# 'Speed Racer Show' races into the Magic Bag Theater

By JOHN MONAGHAN
SPICIAL WAITER
He's more than just a badly animated memory from the late '60a,
"Speed Racer's' cult status, most
alive in TV-sholles age 25-35,
nors into the Magic Bag Theatre
on July 9-10 with three original
lalf-hour episodes compiled by
"Speed" freak derry Beek.
The brainchild of comic book
artist Tatsus Yoshida, Speed and
hs Mach 5 debuted on Japanese
television in April 1967. The 52
episodes, syndicated stateside by
Trans-Lux Productions, went underground in the late '70s when
stricter standards for children's
programming objected to the
show's violence.
Beck, who distributes vintage
and current Japanimation
through California-based Streamline Pictures, tracked down the
original Somm negatives for "The
Speed Racer Show." He notes
the "it's still the same animation
that you see on TV, but it's really
viap and clear and looks like it
was shot yesterday."
"The Car Hater" and the twopart "Race Againat the Mammoth
Car" made it into this compila-

tion because, according to Beck.
"we showed episodes to groups in
L.A. and 'Car Hater' got the best
audience response. It also has an
explanation of all the gimmicks of
the Mach 5."
Special buttons on the steering
wheel enable Speed to leap over
obstacles (with the help of "autojacks") or to engage special "belt
tires" to grip steep terrain at top
special. Rotating sawblades unfold to cut down heavy off-road
brush and trees while a watertight
transparent canopy protects him
from bullets.
"Mammoth Car," perhaps the

transparent canopy protects him from bullets.
"Mammoth Car," perhaps the best-remembered of the original episodes, features mysterious Racer X, the black-clad rival driver who helps Speed out of sticky situations. TV viewers know that he is really Rex Racer, Speed's brother, who left home years ago after orguing with their dad, Pops. The program also unearths: "The Treacherous Pirate." a Colonel Bleep short from 1956. The cartoons, produced in Miami, Fla., were the first made for television in color.

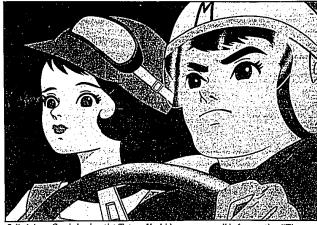
"It's an obscure cartoon show that I really love," says Beck. "So does the creator of 'Ren and Stimpy,' John K, who says It's one of his major Influences in terms of style. It's an offbeat story about a space character with that '50s future look that's so cool and campy now."

Vintage kid commercials appear between cartoons. Rocky and Bullwinkle peddle a long-leat cereal called Sugar Jeta. Casper the Chost lectures about traffic afety, an odd concept according to Beck, because "basically you have this dead kid telling you how to cross the street."

What keeps the "Spood" care

this dead kild telling you now to cross the street."
What keeps the "Speed" car-toons so popular?
"I can't quite figure it out," says Beck. 'I think because it was off the air for such a long time that a lot of kids from that time have fond memories of it today."

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, in a touch tone phone, or write him care of Street Scene, Observer & Eccen-tric Newspapers, 36251 School-craft, Livonia 48150.



Cult status: Comic book artist Tatsuo Yoshida was responsible for creating "The Speed Racer Show" that went from TV cartoon fare to cult status when U.S. initiated stricter standards for children's programming in the '70s.

# Prejudice blocks anti-depressant drug treatment



Barbara, Hello! I would rather

would rather not say my name. I would appreciate it if you could address an issue that's been bothering me. It is anti-depressants and ssion.

source anti-depression.
I am a 28-year-old who has spent my entire life depressed and finally consented to give Zolofe a try, I am also a recovering alcoholic. This is the first time in my life I have experienced any type of happiness, or energy, and it's only after intensive five-year therapy that I came to this conclusion to try anti-depressive medication. People's perceptions of anti-depressants as happy pills people's fears of chemical imbalance and depression really are issues that need to be addressed. The prejudice that they show against something that they don't know because they re afraid of it.
This is something that has probably saved my life and feel very strongly. I would appreciate it if you could address this issue. Please sign me.
No Longer Depressed

Dear Caller,
It is wonderful that you feel
better. Clearly and forcefully,
you report one of the problems
surrounding psychopharmacol-

cause of a lack of knowledge on this aubject, people are proju-diced against it. Sometimes that prejudice interferes with heir healing or with the heal-ing of someone close to them. Your message educates, thereby fastering tolerance and understanding. This combina-tion and psychotherapy which has worked for you also has been effective in treating many depressions.

has worked for you also nas been effective in treating many depressions. For readers who may not be familiar with the medication, Zoloft is a derivative of Prozac, both of which are anti-depressant medications. Since 1987, when Prozac was approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it has been prescribed to at least four million people in the United States and another four million people in the United States and another four million people proposed to the state of the proposed for the proposed for the proposed for the proposed disorders, fairly and rationally, is "Listening to Prozac," by Dr. Peter Kramer.

Thank you for taking the time to give others hope.

Barbara

If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it of Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 4810 You can also leave a message by calling 953-2047, mailbox 1877, on a Touch-Tone phone.

### **SCREEN SCENE**

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters throughout metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

MAPLE THEATER

E MAPLE THEATER

4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield
Hills. Call 855-9090 for show
times. (\$5.75 evenings; \$2.95
willight)

"Much Ado About Nothing"
(USA — 1933). Kenneth Brangh,
the force behind "Henry V." returns to Shakespeare with this
delightful film adaptation of the
popular comedy. Brangh, realilfe wife Emma Thompson, Michael Keaton, Denzel Washington
and Keanu Reeves star.

MICHIGAN THEATER
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call
668-8397 for information and

Keeper: 1)elbert Ward is the murder defendant in the documentary, "Brother's Keeper," at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor July 5-6.

show times. (\$5; \$4 students and senior clitizens)
"Brother's Keeper" (USA — 1992), 7:30 p.m. July 5-5. This fascinating documentary focuses on New York dairy farmers whose lives are changed forever when one is accused of the bizarre murder of another. "Map of the Human Heart" (USA — 1993), July \$-10 (call for show times). Vincent Ward's ("The Navigator") epic story of an Inuit man and a French Canadian woman caught up in conflicting forces of love and warfare before, during and after World War II. "Fellint's Intervista" (Italy — 1989), July 7-13 (call for show times). This autobiographical "documentary" by Federice Fellini takes the viewer on a magical mystery tour of Cinceitta, the

Roman movie studio where he made the great films of his career.

MAGIC BAG THEATER

■ MAGIC BAO THEATER
22918 Woodward (at Nine Mile),
Ferndale. Call 544-3030 for information. (\$5)
"The Speed Racer Show"
(1967-1968), 7, 9 and 11 p.m. July
9-10. The animated Japanese action hero arrives in the original
TV episodes "The Car Hater"
and the two-part "Race Against
the Mammoth Car." Vintage toy
commercials and a Colonel Bleep
short will also be screened.

REDFORD THEATER

■ REDFORD THEATER
17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call 5372560 for information. (\$2.50)
 "Topper" (USA — 1937), 8 p.m.
July 9-10; 2 p.m. July 10 (organ
overture begins a half hour before
show time). Cary Grant and Constance Bennett play dead socialities who playfully haunt their
atodgy barnker friend Cosmo
Topper (Roland Young). The goofy premise spawned sequals and a
television series in the 50s.

STATE THEATER

2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call 961-5450 for information. (\$1.89) "Up in Smoke" (USA — 1978), 9 p.m. July 5. Cheech and Chong's first movie, about their endless search for "good grass," is also arguably their funniest.

■ TOP OF THE PARK
Shown atop the parking structure across from the Power Center, 121
Fletcher, Ann Arbor. All films be-

gin at dusk (around 10 p.m.) and are usually accompanied by a short. Call 747-2278 for Information. (Free)
July 6: "Allen" (USA — 1979).
Ridley Scott's epic about an unwelcome spaceship stow-away who meets its match in two-fisted Sigourney "Brayan. Call" (USA — 1979).
July 8: "Allen" (USA — 1979).
His subject of the stown of a naive young woman in the summer of 1963 who comes of age with dance instructor hunk Patrick Swayze.
July 7: "Roman Holiday" (USA — 1953). Addrey Hepburn plays a princess on an unofficial visit to Rome who slips away incognito and falls in love with newspaper man Gregory Peck.
July 11: "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (USA — 1954).
When the seventh brother comes home with a wife, the other sir decide it's time to get hitched in this MGM musical.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

What to watch for in Street

E Christina Fuoco's interview with local group Verve Pipe. E Linda Chomin's latest installment of Art on the Edge. E John Monaghan's look at the alternative movie scene. Extrect Sense by Barbara Schiff.

Warp Factor Karlos Barney



"Bart, you're gonna die, and you're gonna die





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