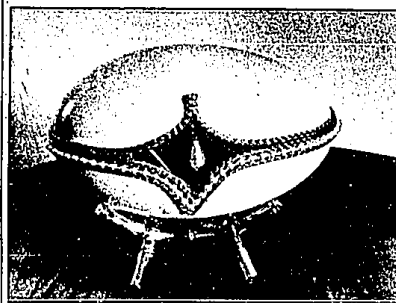


STREET SEEN

Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



Not eggsactly Faberge

Eggs for all seasons — these satin-lined jewel boxes inspired by the famous Fabergé style of decorations treasured by the Russian czars. These are made from goose eggs, tinted with pastels and decorated with tiny seed pearls and gold. The eggs are cut in half and hinged. \$47.50-\$150. From among the collectibles at Lois Wright Inc., Birmingham.



Bunny blooms

Nature Nook Florists lends the Easter Bunny a helping hand with these baskets of blooms to remember the joyous occasion. Both baskets are filled with a combination of spring shades of mums, baby carnations, statice and Easter grass. The basket at the left, \$14.99; the cuddly bunny at the right, \$17.99. At Nature Nook Florists in most J. L. Hudson stores and area shopping malls.

Puzzling ideas

Special Occasions in West Bloomfield has created novel designs of fashion and home accessories items. Picture frames, hand mirrors, lapel pins, barrettes and boxes all have a puzzling theme. The puzzle piece items are affordably priced from \$4 to \$40. Call 661-2316 to order.

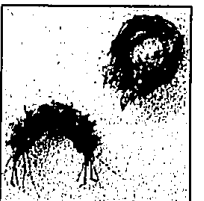


Shaping up

It helps to look good in trying to get in shape. This colorful set from Lectorads Etc. in Bloomfield Plaza makes it plain how serious you are. The mosaic print racer-back crop-top (\$22) is appealing in shades of lavender, teal, hot pink. The lycra crop pant (\$33) is in the mosaic print on one leg and a sizzling hot pink on the other. The crop pant eliminates the problems of working out in tight clothes so often "run." The cotton slouch sock (\$8) completes the outfit.

New twist

There's a new twist to grapevine creations. These were done by Grape Vine Creations, 7120 Cooley Lake Road, Union. They do custom sizes and designs, owner Rose Stebbins reports. The unusual half-moon arrangement is \$38.



STREET SENSE

Raising baby: Know his signals

Dear Brabara,
I am a new mother, 23 years old. My son was born six months ago. Am I supposed to pick him up when he cries or will this just make him cry more? My mother-in-law says that I will teach him to cry more if I pick him up, but my mother disagrees. She says that it is meant to let a child cry.
My son is a pretty good boy, although it took him a long time to sleep through the night. Again, my mother-in-law said that was because I didn't let him cry.
Obviously, I am confused. I'm on maternity leave for a year and I will need to tell whomever is going to take care of my son how I want him handled when I am away.
"New Mom"

Dear "New Mom,"

You have a lot of insecurity about caring for your child. That is often the case and understandable in a

new young mother. There is considerable research on this subject, some of which is contradictory. I will try to help sort it out and give you an opinion.

The question you are really asking is: "What should I do to help my son grow up to be his healthiest, happiest self?"

During the '50s, your mother-in-law's views were widely held. They are based on the principles of behavior modification, which state that the more reinforcement you give a behavior, the more the behavior will occur.

Thus, mothers were taught not to pick up crying babies, just as your mother-in-law advocates. The logical outcome of picking them up would be a monstrous crybaby.

At about the same time, other researchers started looking at mother-child bonding in other ways. Their findings contrasted those of behaviorists. These other researchers are

called "attachment theorists" and they favor a completely different style of mothering.

They say that their experiments show that mothers who are more responsive to feeding signals and crying of their infants raised more secure children, not crybabies.

The conclusion of this research is that warm, sensitive care does not create dependency, but autonomy. At present, this research appears valid.

But still, in spite of the validity of this research, each parent must try to understand their own unique child. What do you see and feel about your son? Be alert to how he reacts to different situations. In that way, you will gain confidence in providing him with the individualized approach that is most appropriate for him.

Barbara Schiff
If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a



Barbara Schiff

trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

FEAR & LOAFING

Blissful eating: 'Where's the beef?'

When it comes to nutrition and health, what you don't know can't hurt you . . . At least that's the theory behind my new diet.

This "ignorance is bliss" principle is demonstrated every time a cartoon character runs over the edge of the cliff. Instead of falling, he hangs suspended in mid-air — until he makes the fatal mistake of looking down. Once he knows he's in danger, he instantly plummets to earth.

But don't take Wile E. Coyote's word for it. Think about your own family tree. Who lived the longest? I'll bet two Twinkies and a King Don it's the relative with the worst eating habits.

At our last family reunion, I let the roast beef pass by without taking any. Noticing my mother had fainted into the gravy bowl, I decided to explain my beef boycott with reliable information taken directly from the pages of newspapers sold only in supermarkets.

As discretely as possible, I delicately, tastefully, cheerfully mentioned that someone in America dies of a heart attack every 45 seconds. That most heart disease was caused by high cholesterol linked to red meat. That in 1988, Meat Board spokesman James Garner had quintuple coronary artery bypass surgery.



Karl Nilsson

Before I could get to the part about antibiotics in livestock, someone one-upped me. "Your grandpa Schulte lived to be 87. He ate steak and eggs every morning."

Above the snickers, another voice rose, "What about Uncle Floyd? He's 94 and eats T-bones three times a day. Between meals, he chews beef jerky."

BY NOW people were shouting. "Don't forget Cousin Erma. Ate meat all her life. Then her smart-alec-boy doctor made her cut back. She went into a coma. Only thing that saved her was a transfusion of bacon grease!"

No doubt you've heard similar stories around your own holiday table. I used to think they were merely exceptions that proved the rule. But slowly, a pattern began to emerge. The only thing these octogenarians had in common was their ignorance about the dangers of a bad diet.

Think about it. All through the '50s and '60s, a whole generation grew strong and tall on a steady diet of burgers and fries. Nobody on "Happy Days" worried about cholesterol or high blood pressure. Nah, they worried about important stuff, like hiding a hickey from their parents.

In those carefree days, "grease" was something good. You ate it. You wore it in your hair and packed your wheel bearings with it. And we felt great.

Later, in the '70s, the local malt shop was replaced by the golden arches. Charm was replaced by convenience, but the basic fat-salt-sugar ratio was left intact. Burger consumption hit the billions. And we still felt great.

Then the lettuce growers hired someone to ruin our lives. For the last 10 years, we've been bombarded with reports that anything you could possibly enjoy eating causes heart disease or cancer.

Terrified by each new medical bulletin, we switched from artery-

clogging cheeseburgers to the salad bar. Hoping to add back the years beef tallow had robbed from our lifespan, we lined up three deep behind the sneeze-guard.

THEN we discovered those fresh-looking veggies were loaded with sulfating agents. The shiny fruit was sprayed with Alar. The salad dressing contained more fat than a room full of fritters. And the artificial bacon bits made laboratory rats talk backwards.

Need more proof? The first actor to play Ronald McDonald was Jeff Juliano. He was earning much more than the real Ronald McDonald. He was earning much more than the real Ronald McDonald. He was earning much more than the real Ronald McDonald.

No wonder my relatives would rather have me set fire to the tablecloth than hear how I killed my junk food addiction. Once they know the facts, they'll be as miserable as I am.

VIDEO VIEWING

By Dan Greenberg
special writer

If it's true that there are only 100 basic plots and the difference between success and failure is how the story is told, then HBO Video has a winner with their April 11 release of "Perfect Witness" (1989, color, 101 minutes). Although bloody enough to earn an R, it is not rated.

But this mob-killing-and-now-let's-terrorize-the-witness film is a cut above what one ordinarily expects from such a plot line.

Good performance throughout are a major plus as Sam Paxton (Aidan Quinn) is the unlucky character of the title. Sam runs a restaurant in Manhattan's meat-packing district. Late one night in Costello's Bar, Sam witnesses Kevin O'Rourke (David Provatt) carrying out a mob contract killing. Costello (Ken Pogue) looks the other way.

Unlike the street-smart folks in the neighborhood who are conveniently blind during the killing and quickly disappear afterward, Sam agrees to testify against O'Rourke when asked to do so by District Attorney Berger (Delroy Lindo).

But it's not that simple. Enter U.S. Attorney James Falcon (Brian Dennehy) who is trying to wrap up a major racketeering case against a mob. The West Side Boys, who routinely shake-down the entire meat-packing industry, Falcon needs Sam's testimony.

But the mob would rather Sam shut up and they take appropriate steps including beating up Sam's nine-year-old son Danny (Neal Lander) and terrorizing Mrs. Paxton (Laura Harrington).

There's enough pressure on Sam so he finally refuses to testify. Falcon has him jailed for contempt and matters settle down for a while in a mild "Innocent Man" vein.

COMPLICATING the situation is the animosity between Falcon and D.A. Berger who thinks, as many do, that Falcon is positioning himself for a political career. Further complicating things is Falcon's affair with Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Sapperstein (Stockard Channing). The latter involvement, besides its awkward implications, simply doesn't ring true. The former complication, however, is a convenient lead into a pretty litte discussion of the political uses of the legal sys-

tem and the politics of justice.

What is the nature of a citizen's duty and how far may officers of the court go in seeing to it that citizen's do their duty? At best, a difficult question, particularly in these days of widespread, organized violence.

At times, Falcon's lectures on these issues become uncomfortable sermons, especially when directed at his lover, Attorney Sapperstein. But, for the most part, Dennehy's acting and everyone else's performance as well — overcome such deficits.

The film has an effective, gritty, urban look and some pretty tough music which support these excellent performances.

For those who enjoy crime stories, there's a score to be released April 12 by Republic Pictures Home Video. A comic interpretation of crime is represented in eight of those 20, first-time home video releases of "Car 54, Where Are You?"

These eight originally aired in the fall of 1961 and are available in four volumes (two programs per tape) at \$14.98 or \$29.98 for the entire set.

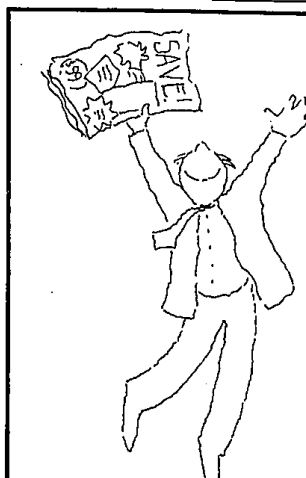
The 12 feature-length crime stories star many legendary Hollywood names and include three available on home video for the first time: "The Finger Man" with Frank Lovejoy, Forrest Tucker and Peggie Castle is a story of a bootlegger with a choice, life in the pen or undercover work for the Feds.

"HOODLUM EMPIRE" also features Forrest Tucker along with Brian Donlevy and Claire Trevor. It develops the same theme, a top gun goes straight and threatens to testify against Mr. Big. The third of these never-before-released on video cassette, "When Gangland Strikes," is also about mobs and public prosecutors but its cast, Raymond Greenleaf, Marjorie Millar and Anthony Caruso, are not as well-known as the others.

The remaining eight titles, now released at a reduced price (\$19.98) are "Force of Evil" with John Garfield, Thomas Gomez and Marie Windsor, "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye" with James Cagney, "Riot in Cellblock 11" featuring Neville Brand, "Crashout" with William Bendix and Arthur Kennedy and "Try and Get Me" with Frank Lovejoy and Lloyd Bridges.

William Conrad, Dick Powell and Rhonda Fleming star in "Cry Dan-

ger." "Cry Vengeance," "Plunder Road" and the "City That Never Sleeps" completes this package of old-time gangster movies.



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