

backgammon

Michael Kiolan


of the American Backgammon Club

PLAYING SAFE
In this position, white rolls a 5-5. What is your recommended move?
Most people probably would move all three checkers from the 12 point to the 8, and the 9 point blot to the 4. This play is certainly safe and sound, but hardly excites the intellect. White shouldn't be in such a hurry to "safely" get home. There could be difficulty on the next roll or two that would result in awkward positioning.
A much more diversified play is to move one checker from the 12 to the 8 point, one checker from the 9 to the 4 point and two checkers from the 6 to the 1 point. This move is much stronger than the previous possibility.
White has closed the 1 point and has created the same three builders needed to land on black or close the 3 point. With this play, black will certainly flee for his life if he rolls a 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 or 1-5.
Since black does not have a strong home board, white should play for strong position. With the doubling cube "neutral" (in the middle), white could easily force black out before his next roll.
For more information on the game, contact the American Backgammon Club at 459-5776 or Box 559, Plymouth 48170.

HOME TABLE						BLACK						OUTER TABLE											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
[Diagram: Home Table with 12 points and 15 pieces]						[Diagram: Black Table with 12 points and 15 pieces]						[Diagram: Outer Table with 12 points and 15 pieces]											
HOME TABLE						WHITE						OUTER TABLE											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
[Diagram: Home Table with 12 points and 15 pieces]						[Diagram: White Table with 12 points and 15 pieces]						[Diagram: Outer Table with 12 points and 15 pieces]											

'Old Dark House' — it's a whale of a movie

"L'Avventura" (1959), 8 p.m. Friday at the Liberal Arts Theater, Schoolcraft College, phone 591-6400, free.
The films of director Michelangelo Antonioni rarely subscribe to the standard rules of narration and plot. "Blow Up" (1966) and "The Passenger" (1975) have basic plot lines, but both place greater emphasis on people reacting to interpersonal conflicts than on the telling of a coherent story. "L'Avventura" is in the same vein and, for that reason, may prove boring for some viewers. Monica Vitti stars as a girl lost on an island and sought by rescuers who become psychologically and symbolically lost in their own problems. Unrated.



second runs
Tom Panzenhagen

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

Bad \$1
Fair \$2
Good \$3
Excellent \$4

of the best directors of early talking films. Rating: \$3.65.

"The Wizard of Oz" (1939), 8 p.m. Friday on Ch. 2. Originally 101 minutes.
The sets are as gaudy as Hollywood

itself and the special effects among the most surreal ever filmed. Nathanael West and Salvador Dali couldn't have improved upon director Victor Fleming's work. Judy Garland will remain forever young; Ray Bolger, Jack Haley and Bert Lahr will always be the scarecrow, tin man and cowardly lion. The songs are delightful, and don't sell the dialogue short. For example: "Scarecrow, there are lots of people in this world with less brains than you; but they have one thing you don't have — a diploma." Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton, Toto and the Singer Midgets also star.
Rating: \$3.85.

"The Old Dark House" (1932), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Detroit Film Theatre, Detroit Institute of Arts, 822-2730, \$2. Running time 75 minutes.
When director James Whale made "The Old Dark House," he'd already done "Frankenstein" (1931), which takes itself quite seriously, but he'd yet to do "Bride of Frankenstein" (1935), which satirizes horror films. "Old Dark House" is a little of both — horror and satire.

All the gothic horror elements, beginning with an old dark house, are apparent: a bedridden patriarch, pyromaniac son, crazed daughter, butler who suffices about with a deadly stare on his face. You can't help but laugh at such manifestations, yet you never know when they're going to shock you. The DIT claims "Old Dark House" hasn't been seen in 20 years. Yes or no, the film boasts a wonderfully eerie cast — Boris Karloff, Charles Laughton, Raymond Massey, Melvyn Douglas and Ernst Tsigler among them — and one

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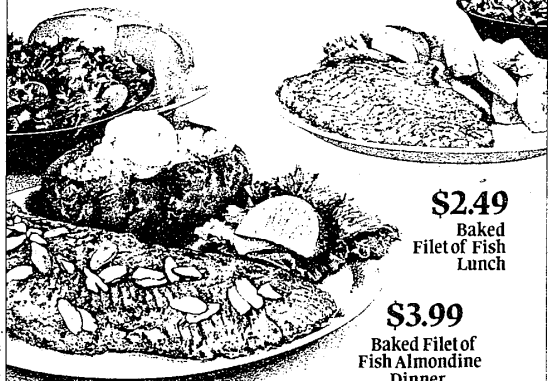
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Ed Kane
"FORT APACHE, THE BRONX" (R)

ABBAY 3
"ALTERED STATES" (R)

ABBAY 4
"THE DOGS OF WAR" (R)
Stuart Fr.
Globe-Hearn
"LOVERS & LIARS" (R)

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& Came Wides
"STIR CRAZY" (R)

FAIRLANE 2
Loy Tomlin
"THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN" (PG)

MAPLE 1
On Ch. Wayne at Telegraph
561-2200
Elizabeth Taylor
Rock Hudson in
Agatha Christie's
"THE MIRROR CRACK'D" (PG)

MAPLE 2
"KAGENUSHA" (R)

MAPLE 3
Mary Tyler Moore
Donald Sutherland
6 Academy Award
Nominations
"ORDINARY PEOPLE" (R)

NORTHLAND 1
J.L. Hudson Dr. Northland
Center 559-3358
"ALTERED STATES" (R)

NORTHLAND 2
"TRIBUTE" (PG)
Stuart Fr.
Academy Award Nominations
"INSIDE MOVES" (PG)

OLD ORCHARD 1
On Orchard Lane East
North on 12 Mile 550-9210
Paul Newman
"FOR APACHE, THE BRONX" (R)

OLD ORCHARD 2
Loy Tomlin
"THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN" (PG)

OLD ORCHARD 3
"THE MIRROR CRACK'D" (PG)
Stuart Fr.
6 Academy Award
Nominations
"ELEPHANT MAN" (PG)

TERRACE 1
30405 Plymouth Road
Newly Redeveloped 937-1912
Robert DeNiro
"THE RAGING BULL" (R)

TERRACE 2
Academy Award
Nominations
"INSIDE MOVES" (PG)

TOWNE 1
Greenfield Rd. at 10 1/2
866-8700
"THE DOGS OF WAR" (R)
Stuart Fr.
Globe-Hearn
"LOVERS & LIARS" (R)

TOWNE 2
Loy Tomlin
"THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN" (PG)
Stuart Fr.
6 Academy Award
Nominations
"THE RAGING BULL" (R)