



At the movies

Pulpy 'Buckaroo' enchants

I first saw "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai" in Seattle during the summer of 1984. I was so enchanted with it that I was sure it would become a summer smash. But it didn't open in Portland until November, which in itself tells the financial story of the film.

Finally it comes to Eugene, a city that might appreciate the charm, the wit and the ingenuity of this obscure feature. It would be a shame if it joined the ranks of financial flops and obscure cult hits without a few people from the ranks of the general public getting a glimpse of this truly inventive exercise in pulp mythmaking.

The full title is "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension," which is as good a description of the story as I can think of. Buckaroo (Peter Weller) is a renaissance hero — a physicist, a neurosurgeon, the leader of scientific team and rock 'n' roll bar band, The Hong Kong Cavaliers, and an adviser to the (U.S.) President.

During the test run of a new jet car he's developed, Buckaroo jumps into the 8th Dimension with the help of the recently perfected Oscillation Overthruster.

Presently, the insane Dr. Emilio Lizardo (John Lithgow), also known as Lord John Whorfin, leader of the red 'lectroids from planet 10 of the 8th Dimension, learns of the feat



Peter Weller stars as the versatile renaissance hero Buckaroo in the 1984 "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai."

and orders his men (through his thick Italian accent) to capture the Overthruster.

Before Buckaroo can utter "The goose, you say!", the Cavaliers are smack dab in the middle of an intergalactic war, and if they fail, the earth will perish.

If that's a little hard to follow, don't worry about it. Half the fun of the film is its pulpy overplotting and bizarre story elements. Writer Earl Mac Rauch and director W.D. Richter have devised an elaborate history and mythology for the characters.

If there is a failure in the film, it is Richter's inability to keep

visually paced with the wild script. Peopled like an Altman film and written with a "Star Wars" treatment in mind, Richter can't meet either style. Editing is perfunctory; camera shots solid but unchallenging; set design played down and pacing just a tad too slow. "Buckaroo Banzai" is high camp and high adventure, creativity gone berserk in a carefully controlled, but vastly complicated, universe.

As Buckaroo Banzai says, "Remember, no matter where you go, there you are." If you find yourself experiencing his world, you might discover that it isn't much crazier than ours.

Sean Axmaker

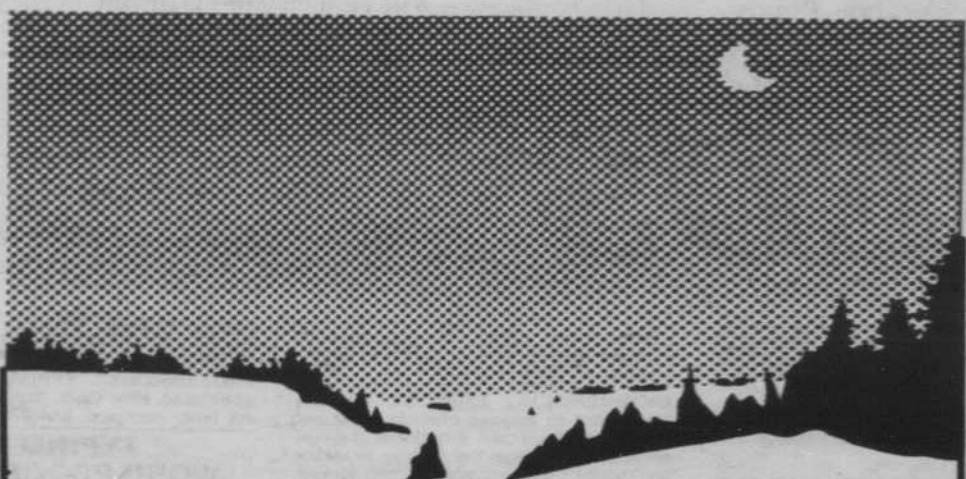
Correction

Students can receive up to five political science internship credit hours per term through the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, contrary to information published in the Dec. 7 Emerald issue.

The original article stated that students could receive up to nine credit hours of either general or political science credit by participating in OSPIRG internships in Eugene and Salem. However, members of the political science department say the maximum number of credits a student may receive is five.

To receive political science credits through an internship, department officials say a student must sign up for PS 406 — Field Study and have a formal agreement with a faculty member regarding the internship's academic process.

For more information on the internships, contact OSPIRG members at 686-4377 or in Suite 1, EMU.



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