

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie a tribute to '40s cinema

By Lucas Gutman
Emerald Contributor

If you haven't seen a movie since the 1940s, see *The Rocketeer*. You'll think cinema hasn't changed much in all that time.

For that matter, if you wish you hadn't seen a movie since the 1940s, see *The Rocketeer*, because movies like this just aren't made anymore.

The good guys are true and valiant, and the bad guys are evil, mean and sneer a lot. There's a beautiful woman our hero fights for and a villain who wants to take her away from him. This may sound innocent and dopey, but it's actually a relief to go to a movie that doesn't confront viewers with a lot of moral dilemmas.

Yes, this is this summer's movie-based-on-a-comic-book. This time, the comic book is a little-known gem that came from a small, independent comic book company in the early 1980s. But from this film, you wouldn't know *The Rocketeer* is contemporary.

Likable Bill Campbell plays stunt pilot Cliff Secord, who, along with his best friend and mechanic, Pevey (Alan Arkin), finds a mysterious rocket pack that enables a person to fly. The pack is desperately wanted by Nazis, gangsters and billionaire Howard Hughes, who, in this film anyway, created the rocket.

Cliff is immediately forced to run from all of these people who would willingly kill for the rocket. He assumes the identity of ... *The Rocketeer!*

Jennifer Connelly plays the love of Cliff's life, Jenny. Somehow, the stunningly beautiful Connelly manages to rise above the underwritten role and be



Courtesy photo
Bill Campbell stars as airborne hero Cliff Secord in Disney's *The Rocketeer*, a throwback to a simpler cinematic age.

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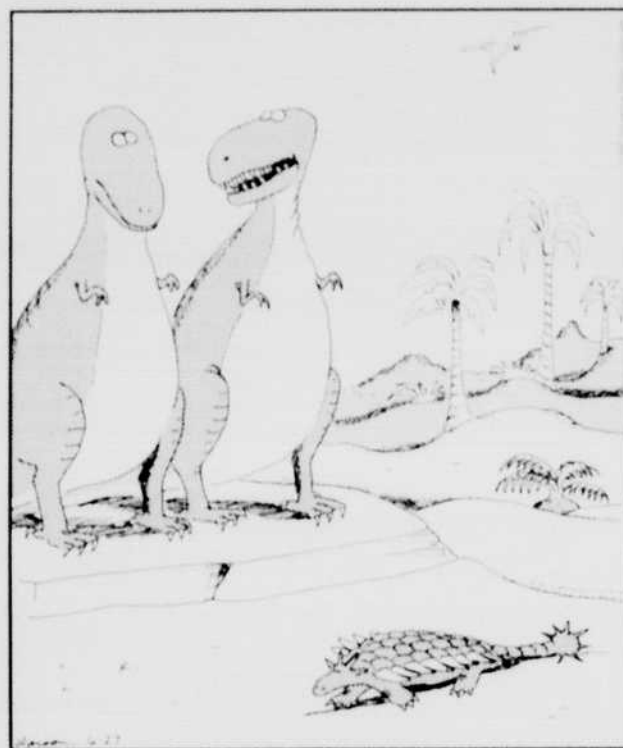
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