

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group
Club Notice - 10/27/80

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are on Wednesdays at noon.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
10/29/80	ICERIGGER by Alan Dean Foster, rm 4H-205 [CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ by Walter M. Miller, HP]
11/12/80	Book exchange, rm 4H-205
11/19/80	CITY by Clifford Simak, rm 4H-205
12/10/81	EARTH BOOK OF STORMGATE by Poul Anderson, rm 4H-205
1/14/81	DYING OF THE LIGHT by George R. R. Martin
2/4/81	CAGE A MAN by F. M. Busby
2/18/81	Book exchange
2/25/81	CYBERIAD by Stanislaw Lem
3/18/81	JOURNEY by Marta Randall
4/6/81 (Mon)	Videotape showing THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD, first hour
4/7/81 (Tues)	Videotape showing THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD, conclusion
4/8/81	WHO GOES THERE? and film THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD by Don A. Stuart (John W. Campbell)
4/29/81	LONG ARM OF GIL HAMILTON by Larry Niven
5/18/81 (Mon)	Videotape showing FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH, first hour
5/19/81 (Tues)	Videotape showing FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH, conclusion
5/20/81	QUATERMASS AND THE PIT and film FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH by Nigel Kneale
5/27/81	Book exchange
6/10/81	SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES by Ray Bradbury
7/1/81	THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robert Heinlein

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

1. The above is a tentative schedule for all club activities through next July, just in case you were thinking of changing companies but wanted to see what you would be missing if you did. There are some minor alterations in the list since last notice since some books are temporarily out of stock and Rich Ditch nominated a book (FIFTH HEAD OF CERBERUS) without bothering to check that it was in print. Typical.

2. Please note that there will be a book exchange on 11/12.

3. Please note the popularity poll of books read included with this issue. If you wish to vote, for each book you want to vote on unambiguously choose one of the five ratings and check it off. If there is any question about which rating you intended to give a book you will be given the benefit of the doubt (i.e. it will be interpreted as that vote most differing from Rich Ditch's opinion of the book; please do not make every vote ambiguous in an attempt to prove you never agree with Ditch and hence have taste).

Mark Leeper
HO 2B-515 x7093

Associated Press

From page G1

Did you know, for instance, that there are currently 22 vampires in North America and that Wisconsin is the leading contributor? Even the foremost vampirologist cannot explain that phenomenon.

Of these 22, there are five who live solely on blood. Or so they say. Kaplan admits that he has not tried to verify that claim and he has his doubts, based on caloric requirements.

The others fit the various vampire categories on the questionnaire — psychic vampire, vampire-like person, psychological vampire, son, vampire tendencies, and, as in any good poll, "unsure."

A psychic vampire, incidentally, is a person who psychically drains the people around them. Some non-scientists call those folks "pains in the fanny, but for science, remember, that's your basic psychic vampire."

The Vampire Research Center is on a tree-lined little street in the Elmhurst section of Queens, its exact location kept secret because of threats Kaplan says he has received.

view potential vampireire alone for safety reasons.

— and Kaplan — have been amazed by the number of people who have written in volunteering to be bitten by some vampires show up.

And, a further note to any vampires reading this, Kaplan says he will have blood on hand.

But Kaplan is an expert on ghosts — and on hoaxing as well. He won the 1980 Albert Einstein Award for exposing the Amityville Horror hoax. He's also won an award from the Cunniff Dracula Society, but that's another story.

just part of the territory occupied by vampires. He is also seen to share of the territory.

"I've interviewed more than Bela Lugosi imitations than Chuck Barris," says Kaplan. Barris is host of "The Gong Show."

"But I call myself a social scientist. I must have primary, secondary and tertiary evidence. I will not

Other interviews are fine; however," Kaplan, an amusing and colorful personality, says he has been interviewed on more than 300 talk shows to date.

from Pacific College in California. He has taught parody-chology, can tell you that the first reference to a vampire is in the Book of Lilitu, has served as a technical adviser for radio, television and off-Broadway plays about vampires. He also credits Frank Langella with giving him career a shot in the arm, so to speak. The telephone company

has seen fit to give the Vampire Research Center research status, i.e., cheaper rates, but the IRS has not seen fit to declare it a tax-exempt organization.

Kaplan says he is supported by individuals, the private sectors and the work of his volunteers, plus proceeds from documentaries.

"With me," he says, "vampirism is not a hobby, it's a life's pursuit."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Is there a Dracula in the house? Come on, stand up and be counted. Dr. Stephen Kaplan, a self-described vampireologist, has found 22 in North America, fang you very much, and is looking for others. Here's a toothsome tale, at the least.

By KAY BARTLETT
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — This survey has some unusual questions. It asks for a day address and a night address. It asks you to rate on a scale of zero to 10 the violence of your reactions to things like sunlight, the cross, garlic and Frank Langella.

It is the Official Vampire Research Center. And even if you haven't gotten one yet, take heart. You could either write to the Vampire Research Center in Emmhurst, N.Y., and ask for one or you could write to President Carter and ask for his.

The man behind the project doesn't think Jimmy will fill it out.

- Do you have many vampire friends?
- Do you date: other vampires, humans, both?

— If you live in the United States, are you planning to or did you vote in the presidential election? For whom?

— What is your favorite television show?
— Did you become a vampire: voluntarily, involuntarily?

Actually Kaplan knows a great deal about vampires already. But he's unwilling to give a lot of it away since it's contained

A GAMEPLAYING of the 116 questions:
— If you could bite anyone in the world, who would you bite?

Current personality:
— Do you find it necessary to sharpen your teeth?
See "VAMPIROLOGIST," PAGE 628
want to know in the future as a book in search of a publisher.

See 'VAMPIROLOGIST,' page G24

Counting toothy beings



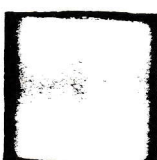

Togoland stamps honor Jules Verne

JULES VERNE, recognized as the father of modern science fiction, receives acclaim from the West African nation of Togoland on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of his death. The honor comes in the form of a set of six stamps and a souvenir sheet depicting scenes from some of his famous stories.

The lowest value stamp bears a portrait of Verne (1828-1905). The next stamp illustrates a scene of the underwater shark fight from "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." The third adhesive shows a spaceship heading for the moon, adapted from Verne's novel "From the Earth to the Moon." Another has an elephant transport scene from the 1873 work entitled "Around the World in 80 Days." The fifth stamp features a spaceship with the moon in the background, also from the yarn "From the Earth to the Moon."

The highest value displays a wild action scene as three divers battle an enormous octopus in "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." The souvenir sheet combines the two highest values, featuring the spaceship in the sky and the battle under the sea.

Also issued by Togo were two stamps in tribute to the Togo Red Cross. One shows the Red Cross emblem in the background and globe indicating the location of Togoland. The other adhesive depicts a Red Cross nurse aiding a patient.



SOMEWHERE IN TIME
a film review by Mark R. Leeper

Richard Matheson has been involved with science fiction and fantasy in the visual media since he adapted his novel, *THE SHRINKING MAN*, into *THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN* in 1957. Besides doing a number of pieces for *TWILIGHT ZONE*, he is known for screen-writing a number of films ranging from some rather mediocre and inaccurate adaptations of Poe for Roger Corman films, to some better works like *NIGHT STALKER* and *LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE*. Now, after 23 years, he is for the first time trying to combine a fantasy plot with a serious love film. This is his first attempt at making a tender and moody film. Matheson knows too much about film to allow *SOMEWHERE IN TIME* to be a failure, but the film is not really a success either.

The best thing about the film is its rather detailed portrait of a posh Michigan hotel in 1912. Perhaps the worst thing about *SOMEWHERE IN TIME* is the pacing. Like *STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE*, the film is pretty to watch, but there is just not enough action or story to keep the audience awake. What story there is deals with a modern playwright (Christopher Reeve) who falls in love with the picture of Elise McKenna (Jane Seymour), an actress popular in 1912. His curiosity about her is heightened when he realizes that the actress and the peculiar old lady who gave him a watch eight years earlier were one in the same person. Following the screwball theory of one of his college professors, he wishes himself back to 1912. This is where the story should take off. Instead it just sort of lays down and dies.

From the point that our hero returns to 1912 until the last five minutes of the film the fantasy theme is dropped entirely. Matheson keeps hinting that he will return to it, including throwing the audience some red herrings that suggest that there will be some more fantasy content coming up, but most of it never materializes. Instead we have a bland little story of two people who fall in love in spite of the world being against them. This is the sort of thing you either like or don't like. I have never been a fan of romance and for me this portion of the film is just a little bit overly sweet and lovely. It might have been mitigated had it taken place in a more interesting historical period, but fancy hotels of 1912 seemed to be a breeding ground of prigs and bores. The change of pace at the end of the film was abrupt and welcome. Not that it stayed welcome for long. I have to say that the final scene of *SOMEWHERE IN TIME* ranks about three points higher on the nausea scale than the open heart surgery scene of *ALL THAT JAZZ*.

Matheson is too good a writer to make the story completely pat. There are some interesting touches. For example, Reeve goes to a costume store and chooses a suit to wear so as not to be out of place when he arrives in 1912. When he does arrive he

is laughed at for wearing a suit that is 15 years out of style. Unfortunately, the good touches are not strong enough to counter some of the sloppy ones. Reeves reads a number of biographies of McKenna before he goes back in time to visit her. Those biographies should have resolved for him if the actress married someone with his name or not. He apparently was very uninformed about the basic facts of McKenna's life in spite of all the homework. Perhaps one of the most disappointing things is the way the film does the traditional sidestepping of time paradoxes. Reeve has seen a 68-year-old entry in a hotel register showing him staying in room 416. He for some unknown reason becomes upset when, back in 1912, it looks like he will be given room 420 instead. The concern turns to relief when he is, indeed, given the expected room. In his position I am sure I would have been too interested in the the possibilities of time paradox to be worried that they would put me in a different room. One feels that the character's relief reflected the author's that time paradoxes had been avoided in the time-honored way.

Unfortunately, too much of what would have made the film good is done away with in time-honored or time-worn ways. Overall, the film is much like a pack of bubble gum cards. You get some intesting things to look at, but when it comes to finding something to chew on you find it just a little too sweet and a little too stale.

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 return to: % Mark Leeper %
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READER POLL

Check off your rating for as many as possible of the following:

modern classic \	so-so 	waste of paper /	
—	—	—	Three Hearts and Three Lions - Anderson
—	—	—	End of Eternity - Asimov
—	—	—	The Stars My Destination - Bester
—	—	—	A Case of Conscience - Blish
—	—	—	Stand on Zanzibar - Brunner
—	—	—	Gate of Ivrel - Cherryh
—	—	—	Childhood's End - Clarke
—	—	—	Imperial Earth - Clarke
—	—	—	Needle - Clement
—	—	—	Rax (Hello Summer, Goodbye) - Coney
—	—	—	A Far Sunset - Cooper
—	—	—	The Man in the High Castle - Dick
—	—	—	Dorsai! - Dickson
—	—	—	To Your Scattered Bodies Go - Farmer
—	—	—	The Forever War - Haldeman
—	—	—	The Stainless Steel Rat - Harrison
—	—	—	Starship Troopers - Heinlein
—	—	—	The Moon is a Harsh Mistress - Heinlein
—	—	—	Dune - Herbert
—	—	—	The Masters of Solitude - Kaye & Goodwin
—	—	—	Dinosaur Beach - Laumer
—	—	—	The Dispossessed - Le Guin
—	—	—	The Left Hand of Darkness - Le Guin
—	—	—	Dragonflight - McCaffery
—	—	—	A Canticle for Leibowitz - Miller
—	—	—	The Jupiter Theft - Moffitt
—	—	—	Protector - Niven
—	—	—	Ringworld - Niven
—	—	—	The Space Merchants - Pohl & Kornbluth
—	—	—	Gateway - Pohl
—	—	—	Jem - Pohl
—	—	—	Blind Voices - Reamy
—	—	—	Berserker - Saberhagen
—	—	—	Up the Line - Silverberg
—	—	—	Last and First Men - Stapledon
—	—	—	The Dragon Masters - Vance
—	—	—	The Eyes of the Overworld - Vance
—	—	—	The Mind Parasites - Wilson
—	—	—	Lord of Light - Zelazny

Ballots must be in my hand c.o.b 11/5/80