# *Is that mother* who gave son 'Playboy' daft?



Dear Readers,
The high
number of responses to the
mother of the
12-year-old

boy who wants a subwants a sub-scription to "Playboy" magazine reveals the pervasiveness of this issue of this issue in our culture.

of this issue in our culture. Lots of young boys want to look at pictures of naked women and other sexually stimulating photographs. The replies are varied.

Last week's writer warned readers that purnography is responsible for sex crimes. This week, the mother responding reports her individual experience, which is about family dynamics, not pornography.

In the following weeks, more comments will be printed. If you are like me, you will be timpressed by the diversity in individual attitudes they show and by the thoughtfulness exhibited by many.

Barbara

Barbara

Voice Mail Message:

Barbara, I read the message from the mother whose son wants a sub-scription to "Playboy." Some years ago I had a similar expe-rience but with a different twist.

twist.

One of my sons is now 16.
When he was 11 or 12, he also wanted to keep "Playhoy' in the house. Like the mother who called you, I tried logically to reason out the best decision. I know now that I wasn't thinking about the situation clearly.

clearly.

In my case, the appropriateness of the material was only a diversion from the real issue, which was, and is, my son's manipulation of his father, his siblings, his friends and me. For my son, disagreements are important hecause they bring the opportunity for power. If he can make others do what he wants them to do, then he wins, and, I want to add, then

he thinks he is smarter than the rest of us.

My son is difficult to roise. The issue about "Playboy" was just another in a long list of overt and covert power struggles. My son argued about his bedtime, the food he ate, the time he left for the bus and most other responsibilities. I should have known at the time that sexy magazines were another battlefield in the some old fight of who's the boss. Unfortunately, it took until my son got older for me to see the light.

Maybe your caller's son is not like my son. But, because I struggle with this problem, I wanted to warn this mom to beware.

Dear Caller,
Thank you for taking the time and trouble to share your experience, which will be helpful to many. Without wanting to place any additional burden on your generous nature, I would like to ask you what happened that made it possible for you to see "the light." Many could profit from that experience as well.

Many could profit from that experience as well.

I also wish, for myself and for the readers of this column, that I knew how, once you saw the light, your behavior toward your son changed and whether you could stop his manipulation of you.

The problem you describe is not an uncommon one, even

not an uncommon one, even though it is often difficult for parents to recognize. It is natural to want to think the best of our children. You deserve credit for confronting this difficult problem rather than running away from it.

If you have a question or a comment for Barbura Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251. Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. You can also leave a message by calling (313) 953-2047, mail box 1877, on a touch-tone nhame.

### Review from page 6A

Between pieces, Music Director Marcus Roberts spoke of the background of the music and the history of jazz.

One of the highlights of the night was a featured solo by Jon Faddis, whom Roberts cooly christened "the best trumpet player in the world."

More outstanding solos came on the Charles Mingus chart "Boogie Stop Shuffle" (don't look in the program for it, they even

Listened to an album or went to a concert that you'd like to com-ment on? Send your comments to: Reader Reviews, Street Seene, Ob-server & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schooleraft, Livonia 48150. You can also fax your review to (313) 591-7279.

Found day care right away Julia Paillon received 35 calls for her Observer & Eccentric Classified day care ad and called her response "Great" Join Julia Paillon in discovering how great it is to

Reach Michigan's Finest Suburban Market

improvised the set list) as young lion Joshua Redman took his

lion Joshua accommodistance long-awaited turn.
And the tradition rolls on.
— James Hofer

# Weddings, funeral made for comedy

He forgot the ring. Searching clumsily through the vest pocket of his tuxedo, Charlie, the flustered best man at a fancy church wedding, gives a pleading look to his friends in the congre-

tion. The solution to this and other

gation.

The solution to this and other comic dilemmas makes up "Four Weddings and a Funcal," a quaint English comedy that opens next weekend at the AMC Maple in Bloomfield Township.

After all, there's nothing like a wedding to stir audience recognition. Just show last minute doubts by the groom, a horrlibe wedding band and drunken guests at the reception and you've got movie-goers more or less hooked.

Mike Newell realizes this in spades. The less-than-aubit writer/director of the popular "Enchanted April" presents not one, but a quarter of weddings and a funeral. The laughs-to-tears ratio is more or less hinted at in

MOVIES

Hugh Grant isn't a familiar name, but chances are you'll recognize the handsome young actor from the Merchant/Ivory productions of 'Maurice' and 'Remains of the Day.' He plays Charles, a confirmed backelor who points out during the wedding toast that he admires anyone who can commit for life.

Enter Carrie (Andie Mac-Dowell), a sophisticated and beautiful Mareitan who successfully seduces the attentive Charles. The next morning, however, she's back to the States, and it's not until another wedding months later that they meet again. This time she brings a finance.

In her carlier movies, model.

fiancee.

In her carlier movies, model-turned-actress Andie MacDowell has done a competent job as a woman reacting to bizarre events taking place around her. As the movie's self-assured and sexy ca-

talyst, she only proves that while she's still attractive to look at, her acting remains clumsy and stiff.

She's got plenty of competition in the memorable supporting cast, especially Charlotte Coleman as Charles' bohemian roommate Scarlett. James Fleet plays the clumsy-but-rich Tom, part of the tight-kinki group of friends who attend countless weddings while never getting even close to the altar themselves.

In one of the funniest situations, Charles gets scated at a table populated by former girlfriends. "The only thing worse would be seeing Henrietta," he soys to a friend, only to have the emotional "ex" pop in, anxious to hash out with Charles what went wrong in their fizzled relationship.

While some of the gags misfire.

wrong in their lizzled relation-ship.
While some of the gags misfire,
"Four Weddings and a Funeral" hums along to a satisfying conclu-sion. An engaging cast and liberal doses of British humor make this much funnier than the usual wed-ding comedy cranked out by Hol-

lywood.
On another note, the Oscar ceremony is tonight and, as much as I try to ignore the spectacle, I'll be, there watching every outrageous evening dress and each windy acceptance speech.
There a also a better-than-usual chance that I'll actually come close with my Oscar picks, so here roses:

close with my Uscar picks, so hers goes:
Best Picture, "Schindler's List;" Best Director, Steven-Spielberg for "Schindler's List-Best Actor, Tom Hanks for "Phil-adelphia;" Best Actress, Holly flunter for "The Plano;" Best Supporting Actress, Rosie Perge for "Fearless;" Best Supporting Actor, Tommy Lee Jones for "The Fugitive," and Best Foreign Film, "Forewell My Concubine."

If you have a comment for John Managhan, call him at 953-2047, mailbox 1866, on a Touch-Tone telephone, or write to him care of Street Scene, Observer & Eccar-tric Newspapers, 36251 School-craft, Livonia 48150.

#### **SCREEN SCENE**

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

IS DETROIT FILM THEATRE Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information.

wondward ave., performation.
(35)
"Belle Epoque (The Age of Beauty)" (Spain — 1992), 7 and 9:30 p.m. March 25-26; 4 and 7 p.m. March 27. In the spring of 1931, with Spain seemingly on the verge of a magical new era, a young army deserter tests the limits of a reclusive friend's liberal philosophy by pursuing all four of the old man's beautiful daughters. This elever comedy, nomated for Best Foreign Film Oscar, plays for two weekends.

car, prays for two weekends.

MINOTEK
Capital Theatre and Arts Centre,
121 University, Windsor. Call
(519) 971-5106 for information.
(34.50)
"Sans Soleil" (France — 1982),
9 p.m. March 26-28. Director
Chris Marker experiments with
the subjective experience of time
and invalidity of memory in this
experimental film. Meticulously
chosen images come from around
the globe — Japan, Africa, Ice
land, San Francisco — for an experience somewhere between head
trip and travelogue.

MAGIC BAG THEATER
22918 Woodward, Ferndale, Call
(810) 544-3030 for information.

(810) 544-3030 tor information.

(\$4)

"Slocker" (USA — 1990), 9

p.m. March 24. Austin, Texas, is
the setting for this innovative debut film from Richard Linklater
("Dazed and Confused"), where
the camera might follow one character for awhile then pick up on
another that passes by.

MAIN ART THEATER
118 N. Main St. at 11 Mile, Royal
Oak, Films play through at least
Thursday, Call (810) 542-0180 for
information and show times.
(\$6.50; \$4 students; \$3 twilight/

matinee)
"The Scent of Green Papaya"
(Vietnam — 1993). This Cin-

derella story about a Vietnamese servant girl in 1950s Saigon has been nominated for a Beat Foreign Film Oscar.

"Schindler's List" (USA — 1993). Steven Spielberg may finally get his Academy Award for this story of Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), a war profiteer and Nazi crony who saved the lives of more than 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

"Six Degrees of Separation" (USA — 1994). Based on John Guarés award-winning play, a savry young man (Will Smith) posos as Sidney Politier's son to cajole his way into the home of a Fifth Avenue couple (Donald Sutherland and Stockard Channing).

ing).
"A Streetcar Named Desire"
(USA — 1951). Elia Kazan's stillstunning version of Tennessee Williams' most famous play ar-rives with four additional minutes intact. Although the changes aren't as earth-shattering as the

McCarthy-era censors would have liked you to believe, it's still a treat to see the young Marlon Brando on the big screen.

Brands on the big screen.

MAPLE THEATER

4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield.
Call (810) 855-9999 for information. (85.75; 8.95 mattners 22.95
twillight)
"Sirens" (Britain — 1993).
John Dulgan ("Flirting") directs
this story of a young Englishwomen's sexual awakening when she
visits the eccentric and bohemlan
household of a controversial
painter. Sam Nelli, Tara Fitzgerald and Hugh Grant star.
"In the Name of the Father"
(Britain — 1994). In this true sto-

ry, Daniel Day-Lewis plays on Ir-ishman falsely accused of bomb-ing a pub near London in 1975. The brilliant story of miscarriage of justice is co-written and direct-ed by Jim Sheridon, who teamed with Day-Lewis on "My Left Foot."

"Warrior Marks" (USA — 1993), 7 p.m. March 27. Author Alice Walker and filmmaker Rati-bha Parmar help to unlock some of the cultural and political com-plexities surrounding women's is-sues. A Ladies Film Society pres-entation. (Tickets \$8 this show early)

"Schindler's List." See Main Art Theatre listing.









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Riverwalk Gardens by 23 garden created by members of the Metropolitan Detroit