

the movies

Dan Greenberg

Take your pick of good, bad

Good, bad and mediocre movies are always available but it is seiden that movies as good as 'Short Circuit' (PG) and as mediocre as 'Fire with Fire' (PG-13) appear. The terminal mediocrity with which 'Fire with Fire' is affilieted may be overshadowed by some attractive photographic composition, the ever-popular defeat of authority and the characterization of adults as ranging from foolish to downright mean.

downright mean.

If the rude young preview audience that made my screening of Fire with Fire more unpleasant than necessary is any indication, the young crowd will squander its megabucks on this nonesense.

Joe Fiske (Craig Sheffer) is an immate at a boby's bone detention camp. While running through the forest as the object of a satisfite chase-game operated by Hönor Camp Bors (fon Polito). Fiske sees Lisa Taylor (Virginia Madsen) locating in a pond imitating an Impressionist painting. With a cable release she is taking her own plecture.

LISA IS A TOP student at the lo-

Fire with Fire' is ridiculous and mediocre beyond compare.
"Short Circuit," on the other hand, is long on laughs, warmth and humanism and actually has all its circuits in top operating order. It is ironic that while its plot is even more unlikely than the far-



Steve Guttenberg as Dr. Newton Crosby and Ally Sheedy as Stephanic Speck get involved with each other in "Short Cir-cuit." The film's other main character is a robot who comes alive.

fetched "Fire with Fire," "Short Circuit" Is so well done that it is extremely credible.

Nova Robotics has developed an amazing new robot-weapon. Nova's colonial states of the coloni

Now, probably some will quibble with that bolt from on high as dramatically simple-minded and reflective of a particular viewpoint about the origin of life. Those quib-

blers will be left at the gate because the film is so entertaining,
you'll be having too much fun to
worry about such details or the
mundane but unlikely conclusion.
After the storm, Number Five
escapes, having developed an inquiring mind. Number Five wants
to see the world and get Input. The
saliric potential is well-realized as
Number Five winds up hiding in a
snack stop on wheels run by
Stephanie Speek (Ally Sheedy). Alt
her home he reads the encyclopedia, a dictionary and watches
the room of the storm of the short
Thereaft, bull regards, Number Five has something to say,
Whether It's a quele from an old
movie or a line from a current
commercial, Number Five has just
the right, pointed comment to meet
every situation.

And the situations do arise, with the industrial-military complex coming in for its share of neat barbs as Nova Robotics tries to, first, recover and later in anger and frustration, destroy, Number

and frustration, destroy, Number Five.

NOVA PRESIDENT Marner battles with Number Five's "creator," computer-whiz Dr. Newton Crosby (Steve Guttenberg), who is first skeptlead but later convinced that "Number Five is allve." Marner also has to contend with his Security Chief, Skroeder (G.W. Bailey), a gung-ho militarist who believes the only way to resolve conflict is by destroying the source of contention.

Dr. Crosby sets out after Num-

contention.

Dr. Crosby sets out after Number Five with the ald of his laboratory colleague and friend, Ben Jabura, frisher Stevens), a very funy amalgam of Mahatmas Ghandi, Woody Allen and Peter Sellers' Inspector Clouseau, Stevens turns in a very comite performance as a

Woody Allen and Peter Sellers' Inspector Clauseau, Stevens turns in a very comic performance as a sex-starved Indian scientist from Bakersfield, although his ancestors originally were from Pittisturgh. Somewhat predictably, as Stephanie Speck seeks to protect Number Five, she and Dr. Crosby become romanically involved. But that's all right because they, and veryone else in the east, perform so well in a fine scenario by S.S. Wilson and Bernt Maddock. Even Number Five, a robot designed, engineered and realized by Syd Mead and Eric Allard, gives a warm and very human performance, with voice by Tim Blancy Number Five is alive, in a senso, which is the sense with the sense shall represent his cyst. He also exhibits human interests and tendencles, so naturally we are going to believe he is alive, and life is Number Five is a laive, and life is no malfunction. A nice message in

Number Five Is alive, and life is

💠 🗘 D. Gustibus Mexican eatery

a counting for taste

isn't noteworthy

Your traveling taster visits area cateries and rates them on a 100-points area cateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambiance, which includes general atmosphere and service; 55 points for food, and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 59 points or less indicate a restaution of 59 points or less indicate a restaution of 59 points or less indicate a restaution of 57-582 points designate very good with some extraordinary features, and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits when the specially designate very good with some extraordinary features, you.

OLD MEXICO restaurant, 28407
Five Mile, Livenia (421-9681), has a small, rustic dining area with a take-out counter. The decor is not exciting. Both the staff and the patrons are very easually dressed. Unfortunately, our vinyl tablecioth was not really clean, and one of the appetizer serving plates came to the table drity. The mena does a nice job of explaining the dishes and their ingredients. Dinner, took us about 45 minutes. General Atmosphere—15 points maximum. Points awarded—7.

Service was inthusinstic but not very competent. Appetizer plates were left through dinner and would have stayed with the dinner dishes through dessert like whe had not take the period of the dishest like the left of the dishest like were ready for it. At times, however, it was not as hot as it should have been. The check was presented before we could even order dessert. Service — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 7.

The best dish of the meal was our mind botana (44.50), a misture of pin- botans, stausage, cheese and vegetables over corn chips. It was a tasty combination. The "min!" portion served three people easily. Also good were the fresh and crisp homenade chips and hot sauce, which was quite chips and hot sauce, which was quite spicy. There is no liquor served.

Drinks, Appetizers and Bread — Boz 3503, Birmingham 48022.

Althought the sauce was hot, the chimichangs dinner semail, \$4.25, large \$4.25 was all right. The tortila was crisp and the guacamole topping good. But melther the beef milling nor the rice had much flavor. The vegetarian combo (\$4.55) featured three dishes that were also mild: a buritto, an enchilada and a tostado, each with cheese and vegetables. None of them was especially notworthy. The burit to beef dinner (\$4.40) had large chunks of beef but, again, it needed more assaning. Entree, Vegetables and Garrisines—35 points maximum. Points awarded—25.

The cinnamon crisp (\$1.30), a homemade tortilla, cooked with sugar and cinnamon, was, really delicious. The Mexican cookies (3 for \$1.04) 'did not seem particularly Mexican. They were a little dry but enjoyable nonetheless, Dessert and Coffee — 10 points maximum. Points awarded—8.

Dinner cost about \$18 per couple, with tip but without drinks. While some of the dishes were good, both many did not have any special comph, and the problems with the service and atmosphere detract from the meal. Price/Value — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

A Counting for Taste — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 64. Although the food at Old Mexico is adequate, this restaurant lacks any special appeal.

upcoming things to do

O BEAR RALLY
Detroit Zoological Park's fourth annual Teddy Bear Rally will be Satirday, May 17, in Royal Oak. Admission is free for children 5-12 who bring a teddy bear and are accompabled by an adult. Starting at 2 p.m. teddy bear contests will be held, with prizes and ribbons awarded. Bear lovers will be able to observe a live polar bear feeding at 2:30 p.m. The zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

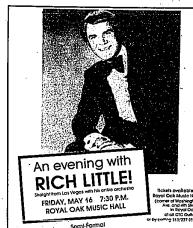
O COUNTRY WINNERS

Detrolt-area band Hot Grass won he recent Marlboro Country Music Zalent Roundup Finals at the High Kicker Saloon in Ponitae. First prize was \$5,000. Second-place winner was Branded (\$1,000) and third place went to Kickin' Country (\$500).

PRINCE STREET

Ö PRINCE STBEET

"Prince Street Players will present the musical "A Pocketful of Rhymes" for Detroit Youtheatre's season finale, Performances of the musical will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14; at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sauday, May 18, at the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium. Tickets are 55 for the Wednesday evening Friends of Detroit Youtheatre benefit; 43:50 each for the Saturday or Sunday playdates. For more information, call 532-0730 during regular business hours.





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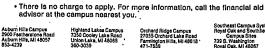
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