

street seen

Charlene Mitchell



Street Scene reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual, the unknown, the comic and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36241 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.

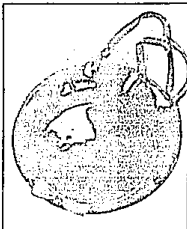


Championship memories

If you're depending on newspaper clippings or your memory to recall the University of Michigan's 1989 NCAA basketball championship season, take heed. Now you can preserve that momentous occasion with a limited edition medallion. Each weighs one troy ounce of pure silver and is individually numbered on the 39mm. Officially licensed by the NCAA, the medallion is 39mm in diameter and retails for \$25. Available at all Jacobson stores.

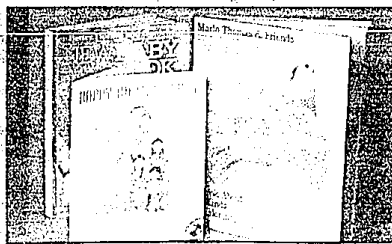
Not what you think

You'll have to look twice to figure out what to do with this piece. It looks like a hat, but it's a clever handbag. Black patent with red leather and purple accents and long shoulder strap. \$60. Baggit, Applegate Square, Southfield.



Basket of love

A four-generation tradition keeping alive the nearly lost American folk art of quality basket making is captured in the special Mother's Day Longaberger Basket featuring pink accent weaves and a ruffled liner. Each basket is hand-woven of hardwood maple and when completed, signed and dated by the basket weaver who created it. There are covers Longaberger representatives in the area. For the one nearest you, call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



Create-a-book

Reading is so important for kids of all ages, and these personalized books can make it so much fun. The basic stories in the books are the same, but the names of the characters are of your children, grandchildren and their friends. The excitement is overwhelming to youngsters because the stories are about them. \$12.95. Special orders only. Call 851-1160.



Colorific

This young look is perfect for upcoming cool summer nights. In white cotton, it's by Ten Star Ten and has dashes of red, purple and yellow, with an oriental figure and a dog. This casual combination of looks all jammed into one is just what high schoolers and college students love. \$144. Roar Ends, Applegate Square, Southfield.

STREET SENSE

Men respond to woman's 'need'

Dear Readers,

In today's column, I am printing correspondence from three readers that I received in response to a letter printed in the March 27 issue of Street Scene. The original letter and my answer were:

Dear Barbara,

I am a 30-year-old woman. I've always been considered beautiful and sometimes unapproachable. I am talented musician. My work, not in the music field, provides a living, but it is not in an area that is creative or fulfilling.

I really want success in my career, but presently, I am more concerned about getting married and starting a family. I'm having less success with men than I am in my career. I don't want to waste time just dating around. I want to find a man who is ready to make a commitment to marriage and family. I think I would feel better about putting my career on hold if I could find happiness in a relationship.

My past relationships seem to burn hot and intense, only to fizzle out in a few months or a year. My last serious boyfriend moved in with another woman shortly after we broke up. I wanted to marry him; he didn't want to marry me. He said he wasn't ready for a commitment. I guess he was letting me down easy because he soon found another woman and he's going to marry her.

When I enter a relationship that I think could be permanent, I get wrapped up in it heart and soul. I want to be with him all the time. I want to be an integral part of his life. Men don't seem to feel the same way I do about the relationship and I get hurt.

What can I do about finding a man who wants the same kind of relationship I want?

Needing a Man

Dear Needing a Man,

Often it is a woman most in need of a man who is least successful in finding one. Your pride in your beauty and your talent leads me to assume that not just any man would do. I suspect that you would be discriminating in choosing a partner. However, if strength and independence are important in the man you are seeking, you are in trouble. Strong, independent men admire women who are like them, not women who are needy and clinging. Men feel smothered if they feel they are responsible for a woman's happiness. They will run from such a situation - not to it.

Barbara

Although this letter was from one

woman, lots of women have the problem she has. I am printing today's responses from readers to give these women a perspective on men that they might not have had otherwise.

I thank all three men for sending their ideas and feelings and thereby helping women understand men better.

Dear Barbara,

I'm writing to you in response to the letter written to you from "Needing a Man" printed in Monday 3/27/89 Westland Observer, and would like to ask you if you could forward my address along with this letter to this lady. If at all possible, as I would like somehow to meet her, if she would be at all interested.

It sounds to me like this lady has a lot to offer and is full of love and is well deserving of the same love and happiness. One can never give enough love; it's just that some people sometimes just don't realize how good they've had it when they're with someone who offers so much of themselves and don't know how to give it back in return.

In reading her letter, I see that we might already have some things in common, as being able to relate where she is coming from. I have been also a 23-year-old talented musician (drummer of 18 years) who also works days and am planning on possibly starting own business and/or schooling.

I myself, like her, really don't want to date around, wasting time with all the wrong type of women, as I am looking for a serious lady who has a lot to offer and who would like the same return, as I have. If I get a lot to offer to the right person as I'm considered attractive, a warm, down-to-earth, caring, loving and understanding, patient person.

I am looking to begin a good relationship and to have a one-on-one relationship leading to eventual marriage and starting a family.

I just thought by the sound of her letter, if the chance would be there for us to have an opportunity to meet, we might both find a real, true happiness.

I just thought I'd give this a try, or if nothing else, thanks for your time reading this letter.

I, too, was involved in a relationship of four years. I thought was going to end up in marriage, but in my case, she really enjoys smoking weed and living that type of lifestyle and he moved in with a girl she had been dating the last four months of our relationship. I am one who really enjoys life, but am not interested in drugs of any kind, so our break-up was, in fact, for the best - at least



Barbara Schiff

for me.

Sincerely, Jim

Dear Barbara,

I wrote a letter to you, it was printed in the paper, and I found your advice helpful.

Now, I would like to return the favor. I read your column last week and was very touched by the lady who wrote the letter ending in "Needing a Man." I have some thoughts that I feel might be beneficial to her. Would you forward the letter I've enclosed to her?

I really would appreciate it. I think you are doing a good job with this column.

Thanks, Tom

Dear Barbara,

While reading the Observer one Tuesday evening I came across your column and this particular letter signed "Needing a Man." I couldn't help but identify with what this 30-year-old woman was saying - but from the male perspective. I felt that since I too would like to settle down and start a family, perhaps there may be a way for "Needing a Man" and myself, "NEED A WOMAN," could get together. Therefore, I'm writing to you.

If possible, I would greatly appreciate it if you could forward the enclosed profile along with my name and address to her. I understand that you're probably not in the dating service business, but I don't know how else to meet a woman.

Last year I bought a real nice ranch house. I have a wonderful job in the computer industry and I make close to \$50,000 a year, and please believe me, I'm not afraid of a commitment and I do want to settle

down and start a family. Unfortunately - like her - most women I meet are afraid of getting married because of whatever reason.

Could you please help bring us together?

Thank you kindly for your assistance and may the good Lord bless you always and everywhere.

Michael

I am not a dating service and I don't forward letters. But there are professional dating services that have you write statements about yourself and then match you up with someone compatible.

Recently, a woman in therapy for depression made progress in her growth and development. This led her to pay \$1,500 to a dating service to help her meet a man.

While such establishments can be found in the Yellow Pages, it is usually better to get referrals from satisfied customers. In any case, the credentials and resources should be carefully checked. Referrals given by Better Business Bureau should be contacted for references.

If dating services work or don't is something I would enjoy hearing comments on from readers.

WITH THAT bit of business out of the way, I have many questions about the difficulties other men and women are having piling up.

All three of these men show themselves so well in their letters that I cannot understand why they need help finding women. Is it that they can't do face-to-face what they can do in a letter? It would seem they would not have trouble meeting women like the one in "Needing a Man" through their social and work experiences or through dating services.

Further, the letters I have received indicate a pattern in the reading public of this column - that is of men and women who would fit hand-in-glove in their willingness to have giving and getting love as the most desired force in their marriage.

However, as I have already said, the people who believe this appear not to have been able to find each other. It causes one to wonder why they go after members of the opposite sex who don't want such intense intimacy and love. If they know what they want, why not find someone with whom there can be mutual gratification instead of choosing someone who will reject them? After all, we know their counterparts are out there.

"Gentle Reader," can you help me better understand this? Barbara

MOVING PICTURES

Continued from Page 2

mistress, she loved Dr. Ward and ultimately caused his downfall and suicide.

"Scandal" is a surprising look inside a government and a country most people think of as solid and very proper. It's well-written script and strong performances are entertaining and demonstrate that today's scandals are nothing new nor unusual. They're just faults and weaknesses of people with power in a different time and place. Reviewed by Kathy Guyor.

What happens when you take three young students from very different backgrounds and have them meet in

a West Coast college where debate is the major occupation? The beautiful photographed movie, "Listen to Me" (PG-13, B-, 107 minutes), reverberating with bright and vivid colors, is the result.

Garson McKeller (Tim Quill) is a talented debater who would rather be writing poems and plays. His father (Anthony Zerbe), a senator, has plans for his son to follow in the family's Midwestern political tradition.

Garson's roommate Tucker Muldowney (Kirik Cameron) is an ambitious Oklahoma chicken farmer's son who got to Kenmont College on a scholarship. His aspirations of becoming president some day, he strives to succeed at debate and earn recognition.

But that's not all he's looking for. The object of Tucker's affection is Monica Tomanski (Jamie Gertz) who, like Tucker, is red hot to debate, but not eager for a romantic interlude due to a dark secret from her past.

Charlie Nichols (Roy Scheider) is a professor and coach of the debate team. After witnessing a tragedy befall the school, he encourages Tucker and Muldowney to compete against Harvard in Washington before the Supreme Court for the national debate title.

Lines are predictable in several instances, there is some dry sentimentality, and Tim Quill often appears to auditioning for a toothpaste commercial.

However, after the rash of teenage and young adult movies dealing with drugs, sex and violence, it's encouraging to see one about kids choosing college and carving out careers for themselves. This is not to say students don't have problems, but at least in this movie they're concerned with becoming productive members of society.

In other words, "Listen to Me" is a cut above the usual youth film.

"Edge of Sanity" (*, R) is an Anthony Perkins vehicle about a man caught between nightmare and sanity. He's probably running on three cylinders in this one.

VIDEO VIEWING

Warning! Now hear this video alert!

Since this column began in January, lots of video cassette movies have been analyzed, discussed and praised.

It's time now for a video alert: Warning, my tapes awaiting purchase or rental are hazardous to your sensibilities, your viewing pleasure, even your sanity. Often alluring tape boxes and attractive advertising for old times with new well-known stars make it hard to tell the good from the bad.

Beware as well of prestige. Don't believe quality and viewing pleasure are automatic because a tape has an incredible roster of internationally renowned musicians. Be wary also of the tons of marginal stuff produced for cable or VCR only.

Top those off with the (available) genre for rental - the horror genre is dead and well - and, voila, tons of unpleasant tape awaits your viewing displeasure. And we haven't even gotten into the "adults only" section.

Further compounding the problem, there are so many tapes to sort through - 54,000 listed in the 1989 "Video Source Book" - and hundreds of new ones appearing each week.

The ease of use, our extensive leisure time and great capacity for consumption, and the fact that about

two-thirds of U.S. households now have one or more VCRs adds up to a huge market. Product consumption (and profits) are so great that the search for new programs is intense.

IT'S NOT without good reason that Ted Turner mortgaged his future, spending \$1.5 billion to get his hands on MGM's 3,300 plus film library. Pre-sale of ancillary rights - overseas distribution, television and rental - will convince viewers that it's the avenue producers take to fund motion picture production costs.

With such big dollars at stake, merchandising is the name of the game. But beware! The PR raves and the actual program, there's often a slip or two. Not every star-studded vehicle is Oscar bound. Not by a longshot is "Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here" (over C-, 1989, 98 minutes, PG) with Katharine Ross, Robert Blake and Robert Redford.

Sounds good, but actually it's a pretty weak western. No amount of makeup - a slightly poorly applied - will convince viewers that Katharine Ross (or the actor who plays her father) is an Indian.

"Willie Boy" is supposed to be an adult western (what a stupid phrase) sensibly discussing the prejudice against native Americans. With Ross looking like a black-faced preppy who lost her minstrel show on the Vassar lawn and Redford so laconic

it's a wonder he didn't fall asleep in the bed instead of the Indian agent's bed.

Well, under such circumstances it's hard to care - or believe - what happens to Robert Blake as the heroic, but doomed Indian.

"Point Blank" (1967, D, 90 minutes, PG-13 by today's standards) is another, even worse example. Lee Harvey is double-crossed by his partner in crime who makes off with the loot - and with Lee's wife.

FOR A while this one seemed like an interesting, star-studded, surrealistic gangster film, what with Keanan Wynne, Carroll O'Connor and Angie Dickinson all figuring heavily in the action. It turns out it wasn't surrealism, it was bad filmmaking.

In both cases, reading the tape cases sure was exciting. After all, what could be better entertainment than a good gangster movie followed by a rollicking western? Nothing! But not with these two.

There are two more examples of the musical world. At the risk of offending Pavarotti fans - myself included - his "Distant Harmony: Pavarotti in China" was an 85-minute disappointment. (B, G rated.) Unlike the sparkling Isaac Stern documentary, "From Mao to Mozart," this one concentrates too much on the great man himself to the detriment of the music and its human dimen-

sion. There's too much preparation and not enough performance.

Still and all, it's a marvel to hear him sing.

The same goes for the highly touted, but bizarre and disappointing "Aria" (C-, R, 90 minutes, 1988) which received great press last year in its theatrical distribution. With music by Eric Korngold, Verdi, Puccini and Wagner, major orchestras from around the world, soloists such as Leontyne Price and Enrico Caruso, to say nothing of filmmaking by Nicholas Roeg, Jean-Luc Godard, Ken Russell and Robert Altman, well, it has to be good. One would think so, but not the case here.

All that talent - and there is a lot more - ought to have produced a better film. Some of the short sequences are properly evocative with sound and picture integrated into vibrant, emotional images.

ROEG's sequence with Theresa Russell as King Zog of Albania was one, but for the most part I think opera fans will be annoyed at the images fitted to their favorite selections and film buffs - other than the ardent devotees of avant-garde - will wonder what's going on.

The list of unleased films now appearing in cassette, because the market's there, and horror films are major collections deserving of a separate discussion. Watch for the next video alert.