



Sword-wielding Westley protects his true love Buttercup in *Princess Bride*.

Princess Bride is a crazy tale

Movie review by Beth Rasgorshok

A long, long time ago there lived a beautiful girl named Buttercup. Buttercup and the farm boy, Westley, had fallen in love. Westley decided to leave Buttercup. He would return for her after he made his fame and fortune.

This is the mushy, story book beginning of *Princess Bride*. Director Rob Reiner, who directed *Stand By Me*, plays up this fairy tale with action and laughs.

The movie actually starts in modern times with Gramps (Peter Falk) reading his favorite book *Princess Bride* to his sick grandson (Fred Savage). The grandson doesn't like the story at first. But he gives the first chapter a chance. After that he doesn't want Gramps to put the book down.

As the story continues Buttercup learns Westley has been murdered at sea. In the

meantime, evil Prince Humperdinck has declared his intention to marry Buttercup. Buttercup isn't thrilled with the idea, but what can she do? Nothing, really.

But maybe the masked man can save her. Buttercup meets the super cool, masked man after she is kidnapped by three oddballs. The masked man calls himself the famous Pirate Roberts, but his real identity is soon revealed. He saves her from the kidnappers and leads her through the evils of the Fire Swamp, including quick sand, fire and huge, ugly rodents.

But this twisted tale isn't over. Buttercup is returned to Prince Humperdinck. Will she be saved from his evilness? Will she live happily ever after?

Each of these zany characters have their share of funny one-liners, so listen close. The language isn't as bad as it was in *Stand By Me*, but there is some comic violence.

People meters rate shows

"The Cosby Show" still tops the Nielsen ratings, even though Nielsen has switched to a new method for rating programs.

A.C. Nielsen is an independent company that has developed a way to judge what people watch on television. The results are very important to television networks. They often determine whether a program stays on the air or is cancelled.

Until last month Nielsen used diaries, meters or both to see what television shows people watch. A sample of households was selected, and meters were connected to all the televisions. The meters automatically recorded all programs watched and sent that information to a special computer.

Nielsen also gave out diaries to some of the sample households. Since the meters could not record WHO was watching television, or even if anyone was in the room, the people were asked to write this information in their diaries.

Now Nielsen is trying a different method, one which experts think favors shows younger audiences watch. Instead of meters and diaries, sample viewers are asked to punch information about their television habits into a hand-held device. The device, nicknamed "people meter," will be able to take in information about the television program, and the people watching it.

Experts wonder if younger people may be the only ones to use the new people meters accurately. They believe kids are already used to using computers and video games and will probably enjoy using the new device. They wonder if adults will feel the same way.



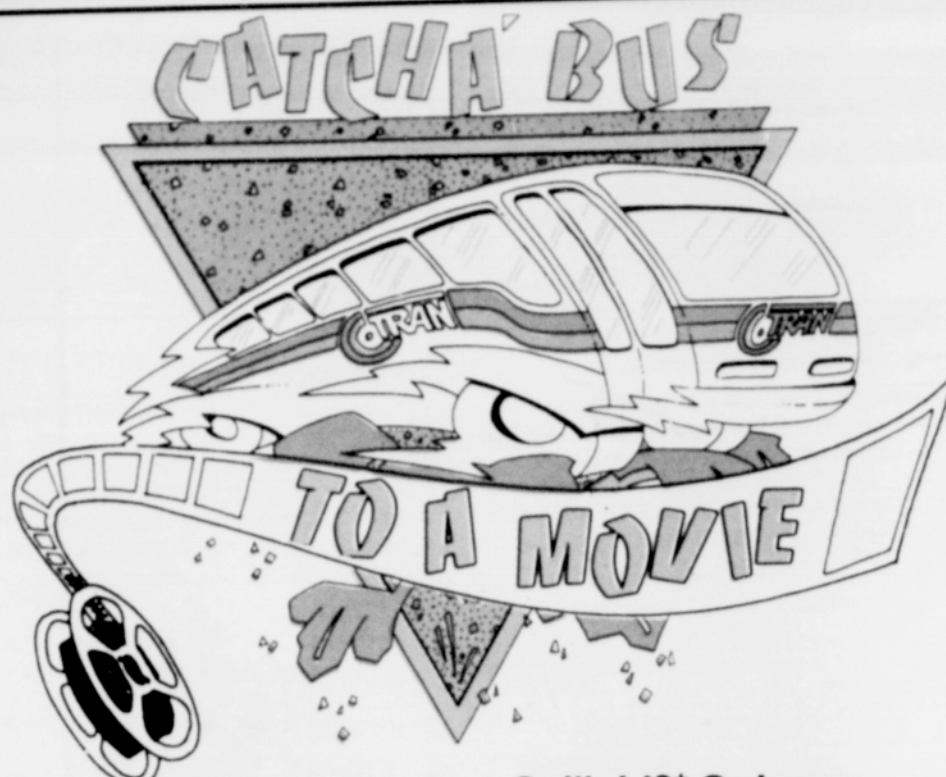
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