## Slice-of-life comedy, roast beef rate highest

By BARBARA MICHALS

Vintage Neil Simon and a generous slab of prime rib beef add up to a top-notch evening at the Sussex House in Southfield. The new dinner theater format there currently features "Plaza Suite" presented by Jams Productions.

Both the play and the meal are of high caliber, a cut above the usual diner theater fare in the metropolitan area.

The basement dining room at the Sussex House is small, but neither the seating nor the stage is cramped. Tables are for groups of two or four and feature attractive red and black cloths and red-shaded lamps. Service is efficient and presonalized.

The prime rib dinner also includes

### Review

salad, French bread, baked potato with sour cream, vegetable, fruit tart and coffee. Only the poorly mixed oil and vinegar salad dressing is dis-appointing. Bar service is available with dinner and at intermissions.

"PLAZA SUITE" consists of three acts, each one telling about the various occupants of Suite 719 at New York's Plaza Hotel.

In the first act, "Visitor from Mamaroneck," a suburban couple face a major crisis in their marriage of 23

band confesses he is having an affair with his young secretary. Fighting to contain her pain, the wife indicates the wants her bank to be well as the wants her bank to be be to be

ordain her pain, the wife indicates she wants her lastead back, but the solution is inconclusive. Although the story contains Simon's typical writtelsms, it is almost too true-to-life to be really firmy. Portraying the husband and wife, Joe Beaunoch and Mary Geiger are so skillfull and convincing that it is easy to froget they are acting. The intimecy of the dimner heater setting heighters this effect, as so little separates the actors from the audience.

By contrast, the closeness between actors and audience somewhat inhibits the laughs in the second act, "Visitors from Hollywood." A famous Hollywood producer tries to seduce his old

largy sections weetleart, now a view presey matron. The producer's sales pitch is that Muriel is the only girl left in the world who is genuine, not like the phonies he thows in Hollywood. Muriel allows herself to be seduced only because she is fascinated by the producer's hob-nobbing with the stars.

BAUNOCH IS excellent as the slick-tailing producer, and Julie Klock is amusing as uptight Muriel. Ms. Klock does a commendable job of staring straight ahead and ignoring the close-ness of the audience as Baunoch starts to undress her. The broadest leaghs come in Act III, "Visitor from Forrest Hills." A ner-vous young bride has locked herself in the bathroom just before her wedding

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is to start in the hotel ballroom. Her distraught parents plead, shout, so barries when it finally occurs to them to ask what the problem is, it turns out that the girl fears be and her husband-to-be might turn into replicas of her quarreling parents. Places as the overall parents are Baunoch again excells as the overall parents of the problem is the problem of the problem of the problem is a start of the problem is the problem in the problem is a start of the problem is a start of

#### Flyer plays disco sounds

Upbeat disco dance music by Flyer is playing through April 1 in Hurley's in the Northfield Hilton Inn, Troy.
The five-person ensemble of vocal-ist-musicians is led by bandleader Gerry Christie, who plays bass, guitar

and flute. In his eight years as a pro-fessional, Christie has worked with groups such as Harvest and Osmosis. A native of Fort Wayne, Ind., Bryan Barnes handles the keyboard for the group.

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Our Wicker Works buffet has a culinary delight for every member of your family! Roast Bed, Baked Ham, Seafood Newburn, Boulangere Potatose, complemented, of course, with hot vegetables, crispy salds, assorted breads and desserts (beverages not included).

Reservations, please Cocktails and wine served from noon Northfield Hilton Northfield Hilton 5500 Crooks Rd. at 1-75 Troy, Michigan 48098 (313) 879-2100



