



Kit and Port Moresby (Debra Winger and John Malkovich) star in "The Sheltering Sky," the story about the relationship of three wandering Americans told against the striking desert backdrop of North Africa in 1947.

## SCREEN SCENE

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mercial interruptions during its first network telecast. He finds it necessary to enter the film and bring his story back to order.

"Third Animation Celebration, through Jan. 21 (call for show times). A new compilation of animated shorts from around the world, including Bruno Bozzetto's "Mr. Tao" and the latest from Canada's Bill Plympton and Czechoslovakia's Jan Svankmajer.

**TELE-ARTS THEATRE**, 1540 Woodward, Detroit 953-8690. (ticket prices vary). "Michelangelo: Self-Portrait" through Jan. 22 (call for show times). This acclaimed documentary films scenes of Italy and Michelangelo's masterpieces to recreate the artist's life. (\$4, \$3.50 students)

## ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

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The restored version of "L'Atalante" (1934), screening March 1-3, is a notable exception, the second — and last — film from French director Jean Vigo.

Stylistically ahead of its time, with a free-wheeling "boy-meets-girl" narrative and oddball characters, "L'Atalante" was butchered almost immediately upon release. Popular songs of the day were added to the soundtrack to boost weak ticket sales.

The restoration of sound and image is exciting for Wilhelm, who counts "L'Atalante" among his all-time favorite movies and even

booked it for the weekend of his birthday.

**THE SEASON** concludes with more restored films sporting exotic locales. "Tabu" (1931), the epic collaboration between directors F.W. Murnau and Robert Flaherty, is a love story set in the South Seas.

"Chang" (1927) and "Grass" (1925) were filmed under impossible conditions by Marian C. Cooper and Ernest Schoedsack, who later brought "King Kong" to the screen.

"They were amazing filmmakers who would find themselves standing among a herd of wild beasts and keep right on shooting," Wilhelm said.

"Chelsea Girls" (A — 1966), 7 p.m. Jan. 17. Two screens are needed to correctly project Andy Warhol's experimental feature which intertwines different stories simultaneously. Highlighted by images of cult star Nico snipping her bangs. A rarely screened must for Warhol fans, sponsored by downtown's Scarab Club. (\$8 in advance, \$7 at the door)

— John Monaghan

**DFT PATRONS** will find a couple of changes this season. General ticket prices, which have doubled in the past two years, now stand at \$5, with a book of five discount coupons available for \$17.50.

More exciting is the opening of the Crystal Gallery Cafe, behind the auditorium balcony, where light snacks, pastries and a complete beverage and bar service will be offered before films.

Almost unbelievably, Detroit's most popular alternative film venue has suffered financial losses in recent seasons. These changes, Wilhelm said, should put it back in the black.

## Sketch draws on ska style

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bone and Tarek Ajami on trumpet, while Chris Warland handles the saxophone.

Bassist John Holkeboer and drummer Josh Mancell (older brother of Ben) are last-minute replacements. And Josh Mancell is just visiting for winter break from college.

"I WAS REALLY into ska five years ago," Josh Mancell said. "I wanted to form a ska band really bad then. It was between the second and third generation, and no one was interested."

Josh Mancell will return to school in New York and leave Black 'n' Sketch drummerless. Avasharian doesn't seem worried, despite the band's entering the studio soon to record a couple of tracks for a ska compilation.

"We'll find somebody," Avasharian said. "Youthful determination always succeeds. Etch 'n' Sketch are determined to add their own perspective to ska."

First, they want to shoot down some of the misconceptions — like ska is only a happy-go-lucky dance music. Avasharian wrote one number, "Slipping Away," which focuses on being a prisoner of alcohol.

The band also wants to proselytize to the un-skaed. The music has appealed to a wide variety of crowds through the years: punks, skin heads, mods, "rude boys," Rastafarians and even jazz aficionados.

"I like to play before crowds that are ignorant about ska," Ben Mancell. "Then we can open their minds to ska."

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## STREET SENSE

# Cross-dressing: Not easy to cover complicated topic

Dear Ms. Schiff:

It has been often said that a little knowledge can be dangerous, and this statement is obviously true with respect to your Nov. 26 column about cross-dressers.

Further, your lack of knowledge about cross-dressing is particularly disturbing because many readers of your column will take your statement as the truth and the total story of cross-dressers.

It is also why many cross-dressers find that the professional community knows very little about the subject and that, the patients, end up educating the professional while paying to do so.

I do not dispute that cross-dressing is sexually motivated in its earliest stages. Many cross-dressers remain in that stage for their entire lives. However, many move beyond this initial stage. Transvestism is not a stagnant condition as is noted in Richard F. Doctor's book "Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior." (Plenum Press, 1988).

You did not comment about the role of gender identity in cross-dressing. For many, in fact, the majority of cross-dressers, their gender identity is 100 percent male, but as you move through the spectrum of transvestism and transsexualism, gender identity and gender dysphasia play a definite role.

This gender identity problem was first identified by Harry Benjamin in 1956, when he established his guide to transsexualism. That established three categories of transvestism and three categories of transsexualism.

Most importantly, he recognized that human beings cannot be put into little boxes and labeled, but rather that the categories will overlap and that characteristics may transcend individual categories.

You mentioned that some cross-dressers are gay and some are not. It is generally acknowledged that the vast majority of cross-dressers are heterosexual. I've read estimates that as many as 80 percent are heterosexual. The homosexual cross-dresser has an entirely different motivation for cross-dressing and certainly has no desire to be castrated.

There are many sources for information on the subject, and I believe you could do your readers a service by providing these sources to them in a future column. A local cross-dressing organization is Crossroads, P.O. Box 1245, Royal Oak 48068 (446-0782). The national organization is the International Foundation for Gender Education, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, Mass. 01778 (617-894-8340). Both organizations have programs for significant others as well as cross-dressers.

Thank you for your time.

T.S.S.

Thank you for your informative letter about cross-dressers. I made the phone calls you recommended and received further literature on cross-dressing.

As I said in my first column, the subject is a complicated one with a great deal of controversy between people of different opinions. I am putting in excerpts from your letter to transmit to the readers of this col-



Barbara Schiff

umn some of your vast knowledge on the subject.

My column talked about the most common types of cross-dressing. Your letter expands on what I have said and talks about many different types. Much more, even than your discussion, could be said. There is no disagreement between us; you have told us more about than I did.

Again, thank you for your contribution to public education. I hope to keep this column open as an open forum without prejudice to any group.

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

## GRADING THE MOVIES

Continued from Page 2

"Predator 2" (C+, R, 98 minutes).

The hunt continues, this time in the urban jungle of Los Angeles in 1997.

"Rescuers Down Under" (C, G).

Disney animation has Bernard and Miss Bianca off to Australia to save rare eagle from poacher.

"Rocky V" (C+, PG-13, 100 minutes).

Stallone takes another licking but keeps on ticking.

"The Rookie" (D, R, 115 minutes).

Travel beyond belief in this super-macho cop-film with rookie (Charlie Sheen) working with veteran (Clint Eastwood).

"The Russia House" (B+, R, 120 minutes).

Stylish rendition of le Carré novel stars Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer. Marred by some confusing plot elements.

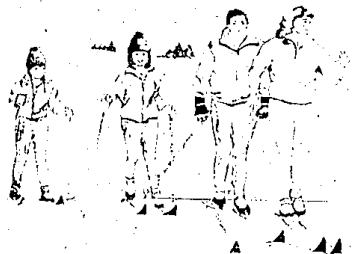
"Three Men and a Little Lady" (B+, PG, 105 minutes).

Delightful sequel to "Three Men and a Cradle."



Robert DeNiro plays Leonard Lowe, a post-operative patient attracted to Paula (Penelope Ann Miller) who visits her father at the same chronic care facility in "Awakenings."

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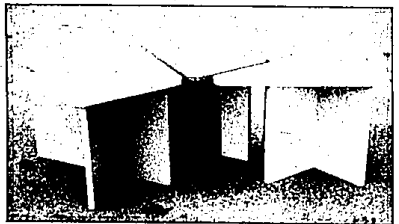
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## STREET SEEN

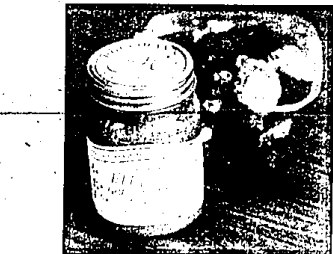
### Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 331.



## Jigsaw tables

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