

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group
Club Notice - 5/7/80

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are on Wednesdays at noon.
Book discussions at South Plainfield are 3 weeks after dates shown.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
5/14/80	MASTERS OF SOLITUDE by Kaye & Godwin, rm 4H-205 [MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS by Robert Heinlein, at HP]
5/28/80	Book Exchange, rm 1A-305
5/29/80 (thur)	record: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK sides 1,2, rm 1A-305
5/30/80 (fri)	record: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK sides 3,4, rm 1A-305
6/4/80	EYES OF THE OVERWORLD by Jack Vance, rm 4H-205
6/19/80 (thur)	Film program in auditorium
6/25/80	JEM by Frederik Pohl, rm 4H-205
7/16/80	THREE HEARTS AND THREE LIONS by Poul Anderson, rm 4H-205
8/6/80	PROTECTOR by Larry Niven
8/27/80	DORSAI! by Gordon Dickson
9/17/80	RAX by Michael G. Coney
10/8/80	CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ by Walter M. Miller
10/29/80	ICERIGGER by Alan Dean Foster
11/19/80	CITY by Clifford Simak

Our library is in HO 2D-634A. Rich Ditch (x3432) is librarian.
Evelyn Leeper (HO 1G-318A x6334) is Club book-buyer.
Debi Bennett (HP 1B-368 x2408) is in charge of South Plainfield activities.

1. This is to remind you of our upcoming discussion of MASTERS OF SOLITUDE next Wednesday.
2. In addition to the usual sort of goodies, attached to this notice is a list of this year's Hugo nominees. Ballots were supposed to have been mailed to all Noreascon II members on April 30, and must be postmarked by July 15 to be counted. As you may have noticed, one of our upcoming discussion books is a Hugo nominee (JEM), so don't wait until the last minute to borrow it from the Library. As is our custom, we will be purchasing one copy of each of the Hugo-nominated novels for the Library.
3. Which brings up the next item: The next order to the F&SF Book Company will be placed May 23. People wishing to order discussion books, Hugo nominees, or anything else that F&SF Book Company (a.k.a. Witter's) stocks are requested to contact Evelyn Leeper no later than Thursday, May 22. (A copy of the F&SF Book Company's catalog is available for perusal in her office.) The usual applies: there will be at least a 20% discount (possibly 25%), no sales tax, and shipping charges (if any) will be prorated (comes to about 5%

of the total before discount). (Due to the amount involved, payment other than shipping is requested in advance.) Books ordered arrive in a week or two unless they are out of stock, in which case they are back-ordered. And, of course, this operation garners no profit for either the Club or any individual in the Club.

4. The attached notice from South Plainfield includes something new for this notice -- artwork! Anyone else willing to contribute artwork should certainly feel free to do so, though we can't guarantee that the reproduction will do it justice.

5. This notice was prepared by the secretary-treasurer, due to the overworked condition of the chairperson.

6. I, the chairperson, protest. At no time did I request that this notice be done by the secretary-treasurer. I merely requested of the secretary-treasurer that he/she enter a couple of items that fall into his/her domain. I think some of my loyal, trustworthy officers are a little hungry for power! All further items in this notice will be prepared by your humble chairperson.

7. We have a book exchange on May 28, as you can see by the schedule on the first page. I arranged it even though I have an all-day meeting that day. The secretary-treasurer did absolutely none of the arranging for the book exchange.

8. The secretary-treasurer also did nothing to arrange for the May 29 and 30 playing of the John Williams musical score for THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, also listed on the first page. This was arranged by Bob Hallock and your humble chairperson.

Mark Leeper
HO 2B-502A x7093

CACHALOT, by Alan Dean Foster, Del Rey Books, New York, 1980, 275p, Paper, Novel, \$2.25. ISBN 0-345-28066-0.

Considering that so many science fiction stories deal with alien intelligences, it is surprising that so few have considered the two non-human intelligences that we actually know of -- simian and cetacean. Of those that have, the majority have dealt with simian intelligence. The best known is probably the "Planet of the Apes" series; the best written is probably Vercors's You Shall Know Them. (The "Tarzan" books cannot accurately be said to deal with simian intelligence in any depth.) Very few works have attempted to describe cetacean intelligence: Philip Wylie's The Spy Who Spoke Porpoise, Robert Merle's The Day of the Dolphin, T.J. Bass's The Godwhale, and Paul Zindel's "Let Me Hear You Whisper". (Again, the "Dolphin Boy" series by Roy Meyers is not concerned with serious consideration of dolphin intelligence.) Now Foster has added to these what may be one of the most thoughtful attempts to understand an earthly, yet non-human intelligence.

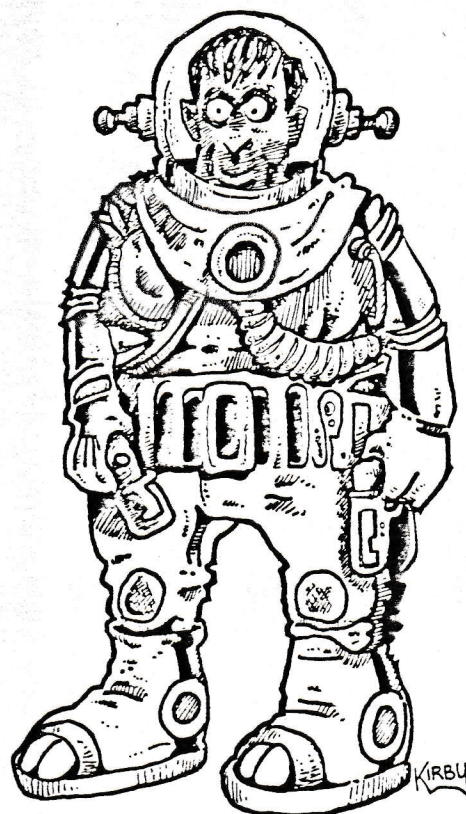
Cachalot is a planet covered entirely by ocean, given by mankind to the remaining cetaceans of Earth as a haven, and as partial recompense for mankind's near-genocide of them. (The parallel between Cachalot and Israel is certainly intentional, as Foster specifically compares the "second holocaust" of the whales to the Holocaust of the 1930s and 1940s.) Man also lives on Cachalot (along with a few thranx, one of Foster's regular alien races, who in this novel seem closer to human than do the whales), but only by permission of the cetaceans. There has been a truce between man and whale on Cachalot for several hundred years, but now whole cities are being destroyed by some unknown agent, and several scientists have been sent by the Commonwealth to determine if the whales are the cause.

Foster's characters are interesting, although for a society set eight hundred years in the future, there has been surprisingly little change in attitudes or social structure. The cetaceans' intelligence is sufficiently alien from our own to be believable and intriguing, yet similar enough to be understandable. The ending, unfortunately, seems somewhat contrived, as if, having said what he wanted to say about whales, Foster suddenly realized that he had to end the book. In spite of this, the end does raise some interesting questions, and as a whole the book is both entertaining and rewarding.

(For those interested, Carl Sagan's The Dragons of Eden contains extensive material on non-human intelligence. Again, the emphasis is mostly on simian intelligence, which has been more thoroughly studied than cetacean intelligence. This is understandable on two counts: it is far easier to study a land animal than an aquatic one, and it is assumed that since simians are "closer" to us mentally than are cetaceans, we would more readily be able to communicate with them.)

Evelyn C. Leeper

HP Satellite
of the
HO Science Fiction
Discussion Group



If you are interested in reading / discussing / buying science fiction books, come join us! We will meet at noon every 3 weeks to discuss a particular science fiction book. A small S-F library is available at HP and books can be purchased at a discount through the club.

Organizational Meeting

Wed April 23

12:00 HP 1B-361

for more info:

Debi Bennett HP - 1B-368
x2408

1980 HUGO AWARD NOMINEES

NOVEL

Clarke, Arthur C.--THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE
Disch, Thomas M.--ON WINGS OF SONG
McKillip, Patricia A.--HARPIST IN THE WIND
Pohl, Frederik--JEM
Varley, John--TITAN

NOVELLA

Card, Orson Scott--"Songhouse" (Analog, 9/79)
Kingsbury, Donald--"The Moon Goddess and the Son" (Analog, 12/79)
Longyear, Barry B.--"Enemy Mine" (IASFM, 9/79)
Reynolds, Ted--"Ker-plop" (IASFM, 1/79)
Schenck, Hilbert--"The Battle of the Abaco Reefs" (F&SF, 6/79)

NOVELETTE

Longyear, Barry B.--"Homecoming" (IASFM, 10/79)
McIntyre, Vonda N.--"Fireflood" (F&SF, 11/79)
Martin, George R.R.--"Sandkings" (Omni, 8/79)
Niven, Larry & Barnes, Steven--"The Locusts" (Analog, 6/79)
Priest, Christopher--"Palely Loitering" (F&SF, 1/79)
Varley, John--"Options" (UNIVERSE 9)

SHORT STORY

Bryant, Edward--"giANTS" (Analog, 8/79)
Card, Orson Scott--"Unaccompanied Sonata" (Omni, 3/79)
Martin, George R.R.--"The Way of the Cross and the Dragon" (Omni, 6/79)
Reynolds, Ted--"Can These Bones Live" (Analog, 3/79)
Willis, Connie--"Daisy, in the Sun" (Galileo, 11/79)

NON-FICTION BOOK

Asimov, Isaac--IN MEMORY YET GREEN: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF I. A., 1920-1954
Barlowe, Wayne Douglas--BARLOWE'S GUIDE TO EXTRATERRESTRIALS
Le Guin, Ursula K.--THE LANGUAGE OF NIGHT
Nicholls, Peter--THE SCIENCE FICTION ENCYCLOPEDIA
Whelan, Michael--WONDERWORKS: SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY ART

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

ALIEN
THE BLACK HOLE
THE MUPPET MOVIE
STAR TREK--THE MOTION PICTURE
TIME AFTER TIME

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Vincent DiFate
Stephen Fabian
Paul Lehr
Boris Vallejo
Michael Whelan

FAN ARTIST

Alexis Gilliland
Jeanne Gomoll
Joan Hanke-Woods
Victoria Poyser
Bill Rotsler
Stu Shiffman

PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

Jim Baen (Destinies)
Ben Bova (Omni)
Edward L. Ferman (F&SF)
Stanley Schmidt (Analog)
George H. Scithers (IASFM, IASF Adventure)

FANZINE

File 770
Janus
Locus
Science Fiction Review
Thrust

FAN WRITER

Richard E. Geis
Mike Glyer
Arthur D. Hlavaty
Dave Langfor
Bob Shaw

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER

Lynn Abbey
Diane Duane
Karen G. Jollie
Barry B. Longyear
Alan Ryan
Somtow Sucharitkul

ANDALF GRAND MASTER OF FANTASY

Ray Bradbury
Marion Zimmer Bradley
Anne McCaffrey
Patricia A. McKillip
Jack Vance
Roger Zelazny