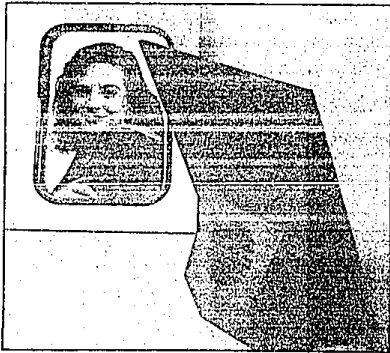


street seen

Charlene Mitchell



Street Scene reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



You oughta be in . . .

The familiar refrain literally comes to life with this talking picture frame. Available in several styles, the picture frame houses a state-of-the-art digital recording mechanism that records a five-second message. The message can be recorded in the privacy of one's home and can be changed as needed. Operates on four AA batteries (not included). Available at Birmingham Camera Stores in both Birmingham and Rochester.

Safety outlook

If you're an athlete who wears glasses, contacts aren't your only solution. Prescription sports glasses can make the difference in your tennis game, skiing or even swimming and diving. These are just a few of the up-to-date looks. A variety of styles and colors available. Safety eyewear is a must for serious athletes and with these you don't have to sacrifice style. \$90 and up, includes prescription. Family Eye Care, 31154 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.



Lounge-about

This two-piece set in washable polyester looks and feels like the finest silk. The vibrant coral, turquoise, purple and hot pink create a gorgeous combination. Great for at home cocktail entertaining or for special vacations. White quilted cuffs and hot pink piping finish the elegant look. \$157. Roan's Intimate Apparel, Applegate Square, Southfield.



Fancy footwork

Turn basic canvas run-about sneakers into something to jump up and down about. Artist Shelly Poas Hand sets dozens of colorful rhinestones onto the shoes and uses appliques and bows to complete the look. Several decorative styles to choose from. By special order only. Child's size, \$44; adults, \$48. Footloose, Sugar Tree Mall, West Bloomfield.

STREET SENSE

There's an element of luck in love

Dear Barbara,

I've been reading your column since it started appearing in Street Sense earlier this year and for the most part, agree with the advice you have given. However, I was disappointed with your column that appeared on May 9 in that the only insight I got into men is that there's some out there in the same plight as "Needing a Man."

At one time, I was in the same position of "Needing a Man." I had just escaped from a rotten 10-year marriage — I had made a lifetime commitment, but my ex-husband had a different agenda.

Divorce decrees in hand, I faced the future and it didn't look too bright. In my 30s, intelligent and bound to survive even if it meant working two jobs to pay the bills I had inherited with that decree, I feared the choice of becoming an old maid or finding a man. The latter raised the BIG question: How do you find a man after being out of the dating scene for 10 years?

Frankly, the singles scene at the bars did absolutely nothing for me when I was in my 20s and was even less appealing in my 30s, considering the man I had just unloaded was an alcoholic. You know the saying about "once burned, twice shy." Well, once was more than enough for me. And I was interested in more than a series of one-night stands.

Likewise, the thought of a dating service turned me off not only because they're too costly, but a person can easily hide their true self behind a nice piece of literature.

To make a long story short, I found the man of my dreams through a friend. We had the most horrible of blind dates — my first, and thank God, my last. Everything that could go wrong did, but what was nice about it was that we found out everything we needed to know about each other in one lump sum. We shared a lot of common experiences and interests and had the same

temperaments. It wasn't too long after that we realized we were made for each other and decided to take the plunge. It's been almost three years and we're still as happy as we were the day we found each other.

We have a young man — in his mid-20s — who boards with us and it's been eye-opening experience to see the machinations he goes through in the singles scene. He's a very nice young man, but he seems to have the penchant for finding losers. We've spent plenty of time propping him up after failed relationships and giving him advice. And he, like my husband and myself once did, wonders where you go to find a nice girl?

I guess what I'm saying to "Needing a Man" and those three guys in need of a woman is that with today's "me" generation, finding the right person is nothing more than a crap shoot. You can decide the kind of person you want to spend the rest of your life with — successful, yuppie, whatever — but what it comes down to is what you feel comfortable with. Love is an important part of marriage, but you have to also like your mate. After all, that person becomes your best friend in life.

I found my best friend without playing the crap shoot. I found him when I wasn't looking. Maybe the problem with these people is that they're just trying too hard. Going out and looking for a specific person is like going out to buy a specific dress or suit. You're bound to end up disappointed.

As for where to find a nice person, well, work probably is the worst place. Office romances are rare and the gods when it comes to fodder for the rumor mill. My suggestion is to look to your friends, people. They're your friends because you have something in common with them. And their social circles move more times than not contain single people with similar commonality.

One of the lucky ones



Dear "One of the lucky ones,"

I am so delighted that we are able to print in this column an example of happiness and success. All singles should have such luck. The significance of luck is difficult for many to accept, taking away, as it does, our feelings of control. Its importance, however, remains undiminished.

With that said, I want to thank you for the opportunity to expound on those areas of courting and marriage which are under our control. I understand your disappointment in my column on "men out there needing a woman." However, men (and women) vary so much that it would seem irresponsible of me to pretend to give you insights that would fit all men. Many women desire these "rules" because the rules give them a feeling of security and of knowing what to do. But the safety is only temporary and does not replace the ability to discern, judge and understand each individual on their own.

This is my emphasis. Each man is different and should be thought of as who he is, not what group he fits into. It is, then, the people who cannot judge on an individual basis that

are, in the "crap shoot" you talk about.

As I have said, luck is an important element in courting for all. But finding the right man is even more of a shot of one dice for those of us who do not think clearly. In other words, clear thinking can improve our odds. And we need all the help we can get in the dating situation because intense intimate relationships encourage and exaggerate murky appraisals of others.

WOMEN SNOOVED by the significant others' good looks, financial success or sweet talk or by their own love of romance or need for security will have difficulty knowing if the other person is truly what they seem to be. It is easy to understand why the matchmaker, Dolly Levi, was a popular institution. She could do the thinking for you and minimize the element of luck.

I do have one objection to your letter. You were lucky enough to find the man you wanted without entering the bar scene, the work scene and without using a dating service. But these avenues can be successful for others. I treated a woman who had just divorced a schizophrenic man. She went to a bar and met her future husband. In a 15-year follow up, they had endured together.

It is often too easy for people to make excuses for why some course of action won't work. I prefer encouraging people to take chances in all the avenues open to them. Success is difficult enough to achieve even when all possibilities are considered. There is more than one right way. Success often depends on realizing all the creative alternatives and having the guts and courage to enact them.

Barbara

If you have a question for Barbara Schiff, a trained counselor and experienced therapist, send it to Street Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Picture yourself in Street Scene

Are you tired of lugging around a briefcase of snapshots of your marvelous Miami vacation to show anyone or everyone they'd like to see them or not?

Is attendance at your annual summer vacation slide show as sparse as those at last year's Lions football games?

Yep, everybody has a collection of cute vacation snapshots they want to share and few people to share it with. So what happens? They end up in a box or an album, relegated to the darkest corner of the closet floor or stashed in the attic to collect dust.

Well, there's a solution of sorts. It's Street Scene's "Wish You Were Here."

Beginning Monday, June 5, readers will have a chance to share the very best of their vacation snapshots with an unknown audience. Each week, throughout the summer months, Street Scene will run one photograph, be it

pretty, funny, cute, pretty cute, pretty funny or whatever.

All you need to do is send the snapshot to Street Scene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

There's a little more to it than that, however. Include a brief description of the circumstances under which the photo was shot and if you wish, some technical information on how it was shot.

Oh, and be sure to include some identification — like where the photo was taken (we're not geographers, but kids here) and who is in it.

And last, but not least, include your name and where you live. We want to know where to send all the photographic joys that will come in after Sports Illustrated and National Geographic see your work.

Yep, "Wish you were here." P.S. If you'd like your photo returned, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Continued from Page 2

Modern Language Building, Auditorium 3, Ann Arbor. Call 665-4626 for information. (\$3 single, \$4 double feature)

Jaques Tati — "Jour de Fete" (France — 1949), 7:30 p.m. The French comedy features the debut of the inventive sound and sight gag set at a Bastille Day celebration. With "Playtime" (France — 1967) at 9 p.m. The Tati classic has his famous character, Mr. Hulot, desperately trying to keep an appointment in an impersonal Paris.

LIVONIA MALL CINEMA, 29415 Seven Mile, Livonia. Call 476-1166 for information. (free)

"I Could Go on Singing" (USA — 1935), 10 a.m. May 30. The Livonia Mall's free series of Judy Garland musicals ends appropriately with her final film — a sappy melodrama about a vocalist's reunion with her long-lost son.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. For information, call 669-4397. (\$4 regular and \$3.25 students and senior citizens)

"Singin' in the Rain" (USA — 1952), 5 p.m. May 29. Deservedly, the movie's most popular musical, featuring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor as perky silent movie stars coping with the onset of the sound era.

"Wuthering Heights" (USA — 1939), 7:30 p.m. May 29. Emily Bronte's great Gothic novel goes Hollywood but with lusty performances from Laurence Olivier as Heathcliff and Cathy as Isabella. A 50th anniversary rerelease.

"Out Cold" (USA — 1989), 9:30 p.m. May 29-31, 8 p.m. May 30, 7:30 p.m. June 1, 19:45 p.m. June 2 and 5 p.m. June 3. Terrell Starr, John Lithgow and Randy Quaid star in a black comedy about a woman who plots to murder her abusive butcher husband.

"Salom Bombay" (India — 1987), 7 p.m. May 31 and 9:30 p.m. June 1. Modern Bombay sets the scene for this moving story of a young boy's survival.

"Intermezzo" (USA — 1939), 7 p.m. June 2. Yet another 1939 rerelease, this stars Leslie Howard as a famed violinist in love with protégé Ingrid Bergman. Who wouldn't be.

"The Accidental Tourist" (USA — 1988), 8:30 p.m. June 2. A faithful adaptation of Anne Tyler's novel about an emotionally distant travel writer (William Hurt) and the free-spirited dog trainer (Geena Davis) who brings him home.

The Best of the Festival of Animation, 7 p.m. June 3 and 7:30 p.m. June 4. Compilation of contemporary cartoons from around the world.

PARIS THEATRE, 804 Erie St. E., Windsor. Call (519) 971-9983 for dates and times. (\$4 regular and \$2.50 seniors)

A superb showcase for contemporary alternative films. Call for weekend titles and times.

ROYAL OAK CINEMA SOCIETY, Corner of Cedar and Fourth Street in downtown Royal Oak. (Free)

"Festival of Vintage Cartoons and Rare Short Subjects," 9 p.m. June 3. The society launches a new season outdoors with a collection of rarely projected under the stars: "Koko's Earth Control" (1928), where the Fleischer clown throws the globe off balance; "Red Hot Riding

Hood" (1942), Tex Avery's manic updating of the fairy tale with street-wise wolf howling over sexy nightclub singer Red — the credited inspiration for Roger Rabbit's wife Jessica; "Vincent" (1981), a brilliant homage to horror films from "Batman" director Tim Burton; "Psycho" and a rare 1954 "Batman" serial episode.

TELE-ARTS, 1545 Woodward Ave., Detroit. For information, call 963-8499. (\$4 matinee, students and seniors, \$3.25 regular)

A weeklong tribute to Woody Allen, featuring:

"The Red Again Sam" (USA — 1972), 5:30 p.m. May 31, 10 p.m. June 2, 5:30 p.m. June 3 and 3:15 p.m. June 4. Allen should have directed instead of Herbert Ross, but this is still a hilarious version of his post-stage play. Allen stars as a nerdy film critic whose disaster dating streak ends in an affair with his best friend's wife (Diane Keaton).

"Sleeper" (USA — 1975), 7:45 p.m. May 31, 5:30 p.m. June 1-3 and 10 p.m. June 3. Brilliant slapstick comedy about a man (Allen) who wakes from suspended animation 200 years in the future. Music supplied by Allen's own ragtime band.

"Another Woman" (USA — 1988), 7:45 p.m. June 1-3 and 5 p.m. June 4. The requisite number of bows for Igmar Bergman appear in Allen's third attempt at straight drama. Gena Rowlands as a by-the-way philosopher/writer suffering mid-life crisis. With Mia Farrow and Gene Hackman.

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