

Books

'2010' is more fun, but not as deep as '2001'

With the release of the movie "2010: odyssey two," interest in the book behind the film is bound to increase.

Although the film version of "2010" is reportedly more accessible than its predecessor, "2001: A Space Odyssey," you may still want to read the book before you see the new movie.

Even if you're not a science fiction buff, "2010: odyssey two" is one of those books that's hard to put down, once you've started reading.

Author Arthur C. Clarke has spun a tale based part on science fiction and part on the scientific facts that have been garnered since the novel and the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" were released. Some of the science fiction in the book "2001: A Space Odyssey" has become science fact in the intervening 14 years between books, and it will be interesting if some of the science fiction in "2010: odyssey two" (e.g., life on Jupiter) were to pass from fiction to fact in the near future.

If you want to enjoy the full impact of "2010" (the book), you may want to familiarize yourself with what went on in "2001." Although "2010" is easier to read and understand,

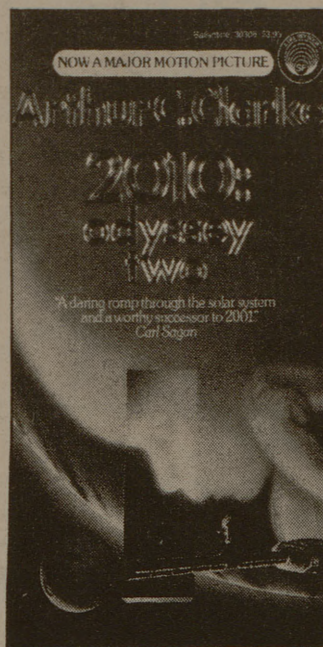
"2001" is a good book and sets the stage for "2010."

In a nutshell: in 2001, the U.S. sent the spacecraft Discovery to Jupiter in order to survey that planet and to examine a monolith placed in Jupiter's orbit by some alien presence. How do we know it was placed there? Because another monolith was found on the moon, and monoliths, especially ones with the configurations and properties of these monoliths, aren't random occurrences in space. The purpose of these monoliths are a mystery.

The mission to the monolith in Jupiter's orbit runs awry in 2001 when HAL, the Discovery's computer, kills everyone in the crew except for astronaut Dave Bowman. Bowman then has a showdown with HAL and must overcome several obstacles that the wily computer throws in his way.

Bowman eventually succeeds in shutting HAL down, then exits the Discovery and heads for the monolith. His last communication with Earth is the intriguing "My God, it's full of stars!"

Bowman's compatriots on earth are filled with wonder and curiosity about his fate and



exactly what he experienced inside the monolith, but it takes nine years to mount another mission to Jupiter.

In "2010," both the U.S. and the Russians are close to being ready to blast-off to Jupiter and its mysterious monolith and to attempt to discover what happened back in 2001. The Rus-

sians' mission will reach Jupiter ahead of the U.S. mission, but they need the Americans' knowledge to carry out the mission of bringing the Discovery's computer back to life and finding out what happened, so a joint venture is initiated.

From here on, Arthur Clarke proceeds at a pace that is well-timed and full of surprises. He blends the facts that have been uncovered by unmanned missions to Jupiter with creative and well-written science fiction to produce a novel that is more fun and exciting, although possibly not as "deep," as "2001: A Space Odyssey."

The U.S. and Russian crew aboard the spacecraft Leonov have several missions. They include: rendezvousing with the Discovery and finding out what happened to the mission in 2001, sending the Discovery back to Earth if possible, investigating the monolith (which is still the best part of the mission) and surveying Jupiter (if there's time after the other missions have been completed).

In the 14 years since "2001: A Space Odyssey" was released in book form, the tastes and desires of the reading public changed and this may be the

reason for the change in Clarke's style for "2010." The actual trip to Jupiter is faster and less detailed than it was in "2001" and once the crew gets there, the action is non-stop, with one surprise following another in quick order. In comparison, "2001" relied more on a slower more sustained sense of suspense that kept building throughout the story.

The suspense in "2010" is dished out in fast, short bursts and as soon as one problem seems to be solved, another pops up to take its place. The characters are developed as the story evolves, with each lending his talents and expertise to solve each crisis as it comes along. There is a series of messages in the story, just as there was in "2001," but the messages have changed somewhat in the intervening 14 years. The epilog, entitled "20,001" is especially enjoyable.

So, if you're a "2001" fan and are ready for another trip to Jupiter and that mysterious monolith, or if you just want to read a good novel, pick up a copy of "2010." It's great entertainment from one of the most creative minds in the field of science fiction.

A&M returns to feasting of old for Yuletide

By LEIGH-ELLEN CLARK
Senior Staff Writer

Lord and Lady Raleigh of Nottingham invite their friends from Aggieland to the fourth annual Yuletide MSC Madrigal Dinner. On Wednesday, December 5 through Sunday, December 9 the Memorial Student Center Banquet Rooms will be transformed into the manor of the Raleighs of Nottingham.

As in the days of old, the "Great Hall" will be the gathering place for the guests. Greeted by jugglers, magicians, musicians and assorted other

entertaining types, guests will mingle with characters from the Renaissance era. The Raleighs have invited special guests from Germany, France, Italy, Spain as well as "Lord and Lady Baffeled of Aggieland."

Behind all of the festivities will be the music of a string quartet and a brass quartet under the direction of Perry Norris.

Guests are encouraged to participate in sketches and singing but everything stops when the feast begins. You will know it's time to eat when Lord Ra-

leigh's jester, dressed in the traditional dress of the day, leads the guests to the dining hall.

For those who are really hungry, the fanfare that follows may be somewhat drawn-out before the feast — but what an impressive way to wait for your waiter. A toast for the Wassail cup, a blast from the trumpet and the food is paraded in by the serving lads and wenches.

The Lord and Lady are ushered in by madrigal singers, and an invocation is sung.

"The Madrigal Dinners are designed to enhance the

Christmas spirit of the Bryan-College Station community. They are planned with the individual in mind so that each person who attends is touched by the holiday spirit," Patricia Fleitas, Artistic Director for the program says.

And the holiday spirit is everywhere — the marketplace and the groaning board.

Finally, after everyone has eaten their fill, the Christmas concert will begin. The madrigal style of music is intricate and involves several vocal parts plus instrumentals.

The whole production involves about 50 people and is different from any other program on campus. People from the community and the campus have worked together to bring this holiday festival back to the MSC. Tickets are on sale in the MSC Box Office, \$14 for students and \$17 for general public.

There are plenty of tickets available for all shows except Saturday night. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and a Sunday matinee at 3:30 p.m.

The beer necessities of brewing at home

By LEIGH-ELLEN CLARK
Senior Staff Writer

A group of uncommon people with a common interest — beer brewed at home.

Every second Sunday of the month, 12 to 15 members of the Bryan/College Station Beer Brewing Club gather together over extract, hops and grain to make beers and polish their beer judging skills.

Jana Cezak, of Home Winery says the whole thing started when people came by the store and brought their own beers.

"They were wondering what

they did wrong or they were especially proud of their creation and would come by to ask questions," she says. About one and a half years ago, the group loosely organized (in that there are no designated officers) and began meeting at the Home Winery. There is no membership fee, but Cezak says that the possibility may come up.

"We're working on a newsletter and may need some money to cover the postage," she says.

The members exchange recipes and do a lot of tasting.

"To work on our judging

skills, we all chip in and buy some commercial beers and bring some home brewed ones in a particular category," Cezak says. Stouts, porters, pale ales and lagers are a few of the different kinds of beers that the members partake of at meetings.

The big interest in exercising the tastebuds is that the Beer Brewing Club enters contests with its own creations.

The members stole the show at The Dixie Cup contest, sponsored by the DeFalco company in Houston. DeFalco is a sup-

plier of wine making products.

The southwest region of home brewers came to the contest with its finest. And the Bryan/College Station Beer Brewers left with 13 ribbons.

There were 114 beers entered, 36 of them from Bryan/College Station in the 13 categories like the ones mentioned above. Best of Show is the competition where the first place winners from each category are entered to determine which one came closest to the type of beer it was supposed to be. Again,

the Beer Brewing club took first and third places.

Such successes take practice and the members try to get a lot of it. But Cezak says that occasionally they break away from the beer routine.

"Once we got a lot of peaches and made peach wine — that was fun, for a change of pace," she says.

For anyone interested in the club, they can drop by the Home Winery to learn more about beer, how to make it and which kinds taste the best.