Company needs lighter touch with 'The Bat'

The program touts the Troy Players production of "The Bat" as a "mystery-drama," but the play can more honestly be pegged as an unintentional comedy.

The Mary Roberts Rinehardt and Avery Hopproof play opened Saturday and continues at a p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Troy Community Center.

"The Bat" concerns a group of people who, for various reasons, arrive at Cornelia Van Gorder's rented house in

review

search of a large sum of money suppos-edly hidden there by the previous owner, who is now deceased. An elderly lady, Miss Van Gorder (Wilma Nichols), has been receiving threatening phone calls and notes warning her to leave the house of face the consequences. Miss Van Gorder's nervous, bysteria-ridden maid, Lizzie

(Cell Welhman), is convinced the antag-onist is the "Bat," a notorious local prowler and burglar. Detective Ander-son is hired to protect the household. IN THE QUEST for the money, there is the inevitable murder, and the gener-al consensus is that the culprit is the infamous "Bat."

What ensures is a constituent function.

infamous "Bat."
What ensues is a sometimes funny, sometimes confusing search to find the money, the murderer and, consequently, the much sought-after "Bat."
Among the suspects are one Doctor Wells (Stanley Fiol), Miss Van Gorder's

niace (Shirley Biggs), and her fiance (Rick Desotell).

Cell Weinham turns in the best performance as the jittery Lizzie. John Barnard is competent as Reginald Beresford, a rather dull lawyer who comes to the bouse to investigate.

The other actors vary in ability from a first to poor. Ther is much line-searching in this play, grappling at cues that appear to be totally unfamiliar to the characters.

A GREAT DEAL of the trouble lies in Todd Curless' direction. His players

dated.

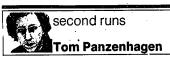
If Curless had used alighter hand, had allowed his east to overact to the point of melodrama, much more humor would have been derived from this exaggeration than from the stiffness and mechanical actions which pervaded the performance.

performance.
Technical irregularities abound.
There is a light switch that doubles as

an intra-house summons. The butler hufries in to clean up a stain left by a bloodless corpse. Non-existent soot is put on Doctor Well's bag in order to obtain a thumbprint. The walls are literally paper-thin, they undulate visibly almost every time a door is closed, and people come in out of a raging thunderstorm and aren't even we.

aren't even wet.

Although this play is not without its funny moments — there are , in fact, many — too much of the humor comes from mistakes.



"Sante Fe Trail" (1940), 2 p.m. Wednesday on Ch, 62. Originally 110

minutes.

It's a little-known fact, but presidential contender Ronald Reagan has campaigned for U.S. military superiority ever since savages outnumbered white

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OCT. 24 "LOVING COUPLES"

THE ELEPHANT MAN 12:30-2:45

men 4-to-1 at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. Although Ronnie isn't quite old enough to have witnessed the battle in the creeping, ashen flesh, he did play Gen. George Armstrong Custer in

"Sante Fe Trail," a 1940 film directed by Michael Curtiz. Helping put the wagons in a circle are co-stars Errol Flynn and Olivia De Hawilland.

The battle scenes in "Sante Fe Trail" are as close as Ron has ever come to the smell of war. All of his fighting during World War II, for example, was done on Hollywood backlots and whom to former wife Jane Wyman, whom Robert Stack always forgets to mention in those "biographical" Reagan for President commercials.

year career, culminating with Don Siegel's "The Killers" (1964). Two years later, Ronnie was expressing support for the Equal Rights-Amendment, signing into law pro-abortion bills and raising taxes astronomically while cutting services as governor of California.

rring Jimmy Laund Performances:

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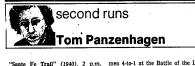
THEATERS

MACHUS - MR, MAC'S STABLE, Parklane Towers, Dearborn: "Luv" Hit Comedy thru Nov. 8, Fri. & Sat.

GEORGIAN INN, 13 Mile & Gratiot, Roseville: "A Thou-sand Clowns". A smash thru Nov. 1 Fri. & Sat.

WINE TASTERS, Van Dyke between 17 & 18 Mile, Ster-ling Hts. "Play It Again Sam" comedy by Woody Allen, thru Nov. 29. Sat.

Most of his films were of the hurryup variety. Before the war, he averaged one picture every seven weeks for
five years. As Reagan has said, "They
didn't want them good, they wanted
them Tuesday."
"SANTEV FE TRAIL" is one of the
better pictures in which Ronald



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MICHAEL DOUGLAS
"IT'S MY TURN"
1:10-3:20-5:20
7:30-9:35

STARTS FRI., OCT. 24
SHIRLEY MACLAINE
JAMES COBURN
"LOVING
COUPLES"
PG

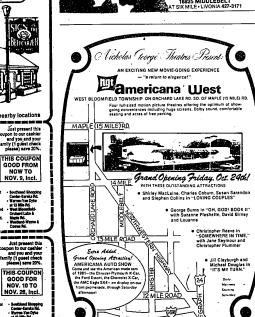
0-5:10 1:25 **PG**



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