half-time entertainment** was provided by the Primal Scream Past Life Regression group down the hall, getting in touch with their past lives by screaming their lungs out.

**Programming** was speeches by the nominees for PorSFis officers. Meeting adjourned at 3:37.

## **Minutes of the PorSFis meeting of February 18, 1989**

Respectfully submitted by David D. Levine

Ariel called Phil to order at 2:08. Phil called the meeting to order at 2:09. Almost 30 people present.

### **~~Announcements:~~**

Ballots are due today.

Gordon DeMarco, coordinator of the Rose City Prose reading series, announced it. See February 4's meeting minutes for more information.

Kate Yule announced that Douglas Adams is coming to Powell's on March 9, starting at noon. Presumably, he'll be reading and signing autographs.

Carl Mork announced the arrival of Jim and Linda's offspring: Albert Wesley Carl Pilcher, born Wednesday February 8 (via Caesarean section). Congrats!

Patty Wells announced that she recently received a letter from James Beck, former administrator for NASA, which suggested that we should all write to Congress in support of NASA's budget. She handed out copies of the letter to all present.

John Lorentz: OryCon now has a Special Guest of Honor: David Langford (all the way from England!) The OryCon meeting tomorrow will be followed by a social hour; there's a Westcon meeting on Tuesday at Marc and Patty's.

Ariel Shattan announced the PorSFis New Year April Fools' party and Outaugural Ball, Sat. Apr. 1, Ariel & Phil's, 3135 Florida St., 8:00 PM. BYO drinks and veggie snax.

Carl Mork: The "L. Ron Hubbard Gallery" is publishing posters showing LRH's characters. (Gacks and groans.)

Paul hawked a variety of books, including the latest from Axolotl Press (which is still there!)

John Lorentz showed off an ad for an Apple II computer game based on *Neuromancer*: "Break the ice in cyberspace! Be a cyberpunk cowboy!" With a digitized soundtrack

by Devo. It's \$34.99 at Egghead; requires Super Hi-Res graphics. On a related note, Dick Pilz announced that *Indiana Jones and the Final Crusade*—movie and computer game—are both coming out in May.

I announced that the Blue Moon Tavern on 21st and NW Olisan has changed its format (they have taken out the pool tables and pinball machines, improved their food menu, and are now open for minors until 8 PM), and suggested we give them another try. We decided to gather there instead of Bogart's after the meeting on March 18th.

Paul Wrigley: C.J. Cherryh's *Cyees* (\$18.95 in hardback) is coming out in paperback: three volumes at \$3.95 each. Be warned that the paperback currently on the stands is only one-third of the story. (Grr.)

YaLeah told a "funny story" about the lunatic who firebombed her house. (He was convicted of six counts of arson, including "damaging property by fire without the owner's permission.")

**Mail Call:** *BSCFAZine*, two *Event Horizons*, *De Profundis*, a MacNamara's Green catalog, and the January *West Wind* (which just arrived today, February 18th). Miscellaneous ragging on Norwescon and Seattle fandom followed.

**Business:** Arlene Hills will not be able to be the July *Pulsar* editor. Eric Simonson (our soon-to-be President or Vice-President Elect) volunteered to replace her.

YaLeah said that there are three people in her household, but they only really need one copy of the *Pulsar*; is there a discount no-newsletter membership? There was some discussion, and we decided that we need the money too badly, so no.

We have just short of \$900 in the account (largely due to donated printing for the last few newsletters.) We are paid up for the meeting space through April 1.

YaLeah offered free photocopying for the *Pulsar*, given adequate warning. (Applause.)

**New People:** Diana Callahan, who heard about us from bandit, her fiancé (the wedding is at OryCon, Nov. 11, and we're all invited) and Scott Peterson, who heard about us from Arlene and Ariel and suchlike people.

There was a **San Petrus Auction**.

**Programming** was *SF Characteristics*, an SF version of a party game from early this century. We broke into groups to make up short descriptions of SF authors and characters; the description's initial letters match the person's initials. Some party games involve a lot of shouting and waving... in this one, everyone spends a lot of time staring off into space. We came up with the list on the next page. Cover the right-hand column and see if you can guess who it is! (There are several repeats.)

# Authors:

Jerky Putz.....	Jerry Pournelle
Reactionary Arrogant Hubrist.....	R. A. Heinlein
Doom & Destruction .....	David Drake
Hardly Probable Lore.....	H. P. Lovecraft
Punner Atrocious .....	Piers Anthony
Real Angelic Munchkin .....	R. A. MacAvoy
Stimewriting Depressionist .....	Stephen Donaldson
Largely Sufficient .....	Lucius Shepard
Heavily Psychotic Loner.....	H. P. Lovecraft
Eerie And Poetic .....	Edgar Allen Poe
Madly Zealous Biddy.....	Marion Zimmer Bradley
Author Created Detective .....	Arthur Conan Doyle
Libertarianism Never Sleeps .....	L. Neil Smith
Just Another Sex.....	J. A. Salmonson
Eternally Reprinted Barnocman .....	Edgar Rice Burroughs
There Be Goblins .....	The Brothers Grimm
Jinxed Husband.....	James Hogan
Pun-ishingly Atrocious.....	Piers Anthony
Research Fanatic .....	Robert Forward
Significantly Personable .....	Steve Perry
Lecherous Novelist .....	Larry Niven
Julep Pusher/Juvenile Pervert.....	Jerry Pournelle
Fearsome Swords.....	Fred Saberhagen
Juvenile Recycled Ring Tales.....	J. R. R. Tolkien
Wretchedly Grim.....	William Gibson
Delightfully Absurd.....	Douglas Adams
Dolphin Brain.....	David Brin
Chorally Jubilating Cherub.....	C. J. Cherryh
Bold Soldier Scribe.....	Barry S. Sadler
Looney Religious Hack.....	L. Ron Hubbard
Usually the Greatest.....	Ursula LeGuin
Knowingly Titillating .....	Kilgore Trout

# Characters:

Concealed Kryptonian .....	Clark Kent, <i>Superman</i>
Jilt Them Kindly .....	James T. Kirk, <i>Star Trek</i>
Stationers' Mama.....	Signy Mallory, <i>Downbelow Station</i>

# Fans:

Bronx Yankee .....	Ben Yalow
Just Strange .....	Jon Singer

# Miscellaneous:

All Etherous .....	Albert Einstein
CPU/Privateer .....	Cyber punk
NoWhere Subset Collector .....	NorthWest Service Center



## HOMELESS IN AMERICA:

A Comment on John's Column in the February Pulsar

By Wile E. Coyote

Reading John's column is always thought provoking, as he and I have opposite points of view on many subjects--and he, like yours truly, not only holds strong points of view, but is out-spoken.

John has many things to say about Ronald "we start bombing in 5 minutes" Reagan, and in many cases he is absolutely correct. But I think he may have missed some very important details concerning the homeless.

I, like John, am a liberal. When a problem like the homeless crops up, therefore, I am very concerned about it. After all, the richest country on earth should be embarrassed to have even one person sleeping in a doorway.

And what things I read! Families lining on the street; 5,000 homeless people in Portland. Two million homeless nationwide! Death, disease, hopeless poverty, apathetic politicians and no end in sight.

Folks, it just is not so. We have been lied to.

I collect articles from the paper, especially articles which contradict the "conventional wisdom." I have such an article in my hands, concerning the homeless in Portland. This article, titled "Progress Seen on Care For Homeless" was published in the Oregonian early in 1988.

It seems that during the winter of '87-'88, the city of Portland housed a total of 370 homeless, and not one person was turned away. There were no deaths from hypothermia, and that made two years in a row.

But there is a serious problem-- a large number of men, (100?, 200?) will not go to the shelters. Why? To quote a man-- proud, American, and drunk, a hard worker and a citizen: "I wasn't raised that way. I was raised to be free. Regan was, in fact, correct-- these folks will not come into the shelters. They are free men, on the road by their own choice.

There are not 5000 homeless in Portland, try 500. That is 2% of Portland's population. Recently the Oregonian printed an editorial concerning the bigger untruth: there are probably about 300,000 homeless in our nation, not 2 million (.15%, not 1%). There are very few families on the street, and they are not there for long; every church in the nation competes for the chance to help them. My own church runs such

a house. There are, in fact, adequate shelters for anyone who needs them.

There is a solution for those who will not come in. Reconstitute the CCC (Civilian conservation Corp) and the Works Project Administration. Let them do the hard work that makes them proud of themselves, and we will all be happier.

One last note: the national unemployment rate is 5.2%. In the Bay area, it is 3.2% John, where are all these unemployed people you speak of?

*A response to Jim:*

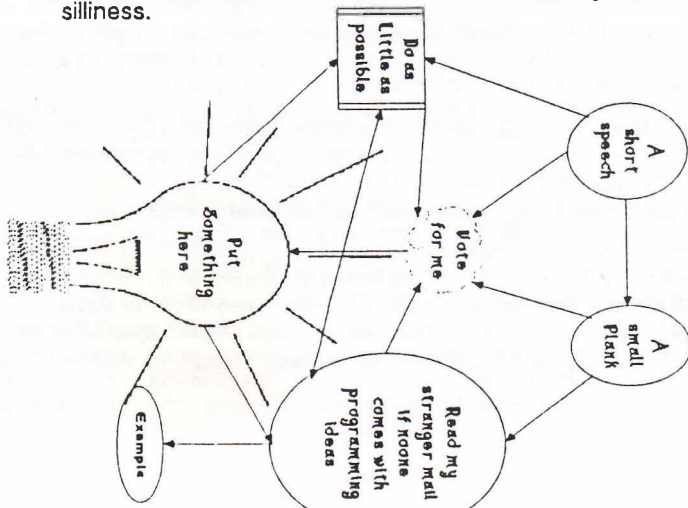
Yes, there are many people who won't use shelters, and Portland *did* have enough shelters last winter (they *did* this year, too)—but that's after they opened several *extra* shelters, ones that aren't open during the rest of the year—and Portland is nationally known for having better facilities than most of the country. Phoenix has 5,000 homeless—and shelters for 1,500. And yes, the national unemployment rate is down to 5.2%—but, out of a work force of about 100 million, that still comes to 5.2 million people out of work.

Jim a liberal? To paraphrase Arthur Dent, "This is obviously some strange usage of the word *liberal* that I wasn't previously aware of."

John Lorentz

**March 4th**--Nearly everyone has heard of *Superman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Spider-Man* and the *Fantastic Four*, people with "powers beyond those of mortal man". But superpowers do not make one a superhero. Instead of the *Flash*, it may turn you into *Flatulent Lass* or *Colossal Bore*. (Heck, even the Legion of Super-Heroes admitted *Bouncing Boy*--whose power is being about to turn himself into a giant beach ball.) The *Wild Cards* series are full of jokers as well as aces. Programming for the 4th is to come up with our own "superhumans", whose powers aren't quite up to super-heroic standards. Come prepared with ideas.

**March 18th**--Programming for this day is another session of "demented music". The subject matter this time is rated PG-13, as we have 45 minutes of double entendres, lascivious lyrics and just plain silliness.

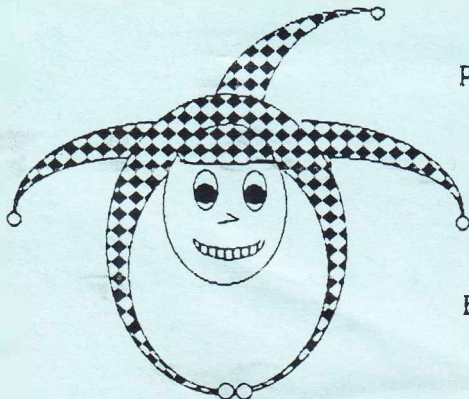


## PORTRAIT OF THE WRITER AS A YOUNG FAN by John Raymond Lorentz

Trilogies have become as much a science-fiction standard as hyperdrive, and in December I finished two of them. (Yes, I know it should have been three, but I didn't have that much energy.)

**Mona Lisa Overdrive** (William Gibson) finishes the storyline started in **Neuromancer** and continued in **Count Zero**. In them, Bill Gibson has painted a picture of incredible depth of a future where *cyberspace*, the world existing within computer memory is as real as what you see outside your front door. (Although I work with computers, he constantly surprises me with his ideas of the future of computer usage—and he wrote the first two books on a manual typewriter, this one on an Apple II). His books are multi-faceted stories, parallel happenings which converge at the end of the novel. (It's similar to viewing simultaneous occurrences in a room of television monitors—you can't concentrate solely on one screen, 'cause you'll miss something important happening on the one to your left.) In this story, a young semi-prostitute is hired ("purchased" is a better term) to impersonate a Sense/Net star she resembles. Of course, they don't tell her that this is so she can be killed in the other woman's place. But, as usual, this is not the only story being told. The novel jumps from character to character as the stories unfold. Unfortunately, this time the storylines are *too* parallel—they end up *diverging* at the end, instead fitting neatly into a solid mosaic. As before, the writing is great (and **Mona Lisa Overdrive** will probably end up as a nominee for the various awards), but the plotting is weak. Gibson says he's moving on to different settings—maybe he was in too much of a hurry to get there.

**Return to Eden** (Harry Harrison) returns once again to a world that never was—a paleolithic era where the dinosaurs didn't die off, but evolved into an intelligent, biped race (the *Yilanè*). By the time the ice ages started, they've settled and civilized Europe and Asia, and are starting to explore the New World. There, however, they encounter humans, and the conflict begins. **West of Eden** described the initial encounters, and ended with a band of humans, led by Kerrick (who was enslaved by the *Yilanè* at an early age and raised by them), burning the *Yilanè*'s outpost in Florida. **Winter in Eden** (which also can be described as "The *Yilanè* Strike Back") continues the conflict, with the latest volume finishing the story. Unlike many multi-volumed stories, this trilogy tells a single, complete story, with no possibility of other books tacked on. (The last sentence is "The telling is over now.") The research is amazing. Even more amazing is Harrison's ability to develop a completely different mind-set for the *Yilanè*. This race is one of the most *alien* of any I've encountered in science fiction. For some reason, these books haven't received much notice from the critics, or appeared on various recommended lists, but I recommend them highly.



PorSFis New Year's, Outaugural  
and April Fool's Party!

Saturday, April 1st  
Ariel & Phil's  
3135 SW Florida St.  
8:00 p.m.

BYO Drinks and Veggie Snacks

PULSAR is the monthly newsletter of the Portland Science Fiction Society (PorSFis). Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the writers, who retain all rights to the material. Pulsar has a rotating editorship, open to all PorSFis members. This month's editor was Pat Steed. Next month's editor is Sam Butler. Art by Knotworks Graphics, W.P. Smale, Prop.

Issues of Pulsar are available: free with PorSFis membership (full year - \$10, half year \$5), by trade with other newsletters, or for \$.60 per copy. Contributions are always welcome and may be sent to the PorSFis address listed elsewhere on this page.

PorSFis meets on alternate Saturdays. Check the timeline in this issue for dates and times of these meetings and other events.

**OFFICERS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Phil Jansen (246-4320)

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ariel Shattan (246-4320)

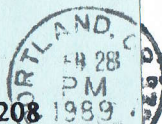
**SECRETARY:** David Levine (224-6427)

**Treasurer:** John Lorentz (283-0802)

**PorSFis**

**P.O. Box 4602**

**Portland OR 97208**



**DICK LYNCH**

**PO BOX 1270**

**GERMANTOWN**

**MARYLAND 20874**

**PorSFis Information Lightline: 283-0802**

