

Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group
Club Notice - 2/18/82 -- Vol. 4, No. 26

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

(Unless otherwise stated, all Holmdel meetings are on Wednesdays at noon. Currently we are meeting in HO 4A-606.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
2/24/82	DEAD ZONE by Stephen King, HO 4A-606
3/2,3/82 Tu,W	Video Meetings, ENGLISHMAN'S CASTLE pt.1,2, HO 4A-606
3/4/82 Th	Video Meetings, ENGLISHMAN'S CASTLE pt.3, HO 4A-506
3/17/82	EARTH ABIDES by George R. Stewart
4/7/82	RIDDLEMASTER OF HED by Patricia McKillip
4/28/82	MAN IN THE MAZE by Robert Silverberg

Our library is in HO 4B-510. Mike Lukacs (x4043) is librarian. Debi Bennett (HP 1B-368 x2408) is in charge of South Plainfield activities. Evelyn Leeper (HO 1E-313 x6033) is Club book-buyer. Alan M. Gopin (HO 1D-407 x2089) is the game chairperson. This notice publishes anything (not slanderous or libelous) submitted by club members. Members, feel free to submit.

1. Our next discussion will be of the book DEAD ZONE by Stephen King.

2. Speaking of "dead zones," Holmdel is soon to become one as far as science fiction activity is concerned. The Holmdel Science Fiction Club has a serious problem. Every one of its officers is being transferred to Lincroft in May of this year or sooner. It is unlikely that anyone will have the time or the inclination to manage the club at two sites. Managing the club entails such things as scheduling meetings, rooms, etc. If there are going to be science fiction activities at Holmdel, someone has to organize them. I have done this work for four years, but soon I will not be around to do it. There is not a whole lot of work to do, I will continue to write the notice, but the work either will get done or it won't. If there are volunteers to manage activities for Holmdel, let me know.

"This is our most desperate hour."
-- Princess Leia Organa

3. WORLD OF THE PTAVVS by Larry Niven is not currently available to be read for discussion so we have moved forward the discussion of EARTH ABIDES by George R. Stewart.

Mark Leeper
HO 2B-515 x7093

VENOM

a film review by Mark R. Leeper

VENOM is a fairly standard crime melodrama from Britain that is being packaged in this country as a horror film. There are only minor horror elements in this film and the suspense is not well enough sustained to keep this film in theaters or memory for very long. The coincidences that pack the story line kill VENOM's credibility.

As the story opens young Philip Hopkins has two problems that he does not know about. One problem is that he is about to be kidnapped by two family servants and an international criminal. The other is that, through a mix-up, the harmless pet snake his grandfather has ordered will not be delivered to him and instead he will receive a black mamba, the world's deadliest snake. Not too surprisingly, the kidnapers are soon in as much danger as their victim, trapped in a house and stalked by police outside and the silent predator inside. Not to fear though, in true storybook fashion the two problems, the snake and the kidnapers, just sort of take care of each other and all the good people live happily ever after.

VENOM can boast only a moderately suspenseful plot and not much credibility, but at least it sports a very good cast. Included are Oliver Reed and Klaus Kinski as kidnapers, Nicol Williamson -- who has an odd way of becoming the most memorable part of any film he is in -- is a Scottish police detective who marshals the forces of the police against the kidnapers. Also on hand are Cornelia Sharp as the boy's mother. Sarah Miles, as a snake expert, is pulled into the besieged house to provide the kidnapers with some theoretical information about snake handling while Sterling Hayden plays the victim's grandfather. Having led safaris in Africa he is equipped to give the kidnapers more practical information about handling their cylindrical adversary.

VENOM might easily nestle into the bottom corner of some double bill, but on its own, the story, like the snake, is too thin for its length.