OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements
Showcase Cinemas

Showcase
Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
248-375-2600
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP BABY GENIUSES (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:10
NP DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
12:30, 2:50, 3:50, 7:30, 9:50
NP THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R)
12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15
NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:15, 5:20, 6:30, 7:45, 9:10, 10:15
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
12:45, 1:15-2:55, 3:25, 5:10, 5:40, 7:25, 7:55, 9:40, 10:10
NP B MM (R)
1:00, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20,
OCTOBER SKY (PG)
12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
8:00, 10:20
PAYBACK (R)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:10
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
12:20, 2:15, 4:10, 6:05

Showcase Dearborn 1-9
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:10
NP THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00
NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30
NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
12:30, 1:10, 2:40, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40, 7:10, 8:00, 9:30, 10:10
NP B MM (R)
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10,
THE OTHER SISTER (PG13)
1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph Sq. Lake Rd. W. Side of Telegraph
248-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R)
1:10, 3:20, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10
NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
12:30, 1:00, 2:45, 3:15, 5:00, 5:30, 7:10, 7:45, 9:20, 10:00
OCTOBER SKY (PG)
12:50, 3:05, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2465 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
248-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP BABY GENIUSES (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:10
NP THE DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
12:30, 2:50, 3:50, 7:30, 9:55
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
12:40, 1:15, 2:45, 3:20, 5:00, 5:30, 7:20, 7:55, 9:40, 10:05
THE OTHER SISTER ((PG13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:30, 9:10
B MM (R)
1:00, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00
OCTOBER SKY (PG)
11:30, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
11:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:40

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP BABY GENIUSES (PG)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:10, 9:20
NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
NP THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R)
1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:10
NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:05
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
7:55, 10:15.
NP B MM (R)
1:20, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

Showcase Westland 1-8
6500 Wayne Rd.,
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1960
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP THE DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
12:30, 2:55, 3:50, 7:30, 9:50
NP THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R)
12:50, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
12:45, 1:15, 2:55, 3:30, 5:05, 5:35, 7:20, 7:55, 9:40, 10:10
THE OTHER SISTER (PG13)
12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50
PAYBACK (R)
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55.
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star John R
at 14 Mile
32259 John R. Road
248-585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

THE CORRUPTER (R)
11:20, 12:40, 2:00, 3:20, 4:40, 6:00, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00
DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
11:40, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20
NO VIP TICKETS
CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
10:50, 12:00, 1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 6:10, 7:10, 8:00, 8:50, 9:50, 10:40-
NO VIP TICKETS
ANALYZE THIS (R)
11:00, 12:20, 1:40, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:20, 9:40, 10:50
NO VIP TICKETS
B MM (R)
12:30, 1:10, 3:50, 8:30, 9:30
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
11:50, 2:10, 4:10, 6:40
PAYBACK (R)
11:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10
BUSHMORE (R)
11:10, 2:30, 4:50
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:30, 9:20
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)
1:10, 4:30, 7:50, 10:30
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)
8:10 PM ONLY
PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG)
11:10, 1:50, 5:30
FAMILY FILM SPECTACULAR - CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER ARE FREE, ADULTS $3 AND OVER $1
JACK FROST
10:50, 1:20, 4:00

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
248-853-2260
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
No one under age 6 admitted for PG 13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
11:10, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15
NO VIP TICKETS
NP DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
NO VIP TICKETS
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
10:50, 11:45, 1:15, 2:20, 4:50, 5:00, 6:10, 8:20, 9:30, 10:45
THE OTHER SISTER ((PG13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:30, 9:10
B MM (R)
1:00, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00
OCTOBER SKY (PG)
11:30, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
11:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:40

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern off I-696
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm
FOR SHOWTIMES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE
CALL 248-372-2222
www.STAR-SOUTHFIELD.com
NP FEATURES - SORRY NO VIP DISCOUNT TICKETS ACCEPTED

NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00
NP CARRIE: THE RAGE (R)
10:50, 1:20, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
NP DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
11:40, 2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35
NP BABY GENIUSES (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
11:50, 2:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40
NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
11:15, 12:15, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:10, 6:45, 7:40, 9:25, 10:20
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
10:45, 11:45, 1:15, 2:20, 3:45, 4:45, 6:20, 7:20, 8:50, 9:45
B MM (R)
10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:40, 10:25
OTHER SISTER (PG13)
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
200 CIGARETTES (R)
12:00 & 6:30 ONLY
OCTOBER SKY (PG)
8:30 ONLY
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
10:30, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20
BLAST FROM THE PAST (PG13)
9:50 ONLY
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
NO 7:00 MON 3/15 & TUE 3/16
PAYBACK (R)
11:00, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
BUSHMORE (R)
11:00, 1:20, 3:45,
SHE'S ALL THAT (PG13)
3:30 & 9:40 ONLY
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)
8:20 PM ONLY
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
12:20, 3:10, 6:10, 9:10
PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG)
10:40, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50

FAMILY FILM SPECTACULAR
JACK FROST (PG) -
12:00, 2:50, 5:40

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd.
Winchester Mall
248-656-1160
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
11:10, 1:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20
NP BABY GENIUSES (PG)
11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:00
PAYBACK (R)
11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
7:30, 8:10
SHE'S ALL THAT (PG13)
2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
200 CIGARETTES (R)
9:50 PM ONLY
BUSHMORE (R)
12:00 PM ONLY
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30-7:40,
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)
12:10, 2:50, 6:10, 9:00
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R)
4:30, 8:30
PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG)
11:30, 2:00,

KID'S SERIES: JACK FROST (PG)
11:50 PM AND 5:10 PM ONLY

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
248-968-0706
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

THE RAGE : CARRIE 2 (R) NV
12:30, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00
WING COMMANDER (PG13) NV
12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
200 CIGARETTES (R) NV
12:40, 3:05, 5:10, 7:25, 9:30
STEP MOM (PG13)
1:10, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20
OFFICE SPACE (R)
12:50, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
248-349-4311
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS.

BABY GENIUSES (PG) NV
12:30, 2:50, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50
THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R) NV
12:15, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05
B MM (R) NV
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:35
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
PAYBACK (R) NV
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

United Artists West River
9 Mile,
2 Block West of Middlebelt
248-788-4372
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13) NV
12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
THE CORRUPTER (R) NV
12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10
THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R) NV
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:40
WING COMMANDER (PG13) NV
12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:30, 9:55
ANALYZE THIS (R) NV
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:55, 10:15
CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NV
12:35, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05
B MM (R) NV
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
OCTOBER SKY (PG) NV
9:30 PM ONLY
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) NV
12:55, 3:10, 5:10, 7:20

PAYBACK (R) NV
1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:45, 10:00

United Artists-Commerce-14
3330 Springvale Drive
Adjacent to Home Depot
North of the intersection of I-96 & Milfe & Haggerty
248-960-5801
Bargain Matinees Daily for all Shows starting before 6 pm
Same Day Advance Tickets Available
NV-No VIP Tickets Accepted

BABY GENIUSES (PG) NV
10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13) NV
11:10, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20
THE CORRUPTER (R) NV
12:05, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
THE RAGE: CARRIE 2 (R) NV
12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
WING COMMANDER (PG13) NV
12:10, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05
ANALYZE THIS (R) NV
10:45, 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:50
5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:35, 10:15
CRUEL INTENTIONS (R) NV
11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 8:10, 9:05, 10:50
B MM (R) NV
10:45, 1:25, 4:00, 7:20, 10:10
THE OTHER SISTER (PG13) NV
12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
OCTOBER SKY (PG) NV
10:50, 1:55, 7:10, 9:50
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
4:35 pm only
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
10:50, 1:00, 3:20, 6:05
PAYBACK (R)
11:00, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) NV
11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 9:55

Birmingham Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644-FILM
NP Denotes No Pass Engagements
PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE! CALL (248) 644-FILM AND HAVE YOUR VISA, MASTERCARD OR AMERICAN EXPRESS READY. A 75¢ SURCHARGE PER TRANSACTION WILL APPLY TO ALL TELEPHONE SALES

NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
12:10, 2:35, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
NP THE DEEP END OF THE OCEAN
12:00, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25, 9:45
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:45, 9:45
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
1:30, 4:05, 7:15, 9:45
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
1:55, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
BUSHMORE (R)
12:30, 2:50, 4:40, 7:35, 9:35
200 CIGARETTES (R)
12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:45
B MM (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 9:30

MJR Theatres

$3.00 Ford Tel $1.50
313-561-7200
$1.00 Til 6 pm
After 6 pm $1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center
Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn
(SUN. No children under 6 after 6 pm except on G or PG rated films)

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG)
SUN. 11:15, 1:20
THE RUSH RATS MOVIE (G)
SUN. 11:30, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15
MON-THURS 5:15
WATERBOY (PG13)
SUN. 3:30, 5:30,
MON-THURS 5:30,
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
7:00, 9:30
SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE (PG13)
7:30, 9:30

Waterford Cinema 11
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
248-666-7900
CALL 77 FILMS 1551
Stadium Seating and Digital Sound
Makes for the Best Movies

NP WING COMMANDER (PG13)
12:40, 2:50 (1:10 @ $3.50) 7:30, 9:45
NP THE CORRUPTER (R)
1:40 (4:50 @ $3.50) 7:40, 10:00
NP CARRIE 2: THE RAGE (R)
12:50 (4:30 @ $3.50) 7:20, 9:45
NP CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
1:30 (4:45 @ $3.50) 7:30, 9:55
NP ANALYZE THIS (R)
1:00 (4:15 @ $3.50) 7:15, 9:40
B MM (R)
1:30, (4:20 @ $3.50) 7:10, 9:55
NP THE OTHER SISTER (PG13)
1:15, (4:30 @ $3.50) 7:30, 9:40
OCTOBER SKY (PG)
1:20, (4:10 @ $3.50) 6:50, 9:20*
MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG)
12:30, 2:40 (5:00 @ $3.50)
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
1:00 (4:00 @ $3.50) 7:00, 9:40**
PAYBACK (R)
7:20, 9:45
OFFICE SPACE (R)
1:15, (4:40 @ $3.50) 7:10, 9:50
SHE'S ALL THAT (PG13)
1:50, (5:20 @ $3.50) 7:45, 10:00

SUN. 3/14
FREE KID'S SHOWS
KIDS 12 & UNDER - ADULTS $1
BARE PIG IN THE CITY (G)
12:45, 2:50, 5:00

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

Torrence Cinema
30400 Plymouth Rd.
313-261-3330

All Shows $1 Except shows after 6 p.m. on Friday & Saturday & 75¢ at all shows
Tuesday,
Box Office opens at 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday only.
Call Theatre for Features and Times
I.D. required for "R" rated shows

Main Art Theatre III
118 Main at 11 Mile
Royal Oak
248-542-0180
call 77-FILMS ext 542
Phone Orders 2 pm -10 pm call
(248) 542-5198

(DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!)
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (R)
(1:00 3:45) 7:15, 9:45
ELIZABETH (R)
(1:15, 4:00) 7:00, 9:30
NO 7 PM 3/16
AFFLICTION (R)
(1:30) 9:15
HILARY AND JACKIE (R)
(12:45) 6:45

Maple Art Theatre III
4115 W. Maple, West of Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
248-855-9090
(DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!)

WAKING NED DEVINE (PG)
SUN. (1:15 4:00) 6:15, 8:30
MON-THURS 6:15, 8:30
NO 6:15 & 8:30 ON 3/15
CENTRAL STATION (R)
SUN. (1:30) 4:30, 8:45
MON-THURS 4:30, 8:45
THE LAST DAYS (R)
(4:15)
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)
SUN. (1:00 3:45) 6:00, 9:00
MON-THURS (3:45) 6:00, 9:00

Oxford 3 Cinemas, L.L.C
Downtown Oxford
Lapeer Rd. (M-24)
(248) 628-7101
Fax (248) 628-1300
Detroit's Lowest First Run Prices
including Twilight Pricing
$3.00 4-6 pm

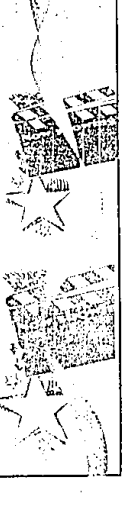
DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (PG13)
5:15, 7:20, 9:30, 11:30
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (PG13)
5:00, 7:30, 9:50
CRUEL INTENTIONS (R)
5:10, 7:00, 9:00, 11:50

1 FREE 46 OZ. POPCORN
(MEASURED BY VOLUME, NOT BY WEIGHT)
WITH THIS AD EXP 4/2/99
ALL SHOWS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE-!!!
CALL THEATER AT (248) 628-7100

VIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.optl.com

AMC Livonia 20
Haggerty & 7 Mile
734-542-9909

Call theatre for Features and Times.

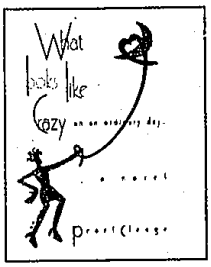


BOOKS

'What Looks Like Crazy' tells a story that's hard to put down

What Looks Like Crazy on an ordinary day...
By Pearl Cleage
(Avon Books, $20)

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net



Everyone's life has a certain amount of drama, but it's always fun to leave your own and get lost in someone else's for awhile.

Pearl Cleage knows how to tell a story, and it's fun to find out how "What Looks Like Crazy on an ordinary day..." ends. Once you start, you'll have a hard time putting this book down. It's like sitting down to watch a whole season of your favorite TV sitcom.

Ava Johnson grew up in Idlewild, Mich. and couldn't wait to move. After two years in Detroit, she landed in Atlanta, Ga., the "black mecca," the place to be if "you were young, black and had any sense."

She opened a salon, made good money, and partied with Atlanta's finest, winning African-American Businesswomen of the Year awards and Mentor of the Month citations.

After a decade of living and loving in the fast lane, Ava's world crumbles around her when she tests positive for HIV.

The downtown land her salon is sitting on is valuable, and she sells it to a developer for enough money to last a couple of years.

Ava decides to spend the summer in Idlewild with her older sister, Joyce, before moving to San Francisco where she can be her "black, female, sexual, HIV-positive self."

Now a widow, Joyce is busy running a "Sewing Circus," helping educate young black girls so they'll become independent women.

The Rev. Anderson's wife, Gerry, doesn't like it at all. These girls wouldn't have problems if they would "just say no." But Gerry's got a secret and is just trying to protect her man.

The Idlewild Ava returns to after two years between visits is as bad as the big city. Young people are robbing old folks to get money for crack, women get beat up by their men, and poor Imani is abandoned by her mother, a crack addict.

But Joyce a former social worker, is determined to make a difference. Wild Eddie, Joyce's late husband's best friend, a Vietnam vet with a reputation for violence, is in the picture too, *helping Joyce whenever she* needs it.

Ava's life begins to change in ways she never imagined after Wild Eddie shows up at the Grand Rapids Airport to pick her up. She finds herself helping old friends, growing attached to Imani, helping with the "Sewing Circus" and, best of all, falling in love.

Pretty soon, Ava realizes that "What Looks Like Crazy," is a whole lot saner than you might think. Life is full of drama, and sometimes what seems like disaster is often a blessing in disguise.

Books gives Michigan residents facts on wills, estate planning

The Michigan Estate Planning Guide
By P. Mark Accettura
Collinwood Press, 1999, $12.95

ESTHER LITTMANN

The current stock-market boom and prior inflations have increased the value of numerous portfolios. Growth in personal retirement accounts like IRAs and 401(k)s, in addition to steeply graduated estate taxes, obliges most of us to do more than simply draft a Last Will and Testament.

To address this need, tax attorney and estate planning specialist P. Mark Accettura has written "The Michigan Estate Planning Guide." Commenting from 17 years of experience in the field, Accettura writes, "Our estate plan is part of the legacy we have . . . (It) tells those we leave behind that we really cared." Moreover, an estate plan allows us to exercise some degree of control over hard-earned assets after we are gone.

The author cites two prominent individuals to demonstrate what can happen without proper planning: Warren Burger, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. Although well acquainted with the laws of their respective states, each chose not to create a Revocable Living Trust, an instrument that would have kept their considerable estates out of probate, and therefore, avoided additional cost, delay, and loss of privacy for their heirs.

Exactly what is a Revocable Living Trust? Graduate of the University of Detroit/Mercy Law School, where he also served as adjunct professor for 10 years, Accettura discusses, at length, the formation and functions of a trust. Not only does it minimize federal estate taxes, but it also eliminates misallocations in cases that involve divorce or children from a previous marriage. "A Revocable Living Trust," explains the author, "can be designed to provide support to a second wife after the husband's death, with the balance of the trust assets remaining at the death of the second wife distributed to the husband's children from his first marriage."

The title of each chapter is articulated as a question, a habit no doubt developed as the host of Michigan cable TV program "Law Talk." This question-and-answer format gives the reader two options: to read the book from start to finish, thereby learning the fundamentals before proceeding to more complex issues; or to target specific problems and their solutions by covering only relevant chapters.

Among the 20 principal topics included in "The Michigan Estate Planning Guide" are tax-free gifting, special provisions for disabled children, the formation of family partnerships and liability companies to preserve business and real estate assets, tax-deferred retirement plans, benefits to donors bequeathing charitable trusts, and medicare/medicaid requirements.

The author's style is clear and concise without being condescending. Diagrams and tables enhance the text. Terms and acronyms (stepped-up basis, EPIC, holographic will, etc.) are defined when introduced as well as in a comprehensive Glossary. For accountants and attorneys, there is ample documentation in the Endnotes.

Accettura also includes numerous anecdotal examples to illustrate various financial situations and how we should approach them. For the layperson, however, there can never be enough. In his chapter entitled "Do Tax-Preferred Retirement Plans . . . Warrant Special Treatment in Estate Planning?" the author warns us that tax laws in this area are complicated and, in the absence of planning, distributions could be "subject to both income and estate taxes." The topic receives thorough treatment, but additional concrete examples would be helpful.

Estate planning is no longer an activity of the "rich." It should be everyone's goal to provide for personal care during one's twilight years and to pass on remaining assets to one's family without inordinate intrusion by "Uncle Sam." As the author confirms, "The Michigan Estate Planning Guide" is not a substitute for professional assistance. It does, however, shed light on the territory and point us in the right direction.

Currently, the book is available at Collinwood Press in Farmington Hills (248-848-5000). Local bookstores will carry it in late April.

Esther Littmann is a resident of Bloomfield Township and a tutor in English and German. You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (734) 953-2047, mailbox number 1893. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (734)591-7279 or e-mail to hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

BARNES & NOBLE (NORTHVILLE)
Panel discussion on women in history "Hear Our Voices" with Beverly Fish or NOW; Joyann M. Gongaware on Mary Baker Eddy, founder for Christian Science; and Dyann Logwood, co-founder of HUES Magazine, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, at the store 17111 Haggerty Road, Northville.

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS)
Travel Beyond Borders discusses ultra-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean, 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 15, at the store, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills 48334.

BORDERS (ROCHESTER HILLS)
American Girls Kid's Club learns about Josefina, 2 p.m., Sunday, March 14; Detroit Women Writers hold open mic reading, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16; women's reading group discuss "Women Who Run With Wolves, Chapter 8," 7 p.m. Thursday, March 18; teacher appreciation weekend March 19-21; Michelle White will sign her book "The Golden Locket," 1 p.m. Saturday, March 20; Meet Peter Rabbit, 2 p.m. Saturday, March 20; science workshop on static electricity, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the store, 1122 Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, (248)652-0558.

BARNES & NOBLE (BLOOMFIELD HILLS)
Sandra Dalke-Prysby will discuss her new book, "Slow But Sure," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the store, 6575 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township.

TRUTH BOOKSTORE
Linda Grosvenor signs her book "Sometimes I Cry" 5 p.m. Friday, March 19; Beverly Jenkins signs her book "Through the Storm," 3 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the store 21500 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

BALDWIN LIBRARY (BIRMINGHAM)
Children in grades 4-6 are invited to take part in a "Booktalk" on Kevin Henkes' "Protecting Marie," 4:15 p.m. Friday, March 19, at the Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham.