



the movies

Louise Snider

Sexist humor, dopey characters make dull flick

"The Baltimore Bullet" (PG) could be an enjoyable movie. The story of a couple of poolroom hustlers going after a big score, it stars a smirking James Coburn as the Baltimore Bullet and a simpering Bruce Boxleitner as his sidekick.

They're small-time cons after numero uno, Omar Sharif, and his \$150,000.

It could be enjoyable if the humor, such as it is, rose above the cavernous level. Coburn and Boxleitner argue about whether a burlesque waitress has real or synthetic attributes. The latter follows the waitress to the kitchen.

The action is off camera. The audience is treated to the waitress' scream and the crash of a tray of dishes. Just one hilarious yuck after another.

Still, the film could be enjoyable if there were any attractive or endearing or interesting quality among the leading characters.

COBURN MUGS his way through with a stylish wardrobe, a lot of hair and a perpetual grin of self satisfaction.

His young protege, Boxleitner, is more the frisky, coltish bumbling type. What he wins at pool, he loses at poker.

Renee Blaklee, who joins them on the road, could be likeable, if she didn't show such grain-brained judgment in teaming with these two boozers.

After all the macho mania of this film — the easy pick-ups, the leers, the bimboes, the vulgarities — Blaklee's presence presents the token nod toward feminism. She's a lady who learned to handle a stick in her daddy's pool hall, and she can shoot "as good as a man." (Or did they say "almost as good"?)

Trudy is Blaklee's horse. Nothing really wrong with Trudy except she doesn't have much of a part.

This ragtag crew is after a one-to-one match-up between Coburn and Sharif. Sharif plays The Deacon, a heavy pool player with an attache case loaded with money.

AS A SIDE PLOT there is a disgruntled lumbar gambler who is out to kill The Deacon because he lost to him in pool, out to kill Boxleitner because he lost to him at poker, and out to kill Coburn because he won't make up the losses. Talk about poor losers.

Finally, and wouldn't you know it, they all met in a climactic finish in a Tournament of Pool Hustlers. Guess who wins?

It's about as suspenseful as waiting to see which laundry soap the woman in the commercial is using. And, to pursue the metaphor further, it will take a lot of laundering to make this tacky film respectable; a lot of ironing to get the old, familiar plot wrinkles out; a lot of starch to give it a sound body; and certainly a mystery detergent to keep us guessing, at least a little.

what's at the movies

NEW RELEASES

ALL THAT JAZZ (R). Tour de force by writer-director Bob Fosse. Roy Scheider plays hard-driving, fast-living choreographer (Fosse) in "behind the scenes" story of unusual imagination and energy.

THE BALTIMORE BULLET (PG). Tacky comedy about pool hall hustlers, with James Coburn and Omar Sharif.

BEING THERE (PG). Peter Sellers is a TV-educated economist in satire that pokes fun at our political and social concerns.

BLACK STALLION (G). Story about a boy and a horse told in rich visual images. Terrific performance by Mickey Rooney as an ex-jockey who befriends the boy.

THE CHANGING (R). George C. Scott in haunted house tries to unravel mystery of a child-murder that took place decades ago.

COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER (PG). Sissy Spacek is outstanding as Loretta Lynn in movie bio of country singer's grueling early years and troubled success.

DEATH SHIP (R). Absurd tale of ship killing its passengers and a captain whose dialogue consists of repeating "blood, blood."

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG). "Star Wars" sequel unites original cast in continuation of battle against the evil empire.

FOLKES (PG). Adventure flick with Roger Moore heading up team of unusual underwater sabotage experts and problem of hijacked oil platform.

FOOLIN' AROUND (PG). The title says it all. Gary Busey is country boy to Annette O'Toole's psychologist/helms.

FOXES (R). Four San Fernando Valley teen-aged girls face problems and pressures of growing up.

FRIDAY THE 13TH (R). A case of overkill as counselors reopen camp closed after a series of vicious murders.

GILDA LIVE (R). Funny sketches and strong language from Gilda Radner, includes Father Sarducci's monologues and Radner's Roseanne Roseannadanna.

GORP (R). More summer camp shenanigans in this comedy.

THE HOLLYWOOD KNIGHTS (R). Comedy about young men fighting to save their hangout from the wrecker's ball.

KILL OR BE KILLED. Kung fu action in adventure with James Ryan.

NIGHT GAMES (R). Director Roger Vadim introduces his new find Cindy Pickett in film about sexual maneuvers.

TOM HORN (R). Steve McQueen in story about rugged men at the end of the Old West era.



Steve McQueen plays one of the last great heroes of the American West, biding his time in a jail cell, in this scene from "Tom Horn."

Annual Pub Crawl aids opera theater

nightlife

The third annual Michigan Opera Theatre Pub Crawl will lead opera lovers to drink, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. June 5.

The Woodbridge Tavern, Clementine's Kitchen, The Rhinoceros, Jacoby's, The Old Shillelagh, Cafe Harmonie, Union Street, The Gnome, Gregory's, Cobb's Corner, The Salamander Bar, Porter Street Station and La Marmita are included on the pub crawl.

Special entertainment will be featured at most of the stops made by the Sods Express.

Starting from the Music Hall Theatre, with adjacent parking, 12 DOT buses will travel two special routes, stopping at each of the pub crawl night spots.

A pub crawl ticket buys space on the bus. Pub crawlers can stay in one place

all evening, visit two or three spots, even stop in all the pubs on the tour. Buses will run every 20 minutes from the Music Hall starting place, though pub crawlers can pick up the bus at any one of the participating taverns. The Sods Express will run from 6 p.m. until midnight.

PROCEEDS FROM the sale of the bus buttons (the pass to get on the bus); special limited edition, numbered T-

housing.

"This is in line with SEMCOG's overall philosophical position of making the best use of existing, paid-for structures in the region," said SEMCOG Executive Director Michael M. Giusac.

"Rehabilitation of existing housing and rental assistance for existing rental units are the most cost-effective means of helping the elderly, female-headed households, and persons with fixed or lower incomes."

THE REMAINING 35 percent of the goal is aimed at providing new owner or renter housing units for inadequately housed households.

Housing needs of the elderly and

shirts, and a percentage of the liquor and food tabs will benefit Michigan Opera Theatre, one of the largest, fastest-growing resident opera companies in the nation.

Bus buttons can be purchased in advance at any of the participating taverns, at the Music Hall box office, and at the MOT Boutique in the Renaissance Center, Tower 100. For further information call 963-3717 or 567-0440.

female-headed households are of primary concern in the plan. The plan identifies 45 percent of the region's inadequately housed households as elderly households, and identifies 47 percent of the region's inadequately housed households as female-headed households.

"It is crucial to understand what 'inadequately housed' means," said Giusac. "An elderly person forced to spend too much income for housing in order to have access to public transit is inadequately housed."

The U.S. Department of Labor reported last Wednesday that the average family of four in Detroit spends nearly \$21,000 to maintain an average standard of living.

Housing goal: Aid elderly

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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