

## Lunch, theater package offered

Meadow Brook Theatre and the comedy "A Life in the Theatre" is the destination offered by The Community House in Birmingham. Theater-lovers are being invited to join the Community House group for a matinee performance Wednesday. Theater seats, a luncheon featuring Spanish food, and round-trip transportation from Birmingham are all part of the entertainment package. Reservation information is available by calling The Community House at 644-5832.

"A Life in the Theatre" stars two actors portraying two actors. Robert, the older actor, is an established performer while John is younger, ambitious and soon to be recognized.

The two are seen rehearsing, performing and arguing over their work. In a series of scenes ranging from farce to drama, they portray the illusion and the fascinating reality of acting in the theater.

THE ENTIRE action of the play takes place on-stage, offstage and in other parts of the theater. Charles Nolte has staged "A Life in the Theatre," with a setting by C. Lance Brockman, costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnell and lights by Barry Griffith.

## Double Eagle chef awarded gold medal

Kevin Enright, chef at the Double Eagle in Troy, is a member of the team awarded a gold medal in a Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Junior Members competition Sunday at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Four teams of three chefs competed, preparing both hot and cold dishes, for the contest that will become an annual event.

The winning team prepared boned rack of lamb in crust, with saute demiglace, and poached brook trout saint florentine, with sauce au vin blanc, for

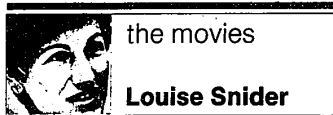
entrees, and terrine of veal, salmon mousse in barquettes, and bouquet of vegetables in dill sauce for hors d'oeuvres.

Judges were Leopold Schaefer of Matuschus Enterprises and John Vanderwoude and James Vanvuren, both of Oakland Community College.

Judging was on the same guidelines as the Frankfurt Culinary Olympics, which is held every four years. Originality, labor, presentation and value are the factors considered.



Steve Nichols' (John Ritter) love interest is his next-door neighbor "J" Marsh (Anne Archer) in "Hero at Large."



the movies

Louise Snider

## Affable manner makes hero role an appealing one

For better or worse, we do need our heroes. That's the premise of "Hero at Large" (PG), a romantic comedy that mixes ample portions of sentiment and idealism to create a schmaltzy but appealing film.

Much of the credit for pulling this off goes to John Ritter. His affable manner and boyish charm create a convincing innocence that gives the film the punch it needs to deck any skeptics.

Ritter is in the modest hero tradition of Hank Ponda or Jimmy Stewart. He plays the part of a struggling young actor who becomes serious about his role as a comic book hero, Captain Avenger. He believes that individuals do make a difference in our society; they can make things happen.

In striking contrast to Ritter's naturalness is the grating style of co-star Anne Archer. Archer plays the girl across the hall with whom our hero falls in love. She is a practical, no-nonsense person who can't understand why anyone wants to put himself in danger to help others. Her performance and character are both irritating to the point of cooling audience interest in this love match.

FORTUNATELY, the romance is subordinate to the main plot of the young actor's commitment to the principles of Captain Avenger. Wearing his Captain Avenger costume, he gets involved in two crime-fighting escapades. His deeds make front-page headlines, and soon the mysterious champion of justice is the talk and hero of New York City.

This also makes him a valuable property. Consequently, a smooth-talking publicist smoothes him into boosting the mayor's flagging re-election campaign. What began as an act of conscience and good will becomes usurped into a publicity stunt.

Nevertheless, Captain Avenger is sincere when he addresses an admiring crowd and tells them that he is not important; it's the idea that is important. Everyone can be a hero, he tells them, just by caring about other people and doing things for others.

"HERO AT LARGE" won't take up space in any history of the cinema, but it is a cheerful, optimistic film that cuts across interest levels to appeal to all age groups.

Its message is not profound; still, when the actor appeals to the crowd as individuals with the same capability he has for action, the movie does touch on an interesting argument about the nature of heroism.

Bertolt Brecht addressed the issue in his play "Galileo." In one passage, the scientist's assistant Andrea, disappointed by Galileo's capitulation before the inquisitors of the Holy Office, says, "Unhappy is the land that breeds no hero," and Galileo responds, "Unhappy is the land that needs a hero."



Accompanied by PR man Eddie (Harry Bellaver), Steve, dressed as Captain Avenger, helps promote a New York movie opening.

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