



At the movies

Film has talent, substance

Yes indeed, it's just what this country needs — "Purple Rain," a new MTV-inspired film starring a popular rock star, promoted by a hit soundtrack album — which was, by the way, released before the film — and a number one song.

But wait, there's something more to this movie. Underneath the flashy editing and arresting images are two surprises: substance and talent.

Prince, the popular rock star, stars as himself basically, although his character is known as "the Kid." His band, The Revolution, is his real life stage band, and they, and most of the rest of the cast, use their real life names for the film.

The Kid is a self-centered rock musician performing with his band in a club known as First Avenue, a place that features hip new groups who usually go on to greater fame. His rival, Morris Day, the lead singer of another club group, The Time, schemes to get The Revolution kicked out of the club. The Kid, being a moody new-wave rebel, helps Morris' cause by acting immature, undependable, callous and rude.

The love interest (there has to be a love interest) is Appolonia Koteru, a beautiful, buxom woman looking very much like a young Rachel Ward; she has about as much presence but far less talent. Appolonia sets her sights on the enigmatic Kid after seeing him perform. Then she allows herself to be teased and abused as they become more and more involved.

It's a real surprise to find "Purple Rain" an enjoyable, well-made, dramatically effective film. On the surface it resembles this week's newest rock video. But director and co-writer Albert Magnoli maintains a balance

between the visual extravagance and abstractions of the three-minute shorts and the overall narrative framework of a full-length film. Of course, the film is written to revolve around Prince's performing talents, but they fit successfully into the story while remaining both the visual and the dramatic highlights of the film.

The film is by no means complex, but it works-in some serious themes and adds a lot of clever touches. The Kid's parents are a troubled couple. His father is a failed musician who has turned to alcohol. In frustration he beats his wife, which causes the Kid to despise his father until, in a particularly effective scene, he too lashes out at Appolonia.

Prince can definitely sing and perform, and when he's not on stage he does a good job of looking intense and enigmatic. But his line readings are particularly poor, as are Appolonia's. Morris and his sidekick, Friday Jerome, almost make up for the deficiencies of the lead actors by providing marvelously funny characters who nearly steal the show.

As simple as the plot is, it builds to give the final stage performances an excitement beyond the mere magic of the spectacle. More than simply providing a soundtrack, those ending performances add energy, exciting drama, and the final elements in the characterization of the Kid, whom we somehow still feel for despite his problems.

There's no doubt that this is Prince's show, and by the end you have to at least respect him as much as, if not more than, his character.

Plays at Cinema World.

By Sean Axmaker



Courtesy photo by Cliff Coles

The Lost Boys will take the stage at the Hult Center this month in the Eugene Festival of Musical Theater's production of "Peter Pan."

Peter Pan comes to life

Tinkerbell, Captain Hook, The Darling Family and Peter Pan himself will come to life this weekend at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts when the Eugene Festival of Musical Theater Inc. presents the venerable musical, "Peter Pan."

After several months of planning and rehearsals, the production, starring Eugene actress Roxy Ragozzino and directed by her husband Ed Ragozzino, will open Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Silva Hall.

Producer John Cole calls it "a stunning show."

"I expected it to be great, but it's exceeding that," Cole says. "We all think it's the outstanding event of the summer."

Producers say they have strived to make the show a close re-creation of the original Broadway production. The authenticity in design and production values is complete, they say. In fact, the stage flying techniques are under the direct supervision of Peter

Foy, the developer of the apparatus used in the first Broadway production starring Mary Martin.

The sets, which Cole describes as "large and unusually comprehensive," have been designed by nationally acclaimed Jerry Williams. "The set is filled with beautiful, exciting things to look at," Cole says. "It's truly spectacular."

Roxy Ragozzino stars as Peter Pan, and Rex Rabold as Captain Hook and Mr. Darling. Nicola Foster is the choreographer, and the music director is Nathan Cammack. The lighting is designed by Michael Vennerstrom.

"Peter Pan" will be presented through August 25. There are no Monday performances. Wednesday's shows start at 6:30 p.m., and Sunday's matinee is at 2:30 p.m. All other shows begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets range in price from \$5 to \$17.75 and are on sale at the Hult Center Box Office and all Hult Center Ticket Outlets.

Booklet guides hikers to a variety of Oregon's trails

By Julie Shippen
Of the Emerald

With the end of summer session now in sight, many book-weary students may be looking for the perfect escape from the campus, their home, or even the city limits themselves.

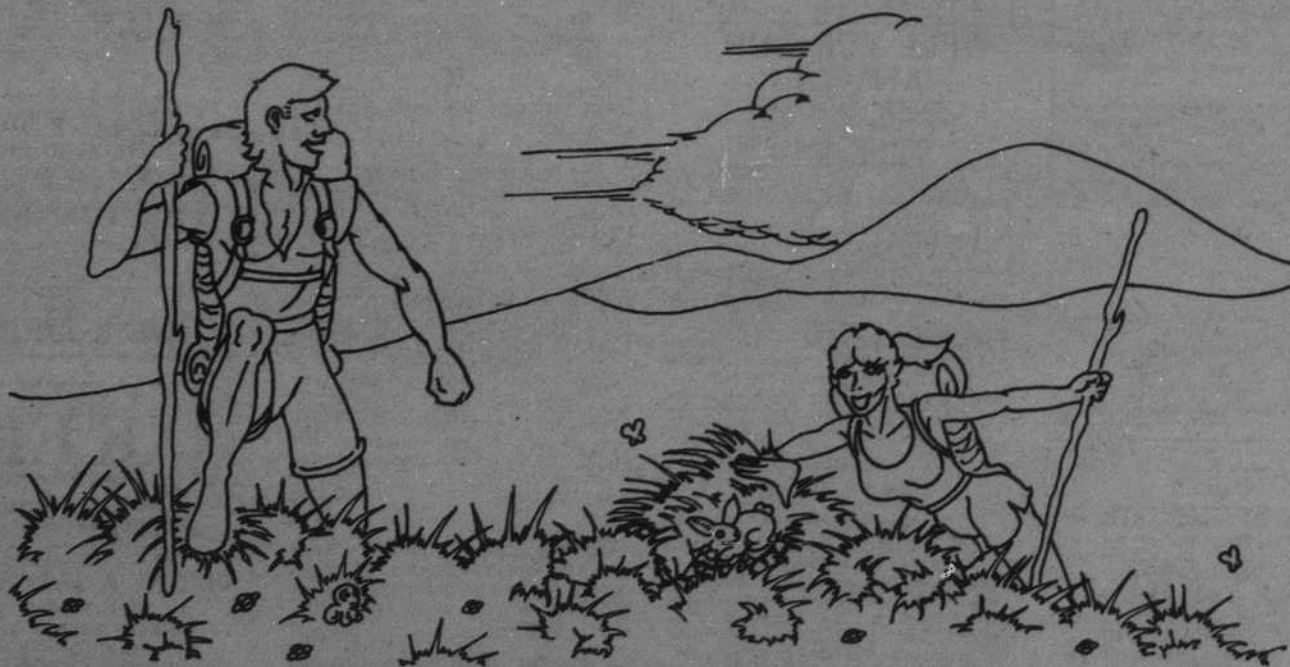
The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group has an answer to this search in the form of a booklet on hiking entitled "An Oregonian's Trail Sourcebook," containing maps and other information for would-be pathfinders.

With the help of the U.S. Forest Service and a handful of other people, Stephen Mark has assembled this how-to guide, which is available for \$2 in the OSPIRG office, Suite 1, in the EMU basement.

Mark's end product contains maps of hiking possibilities statewide; background on Oregon's trails, graced with inspiring thoughts from famous writers; and dozens of simple but charming illustrations.

While striving for completeness in itself, Mark admits the booklet alone cannot cover all of the details in the state's trail system.

"Oregon has more than 7,800 miles of trail over all types of terrain, and a descriptive work covering the entire state is far beyond any author's capabilities," Mark states in the introduction. "This sourcebook is an attempt to document trail information in the form of maps and resource listings. My goal is to refer interested persons to the proper information source for a



Graphic by Rob Kraft

given area, while suggesting new places to explore in Oregon and the surrounding area."

The booklet is arranged in 10 geographically bound areas in the state and provides resource listings at the beginning of each specific section, as well as a general listing in the front for Oregon as a whole. The phone numbers and addresses of various contact agencies, such as the American Hiking Society or the Desert Trail Association, for the 10 individual districts are included.

Helpful publications, covering everything from "177 Free Oregon Campgrounds" to "Waterfalls of the Pacific Northwest" to the "Hiker-Biker Guide to Oregon" are also listed.

Maps are divided into two parts: major hiking areas and parks with hiking access. Areas designated as major hiking indicate that there is at least one trail beginning from a given point. Parks with hiking areas, on the other hand, show lands with hiking access but few, if any, maintained trails.

Unlike the resource listings that are grouped geographically in the booklet, the hand-drawn map boundaries are politically defined. The 10 mapped regions are titled as follows: Coast, Columbia Gorge, Wyeast, Willamette, Cascade Lakes, Mazama, Paiute, Blue Mts., Jefferson and Owyhee.

All together, the sourcebook contains about 300 major hiking areas and the same number of

parks with hiking access. Hikers can choose trails as familiar and close in proximity as Pre's Trail at Alton Baker Park or paths in Hendricks Park to more exotic locations such as the Big Lava Bed in the Columbia Gorge or a walk in the higher elevations of Vulcan Peak in southwestern Oregon.

For the daring who want more than an afternoon hike, the booklet has several trails mapped, including the Pacific Crest Trail (running from the Mexican border to Canada) and trails on the mountain slopes of Bachelor, Fuji, Hood and Shasta as well.

According to the guide, the abundance of trails in the region is somewhat difficult to document as information on them re-

mains more "elusive" than that of highways or other roads. Source collection is hindered because "trails are subject to different degrees of maintenance and use," making access a problem.

The state's Department of Transportation has made an effort to remedy this problem by hiring a trails coordinator to serve as a contact person for outstanding trail information and to oversee development of the interconnection of routes statewide, Mark says. As justification for the appointment, he cites the results of the Oregon State Parks Department's 1975 visitor survey, which showed that "trail-related activities lead all other outdoor recreation activities in Oregon by a wide margin."

As a sport, wilderness hiking has increased five times quicker than the population, three times faster than automobile camping and has made a 16-fold jump in popularity since 1945, Mark found.

But even as the number of people using the trails has increased, many of the trails (more than 1,000 miles worth) are untraveled and may not be fully usable without additional financing by the Forest Service, he says. Thus the public is encouraged to take an active role in trail management by directing letters to the relevant legislator and/or agency officials listed in the booklet.