POINTS OF VIEW

-area film buffs Now look who's talking -

ary Phillips called to say what a great idea.

Michelle Sills called to say she has formed one with friends and

she has formed one with friends and enjoys it.

And Ruth Daniels, manager of the AMC Maple 3, called to say she would see what she could put togother.

All three were responding to a column suggesting it would be exciting to discuss interesting films immediately after seeing them, perhaps moving from the movie theater to the coffee house or mega bookstore nearby.

'So on Wednesday, Sopt. 6, following the 7:15 p.m. showing of "the Brothers McMullen" at the Maple 3, Daniels will lead an hour-long discussion of that film starting at 9:30 p.m. in the Barnes & Noble Cafe on Telegraph just south of Maple. uth of Maple.

south of Maple.
She hopes it will be the start of a series which she calls "Reel Talk" that she would schedule around thought-provoking films.

In fact, earlier this summer she launched a Film Lovers Club that meets one Sunday morning each month, co-sponsored by the Barnes & Noble Cafe. This past Sunday 150 people turned out to hear Elliot Wilhelm, founder of the Detroit Film Theatre and curator of film at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Just who is this masked woman who appeared out of the blue to actually spin a mere column into reality?

As it turns out, I sort of know Buth Daniels. You may sort of know her, too. Once, on an every-seat-taken Saturday night at the Maple 3 in Bloomfield Township, the dark-haired, enthusiastic Daniels spoke in the semi-darkened theater just before the film began.

She gave us a little preview of a film that would open the next week, she asked us to look under our seats to see if we had won a doorprize and she

if we had won a doorprize and she thanked us for coming.

She says she does that fairly often.



JUDITH DONER BERNE

"I'm supposed to be on the screen in-stead of in front of it," says Daniels, who majored in theater at Michigan State University. "I like to make little announcements."

But, instead of heading for New York or Hollywood, she married the man she loved, moved into the Farmington Hills house in which she was raised, worked

her way up in the AMC organization from manager of a \$1 movie house to manager at the Maple, and had twin boys (now 4 years old) who occupy the bedroom that was hers as a child.

Sounds like a film acript.

Tremember when the Maple opened, Daniels said, reminiating. And when she was hired by AMC, she told them, Treally want the Maple.

Actually, she says, "As 1 house and an art house are very similar," since both compete against the more commercial theaters.

"It ry really hard to keep it (the Maple) special and different," she said. "This was my baby before my babies."

Protty soon, Daniels will be trying harder than ever. Now there's primarily the Main and Maple in our part of Oakland County competing for art film audiences. And even so, a "Waterworld" or "Little Women" are often thrown in for good measure.

But with the marquee going up, as

we write, on the Birmingham Theatre, we're awaiting nine screens on two levels in an art deco setting in the heart of that city. And then there's the 20 'screens plus a restaurant complex dunert year at the proposed Star Theatre in Southfield.

That's a lot of screens. And alternative films certainly could be used to fill some of them.

"I'm being sandwiched," Daniels acknowledges. "I do love this place. If I could buy it, I would. I would like to protect it."

Meantime, she is spinning a column into reality, much to the delight of Phillips, Sills, Berne — and we hope other film buffs all around our towns.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomouaun Doner Berne, a West Bloom-field resident, is former managing edi-tor of the Eccentric Newspopers. You can leave her a message from a Touch-Tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1997.

Depending on person, teacher on board can be asset

uestion: As a citizen who has not attended school board meetings, I recently got a real shock at the meeting I did attend. One of our board of education members is a school teacher. How can a school teacher be on a board of education which makes decisions about teacher salaries and fringe benefits? En't this like letting the fox into the chicken house? Is this legal?

Answer: In the state of Michigan a teacher can serve on a school board but not in the district in which he or she teaches.

teaches.
And, yes, there are conflicting opinions regarding teachers on a school board even if they are not on the board in the district in which they teach.
Let's look at it historically.
In 1965, when the law was passed al-

In 1965, when the law was passed allowing teacher negotiations, electing teacher activists to board positions was high on the agenda of some local teacher unions. I was there as a local Michigan Education Association president and viewed those educators promoting teachers for board positions as a mixed big. Some of these activists were legalists, defined, of course, as those who

demanded strict adherence to a code or law. Some were angry about the low wages and working conditions in the '60s (which was real), while most teachers were too busy teaching kids to concern themselves.

concern themsolves.

Indeed, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers once had a "citizenship committee" to encourage teachers to run for school board positions. Early on, however, they concluded that they gained little by actively sponsoring teachers for local school board positions.

The NEA and AFT's initial position The NEA and AFT's initial position backfired. Many school board members and citizens weren't warmly receptive to NEA-sponsored board members who were viewed as NEA puppets. In extreme cases, some boards made them a non-entity by voting down any issue that smelled as NEA endorsed. But that's history.

It's a totally different attitude today. The transfer the proper tender compare.

It's a totally diliterent attitude today. Today the two major teacher organiza-tions stay away from this issue. Dick Vander Woude, a political education specialist with the NEA says, "We do encourage teachers to run, but no more than we encourage any other citizen



who understands the issues and is committed to the changes we believe are valid."

are valid."

One AFT official said, "You are better off with a local lawyer, minister or active parent who is supportive of your concerns."

concerns."
Twenty years ago, there was a tendency among many union leaders to assume that getting teachers on boards of education was the better choice. But as teachers became more politically so-

phisticated, it was found that a teacher on the board wasn't going to behave any differently than any other person. It was not unusual to find teachers he believed that tenure should be tightened up to phase out a few of their

Today, most quality school districts actively involve teachers in the decision-making process. Many principals use staff councils, central office instructional leaders and know how important it is to involve teachers in planning. There are parent advisory committees, many with teachers on the panel. It is a different ball game today than in the good old days of top-down management. Slower and more painful at times, but as it should be.

In my philosophy, I believe the more teachers and principals are involved in the decision-making process, the more they have at stake to see that the results are successful. Conversely, the less involved they are, the less they Today, most quality school districts

A teacher on the board can be an as-set or an inhibiting factor. But that de-pends on the attitude the teacher takes into the position. They will be listened to and can make a significant contribu-

If a radical out to destroy the system is elected, he or she will be silently crushed like an ant by the votes of a 'board that has insight into the big picture. That's the beauty and value of an elected and responsible board of education.

James "Doc" Dayle has more than 25 years experience as a public school teacher and administrator. He is cur-rently a consultant. He lives in North-ville Township.

Ameritech takes profits without giving service

Bay, your suburban newspapers must be in fat city, with all the ads you're picking up from the Detroit newspaper strike.

A. Not as fat as Ameritech. We have to print

ad to make money. Q. Doesn't Ameritech have to perform a

want your number given out by Directory As-sistance, Ameritech charges you \$1.50 a month.

That's \$3 a year.

Q. That's a great deal for Ameritoch. One-third of us in the suburbs have our names

unlisted.

A. At least. As our populations grow, the telephone directory gets thinner.

When I went the unlisted route, my incoming calls dropped 60 percent, cutting down on uninted dinner-hour hustlers calling to sell something or solicit money. But, I can't fathom how Ameritach deres to soak me \$36 a year for that "farnica".

"service."
Q. Of course, you could get Caller ID and be able to learn the number of wheever's

be able to learn the number of wheever's calling you, couldn't you?

i. A. Sure, at Ameritech's price. And you can also get Catler ID with Name, which displays the name of the caller, at Ameritech's price. No matter how hard you try to stop incoming junk calls, Ameritech makes monsy.

Q. Say, decen't Ameritech want to get into cable TV, too? That sounds kind of ominous, given their high-pressure tactice and shilly to charge you for a non-cervice service.

A. You notice it doesn't call itself a "tele-phone company" any more. Ameritech was a

A. You notice it doesn't call itself a "tele-phone company" any more. Ameriuch was a heavy lobbyist in Congress for HR 1855, the bill that deregulates cable TV.

Their latest press release says, "Ameritech, one of the world's largest full-service communi-tations companies, provides a wide array of lo-al phone, date and video services in the U.S. Midwest."

O. 854-

Q. Makes me suspicious. If they charge you for not printing your name in the phone



TIM RICHARD

book, and if they get into cable TV, will they charge you for not sending a premium channel into your home?

A. I share your suspicions.

Q. Ameritech has to be making a ton of

money. What's it doing with all that cash—cutting our rates?

A. Revenues in 1994 were a record \$12.6 bil-

lion. It's investing heavily overseas. I quote from Ameritech's own PR release, so their highpressure exoca can't ask for equal space:
"AMERITECH'S INTERNATIONAL IN-

VESTMENTS:

VESTMENTS:

"China: In August 1995 Ameritech formed a
25-year joint venture with Chinacom... Ameritech has an 80 percent stake...

"New Zealand... 24.8 percent of Telecom

garian phone company..."

"Poland: About two million Poles are on the waiting list for wired phone service today." Ameritech owns 24.5 percent of Centertel, the cellu-

B" "Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Czech Re-public, Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia:" The

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