

What is this all about? Well, people are putting greater and greater volumes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year. And there is a greater amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year, but not nearly in the volume any of us expected. CO-2 is going somewhere faster and faster each year. We still have an

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excess, just not as serious an excess as we would expect we would have. Where is all the CO-2 going?

Well, about half goes into the ocean, it is now thought. And half does not. That leaves only plant life out of the water. We have always assumed that air pollution is bad for nature, and seen some good examples, I might add. But we never gave Mother Nature a vote. Now it is beginning to look like the vegetable biomass is expanding each year. Mother Nature is having a field day, so to speak. In fact, there are reports from Europe that some of their forests are not just healthy, but getting thicker and healthier. Why might this be? There is a bit more carbon dioxide and nitrogen available in the air.

Does this say that air pollution is a good thing? Certainly not. There will probably be plenty of negative effects from it. But it may well be that Nature is better adapted to animal life than we ever thought. S_i_l_e_n_t_R_u_n_n_i_n_g may have been all wet as a predictor of the future. We may end up with a future of jungles encroaching on cities. It's not exactly the nightmare future that has been predicted.

2. Do I actually believe what I said in item 1? I don't know what to believe. I am just presenting it as a possibility. Next thing you know somebody is going to call me a dupe of industrial capitalists.

3. Since all Hugo-nominated short stories are now readily available to just about everyone in the Club, it was decided to have a meeting which actually discussed them (and probably we'll vote on them at the end).

For those of use into the traditional forms of publication, the

stories are available in magazines as follows:

Terry Bisson, "Press Ann," IASFM, August 1991

John Kessel, "Buffalo," F&SF, January 1991

Geoffrey A. Landis, "A Walk in the Sun," IASFM, October 1991

Mike Resnick, "One Perfect Morning, With Jackals,"
IASFM, March 1991

Mike Resnick, "Winter Solstice," F&SF, October/November 1991

Martha Soukup, "Dog's Life," _ A _ m _ a _ z _ i _ n _ g, March 1991

Connie Willis, "In the Late Cretaceous,"
IASFM, Mid-December 1991

(IASFM is available at many local public libraries. _ A _ m _ a _ z _ i _ n _ g is a little harder to find.)

As stated in the last issue, the stories are also available via E-mail. Send mail to ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com or att!decwrl!ftpmail.

The subject is ignored; The text should be as follows:

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connect
chdir pub/sf
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dir
ascii
get READ.ME
get cretaceous
get dogs_life
get perfectmorn
get pressann
get walkinthesun
get wintersolst
get buffalo
quit
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The stories are also available via anonymous ftp from "sf.clarinet.com" in the directory "sf".

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[Further details, including how to give a small "thank you" to the authors for this, are in last week's issue. Note that per Brad Templeton's request, I cannot forward these files to you. Since all but one or two members have e-mail access, this should not be a major problem. -ecl]

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...mtgzy!leeper

Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils.
-- Hector Berlioz, "Almanach des lettres francaises"

PRELUDE TO A KISS
A film review by Mark R. Leeper
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Capsule review: Romance, comedy, fantasy, and even a little softcore horror combine in an intelligent and thoroughly enjoyable film. P _ r _ e _ l _ u _ d _ e handles an old idea, but at the same time says a lot about life and human relationships. Even the acting

by minor characters is good. (This is one of those films whose actual premise comes as a surprise well into the film. I will be very vague below rather than spoil the plot.) Rating: high +2.

Peter Hoskins (played by Alec Baldwin) and Rita Boyle (played by Meg Ryan) are made for each other. They are both bright, lively people. Peter is quiet, sedate, and thoughtful. Rita on the other hand

is all over the map. She clearly playfully loves life in the daylight but at night has terrors that something terrible will happen to her world. She does not know how right she is. Something will happen to her on her wedding day. It is something that is weird, right out of the Twilight Zone with touches of Kafka. At the same time Peter is going to be pulled into a strange struggle to prove his love.

Take an idea that has been done many times in films. Make it one that everybody thought could not be done one more time. Give this idea to a good enough writer and you occasionally can find fresh new approaches. In this case the writer is Craig Lucas who proves that an old fantasy mechanism can be given a new spin and can reveal insights into human nature and the aging process that nobody has seen in it before. Lucas wrote his story first as a Broadway play. Now he adapted his story into a screenplay. P_r_e_l_u_d_e_t_o_a
K_i_s_s was his fifth play and second produced screenplay. His previous film was the excellent L_o_n_g_t_i_m_e_C_o_m_p_a_n_i_o_n.

Lucas's play

M_i_s_s_i_n_g_P_e_r_s_o_n_s, his film L_o_n_g_t_i_m_e_C_o_m_p_a_n_i_o_n, and now his film P_r_e_l_u_d_e_t_o_a_K_i_s_s were all directed by Norman Rene'. Rene' who must be a great director, since just about every speaking performance in his films seems to be very good. I think many people will be enthralled by Richard Riehle's performance as an elderly man who crashes the wedding. I found myself fascinated with a small but magnetic performance by Stanley Tucci playing Peter's best friend, Taylor. It is just a small role, but Rene' invests the character with a lot of personality. Also notable is Ned Beatty as Rita's father, but most people expect Beatty to turn in a good performance. It is some of the lesser known actors who give this film its texture.

P_r_e_l_u_d_e_t_o_a_K_i_s_s is a light fantasy with some heavy ideas that audiences can think about or choose to ignore. Operating on multiple levels, it is a surprisingly satisfying film to be coming out in the summer fluff season. I rate it a high +2 on the -4 to +4 scale.