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Mt. Holz Science Fiction Society  
Club Notice - 10/30/92 -- Vol. 11, No. 18

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are on Wednesdays at noon.

\_ D \_ A \_ T \_ E                    \_ T \_ O \_ P \_ I \_ C

11/18 HO: DOOMSDAY BOOK by Connie Willis (Plagues) (HO 4N-509)  
 12/09 HO: A FIRE ON THE DEEP by Vernor Vinge (HO 4N-509)

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 \_ S \_ / \_ C \_ O \_ N \_ V \_ E \_ N \_ T \_ I \_ O \_ N \_ S \_ / \_ E \_ T \_ C .

11/14 SFABC: Science Fiction Association of Bergen County: TBA  
 (phone 201-933-2724 for details) (Saturday)  
 11/21 NJSFS: New Jersey Science Fiction Society: TBA  
 (phone 201-432-5965 for details) (Saturday)

HO Chair: John Jetzt    HO 1E-525 908-834-1563 hocpb!jetzt  
 LZ Chair: Rob Mitchell    HO 1D-505A 908-834-1267 hocpb!jrtr  
 MT Chair: Mark Leeper    MT 3D-441 908-957-5619 mtgzy!leeper  
 HO Librarian: Nick Sauer    HO 4F-427 908-949-7076 homxc!11366ns  
 LZ Librarian: Lance Larsen    LZ 3L-312 908-576-3346 mtfme!lfl  
 MT Librarian: Mark Leeper    MT 3D-441 908-957-5619 mtgzy!leeper  
 Factotum: Evelyn Leeper    MT 1F-329 908-957-2070 mtgzy!ecl  
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1. What does it take to be cool? Let me give you a hint. Right at this instant you are being uncool. The periodical L e F i g a r o of Paris reports that a French cereal company has published an "Are you cool?" quiz on the back of its box and French school children are avidly passing the quiz around. Question number three is, "Wow! Someone wants to give you a present. What would you choose: (a) a beautiful book; (b) a video game; (c) a camera." In scoring the test you get three coolness points for picking the game, two for the camera, and one for choosing the book. Of course, the grand prize for picking the coolest answer each time and getting all eighteen points is to have it say, "You are super-cool. You

love video games, sports, friends, and fun clothes; for you life is one big party and you're never boring." Of course, that could not be true of someone who'd choose a book over a video game. I will point out that just about the most boring person I can think of loved video games, sports, his school friends, and fun clothes. But perhaps what makes somebody interesting is a virtue to which

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you can relate. Perhaps the author of the quiz just did not relate well to readers.

Along similar lines I wanted to discuss the latest in Barbie Bombs. What is a Barbie Bomb? Well, as  M a d M a g a z i n e pointed out once, one of the best gifts you can get someone you hate is to give their daughter a Barbie doll. Once the little girl has the Surfing Barbie (which comes with just the plastic doll and about one square inch of bikini), for example, her parents have to buy eight different Barbie swimwear sets, the Barbie surfboard, the Barbie surfing shack, the Barbie suntan oil, the Barbie wave generator, etc., etc. Next year you give the girl Snow Bunny Skiing Barbie and so forth, working your way up to Freebasing Barbie.

Well, the current controversy is over Teentalk Barbie. Teentalk Barbie talks on the phone to a friend and says teenage sorts of things. One of the things she says is, "Math class is hard." This has gotten all sorts of people up in arms because it supposedly teaches little girls to hate math classes. Mattel has even set up an 800 number so people could call and give them what-for about the ill-chosen phone-byte.

Now, speaking as someone who preferred math class to study hall, I can tell you that people are looking at this issue all wrong. I think Mattel is really performing a public service. I think parents should get this doll for their daughters. And they should play with their kids. And when Teentalk Barbie says, "Math class is hard," they should look at the doll as if it were a real person who said that and say, "That's right, you little bimbo. If you spend all your time doing air-headed things like surfing, skiing, and talking on the phone, math class is going to be hard. My advice to you is 'go for the burn.'"

Mark Leeper  
MT 3D-441 908-957-5619  
...mtgzy!leeper

There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened.

-- Douglas Adams, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"