

POTLATCH

P O R T L A N D

PROGRESS REPORT # 3

December, 1995

Potlatch 5 • February 2-4, 1996 • Imperial Hotel, • Portland, Oregon

Notes From The Comfy Chair

Hello again, and welcome to Potlatch 5 Progress Report #3. First, a few basics: Potlatch 5 is a small, convivial science fiction convention which will be held at the Imperial Hotel in Portland, Oregon on February 2-4, 1996. We expect about 150 people. There will be one track of programming, a hospitality suite, a small dealers' room selling mostly books, a dance, writers' workshops, and the traditional Clarion West benefit auction. We will *not* be having a masquerade, an art show, a video program, or any formal gaming or filksinging. We also don't have a Guest of Honor — in a sense, all of you are our guests of honor (I didn't think I'd have to say all of this, but you'll be surprised how many queries I get about the availability of 16-by-16-foot dealer booths and who our meal guests are.)

Another Potlatch tradition that we will be perpetuating is the Sunday brunch. The price of the brunch is not included in your membership, so if you haven't bought your brunch ticket yet, be sure to do so soon — this brunch *will* sell out, and is certain to be the fanciest event of the season. And no, we don't really care what Salmon Tidbits are. But I'm sure they'll be delicious.

Potlatch 5 will get rolling on Friday night and will wrap up Sunday afternoon; see Luke and Jane's Programming report for more details on what's happening in between. If you find yourself with time on

your hands before or after the con, there's plenty in the vicinity of the hotel (Powell's, the world's largest bookstore, is just a few blocks away) and elsewhere in Portland — see Kate's Opinionated Local report.

This Progress Report is being sent only to those who are already members, or who have explicitly requested it. There's someone you're looking forward to seeing at the con, but their name isn't on the membership list. Give them a call and tell them to sign up right away. (Even if they can't make it to the con, at least you can have a nice chat.)

One final note: I want to warn you that the operating word for this Potlatch will be "cozy." The program room space is just large enough for everything we want to do, the guest rooms are rather small, and the hospitality suite consists of two of those rather-small guest rooms (a third room will be available in the evening). Selecting a convention hotel always involves compromises, and we felt that the location, charm, and price of this hotel were more than enough to offset its diminutive size. So keep those elbows in, and leave those hoop skirts at home (yes, Sonia, this means if you feel crowded, you can adjourn to the lobby or the bar (which allows smoking, and is backed by a really intriguing rocky grotto) or go for a walk — especially in February, Portland's climate is mild. Don't forget your umbrella.

I'll turn you over now to the rest of the committee. See you in February!

David Levine
email:davidl@ssd.intel.com

Programming

Electronic/Multimedia Fiction

Jane Hawkins and Luke McGuff

Potlatch is a gathering for people who like to read, write, and talk about science fiction. In the spirit of the Native American potlatch, we give to each other the gift of conversation. We strive to make this a community of peers by not giving away free memberships; everyone pays their way, and pays the same amount (even the committee). We also look for panelists and moderators who are actually sparked by and knowledgeable of a topic. We've found that if you have interesting topics, knowledgeable people, and skilled conversationalists, you can have great programming.

The first four Potlatches have provided a tough set of acts to follow; we predict you won't be disappointed.

This year, we hope to take you from the roots of speculative fiction in mythology and fantasy, through the future of electronic/multimedia fiction, stopping along the way to examine the interaction of reader and writer, and the process of creativity over the span of a writer.

And if that's not enough, see the microprogramming write-up later in this PR for an idea about how you can start your own programming.

We have some surprises in store for you (and the line of the Portland silliness you've come to expect: a Fanthorpe reading, the secret evolutionary connections of Groundhogs and Beavers, and *Whose Line Is It, Anyway?* We also hope to *Bring the Heaven at 7:30 on Friday*. This will be our "Film of Honor". So: stay tuned. We're glad you could join us!

What Fantasy Does for Us

Karen Shearer Voorhees

How does fantasy provide a means of exploring what it means to be human? What is the appeal of fantasy as a break or an escape from mundane reality? In a sense, all writing is fantasy: how has fantasy laid the tropes that all writers use to provide a metaphorical experience?

Is Creativity a Quantity or a Process?

David Bratman

What is the general flow and scope of an author's career? (We're speaking from a creative viewpoint, not from marketing or publishing.) How is it that some writers remain creative and challenging throughout the span of a long career? What can an artist do to reinvent him or herself, to keep pushing their boundaries and their readers?

What Does the Reader Owe the Writer?

Jerry Kaufmann

What role does the reader play in the co-creation of fiction? What draws you to learn one writer's language over another's? How do the reader and writer go into new media, new forms of language, new concepts of story?

It's been said that the first form of a new medium, old medium rehashed (as witness "teleplays" in the early days of television). Can we even predict what will happen with "electronic" fiction as the medium progresses? Will electronic fiction remain an individual creation, or will it become a group effort?

Jane Hawkins and Luke McGuff

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Seattle, WA 98103

Microprogramming

Microprogramming is an important part of the Potlatch experience. Too many good tangents occur in the course of regular programming. Microprogramming allows these ideas to be picked up and discussed with like-minded others, people you might not have gotten together with otherwise.

This is only the beginning of its potential. Have you read an especially engaging book? Form a book discussion group and see who shows up. And don't feel you have to be an expert on a topic either; if it interests you or makes you curious, microprogramming provides a way to share ideas and learn with others.

We'll provide sign-up sheets on which ideas can be identified and help facilitate the process of finding place and time, and letting the convention attendees know this information.

This is my first Potlatch, so ideas on how to best accomplish this are much appreciated.

Patty Wells

Writer's Workshop

This is your final reminder about the Potlatch Writer's Workshop. We are offering two short story workshops; the basic Taste of Clarion type, and Recombinant workshops.

If you are new to workshoping, the Taste of Clarion is your best option. This will take the form of an evening of new and published writers, and will be a supportive learning experience. If you have experience with workshops, then the Recombinant workshop may interest you. This will be a small peer workshop in Clarion style. Submit up to 3500 words in manuscript format, and specify your choice of workshop.

We are also offering an opportunity to workshop novel synopsis this year. This will be a Clarion style workshop and will provide feedback on plot structure, character and milieu interest, and reader reaction over a novel. Submit up to ten pages of a detailed synopsis. No sample chapter(s).

There is a five dollar charge to cover copy and

distribution. Send submissions and fee to: Mary Rosenblum, 9100 SE 152nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236. Final deadline for mailing your manuscript is January 5th. See you at the workshops!

Dealers Room

The Dealers are in the King's Room. Their hours are:
Friday 3 pm - 7 pm
Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday 11 am - 4 pm
Dealers are:
Lady Jayne's
NESFA Publications
A Sense of Wonder
Wrigley-Cross Books

Schedule Notes

Friday Schedule:

Opening Ceremonies (triumphant entry of Roscoe) 7:30pm.
Lathe of Heaven showing 7:30-9:00pm
Fanthorpe event 9:00-?

Sunday Schedule:

Brunch 10:00am-12:00pm
Clarion Auction 12:00-2:00pm
Whose Line Is It Anyway? 2:00-3:00pm

Hotel Information

If you haven't got your hotel reservation yet, you should do so immediately. Our room block will be released January 15th. After that, rooms are subject to regular rates and availability. Call the Imperial Hotel directly and make sure they know you are with Potlatch. The rates are as follows.

Single (double bed)- \$65
Double (1 queen bed)- \$70
Double (twin beds)-\$75
Double (2 double beds)-\$85
Double (king bed)-\$90
Triple/quad (double beds)-\$90

Imperial Hotel

400 S.W. Broadway (at Stark)
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 228-7221
(800) 452-2323
FAX (503) 223-4551

When you arrive, hotel guests may take advantage of the FREE valet parking. You can locate registration and the dealers' room in the King's Room just off the lobby.

Sunday Brunch. A traditional brunch will be held Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Space will be limited, so guarantee a spot for yourself by sending your payment to the Potlatch address as soon as possible. The cost for the buffet style meal will be \$13.25 including gratuity.

Brunch Menu

Chilled Juice, Fresh Fruit,
Coffee or Tea,
Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns,
Bacon, Hot Biscuits
Eggs Benedict,
Barbecued Salmon Tidbits,
Crepes Normandy.

Registration

The current attending membership rate is \$35, which is good through January 15, 1996. After that, the at-the-door rate of \$40 will apply. Supporting memberships are \$15 at all times. Please let us know if you move or if any corrections to your name and address are needed.
Registration will be located in the Kings Room (adjacent to Dealers) on the left side of the lobby and will be open from 3 pm to 7 pm on Friday, 10 am to 6 pm Saturday and 11 am to 4 pm Sunday. It will move upstairs to Hospitality for the evenings. There will be fun stuff like badge decorating.

Ruth Sachter
email:r.sachter@genie.com

Auction Items Needed

If you are planning to donate items to the Clarion West Scholarship Auction, please send them as soon as possible. By January 15 would be most keen. Since all donated items must be catalogued before the Auction, I'm hoping to forestall an eleventh-hour influx of items mere days before the convention. As usual, I already have plenty of unsigned galleys, so more unusual/unique/amazing/gotta-have-it items would certainly add spice to the mix (though no donations go unappreciated).

Attention publishers/editors: we still need donations for freebie give-aways to Potlatch members. Book cover promotional items will increase your visibility at the convention to all attendees.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Send all donations to
Clarion West Scholarship Auction
c/o Mark Bourne
6233 SE 40th Portland,
OR 97202
Email: bourne@teleport.com

All public convention space will be non-smoking. Smoking is allowed in the bar and outdoors.

Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc.
Potlatch 5
P.O. Box 5703
Portland, OR 97228-5703

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