

Lincroft-Holmdel Science Fiction Club
Club Notice - 6/26/85 -- Vol. 3, No. 50

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>
07/03	HO: THE INTEGRAL TREES by Larry Niven
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: ? (11AM)
08/28	LZ: DINOSAUR BEACH by Keith Laumer (Time Travel)
09/04	HO: ? (11AM)
09/11	MT: Organizational Meeting (tentative)
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. What Rob Mitchell last week called "the only important SF club in the area" will meet again next week, only this time it will be the real and genuine original chapter of "the only important SF club in the area." That is, as everyone knows, the Holmdel Chapter. The fact that Rob takes some pride is in being part of our club is, of course, a nice thing for him. It is sort of akin to a gorilla who sees New York City and concludes "We primates really seem to run the world."

And speaking of primates who are a little out of their normal environment, our next discussion in the metropolis of Holmdel will be Larry Niven's story of humans living in a stellar smoke ring. The name of the book is THE INTEGRAL TREES. It is available in the Holmdel SF Club library and in most bookstores. Read it. Then discuss it on July 3. HO 2N-523. Noon.

2. Attached is a write-up on what the "Holmdel-Lincroft Science Fiction Club" is. This piece was written for NESFA (New England Science Fiction Association), which has asked various groups for descriptions of themselves and their activities. [-ecl]

3. And speaking of which, if anyone has a good name for the Club other than the "Holmdel-Lincroft Science Fiction Club" (since we

*****Presorted*****
* Leeper, Evelyn C. *
* 114A HO 1B-500A *

will be active in MT soon also, and the "Holmdel-Lincroft-Middletown Science Fiction Club" is somewhat lengthy. [-ecl]

Mark Leeper
HO 1E-412 834-2657
...mtgzz!leeper

Science Fiction at AT&T
An article by Mark R. Leeper

Science fiction at AT&T? It seems like a natural, doesn't it? AT&T are the people who build those impressive bulbous buildings at World's Fairs and places like the Epcot Center. Bell Laboratories has a reputation for being the starting point of the future with the invention of nice little gizmos like the transistor and the laser and discoveries like the background radiation from the Big Bang. Well, in 1978 when Mark and Evelyn Leeper (your humble authors) came to Bell Labs, science fiction activity was a handful of people who shared a subscription to the Science Fiction Book Club and traded off books. It wasn't that there was a lack of interest, but nobody wanted to take on the awesome responsibility of organizing a club for AT&T employees. It was something of a struggle to find ten people to say they were interested.

Today the "Holmdel-Lincroft Science Fiction Club" is, as far as we know, the largest science fiction society in New Jersey (please hold your applause till the end) with over 160 members. Sponsored by AT&T, through good times and divestiture, as an unadvertised fringe benefit for its employees (AT&T, incidentally, contributes only money and space--they take no responsibility for the actions of the Science Fiction Club, just as the Club takes no responsibility for the actions of AT&T--it's a comfortable relationship), the Club has members at 19 AT&T locations and activities at two (Holmdel and Lincroft, New Jersey). At each location there is an active science fiction lending library packed into whatever spare office space we can muster. There are also tri-weekly meetings, typically to discuss a book chosen at a previous meeting, but we also show videotapes, sponsor book exchanges, listen to radio recordings, and generally do what we can to keep out of mischief over lunch hour.

The binding thread of the Club is the weekly science fiction notice, which features slanted editorials, more slanted book and film reviews by members, tidbits of juicy gossip gleaned from members attending science fiction conventions, arguments between members, and reprints of articles of science fiction interest from an electronic bulletin board. AT&T employees wishing to be absorbed into this organism may do so by sending their name, company mailing address, electronic mail address (if you wish to receive the Notice electronically) and phone number to Mark Leeper, HO 1E-412 (electronic address: ihnp4!mtgzz!leeper).

COCOON

A film review by Mark R. Leeper

Cocoon is funny and warm and touching; it has pretty aliens and Industrial Light and Magic special effects. It also is manipulative, inconsistent, and is really lousy as a piece of science fiction. In the tradition of E. T. and Starman, there is very little to think about after seeing Cocoon, but if you like laughing and crying in a film, and you laugh and cry easily, go and have a good time.

The story has two related plotlines with two sets of main characters. They touch only occasionally until they merge toward the end of the film. One line concerns an alien expedition to Earth; the other concerns the effects that rejuvenation would have on a dismal retirement community. Oddly enough, if there are any ideas in the film at all, they are connected with the rejuvenation theme. The expedition story is unoriginal. It gives an excuse to show some special effects, but it also panders--quite unnecessarily it reaches to pull in the legend of Atlantis, and in doing so undermines its own credibility. The rejuvenation theme is sort of a re-hash of the Twilight Zone story "Kick the Can." If you enjoy seeing actors like Don Ameche break-dancing (through use of stunt doubles), Cocoon is for you.

As science fiction, this film is really very unsatisfying. If you consider the technology level of the aliens, what they need help from humans for and what they simply do not do for themselves is highly inconsistent. The risk exposure and they risk the failure of their expedition in ways that even our own level of technology could avoid. But then I do not think that science fiction is really the thrust of the story. This is actually a light fantasy story with a few science fiction trappings thrown in.

I cannot even say this is a bad film. The audience that liked E. T. and Starman will probably find Cocoon to be a lot of fun. They will gasp at the effects, weep at the sad parts, feel tense as the forces of badness seem to be winning, and then feel elated when goodness wins. They will, in fact, pay their admission and get on the same roller coaster ride they have ridden before. For me, I hate to see this sort of thing replace science fiction films. I rate it a flat zero on the old -4 to +4 scale.

SCIENCE FICTION ART SHOW
and
FIRST ANNUAL SCIENCE FICTION FILM FESTIVAL

The New Jersey State Museum is sponsoring a

SCIENCE FICTION ART SHOW

from July 6 through August 25. Artists to be displayed include:

Vincent Di Fate
Kelly Freas
Karl Kofoed
Don Maitz
David Mattingly
Glen Schofield
Ron Walotsky
Jenny Wurtz

Also, the New Jersey State Museum is sponsoring its

FIRST ANNUAL SCIENCE FICTION FILM FESTIVAL

from July 7 through September 1. The schedule is as follows:

July 6,7	STAR WARS (1977) and HARDWARE WARS (1977)
July 13,14	THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (1980)
July 20, 21	STAR WARS TO JEDI: THE MAKING OF A SAGA (1983)
July 20 (only)	THE RIGHT STUFF (1983)
July 27,28	TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA (1954)
August 3,4	JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (1959)
August 10,11	THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD (1951)
August 17,18	FORBIDDEN PLANET (1956)
August 24,25	2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1968)
Aug. 31, Sept. 1	2010: ODYSSEY TWO (1984)

All showings are at 2:00 PM, except for those on July 20 (Space Day).
On July 20, STAR WARS TO JEDI: THE MAKING OF A SAGA will run at
11:00 AM and THE RIGHT STUFF at 2:30 PM.

The Museum will also have a lot of special programming (speakers,
video, planetarium shows, etc.) on Space Day (July 20) itself.
Details for these will be posted separately.

Admission to the Museum is free. The Museum is located at
205 W. State St, Trenton, NJ. For further information, contact
either the State Museum at 609-292-6333 (it is open Tuesday thru
Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM, Sunday 1:00 PM thru 5:00 PM)
or write to:

North Jersey L5 Society
P. O. Box 674
Holmdel, NJ 07733