Inspiring story: Former Lion K. Scott Conover used his own

experience as a child to write a

story to help children face their problems.

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NP YOU'VE COT MAIL (PC)
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MICHTY JOE YOUNG (PC) NY 12:15, 130, 250, 405, 525, 750, 600, 925 THE FACIATY (IS) NY 12:30, 120, 300, 310, 513, 750, 740, 915, 1000 STAIL THEE: BISSINGETION (PC)

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United Artists 12 Outs Inside Code Muli 248-349-4311 ALL TIMES SUM-THURS.

ATT INCS SOCIOUS.

STEP MOM (PC-33) NY
150, 400, 720, 935
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A BUC'S LIFE (G) NY
1210, 233, 440, 745, 915
BUCGLTS (G) NY
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12.5(3.45,65), 72.5(9.10), 72.5(1.5), 72.5(THE WATERBOY (PG 13) NV 7:45, 9:50

United Artists West River 9 Mile, 2 Bock West of Vicalebelt 248-788-6572 ALL TRUES SUN-TRUES

PATCH ADAMS (PC13) NV 11-45, 2-20, 4-50, 7-30, 10-10 STEP MOM (PC13) MV 11-30, 2-50, 5-50, 7-60, 10-20 THE FACULTY (II) NV 12-10, 2-40, 5-15, 7-50, 10-10 PROME OF ECTIFF (G) NV 11-55, 2-10, 4-30, 7-00, 7-15 YOU'VE COT MAR. (PC) NV

11:20, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15 JACK FROST (PG) MV 12:05, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00 STAR TREE: BESIDERECTION (PG)

Terrace Chema 10400 Phymosch 2.5. 313-261-3330 AND HAZLE BOOKERS (NO. INV.)
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BUCRATS (C) NV.
12:15, 2.45

AE Provi \$1 Except shorts after 6 pm, on Finday & Saturday & 75e as shows Tuesday. Bot Office opens at 400 pm. Monday - Finday only. Sall Theater for Features and Times 1D, required for "A" rated shows.

United Artists Commerce 14 3330 Springule Drive Adjusted to Home Depot North of the Intersection of 14 Mile & Main Art Theatre III 118 Mars & U. Mile North of the intersection of 14 Mile on Ropperty 248 960-5801 Burgain Nazires Duly for all Shows staring before 6 pm Same Day Advance Textes to allable NYSIO VP Textes Accepted Rayal Oak 248 542 0180 call 77 FILMS est 542 ne Orders 2 pm -10 pm c (248) 542-5198

BOCKTI (DE TOURC (PC) W 10:30, 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45 PATOLIA DASS (PCI) NY 10:33, 1:23, 1:20, 1:30 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS) XGE ENT TA ELECTRATE AT END CENTRE SE EXCHEN SED ESCHOOL VEX EXCHANGE SED END SECTION CENTRE SED SECTION OF S ELIZABETH (B) (1:15, 4:99) 7:00, 9:30 WAKENG KED DEVINE (PC) (1:30, 5:00) 7:15, 9:25 CODS AND MONSTERS (UPID) (1:45, 4:30) 7:30, 9:45

Maple Act Theatre III 4135 VI. Maple, Viest of Telegraph Econfield III.s 242-855-9029 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS:1)

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BOOKS

Former Detroit Lion writes encouraging book for kids

Can I Play, Too? By K. Scott Conover (Proctor Publications, \$9.95) By HUGH GALLAGHER STAPF WRITER

hgallagherCoc.homecomm.ne

As an offensive lineman for the Detroit Lions K. Scott Conover could be an intimidating pres-

Detroit Lions K. Scott Conover could be an intimidating presence.

But underneath the shoulder pads, Conover of Bloomfield Hills is a sensitive man whose early experiences as a child with leg braces has inspired this warm and encouraging book for children.

"Can I Play, Too?" follows the life of Teddy Watts from birth to freshman year in high school. Teddy has to wear leg braces to correct a pigean-tood walk. In addition he's small for his age. This double whammy makes him the butt of other children's taunts and laughter.

But Teddy is not discouraged. A loving mother and two encouraging sisters help give him confidence in himself and resilience against the taunts of others. He is also encouraged by sensitive teachers and neighbors.

When Teddy wins a friend, Dudley, who is more handicapped than he is, he shows that he's learned compassion from his own experience. When Teddy losses his braces, has a dramatic growth spurt and becomes Ted, an accomplished basketball player, he doesn't forget the wisdom of these.

It's a simple story, told directly.

others.
It's a simple story, told directly

It's a simple story, told directly and from the heart.

"It was inspired by ony experience as a yang boy. I wore orthopedic braces from the time I was 1-1/2 to 3 and stopped wearing them because my parents couldn't afford them anymore," Conover said.

Unlike Teddy, Conover was big for his age in height and weight. During his eight grade year in

school, Conover joined the Pop Warner Pootball team for the first time but wasn't allowed to play in any games because he was overweight.

"I always stood out," said Conover, who played Purdue and was drafted by Lions in 1991. He out in 1990.

Can I Play, Too?

bijk, Scott Conover

Conover, who payed rurduc any surarded by Lions in 1991. He quit in 1996. The book is part of Conover's concern for young people.

"I just wanted to inspire young people to pursue their aspirations. I've been working on motivating young people for the last seven or eight years. I wanted to do it in a different way than motivational speaking," he said. Conover said he left the Lions at the same time as former coad. Wayner Fontes when he was finally forced from the game by injuries. It gave him a chance to pursue his own aspirations as a writer and artist.

"This is not going to be the last book," Conover said.

He is currently working on a sequel to "Can 1 Play, Too" fea-

turing Teddy's pal Dudley.

"I'm also an artist and I'm doing illustrations for these animated characters I've created, it also more on the educational side. I've always wanted to do it. When I was young I was always drawing cartoon figures, but my athletic skills grow faster than my artistic skills," he said.

In 1994, Conover founded the Scott Conover Youth Foundation in his native New Jersey.

"We provide athletic and academic earichment programs for all students and subsidize economically disadvantaged students," he said.

Though currently operating only in New Jersey, Conover said he would like to expand it to other areas.

Conover will be promoting his new book through motivational talks at area schools. He is also trying to get the book into area bookstores. It is currently available at Walden Books.



CALLING ALL KIDS!

NICKELODEON, the only network just for kids, has teamed up with MediaOne to give Observer & Eccentric Hometown Newspapers area kids a chance to participate in outrageous games from their favorite NICKELODEON shows as NICKELODEON'S GAME LAB comes to town on December 31. The 45-minute shows will take place at 4:15 & 6:15 p.m. in the heated tent across from the Community House in Birmingham.

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