### STREET SENSE

# Father's hard line with daughter was best decision

Dear Barbara,

I received the letter from my stepdaughter this week. It is such a hopeful canniple of how a youngster-can change that I want to share it with you and your readers. The circumstances of this letter are so as follows:

My stepdaughter has lived with her father and me for seven years. She was not able to achieve adequately in school and was unsuccessful in other areas of her life as well. Her tendency was to blame her parents and sometimes me for this fall-are.

the standard with the standard was an assometimes me for this failters and sometimes me for this failters. As happens so often in divorces,
both her parents, my husband and
his ex-wife, were willing to concur
that it was the other parent's fault.
This made it possible for "Nancy" to
absolve herself of any blame.
Nancy started college this year
and, as before, adjusted poorly socially and academically. As usual,
he made a firm case for why this
was the fault of the college, not her
own. She thought she would go to the
East Coast to stay with her mother

and find a college more suited to her liking.
Finally, this time, my husband took a very quiet, resolved and firm hard line with her (something he really has never done before). I can't really get into all of the details, but if she ran away, there would be a serious cut in allowance, a clear statement that there would be no more funds for away from home college (instalt or out-of-state) and no access to other funds of hero over legal control.

Her Initial reaction was shock and disbellet, and for the first time, my husband remained calm, did not argue with her and quietly made it clear that "this is the way it is—take it or leave it."

Within a half hour, he received a telephone call from her in which the tone of voice and attitude was different than the has ever heard. The enclosed letter followed. Dr. "Smith" is her theraphit and supported his hard line stand.

Chris

Chris

"Hill This is your daughter writing. I have been thinking and changing dramatically in the past month. I feel very locality in the past month. I feel very locality reached the point in which changing is a must! Thinking about both of you, I realized That during some part of your life a similar experience must have occurred.

My experience has been triggered by I feelings of despair and low self-concept; an isolated feeling where the only option is change. Not only is this experience frightening, but from a certain perspective exciting. I have the projection of the part which has allowed not to accomplish goals that frightened behavior would not.

In the first week of changing, fright ran my life. My initial reaction was to run to Mommy. When I finally realized what I was doing, I cancelled my trig and straightened my priorities. My priorities during break invokes seeing Dr. "Smith," working

and continuing my goal to become an adequate individual.

I cannot help but feel sick inside when I think about the numerous times when either one of
you or Dr. "Smith" has tried to
help me and I responded negatively. This behavior will not occur anymore. I would appreciate
it if both of you would make me
aware of when I am arquing and
being irrational. I know it is quite
hard to do this with me, but please
make an effort. Lately, I've succeeded in ways that my prior attitude would not have allowed me.
Participating in class and taking risks in social as well as educational circumstances have
been improving my self-confudate on an ending appreciate the
them of the confusion of the confusion
that everyone has tried to give
me and hope to God that it will
continue. Undoubtedly, giving
such help can get quite boring
when it seems like the only thing
being taked to is a wall.

Please believe me that I am

deeply sorry for acting in such a selfish manner. The reality of the situation is that most people would give anything for the help and advice that I receive. Thank you for your patience and everything else. I want to work with you instead of working against you?

Dear Chris,
Thank you for sharing this with all of us. As a therapist I often see that, at times, parents must risk losing their child, If they are going to help him or her grow. I often see this result, that the child will not go any further than he or she is allowed. Sometimes we all must feel public the seed of the child will not go any further than he or she is allowed. Sometimes we all must feel public the child will not go any further than he or she is allowed. Sometimes we all must feel public some consequences became so strong that she could not longer lie about it.

Your husband has done her a great service by confronting it now. Had not risked it, she would have inevitably found out in a bad marriage or by being fired from a job.

"He Said, She Said" (B, PG, 110 minutes).
Entertaining story about squabbling TV team (Elizabeth Perkins and Kevin Bacon) with confusing structure detracting from viewing

erience. Home Alone" (B-, PG, 100 minutes).
Engaging comedy about young boy (Macaulay Culkin) left at home

Continued from Page 2



Barbara

If you have a question or com-ment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experi-enced counselor, send it to Street Sense, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

# - W. S. W.

Paul Newman and wife Joanne Woodward star with Margaret Welsh In "Mr. and Mrs. Bridge," now playing at the Maple The-

Lucas Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entreprenurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 30251 Schooleraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 2131.

STREET SEEN **Denise Susan** 

### All about me

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manshp.
Other personalized books available are "Baby's Create-4-Book." "My Dinosaur Adventure." "The Big Parade." "My Birthday Surprise." "My Fithing Adventure." "My School Fun Book." "My Space Adventure" and "My Christmas Wish."
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### **SCREEN SCENE**

Conlinued from Page 2

brought us "Room With a View."

"The Field" (Ircland — 1991).

Richard Harris plays "The Buil"

McCabe, a proud Irishman who

won't give up the fertile land he has

brought to life. Directed by Jim

Sheridan ("My Left Fool") and also

starring John Hurt apd Sean Bean.

MICHIGAN THEATRE, 16301 E.
Liberty, Ann Arbor, Call 689-8397
for information. (\$4.50, \$3.50 students and senior cilizens)
"Muhsian Bay" (Turkey — 1988), 7
pm. April 1. An old music teacher
wants his pupil to study the classics with the content of the content

**ALTERNATIVE VIEWING** 

Continued from Page 2

Continued from Page 2
bulls — the pig-like features and
iron jaws that have made owning
one illegal in many parts of the Unitof States. The thoughts that flow
through the dog's mind are instinctive, primal and extremely honest.
Baxter loves time in the garden,
pawing up dirt to uncover the freshly
rotted things that lay just beneath.
For his favorite owner, the attractive young newlywed, he bringfreshly killed rodents to the doorstep. Baxter's "certain desires" for
the barefoot woman provide some of
the film's more unsettling moments.
As an existential here, Baxter is
something very unusual. At one
point, you expect his deep, troubled
voice to come out with a "Hamilet"
in the "or obey or not to obey. That is
the question."

the question."

THOUGH MIGHTY surreal, this first film from director Jerome Boivin (based on the novel "Hell Hound.") successfully grounds the action in the everyday. There are tricky shots — wide-angled close-ups accentuating Batter's snout or shaky shots from the dog's eye view — but not too many.

not too many. It would be easy for Baxter to

1969), 7 p.m. April 2-3. Max Von Sy-dow and Liv Uliman live alone on a sparsely populated island in this typ-ically stark drama by Igmar Berg-

ically stark drama by Igmar Berg-man.

"Peking Opera Blues" (Hong Kong — 1986), 9 p.m. April 2-3. A trio of powerful women team to overthrow a turn-of-the-century, warlord in this action-packed potboller from Hong

REDFORD THEATRE, 17860
Lahser, Detroit. Call 537-2550 for information. (\$2.50)
"Singin' in the Rain" (USA —
1952), 8 p.m. April 5-6 (organ overture at 7.30 p.m.). The ever-popular
MGM musical, directed by Gene
Kelly and Stanley Donen, about the
early days of talking pictures. Kelly
earns with Donald O'Connor and
Debbie Reynolds for such classics as
"Good Moraling" and "Make em
Laugh."

— John Monaghan

by accident.
"If Looks Could Kill" (C+, PG-

**GRADING THE MOVIES** 

127 minutes). Finely textured portrait of the Bridges (Paul Nowman and Joanne Woodward) as their marriage colves during the 30s and 40.5.

"The Neverending Story II - The Next Chapter" (\*). FG). Bastlan Bax is back in Fantasla. "New Jack (Diy" (B. R). Fairly well done, inner-city drug gang and undercover cops story. "The Perfect Weapon" (\*, R). More karate adventure stuff." "Shipwrecked" (B+, PG, 90 minutes).

utes). Old-fashioned adventure story as

by accident.

"If Looks Could Kill" (C+, PG13).

High school student flunks French.
but winds up living the life of James
Bond.

"Kindergarten Cop" (B-, PG-13,
105 minutes).

Schwarzenegger is macho and the kids are cute but the plot tisn't.

"King Ralph" (B, PG-13, 95 minutes).

Vegas lounge planist (John Good man) is in line for British throne in delightful comedy.
"L.A. Story" (B-, PG-13, 95 minutes).

"L.A. Story (B-, PG-13, 95 minutes).

"The Long Walk Home" (A-, PG.
95 minutes).

"The Long Walk Home" (A-, PG.
95 minutes).

Lots of action but little violence as everybody's lavorite turties do it again.

"Mr. and Mr.s. Bridge" (A-, PG-13, 2014).

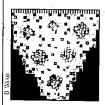
"Nr. and Mr.s. Bridge" (A-, PG-13, 2014).



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