

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group  
Club Notice - 6/27/79

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

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

DATE	TOPIC
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7/18/79	SPACE MERCHANTS by Frederik Pohl
8/8/79	DRAGONFLIGHT by Anne McCaffrey
8/29/79	THE DISPOSSESSED by Ursula K. Le Guin
9/19/79	CHILDHOOD S END by Arthur C. Clarke
10/10/79	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. Our schedule has been rearranged as shown above due to certain books becoming unavailable.
2. Evelyn Leeper has made up a questionnaire to poll our member on such things as what activities they would be interested in, what they think of the books we have read to date, etc. We would appreciate it if you would fill out this questionnaire (the last page of this notice), staple it with her name out or drop it in an envelope, and send to to her.
3. Currently there does not seem to be a need to reorganize the operating procedure of the club. I had expected that the need might arise due to the influx of new members (we currently have 60 with at most eight people who will be dropped from the roles).
4. People who would be willing to lend copies of any of the scheduled books to the library, we would really appreciate if you do so. The library is only able to purchase two copies each of the books, and probably there will be much more demand for the books now that we have expanded.
5. We are planning a club trip to Staten Island to the F&SF Book Company warehouse. This will probably be on Saturday, July 14. F&SF book company is a very large dealer in science fiction and fantasy books, mostly through mail order and huckstering at conventions. They do, however, open their warehouse as a store for people who make appointment to see the warehouse. Anyone interested in making a pilgrimage to the book store on the morning of Bastille day should let me know. People who go will probably be able to pool their purchases and save money. F&SF gives a 10% discount on purchase of \$10 or more and a 20% discount on purchases of \$25 or

more.

6. It was suggested at the last meeting that we set up a book exchange day. Each participant would bring in books that he is willing to trade or sell and members would trade or sell with each other. This would probably be set up in someone's office (probably mine) after work some day unless people would prefer to do it at lunch time. Anyone who is interested should let me know, particularly if you have thoughts about how it should be done.

7. Included in this notice is a review of FADED SUN: KESRITH. The book is by C. J. Cherryh, the review is by Evelyn Leeper.

Mark Leeper  
HO 1B-512 x7093

THE FADED SUN: KESRITH, by C. J. Cherryh. DAW, New York, 1978, 252p, Paper, Novel, \$1.95. ISBN 0-87997-393-5.

This Hugo-nominated novel is the first book of a trilogy -- the second (THE FADED SUN: SHON'JIR) is presently out in paperback, and the third is expected to be published this year. Unlike GATE OF IVREL (her other trilogy "lead-in"), this book does not truly stand by itself. It is well-written (although Cherryh has a tendency to inundate you with unfamiliar words, names, and concepts from the very beginning), and interesting to read, but unless one plans to continue reading the other two books, one is left with a dissatisfied feeling at the end.

There seem to be two ways to write a series -- write books set in the same "universe", with some of the same characters providing continuity from book to book, or write one very long novel, published in several volumes. (Edgar Rice Burroughs and Marion Zimmer Bradley did the former; J.R.R. Tolkien and Philip Jose Farmer did the latter.) While there is nothing wrong with either method, it is only fair to the reader to let him know if he is getting a whole story, or only an episode, when he picks up a book.

That digression aside, the story itself bears some resemblance to GATE OF IVREL in its structure. There is a warrior, Niun, who has become somewhat of an outcast by not having proved himself in battle. Niun is one of the mri, who hire themselves out as mercenaries to the regul in the regul's war with the humans. Kesrith is the home world of the mri, and the story takes place between the time that the regul have agreed to

surrender Kesrith to the humans, and the time that the humans actually take possession of it. In addition to Niun, the main characters include Melein, a priestess of the mri, Sten Duncan, a human envoy, and various reguls.

This book is more obviously science fiction than was GATE OF IVREL (as opposed to sword and sorcery). My one suggestion would be the inclusion of a glossary, such as was included in DUNE and THE WHITE DRAGON, to help the reader with the unfamiliar words. Recommended as part of the trilogy -- wait until both sequels are published.

Evelyn C. Leeper

## SCIENCE FICTION CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which of the following are you specifically interested in:
  - Science Fiction
  - Fantasy
  - Horror
  - Films
  - TV
  - Writing
  - Art
  - Gaming
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you been reading SF? \_\_\_ years
3. How many SF or SF-related books do you read a month? \_\_\_
4. Are you interested in a regular reading/discussion group?  
- How often should it meet? Every \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.
5. Rate the following (previous discussion) books as -2, -1, 0, +1, or +2.
  - NEEDLE (Clement)
  - DRAGON MASTERS (Vance)
  - RINGWORLD (Niven)
  - LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS (Le Guin)
  - MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE (Dick)
  - CASE OF CONSCIENCE (Blish)
  - TO YOUR SCATTERED BODIES GO (Farmer)
  - DUNE (Herbert)
  - STARSHIP TROOPERS (Heinlein)
  - FOREVER WAR (Haldeman)
  - LORD OF LIGHT (Zelazny)
  - MIND PARASITES (Wilson)
  - UP THE LINE (Silverberg)
  - GATE OF IVREL (Cherryh)
  - END OF ETERNITY (Asimov)
  - IMPERIAL EARTH (Clarke)
  - STAND ON ZANZIBAR (Brunner)
6. What other activities would you be interested in?

SEND TO:

Evelyn C. Leeper  
HO 1B-527