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Mt. Holz Science Fiction Society
 Club Notice - 04/30/93 -- Vol. 11, No. 44

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are in Holmdel 4N-509
 Wednesdays at noon.

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

- 05/12 THOMAS THE RHYMER by Ellen Kushner (Fantasy in a Modern Vein)
- 06/02 RED MARS by Kim Stanley Robinson
(Politics in Space Colonization)
- 06/23 CHINA MOUNTAIN ZHANG by Maureen McHugh
(Non-European Futures)
- 07/14 SIGHT OF PROTEUS by Charles Sheffield (Human Metamorphosis)
- 08/04 Hugo Short Story Nominees
- 08/25 CONSIDER PHLEBAS by Iain Banks
(Space Opera with a Knife Twist)
- 09/15 WORLD AT THE END OF TIME by Frederik Pohl
(Modern Stapledonian Fiction)

Outside events:

07/31 Deadline for Hugo Ballots to be postmarked
 The Science Fiction Association of Bergen County meets on the second Saturday of every month in Upper Saddle River; call 201-933-2724 for details. The New Jersey Science Fiction Society meets on the third Saturday of every month in Belleville; call 201-432-5965 for details.

- HO Chair: John Jetzt HO 1E-525 908-834-1563 holly!jetzt
- LZ Chair: Rob Mitchell HO 1C-523 908-834-1267 holly!jrrt
- MT Chair: Mark Leeper MT 3D-441 908-957-5619 mtgzfs3!leeper
- HO Librarian: Nick Sauer HO 4F-427 908-949-7076 homxc!11366ns
- LZ Librarian: Lance Larsen LZ 3L-312 908-576-3346 quartet!lfl
- MT Librarian: Mark Leeper MT 3D-441 908-957-5619 mtgzfs3!leeper
- Factotum: Evelyn Leeper MT 1F-329 908-957-2070 mtgpfs1!ecl

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- 1. Hugo Factoid of the Week: Two hundred people have been nominated

for the Hugo in the fiction categories, and sixty-one people have won (not counting this year). Next week: who has been nominated the most times in the fiction categories? [-ecl]

THE MT VOID

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2.

David Richmond
Financial Director
St. Louis International Airport
April 23, 1993

Dear MR. LEEPER,

Our records show that October 3, 1992, you took TWA flight 863 which landed at St. Louis International Airport at 11:53 AM and connected to TWA flight 392 which departed at 2:17 PM that same day. This afforded you more than two hours to avail yourself of the hospitality of the St. Louis International Airport's clean restrooms, delightful snack bars, and courteous staff. We sincerely hope that your two-hour layover at our airport will be one of your happiest memories, MR. LEEPER.

But I have to tell you that the running of a major international airport such as ours is an extremely costly undertaking. And let me assure you that behind every servile person you met are dozens of others, all dedicated to making sure your trip and every customer's trip is as pleasant as possible. Now it is time for you to show your gratitude. Your generous contribution will help us to provide top-quality service to you and to other travelers like yourself. Please use the handy coupon below to show your support.

And we hope to be meeting your travel needs again in the near future because, MR. LEEPER, it is the support of people like you that makes our work a pleasure.

Sincerely,

David Richmond

Financial Director
St. Louis International Airport

Yes! Of course I have fond memories of St. Louis International Airport. Please accept my contribution for:

___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$150 ___\$250

MR. LEEPER
AT&T--3D-441
MIDDLETOWN NJ 07748

Mark Leeper
MT 3D-441 908-957-5619
...mtgzfs3!leeper

BENNY & JOON
A film review by Mark R. Leeper
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Capsule review: Can one schizophrenic find love with another? Benny & Joon says yes if the world of normal people does not tear them apart. This is a film that will click with you or it won't. I did not click for me. Rating: 0 (-4 to +4).

There is a sort of film that works really well for a very narrow audience and will leave almost everybody else wondering, "What was that all about?" It is a film with a narrow band of powerful appeal. One of the films that I thought really spoke to me was HaroldandMaude (1972). Other were Johnny GotHisGun (1971) and Knightriders (1981). One that missed me entirely was Birdy (1984). I think I can see what others like about Birdy, but the film does not work very well for me. Another film that just does

not do it for me is _ B _ e _ n _ n _ y & _ J _ o _ o _ n .

Benny (played by Aidan Quinn) has no time for a life of his own. Benny's life is split between his auto repair business and taking care of his sister Joon (played by Mary Stuart Masterson). Joon is ... well, Joon is somewhat different. Perhaps writer Barry Berman intended Joon to be schizophrenic, though it is never actually said that is the case. Whatever her problem is, she spends her table passionately painting, setting things on fire, placing emergency calls to Benny to pick up peanut butter, directing traffic with ping-pong paddles and snorkel--that sort of thing.

Then Joon loses a poker game and for Benny to pay off, he has to take in a second person whose mental processes are different from the norm, Sam, the cousin of a friend. Sam (played by Johnny Depp) is barely literate but has patterned himself on Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin. He dresses like Keaton and can even mimic Keaton's inventive style of seeing unconventional uses for everyday objects. The tension of the story comes from Joon's doctor wanting to institutionalize Joon, Benny wanting to keep Joon around, Joon wanting to keep Sam around, and Benny wanting to be rid of Sam.

Where the story does not work for me is on the contrivance and in the view of mental illness. With the exception of short bouts of panic, Joon appears to be on a perpetual high. Sam's illness appears to make him a comic genius--though most, and for all I know, all, of his routines are borrowed from silent films. Sam's illness increases his creativity and the film arranges for the right props to be at the right place and time to be used. The film says that mental illness has its positive side and that like in _ M _ a _ n _ h _ u _ n _ t _ e _ r and _ T _ h _ e _ S _ i _ l _ e _ n _ c _ e _ o _ f _ t _ h _ e _ L _ a _ m _ b _ s, only the mentally ill can understand the mentally ill. The film is an interesting attempt but I rate it only a 0 on the -4 to +4 scale.

[Viewed at the Hazlet Multiplex Cinemas, Hazlet, NJ.]

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