

Lincroft-Holmdel Science Fiction Club  
Club Notice - 5/22/85 -- Vol. 3, No. 45

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are on Wednesdays at noon.  
LZ meetings are in LZ 3A-206; HO meetings are in HO 2N-523.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
06/05	LZ: WAR DAY (audio cassette)
06/12	HO: GREAT SF 1 (1939) edited by Isaac Asimov and Martin Greenberg
06/26	LZ: TACTICS OF MISTAKE by Gordon R. Dickson (War & the Military)
07/03	HO: JOB: A COMEDY OF JUSTICE by Robert Heinlein
07/17	LZ: THIS IMMORTAL by Roger Zelazny (Immortality)
07/24	HO: DAMIANO by R. A. MacAvoy
08/07	LZ: A CASE OF CONSCIENCE by James Blish (Religion)
08/14	HO: THE INTEGRAL TREES by Larry Niven
08/28	LZ: DINOSAUR BEACH by Keith Laumer (Time Travel)
09/18	LZ: THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES by Ray Bradbury (Near Future History)
10/09	LZ: THE SHEEP LOOK UP by John Brunner (Catastrophes)

HO Chair is Mark Leeper, HO 1E-412 (834-2657). LZ Chair is Rob Mitchell, LZ 1B-306 (576-6106). LZ Librarian is Lance Larsen, LZ 3C-219 (576-2668). HO Librarian is Tim Schroeder, HO 2G-427A (949-5866). Jill-of-all-trades is Evelyn Leeper, HO 1B-500A (834-4723).

1. Once again we are having a filmfest on Thursday evening, May 30, 7:30pm at the fabled Leeper home. This time the subject is

Deals with the Devil!  
ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY (1941) dir. by William Dieterle  
BEDAZZLED (1967) dir. by Stanley Donen

ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY (aka THE DEVIL AND DANIEL WEBSTER), based on the story D&DW by Stephen Vincent Benet, is a visual classic with John Huston as Mr. Scratch, the devil and Edward Arnold as Daniel Webster. The musical score by Bernard Herrmann won an oscar.

What can I tell you about BEDAZZLED? I think this is the only film in which Dudley Moore is really funny but he is hilarious in this, together with his old partner Peter Cook as George Spiggot, the Devil. This is an amazing retelling of the Faust story with Moore being a nebbish short order cook at a Wimpyburger who is in love with a waitress who doesn't know he exists. Spiggot offers him seven wishes in return for his soul. All he has to do is specify what he wants. Ah, but therein lies the rub. This is one of the funniest comedies I know of with a script that was great the first time and gets better as I notice new touches in it. Funny film.

\*\*\*\*\*Presorted\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Leeper, Evelyn C. \*  
\* 114A HO 1B-500A \*  
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2. Unlike a certain offshoot SF club (to go unnamed, but its zip code is 07733), the Lincroft Leaders have daring, initiative, and flexibility. We're modifying our schedule a bit. On June 5, we'll be postponing our discussion of TACTICS OF MISTAKE and instead be listening to the cassette tape of WAR DAY, the same one played up the road on May 22. [-Rob Mitchell, a.k.a. mtuxo!jjrt]

3. This is one of my pet peeves with some science fiction writers. Back in the days of the Saturday afternoon serials they would give them flamboyant names like KING OF THE ROCKET MEN. This would conjure up in kiddees' minds some society of rocket scientists somewhere and some super-scientist ruling over it. Actually it was about one man with a rocket suit named Jeff King. So the "rocket men" are all one man named King. This title promises one sort of story and the film delivers something fairly different with the implicit statement "Oh, sorry if you misunderstood our title."

In fact, we see the same game played by respected science fiction authors. A prime example just came to my attention. Orson Scott Card titled a recent novel ENDER'S GAME. That title conjures up interesting ideas. In fact many games can be turned over in the end-game. Players in various games can "shoot-the-moon" as they see some sort of game coming to an end. Particularly since they have nothing to lose. Somebody with a good endgame plan can make any sort of game interesting. This is just the principle that might make Card's alien invasion story interesting. It may even be there. But I just read a review of the story that said the story took its name from the main character named Ender. "Oh, sorry if you misunderstood the title."

Mark Leeper  
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...mtgzz!leeper



FAR FRONTIERS II (edited by Jerry Pournelle and Jim Baen)

Baen Books, 1985, \$2.95.

A book review by Mark R. Leeper

About a month ago I reviewed Volume I of Far Frontiers, a magazine-in-book-form from Baen Books. I enjoyed that and had high expectations for the second volume. I won't leave you in suspense: the second volume is a let-down. The politics of the first book is still present, but a little heavier-handed. Open the book precisely to the half-way point. Your left hand has in it only one story that need not be happening just before or just after a world-wide holocaust. That one story Pournelle opines is probably also post-holocaust, but it is not obvious from the story.

Curiously enough, while the fiction seems to be trying to tell us to prepare for survival, the non-fiction is considerably less political than in Far Frontiers I. Pournelle's article "A Step Further Out" is actually a book review column. He recommends Godel, Escher, Bach by Douglas Hofstadter, The Recursive Universe by William Poundstone, and Quantum Theory and the Schism in Physics by Karl Popper. These are fairly diverse science books. Articles are also present by Robert W. Bussard (famous for conceptualizing the Bussard engine) with more information on the Fermi Paradox, which was discussed in the last issue. Pournelle uses the introduction for a veiled criticism of the L-5 Society. ("By that time the L-5 Society was racked with an internal power struggle that seemed to involve me." My understanding is that the power struggle involved Pournelle pushing for L-5 to endorse the Strategic Defense Initiative. The people struggling against him, many of whom were pro-SDI, realized that endorsement would alienate many members.)

Finally, there is an article by G. Harry Stine chronicling private enterprises' attempts to get into the space launch business. It is a bit over-optimistic, I am told. The book review section, provided by Richard Geis, is reasonable, but he tells too darn much of the plot.

Now to the stories. "Nuclear Autumn" by Ben Bova is not really a story. It is a right-wing account of what will happen if we do not maintain a good defense against the Soviets. Like Robinson's "Melancholy Elephants," it is a political argument with characters instead of a story.

"Talon" by John Brunner is only slightly less political argument and more story. Curiously enough, however, this story takes military hawks to task. It seems an overly-optimistic view of how one village survived nuclear winter. I have to give Pournelle and Baen credit. I cannot believe they agree with all of the political implications of this story. They published it anyway.

"Petrogypsies" has a novel idea for oil drilling, but does not do much with the idea. The first of the two recommended stories is "A Cure for the Croup" by Edward P. Hughes. After depletion of the ozone layer has made

most men sterile, we see that fertility carries with it a heavy responsibility. "Evileye" by Dean Ing runs a close third. The story deals with the mollusk intelligence that Robert Forward discussed in the last issue. It is a pleasant read but not a very imaginative story.

"Software Plague" by John Park is pretty blah, though in some ways reminiscent of The Ship Who Sang by Anne McCaffrey.

In reverse order the last two stories are "House of Weapons" by Gordon R. Dickson and "Avenging Angel." At 65 pages, "House of Weapons" is a big piece of the book. It is the third of Dickson's stories of the politics of the Aalaang, alien invaders who have conquered Earth. The story is mediocre, but a cut above the other work it begs comparison to, V.

The best story in the volume is second from the end. "Avenging Angel" by Eric L. Davin is an alternate history telling how the Confederacy developed the intermediate-range ballistic missile in the closing days of the Civil War. There are parallels in Peenemunde, the Manhattan Project, and The Wild, Wild West. In the end it makes a serious point about strategy.

While its predecessor was really quite enjoyable to read, Far Frontiers, Volume II, is a step downhill. There is more and better reading available more cheaply in a copy of F&SF, Analog, or Amazing. Unless you like paying a premium for the book format, you might want to stick to more traditional magazines.