

SCREEN SCENE

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"The Icicle Thief" (Italy - 1989), through Jan. 17 (call for show times). Comic filmmaker Maurizio Nidetti intersperses television with reality in this surreal slapstick comedy. Nidetti plays a film director whose masterpiece is transformed by commercial interruptions during its first network telecast. He finds it necessary to enter the film and bring his story back to order.

"Blue Velvet" (USA - 1986), 9 p.m. Jan. 7-8. David Lynch's masterpiece about seedy goings-on in a small Northwest lumbering town, still makes "Twin Peaks" look like "Leave It to Beaver."

"Wild at Heart" (USA - 1990), Jan. 9-12 (call for show times). David Lynch's truly wild odyssey finds a young couple (Nicolas Cage and Laura Dern) on the run from New Orleans to Tuna, Texas.

"Third Animation Celebration, Jan. 12-21 (call for show times). A new compilation of animated shorts from around the world.

REDFORD THEATRE, 17630 Lasher, Detroit. Call 537-2569 for information. (\$2.50)

"In Harm's Way" (USA - 1965), 8 p.m. Jan. 11-12. John Wayne and Kirk Douglas star in this overblown epic about one man's mission to capture Japanese-held islands during World War II. Otto Preminger directed.

— John Monaghan



Dean Stockwell portrays a flamboyant drug dealer in David Lynch's sensual mystery thriller, "Blue Velvet," showing at the Michigan Theatre Jan. 7-8.

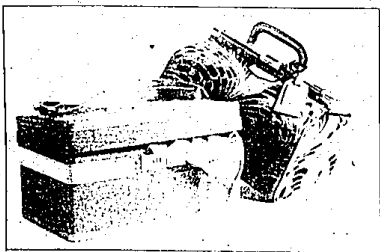
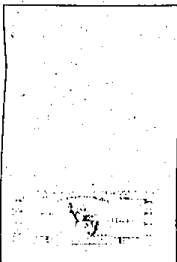
STREET SEEN

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.

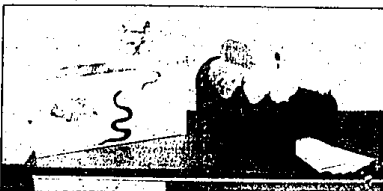
Million dollar bill

For important people who deserve the very best or the person who wants everything... the limited edition "Million Dollar Bill." Each bill has its own serial number, certificate of authenticity, intaglio engraved and comes with a clear vinyl pouch. The "Million Dollar Bill" qualifies you to become a member of the International Association of Millionaires, based in Hawaii. The \$1 million bill can be acquired at Shell or Head It, 885 Wing, Plymouth (455-6444). Priced at \$8.50.



Train case returns

Amid the hustle and bustle of winter travel, please note the hottest piece in luggage this year is a flash from the past... the train case. How about this beige and black tweed Hartman train case (left) from Travelers World, Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, or this black and taupe patterned carpet bag for make-up and toiletries, also from Travelers World.



Special delivery

Pet owners will find the animal mailboxes created by Debbie Malek the cat's meow. The customized mailboxes are available in three regulation sizes priced \$50-75. The hand-painted mailbox pets are made of durable weatherproof wood and available in assorted cat designs and several dog breeds. If your pet looks like it's not in stock, the artist can design a mailbox from a photo. From Groovingtails in West Bloomfield (932-3800).

GRADING THE MOVIES

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"Predator 2" (C+, R, 98 minutes). The hunt continues, this time in the urban jungle of 1997 Los Angeles.

"Rescuers Down Under" (*, G). Disney animation has Bernard and Miss Bianca off to Australia to save rare eagle from poacher.

"Rocky V" (C+, PG-13, 100 minutes).

Stallone takes another licking but keeps on ticking.

Wrath charts its path

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bands do, Wrath of Christian decided to delay playing live until it has developed a full night's worth of material.

"My object is not to be an opening band," Mison said. "I'll open up once at a certain club. We're choosy as far as the clubs we play."

The band selects clubs on the basis of their sound systems. So far, Finney's, Psyche's and the Majestic Theater have passed muster.

In their live performances, as well as their studio projects, the emphasis of Wrath of Christian is on the music.

"WHAT MAKES a song is the music itself," said Chris Mison, a classically trained musician. "People underestimate the power of music. My brother's the really talented one as far as that goes. He makes sure the dirty work is done. Our lyrics are the last thing to be put in."

"I don't consider myself as talented as my brother does," Matt Mison said.

Working with his brother has been a good experience, Matt said.

"We're able to work better together because we're not afraid to hurt each other's feelings. If I think something he does sucks, then I tell him."

THE BROTHERS played in their first band together when they were in the seventh grade so they have a lot of experience working together.

"Chris doesn't like the music to sound too mechanical," Matt Mison said, "but I'm a keyboard player, so I'm into all the technologies."

One thing they agree on is that they want Wrath of Christian to create its own sound, instead of becoming a pale imitation of an already known band.

"This band was never designed to copy another band," Chris Mison said. "You're in a lot of trouble if you're not doing your own thing."

From the painstaking quality of their music to the way they talk to the press ("I have to be careful about how we publicize the band," Chris Mison said), each step that Wrath of Christian has taken has been careful, by plotted out. It's a perfectionism that may well pay off.

"I will never put on a show where it's going to sound mediocre," Chris Mison said.

STREET SENSE

Time to talk to your wife

Dear Barbara,

This letter is hard for me to write even though it is anonymous. This is so private a matter that I know I will blush when I read your answer in the paper. I masturbate almost daily. Usually, I am at home and sometimes I am at work.

I have been masturbating since I was in my teens. I thought that as I grew older, I would just naturally stop, but I haven't.

I am in my 40s and I have been married for about 10 years. My wife and I are sexually active although not as often as I would like. I fantasize about other women, not about my wife, when I am masturbating. This makes me feel that I am betraying her.

There is really nothing urgent about any of this and I could go on this way forever, but I wonder if any of this makes sense to you. I will sign the letter anonymous as this will make me feel safe.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Did you learn that masturbating is bad when you were a child? Did you feel guilty about it and do you still?

For most, self-soothing and self-stimulating behavior, like masturbation, begins early in life. It is healthy

and natural when it is not overdone.

Thumb sucking and other forms of mouth play could be said to be the forerunner of genital masturbation. These behaviors are used by the infant to calm himself. Thus, he is no longer completely dependent on the caregiver but can regulate his own emotions. The increased impact of combined mental and physical stimulation promotes even greater independence.

So, masturbating for a child is healthy. The question is why some men continue to find masturbation pleasurable in addition to intercourse. You give us a clue in that you do not have intercourse frequently enough for you and resort to masturbation to fulfill your unfulfilled needs. I would think that there can be a healthy combination of intercourse and masturbation for some men.

There also could be a group in which masturbation becomes a compulsion resulting from a need to discharge anxiety in this manner. From the fantasies you describe which accompany your masturbation, it appears that this does not apply to you.

Being able to fantasize good sex is healthy. There are many



Barbara Schiff

unanswered questions about this relationship between you and your wife that need to be discussed. Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

ALTERNATIVE MOVIE

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Robinson aboard ship. The foggy setting and more high contrast lighting add realism to the violence.

Raul Walsh directed the 1941 effort "High Sierra" (playing Jan. 22), but Huston co-wrote the screenplay for this sympathetic study of a convicted killer on the run. "Mad Dog," Earle was a breakthrough for Bogart which added a new dimension to the tough guy characters he was

typecast into playing.

AND THE TRULY awful title? In what has arguably been hailed as the actor's worst drama, "The Two Mrs. Carrs" (1947) wastes both Bogart and Barbara Stanwyck in a melodramatic tale of an artist who marries women, paints their portraits and "The Angel of Death" and then murders them. It plays Jan. 16.

Warner Bros. obviously knew it

had a dog on its hands. The film was actually completed in 1945, but held back from release until 1947. Audiences weren't likely to forget Bogart, who completed some 25 features in the 1940s.

For movie buffs, Bogart remains a larger-than-life actor. The opportunity to see any of his films — uncorrupted and on the big screen — is well worth skipping a morning of work.

VIDEO VIEWING

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painting and drawing as the preferred visual format. Matthew Brady, in particular, popularized the photograph with his Civil War work and his extensive, by contemporary standards, photography of President Lincoln.

BUT BURNS' technique does not rely on these visuals alone. His impact evolves from careful integration

of sound and picture tied together with voice-over narration by David McCullough and the finest professional actors available to read the letters and other reports of the Civil War.

Sam Waterston is President Lincoln, Jason Robards reads General Grant's words, Morgan Freeman is Frederick Douglass, Garrison Keillor is Walt Whitman and Arthur Miller is William T. Sherman. Julie

Harris and Jody Powell are among the voices.

Ex-slave recordings from the Library of Congress and extensive traditional music combine with sound effects to create an energetic and engaging soundtrack to match the visual images.

There is a great deal to be learned by viewing these nine tapes in Burns' "The Civil War." We should be grateful for his work.

If you want to know what's going on in your community, read The Observer & Eccentric

Get on the Right Track With the Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

Cross-Country Ski School!



Cross-country skiing is a fun, exciting and healthful way to enjoy the outdoors. This school is open to anyone who is interested in learning the basics of cross-country skiing. The school is held at the Oakland and Wayne County Parks & Recreation Center, 14180 West Plom Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Classes begin in January (weather permitting).

\$10* includes equipment rental and 10 hours of instruction.
\$40* (with your own equipment)

Due to limited space availability, pre-registration is required. For more information, call or write to the following locations. Monday through Friday, at least one week in advance of the class.

ADDISON OAKS COUNTY PARK

c/o Oakland County Parks & Recreation
14180 West Plom Road
Livonia, MI 48150
693-2432

INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK

c/o Oakland County Parks & Recreation
3601 Independence Road
Livonia, MI 48150
625-0877

HERITAGE PARK

c/o Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation
11555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
473-9570

PINE TRACE GOLF COURSE

c/o Rochester Area Recreation Authority
3100 Pine Haven Boulevard
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
651-6210 ext. 3103

WARREN VALLEY GOLF COURSE

c/o Warren County Parks & Recreation
33175 Ann Arbor Road
Westland, MI 48116
261-1990