

Entertainment

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Making some changes

Peggy Sue tackles past, tough guys face future

Have you ever wondered how you'd do it, if you had the opportunity to do it over again? Science fiction gives us the chance to set matters right, or even improve upon the game.

Michael J. Fox went "Back to the Future" having conveniently, albeit accidentally, rearranged the past to make his present more palatable.

"Peggy Sue Got Married" (PG-13) and went back to see if she wanted to change things while a couple of "Tough Guys" (PG) have a ball taking matters into their own hands in the present.

Behind these very entertaining films are serious issues of whether or not we're happy with who we are, where we are and what we're doing as well as the most important question: Would you change things if you could?

"Back to the Future" answers that question with a resounding "Yes" and adolescent wish-fulfillment carries the day.

PEGGY SUE BODELL (Kathleen Turner) married her high school sweetheart, Charlie (Nicholas Cage), when they graduated. Now, 25 years and two children later, at their class reunion, Peggy Sue collapses and falls back through time to regain consciousness.

ness in her 1961 high school.

Obviously that's quite a shock for a matronly mother of two grown children, particularly since she's having marital problems. But it does give Peggy Sue the opportunity to reconsider her life-choices and whether or not she really wanted to marry Charlie in the first place.

The film has a nice nostalgic touch with Peggy Sue appearing at the class reunion in a "prom dress" reminiscent of an earlier time. That segues nicely to antique cars and the dim, plastic 1961 decor. Francis Ford Coppola's direction, as well as the quiet spirit of these happy, pre-Vietnam days.

Kathleen Turner's performance is excellent as a disturbed matron attending a class reunion without her husband, Good setting, clothing and hairstyles not withstanding, however, Turner is a little too chunky and matronly to make it as a teenager.

"Peggy Sue Got Married" does have a nice touch and pleasant entertainment. Some may complain about its deterministic philosophy that says you can't change things, be satisfied with what you have.

THERE'S NO progress possible with that view but if you believe

the movies

Dan Greenberg

It's appropriate to take matters in your own hands, you'll appreciate two lovable "Tough Guys" who do just that.

Harry Doyle (Burt Lancaster) and Archie Long (Kirk Douglas) are released from prison after serving 30 years for train robbery. Who robs trains any more? Harry Doyle and Archie Long, that's who, and they're proud of it. Throughout their own imprisonment they've kept in shape. So have Douglas and Lancaster, who look terrific for two older gentlemen appearing together for the seventh time in their long film careers. "I Walk Alone" in 1947 was their first.

In "Tough Guys" Archie is supposed to be 67 and Harry 71. They don't look old and certainly don't act it. Hilarious complications develop as society tries to fit them in the positions prescribed for elderly pariahs.

Their parole officer, Richie Evans (Dana Carvey), places Harry in a retirement home where he meets

and again romances an old girlfriend, Belle (Alexis Smith), who teaches aerobics to the home's elderly inhabitants.

ARCHIE IS SET to work as a bus boy. At the old gym, now a high-style exercise parlor with lots of girls in fashionable sweats, Archie meets Skye Foster (Darlaanne Fleugel) and they start keeping house together.

None of this sits well with the establishment. Just to complicate matters, Duke Yablonski (Charles Durning), the policeman who caught them 30 years ago, is hanging around waiting to nab them again. Leon B. Little (Eli Wallach) is a near-sighted hitman who has waited 29 years to fulfill a contract on Harry and Archie.

With that superb supporting cast and Douglas and Lancaster's style, charm and considerable acting skill, "Tough Guys" provides a delightful evening at your local theater. Don't miss it.



Kathleen Turner is Peggy Sue Kelcher and Nicholas Cage is Charlie Bodell in "Peggy Sue Got Married." The film comedy examines their relationship today, as well as in their early years.

Another excellent film, "Round Midnight," inspired by incidents in the lives of jazzman Bud Powell and his French friend, Francis Paudras, is as fine a piece of jazz film as you'll ever see.

Directed by Bernard Tavernier, the film also features Herbie Hancock who composed, arranged, conducted and plays some of the best jazz you'll ever hear.

THE FILM IS loosely based on the relationship of Paudras and

Powell but includes incidents from Lester Young's life as well as from saxophonist Dexter Gordon's experience. Gordon plays Duke Turner, the name given this composite character, and Francois Cluzot is Paudras.

If you have even the slightest interest in the cool jazz of the '50s, you'll be entranced with "Round Midnight," a marvelous portrayal of those musicians and the French appreciation of "Le Jazz Hot."

Don't be a 'winesap,' paying more than bottle is worth

The winesap is not only an apple. I wish I could claim credit for the above statement but, alas, I cannot. I saw it somewhere, was charmed by it and failed to note the source. This is all the credit I can give the author.

The title appeals doubly for its charm and accuracy. It was called to mind recently as I surveyed some of the local wine stores, seeking out the various goodies they had.

Looking at labels is fun. Looking at price tags frequently is not. And the word is out that prices are again on their way up, an especially painful condition after two or three years' relative stability on the domestic scene and actual decreases with imports.

The increasingly weakening dollar and the banker-dependent California wine industry are but two of the causes of this bad news.

All the more reason, then, not to be an innocent "winesap" by paying inordinate amounts for wine choices. A review of the wines on shelves even now shows that it is possible to pay a great deal for a bottle.

IT IS NOW possible to spend (using California Cabernets as an illustration) \$25 each for the three Diamond Creek, about the same for the 1981 Duckhorn, \$27 for Chateau Montelena, \$22 for Clos du Bois Marlstone and \$30 for the 1980 Mondavi Reserve. The Kenwood Artist series, between its 1979 and 1982 issues, has risen from \$19 to \$28. Jerry Luper's new 1982 is a handsome \$37.50. These are all pretty heavy numbers.

The careful buyer will note that

the following are also available: Liberty School at \$7, Glen Ellen for about \$5, Fetzer's excellent 1982 Mendocino for \$8, the Beaulieu Hothorford at \$11, the Westside Merlot at \$6 and the very serviceable Almaden 4-liter jug at \$8. The 1984 Gail from Smith and Hook at \$5 is another fine value.

A later column will address another aspect of the "winesap" phenomenon: the person who will not drink generic wines and the fine values he or she thereby misses.

NEW RELEASE notes: The vinticulturists in the back room at Mondavi have done it again. Mondavi's recently released 1984 Red is another stunner. At that price for a 1.5-liter bottle, it is a clear Best Buy. I do not believe that there has been a weak issue from the winery since it began vintage-dating these bottles in 1979. This one is grapey and warm.

There are also some sparkling wines from California. Shadow Creek has three, all in the under the \$15 range. The non-vintaged brut may be the best, fresh with hints of citrus and yeast, but all are well made. On a smaller scale, look for Culbertson, a cool weather property in the Tonawalla area above San Diego. There is a brut and a blanc de noirs and both are good buys.

Corbett Canyon, formerly the winebegan Lawrence Winery, has finally arrived in Michigan. There has been a much greater change than the name of the place in a couple of years. A fine winemaker, Cary Gott, was brought in and the old coöperage and methods were thrown out

wine
Richard Watson

dramatically.

A decent everyday winery was born almost overnight. It has, to

date, issued four wines at modest prices in full liter bottles, some sound varietals in 750 ml sizes and,

most important, a 1984 Reserve Chardonnay at about \$11 that is a marvel.

Alas, it has just been announced that Gott has left Corbett for the Monterey Vineyards. Let us hope his successor will do as well as he did.

FINALLY, THE M.G. Vallejo label is now available, a 1985 Chardonnay and a 1983 Cabernet. At under \$5 each, the wines were made at (and by?) Glen Ellen of Sonoma, a

place that simple refuses to make a weak wine.

The Napa Valley hotline is again operating. 1-800-265-7266. The message changes weekly and runs into early November.

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