



Music sampler

Joan McHenry of Northville (left), Karen Smith of Plymouth and Sandy Gerber of Canton are appearing in the Livonia Civic Chorus production of "American Music Sampler at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium of Cincinville High School in the Louis E. Schmidt Theatre in Livonia. The production is accompanied and directed by Karen McDaniel of Novi. Admission price is \$1.75 for seniors and students, \$3.50 for adults. For further information call Walt Meyers at 553-8176 after 6 p.m.

Second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

"Hell's Kitchen" (1939), 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ch. 50. Originally 90 minutes.

self-governing Boys Town. Ronald Reagan and the Dead End Kids — not to be confused with Al Haig, David Stockman and James Watt co-star. Rating: \$1.

backgammon

Mike Giordano

of the Cavendish North backgammon club.

• MAY THE DICE BE WITH YOU

Backgammon is a cruel game where the best conceived plans are demolished by a single roll of the dice. But in my mind, this is not a condemnation of the game but rather one of its characteristics.

Who among us could enjoy playing an evening of chess against a grand master when we would have virtually no chance of winning? But a novice backgammon player can gain experience and knowledge of the game by playing against better players and at the same time not be a prohibitive underdog.

This week's problem was submitted by Larry R. of Livonia, who was playing white and rolled a 6-2 in the example.

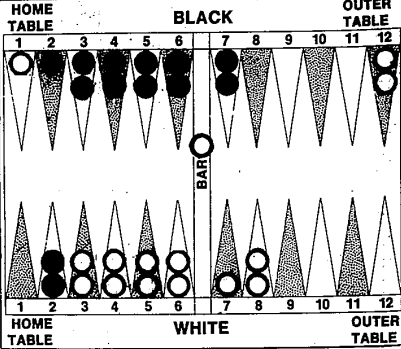
"The two was easy — I entered from the bar, hitting on the black 2 point," says Larry. "After some thought, I moved the same man out to the black 8 point. Black then came in with a 5-1, hitting on the bar three or four times in a row. Before I knew what hit me, black had escaped with his back men, picked up my other loose man and ended up gam-

bling me. Did I misplay my six or was I just unlucky?"

Whether your play was right or wrong is open to question. But there is no doubt that you were unlucky. Of course, the urge to play your six from the black 12 point to your 7 point is strong since making your six-point prime leaves black no numbers to blow you out of the game on the next roll. However, this play would leave only the one man on black's 12 point. With this lone man, you will have to play all your numbers until you either roll a six to jump over black's five-point prime or are forced to break your own prime.

It is true that you should have two rolls in which to roll the needed six, and you are a slight favorite to roll a six in two rolls. The man remaining on black's 1 point may be the cause of much consternation, but he will remain there no matter which six we play now. By extricating one of your back men at this opportunity, you leave black only 8-1 and 5-2 (a 6-to-1 chance) to reestablish and stay in the game.

In short, Larry, I must admit that I prefer your play. Score me up for getting gammoned, too. Making the best



play in backgammon is no insurance against the vagaries of the dice. Readers with backgammon problems can send them to Mike Giordano, c/o The Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI

"Ma and Pa Kettle at Home" (1954), 11:30 a.m. Saturday on Ch. 20. Originally 81 minutes.

Ma and Pa (Marjorie Main and Percy Kilbride) made their screen debut in the 1947 film "The Egg and I," in which city girl Claudette Colbert marries chicken farmer Fred MacMurrary. Peripheral characters Ma and Pa Kettle were well-received by filmgoers, though and given their own picture in 1949. A series of sequels followed and, like the Bumsteads, the Kettles went to town, took a vacation, stayed at home,

etc. By the time they went to Waikiki in 1955, you had to know the series was on its last legs. Rating: \$2.40.

"Tarzan and His Mate" (1939), 11:30 a.m. Saturday on Ch. 50. Originally 105 minutes.

As good as the Weissmuller-O'Sullivan "Tarzan" films are, they really should have stopped making them after the first two, "Tarzan, the Ape Man" (1932) and "Tarzan and His Mate." By their third film in 1936, the dehumanizing Hays Office had taken the life out

of Tarzan and Jane, just as it drained Mae West, Garbo, Cagney and others of their sensuality.

In the later films, those illicit lovers of the escapement were turned into proper suburbanites with separate beds and upwardly mobile mentalities. Gone after 1934 would be that spark of animal magnetism which, in its own feeble way, the recent John and Bo Derek "Tarzan" film tried to recapture. Even "Mate" shows signs of restraint, but it's the next best thing to the original. Rating: \$2.90.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad	\$1
Fair	\$2
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Excellent	\$4

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