

the movies

Dan Greenberg

Audiences thrive on movies filled with the grotesque

THE FILM IS pretty tense and exciting in good part because of its technique, not because of the scenario. The psychopathology of both IP. Lektor and Francis Dollarhyde is fairly mundane. It it gets marky when director scenarist Michael Mann delves into obscur mysterism, with references to William Blake.— a tactic apparently better developed in the blook *Teod

mysticism, with references to Wil-liam Blake - a tactic apparently better developed in the book, "Red Dragon," from which the film was adapted. Editing and photography by Dow Boonig and Dante Spinotti, howev-er, induce a lot of tension. Wisely understanding that our imagina-tions are more powerful than our vision. Spinotti filmed relatively httle gore for a shasher 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 Dollarhyde, are contrasted with the 6-foot-7-inch Noonan, able to come and go as he

Although we don't see all that much, Graham's obsession with what the killer has done serves the purpose. These images are rein-forced with some pretty intense music by the Reds and Michael Ru-bini.

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But, in the final analysis, the rel-atively simple-minded psycho-pathology, the forced solution and

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

Psychopathology, caged women and 'Hich me, please help method in the place help and the process of the 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 leshian 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 pre-iends to satirise back again, with Jeff Goldblum hovering over Geena Davis and slobbering formic acid on anyone who tries to swat him.

Times have changed since Vin-

acid on anyone who that 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 sto-

ry.

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 good! Bow 1999. WELL, HE SHOULD have taken

mans? Are we that Weak and vulnerable?"
In any event, Brundle's foil 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 enjey 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 Potersen plays an FBI forensics specialist tracking down a killer in "Manhunter."

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 Gillae 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 Cihel-ka, 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 \$5.95 to \$19.95. Wine and cocktails may be ordered.

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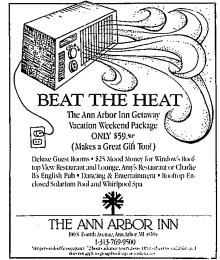
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