

## table talk

### Olympic team

Master chef Milos Cihelka of the Golden Mushroom in Southfield will be team manager of a newly established separate team from Michigan to compete in the World Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, Germany, in October 1988. Cihelka is a three-time Culinary Olympic gold-medal winner. The Michigan contingent includes Team Manager Kamel Kassem of Detroit's Renaissance Club, Edward Janos of the Money Tree in Detroit, Bill Wolf of Sparky Herbert's in Grosse Pointe, Mark Kuzma of the Fairlane Club in Dearborn and Gilles Renusson and Mike Green of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Several other Michigan chefs are represented on other teams competing in the Olympics. Donations to send the Michigan team to the Olympics

may be sent to Chef Milos Cihelka, Golden Mushroom, 18100 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield 48075. Checks should be made out to the Michigan Culinary Team.

### Asti's Caffe

New at the location that once housed the popular Rip's in Waterford is Asti's Caffe — Old Italy. Various pastas are available at lunch, as well as several types of fish and a quarter-slab of ribs. There also are sandwiches and croissants. Dinner specialties include many pasta dishes, among them five different versions of linguine. Ribs, steak and chicken are regularly offered and two veal dishes and prime rib "when available." A number of fish dishes are served, too. Dinner entrees range from \$6.95 to \$19.95. Wine and cocktails may be ordered.



Jeff Goldblum is a scientist who gets transformed into a fly when his experiment backfires.

## the movies

### Dan Greenberg

## Audiences thrive on movies filled with the grotesque

America's preoccupation with the perverse and the macabre continues unabated as filmmakers feed on, and profit from, our fascination with aberrant behavior.

Psychopathology, eaged women and "Help me, please help me. I'm being attacked by fly molecules" are featured topics respectively in "Manhunter," "Reform School Girls" and "The Fly," all R-rated for good reason.

Will Graham (William L. Petersen) is the "Manhunter," a former FBI agent recalled to help Jack Crawford (Stephen Lang) track down a psychopath who brutally murders entire families when the moon is full.

Graham had been invalidated out of service after the trauma involved in catching another psychopath, Doctor Lecter (Brian Cox), who gets messages on toilet paper from the current threat, Francis Dolarhyde (Tom Noonan).

THE FILM is pretty tense and exciting, in good part because of its technique, not because of the scenario. The psychopathology of both Dr. Lecter and Francis Dolarhyde is fairly mundane. It is gutsy, nifty when director/scenarist Michael Mann delves into obscure mysticism, with references to William Blake — a tactic apparently better developed in the book, "Red Dragon," from which the film was adapted.

Editing and photography by Dov Hoenig and Dante Spinotti, however, induce a lot of tension. Wisely understanding that our imaginations are more powerful than our vision, Spinotti filmed relatively little gore for a slasher movie.

Instead, the threat of violence and the authorities' helplessness constantly menace us. Full-faced head shots of Graham and Crawford, disturbed, perplexed but unable to track down Dolarhyde, are contrasted with the 6-foot-7-inch Noonan, able to come and go as he pleases.

Although we don't see all that much, Graham's obsession with what the killer has done serves the purpose. These images are reinforced with some pretty intense music by the Iteds and Michael Rubin.

But, in the final analysis, the relatively simple-minded psychopathology, the forced solution and

elicited conclusion leave the "Manhunter" looking for style and intelligence.

THE GIRLS in "Reform School Girls" also lack style and intelligence, but they show so much skin that you'll never miss sophistication. The film is heavy on implied brutality and lesbian acts, with just enough shown to whet the appetite of your ordinary pervert.

Producer Jack Cummins and writer/director Tom DeSimone have some pretensions about satirizing women-in-prison movies, but don't you believe it. "Reform School Girls" is more polished than usual for this genre (photography by Howard Wexler) and it has some funny moments, but it's just another skin flick groveling in perversity and exploiting the very thing it pretends to satirize.

"The Fly" is back again, with Jeff Goldblum hovering over Geena Davis and slobbering formic acid on anyone who tries to swat him.

Times have changed since Vincent Price got his head stuck on a fly's body 30 years ago. The name of the game now seems to be explicit gross-out rather than a good scare or an imaginative ghost story.

This time the great scientist, Seth Brundle (Goldblum), is building a matter transmitter so that he can avoid conventional travel. He has terminal motion sickness.

WELL, HE SHOULD have taken Dramamine because there's a fly in his machinery. Brundle's molecules are intermixed with the fly's and he begins to change into a fly. One of the interesting thoughts here: "Why is the fly's genetic material so much stronger than man's? Are we that weak and vulnerable?"

In any event, Brundle's fall and lover is an attractive young science writer (Davis) and her nightmare of giving birth to a fly larva is only one of numerous, extremely disgusting images director David Cronenberg presents.

It constantly amazes me that so many people enjoy depraved and loathsome images. Life has sufficient horror without spending money to seek out repulsive images. What does this preoccupation with the gross and morbid tell us about our civilization?



William Batty Dyer, Jr. plays an FBI forensics specialist tracking down a killer in "Manhunter."

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