

STREET SENSE

Guns change response for coming of age in the '90s



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Readers, Often, when someone learns that I am an advice columnist, they have a question ready and waiting for me.

That happened this week. I had been at a meeting and when it was over the man next to me asked, "What is it you write?" I answered and he immediately told me the following story. After you hear it you will understand the subject's importance and why I have included it in this column.

The man who requested advice has a 15-year-old stepson who was recently threatened by a boy at school. The boy doing the threatening says he owns, and is well known, to have a gun. Worried, the stepfather and his wife went to see the principal who told them that while he is aware of the problem he cannot do anything about it. He said that in other interactions with the family of the boy with the gun, he found them to be mistrustful of everyone but their son and supportive of the boy's attempt to "protect himself."

I asked the man with this problem if he understood how his stepson had gotten into this mess. He said that his stepson fought with another boy about some inconsequential matter and that when he won the loser engaged

the boy with the gun to help him get revenge.

When he told his stepson to ignore any further attempts to involve him, his stepson said that would make him look and feel like a coward; he couldn't run away and feel good about himself.

The questioner said he feels even greater concern because he knows his stepson has a big mouth and that his birth father supports him in his belief that only by fighting back can he "be a man." So, my now friend wanted to know, "What should he do?" (This is a story that took place in a suburban school not in the city where there is less surprise about young boys using guns.)

I am puzzled as to how to answer the concerned stepfather. One reason is that as women, my friends and I have not had this typical boys' experience of being bullied. As women, we have not had to learn how to react in these situations because they do not come up for us.

As I understand, many boys encounter the experience with a bully and their parents do not know how to help them because of this new entity in our culture, the presence of a gun in the hands of children.

In the "old days" the advice usually given to a young boy who said that he should not run away from the bully. Running away merely increased the bully's victimizing the "sissy." Often, when the boy refused to be intimidated by the bully and would fight back, the

bully would not pick on him anymore and would look for a new victim.

Such a scenario would allow the boy to gain confidence in himself and in his feelings of maleness. This could be overdone in cultures where being macho was very important. It even turned out that sometimes the former "sissy" became a bully.

With the presence of guns, giving advice to stand and fight can be foolhardy, if not fatal. America has become a violent culture with the possession of hand guns proliferating at a rapid rate.

I do think that the school system has the responsibility to do something about banning the possession of guns in school but that won't protect this young man outside of school.

It is no longer safe for boys to go through the rites of passage that had, before now, been a part of their identities as men. We no longer live in a society in which normal aggressiveness can be worked through. It is important to work to make our world a safe one again.

Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, sends it to *Street Sense*, *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. You can also leave a message by calling 953-2047, mailbox 1877, on a touch-tone phone.

SCREEN SCENE

The week in films briefly noted:

"Aladdin" — Disney continues its new golden age with this colorful blend of gaga and roller-coaster adventure. The genie in this oft-told story is a blueberry spirit who possesses the voice of Robin Williams. The villain here is Jafar, who has his sights set on becoming supreme ruler. Not as seamless as the two previous Disney outings, but a delight from start to finish. (At area theaters)

"Bram Stoker's Dracula" — Francis Ford Coppola has gotten a bad rap. Not since 1933 and his last run-in with horror in "Dementia 13" has the director shown such an eye for style. And for what it's worth, he does try to stay somewhat faithful to Stoker, using references to the book's diary entries, telegrams and newspaper accounts whenever possible. Winona Ryder holds onto her English accent, Keanu Reeves doesn't, while Gary Oldman cleverly transforms from the rat-faced older Dracula to a sleek young European dandy in stovetop hat and sunglasses. A must see. (At area theaters)

"A Brief History of Time" — Errol Morris ("The Thin Blue Line") examines the life and work of physicist Stephen Hawking, who has explored the mysteries of the universe from the confines of his wheelchair. Though you may just as confused about black holes as you were before, you will meet an incredibly fascinating individual. (Through Dec. 31 at the)

Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty in Ann Arbor. Call 668-8397 for more information. \$5; \$4 student and senior citizens)

"The Distinguished Gentleman" — In this morose update of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," Eddie Murphy wins a Senate seat by virtue of his name, which is the same as a recently deceased veteran. He goes to D.C. for the cash, but has a change of heart when he meets a cancer-stricken constituent. Murphy sleepwalks through the wiseguys role which he's played a hundred times before. (At area theaters)

"A Few Good Men" — When murder takes place on a Cuban military base, young gun lawyer Tom Cruise goes up against Colonel Jack Nicholson to get at the truth. Director Rob Reiner has an amazing eye for entertainment, but he can't elevate the movie, which also features Demi Moore, Kevin Bacon and Kiefer Sutherland, beyond a "twentysomething" version of much better courtroom dramas. (At area theaters)

"Malcolm X" — Every bit as good as Spike Lee said it would be, this three-hour-plus documentary doesn't pull any punches in its depiction of the controversial civil rights leader. What makes the film so fascinating is Malcolm's ability to grow into at least three different men and those changes are beautifully portrayed by Denzel Washington, in the role of a lifetime. (At area theaters)

"Neo Tokyo" and "Silent Mobius" (Japan - 1992) — This series of short animated films based on Japanese comics should be an eyeopener. Among the titles, "The Running Man," "Labyrinth" and "The Order to Stop Construction." These innovative "splatter-toons" are not recommended for children. (Dec. 26-31 at the Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty in Ann Arbor. Call 668-8397 for more information. \$5; \$4 student and senior citizens)

Fonte D'Amore
DEL SIGNORE

NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA!!!

Complete Dinner Package includes:
Appetizer, Entree, Dessert, Coffee,
Glass of Wine, Champagne Toast

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,
DANCING,
Party Favors, Balloons!**

10:00 p.m. 'til ? ONLY \$30 PER PERSON
ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW
Limited Seating
• Does not include additional drinks or gratuity
• Regular seating until 9:00 p.m.

32030 PLYMOUTH ROAD
LIVONIA • 422-0770

Southfield Marriott Hotel

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!

Our package includes Everything:

- Deluxe overnight accommodations
- Four drink coupons
- Complete dinner for two in our Garden Court Restaurant
- Live piano music in our lounge
- New Year's Day breakfast for two

For Reservations
call **356-7400**

\$135.00 per couple

Marriott People know how:

DETROIT Marriott SOUTHFIELD

27033 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, Michigan 48034 (313)356-7400

On the Town
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

MITCH HOUSEY'S

Open 11 A.M.

Reservations Accepted for EARLY NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER from 5 pm must be out by 9 pm

SOLD OUT
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Thank you EVERYONE for making our year so successful.

28500 Schoolcraft, Opposite Ladbroke DRC, LIVONIA 425-5520
Ample Lighted Parking • Daily Mon.-Sat. at 11:00 a.m. • Closed Sunday

CELEBRATE 1993

THE NEW YEAR WITH US

OPEN NEW YEAR'S DAY 4 PM-9 PM

Enjoy a delicious holiday dinner featuring the best prime rib in town!

(We will be serving dinner New Year's Eve beginning at 5 p.m.)

MOUNTAIN JACK'S
PRIME RIB CHOICE STEAKS

ANN ARBOR 465-1133
AUBURN HILLS 340-0358
BLOOMFIELD 334-4694
FARMINGTON 476-3333

LIVONIA 458-7333
ROSELAND 517-0570
TROY 881-7793

ROSELAND 517-0570
TROY 881-7793
WARREN 574-0040

Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE 537-5600
2733 The Plaza Rd. (Corner of Livonia) OPEN SUNDAYS

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA PARTY!

only **\$30.00** Per Person

DINNER Includes Choice of:

- Lobster Tail, Alaskan King Crab
- Legs, Prime Rib Filet Mignon and other fine entrees.
- Champagne at Midnight
- Pizza after 1:00
- Dancing to "NU MATIX"

Call for your reservations today!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Holiday Inn of Southfield has one Great Way for You to Start Off The New Year in Style.

\$175.00 (Couple)
Includes tax and gratuity

- ★ Check-in time of 1:00 p.m. on December 31
- ★ Overnight accommodations for two
- ★ BUFFET dinner for TWO
- ★ SIX (6) DRINK TICKETS
- ★ Live Entertainment and Dancing (Top 40's Band)
- ★ Party Favors
- ★ Champagne Toast at Midnight
- ★ Midnight Balloon Drop with Fireworks
- ★ Coffee and Dessert Table at 1:00 a.m.
- ★ Coffee in the morning will be complimentary in the Lobby
- ★ Late Check-out of 3:00 p.m.

PACKAGE — WITHOUT ROOM \$76.00 (COUPLE)

*** Holiday Inn**
of Southfield
26555 Telegraph Rd., Southfield, MI 48034
For Res. Call 353-7700 And Ask For Sales

Corsi's

New Year's Day Buffet

Reservations suggested

Featuring:

- Homemade Soups
- Salad Bar with Fresh Fruit
- 3 Homemade Pastas
- 3 Meats
- Vegetable
- Homemade Garlic Rolls • Bread
- Dessert Table

Served 2 - 6:30 p.m.

Groups Welcome — Cocktails Available

531-4960

Adults 19.95
Under 10 Years 13.95
Seniors 15.95

"Wednesday Buffet"
Served 4:30-8:30 pm
Adult Under 10 Years Seniors
16.95 13.95 15.95

* We cater to all areas.
7 Mile between Inkster & Middlebelt
Livonia

The American Inn

...leave the experience of GREEK DINING at one of the only Greek restaurants in the suburban area.
An Angelis Anastasiou restaurant...owner of Dimitri's of Farmington.

FAMILY ATMOSPHERE • FULL LINE OF BEER, WINE, LIQUOR & COCKTAILS

HOMEMADE DAILY SPECIALS

Lunch Dinner
\$3.25-\$5.00 \$5.95-\$7.95

SUNDAY SPECIAL
Complete Family Dinner
12 Noon-10:00 p.m.
Including Soup, Salad, 3rd Course*, Dessert and Coffee, Tea or Soft Drink.

- * Fresh Roast Turkey with Stuffing \$7.95
- * Baked Bone-in Ham with Raisin Sauce \$7.95
- * Roast Leg of Lamb \$8.95
- * Fresh Roast 1/2 Chicken with Stuffing \$8.95

SENIOR CITIZENS
10% DISCOUNT - AFTER 3 P.M.

15800 MIDDLEBELT (Between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.) LIVONIA • 522-5600

Bring in the New Year with US!
New Year's Eve Specials*:

- Prime Rib, au jus \$16.95
- 8 oz. Filet Mignon w/Strimp \$16.95
- Grilled Chicken Breast Peperona w/Strimp \$14.95
- Chicken Lemonine w/Strimp \$12.95
- Fresh Broiled Whitefish \$13.95

OUR SUPER GREEK COMBO \$16.95
2 Lamb Chops, 2 Stuffed Grape Leaves and Spinach Cheese Pie

AND MORE!
*All Dinners include Soup of the Day, Salad, Potatoes, Vegetable, Homemade Rice Pudding or Ice Cream, Coffee, Tea or Soft Drink.
MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!
222-5600

OPEN 7 DAYS!

Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. 12 p.m.-12 a.m.
Sun. 12 p.m.-10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE
11 AM-9 PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE
4 PM-2 AM