
BANZAI INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND STRATEGIC INFORMATION

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WORLD WATCH ONE

NEWSLETTER OF TEAM BANZAI

APRIL 1986

THE BLUE BLAZE IRREGULARS
The Official Buckaroo Banzai Fan Club Edition

(APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO GRADE B CLEARANCES)

Published by

THE BANZAI INSTITUTE
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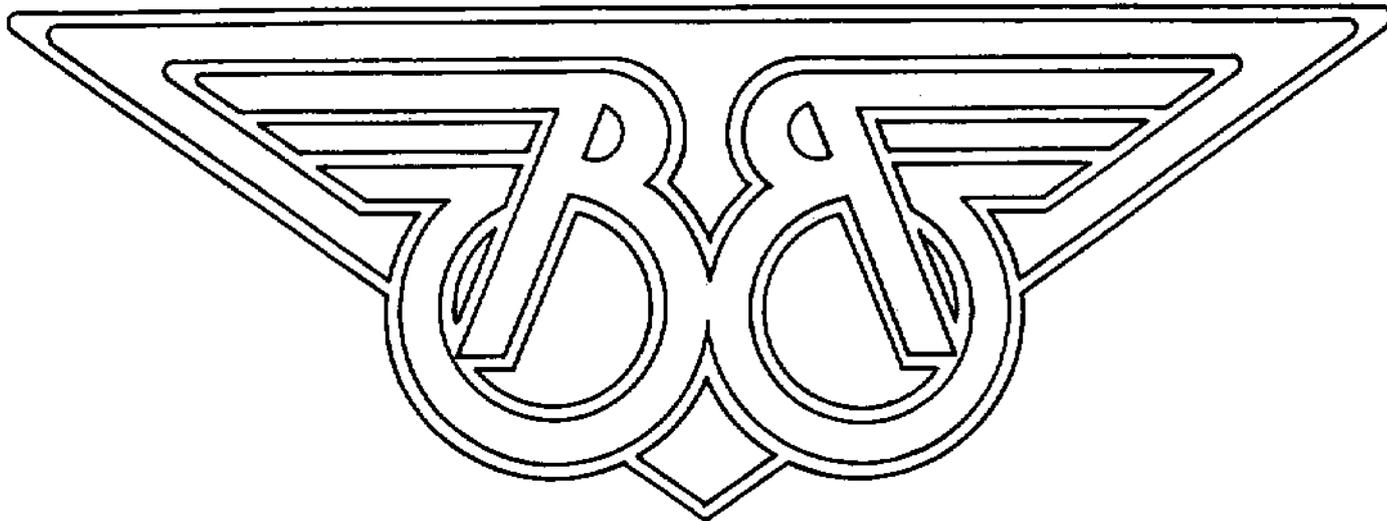
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IRREGULAR BLUE BLAZES?

FRIENDS NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST? PLEASE DON'T
SEND US THEIR NAMES--ENCOURAGE THEM TO WRITE TO
THE INSTITUTE THEMSELVES, AND WE WILL HAPPILY ADD
THEM TO OUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTER. THE MORE THE
MERRIER!!!

BANZAI INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND STRATEGIC INFORMATION



B. Banzai -- "Don't give up hope."
Rawhide -- "You remember what Aristotle said about hope?"
B. Banzai -- "'Hope is a dream by one who is awake.'"
Rawhide -- "And Alexander, when he was dying, surrounded
by his companions?"
B. Banzai -- "'I see that my funeral will be a big one.'"

--loosely excerpted from Rawhide's death
scene in the novel "The Adventures of
Buckaroo Banzai"

Salutations, fellow BBIs!

First, the bad news....

In July of this year, all rights to "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai" revert from Twentieth Century Fox back to the film's original production company, Sherwood Productions, now Gladden Entertainment. Since Fox will no longer be connected to "TABB", and Gladden Entertainment (now involved in several new projects) has no plans to begin production on "Buckaroo Banzai Against the World Crime League" in the near future, the Banzai Institute's West and East Coast Offices will close at the end of June. Our final newsletter, World Watch One (3), will be mailed at that time, along with The Blue Blaze Irregulars Directory. Correspondence received after June will be replied to, albiet on a more "irregular" basis, but no new activities will be undertaken on behalf of the Blue Blaze Irregulars.

Now, the good news....

BANZAI INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND STRATEGIC INFORMATION

With over 5,000 of you out there, we can see that our funeral, too, will indeed be a big one! You will find these pages packed with contributions from your fellow BBIs; anecdotes, puzzles, cartoons and drawings, product information, Bulletin Board entries and lots of answers to the question, Why is there a watermelon there? Although the BBI offices are closing, there are many Irregulars out there who want to keep the fun going with newsletters, fanzines, parties and other activities. We hope that the BBI Directory will bring you folks together through the mail and help to begin friendships which will prove as rewarding as those we ourselves have found through our work for the Institute. We'd like to see this enthusiasm continue in many forms for a long time to come.

Many of you have expressed interest in forming your own local chapters of Team Banzai. Do it! Several groups across the country are already involved in group activities ranging from community service to just plain partying. You can even create your own Banzai memorabilia (such as patches, stationary, rubber stamps, etc.) using the graphics in these pages, as long as you do not charge money for your creations. Just remember, whatever activity you undertake in the name of Buckaroo, "don't embarrass us."

We are pleased to include two contributions from W.D. Richter in this issue of WWI(2). One is his long-awaited revelation of the real reason(s) for the watermelon's presence in the basement lab of the Banzai Institute. The other is a STRIKE TEAM ALERT for mobilization on behalf of a project which Richter, Earl Mac Rauch and Dan Lupovitz are even now developing for ABC-TV. "Heroes In Trouble" is the spirit of the Banzai universe reincarnated in a different form. Are you ready for initiation into yet another world from the minds of W.D.R./E.M.R.? Write on! You'll find the call to action on the next page.

Needless to say, we here at the Institute are saddened at the prospect of being relieved of the duties we've been performing on your behalf, and in the name of Team Banzai. However, we find comfort and inspiration for the future in more of Rawhide's dying words. Our comrade (so it is recorded) asked Reno to tell the story of Aristippus, a companion of Socrates, who spoke of a visit to the house of a courtesan. When one of his young companions expressed an embarrassed reluctance to follow him in, the older man couniled the youth, "It's not the entering that is troublemaking, but being unable to come out." We always return to the real world from our daydreams. Hopefully, we bring back with us ideas for deeds and actions which bring both worlds together and make them better to be a part of.

We'd like to express our appreciation to all of you who wrote to thank us for our work here at the Institute. Please don't forget that we still have another newsletter to compile for you, and keep those contributions coming in! Continue to bring those irregular Blue Blazes to our attention, and us to theirs, so all who want to participate in this planet-wide daydream can have the opportunity to do so. It's not over yet--saddle up!

Denise "Catnip" Tathwell
Lori "Illinois Kate" Oberscheven
Fern "Sunshine" Marder



Terry "Silver Fox" Erdmann
Dianne "Hollywood" Wickes
Carol "D.J." Walske

"NOTHING IS EVER WHAT IT SEEMS.
BUT EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY
WHAT IT IS."
BUCKAROO BANZAI

W.D. RICHTER CALLS STRIKE TEAM ALERT!

Now it must be told. While everyone was looking ahead to Team Banzai's hair-raising exploits against the dreaded World Crime League, behind our backs a new and even more outrageous force of evil was taking root on this fragile orb. On the Pacific Rim. Incubating in the rich soil of international commerce. An organization so malevolent and pervasive and powerful that alongside its transglobal reach the machinations of Hanoi Xan seem puny indeed!

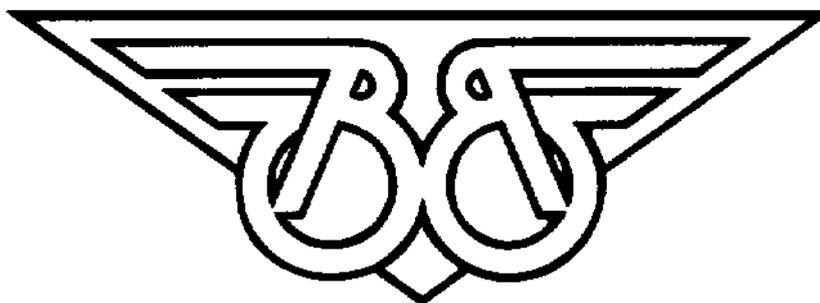
Who are these people? Dare we even dignify them with such a noun? Earl Mac Rauch has been out in the field digging again, hard at work documenting their villainous schemes, and though I have precious few details I can yet reveal, I am willing to name names. Hen. The ferret, Pince-nez (a.k.a. Mr. Takagi). Max Von Seven. Zulu Warrior. Switchblade Waiter. All of them loyal employees of the most scurrilous multinational conglomerate on the face of this (or probably any other) planet: The Buell Tool Company. Purveyors of chaos. One twisted soul commanding it all from his lonely inner sanctum. Doktor Wanko. High on his perch.

And with Team Banzai off struggling against the World Crime League, just who stands between us and these mad men and women? Ichiban Ltd. Marshalling its awesome Destructo Force Special Tactics Unit headed by none other than Richard "Dick" Ready and Euro Showgirl! Heroes in trouble. We need them. They need us.

I had intended to talk about about Buckaroo and Perfect Tommy and Reno and the confusion in Italy last month, but these other matters are far more pressing. I felt obligated to break the ice about Dick Ready and the all-volunteer Ready Rider Rapid Action Force. To make you aware of Boron Boy and Solo Rocker (they're on our side). And of Woo Pig and his Deathheads from Buell Tool (they're not). Have you seen those print ads... "If you smoke, you better try Buell Blacks"? Don't bite! Instead, try Ichiban 100% Mt. Fuji Oxygen, bottled at the source. Spread the word. Let it be known you want more. ABC-TV has a serious hand deep in this business. They care. And I know they'd be fascinated to hear that you do too. HEROES IN TROUBLE. Who are they? When are they? Ask Brandon Stoddard or Stuart Bloomberg at ABC-TV, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Century City, CA 90067.

And remember, we're all in this together because wherever you go, there we are.

--W.D. Richter



SCAVENGER HUNT

Pocket Books and Marvel Comics tell us that the novelization and comic book versions of "TABB" are both out of print and can no longer be ordered. We suggest you check used book stores and dealers' tables at sf/fantasy/media conventions for both. If anyone has copies of these publications and would like to sell/trade them, we will print your notice in the WWI(3) Bulletin Board. Please be brief, and confine your notices to "TABB" items. Thanks!



J. HUDDLESTON

THEY'RE BACK FROM THE DEAD AND READY TO PARTY!

Cards and letters continue to arrive at the Banzai Institute, expressing both relief and amazement at the news of the recovery of Rawhide, Sam and McIlvaine from injuries suffered at the hands of the Red Lectors. Although in Earl Mac Rauch's novel "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai" (written in collaboration with our

own Reno) the deaths of our three companions are confirmed, the Institute can now reveal the fiction of this painful but necessary ruse. When Rawhide and the others were felled and John Parker confirmed their wounds to be mortal, Buckaroo held a hurried conference with New Jersey, then scrambled the Institute's medical team and committed the three seemingly lifeless bodies to the Cryogenic Lab. After the Lectorid crisis had been averted, Buckaroo and New Jersey returned their full attention to the hope of restoring life to our comrades. Fortunately, further consultation with John Parker revealed that he had failed pre-med as well as flight school; Lectorid M.D.s John Kildare and John Eligius were called in, and concerted study resulted in breakthrough research on the physiological differences between human and Lectorid nervous systems. A treatment (the details of which must remain confidential) was formulated and applied, and Rawhide, Sam and McIlvaine were returned to this world.

Buckaroo and Rawhide then decided to boldly seize this unique opportunity to send three men, whom the blackhearted Hanoi Xan was unaware still existed, against him. Rawhide led the trio in an assault on the World Crime League's east coast stronghold and destroyed it, taking many Death Dwarves captive. By the time this mission was successfully completed, however, the novel by E.M.R. had gone to press with the misleading information about our comrades' demise. We regret the distress we have caused among the ranks of our friends and supporters (Rawhide, in particular, was amazed at the outpouring of public sentiment on his behalf) and hope you will understand that such an opportunity to strike a blow against the World Crime League could not be allowed to pass.



INVALID USER--PLEASE STAND BY

Billy Travers and Felicia, who were to marry last December, were forced to postpone the wedding when the computer program holding the guest list and the vows Reno had written for them crashed mysteriously only days before the ceremony. Perfect Tommy's involvement is suspected.... Although the delay will allow more time for Billy and Felicia to integrate their personal computer systems, they regret the inconvenience to their guests.

CON THE ROAD AGAIN....

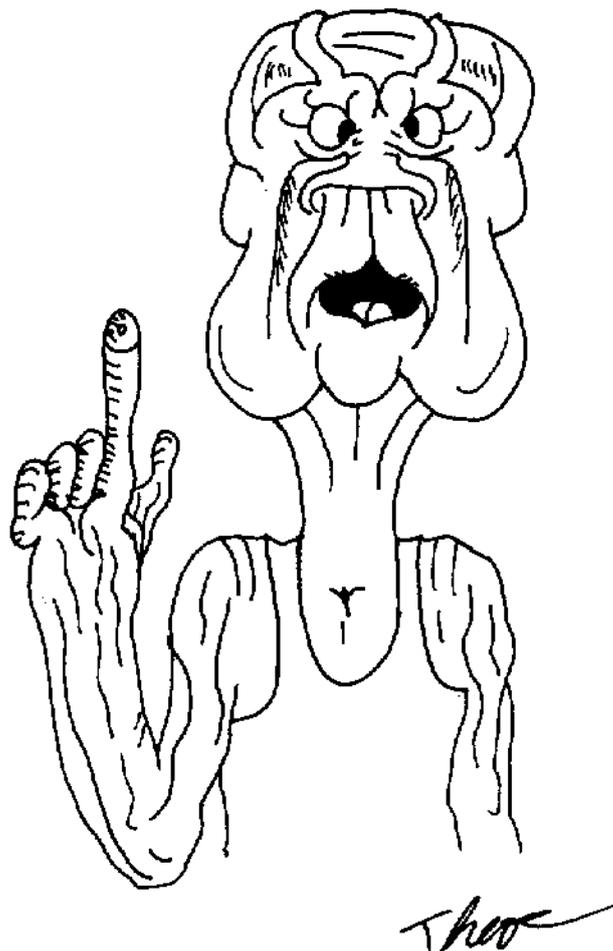
Silver Fox wants to thank all of you loyal BBIs who came to the club meetings at conventions all over the country in the past year. Those of you near Denver got to talk to Perfect Tommy, who sure had a good time at Starcon! SF next will be discussing "TABB" director W.D. Richter's new writing feat "Big Trouble in Little China" at these 1986 conventions:

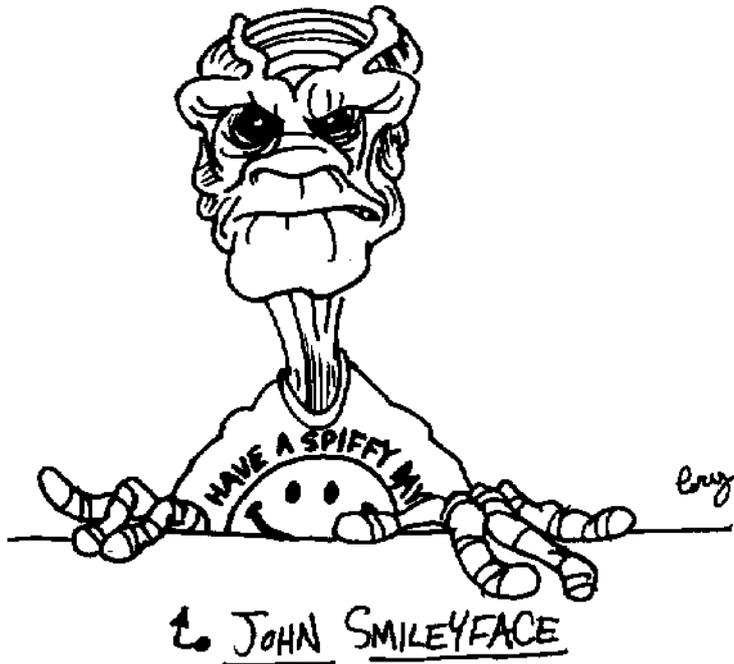
- STARLOG (4/19-20, Houston, TX)
- STARLOG (5/10-11, New York, NY)
- MEDIAWESTCON (5/24-25, Lansing, MI)
- STARLOG (5/31-6/1, San Francisco, CA)
- SPACE TREK (6/28-29, St. Louis, MO)
- WESTERCON (7/3-6, San Diego, CA)
- CREATION (7/12-13, Boston, MA)
- WORLDCON (Confederation) (8/28-9/1, Atlanta, GA)

Remember, no matter where you con, watch for The Fox--the above list is by no means complete.

CAT TALES

Slowly but surely, the number of stray cats living on the Banzai property continues to grow....





NAME THAT EXTRA!

W. D. Richter's associate Dan Lupovitz (known as the Rawhide of Team Richter) has finally revealed that his participation in "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai" included his feature film debut. Demonstrating previously unsuspected versatility as a performer, Dan first appears as the BBI handing Buckaroo his guitar as the Boss takes the stage at Artie's Artery; he then doubles John Lithgow's feet during the takeoff of the Father-ship (Susan Richter contributed her wedding ring to the jewelry adorning Lord Whorfin's toes). Dan also portrayed various Lectroid "extras." Although refraining from comment on whether or not he will abandon his career as an associate producer for the limelight, Dan has acknowledged that he has been approached by the Hong Kong Cavaliers' agent about appearing in a series of Banzai Institute instructional films.

ON TOUR, WITH A BULLET....

Last chance to see the famous Yellow Record at the Smithsonian before it goes on the road in April of this year, along with various Red Lectroid artifacts recovered from the ruins of Yoyodyne Propulsion Systems. BBIs across the country will be admitted to this exhibit free of charge.

ADVENTURE, EXCITEMENT

For those who have TI-99/4(A) computers with the "Adventure" cartridge, the Buckaroo Banzai Adventure Game is available for \$19.95, plus shipping and handling. For ordering information write:

TRITON PRODUCTS CO.
P.O. BOX 8123
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94128

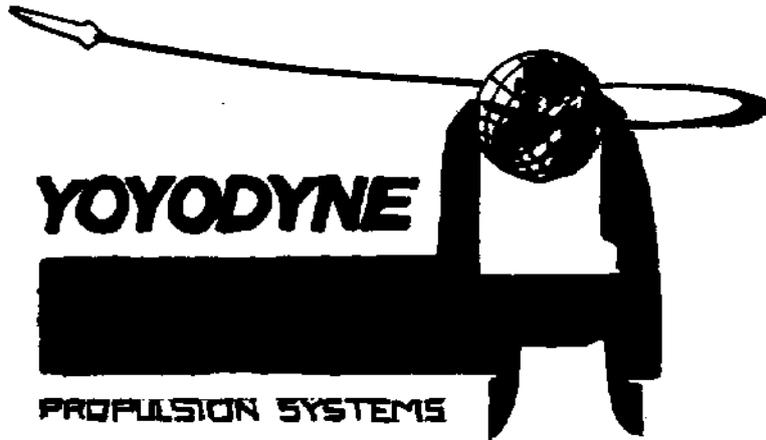
Thanks to Twinkelips 23 for this info.

Another Buckaroo Banzai Adventure Game is available from Scott Adams International for \$39.95. According to the BBI who alerted us, the game is not hard, but a good background in adventure games and Banzai doesn't hurt (although it seems they've spelled Lord Whorfin's name wrong). Check it out, and tell 'em we told you....

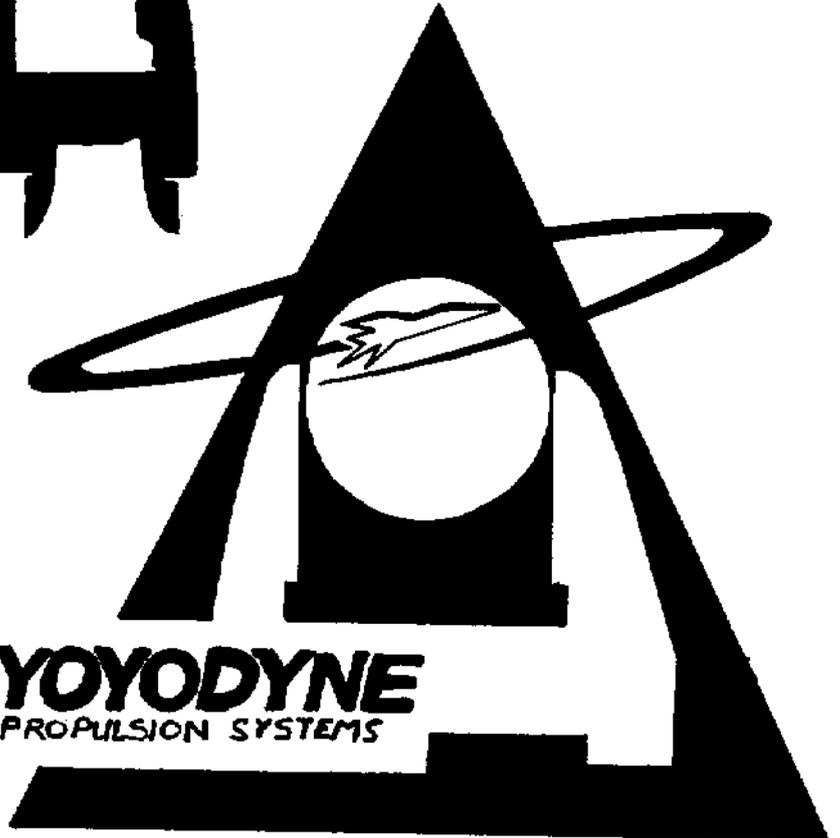
SODA JERK

Buckaroo Banzai and the Hong Kong Cavaliers have been asked by the Dr. Pepper Company if they would be interested in being featured in a series of commercials for the company's new ad campaign. Although Buckaroo himself does not endorse products of any kind, Perfect Tommy is presently negotiating a contract and will very probably start shooting a few spots that could air as early as May.

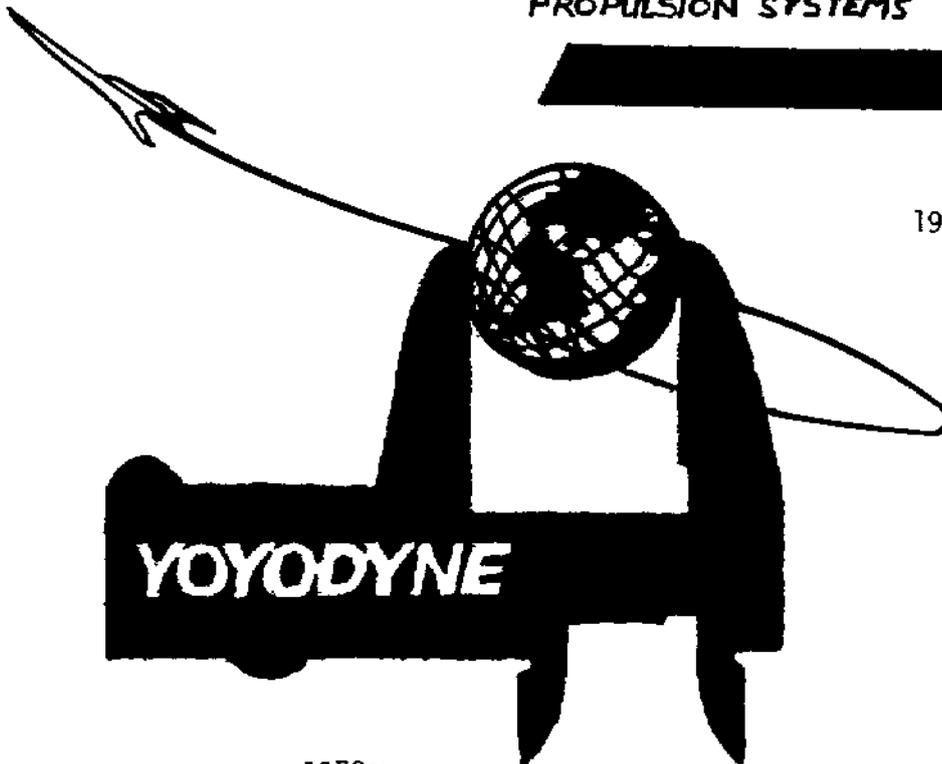




1960s



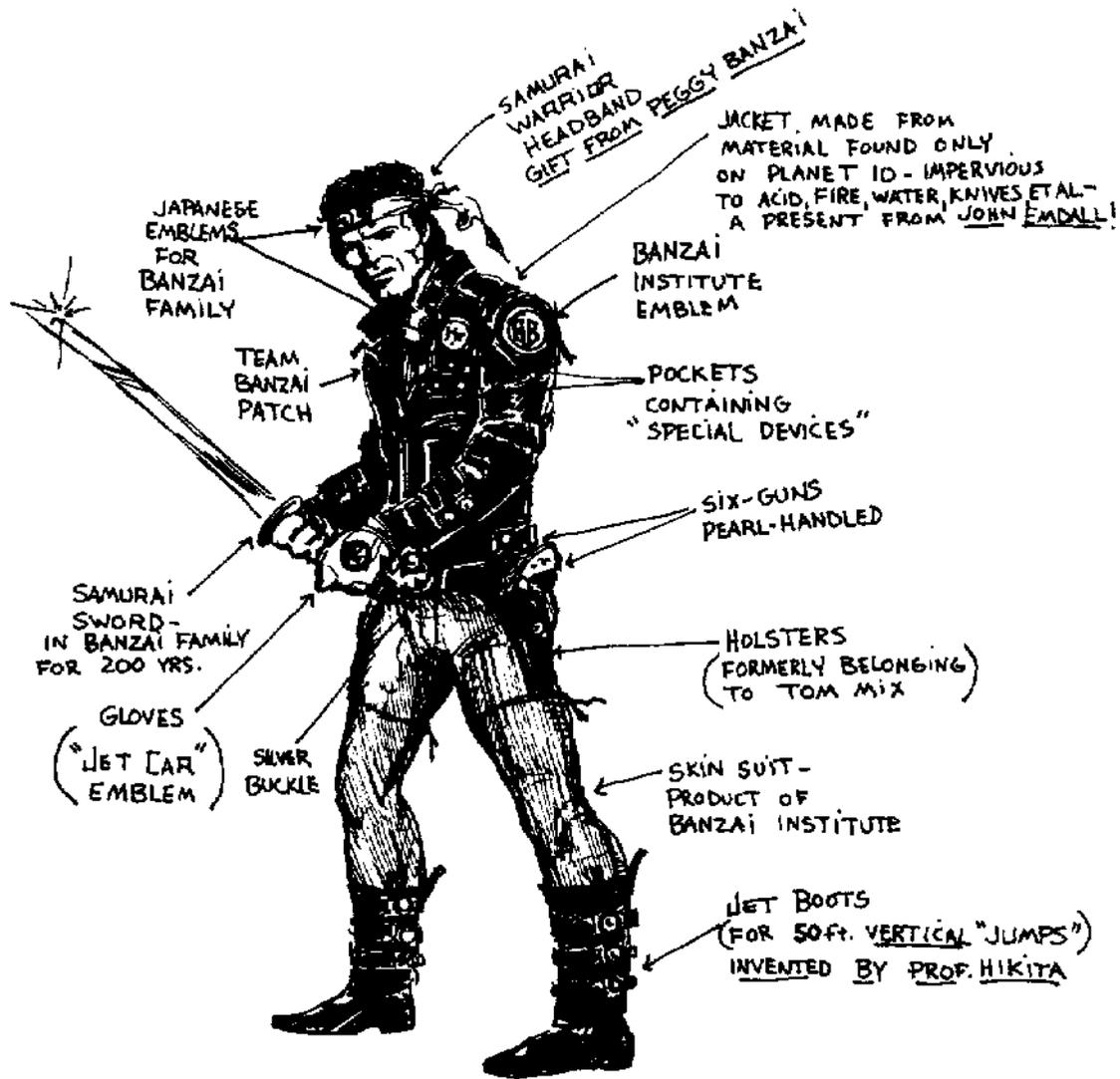
1980s



1970s

Our thanks to John Continuity and John Jabberwock for the history of the Yoyodyne Propulsion Systems logo

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*Proposed Combat-Adventure Uniform
(FOR BUCKAROO ONLY!)*
SUBMITTED BY BLUE BLAZE IRREGULAR -- "HUDD"

GEARED UP

Congratulations to Mrs. Eunice Johnson, our beloved archivist, who has finally completed her internship. "It's just a title change for me," she said, admitting that she's always lived at the Institute and that she met the requirements for residency some time ago. Although she now has the opportunity to leave her long-standing assignment as archivist, Mrs. J. says she's very likely to continue in the position. Hearing this has relieved many at Banzai HQ, in-

cluding Buckaroo, who stated she's "very probably irreplaceable." In his speech at the inaugural picnic, Reno said, "If anyone else were to take a crack at her job, we'd probably have to peel them off the ceiling after the first week." Although Mrs. J. claims the only reason she wanted her title changed was so she could go on more tours and operations, an informal search has begun for a back-up. That is, if one can be found who can handle it all....

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BUCKAROO BANZAI DIALOGUE QUIZZES

The following were contributed by BBI Clyde Von Drake (who we obviously have not been keeping busy enough during his internship here at the Institute) for your amusement. Ask a friend to supply the substitute words as indicated and read back the "new" dialogue. Then come up with a few quizzes of your own!

BUCKAROO: Hello, Mr. President. I know your (*part of body*) is killing you, but I have a (*adjective*) situation, and I must (*verb*) frankly.... Something has reared its ugly (*part of body*) in (*a place*) and it looks like (*a planet*) is caught in a(n) (*noun*).... There are (*adjective*) (*color*) aliens (*verb ending with 'ing'*) freely among us, posing as (*job title, plural*) and (*another job title, plural*) of Yoyodyne (*noun*) Systems.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: It's not Buckaroo (*someone's last name*) per se, Mr. President.... It's his (*plural noun*). Foreigners, some of 'em. Their (*plural noun*) have been changed. Their true (*plural noun*) are shrouded in secrecy.... This (*adjective*) Car belongs in the (*plural noun*) of Defense. The (*someone's last name*) Institute doesn't want to (*verb*) it to us--then we're gonna have to (*verb*) it from them!

BUCKAROO: (*number*) years ago, my (*relative's title*) and (*another relative's title*), Drs. Sandra and Masado (*someone's last name*) gave their (*plural noun*) for what was then considered to be a (*adverb*) (*adjective*) notion--the possibility of contacting alien (*plural noun*). However, not on another (*noun*), but here. Maybe right inside this (*noun*). (*Verb ending with 'ing'*) on a (*adjective*) plane of existence with our own--perhaps within a(n) (*noun*).

Who said that? Identify the speaker of each of the following lines:

- 1) "It's all on the yellow record."
- 2) "How am I supposed to know he's from outer space?"
- 3) "Was she very beautiful?"
- 4) "In our eyes, they're not very pretty."
- 5) "I want some music outa you characters!"
- 6) "He'll come. I know his type."
- 7) "There they are. Don't you see them?"
- 8) "You'd better believe it."
- 9) "Birds nest--people don't nest."
- 10) "Where're your spurs at?"
- 11) "No strike teams, Tommy."
- 12) "I'll make sure you get an early wake-up call."
- 13) "All right, who's the wise guy?"
- 14) "Slow this sucker down."
- 15) "I know you--you're Pecos."
- 16) "Damn, that's strange."
- 17) "What the hell's wrong with him?"
- 18) "Don't be mean. We don't have to be mean...."
- 19) "What is it--Apache?"
- 20) "I'll tell you later."
- 21) "If it's one thing I hate, it's being mistaken for somebody else!"
- 22) "Don't touch it--it might be a bomb, man."
- 23) "This what you're looking for, Buckaroo?"
- 24) "What, are you serious? Do you have an opening?"
- 25) "Somebody's playing games here; this is statistically impossible."
- 26) "...YOU stick by my side!"
- 27) "It's your hand, Buckaroo."
- 28) "...it looks like the Earth might be caught in a cross-fire."
- 29) "No, of course not. How could she be?"
- 30) "...you hadn't even said anything about it, didn't even mention you were going to do it...."

You'll find the answers on page 17.
Good luck!

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"A TREE IS A TREE..."

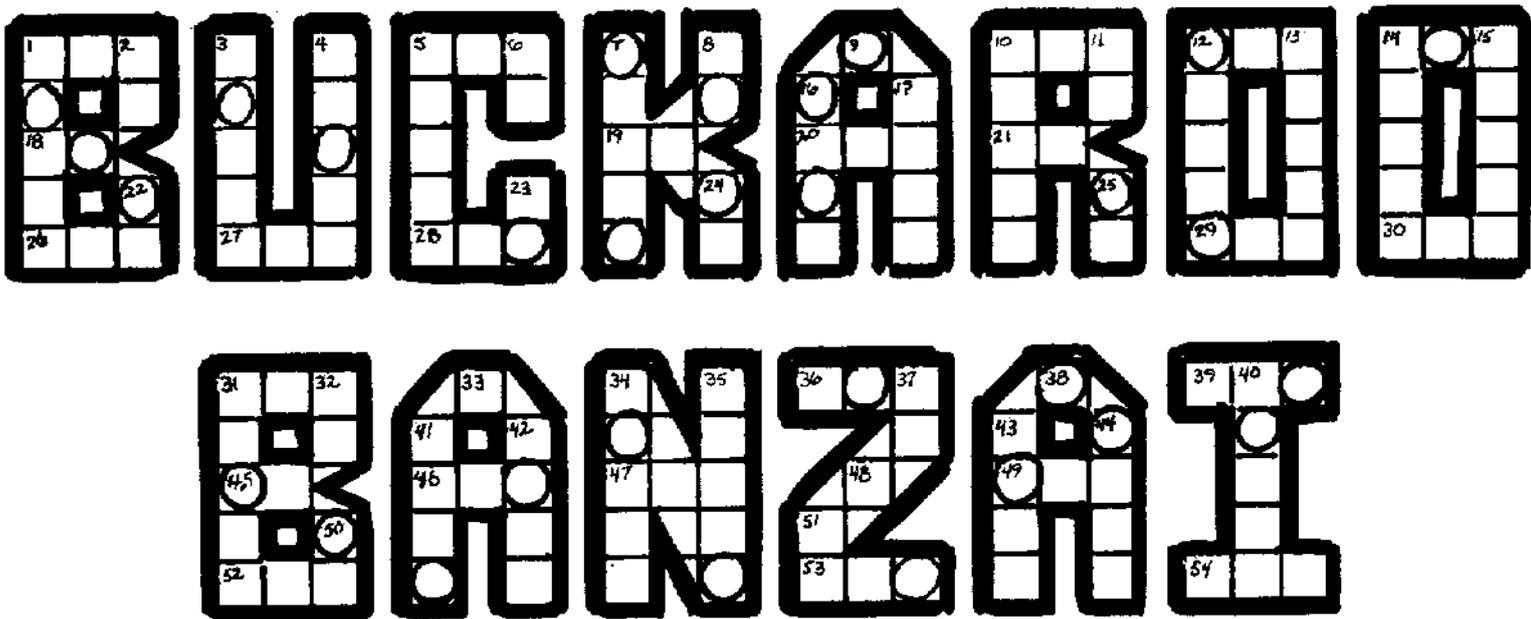
...and a rock is a rock--shoot it in Griffith Park!" So a famous studio head is said to have exclaimed when a director asked to film in a more exotic location. Griffith Park doubles for New Jersey in "TABB," which was shot on locations in the Los Angeles area and on sound stages 23 and 30 at MGM Studios. More location sites include:

- * Yoyodyne Propulsion Systems--the vacant Firestone plant on I-5 between L.A. and Anaheim. If you're heading south (toward Disneyland) the plant is on the left, facing the freeway. A bizarre combination of medieval battlements and Egyptian bas-reliefs, it's very Red Lectroid.
- * The Banzai Institute--a house in the Santa Monica Mountains. It can also be seen in the film "To Live and Die In L.A."

- * Artie's Artery--a recording studio in downtown Los Angeles. Sting's video "Fortress Around Your Heart" was filmed there. According to L.A. BBI David "Monkeyboy" Linck (a West Coast correspondent for MTV), the Artie's Artery logo was still painted on the studio wall in July of 1985, when the video was shot.
- * Team Banzai march--Sepulveda Dam in the San Fernando Valley. The dam area is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers and is not open to the public. However, travelling northwest on the Ventura Freeway, the dam is clearly visible on the right as you leave the San Diego Freeway/Ventura Freeway interchange at the foot of Sepulveda Pass. Many film fans will recognize the dam from its role as the gates of New York Maximum Security Prison in John Carpenter's film "Escape From New York."



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Created by BBI Pat "Cincinnati" Grant

ACROSS

- 1) Scooter's relation to Caspar
- 5) Recruits of Xan have this nailed to a tree and must cut it off to prove worthiness
- 9) Initial for the last name of B. Banzai's guardian
- 10) Lo ____, assistant of World Crime League leader
- 12) One of the official colors of Team Banzai
- 14) Middle name of "TABB" author
- 18) John O'Connor's response when told the Jet Car might be booby-trapped
- 19) Our leader's initials
- 20) What was the tracking of the particle beam which the black Lectroids deactivated at the end of the movie?
- 21) Initials of the actor who played Rawhide
- 26) The Seminole ____
- 27) A color of Lectroid
- 28) Planet ____
- 29) "Buckaroo Banzai Across ____ Eighth Dimension"
- 30) Pronoun which could be used for Pecos or Big Norse
- 31) Fort ____, NJ
- 33) Cipher which broke the Yoyo-dyne security code
- 36) Last name of the leader of the World Crime League
- 39) Wu-__; the practise of putting the pain as far as possible out of the mind, concentrating all mental powers on specific parts

- 45) ____ Richter
- 46) Perfect Tommy's gun was an Israeli ____
- 47) Buckaroo Banzai said the red Lectroids were "Evil, pure and simple, from the Eighth Dimension"; this is another word for "evil"
- 48) Mrs. ____ (initial only)
- 49) Robert ____, actor who played Prof. Hikita
- 52) Member of Team Banzai killed while working on the Jet Car
- 53) This was hidden in a bouquet of flowers and killed Peggy Banzai
- 54) ____ Norse, a BBI working as an intern at the Institute

DOWN

- 1) ____ (3 down) Place where Whorfin tortured Buckaroo
- 2) Initials of Sidney Zwibel's Team name
- 3) ____ (1 down) Place where Whorfin tortured Buckaroo
- 4) ____ Watch One
- 5) Big Norse told Buckaroo to do this at 500 mph
- 6) Initials of the actor who played Professor Hikita
- 7) According to Reno (in the movie), where is Pecos?

- 8) Whorfin mistakenly called Penny this
- 10) Sidney mistook Reno and Perfect Tommy for this member of Team Banzai
- 11) Initials of the Banzai Institute gatekeeper
- 12) Letters found on the Jet Car license plate
- 13) "The ____ you say!"--B. Banzai
- 14) Grovers ____, NJ
- 15) The World ____ League
- 16) City where Penny was born
- 17) ____ Police; law enforcement from Planet Ten
- 22) Member of Team Banzai who patched through the call supposedly from the President
- 23) Initials of member of Team Banzai known for his chronicalling of Team Banzai's adventures
- 25) Initials of name the asylum attendant jokingly calls Whorfin
- 31) ____ Smith, actor who played Perfect Tommy
- 32) Initials of the actress who played Penny Priddy
- 34) City where leader of World Crime League makes his headquarters
- 35) Another name for a black Lectroid
- 37) What was Buckaroo's answer on question 2?
- 40) First name of leader of the World Crime League

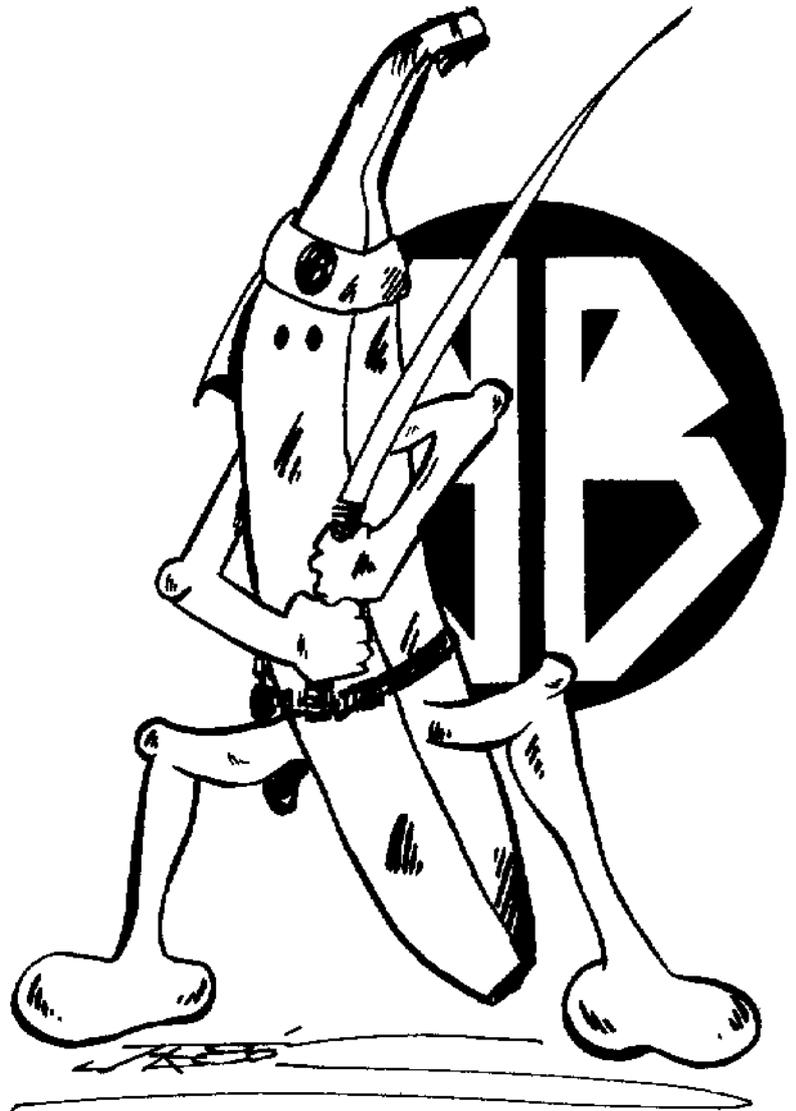
TIE ONE ON WITH BUCKAROO

After receiving many requests for instructions on how to tie a bow tie, Dr. Banzai has asked Perfect Tommy, the Institute's self-proclaimed fashion expert, to help out. Tommy (who claims he never wears the things himself) has provided us with these instructions:

- 1) Put tie around neck, with right end about 1½ inches longer.
- 2) Cross long end over short end, passing it through loop.
- 3) Take short end, form front loop of bow.
- 4) While holding front loop with thumb and forefinger, bring long end over loop.
- 5) Do another loop with long end and pull it through the front loop between crossed ends.
- 6) Adjust bow by gently pulling back and forth on loops and ends.
- 7) Keep pulling until bow has desired symmetry.
- 8) Finished tie should not be too perfect or it will look pre-tied.



You got that, honey?



Buckaroo Banana

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Those of you who would like to thank Gladden Entertainment (originally Sherwood Productions) for producing "TABB" may write them at:

GLADDEN ENTERTAINMENT
9454 WILSHIRE BLVD. #309
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212

BANZAI INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND STRATEGIC INFORMATION

WHY THERE WAS A WATERMELON THERE

One of the hazards of self-directed research lies in becoming obsessed with investigating the non-sequiturs of nature; of growing so intent on ferreting out the reasons behind unreasonable behavior that one loses sight of one's original quest. When a resident of the Institute finds this happening, he or she often seeks out Buckaroo, who gently reminds the seeker that not all mysteries can be (or were even meant to be) solved.

Sometimes, however, burning curiosity will not be deterred, and the mind will not rest until an answer has been pinned down. So it has proven with the question, "Why is there a watermelon there?" New Jersey never meant to create such intense interest with his innocent remark, and despite comments by some (no doubt permanently scarred by the Watergate era), Reno certainly intended no coverup. BBIs across the nation have contributed their speculations and demanded satisfaction. Here, then, is THE LAST WORD!

- #1 It's in a mechanical press in order to test the tensile strength of the watermelon's skin
 - a) to find the maximum size that a watermelon can grow to
 - b) to find the maximum height that a watermelon can be dropped from without squishing

Okay....

- #2 Team Banzai is using the press to see how much a watermelon can be compressed. If successful, the result would be the POCKET WATERMELON, a delicious snack for those constantly on the move, like Buckaroo and friends.
--Team Enigma

My guess would be that it was to be used in a test of containers or packaging material, with the container to be tested to hold the watermelon in place of more valuable or dangerous material (e.g. a human head or explosives). Doubtless it was left in the press amid the confusion that must have existed while the Lectroids were in the Institute.

--James Jones
Norman, OK

...background research regarding the possibilities and implications connected with the realignment or relocation of seeds within the meat of the watermelon, and the impact this rearrangement would have upon the agricultural industry, consumers, and society at large, as well as on the flavor, configuration and so on of the melon itself. (For example, perhaps the DNA held within the seeds could be manipulated so that they are grouped all together in the center, much like a canteloup or honeydew melon, or perhaps realigned so that they form next to the rind only.)

Dr. Banzai, of course, had started this research (as amusement more than anything else) but, as we know, became caught up in matters of a far more urgent nature.

--Susan "Research" Lichter
Valencia, CA

The watermelon is part of Perfect Tommy's experiment.

Buckaroo Banzai, looking for aquatic life resembling the specimen he brought back from the Eighth Dimension, needed an underwater testing station.

Perfect Tommy had been working on a new surface material. This material is a new type of plastic, somewhat pliable, with a special feature. Like dolphin's skin, the plastic would re-

BANZAI INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND STRATEGIC INFORMATION

lease carbon dioxide, yet allow oxygen to penetrate the surface. This would relieve the vessel from cumbersome oxygen tanks, leaving more room for scientific equipment. This new plastic is equal in thickness to watermelon rinds.

Since a sphere requires the least amount of energy to retain its shape, this pliable plastic would easily remain circular. Yet, a total sphere is too small to contain a full research team. So the sphere must be elongated like a watermelon.

The melon was there because Tommy was testing the pressure points for this new sub.

--Nicole August "Ratty"
Cevicelow
Copley, PA

The true reason for the seemingly mysterious presence of a watermelon (the green and white striped kind, incidentally) in the Banzai Institute lab is obvious to any true student of music. Before being sidetracked by Lectroids from Planet 10, B. Banzai and the Hong Kong Cavaliers were working on a new album. This was to be composed of old standards, a radical departure from their usual brand of hard-rocking bar blues (hence the secrecy--can you imagine the impact of, say, announcing to the music press that Madonna had gone born-again evangelical? You begin to appreciate the veil of mystery). This album was to include an all-new rendition of the classic "Just Plant a Watermelon Right On My Grave (and Let the Juice Slip Through)". (If you haven't heard it, ask anyone who's ever been to summer camp--they'll know it.) The tuber (are watermelons tubers?) in the lab was to be featured in a music video for this big hit.

Since the project has been temporarily shelved, I cannot reveal further details of this video, except to mention that it stars Buckaroo, Perfect Tommy, the aforementioned watermelon, me and my roommate.

--Miriam Reumann
Baltimore, MD

Professor Hikita is working on a project concerning the sensitivity of various members of the plant kingdom. The watermelon had already passed the sensitivity test, moving slightly and emitting an embarrassed giggle when strapped down and tickled with a feather. At the time of the movie, it was undergoing the stress endurance test. If one looks closely, one can detect a faint sheen of sweat on the watermelon's skin.

--Ruger

Reno built a very large hydraulic nutcracker. While still in its experimental stage, some prankster at the Institute jammed a watermelon in it. It is now waiting to be repaired....

--Steve "Clyde" Lee
Los Angeles, CA

Was the watermelon a fuel source?

--Margaret "Mad Hatter"
Hatanaka
Upland, CA

The entire Banzai Institute is powered on a rare gas which is only found in certain types of melons; different melons provide different types of power. In spring and fall a honeydew provides power for heating and electricity; in summer a watermelon provides power for electricity and air conditioning. The melon is hooked up to a pipe which sucks the gas from the melon into the heating/air conditioning vents and electricity wires and passes it throughout the Institute.

Perfect Tommy stumbled across this method while travelling across the desert in Egypt; he carved a lamp of a half-eaten melon and it burned for seven days and seven nights.

--Rachel Tubman
Philadelphia, PA

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The answer to the watermelon is obvious. Some of the jokesters at the Institute were trying to develop a watermelon with a hardened shell. They were planning to sneak it into the famous David Letterman skit, wherein David drops objects from the top of a tall building. They were planning to throw a monkey wrench into the skit and befuddle everyone when the watermelon would not break upon impact. Unfortunately, the melon proved too heavy to be easily snuck into the box of props. Now it is just sitting around, collecting dust.

--Konrad "Bebop"

Yarbrough
Stillwater, OK

It failed to maintain its balance while perched on top of the computer console. Its place has since been given over to a horde of smug grapefruit (score: citrus - 1, melons - 0).

--"The Dots"

Oslo, Norway

It's Rawhide's project...he's trying to develop (with the aid of a hydraulic press) a square watermelon. It will be much easier to store, but more importantly, it won't roll off store shelves in earthquake-prone areas.

--"The California Kid"

Los Angeles, CA

...a genetically mutated olive.

--Rich "Special Delivery"

Drees

Mountaintop, PA

Good postulations all, but none on the mark. We are pleased, therefore, to close with the actual explanation from the filmmaker himself....

I can only imagine Buckaroo trying to grapple with this question. When cornered (as I feel now), the

great man often quotes H.L. Mencken's nasty remark about how every complex question always has a simple answer... that is usually wrong. But it is high time poor New Jersey's honest inquiry be answered. Let me rephrase the question first one way, then another.



"Why is a watermelon trapped between those monstrous pressure plates deep within the Institute's Critical Stress Laboratory?" Team Banzai botanical agronomists have been for years hard at work on the problem of hunger in Third World countries under constant revolutionary turmoil. A non-political, humanitarian effort, their goal has been to find ways to feed starving peoples in remote areas where traditional food delivery systems prove woefully inadequate. Often the only way to get the nourishment into the bellies of the needy is to hit and run, avoiding all petty ideological side-taking. What you see in the Critical Stress lab is a revolutionary watermelon capable of withstanding impact pressures of 300,000 pounds per square inch! Sweet, juicy and vitamin-packed, this remarkable fruit can be dropped from the bomb bays of low-flying aircraft into the backyards of disenfranchised villagers in the remotest backwaters on this angry planet. Just another Team Banzai effort to cut

through all the unnecessary crap around us and help people help themselves. Look for high-impact, low-cholesterol eggs next...and sooner than you think, shatter-proof whole-wheat taco shells.

Rephrasing Number Two: "Why is there a watermelon in the movie at that particularly tense moment? Doesn't it clutter the narrative flow?" Absolutely it does, in answer to part two of your question. But isn't life full of things that get in the way? Those of us making the movie that day felt under particularly severe pressure from forces who would rather we'd all just stayed in bed. Not much of what we were doing didn't clutter the movie. With a mountain rushing up in our faces, was there any point in putting on the brakes? Would Buckaroo put on the brakes? Would a watermelon in the midst of a chase sequence not be, in its own organic way, emblematic of our entire misunderstood enterprise? At once totally logical and perfectly irrational? Exactly. We knew it would confound and upset certain authoritarian types. So we did it. And it worked.

--W.D. Richter

BUCKAROO BANZAI DIALOGUE QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Rawhide 2) Pinky 3) Penny
- 4) Buckaroo 5) Artie Duncan 6) Lizardo/Whorfin 7) Buckaroo 8) John Parker 9) Perfect Tommy 10) Reno 11) Rawhide 12) hospital orderly 13) Sam 14) Secretary of Defense 15) New Jersey 16) Buckaroo 17) Perfect Tommy 18) Buckaroo 19) Rawhide 20) Reno 21) Lizardo/Whorfin 22) Pinky 23) Scooter Lindley 24) New Jersey 25) Billy 26) Lizardo/Whorfin 27) Professor Hikita 28) Buckaroo 29) Mrs. Johnson 30) New Jersey

STAR-STRUCK

The recent documentary/dramatization "TABB" generated a vast amount of fan mail to the actors who played our heroes, rather than to the team members themselves. As a result, several Team Banzai residents have toyed with the idea of launching their own movie careers. Most recently, Pinky Carruthers auditioned for "Pretty in Pink." Sad to say, he came close but lost the part to a more seasoned actor. We're hoping Rawhide has more luck in the upcoming production of "The Saddlemen."



HIT AND RUN

Scooter Lindley celebrated his completion, with honors, of the Marksmanship and Handgun Safety Course by shooting everything in sight--his weapons being two pistols loaded with very watery ketchup. Reno, finding that Scooter's ammo clashed with his jacket, was not amused, and is considering nullifying Scooter's final scores.

SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER--ADDRESSES

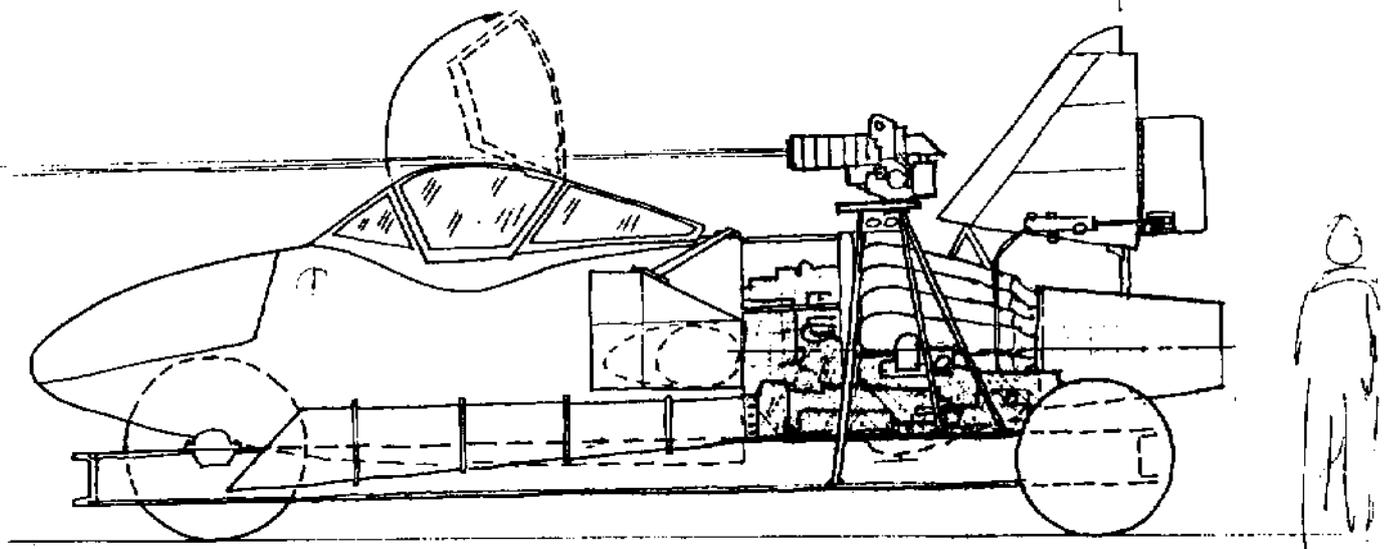
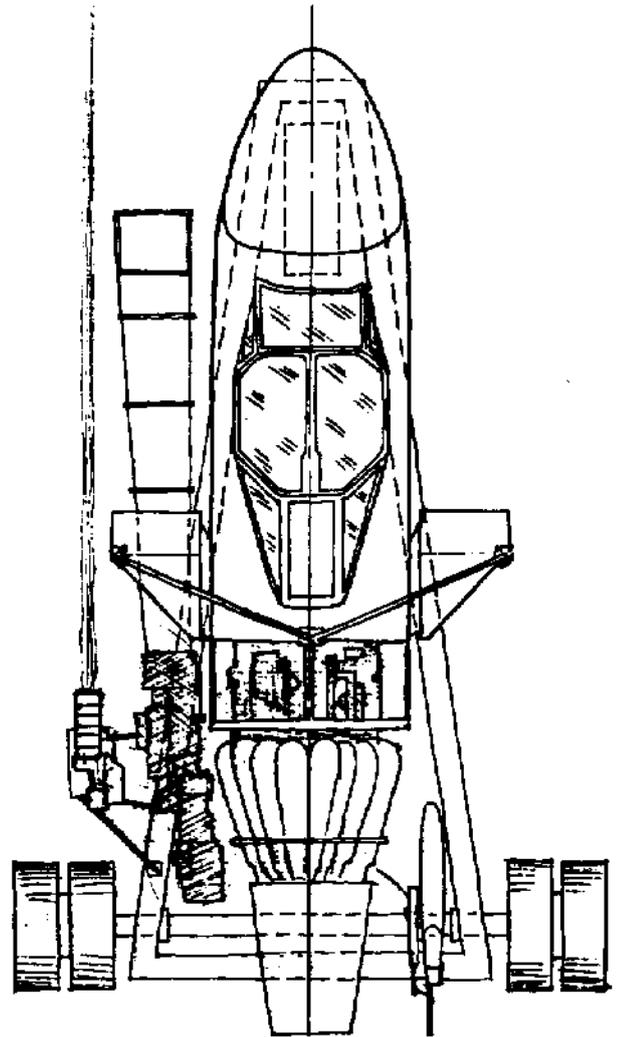
- * Cards and letters of condolence for families of the Challenger crew should be sent to NASA, Administrator's Office, Washington DC 20546.
- * Donations for the eleven children of the crew members should be sent to the Space Shuttle Children's Fund, American Security Bank, Box 0150, Washington DC 20055.
- * Donations for a fund for a new shuttle (suggested by brother and sister Missy and John McPhillips of Gillette, WY) should go to NASA, Attn. BF, Washington DC 20546.
- * Donations to the U.S. Space Foundation's fund for a new shuttle should go to Space Shuttle Fund, P.O. Box 51-L, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

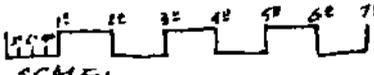
* * *

*Almighty Ruler of the all
Whose power extends to great and small,
Who guides the stars with steadfast law,
Whose least creation fills with awe;
Oh, grant Thy mercy and Thy grace
To those who venture into space.*

*--Robert A. Heinlein
"The Past Through Tomorrow"*

* * *



1950 JET CAR 
SCALE:

"SINCE I DON'T HAVE YOU"

(Due to many requests for more information about "the love theme from Buckaroo Banzai," Silver Fox has researched the song's history and provided us with this report.)

Joe Rock, a teenager in Pittsburgh, PA wanted to be a studio back-up singer. Attempts at this led to his becoming a local record promoter. A friend told him about a group called The Crescents, made up of a 13-year-old, a 14-year-old and two 15-year-old singers. After adding another 14-year-old named Jimmy Beaumont, they recorded the first song Joe wrote, "Be Mine." With this recording The Crescents became the #1 a capella group in Pittsburgh, after being played on a local radio station request show. The request operators, six girls known as The Saturday Secretaries, started The Crescents' Fan Club, which soon numbered 2000 members.

Joe sent a demo tape to ABC Records and was offered a contract. The group waited too long to sign, so the label withdrew the offer--but not before the group had begun a rumor that they were recording on ABC. Soon several members quit; with replacements, The Crescents were Janet Vogel, Jackie Taylor, Joe Ver Scharen and Wally Lester, with Jimmy Beaumont singing lead and Joe Rock as manager.

Joe's girlfriend broke his heart by moving to an Oklahoma stewardess school. One night, while driving to rehearsal and thinking of her, Joe wrote a song. At each traffic light he jotted down words, then gave the sheet of paper to Jimmy for comments. The next night Jimmy came with a melody and the group started singing the song. Someone had come in with a recorder and the first version of "Since I Don't Have You" was completed. Thinking

the tape had stopped running, Janet ad-libbed the beautiful counterpoint notes of the ending.

Joe Rock sent tapes to thirteen record companies; all thirteen sent back rejection letters. One letter stated that the song was too negative and should be changed to "Since I Have You." Another letter commented, "A song with thirteen 'you's at the end will never sell."

When a new label, Calico, formed in Pittsburgh, Joe set up an audition. On the way, the group had a head-on collision in their 1952 Dodge, but no one was hurt. They signed with Calico after singing "Since I Don't Have You" and "One Night, One Night."

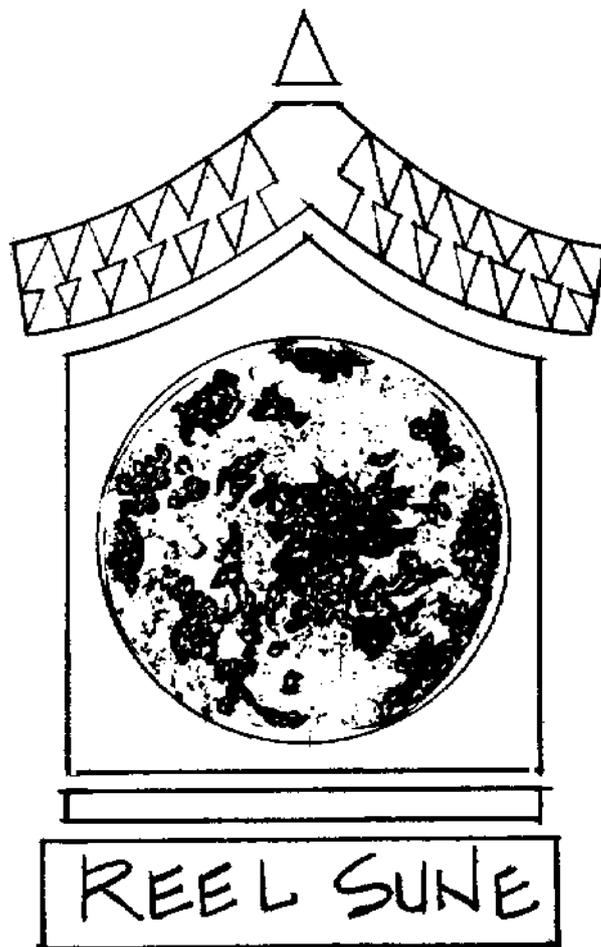
"Since I Don't Have You" was recorded on December 3, 1958, at Capitol Studios in New York City. The record was released the day after Christmas and at 10:20 AM was heard for the first time on Art Pallan's KDKA show. Since the name The Crescents had been used in the falsely rumored ABC signing, Joe chose the new name The Skyliners for the recording group. The record stayed at #1 in Pittsburgh for seven weeks. Dick Clark invited The Skyliners to perform on American Bandstand on Friday the 13th of February, 1959. The very next Monday, they received orders for over 100,000 copies of the song.

"Since I Don't Have You" is registered as written by "Beaumont-Vogal-Ver Scharen-Taylor-Lester;" Joe Rock's name is not included. The song, featured in several movies (including "American Graffiti"), is currently available on recordings by The Skyliners, Art Garfunkel, Gus Hardin, Don McLean (probably the cover truest to the original), Dorothy Moore, Patti LaBelle and Barbra Streisand--and, of course, by Buckaroo Banzai, who never did finish singing it for us.



SYNCHRONICITY III--BBIS I

Los Angeles BBIs made their presence known to English rocker Sting at the first concert of his five-night stand at the Greek Theatre, 8/15/85. During the second encore set, a brightly-colored piece of cloth flew gracefully through the air and landed on stage; at the conclusion of "Every Breath You Take," Sting retrieved the gift and thanked his fans nicely for--a Team Banzai headband! Unfortunately, this stranger to our shores slightly misunderstood its purpose, as he tried to tie a four-in-hand knot in his "new tie." The present remained around Sting's neck for part of "I Need Your Love So Bad" by Willie John (no relation to John Littlejohn). The singer then began a demure, yet effective, strip-tease that featured the misplaced headband, which was then flung into the air as a finale. Alert roadies quickly wrestled the headband to the ground, and one was later seen carefully bearing it backstage to the blond pop star. Who invited Sting into the BBIs? Speculation at first included actor Clancy Brown, Sting's co-star in "The Bride" and Rawhide's counterpart in "TABB," until two New York BBIs (visiting in L.A.) finally 'fessed up. Sting plans to continue using his stage name as his BBI tag.



**YOYODYNE
COMPLAINT
FORM**

PLEASE WRITE YOUR
COMPLAINT IN BOX BELOW

WRITE LEGIBLY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

SON T W EAR T D H PEP RED MAC
H J O O J I I R C N E C O E I R
OH W R E BB 000 CB K U L I
C E E L C R E C D V O A I C L M
KID RED TEN T L Y A S E THE SHE

LEE G S A XAN E SHU
E B D F A D O M K A
WD UZI BAD J ITO N
I E T V A E J N N O
SAM Y E H R GAS D G BIG

(circled letters) HHEORNTTRCCDHAR
TAWEYIARASEKIUA
Quote: CHARACTER/IS/WHAT/YOU/ARE/
IN/THE/DARK

BANZAI INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND STRATEGIC INFORMATION



BULLETIN BOARD

(NOTE: ALL ENTRIES SUBJECT TO EDITORIAL APPROVAL--RENO)

JOHN HOWLING MOUSE--Reno caught me trying to toast a Twinkie with a bunson burner in the lab yesterday; I think my cover's blown. What should I do?--John Jabberwock

ATTENTION--There will be no more grapefruit allowed near the computer terminals. One keyboard was almost ruined from juice squirting on it, not to mention the floppy discs with seeds stuck to them. Please leave your finger foods at the door with your shoes from now on--Billy T.

I WANT TO MAKE A BILLBOARD of all the BBIs; if you would like to help, please send a picture of yourself and any other BBIs that you know to Panama "Pam", 4947 Chimineas, Tarzana, CA 91356. Penpals also welcome!

BBI Directors--Thanks for the tickets to the Roscoe and the Phonics concert--sorry we missed it. Would you like tickets to an old movie called "Blue Harvest"? Let us know--Marin Corps

NEW JERSEY BBIs--Photon team "Team Banzai" has league practice every Wednesday in Kenilworth, NJ--Rt. 22; Parkway Exit 138; stay left; second light,

turn right; Rt. 22, turn right; Photon is on the right, next to Seamans' furniture. Play Photon with us! We enjoy teaching people who wish to learn the game. We wear Buckaroo Banzai headbands. Ask for Phantom or Nova--then have fun!--Photon Team Banzai

RAMBA--Tell Sydney she still owes me two bucks for the hamburger she fed Arcadiac...not to mention \$42 for the radiation medication--Clyde

ATTENTION--There will be a party poolside at midnight for all Institute staff first-named "John." Bring your Lectroid masks! Eveready and Duracell on tap all night.

TO ANY AND ALL BBIs--I have been stuck with two mint condition copies of Marvel Comics' "Buckaroo Banzai" #1, and I would be more than happy to trade one of them for a mint condition copy of #2. Anyone interested? Please write Clyde, c/o Steve Lee, P.O. Box 66273, Los Angeles, CA 90066.

BBIs ATTENDING WORLDCON! The Mid-Miami Squad will be hosting a BBI Headquarters at Confederation in Atlanta. For information about registration as a BBI, perhaps a crash pad at Worldcon, and other BBI events 8/28-9/1, write quickly to the Blue Blaze Irregulars Mid-Miami Squad, P.O. Box 144892, Coral Gables, FL 33114.

ATTENTION--Several BBIs are considering publishing a newsletter to fill the void that will be left by the passing of World Watch One. Our intent is to continue the same type of reliable information you've come to expect, keeping the lines of communication open for the BBI network. Consider this an inquiry--DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY--simply your name, address, phone number (optional) and any submissions for the first issue. A SASE is requested; it's essential for the return of your sub-

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mission. We will hopefully begin production in time to pick up where WWI leaves off. We dare not wait, lest the forces of evil strike when our guard is down. Contact Sharkey, c/o Jim Van Over, 1118 Oakmont Dr. #2, San Jose, CA 95117.

MIDNIGHT RIDERS--Horses are to be returned to the stables before 1:00 AM. They must be well rested before the 5:00 AM Survival Class--Rawhide

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BANZOIDS ALERT--There will be a dutch-treat happening every second Thursday at 6:30 PM at LaVal's Pizza in Berkeley (on Durrant, near Telegraph, next to Leopold's records). Come prepared to enthusiastically discuss anything remotely relating to "Buckaroo Banzai," as well as the philosophy of goldfish. Bring any paraphernalia you might have dreamed up. Park anywhere nearby. Contact Trish "Trigh" Henry, 3701 Merridan Dr., Concord, CA 94518, (415) 689-7073.

ATTENTION--Any member of Team Banzai who knows who took the photograph of the Wizard of Speed and Time windsurfing at Omnicon VII, please contact me at P.O. Box 144892, Coral Gables, FL 33114-4892. I promise I won't tell Mike! I just want to see it!--Ms. Atlas

FOUND--One copy of "Future History" by B. Banzai and T. Hikita --The Crusader

CELERY, PANDORA, NONOT--Damn you and the horse you ran into--Lady Info

"THE PENNY PARADOX"--a Buckaroo Banzai fanzine--is now available from A Penny For Your Thoughts

Press, 125 Fannin, Corpus Christi, TX 78415, \$10.00 post paid. Please make checks payable to Leni Sommer--Curly

TEAM MISFIT FANS--Those of you who enjoyed "Misfits of Science" (NBC-TV's answer to "TABB") should write NBC-TV President Brandon Tartikoff and tell him so. Though occasionally crude and silly, "Misfits" was also funny, off-beat, irreverant and obviously heavily influenced by "TABB." In the miserable annals of network TV, it should be duly inscribed! Although the show has not yet been renewed, the offices of creator James D. Parriott say there is still a chance for a second season. Write Mr. Tartikoff at NBC-TV, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523. Tell 'em we told you--Hollywood

MRS J.--Congrats, kid. How about you, me, dinner and a movie sometime soon? No weird noises, promise--C.V.D.

CONFETTI--Buckaroo Banzai fanzine from The Party Company--is now available. For more information write TPC at 308 N.E. 154th St., Vancouver, WA 98685.

THE BLUE BLAZE IRREGULARS DIRECTORY UPDATE--Due to an overwhelming (and we mean overwhelming) response from your ranks, the BBI Directory will be delayed, probably until the publication of WWI(3) in June. We regret the delay, but we'd rather have it done right than done hastily. (What do you guys want for free?) Thanks for your patience--The Directors

