

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

Our library is in HO 2C-401. Rich Ditch (x3432) is librarian.
 Evelyn Leeper (HO 1E-321 x6334) is Club book-buyer.
 Debi Bennett (HP 1B-368 x2408) is in charge of South Plainfield
 activities.

1. Now that I have your attention, I wish to bring to your attention an important piece of club business. This is the time of year that Bell Labs Clubs requires that all members reregister or be dropped from the rolls. To reregister you must fill out a registration form COMPLETE WITH WITNESSED RELEASE. I know this is a pain, but it looks like we are saddled with a new Bell Labs club policy.

I will try to make this as painless as possible by giving you a pre-filled form with only a few lines required to complete the form. If you have a label on the reverse side of the form you need not fill in your name, base location, etc. Presumably I already have that information from you. [Exceptions would be Al Jones, Barry W. Kort, and Ron Perno for whom I have incomplete

information.] Simply fill in a box saying that you are currently a member, sign and date the release, and get an officemate, supervisor, friend, enemy, passing mail clerk, or intelligent turnip to sign the "in the presence of" section. Then just staple the form with my name out and drop it in your inter-office mail pouch. That's all you need to do.

2. Please note that our library is now in HO 2C-401.

3. We intend in the near future to put out a "Best of THE NOTICE." In it will be the best articles published in the past two years of the notice. A partial selection has already been made. The biggest stumbling block at this point is admitting to ourselves that the tripe we have selected really is our best.

4. This issue will include (along with a reregistration form) one film review.

Mark Leeper
HO 2B-502A x7093

WHOLLY MOSES
a film review by Mark R. Leeper

It is sometimes difficult to say why something is or is not funny. Particularly in films, humor is the net result of several parameters such as timing, audience expectations, actor's personality, and probably dozens of others. What seems like pointless and misfired humor in one film could be absolutely hilarious under the control of someone else. I cannot say exactly why WHOLLY MOSES fell as flat as it did. The film just ended up looking like Dudley Moore doing everything he could to be funny, perhaps trying much too hard, and not succeeding at all.

Often the film seems content to copy other films. Running jokes are a time honored tradition in comedies, and often can be quite funny. Since Mel Brooks would have running jokes in material like this, the authors of the screenplay felt they should also. They have one of the characters repeatedly bleating like a sheep when he is sexually aroused because of being counseled to do on his wedding night what the sheep do in the field. Brooks might have been able to carry this gag off, but more likely he would have rejected it. Still, this was as close as authors could come to a Brooks-like gag so there it is whether it works or not.

The idea of the film seems to be borrowed from a recent Monty Python film, though it is more likely a coincidence. The Python film LIFE OF BRIAN chronicled the life of a contemporary of Jesus whose life in some ways paralleled the life of Jesus. WHOLLY MOSES does pretty much the same thing for Moses. Herschel, played by Dudley Moore, is an aspiring Moses who was cast into the Nile at the same time that the real Moses was and who follows Moses throughout his life, even to the point of marrying the sister of Moses's wife.

The casting of the film seems to have been purposely done for humorous effect and usually seems considerably less appropriate than that of your average grade school Christmas pageant. The part of Pharaoh is played, for example, by Richard Pryor. He plays the part with all the grandeur and dignity that audiences have come to expect from Richard Pryor. John Ritter plays the devil in a silly looking Mardi Gras costume. Herschel's father is played by James Coco, doing the best he can with a rather disappointing set of gags. The most commendable piece of casting is probably John Houseman as a sort of middle-management archangel. The costume looks a little strange for Houseman, but the part fits him astonishingly well.

It will be interesting to see if WHOLLY MOSES stirs up the same sort of uproar that LIFE OF BRIAN caused. As an Old Testament satire, it is less likely to incur religious ire than it would if it were a satire of the New Testament like LIFE OF BRIAN. In addition, WHOLLY MOSES seems less a satire of the

Bible and more one of De Mille's TEN COMMANDMENTS. Many of the scenes and even the wording of that film have been borrowed for attempted humorous effect. Still, I expect to see reports of someone irate over the biblical subject matter. Both Monty Python and Dudley Moore have tried satires of biblical subjects and have fallen flat. One wonders of the other leading comedy mongers will look upon making a funny biblical film a challenge or if they will consider biblical matters a sacred cow.

REGISTRATION AND RELEASE FORM

TO: M. R. Leeper HO 2B-502A

CHECK
ONE

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

I am currently a member and wish to re-register for:
I am not currently a member and wish to register for:

NAME OF ACTIVITY: Science Fiction Discussion Group

NAME _____ BASE LOCATION _____
(PRINT)
PAYROLL ACCOUNT # _____ ROOM # _____
EXT. _____ DEPARTMENT _____

APPLICATIONS WITHOUT PAYROLL ACCOUNT NUMBERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

RELEASE

In consideration of my being permitted to participate* in Science Fiction Discussion Group activity, I, for myself, my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, do hereby release said activity and the Bell Laboratories Club from all suits, claims or demands of any kind, which may result from my death, injury, loss or damage of any kind, arising out of or in connection with my participation in said activity. This release in no way affects any rights I may have under the Bell Laboratories Benefit Plan.

It is my further understanding that the arrangements for such activity are solely the undertaking of the participants and not Bell Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated.

**I hereby warrant that I am of full age and free to give this release which I have read and understand.

Signed in the presence of:

Signature and Date

**If the above person is not 18 years of age or over, the statement of age should be stricken out, and the parent or guardian should sign below.

I, the undersigned, parent or guardian of the person who signed the foregoing release do hereby consent to the same.

Signed in the presence of:

(Parent or Guardian) Signature & Date

*NOTE: Each participant in this activity is required to furnish a release in order to participate

RELEASE FORM TO BE RETAINED BY CHAIRPERSON

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO NEW MEMBERS

Copies of books scheduled for discussion may be obtained from the Club Librarian. Other books are also available from the Club Librarian. Copies of the upcoming discussion book are one-week books; other non-reference books are two-week books. Reference books are checked out by special arrangement only. An up-to-date list of holdings and rules will be published shortly in the regular notice.

Articles, reviews, artwork, etc., to be included in the tri-weekly notice are requested. Please submit "camera-ready" copy -- typed (or neatly written in dark ink), single-spaced, and preferably with a left margin of at least 3/4 of an inch (many of us punch holes on the side for binders). Send to Mark Leeper, HO 2B-502A.

A copy of the by-laws is available in the Club Library. Further information on our activities (book exchanges, group discounts on book orders, films, etc.) will be published in the regular notice. Suggestions for further activities are always welcome.

Evelyn C. Leeper
Secretary