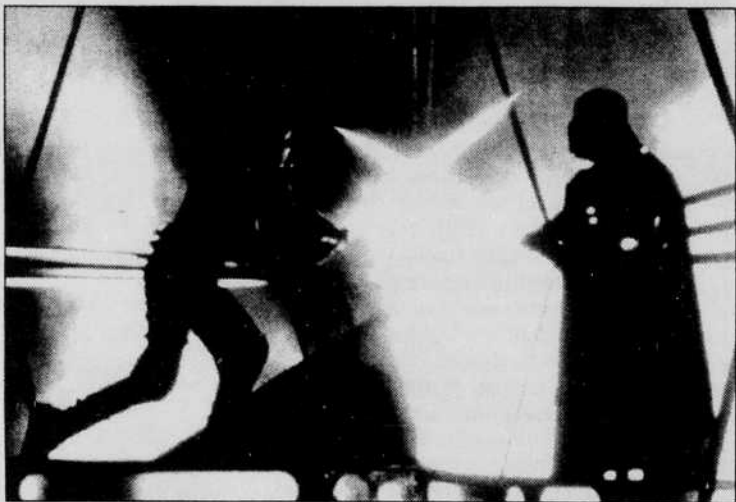


Movie: New special effects contribute little to Lucas' classic flick



Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader battle in 'The Empire Strikes Back.' COURTESY PHOTO

Continued from Page 5

The entire series, and *Empire* in particular, is not about deep, emotional drama and heroic archetypes, no matter what George Lucas tries to tell PBS. *Empire* is about watching a bunch of guys in cool uniforms kick ass using fancy gadgets and big machines, and nothing makes that visceral thrill more enjoyable than seeing the show in the theater. *Empire* is about watching Vader slice off Luke's hand and act glad about it. *Empire* is about destruction on a massive scale.

For all the hype, the new effects are just about giving this film another shot at the theaters. If anything, some of them detract from the fast pace of the original.

As Luke hangs from the ceiling of the ice cave, for example, we are now treated to shots of the big furry monster that has accosted him chewing on the drumstick of some unidentified creature. Compared to the tension of the original, which cut to the darkened doorway into the back of the cave, these pic-

tures of the beast enjoying a tasty treat are laughable.

Other effects are unnecessary. Several times we are given views of the cloud city of Bespin, either through new windows or from behind spaceships. While the place looks scenic enough, all those glimmering buildings have little impact on the story.

It really doesn't matter, though. Obsessed fans will have an opinion on every new frame, and everyone else will just wish they had a light saber. That's what the whole series is for: wishing that you could immerse yourself in a surreal world of action and laser blasters.

Some people may not wish to plunge themselves into the darker world of *Empire*, but I revel in it. Whether it be Imperial walkers destroying the rebel base or Vader locking Han into a painful torture machine, no one kicks ass like the Dark Side. And ass-kicking has never looked or sounded better than it does on the big screen.

On the other hand, you might get more laughs out of a toaster-sized television.

Veruca Salt recaptures energy of 'Seether'

By Les Zaczek
Freelance Reporter

With the hit "Seether" putting them on the musical map, Veruca Salt attained quick fame and plenty of MTV airplay. Unfortunately, due to the lack of another single from their debut album *American Thighs*, the band became sort of a one-hit wonder.

Eight Arms to Hold You is a follow-up that is intended to elevate the status of the band and to establish them as the musical *tour de force* they really are.

Except for "Seether," most of the songs on *American Thighs* lack spunk and energy. The heavy guitars and the slow tempo of the songs rob the band of its pop sensibility and make it a fairly dull record.

Fortunately for Veruca Salt, *Eight Arms* captures what this band is really best at, which is power-pop with a punk edge.

The songs on this album are faster, catchier and better. In short, this album rocks your socks off, but it goes down smooth with good melodies and smooth instrumental work.

From the starting rock-out of "Straight" and "Volcano Girls," the songs rise to a new level of power and energy that carries this record far into the stratosphere beyond *American Thighs*.

The song "Awesome" is a pop-punk masterpiece that rivals "Seether" and has a melody that is guaranteed to stick in your head for weeks.

"One Last Time" is the kind of power ballad that would make any '80s metal band raise their lighters and kneel down in praise.

"With David Bowie" brings back memories of girl-bands such as the Go-Gos, complete with handclaps and perfectly fitting lyrics: "I'm never alone cause you're following me home, I'm falling in love my walkman and me with David Bowie..." It kind of makes you want to get some bubble gum and ride around on roller-skates.

Veruca Salt bares more of their punk



Music group Veruca Salt recently released their second album. COURTESY PHOTO

influences on "Shutterbug," making them sound a bit like Team Dresch.

One of the best songs on the album is "Sound of the Bell," with an eerie pop sound and some very cool surf-style guitar work.

"Venus Man Trap" has a Nirvana feel with an in-your-face riff receding into a melodic verse. It would definitely make Kurt Cobain proud.

The production and the mixing of the album is flawless, with a good balance and interplay of vocals, guitars, bass and drums. The effects are also limited, making Veruca Salt sound more like a band than a studio venture.

To be honest, after hearing "Seether," I thought Veruca Salt was going to be forgotten in the slough of punk-pop MTV buzzbands. But after hearing *Eight Arms*, I'm convinced they are going to stay around, and this is a good thing.

In a lot of ways it feels as though *Eight Arms to Hold You* is Veruca Salt's true debut album, exposing the listener to the full capacity of sound and songwriting skills of this band. "You can't fight the seether," but you can go and get this record. It's worth it.



REVIEW

Eight Arms to Hold You

Veruca Salt
★★★★
(powerful variety)

GEN ADMISSION Th-Sa \$6 • DISCOUNT SHOWS Su-We \$4.50 / Matinees \$3 • Seniors \$3.50 • Kids 12 & under \$2.50 • BARGAIN PASSES ON SALE NOW - 5 MOVIES FOR \$20.00, 10 FOR \$35 • GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!

4:30, 7:05, 9:40 Nightly

★★★★★
"ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND ORIGINAL AMERICAN MOVIES OF THE DECADE!"
BILLY BOB THORNTON
SLING BLADE
THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED
COMING SOON: LOST HIGHWAY
NOW SERVING ESPRESSO DRINKS!

12:10 Nightly SAT & SUN MAT 2:15 (PG-13)

LEONARDO DICAPRIO CLAIRE DANES
ROMEO + JULIET
COMING SOON: ONE FINE DAY

492 E. 13th 686-2458

FINAL WEEK! 6:10 Nightly Sun Mat 3:00
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MOVIE QUITE LIKE 'BREAKING THE WAVES'
COMING SOON: PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAIN
Look for the New Film Fest Calendar Around Town and in the Bijou Lobby!
ONE WEEK ONLY! 9:10 Nightly Sat Mat 3:15

BREAKING THE WAVES

12:00 Nightly (PG-13)

THE WORLD PREMIERE BY STEVEN SODERBERGH
PARADISE LOST
COMING SOON: THE WHOLEWIDE WORLD

12:00 Nightly (PG-13)

MARS ATTACKS!
COMING SOON: FIRST STRIKE

TOM WATERS BAND

VETS CLUB Wed. Mar. 5
VETS CLUB Fri. Mar. 7
VETS CLUB Sat. Mar. 8
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Old Pad Mon. Mar. 17

BOOKING INFO: (541) 895-2708

Black Forest

LIVE MUSIC
NO COVER EVER!

February/March Music

2/28 Walker T. Ryan
3/1 Walker T. Ryan
3/5 Brian Jones
3/6 John Congdon

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS LADIES NIGHT
10-MIDNIGHT
Microbrews & Domestics on tap
KEGS TO GO!!!
Selling Hefe's \$80.00
Monday Night Pool Tourney • Sign Up 6:30, starts 7:00
FREE POOL SUNDAY & TUESDAY EVENING
Enjoy Guinness by the fireplace
2657 Willamette • 344-0816

weekend
EVENT
c a l e n d a r

◇ FRI., FEB. 28 ◇
Walker T. Ryan, Blues
BLACK FOREST TAVERN
2657 WILLAMETTE • 344-0816
AFTER 10PM • NO COVER EVER!
Shadowlands
ROBINSON THEATRE
VILLARD HALL, UO • 346-4191

◇ SAT., MAR. 1 ◇
Walker T. Ryan, Blues
BLACK FOREST TAVERN
2657 WILLAMETTE • 344-0816
AFTER 10PM • NO COVER EVER!
Comedy Night
SCANDALS, 2222 CENTENNIAL
9-11PM • 343-4734
Shadowlands
ROBINSON THEATRE
VILLARD HALL, UO • 346-4191

RENTALS!

Downhill & Cross Country.....\$10
Snowboards & Boots.....\$25

Berg's Ski Shop

Mon-Thurs 10-7 • Fri & Sat 10-9
13th & Lawrence • 683-1300

PLEASE RECYCLE PLEASE RECYCLE PLEASE RECYCLE PLEASE