

Dinner theater comedy sizzles

By BARBARA MICHAELS

Picture lovable, Ingei Charlie Brown of "Peanuts" fame grown up and attempting to have an extramarital affair. Now change his name to Barney Cashman and you have the bawling hero of Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers."

Botsford Inn in Farrington Hills is currently offering a delightful version of "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" in dinner theater format every Thursday evening through Oct. 30.

The warmth and tenderness of this particular comedy is well-suited to the greater intimacy of a dinner theater setting, and Botsford's remodeled coach house provides a most attractive backdrop.

Under the able direction of Edgar A. Guest III, the Botsford production

is lively and well-paced. The talented four-member cast is top-notch.

PIERRE TURGEON is hilarious as Barney, the would-be Casanova. After long years of married fidelity, Barney one day decides that life is passing him by and it's time he be found out what he's missing. But he's not suave and sophisticated; he's short and fat, awkward and inexperienced. There's also something fishy about him.

Barney owns a successful seafood restaurant and spends most of his day opening clams and oysters. One of the play's running gags is Barney's futile attempts to deodorize his hands. Anyone in the audience who has suffered from such human frailties as sweaty palms or grease under the fingernails can immediately empathize with Barney. That's the essence of the play's appeal-like Barney, most of us would

like to be the dashing types who people "Playboy" and "Cosmopolitan," but in reality were Charlie Brown and Lucy.

In each of the comedy's three acts Barney attempts to make a different woman his paramour. Mary Geiger, Nancy Gurwin and Fran Hayes all give convincing performances as the women in Barney's life.

Elaine, played by Miss Geiger, is a bored housewife quite experienced at quickie affairs. As a novice at the game, Barney picks up a lot of pointers from Elaine.

In the second act, Barney thinks himself better prepared when he barges with Bobbi, a neurotic kook played by Miss Gurwin.

By Act III, Barney has decided to stick with someone who shares a more similar life-style. Prospect num-

ber three is Jeannette (played by Miss Hayes), the wife of Barney's best friend. Alas, she turns out to be the most neurotic of all.

A buffet dinner at 7:30 p.m. precedes the 8:45 show. Reservations may be made for dinner and theater, or for the show only. Bar service is available with dinner and at the intermissions.

Penalty Box offers Michaels, Serenity

Johnny Michaels and Serenity featuring Patty Berlin are appearing from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday for dancing and listening in the Penalty Box Lounge of the Holiday Inn of Southfield. Ray King and his piano are featured in the Ronde-View revolving restaurant.

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And if Oldies are your thing (songs, that is. Not people), see you any Monday from 8 p.m. That's when CKLW's own Rick Hamelton holds forth with platters. If you're not having a good time, it's because you're not coming to the

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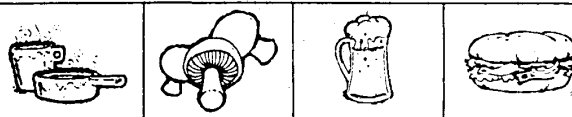
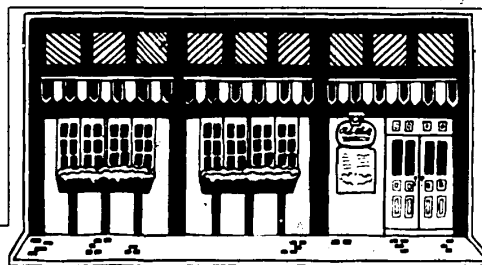


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