## 'Sentenced to Life' uneven

Performances of the Trinity House Theatre production of "Sentenced to Life" continue through Saturday, Nov. 26, in Livonia. For ticket information call 484-4302.

By Victoria Diaz special writer

Livonis' Trinity Home Theatre opened its 1988-99 season last week-person in the season last week-person last person last p

ness which occurred a few years earlier.

Elleen has no real bope of recovery and, more than anything else,
wants to die, Incapacitated as ahe is,
she cannot kill herself, however, and
must depend on someone else to do
it. When her doctor rejects her plea,
she desperately turns for help to her
hubband, Gerald, an articulate, respected proponent of euthanasia. But



he finds himself with an apparent in-ability to act on his own expressed beliefs.

bellefs.

Eileen and Gerald, beset with a
morally significant struggle that
cannot be happily resolved, are in
the classical sense tragic characters.

PAUL PATTON'S Gerald has his touching moments (most notably his cheerally he seems not beset by tragedy but merely betuded, as you the merely betuded, as you had not been merely betuded, as you had not he as trage role. It's almost as if he has wandered in from another play, a comedy, and is struggling to keep his acea straight and a twinkle in his eyes under control. He is charming, appealing, good-looking, and isn't at all wooden onstage. But rarely does he appear tortured or genulnely caught up in a traged dilemma.

Kari Curmi, as the complex Eileen, fares somewhat better, although at times she seems to be suitable. PAUL PATTON'S Gerald has his

sive face.

Beth Temple is a stand-out as the Vickorys' young German maid who believes, "The right to die will some-day become the right to kill." Gary

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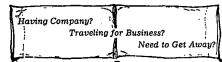
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Brda as a prying television producer does a nice job, as does Lucien Cho-cron as Elleen's well-meaning doctor and Elizabeth Bradford as an ef-fusive, right-to-die advocate.

Much of the background music for the production was composed by Frank Schenk, and deserves special mention, as does impressive lighting effects by Lee Peterman and Dave Denis.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based free-lancer, who specializes in arts and entertainment arti-cles in the metro area.

fering from a similar problem, espe-cially in the first act. As the play opens, we see an Eileen who is so bright-eyed and almost perky it's difficult to believe this character wants nothing more than to die. As the play progresses, however, Curmi does manage to become more convincing. Some of her best moments appear on a videotape, directed by Mark Barrera, which augments the onstage action and takes full advantage, in tight close-ups, of ber remarkably photogenic, expressive face.

"SENTENCED TO LIFE" is nice-

"SENTENCED TO LIFE" is nice-ty paced, although one extra-long scene change, plus two 15-minute in-termistons (during which the audi-ence is asked to leave the sudistri-um), do impede progress a bit. Vi-deotapes shown in the tiny Trinity House lobby between acts are in-tended as part of the play. An inven-tive touch, but a lot of tuter effect is lost in all the confusion and noise of an intermiston.





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Woodcarver to be guest

Woodcarver Patrick Smith, 3, of Drayton Pialins likes having hisartwork touched. In fact, he hope side will come up while he's demonstration of the hope side will come up while he's demonstrating at Cranbrook institute of school1-5 p.m. Saturdjay and aak to buch the big carving he'll be doing the Indian neaks, made in the style of real indian masks, made in the style of real indian masks, to the institute jat so his could be passed around and the style of the style o

Smith studied woodcarving in Germany, occassionally teaches. It in adult education classes and does a cable TV show. Several of his carvings are in the Detroit Artists Market Christmas show.

He was pleased to flad out that an other guest for the same évent at Cranbrook Institute of Science, Native American Activity Day, will be Frank Ettawagewshik, a Native American of the Ottawa tribe now living in the Grand Traverse Bay area.

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Ettawagewshik makes pottery in the tradition of his ancesters. He fashions ancient Woodland Indian pots, mugs, bowls, vases and gobilets. What started as a pursuit of his heritage has become a thriving business that supports his wife, an antinpoolingist, and their two children. In addition to demonstrations by Smith and Ettawagewshik there will be beading and quilling demonstrations, a storyteller known for his knowledge of Native American legends, face palinting, make-and-take artifacts and cooking and tasting Indian foods.

Native American Day events are included in the regular museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors.







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