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## **MEETINGS UPCOMING:**

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are on Wednesdays at noon. LZ meetings are in LZ 3A-206; MT meetings are in the cafeteria.

05/25 LZ: THE MAKING OF 2001 by Jerry Abel (The Creative Process) 06/15 LZ: The Oz Books by Frank L. Baum (Oz)

05/14 Science Fiction Association of Bergen County: Mike Sargent (phone 201-933-2724 for details)

05/21 New Jersey Science Fiction Society: TBA (phone 201-432-5965 for details)

09/01 NOLACON II (46th World Science Fiction Convention), New Orleans.

-09/05 Info: Nolacon II, 921 Canal St., Suite 831, New Orleans LA 70112 (504) 525-6008.

HO Chair: John Jetzt HO 1E-525 834-1563 mtuxo!jetzt LZ Chair: Rob Mitchell LZ 1B-306 576-6106 mtuxo!jrrt MT Chair: Mark Leeper MT 3E-433 957-5619 mtgzz!leeper HO Librarian: Tim Schroeder HO 3M-420 949-5866 homxb!tps LZ Librarian: Lance Larsen LZ 3L-312 576-6142 lzfme!lfl MT Librarian: Will Harmon MT 3C-406 957-5128 mtgzz!wch Factotum: Evelyn Leeper MT 1F-329 957-2070 mtgzy!ecl All material copyright by author unless otherwise noted.

1. On Thursday May 12 at 7 PM, the Leeperhouse Film Festival will present one of the great epic historical films of all times:

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (1962) dir. by David Lean

I won't bother to tell you if it is a good film. However:

Director: David Lean (\_ B\_ r\_ i\_ e\_ f\_ E\_ n\_ c\_ o\_ u\_ n\_ t\_ e\_ r, \_ G\_ r\_ e\_ a\_ t \_ E\_ x\_ p\_ e\_ c\_ t\_ a\_ t\_ i\_ o\_ n\_ s, \_ O\_ l\_ i\_ v\_ e\_ r \_ \_ T\_ w\_ i\_ s\_ t, \_ T\_ h\_ e\_ S\_ o\_ u\_ n\_ d\_ B\_ a\_ r\_ r\_ i\_ e\_ r, \_ T\_ h\_ e \_ B\_ r\_ i\_ d\_ g\_ e\_ o\_ v\_ e\_ r\_ t\_ h\_ e\_ R\_ i\_ v\_ e\_ r\_ K\_ w\_ a\_ i, \_ L\_ a\_ w\_ r\_ e\_ n\_ c\_ e \_ \_ o\_ f\_ A\_ r\_ a\_ b\_ i\_ a, \_ D\_ r. \_ Z\_ h\_ i\_ v\_ a\_ g\_ o, \_ A\_ P\_ a\_ s\_ s\_ a\_ g\_ e \_ t\_ o\_ I\_ n\_ d\_ i\_ a)

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Cast: Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, Alec Guiness, Arthur Kennedy, Jack Hawkins, Donald Wolfit, Claude Rains, Anthony Quayle, Anthony Quinn, Jose Ferrer

Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinamatography, Best Score

- 2. Warning: There is a S t a r T r e k spoiler in item 4.
- 3. [From the NY Times, April 28, 1988] MINNEAPOLIS, April 27 (AP) Clifford Donald Simak, a newspaperman and an award-winning writer of science fiction, died Monday at Riverside Medical Center in Minneapolis. He was 83 years old.

Mr. Simak wrote more than two dozen novels, several nonfiction science books and hundreds of short stories during his 37-year career as reporter, city desk editor and science editor for The Minneapolis Star and The Minneapolis Tribune.

Among his better-known titles are "City," published in 1952; "Way Station" (1963); "The Visitors" (1979) and "Skirmish: the Great Short Fiction of Clifford D. Simak," comprising stories he published from 1944 to 1975.

He received three Hugo awards, regarded as the Oscar of science-fiction writing, and three Science Fiction [Writers] of America Nebula Awards, including the Grand [Master] in recognition of his entire collection of work. He was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 1973.

Mr. Simak was born on a farm in southwestern Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin for a short time. He taught school for several years before taking the first of several newspaper jobs in 1929. He began his career with the Star and the Tribune in 1939.

Many science-fiction writers wrote of invincible supermen, but Mr. Simak wrote about common people who didn't always win.

"I have tried at times to place humans in perspective against the vastness of universal time and space," he once said. "I have been concerned with where we, as a race, may be going and what may be our purpose in the universal scheme - if we have a purpose.

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"In general, I believe we do, and perhaps an important one."

Mr Simak's wife of 56 years, Agnes, died in 1985. He is survived by a daughter, a son, and a brother.

4. Well, as promised, \_\_S\_\_t\_\_a\_\_r\_\_T\_\_r\_\_e\_\_k: \_\_T\_\_h\_\_e\_\_N\_\_e\_\_x\_\_t G\_\_e\_\_n\_\_e\_\_r\_a\_\_t\_\_i\_\_o\_\_n has killed off a major character. Lots of folks I know were hoping it would be Wesley. If you ask me I think every starship needs a Wesley crusher. But it turns out that the first major character to bite interstellar dust is Yar. Well, I never liked that name. It always sounded like something Robert Newton would say when he was playing Long John Silver: "Yar, me maties, there's treasure for

everyone down on the Worf." Yup, she's on that big Enterprise in the sky.

Anyway, do you know the difference between "prime" and "choice"? No? Well, you're in good company. The crew of the Enterprise always seems to treat the Prime Directive as if it were the Choice Directive: follow it only if the scriptwriter chooses to. In this episode, the crew had found the only known member of an alien species and were proceeding to flame-broil it with phasers. It wasn't bad enough that the Earthers invaded this poor thing's planet; they also have to start frying him/her/it/whatever.

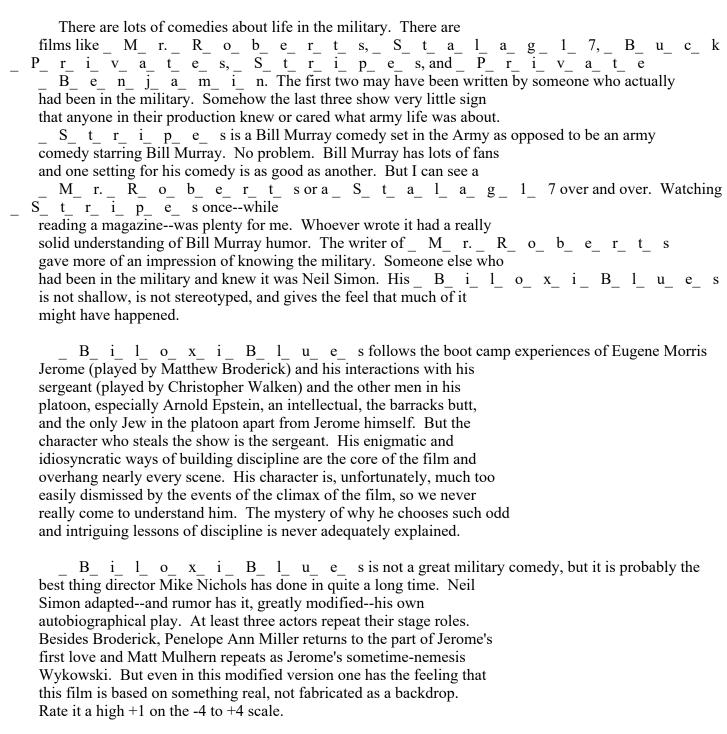
So in the resulting melee Yar bought the farm. okay, at least she went out fighting. That is in the grand adventure tradition. But could they leave it at that? Noooo! Flash to the funeral--in fact, that's just what the transporter did with most of the main characters. Anyway, who is there? Not one person from the Security Staff. These people worked with her and didn't bother going to the funeral. What does that tell you? Anyway, they are at the funeral and a three-dimensional photographic image of Yar shows up over the grave and tells everyone how they've been just swell. I mean, is that a reasonable ending for the militant Yar? Here, she went out fighting and the writers still make her final scenes maudlin. Should this be the way Yar ends? "Not with a bang but a whimper..." Like something out of "The Holo-men." I mean, geez!

5. I have to go now. Bad news. Evelyn has just handed me my mail and there is an annoucement from my HMO. Apparently due to financial problems they feel the need to resort to a policy of triage.

Mark Leeper MT 3E-433 957-5619 ...mtgzz!leeper

## BILOXI BLUES A film review by Mark R. Leeper Copyright 1988 Mark R. Leeper

Capsule review: Matthew Broderick recreates his stage role as Eugene Jerome, who goes to boot camp in Mississippi. The film's greatest virtue is the portrayal of the troubled and enigmatic platoon sergeant. It's greatest fault is that the enigma is side-stepped rather than solved. Still, this is a credible view of a World War II army boot camp. Rating: high +1.



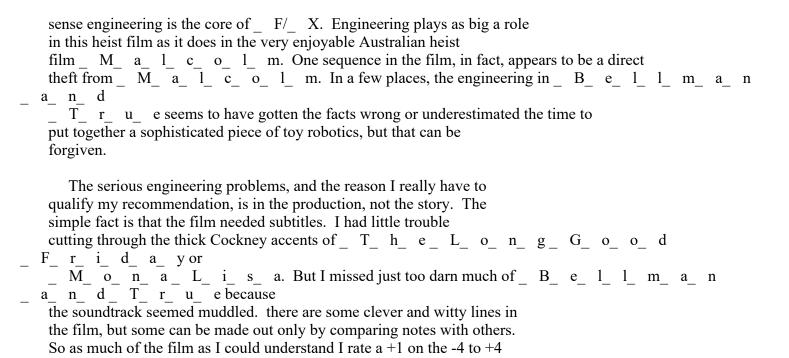
## BELLMAN AND TRUE A film review by Mark R. Leeper Copyright 1988 Mark R. Leeper

Capsule review: Enjoyable heist film from England has a plot that should interest engineers. Not a bad little film, if not up to some of the crime films that have come from Britain of late. Unfortunately, the soundtrack is indistinct and much of the dialogue is lost. Rating: +1.

One tends to think of the United States for crime films. (I distinguish between crime films and detective films; a crime film is seen mostly from the criminal's point of view.) Having had a large piece of English-speaking crime, we have also been readier to make crime films than has England. yet there have always been a number of modest little crime films made in England. Films like \_ L \_ e\_ a\_ g\_ u\_ e\_ o\_ f \_ G\_ e\_ n\_ t\_ l\_ e\_ m\_ e\_ n, \_ T\_ h\_ e \_ \_ L\_ a\_ v\_ e\_ n\_ d\_ e\_ r\_ H\_ i\_ l\_ l\_ M\_ o\_ b, and \_ T\_ h\_ e\_ L\_ a\_ d\_ y\_ k\_ i\_ l\_ l\_ e\_ r\_ s have been likable but have not gotten much attention. More recently some better films have been made, including \_ T\_ h\_ e\_ L\_ o\_ n\_ g\_ G\_ o\_ o\_ d\_ F\_ r\_ i\_ d\_ a\_ y and \_ M\_ o\_ n\_ a\_ L\_ i\_ s\_ a. \_ B\_ e\_ l\_ l\_ m\_ a\_ n \_ a\_ n\_ d\_ T\_ r\_ u\_ e is a throwback to the earlier, more modest British heist films.

Bernard Hill plays Hiller, an electronics systems analyst who has accepted a 1000-pound advance to pas bank data to some criminals. Unable to deliver the data in any form but on magnetic tape, he runs away, only to be kidnapped (along with his stepson) by the people he was fleeing. They want more than their money back: they want an electronics expert to help them rob a bank. The film is about evenly divided between the story of the heist and Hiller's relationship with his son as they are caught up in the robbery scheme.

Frankly, being an engineer myself, I have a fondness for films in which engineering plays an important part and even tips the scales. \_ T\_ h\_ e \_ D\_ a\_ m\_ B\_ u\_ s\_ t\_ e\_ r\_ s--one of my favorite war films--is as much a film about solving wartime engineering problems as it is about soldiering. In a



scale.

