

STREET SENSE

Be patient with daughter

Dear Barbara:
My daughter June is 11. She often has girlfriends stay over for the night. Two weeks ago, I went into her room to get a pair of my shoes (I keep some of my things in a closet in her room). It was about 12 at night and I thought she and her friends were sleeping, so I didn't knock. I found my daughter and her friend embracing and possibly fondling one another.

It all happened very quickly so I can't be confident of what I saw. I didn't want to embarrass her so I pretended not to see anything and quickly left the room.

The next day I tried to bring up the subject. June rebuffed me. She will not talk about the sex and her friend. I don't know if she needs therapy. There have been many other behaviors that would have indicated a need for it. I am particularly worried that she will not discuss whatever happened with me.

Mary

Dear Mary:
Your letter is timely. In her film, "Truth or Dare," Madonna has a big splash by exposing us to this previously taboo topic. She brings it

up because she wants us to be shocked into an awareness of the blurred boundaries of sexuality. Possibly, this is why you feel anxious, because you are worried that this incident does, in fact, mean that your daughter's sexual boundaries leak. But you and Madonna are wrong. This incident need not mean that at all.

Your daughter June is 11. Has she developed yet? Have her hormones begun their tumultuous teenage effects? If not, it is possible that what you observed was not primarily sexual, but normal experimentation with a girlfriend. Not wanting to talk about it need not be motivated by shame but a desire for privacy.

If the encounter was sexually stimulating, this is still no cause for alarm. Experimentation at this age is typical and need not reflect homosexual tendencies.

A lot more needs to be known before we would understand the meaning of this incident. You feel frustrated because you have no way to find out what you need to know. This is typical when interacting with teenagers.

Continue relating to her as you would with any child. If some course



Barbara Schiff

of action is needed, possibly it will be revealed with time. Be Patient.

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

SCREEN SCENE

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The relationship between female French novelist George Sand and composer Frederic Chopin is recounted in this witty, slightly irrelevant romantic comedy. The most fascinating twist is how the very masculine Sand (wonderfully played by Judy Davis) relentlessly pursues the frail Chopin.

"Tatie Danielle" (France — 1990). An old woman has everyone convinced that she's helpless and frail, but in actuality she's a hellion.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call 669-8397 for information. (\$5, \$4 students and senior citizens).

"Iron and Silk" (USA — 1991), through June 27 (call for show times). Mark Salzman, an American-born English teacher working in China, grows fascinated with the country's culture, especially the martial arts. The government doesn't share in his enthusiasm and blocks his classes and attempts to initiate a relationship with a young woman. Refreshing and irritating at the same time, this true story stars Salzman and others reliving their real life roles.

The Battle of the Cyrano — Two

interpretations of the 17th century swordsman whose lightning-fast wit and the monster schnozz were originally made famous in Edmond Rostand's play. The Mich screens both the 1950 film version of "Cyrano de Bergerac," starring Jose Ferrer, and the 1990 Gerard Depardieu adaptation back-to-back. The Ferrer version will be shown at 5 p.m. June 29 and 4 p.m. June 30; Depardieu at 7:10 June 29 and 6:10 p.m. June 30. You judge which fare's best.

"Ay Carmela" (Spain — 1991), June 28-30 (Call for show times). During the Spanish Civil War, a song-and-dance team is saved from certain death by an Italian soldier who decides that their act will entertain the troops. A bitter black comedy starring Carmen Maura ("Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown") and directed by Carlos Saura.

REDFORD THEATRE, 17360 Lahser at Grand River, Detroit. Call 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50).

"Teacher's Pet" (USA — 1957), 8 p.m. June 28-29 (organ overture begins at 7:30 p.m.). Doris Day and Clark Gable star in this forgettable comedy about a tough city editor who falls for a journalism teacher and so enrolls in her class.

STAR JOHN R, 32289 John R (at 14 Mile), Madison Heights. Call 585-2070 for information. (\$6 general, \$3.75 before 6 p.m.).

"Tatie Danielle" (France — 1990), continues the theme of the ambitious alternative film series. An old woman has everyone convinced that she's helpless and frail, but in actuality she's a hellion.

TOP OF THE PARK, Power Center parking structure, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Call 747-2278 for information. (free)

More free movies this summer on top of a downtown Ann Arbor parking structure. Great fun, even if the film choices are a little predictable. The projector rolls at dusk. June 24: The classic western "Shane." June 25: Michigan's Jeff Daniels stars in the Woody Allen fantasy "The Purple Rose of Cairo." June 26: Shirley Temple in "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

GRADING THE MOVIES

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As in "Pretty Woman," "Dying Young" is the story of the love of an experienced woman and a man distracted from sexual and emotional affairs — Richard Gere by money and power, Campbell Scott by pain and an overbearing father.

Thus two disparate folks are drawn together by a commercial arrangement that blossoms into an enchanting love — a love changes them both... for the better.

Scott is a promising young actor who demonstrates his ability extroverted well here while Julia Roberts is Julia Roberts with a couple of very sensational scenes.

BUT SOMETHING is missing and the all-encompassing, ennobling passion of their love gets lost in soapy melodrama at times. Commitment is missing in much of the script which starts and stops with moments of predictability, followed by disatisfying misdirection as, for example, when Gordon, the menacing local handyman, turns out to be a real pussycat.

Nonetheless, Julia Roberts is always worth watching so bring a good stash of tissues and weep away.

It may sound exciting, but I'll never know whether or not "Talkin' Dirty After Dark" (*) R delivers on its title or on its promotional description as something clever about men and women and a comedy club in Los Angeles.

STILL PLAYING:

"Backdraft" (C, R, 130 minutes). Disappointing, combative, cliched story of two brothers, both Chicago firefighters.

"City Slickers" (A, PG-13, 108 minutes).

Super film with entirely new approach to solving mid-life crises. As always, Billy Crystal is terrific.

"Dances With Wolves" (A, PG-13, 180 minutes).

Kevin Costner's magnificent ode to brotherhood and brutality on America's western frontier during and after the Civil War.

"Dice Rules" (F, NC-17, 87 minutes).

Offensive Andrew Dice Clay presentation lacks style, humor, taste or any other positive characteristic.

"Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead" (C, PG-13, 95 minutes).

Predictable, stereotypical, mediocre story about teenager left in charge of family when babysitter dies.

"Drop Dead Fred" (B+, PG-13, 100 minutes).

Even if you didn't have an imaginary childhood friend, you'll enjoy Rick Mayall in the title role.

"The Five Heartbeats" (A, R).

Good entertainment and excellent music in story of fictitious black singing group.

"The Deadly Art of Illusion" (C+, PG-13, 105 minutes).

Largely sterile exercise in special effects teams two Brians — Denchey and Brown — one more time.

"Hudson Hawk" (A, PG-13, 97 minutes).

Bruce Willis is paroled thief who wants to go straight but events conspire...

"Jungle Fever" (B+, R, 125 minutes).

Excellent performances combined with Spike Lee's fine writing and direction equal a compelling look at an inter-racial love affair.

"A Kiss Before Dying" (B+, R, 90 minutes).

Nerve-wracking, tense entertainment with Matt Dillon as psycho-

pathic killer preying on wealthy family.

"New Jack City" (B, R).

Fairly well done, inner-city drug gang and undercover cops story.

"Only the Lonely" (B, PG-13, 105 minutes).

John Candy is a nice-guy Chicago cop who lives with his mother (Maureen O'Hara) and falls in love with Ally Sheedy.

"Out for Justice" (*, R).

Macho man Steven Seagal is a tough cop.

"A Rage in Harlem" (C+ R, 110 minutes).

Just too much packed into this star-studded romantic comic adventure of southern gold in Harlem with all the greedy folks out in force.

"Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" (A, PG-13, 140 minutes).

Entertaining, tongue-in-cheek recap of old legend with Kevin Costner in title role.

"The Silence of the Lambs" (C, R, 115 minutes).

Disgusting film about FBI Cadet (Jodi Foster) confronting cannibalistic psychiatrist and serial killer. Despite technical accomplishment, this film is only for those who take ghoulish delight in the suffering of others.

"Sleeping With the Enemy" (C+, R, 95 minutes).

Julia Roberts' excellent performance as battered wife who takes matters into her own hands can't overcome weak scenario about psychotic hubby.

"Soapdish" (B, PG-13, 96 minutes).

Overcrowded with stars, this soap opera about television soap operas, is contrived but okay.

"Stone Cold" (R, 90 minutes).

Brian Bosworth is an undercover cop working to bring outlaw biker-gang to justice.

ALTERNATIVE MOVIE

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ISABELLE NANTY'S Sandrine, the caretaker, offers the film's sole hope. At first you think she'll be eaten alive by the old witch, but instead she refuses to take orders.

When Tatie Danielle realizes she has met her match, a bond begins to form. They eat like pigs and watch what they want on television, while Jean-Pierre and his family take in well-deserved vacation in Greece.

When Sandrine makes the mistake of asking for time off to spend with her American boyfriend, however,

the old woman's solace is threatened and the fireworks really commence.

Writer/director Etienne Chaillet ("Life Is a Long Quiet River") and co-screenwriter Florence Quentin wanted to treat the taboo subject of old age in a frank and funny way.

"WE WANTED to confront Tatie with people who are extraordinarily kind and gentle and who would indulge her blindly," Quentin has said in interviews. "Tatie" is not simply the story of a villainess who launches a wholesale attack against

the old, the young and the confused adolescents.

"It also is the story of an old woman who is somebody driven to, who in fact needs to, cause harm. She is a person of passion and somewhere in her there is something clean and purifying."

"Tatie Danielle" is like a cross between "Uncle Buck" and "A Trip to Bountiful," but with an extremely dark streak. It just may be the best thing the Star John R has gotten hold of for its ambitious alternative film series. See it where you can.



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 953-2311.



It's a stitch

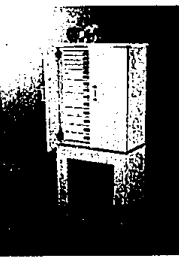
With the abundance of ready-to-wear available, home sewing has become a lost art. The answer to the perfect summertime project for the "I'm bored" student or the aspiring fashion designer can begin with a McCall's pattern. Shown here are trendy overalls for toddlers to teens in your choice of colors, fabric and pant length. Available at most fabric centers.

Treasure chests

Mary DuPrie wanted a cabinet in which to store her jewelry. She shopped at stores and conferred with cabinet makers, and nowhere could she find what she was looking for.

Determined to meet her needs, DuPrie enrolled in a carpentry class and decided to build her own. Today, she has a place to store her precious jewels and has opened a studio manufacturing elaborate, custom, floor standing jewelry cabinets in contemporary, traditional and Oriental designs.

Prices start at \$700. The Mary DuPrie Studio is at 40 W. Howard, Pontiac. Call 338-8703.



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