

Sally Kellerman as Lit. Prof. Diane Turner and Rodney Danger-field as millionaire Thornton Melon become friends on the col-lege campus in "Back to School."



the movies Dan Greenberg

## Returning to school and skipping class are good for laughs

have an exciting day, certainly more enjoyable than boring class-es. The film works well and amuses us all because the satire of adults/

us all because the sathre of adults/ teachers/authority so common in "youth films" today is done realisti-cally and pleasantly.

Let's face it, there are boring teachers and precocupied, overlindingent parents, as well as indif-ferent ones. The best sathre makes us laugh and helps us understand our folbles. In other words, have a good laugh at your own expense

our folbles. In other words, have a good laugh at your own expense and learn what it means to be human. The sattre is cleverly drawn without ridicule and focuses on tichout ridicule and focuses on tichout ridicule and focuses of the following the same of the

"BACK TO SCHOOL" features

"BACK TO SCHOOL." features Rodney Dangerfield as millionaire entrepreneur Thernton Mellon, who never went to college, is widowed, divorced and faced with a troubled son, Jason (Keith Gordon). Jason attends college but is not a great athlete, has no social life, is doing poorly in class but writes great "Freshman-Fietlon" letters. Thornton decides to attend college and buoy up his son's spirits and records. Thornton has no high school transcript, just lots of mon-stay, so the dean (Ned Beatly) figures a new Bus-Ad School is the appropriate of the second melasion. The procession fixed in place the second melasion. The procession fixed in place from smelling sour fruit, has other ideas. His discomfluture is heightened when his paramour, literature professor Dinne Turner (Sally Kellerman), takes a liking to Thornton.

Thorston.

Jason is also uncomfortable as his father spends money left and right, thus making college an entirely new experience. Jason's only friend is a clever satire of freshman Marxism, Derek (Robert Downer, It's complete with nunk half

Marsis Decek (Robet Dowe y Jr.), complete without hair and a firm belief that Karl Marx wrote 'Communist Chieks in Bond-age."

Burt Young plays Thorston's chaufter/bodyguard, Lou, with the same uncoult appeal that charac-terized his role as Rocky's brother-in-law. In fact, 'Back to School' is filled with a number of nitry characterizations that offset the Rodney Dangerfield persona, which only occasionally overwhelms the good-spirited pro-ceedings. As Jong as Dangerfield

overwhelms the good-spirited pro-ceedings. As long as Dangerfield plays Melon, he gots my respect. Only when Dangerfield surfaces do things get sticky. There's a little bit of kid in every adult, and vice versa, so these two well-done, realistic satires ought to please every audience with their good humor, pleasant cateratis.

good humor, pleasant entertain-ment and mild swipes at all our fol-

Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broder-

Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broderlek) connives to escape while Thorton Melon (Rodnoy Dangerfield)
buys his way 'Back to School' (PG13). "Ferris Bueller's Day Off(also PG-13) wouldn't have been
necessary If only Ferris enjoyed
school a la Dangerfield.

If Dangerfield "U' were open to
all undergraduates, there would be
no drop-outs. On the other hand, it's
skipping school were as much fun
as Ferris and his friends had, trunow would be the nation's number
one problem.

In both cases, audiences benefit
In both cases, au

MCCLURG ALSO appears as Rodony Dangerfield's secretary, falthough in a much abbreviated role. In 'Ferri's Bueller' she shines with seemingly innocent comments about Ed Rononey's attempts to catch Ferris. Excellent supporting roles by McClurg, and others, agreatly onrich both films.

While Rononey is self-destructing in his obsessive and very fumpursuit of Ferris, our here coas his hypochondriacal buddy. Cameron Frye (Alan Ruck), into a madeap day driving the classic Ferrart that Cameron's dad had lovingly restreed.

cargorism fee classic Ferrart material control of the control of t



Matthew Broderick (at wheel) as Ferris Bueller, Mia Sara as Sloane Peterson and Alan Ruck as Camerço Frye tool around town in his dad's Ferrari in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," when they skip high school classes.

## Appe'teaser makes nice start

Your traveling taster visits area cateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points area warded for ambiance, which includes general atmosphere and service; 35 points for food, and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 59 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 80-74 points signify from passing to pood/75-89 points designate very good with some extraordinary features, and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits you.

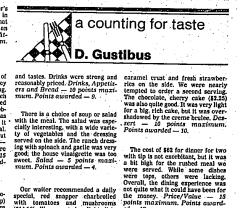
APPETEASER, 280 N. Woodward, Birmingham (646-7001), is a newly opened restaurant that appeals to a wide range of people. Eclectic describes both the patrons from young to older — and the attire — from very casual to business suits. Trendy "characterizes decor, the menu and the staff, Tables are attractively decorated with fresh flowers but quite close together, and the noise level is high. The menu phrasing is "girmiledy" (the entrees are "served with appropriate carbohydrate"), the employees are young and trying hard, sometimes too hard. At present, only a limited number of reservations are taken for each evening, There is a plano barthat makes waiting more pleasant.

We were told to expect an hour's wait, but our table was ready in about 35 minutes. Even with that wait, we were in and out in about an hour and 45 minutes. General Atmosphere — 15 points maximum.

Points awarded - 12.

There are ample numbers of servers and bus people, but they seem to need additional training. The bussing, especially, was much too fast. Several times people tried to clear our plates while we were obviously still cating. Perhaps this was an attempt to turn the tables, but it affected our enjoyment of the meal. Our waiter was very pleasant, but some of the dishes he described, and that we then ordered — were not what we expected. Service — 15 points maximum. Points' awarded — 11.

While at the bar, we ordered ecconus shrimp (\$5.50 for four shrimp) and spinach tortellial de Firenze (\$4.95). The shrimp, served with strawberries on the side, was well flavored but a little dry. The tortellial was excellent and well worth ordering. The "creamy tomato sauce" was light and delicious; and the dish would make an excellent enter. Bread was also very good, with a nice assortment of different types



Our waiter recommended a dally special, red snapper charbroiled with tomatoes and mushrooms (\$141.50) We expected a light dish, but it came with a heavy sauce that overpowered the fish and the vegetables. Also disappointing, was the duck with lingonberry sauce (\$13.50) which we ordered crisp but did not come that way. In fact, the duck had a gamey taste, almost undercooked. Of special note were the garnishes on both dishes, which were excellent. The vegetables and "carbohydrates" were presented artfully and cooked to perfection. Entree, Vegetables and Garnishes — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 22.

We enlowed the best crome brulee

We enjoyed the best creme brulee in town for dessert. The dish (\$2.25) was rich and creamy, with a perfect

The cost of \$62 for dinner for two with the is not exception, but it was a bit high for the rushed meal we were served. While some dishes were tops, down the dinner were lacking. Overall, the dining experience was not only the money. Price/Value — 15 points maximum. Points awarded = 12.

A Counting for Taste — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 80. Appe'teaser lives up to its name, with a great beginning and ending. If the restaurant can improve the inbetween and fine-tune the service, it will be a top spot in Birmingham.

D. Gustibus welcomes your re-cations, comments and suppes-tions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentric com-munities. Write to D. Gustibus, in care of Observer & Eccentric, En-tertainment. Pool Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

## table talk

Mexican style

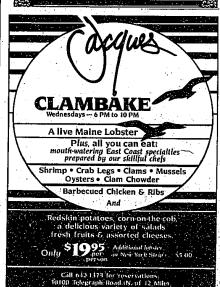
Casa Armando's, new in Farmington Hills, concentrates on Mexican clusine. For breakfast, there's Huevos Rancheros, eggs with Spanis sauces, Spanish Omelette. Huevos Policken breast with con Chorizo, Mexican sausage with Sangria sauce, at \$5.95, and in the control of the contr



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