

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group
Club Notice - 6/20/79

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(All meetings are in room 3H-506 on Wednesdays at noon.)

DATE -----	TOPIC -----
6/27/79	STAND ON ZANZIBAR by John Brunner
7/18/79	SPACE MERCHANTS by Frederik Pohl
8/8/79	DRAGONFLIGHT by Anne McCaffrey
8/29/79	A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING TEXAS by Fritz Leiber
9/19/79	THE DISPOSSESSED by Ursula K. Le Guin
10/10/79	THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER by A. E. Van Vogt
10/31/79	THE EYES OF THE OVERWORLD by Jack Vance
11/21/79	CHILDHOOD'S END by Arthur C. Clarke
12/12/79	A FAR SUNSET by Edmund Cooper

Our library is in HO 2D-634A. Rich Ditch (x3432) is librarian.
Evelyn Leeper (HO 1B-527 x6334) is Club book-buyer.

1. This notice is to remind members that we will be showing the half hour film THE UGLY LITTLE BOY in Holmdel Auditorium at 12:00 and 12:30 on Monday, June 25. The film was made for the CBC (the Canadian equivalent of the BBC) and stars Kate Reid and Barry Morse. It is based on the Isaac Asimov story of the same name.

2. Three of the books we have ordered from the schedule for the rest of the year have become unavailable from F&SF book company. They are A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING TEXAS, WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER, AND EYES OF THE OVERWORLD. At the next meeting we will decide what action we will take.

3. With the publication of the Bell Laboratories Club activity listing we are starting to get more members. The size of our club rose from 23 members on June 13 to 44 members on June 20. These are the new members:

member	dept.
Dr. Regina Cuta	7883
Rudy Hanzl	3752
Elaine Homolya	3724
P. L. Huff	3214
Anne Jacques	4382
Michael Keith	3357
M. J. Katz	3351
Barry Litofsky	3433
C. M. Losik	4362

M. E. Lukacs	1355
E. C. McMullen	3723
D. G. Marsh	4391
G. Martingano	3343
Bob Mayer	5123
John Myers	5124
Peter Ott	3114
Rod Pease	9512
Herman Silbiger	9534
N. J. Taber	5123
Florence Walling	7121
D. J. Wasser	3237

Until this point we have been a rather small club with a small club mentality. It is likely that this can no longer remain so, and that is sort of a mixed blessing. Meetings of the sort we have had could very well become impossible if we find that considerably more than the traditional six to twelve people are showing up at meetings, not that that would be a bad thing. One possibility would be to break into two or more different discussion groups, each with its own reading schedule. It is no secret that the discussion group has somewhat broken into factions with different tastes in reading. Those people who are interested in discussion might well want to break into groups of six or so people of similar interests and go off and read a more directed set of books, and discuss them.

But it seems that now we have a few more members we ought to be considering other activities. Currently we are somewhat limited in funds, since we were funded at a time when we had about fifteen members. This somewhat limits the range of our activities for the present. We certainly do not have enough to bring in speakers this year. I would like to hear from members what activities they would like the club to do in addition to the current discussion sessions.

4. For the benefit of those who came in late, the following is a short background of the club. The reason you have never heard of us before is that we are a relatively new club. When my wife and I started work at Holmdel we were somewhat surprised that we knew a number of people interested in science fiction as a hobby, but there was no official science fiction activity at the labs. Between the Historical Simulation Club and an organized group of lab people who buy and share books from the Science Fiction Book Club we compiled a list of people who might be interested in forming a noontime activity. Our organizational meeting was August 2, 1978.

We decided at that point to meet on a bi-weekly basis, discussing a novel at each meeting, and picking novels two meetings in advance. That has remained our mode of operation, though we now meet on a tri-weekly basis to give people more time to read the book. Just recently we have also instituted a policy of picking books further in advance to circumvent problems in acquiring the books.

Initially, we had each member obtain books for himself. That turned out to be too difficult to manage so instead a single book-buyer was chosen to purchase books for the library and for any member who wanted his own copy but didn't want to look for it himself. Up until recently, books were ordered 5 weeks prior to the discussion of them. This caused problems if the book had just gone out of print, or was otherwise unobtainable, since there was not enough time left to schedule a different book. Recently, therefore, we requested each member suggest two books, then scheduled the rest of the year from those suggestions. (That is why we seem to be planning so far ahead.) We would appreciate it if each member who has not already done so would suggest two books for next year's list. (We won't be making that up until November or so, so you can take your time.)

Currently, we are ordering books from F&SF Book Company in Staten Island, because they offer good service and discounts (10% on orders over \$10, 20% on orders over \$25). Members wishing to order books should contact the book-buyer. Before our most recent scheduling change, orders were placed every three weeks; now they will be placed whenever the quantity permits--contact Evelyn Leeper for details. The cost per book with shipping may be slightly higher than in the store, but you are saving on gasoline. Discounts and shipping charges are pro-rated among the books on the order--no one makes a profit (except F&SF Book Company, of course).

There are two copies of each discussion book ordered for the library. Club members may borrow the books from the library for a period of one week. Because some books were remaining overdue and members were not getting a chance to read them before discussions, the librarian instituted the following policy in March:

1. All books on loan exceeding the indicated on week period will initiate a telephone reminder to the person holding the book.
2. Anyone holding an overdue book will be refused any future borrowing privileges for a period of 30 days following the return of the book.
3. Should the book become lost or destroyed, then it is the responsibility of the borrower to replace the missing book with a new copy, or to make a cash payment to the club expediter equal to the replacement cost of the book.

The following are our current officers:

Chairperson:	Mark R. Leeper	HO 1B-512	x7093
Vice-chairperson/librarian:	Richard L. Ditch	HO 2D-634A	x3432
Secretary/treasurer:	Neil B. Cohen	HO 2B-516	x2827
Expediter:	Evelyn C. Leeper	HO 1B-527	x6334

These are the books we have discussed to date:

8/16/78	NEEDLE & THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE	Hal Clement
8/23/79	DRAGON MASTERS	Jack Vance
9/6/78	RINGWORLD	Larry Niven
9/20/78	LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS	Ursula K. Le Guin
10/4/78	MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE	Philip K. Dick
11/8/78	CASE OF CONSCIENCE	James Blish
11/29/78	TO YOUR SCATTERED BODIES GO	Philip J. Farmer
12/20/78	DUNE	Frank Herbert
1/10/79	STARSHIP TROOPERS	Robert Heinlein
1/31/79	FOREVER WAR	Joe Haldeman
2/21/79	LORD OF LIGHT	Roger Zelazny
3/14/79	MIND PARASITES	Colin Wilson
4/4/79	UP THE LINE	Robert Silverberg
4/25/79	GATE OF IVREL	C. J. Cherryh
5/16/79	END OF ETERNITY	Isaac Asimov
6/6/79	IMPERIAL EARTH	Arthur C. Clarke

The club notice comes out at least once per three-week period, but in practice it comes out considerably more often. Its main purpose is to remind members of meetings, but it contains just about anything of science fiction interest. Members are requested to contribute reviews, articles, fiction, or anything else they would like to see printed in the notice. Contributions should be in a form ready to duplicate, that is, neatly handwritten darkly or better still typed.

5. Included also in this notice is a review of LEGACY by James H. Schmitz submitted by Evelyn Leeper.

Mark Leeper
HO 1B-512 x7093

LEGACY, by James H. Schmitz. Ace, New York, 1979, 346p, Paper, Novel, \$1.95. ISBN 0-441-47850-6.

Why Ace books reprinted this 1962 novel remains a mystery. (The original title, A TALE OF TWO CLOCKS, can be found in very small print on the cover.) The only reason I can think of is that it has a heroine, rather than a hero, so is "relevant". But the "heroine" doesn't seem to do much throughout the book--first people tell her what has happened before the story started, then they tell her what has happened while she wasn't present. Sometimes, for variety, she tells them what she did when they weren't present. Very rarely do we actually get to see what happens first-hand. Add to this the fact that the heroine doesn't know what is going on for most of the novel, and that when she finds out, that information is hidden from the reader, and you end up with a very hard-to-follow book. If this weren't enough, Schmitz has invented so many unlikely names, objects, and customs, that it becomes an effort to even try to follow the plot. (By the way, if you take the size of the printface into consideration, this "346 page" novel is really about 170 pages worth -- Ace seems intent on convincing the buyer that he is getting his money's worth in "pages per penny".) Pass this one up.

Evelyn C. Leeper