

Playing war with real guns



Director Harold Brecker and cinematographer Owen Roizman use forceful camera angles and long, poignant takes to delineate the motives of Timothy Hutton's character.

Taps

Timothy Hutton, George C. Scott
West 11th Cinemas
Rated PG

It looks like a normal military school. A flag waves overhead. Brick buildings with white trim stand as they have for years. Uniformed cadets walk around in pairs and trios.

The cadets at Bunker Hill Academy are not attending classes as usual, however. Instead of practicing drills and sitting through military science classes, they are carrying M-80's to sand bag barricades to prepare for enemy attack.

Their enemies are their parents and National Guardsmen.

In order to keep their school from being closed to make room for condominiums, the students at Bunker Hill Academy take over the campus with weapons stored on the grounds. The situation becomes intense when the governor orders the military to take the campus by force.

Although the story sounds a bit far-fetched, "Taps" is powerful drama. Masterful performances by George C. Scott and Timothy Hutton and excellent supporting roles make "Taps" one of the very best of the Christmas line of movies, and certainly one of the best of the year.

Scott plays Brigadier General Harlan Bache, the top dog at the academy. Hutton is Brian Moreland, the ranking cadet who idolizes Bache and takes him literally when he speaks of honor and the

necessity of defending it against all else.

Scott delivers another of the high-power performances he is famous for, and Hutton lives up to the standard he set in "Ordinary People".

Performances by supporting cast members Sean Penn, Moreland's roommate and best friend, and Tom Cruise, an overly gung-ho cadet who revels in the confrontation, are equally good. These roles give the confrontation a sense of humanity and realism.

In fact, the film seems so real that after the violent climax it comes as a surprise that there's no blood splattered on the theater floors.

Many reviewers have attacked "Taps" on the grounds that writers Darryl Ponicsan and Robert Mark Kamen haven't given Hutton's character enough of a motivation for his actions. I disagree. Although there aren't many references to his motivations, director Harold Brecker and cinematographer Owen Roizman emphasize the rare references with forceful camera angles and long, pregnant takes.

The finished product leaves a good vision of Moreland's reasoning, but doesn't overstate it.

"Taps" is something of a modern "Lord of the Flies," excellently developing the theme of children acting in an adult world. With powerful acting and a good plot, "Taps" is an impressive and solid film that may prove to be a contender for more than a couple of Oscars.

By Matt Meyer

Northwest Bell delivers new phonebooks this week

Door-to-door delivery of Pacific Northwest Bell's 1982 directory for Eugene-Springfield, Florence-Mapleton and the rest of Lane County began Tuesday.

PNB Area Manager Bruce Hall says the company expects to distribute a total of 190,528 copies by Jan 15. Directories are being hand delivered.

Some 141,000 telephone books will be delivered in the Eugene-Springfield area.

Another 6,695 will go to customers in the Florence-Mapleton area and a remaining 25,475 to customers throughout the rest of Lane County, including Blue River, Cottage Grove, Harrisburg, Junction City and Veneta.

For the first time the directory will include the "Peach Pages," a new index to the Yellow Pages. A completely redesigned "Call Guide" section in the front of the book is also included. The

changes were made for better readability, Hall said.

Other changes include a new listing, 822-6035, for Blue River area fire reports.

As in the past, PNB has made arrangements with the Eugene Mission for recycling the old directories. Books may be left in the newspaper drop boxes provided around the Eugene-Springfield area by the Mission, or arrangements may be made with the Mission for free

pick up when 25 or more phone books are accumulated at one location.

The new directory features an Oregon scene on the front cover — a pastel-colored rainbow rising over golden fields. Alan St. John, a naturalist who lives in Eastern Oregon, was the winner of PNB's third directory cover photo contest with a rustic scene taken in the Upper John Day Valley. St. John won \$1,500 for his efforts.

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