

## table talk

**MACHUS** restaurants are catering to lovers tonight on Valentine's Day with "The Sweetheart Dinners for Two."

At the Sly Fox in Birmingham, it's Chateaubriand for two including soup, salad and vegetable, French bread, and a dessert from the pastry cart (\$34.95 for two).

The Red Fox in Bloomfield Township is suggesting romantic pairs share rack of lamb for two a la Leopold, with soup, salad, vegetable, sourdough bread and pastry (\$39.95 for two).

A more simple meal, with a lighter pricetag, is at Adams Square cafeteria in Birmingham. Sweetheart breast of chicken, for two, salad, vegetable and roll is \$7.95.

**A KISSING** Parlor will be open at lunch and dinner through tonight at the historic Holly Hotel, as a fund-raiser for the Michigan Heart Association.

Nancy Macaulay and Ronnie Clemmer of WJBK-TV are participating in the three-day event, which began Saturday. Macaulay gave out

celebrity kisses Sunday afternoon, and Clemmer will be kissing for charity from 7:30-8:30 tonight.

**TONY ROMA's** place for ribs in the Pine Lake Mall is helping diners make contributions to the multiple sclerosis fund.

A benefit basketball game between the Birmingham-Bloomfield Jaycees and the Detroit Lions is being held as an MS benefit at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, at Birmingham Scholastic High School. After the game, anyone who presents a ticket

with the purchase of an entree at Tony Roma's will have 5 percent of the entree's price donated to MS.

The ticket may be presented through the end of February.

**A CAJUN** Creole dinner, accenting Louisiana's cuisine, is being held at 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 21-22, at the Lark, 6430 Farmington Road, West Bloomfield.

For more information call the Lark at 661-4466.

Ethel Simmons

## what's at the movies

**BEST FRIENDS (PG).** When marriage comes in the door, friendship goes out the window in this romantic comedy with Durt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn as a couple of screenwriters who work well together until they get married.

**THE DARK CRYSTAL (PG).** An adventure-fantasy by the creators of the Muppets features strange, elf-like creatures caught up in a struggle between the forces of good and evil in a setting that resembles J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth.

**EATING RAOUL (R).** Deadpan dialogue and tacky surroundings set the tone for this bizarre comedy about a stuffy couple who come up with an outrageous plan for bankrolling a restaurant.

**THE ENTITY (R).** Barbara Hershey stars as a woman who experiences the terror of an unknown presence intent on possessing her body and soul.

**48 HOURS (R).** Action drama with comic flair features Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy as a white cop and a black con who are forced to work together to track down two killers.

**FRANCES (R).** Powerful drama with Jessica Lange as Frances Farmer, the film actress whose independence and radical views

led to a tragic downfall.

**GANDHI (PG).** Epic film about Mahatma Gandhi, political and spiritual leader who led movement for Indian independence from Britain. Magnificent performance by Ben Kingsley as Gandhi.

**THE MAN FROM SNOWY MOUNTAIN (PG).** Handsome adventure film from Australia presents mountain boy's passage into manhood. Kirk Douglas plays double role as two feuding brothers. Newcomer Tom Burlinson has title role.

### MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.  
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.  
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.  
X No one under 18 admitted.



Kate Nelligan sensitively portrays a mother struggling to remain outwardly calm during a search for her missing son in "Without a Trace."

## the movies

### Louise Snider

## Mother's search for missing son intrigues audience

Taut and suspenseful, "Without a Trace" captures the audience at the beginning and holds it to the end. The film never deviates from its central theme, the efforts of a mother to find her missing son.

There is an intensity and single-mindedness about the effort that is totally engrossing. Other issues arise regarding personal relationships, police procedures and the role of the media, but these aren't allowed to distract us or dilute the impact of the film.

It was directed by Stanley R. Jaffe from a script by Both Gutcherson, who has done an exceptional job. The strength of the film lies in its strong script with believable dialogue delivered by fine actors.

Kate Nelligan (who also was excellent in the spy thriller "The Eye of the Needle") plays Susan Selky, the mother of 6-year-old Alex (Daniel Bryan Corbitt). One morning he sets off on his usual two-block walk to school and disappears.

**NELLIGAN HAS** the difficult task, which she handles with great sensitivity, of portraying a woman struggling to control her emotions and act rationally under circumstances that defy normal behavior.

She is an educated woman on the English faculty of Columbia University. By her upbringing and training, she is disposed to present an appearance that suggests she is calm and collected. She is not the sort of person to externalize her inner feelings. Yet now she is in a situation where she is filled with anguish, anger and fear.

Nelligan, with just the right quiver in her voice, tightness in her smile and edginess in her movements projects all this and more. In public, there are the infrequent outbursts of temper. Alone in her room, we see her give in to her grief.

Her husband (David Dukes — Sloc in "The Winds of War"), from whom she is separated, is there initially to share the trauma, and her friends and neighbors are there for moral support, especially her divorced friend Margaret (Stockard Channing).

However, as months pass, a distance and uneasiness grow between Susan and the others. They expect her to "face reality" and accept her loss. For Susan, reality means continuing to look and hope.

The person closest to her during this ordeal is Lt. Menetti (Judd Hirsch), the police officer in charge of the case. He directs the search with energetic determination and dedication. As time elapses and the boy is not found, he begins to question his judgment and actions. Eventually, he also begins to feel that reality is resignation.

**CRISP EDITING** and directing keep us involved with the characters and the action as we ride the same roller coaster of emotions. Bouts of hope and despair alternate as the police check out one lead and suspect after another.

It would be criminal of any reviewer to reveal the ending of this film, but I would like to add a warning which I hope will add to the confusion. To those who have read Gutcherson's novel on which this movie is based, remember that movies take artistic liberties with novels and may or may not lead to the same conclusion.



Nelligan is the mother of a 6-year-old, played by Danny Corbitt, who disappears after he sets off for school one morning.

## ROMANCE FOR YOUR VALENTINE

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ALL DAY SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS

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**TUESDAY**  
FRIED CLAMS & CHIPS 3.75  
Choice of bowl of soup, salad or wine, includes bread basket  
LIVER & ONIONS 3.50  
Choice of bowl of soup, salad or wine, includes potato, vegetable and bread basket

**WEDNESDAY**  
SPAGHETTI 3.50  
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Choice of bowl of soup, salad or wine, includes potato, vegetable and bread basket

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Choice of bowl of soup, salad or wine, includes potato, vegetable and bread basket  
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Choice of bowl of soup, salad or wine, includes potato, vegetable and bread basket

**FRIDAY**  
BATTER DIPT FISH & CHIPS 3.50  
Choice of cup of clam chowder, salad or wine, includes bread basket  
FROG LEGS DINNER 4.95  
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**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
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## Silverman's

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34410 FORD RD. - WESTLAND  
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