

MEMPHEN 69

MEMPHEN 69 - Perpetrated by Greg Bridges for the Memphis Science Fiction Association and as a tradezine. Edited by Frank Jordan. The mailing address for MEMPHEN is 266 Garland, Memphis, TN 38104. Club Dues for the Memphis Science Fiction Association are \$5 per annum and should go to the club address which is P.O. Box 12534, Memphis, TN 38182-0543. Make any checks to Frank Jordan (Club Treasurer). Meetings for the MSFA are the second and fourth Sundays of the month (times and places announced in this bulletin. This is our 14th year of publication. COPYRIGHT 1984

APRIL MEETINGS

APRIL 8 (SUNDAY) We will have a belated April Fool's celebration at the home of Bill and Carol Struve, 95 N. Willett. If you wish to attend the soiree, the tomfoolery will commence at 5:00PM. Their number is 274-6578 if you wish to find out if anything is needed for the evening's repast. There will also be a short post-mortem of the recent whirlwind called MidSouthCon III. SEE YA THERE!!!!!!!

April 22 (SUNDAY) This meeting will commence at 4:00pm in the apartment of the editor of this zine (namely me) at 1922 Ezell #5. My number should you wish to provide provender for the gathering is 685-1049 (if ya didn't already know). Make plans to be there OR BE LEFT OUT ON THE BEGINNINGS OF MIDSOUTHCON IV (4 not intravenous; for those of the medical persuasion). Bring your suggestions as to what, where, who, and most important of all, WHY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well, beings of male, female, and other genders, it has come and gone. That event we looked forward to for so long (What, me worry?). MidSouthCon III is in our past to be remembered for it's brief existence, (or in my case, when will it end??). Overall a successful undertaking. There were 217 persons registered at the last count that I heard late Saturday night. This number is more than twice what we had for the second of the series. See what a little planning will do!?!? Ms. Cherryh and Ms. Middleton were delightful as the pro and fan guests of honor, while Steve Dodd showed off his magnificent work to all members of the con in the art show (Oh, only if I could afford one of those pieces of scenery!!!!). The huxters room was well stocked with all sort of goodies for sale. The video room was well attended primarily due to the splendid movie schedule provided by Sid Jones and Rod Morrow. Also we should give many thanks to Randy and Jackie Watkins for their fine gift of loaning their projection TV for the weekend's use. As to what else transpired you'll have to ask some of the others in attendance for I could not be everywhere at all times(?!?). So long for now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Frank Jordan (ex-chairman)

THE ICE PIRATES

The story, the plot, the characters, and the special effects (hardly worth the effort) of this cinematic release left me somewhat cold. Why did I really spend my cash on this movie? Really, it wasn't that bad of an attempt at a humorous flick.

There were many obvious borrowings of plot lines, scenery, and crude jokes in this movie. There were on the other hand (sinister?) some originality, but not much.

The plot revolves around the main character played by Robert Yurich late of "VEGAS" on TV. There is a severe shortage of water after a "galactic war" and this fact give rise to the occupation of stealing from the rich and keeping it for yourself. Yurich (you'll have to forgive me, but I've forgotten his character's name (what a dunderhead?+?)) is the Ice Pirate of the title and is attempting abscond with some hard water when he encounters the princess played by Mary Crosby (what's her character's name- Queen Sabe?). He falls in love and is captured by the evil regent. (Brother, what a plot line!).

The princess is being kept under house guard after she learns that her father has found the "SEVENTH PLANET", where there is water aplenty for all. She is told her father was killed, but she believes otherwise. Such is the motivation for the story. Oh, well with such ignoble beginnings the attempt was not half bad but it wasn't half good, either.

If this movie shows up on cable, as it assuredly will, then I would recommend you see it, but don't take time out to go to a theater to and view it. It's not worth it.

SPLASH

This was the first Touchstone movie I have seen. Touchstone is the new Disney/Buena Vista/(?)Paramount(?) distributing or production company. Someone correct me if I'm wrong. These movies will have a more adult approach than the regular Disney fare. SPLASH is evidence of this marketing approach.

'Madison' is a mermaid, who can change her shape to that of a definite human female(++) and can in the span of a afternoon learn to speak English from watching the TV display in Bloomingdales department store. I wonder how much Bloomingdales had to pay for that bit of advertising? By the way, Madison has also fallen in love with a human by the name of Al Bauer.

Al is a man who has definite love problems. When the movie opens he is being left by Vickie(?) who has shared his apartment for some time because he cannot say out right that he loves her and is willing to share the rest of his life with her in wedded bliss. This conflict causes him to flee New York for a while and winds up on a small island off of Cape Cod. He nearly drowns in the effort to reach the island and also loses his wallet (this is an important plot device). When he revives on the beach, he sees a beautiful naked lady who kisses him and

REVIEWS of this and that by FRANK JORDAN {What, not again?+?+?}

As I write this I have not received any other reviews from my usual sources. {Are you listening, Mike and Jackie???} So you'll have to suffer through my feeble attempts to report what I've read and seen.

THE PRIDE OF CHANUR, C.J. Cherryh (DAW-sf, 1982, 224 pages)

What would you do if an alien of disgusting proportions attempted to stow away on your merchant ship? Try to capture it, Right? Well, what would you do if as you aimed your weapon at it's thoracic region and it told you (in sign language) to go ahead and shoot? Well, Pyanfar of the Chanur had that very dilemma. She realized at once that the creature was intelligent and was trying to escape some other aliens, namely the kif.

The kif are the central villains of the piece. They will scheme, torture, loot, pillage, plunder, rape?, and attempt any other tactic of skullduggery they can think of while still trying to show that they are playing within the rules of the game. The alien found by Pyanfar in her ship had been apparently found or captured by the kif in some area of their nefarious patrols and were evidently trying to pry out the location of it's home space or planet from the almost hairless and clawless being.

Pyanfar, on her own authority as the captain of the Pride of Chanur, hides the alien to the almost ruination of herself, her ship, her family group, and her planet. For the kif will stop at nothing to regain possession of the escapee. It became a matter of 'pride' for both Pyanfar and the kif in the struggle over the creature.

The book is well written and with her usual flair, Ms. Cherryh has well populated the book with aliens, both oxygen and non-oxygen breathing. Her descriptions of the aliens are subtle, but well versed so that you have no doubt as to what the population of each race looks like. This is one of her many talents. Also, there is a subtle exposition of the politics and commerce of the loose mercantile federation. These descriptions of the aliens and political background do not interfere with the telling of the story. They enhance since we learn why Pyanfar does what she does.

A last comment before I tell you to go out and purchase this fine novel is that if you were able to attend her Sunday open discussion on physics and such in SF, you would recognize her feelings on the subject in this book. There are time lags in the reception of messages and radar contacts of other ships. Part of the conflict of the story is the inability of a ship to shed it's kinetic energy in order to dock with the station in a solar system and was almost lost in 'deepest space'. Ms. Cherryh stayed true to her own course in the treacherous waters of 'SF science'.

Oh, by the way, I heartily recommend that you rush out {at a suitable hour and in suitable dress} to purchase this book. I would lend you my copy, but I will soon be re-reading it.

then jumps into the water. This is Madison, of course, and when she finds his wallet and a map of New York(?) in a sunken ship she is tempted to visit him.

The rest of the story involves Al, Madison, and a crazed palaeontologist(?) (what his speciality is is never made quite clear!) who tries to prove to the world for his own satisfaction that Madison is a mermaid.

The movie is enjoyable on a first viewing, but would suffer in subsequent watches. I do recommend that you go see it especially for those ichthyologists among us(!).

That's all I have for now in the way of reviews. I hope there more involved in this aspect in the next issue. If you wish to review something that you have read or seen please send the review to Greg or me by way of the club address or Greg's address. Here's hoping to hear from you.

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