

Lincroft/Holmdel Science Fiction Discussion Group  
Club Notice - 6/23/82 -- Vol. 4, No. 35

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>
6/30/82	THE ORPHAN by Robert Stallman (LZ 1M-206: TOD MANY MAGICIANS by Randall Garrett)
7/21/82	DUNE MESSIAH by Frank Herbert
8/11/82	A WRINKLE IN TIME by Madelaine L'Engle
9/01/82	DREAM PARK by Larry Niven and Steve Barnes
9/22/82	PROJECT POPE by Clifford D. Simak
10/13/82	THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER by Gene Wolfe
11/03/82	STARSHIP & HAIKU by Somtow Sucharitkul
11/24/82	FRANKENSTEIN by Mary Shelley
12/15/82	DIADEM FROM THE STARS by Jo Clayton
1/12/83	THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS by John Wyndham

Our library is in HO 4B-510. Mike Lukacs (x4043) is librarian.  
John Jetzt (HO 1F-615A x6153) is Chairperson. Alan M. Gopin  
(HO 1D-407 x2089) is the game chairperson.

1. Please note the upcoming meetings listed above.
2. This is probably the last notice to be sent to the combined Holmdel/Lincroft Science Fiction Club. John Jetzt has graciously volunteered to chair the Holmdel Science Fiction Club after July 1 (well, we did threaten to break his thumbs if he didn't). If possible, the Lincroft Science Fiction Club (which is still unofficial) will continue to send its notices to the Chairperson and Librarian of the Holmdel Science Fiction Club, which may choose to include items from them in their own notice.

It may be selfish of me, but I hate to give up our Bell Labs members, the vast majority of the club. My authorship of a notice will go on at American Bell, but it will not be the same as a notice for science fiction fans all over one of the leading research centers of the world. People who know me know that I am an ambivert. I am introverted until I feel comfortable around people, then I start joking and punning until they wish I was uncomfortable again. The notice made an entire club of steadily rising size (there are 140 of us now) a single entity that I could always kid around with or discuss film with, two things I love doing. Thanks.

3. Members of the club with old business to clear up can contact me at Lincroft on 576-2571 or at home on 566-2965. I will be in Boston for a class 6/27 to 7/4. Live long and prosper!

Mark Leeper  
LZ 3E-215 x2571

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## THE THING: A Classic Horror Story Comes to the Screen

A film review by Mark R. Leeper

In August, 1938, John W. Campbell -- one of the pivotal forces in 20th Century science fiction -- wrote a story part science fiction, part mystery thriller, part horror story. "Who Goes There?" has remained one of the most popular science fiction stories ever written. Thirty years ago Howard Hawks misused the story as the basis for an almost entirely different science fiction film, THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD. This film, too, became a classic. That Hawks entirely changed the concept of the story is hardly surprising; the nature of the monster in the story would probably have never been understood by early Fifties audiences. The horror content would have been too strong and, more to the point, the visual effects would have been a technical impossibility. But it is thirty years later now. After ALIEN, audiences have come to expect technical virtuosity in visual effects and solid doses of horror. One of the chief purveyors of current screen horror is John Carpenter and his current project is a second and considerably more faithful adaptation of the Campbell story. Carpenter calls his film THE THING.

Carpenter's story is set in the Antarctic winter of 1982. The monotony of life at an American base is shattered with the arrival of a sled dog running for its life from a pursuing Norwegian helicopter. In their efforts to kill the dog, and, if need be, anyone else who gets in the way, the Norwegians are killed and the dog finds sanctuary in the presence of the twenty or so humans at the American base. The Americans have made their first mistake in a chain of events that will decimate their numbers and could destroy every living creature in the world. The nature of that menace is as new to the screen today as it was to science fiction in 1938. The surprise and novelty of that menace is the film's main virtue and so cannot be revealed here without destroying the impact of THE THING. Suffice it to say that the spirit of the film is much like that of ALIEN, with many similar special effects, some of which will be too potent for younger children.

One of the chief disappointments of Carpenter's THE THING is the emphasis of the script. In the story, the alien was not just a menace, it was a scientific problem to be solved more by logic than by brute force. The film's chief weakness is that the only man who bothers to use logic is a helicopter pilot in a cowboy hat (Kurt Russell). The story needed more of the feel of ANDROMEDA STRAIN with its logical, comprehensible scientists. All the good ideas just