

Smith is hot with Peppers

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If anything, Smith provided some comic relief to a group enduring a tragedy. Guitarist Hillel Slovak died of a heroin overdose in June 1988.

The band was still in shock over the death.

Red Hot Chili Peppers are anxious to put the past behind them. The band is busy writing songs for a soon-to-be recorded new album.

Rick Rubin (Slayer, Danzig) will produce the project. Also, the band has left EMI and is negotiating with several major labels.

"With 'Mother's Milk,' we were just getting to know one another," Smith said. "It's a whole different thing now. We're a band. We're writing songs together."

With the release of this next album, Smith will have come full-circle with the Chili Peppers and his music career. He's considered one of the top drummers on the circuit.

"I'M SUPER lucky," Smith said. "People just move out here and say, 'Here I am,' standing out in the street with their guitars. There's so many musicians and so many bands. It's really competitive."



Chad Smith, (lower left) a 1980 graduate of Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School, toiled as a drummer with several local bands, but now is making a name for himself as the drummer for Red Hot Chili Peppers.

As a result, people like Smith and groups such as Second Self have to move to California or New York in hopes of making it. Smith has. So, his parents can stop worrying.

Smith recently flew his mother, Joan Smith, out to New York for a party celebrating the band's gold record. He also recalls how his father, Curt Smith, used to go behind

Baskin-Robbins to find empty gallon ice cream containers for his 7-year-old son to beat on with Lincoln Logs.

"My parents were worried about me, believe me," he said. "I always played drums at parties and in bands. They were really super supportive. They think it's really cool. They're ecstatic."

STREET SENSE

Don't let criticism be guide

Dear Barbara,
My husband has been ill for many years. I am a young woman only in my 40s. Recently, I met a man that I like very much and have spent a little time with him.

It would be impossible to divorce my husband. How much of a role should I allow this other man to play in my life? I am lonesome for male companionship.

Sad

Dear Sad,
It is sad that life presents us with dilemmas like this one. Readers have often written despairingly of their less than satisfactory options.

Reading only slightly between the lines of your letter, I surmise that, because of his illness, you and your husband are unable to have a physically and emotionally intimate relationship.

I am assuming that divorce would be impossible because there would then be no one to care for him. You want very much to do the "right" thing, but in this case, the sacrifice necessary seems an intolerable burden.

You are right. It is. And so you are stuck in the unenviable position of making a decision for which you will be criticized. Any advantageous decision contains some negatives — this one more than most.

As long as you know that you are doing the best that you can do for you and your husband, then the criticism of those who are incapable of understanding should not control your life.

Barbara

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street

Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



Barbara Schiff

SCREEN SCENE

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Middlebelt, Livonia. Call 476-1168 for information. (Free)

"Ziegfeld Follies" (USA — 1946), 10 a.m. Oct. 30. MGM recaptures the famous days of Flo Ziegfeld in this star-studded review strung together by a feeble plot of three girls whose lives are transformed after being recruited into the Follies. With James Stewart, Lana Turner, Judy Garland and many others.

MAPLE THEATRE, 4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. Call 855-0909 for show times. (\$3.50 general, \$9.50 twilight)

"Henry and June" (USA — 1990). The first film to receive the controversial NC-17 rating is the story of writer Henry Miller (Fred Ward) and his bizarre relationship with his wife (Uma Thurman). Directed by Phil Kaufman.

"Miller's Crossing" (USA — 1990). Joel and Ethan Coen have created a

stylized portrait of a mob boss' right-hand man (Gabriel Byrne). The most accomplished work so far from the talented young filmmakers.

"Fantasia" (USA — 1940). The 50th anniversary of the Disney classic, which teamed the studio's best animators with well-known classical music performed by Leopold Stokowski.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 630 Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call 665-8397 for information. (\$4.50 general, \$9.50 students)

"Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (USA — 1954), 7 p.m. Oct. 31. When Howard Keel decides to look for a bride, his rowdy brothers follow suit in this entertaining Stanley Donen-directed musical.

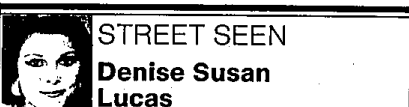
"Chinatown" (USA — 1974), 7 p.m. Nov. 2. Roman Polanski directed this superb detective story set in a drought-stricken Los Angeles of the 1930s. Jack Nicholson stars as the gumshoe who digs too deep into

Paye Dunaway's private life. "Koyaanisqatsi" (USA — 1983) Nov. 2 (call for show times). Philip Glass will perform his famous soundtrack live while Godfrey Reggio's film unravels behind him. The non-narrative film soars across various American landscapes. Based on the Indian word for life out of balance.

REDFORD THEATRE, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call 537-1133 for information. (\$2.50)

Laurel and Hardy — "Our Relations" (USA — 1936) and "Block-Heads" (USA — 1938), 8 p.m. Nov. 2-3 (organ overture at 7:30 p.m.). Two of the best-loved Laurel and Hardy features. In the first, the boys discover their long-lost twins. In "Block-Heads," Ollie finds Stan still marching in the trenches 20 years after World War I is over and takes him home.

— John Monaghan



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, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 331.



Summer memories

Ah, the sweet smell of wildflowers... Just the thought conjures up pleasant reminders of summer. That's what Marge Pilarcik of Indiana has done with her "Memories of Summer." She gathers the flowers throughout the summer, dries them, then artfully arranges and frames them. No two are alike. Prices range from \$24 to \$70. At the Apple Wreath, 32826 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

Toddlers Toggery

Moms were looking for them, but couldn't always find them... one-piece overalls for the hard-to-fit toddler. BabyBaby in Northville now makes custom-made unisex overall outfits specifically designed for that hard-to-fit toddler. The one-piece outfit provides comfort and extra room for your active baby. The full cut overall is of a durable cotton twill with gentle ribbed banding at the legs and adjustable Velcro shoulder straps. Sizes 12 months to 5. From BabyBaby, 133 Cady St., Northville. Call 347-BABY.



ALTERNATIVE VIEWING

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ordinary people in the Soviet Union, beyond the politics," director Vacheslav Krizhanovich said in interviews at the Montreal Film Festival.

One of the filmmaker's best ideas is placing a hidden camera for intimate, uncensored views of city streets. He depicts dramatic shortages of consumer goods, and even shows men lining up in front of liquor stores.

Some feminist viewers may have problems with Klavdia's inability to function fully without a man. Yet this "Lonely Woman" shows something universal about all of us. "Certainly, the desire to be loved is something that anyone can relate to," said Krizhanovich.

Ness gets Distortion on road

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Those themes of emerging at the end of the tunnel of a turbulent past persist on Social Distortion's self-titled LP on Epic. To Ness' liking, the release is anything but tame. The album includes a cutting cover of Johnny Cash's classic "Ring of Fire," revealing Ness' love of country music.

Like country, Ness spews out some vivid lines about dancing in life's darkest corners in his distinct nasal growl.

"DRUG TRAIN" is a bitter number about the realities of substance abuse. Sings Ness with the voice of experience. "The train passes through the graveyard/May the loved ones rest in peace/For the last stop baby is a violent crash/And hard times, they may never cease."

Against the cascade of Ness' cranking guitar work, the number has bite and echoes punk music's better days 10 years ago. "Something has definitely been lost in the transition throughout the years," Ness said.

GRADING THE MOVIES

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compelling and endearing realism as if they were actual folks next door or down the block.

That quality taken with the strong performances by Sarandon and Spader result in a compelling portrait of two unlikely lovers for whom audiences will root. Bridging social and cultural gaps, to say nothing of a 17-year disparity in their ages, is no mean task but doing so speaks volumes about the power of love.

That's what "The White Palace" does so well.

Kirstie Alley is developing an unfortunate knack for appearing in slow-paced, humorless comedies with unbelievable characters and exaggerated plots. The strain of accepting the Turner family of doctors in "Sibling Rivalry" (C-, PG-13, 87 minutes) is almost as much as accepting the relatives that visited Kirstie in "Madhouse."

MARJORIE TURNER (Alley) is married to Dr. Harry Turner (Scott Bakula) the youngest of a medical clan composed of a father, Dr. Charles Turner Sr. (John Randolph), mother, Dr. Rose Turner (Frances Sternhagen) and sister, Dr. Iris Turner-Hunter (Carrie Fisher).

Iris has in tow a husband, Dr. Casey Hunter (Matthew Laurance). She's a particularly obnoxious and preening little rat. When the family isn't demeaning Harry (the youngest), they're busy treating Marjorie worse than hired help. But

it's OK, she's not a doctor. These stereotypes — characters and situations — are so overdrawn that they're simply ridiculous and not at all humorous.

The Turner family busily prepares for the return of the favorite son, Dr. Charles Jr. (Sam Elliott) who has been off somewhere in South America doing medical research. He's the oldest and favorite.

Meanwhile, Marjorie's younger sister, Jeanine (Jami Gertz) is a free-spirit who counsels Marjorie to have an affair and loosen up. One thing and another, she does and you'll never guess who she picks, albeit unknowingly.

The complications are unbelievable and include an incompetent blinds salesman, Nick Meany (Bill Pullman), whose older brother, Wilbur (Ed O'Neill) is in line to become the town's police chief. These two are embarrassingly slow and simple in everything they do.

WITH SOME sophistication in writing and directing, "Sibling Rivalry" might have been a clever comedy, but Carl Reiner (director) seems to have lost his touch. Apparently, he believes anything he thinks is funny will get laughs.

Not so, Carl, there are the small matters of pacing, timing, humor and understanding that simple-minded TV sitcom situations don't play well on the big screen. There needs to be some excitement and tension to get laughs.

The recent deluge of Quincy Jones material is now complete with his appearance on the big screen in "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones" (B+, PG-13, 110 minutes). This enlightening documentary is also very entertaining and leaves viewers basking in the warm glow of Jones' music and personality.

"Listen Up" is the familiar story of one man rising above unpromising origins and gaining fame. However, it's not the chronicle of Jones' life that makes this movie special. The manner in which his story is told makes the difference. Throughout the film, Quincy Jones travels around his old neighborhood in Chicago and those scenes form a direct relationship with the reflections and memories that he shares with the audience.

MANY OF Jones' family and friends, including Ray Charles, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald and Ice-T, contribute to the image of Jones as a musician, composer, producer and writer.

The numerous cuts to performers, singing and to old footage of brass bands playing provide an upbeat tempo. The quick cuts and frenetic camera movements add to the film's kinetic energy although at times the pace is too rapid for clarity.

Overall, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones" is full of style and substance and proves the song true, Quincy Jones is "Back on the Block," both personally and nationally.

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