



## Students learn life lessons in 'PCU' and 'With Honors'

**"PCU" and "With Honors" movies with college themes, open Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.**

Tom Lawrence is about to get his first lesson in politically correct behavior as a freshman at Port Chester University in "PCU." Lawrence moves into a renege dorm that sets out to defy the rigid and "correct" behavior of its fellow students.

"With Honors" is the true story of Harvard University students who befriend a homeless man. The curriculum at Port Chester is political correctness; the penalty for learning to fall your lesson, instant protest. Twentieth Century Fox presents the Paul Schiff production starring Jeremy Piven, Chris Young, David Spade, Megan Ward, Sarah Trigger and Jessica Walter. The film is directed by Hart Bochner from a screenplay written by Adam Left and Zak Penn. Paul Schiff is the producer.

The cup that holds your coffee is a threat to the environment, the hamburger in your bun comes courtesy of a murdered animal, and the girl you've asked out is a woman, you clod. You've just had

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your first lesson in political correctness from Port Chester University or "PCU."

"The only way for an 18-year-old to survive the baffling complexities of college life in the 1990s is to maintain a sense of humor," observes producer Paul Schiff. "PCU" is about the war between humorless and humor. We hope humor wins out.

Central to the story is the Pit, the residence hall which serves as a bunker for the frontline soldiers in the war against political correctness. Drexel (Jeremy Piven) is the Pit's leader, a good-natured anarchist veteran of PCU who is the ideal guide for Tom Lawrence (Chris Young), an incoming freshman completely unprepared for modern campus life — and the war he is about to be cast into.

"PCU" is rated PG-13 — Parents are strongly cautioned, some material may be inappropriate for young children. Joe Pesci, Brendan Fraser, Mo'Nique, Patrick Dempsey and Josh Hamilton star in "With Honors," a Spring Creek Production for Warner Bros. release. "With Honors" is based on the true story of four ambitious Har-

vard students who encounter and eventually befriend a homeless man, which causes them to re-examine their values and beliefs.

Gore Vidal makes a special appearance as the feared and revered Professor Philip Hayes Pitkannan. A Nobel laureate, he has the authority to recommend or deny a student's cum laude — "with honors" status at graduation.

Monty Kessler (Fraser) is a Harvard scholarship student well on his way to graduating summa cum laude. Driven to succeed, he panics when a severe winter storm causes his computer drive to crash and takes with it his senior honors thesis. As he rushes to the library to copy the existing pages of his draft, Monty begins a learning experience that's different from anything he's experienced at Harvard.

Simon Wilder (Pesci) had a cozy home in a highly desirable neighborhood. Centrally located in Cambridge, Mass., in the midst of Harvard University's historic Quadrangle, the only thing missing, perhaps, was a view. Though technically homeless, Wilder had created a safe harbor against the frigid winter outside — in the basement of Harvard's Widener Library.



**College drama:** Monty (Brendan Fraser) listens as Simon Wilder (Joe Pesci) uses the Constitution to make a point at Harvard in Warner Bros.' poignant drama "With Honors."

Monty unexpectedly meets Simon after dropping the only copy of his senior thesis through a sidewalk grate — into the lap of Wilder in the basement below.

Kessler's discovery of Wilder's quarters results in the older

man's eviction from his "home" by campus security. However, desperate to get his thesis back, Kessler makes a deal with Wilder: for every accommodation Kessler grants Wilder, he will receive one page of the thesis from the now truly homeless man.

What begins as a trading-off for necessities becomes a discovery that life's most important lessons are necessarily learned by the book.

Like "PCU," "With Honors" is rated PG-13.

## Marine captain faces ultimate challenge in 'No Escape'

In the year 2022, a ruthless prison warden (Michael Leiner) has created the ultimate solution for his most troublesome and violent inmates: Abolom, a secret jungle island where prisoners are abandoned and left to die.

For Marine Captain John Robbins (Ray Liotta), convicted of

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murdering a commanding officer, Abolom means no escape, no hope and almost no chance of survival in "No Escape," a Savoy Pictures Release opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

Yet for Robbins, the ultimate prison is the ultimate challenge, and he is determined to survive and escape in order to reveal the truth about his murderous actions and clear his name. On Abolom, he discovers a primitive civilization divided into two camps: the Outsiders, anarchistic

savages led by the ruthless Marek (Stuart Wilson); and the Insiders, a smaller group of peaceful colonists led by a compassionate former surgeon known as Father (Lance Henriksen).

The Father has established his camp with the aid of other like-minded inmates: Hawkins (Ernie Hudson), the quiet but strict se-

curity chief; Dykark (Jack Shepherd) an ingenious inventor; Casey (Kevin Dillon), a youthful prisoner who is awed by Robbins' powerful presence; and King (Ian McNeice), the fastidious host of the community who assures the well-being of the Insiders.

With the sadistic warden monitoring the fierce battles between the two enemy camps, Robbins reluctantly takes the refuge offered by the Insiders while he plots his seemingly impossible escape. As he continues his daily struggle for survival, Robbins finds he must confront not only his fellow prisoners, but the physical and mental demons from his past that continue to haunt him.

## Enter our 'Bad Girls' contest

Four women of the old west become gunfighters to win back their money, their rights, and their dignity in Twentieth Century Fox's "Bad Girls," now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters.

These trailblazers were forced

by circumstances beyond their control to stand up for themselves.

Tell us about the "Bad Girls" in your life — women who because of divorce, illness, the death of a spouse, an accident, or just bad luck, were forced to

overcome their weaknesses to survive. The women you nominate can be married, divorced, widowed or single.

It could be a single mom juggling work and family responsibilities, a woman who is battling a serious illness like cancer, or a woman laid off from her job who goes back to school to improve her skills so she can get a better job, or struggles to find a job that pays as much as the one she lost. Tell us about these untold heroines.

Include the "Bad Girl's" name, address, phone number, and describe in 200 words or less why they are deserving of this award. The first 16 entries will receive a "Bad Girl" T-shirt. There will be three top grand-prize winners who will receive passes to see "Bad Girls," a T-shirt and movie poster. We'll tell you why these three women are so "Bad" on the movie page on May 12. Deadline for entry is Friday, May 6.

Send contest entries to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Call (313) 953-2105 if you have any questions.



MERRICK MORTON

**Outlaws:** Madeleine Stowe, (left to right) Mary Stuart Masterson, Drew Barrymore and Andie MacDowell star in "Bad Girls."

## 'Serial Mom' funny

Share your comments about any newly released movies with your friends and neighbors on our movie page.

We're interested in hearing from readers of all ages — your comments are important to us. See Reel to Reel for information on how to leave comments about movies.

Suzie Tiernan of Livonia goes to the movies every Wednesday. She saw "Serial Mom," and said it was very funny.

If you're looking for an unusual, but entertaining film experience, check out 32 short films about Canadian pianist Glenn Gould, at the Detroit Institute of Arts in Detroit, May 6-8. Call (313) 833-2323 for tickets.

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"I saw a preview last week. It was 32 short films about Glenn Gould. Each one has a story and a title. Some seem almost like a documentary," said Tiernan. "It was very interesting. I had never heard of Glenn Gould. He was very eccentric and died in 1982 at the age of 50. I recommend it."

Parents, how do you decide if you'll let your children see a movie? Do you call other parents? Do you agree or disagree with how movies are rated? What movies have you seen lately and recommend? I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

### ART FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Thursday, May 5  
For seniors

### MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 8  
Seating is limited.  
Call 833-1857.

### FAMILY DAY AT THE DIA

Sunday, May 15  
FREE.

### MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Sunday, May 29  
Free concert by  
Tropical Connection.

### SHOP & SHUTTLE TO THE DIA

Bus tips to the DIA every  
Wednesday in May:  
May 4  
From Somerset Collection,  
Troy  
May 11 & 18  
From Twelve Oaks Mall,  
Novi  
May 25  
From Downriver Council for  
the Arts, Wyandotte



## FAMILY DAY

Sunday, May 15

**FREE ADMISSION TODAY**

sponsored by  
The Romare Bearden Bearden Foundation, Inc.

### MAY IS MUSEUM MONTH

Guest Pass

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

Enjoy the DIA in May! With this pass, one person will be admitted free to the museum and the special exhibition, *Art of the American Indian Frontier*, with one paid admission during May 1994 only. You must provide the following information for the pass to be valid:

**HOURS:**  
Wednesday - Friday,  
11 am - 4 pm  
Weekends, 11 am - 5 pm

**RECOMMENDED ADMISSION:**  
\$4 adults, \$1 children.  
Members FREE.  
Free on Sunday, May 15.

### SPECIAL SUNDAY TOURS IN MAY:

**Museum Tours:**  
1 pm  
(English & Spanish)  
2:30 pm  
(English & American Sign Language)  
**Art of the American Indian Frontier:**  
1:30 pm  
(English & American Sign Language)

**JOIN**  
the DIA Founders Society at  
any event in May and receive  
a FREE DIA POSTER.

### THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

5200 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

For information about  
any event,  
call 313-833-7971.

