There may be more to his preoccupation

G

Voice Mail Message: Barbara, My 6-year-old son has a old son has a thing about Santa Claus. He talks about him and what he will bring for Christmas all

BARBARA the time.
SCHIFF Should I be worried about this? My son never stopped talking about Santa after last Christmas up to the present

time.
When do you think children should stop believing in Santa Claus? Do you think there is something wrong with my son?

Dear Caller,
You ask three questions:
Should I wory about my son;
when abould children stop believing in Seata Claus, and is
something wrong with my son?
The second question is the
easiest to answer. It is appropriate to believe in Santa until
about age 8. The answers to
the other questions are more
complicated.

In it understandable that

the other questions are more complicated. Is it understandable that you are worried. When a child is preoccupied, it is natural for a parent to wonder about it. The thing for you to do is to find out more about the meaning behind your son's extreme attention to Santa. Engage him in conversation about was attention to Santa means to him. There are any number of possibilities of meanings this myth might have for him. Let me give you two examples:

(810) 689-8194

Friday, Aug. 28

Speakenry, 314 City, (blues) (313) 425-7373

(country) (313) 285-6615

(50.00) (810) 334-7411

rodk) (3 i 3) 996-2747

(3) 2) 1864-9441 CALLA EDGE or load of

NU IMPPIKA Imate Sports B (810) 253-1300

ROBA SECURITISE
With John Michael Montgomery and John
Enghall at The Pelace of Autom Hills, 1-75
and Lepser Ross, Autourn Hills, (country)
(810) 377-0100

PRANK ALLEGON AND THE GOD SOX Bitnd Ptg. 208-208 S. First St., Ann Art (guirty sharmstrie rock) (313) 996-8555

CLRIT MACK Micrigan State Fair, 1120 State Fair & Woodward Avenue, Detroit, (country) (313) 309-8250

(STI) 300-0200 BELEBERT DOC Frock's, 7935 West Maple Road, West Bloomfald, (Dues) (STO) 674-7200 GUINERAS, CLISTERSPERE With Demives of Bouls at Griff a Griff, 49 N. (STO) 334-9292

EYBOY Skeesy, 31410 Ford Road, G

NOT POSTER PURSET PIE With Cutrageous Cherry at Alvin's, 5756 Cass Ave., Detroit. (attemapop) (313) 832-2355

THE PRESENTE SECS.
With Log and Mark Christopher at Fin-ney's Pub, 3965 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (213) 831-8070

THE SET US Ted's Pub, 38 S, Main SL, Cl (Diues) -(810) 435-4755

SEGARTOSTS
With Mutha's Day Dut and Godspeed at Herpo's, 14238 Herper, Detroit, (rock) (313) 824-1700
SEX CERCS PRANT
With Gless Calo at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congless, Detroit, (elternetive rock) (213) 967-MELT

'TRES
Free Spirit's Classic Rock Cale, 2330
Telegraph, Brownstown, (rock)
(315) 662-FREE

Saturday, Aug. 27
THE PRETTY COURTS
Impound, 17320 Herper, Detroit. (alte

In concert from page A8

It is possible that your son is fearful in ways he is not telling you. He may be focused on Santa in the same way one might carry a rabbit's foot. Or of the things that the Santa myth teaches is that there is someone watching over us who myth teaches is that there is someone watching over us who is both good and powerful. Your son may be focusing on that aspect because it calms him. It makes him believe the world is a safe place.

Another possibility is that your son is worried about getting presents. Perhaps he thinks others received more presents than he did last year, and he is figuring out a way to see more part year. get more next year.

In general, educators think that fantasies are essential to a child's development. Children need heroic, mythical figures to inspire them. For example, Santa Claus helps to teach

Santa Claus helps to tester generosity.

Kids who have active fantasy lives are often creative problem solvers when they are adulta. The fantasy of Santa Claus would be very positive without the proccupation.

I hope you will share what you learn from your son with our readers. It will be a learn-ing experience for all of us.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, at trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraff, Liuonia 48150. You can also leave a message by calling 983-2047, mail box 1877, on a touch-tone phone.

hold a record release party for her solo debut "Lest Will & Testement" at Planet Ant Coffeehouse, 2945 Caniff, Ham-tramck. (313) 965-4948

THE EYERY SECS.
With Kits Kristofferson at Meedow Brook
Music Festival on Caldand University
campus, Welton Boulevard and Adams
Read, Rechester, (pop/country)
(810) 377-0100

ELUDBURT Doc Frock's, 7935 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. (Chues) (810) 624-7200

(010) 0.447,200 ANOTHER PLANET With The Civilians at Grif's Gris, 49 N. Sagnaw, Pontiec. (attemptive rock) (810) 334-9292

E188 SCIELLENG End Pg. 205-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (attemptive rock) (313) 996-8555

NOMETROY Speakagey, 31410 Ford Road, Gord City, (blues) (313) 425-7373

BERLANGATCHERIES BENEAPIT
With Richard Cyr. Rick Shelley, Four
Hands, the Wayne Gerard Group, and Surrogete Earth at Alvin, 5.756 Cass Ave.,
Detroit, Hosted by WDET's Kim Hunter.

IntAb MURRY
With Ion's Escort at Finney's Pub, 3965
Woodward Ave., Detroit, (atternative rock)
(313) 831-8070

THE B OF US Ted's Pub. 38 S. Main St., Clare siues) 9101435-4755

0006 SLUE 0 CND, 29 S. Segnew St., Pontlec. blues) 810) 334-7411

powery CARN With The Jaylawics at State Theelrs, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (country)

THE STRAIGHT AND BASED Fernisch High School countyerd, 881 Pr-neonest, Fernisch, Beneitz Kids Dreem (3coose) Feed, (sounty) (810) 548-3380

(variety) (313) 832-2355

(country)

THE STRAIGHT-UP BANG Barney's Bar, SOS Bid

Sunday, Aug. 28

roots rock) (313) 961-5451

ship. (rock) (810) 377-0100

Elliott's 'Priscilla' only seldom drags

By John Monaghan
Bygala Warras
Priscilla is the lavender-colored, Greyhound-sized bus that
transports a trio of femile impersonators to their latest gig. The
desert is the seemingly endiess
expanse that leads from Sydney
to their final destination: a resort
in the dead center of Australia.

Not surprisingly, the bus
breaks down, forcing them to
rebearse their act, elaborate lipsynched songs by Donna Summer
and Abba, at rough-and-tumble
outback pubs. Audience members
sobre enough to realize what's
happening either want to fail
asleep or beat them up.

Because of this, "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the
Desert," starting this week at the
Maple Theatre, could have been a
one-joke movie. Fortunately, it's
livened up by credible performances, wickodly catty humor
and musical numbers so campy
even Busby Berkeley wouldn't
own up to them.

MOVIES

Respected British actor Terence Stamp plays Bernadette, oldast of the trio, urged into the cross-country tour after the death of a significant other. A truly class act, he was once a leading member of a ploneering drag group, longer ago than he cares to remembers.

remember.

Mitzi (Hugo Weaving), organizer of the group, has failed to tell
the others that he was once married, in fact, still is. It's for the

ried, in fact, still is. It's for the wife, who manages the Alice Springs resort and whom he hand seem for more than five years, that he makes the journey.

Once he finds out, the anotty Pelicia (Guy Pearce) doesn't let up on the embarrassing personal questions. At least it provides a break for Bernadette, who is constantly badgered about his age. Pelicia goes for reactions and on the confines of the bus, it's not too difficult.

The jokes in "Priscilla" range from subtle saids to silly sight ages. And while the movie stays lighthearted, the world of homophobia does sink in Felicia is pummled after successfully picking up a local. Other residents, who seemed bored by their performance, apray paint an AIDS-related obscenity on the bus.

AIDS-related obscenity on the bus.

After performing for what seems like the whole of the Australian outback (including a group of Aborigines who like them quite fine), the boys finally arrive at the resort. Until now, we've only had a peek at their featherand-rhinestone-edged costumes, which, along with makeup kits, take up at least half the bus space.

Writer/director Stephan Elliott knows that part of the fun of Hol-lywood musicals is watching im-possible coatume changes on stage. He goes nuts in the climac-tic number, an enjoyably tacky

musicals.

The cast and crew on "Priettle is" made essentially the same voyage as the characters, camping out in remote areas during the 1,300-mile trip. The appearant camaraderie and improvisational pilit has paid off in an enjoyably offbeat, if slight, comedy import.

offbeat, if slight, comedy import.
Consider this just a taste of
gender-bending at the mortes in
September, the documentaries
"The Queen" and "Split" play
the Detroit Film Theatr's new
Monday series. Tim Burton's "Ed
Wood, "about the 1950e most femous cross-dressing director, arrives in October. Dress appropriately.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 963-2047 mailbox 1866, on a touch-tone phone, or write to him care Street Scene, Observer & Ecen-tric Newspapers, 36251 School tric Newspapers, 36251 craft, Livonia, MI 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

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

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

(\$5)
"The Blue Kite" (China -1993), 7 and 9:30 p.m. Aug. 26-27; 4 and 7 p.m. Aug 28. Banned at home despite acclaim abroad, this tale charts a family torn apart by the turmoil of 1950s and '60s Chi-

na.

"High Lonesome: The Story of
Bluegrass Music" (USA — 1993),
7 p.m. Aug. 22. According to the
filmmaker Rachel Liebling, you
don't need to love bluegrass to enjoy her spirited documentary.

HART PLAZA PYRAMID THEATER Downtown Detroit near the river-front. Outdoor screenings of black-related films begin at duak, following live music at 8 p.m. Cali (313) 224-1194 for more informa-tion (Erea)

tion. (Free)
"La Negro Angustias" (South
Africa — 1988), at dusk, Aug. 25.
A rarely seen film that tells the
story of a black woman who
served in Pancho Villa's revolutionary army.

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

24 students and matther, so twilight)
"Grief" (USA — 1994), through Aug. 25. This sensitive look at the relationships between straight and gay men and women is act be-hind the scenes at a sleary day-time TV series. It centers on a tal-

"Spanking the Monkey" (USA — 1994). When a college student is forced to care for his sick mother over summer vacation, he ends up sleeping with her. The offbeat first film by David O. Russell goes beyond its Oedipal story for a portrait of life back home after you've had a taste of

the world.

MAPLE THEATER
4135 W. Maple, Bloomfield. All titles play through at least next Thursday. Call (610) 885-9909 for information. (46; \$2.95 twilight)
"Eat Drink Man Woman"
(USA/Thailand — 1994). A comedy from the director of "The Wedding Banquet," about food, fatherhood and family ties. A famous chef mysteriously loses his sense of taste, but with three daughters, that's the least of his troubles.

III MICHIGAN THEATER

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, Cali (313) 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citi-That's Entertainment III'

(USA — 1994), Aug. 19-25 (call for show times). Yet another com-pilation of famous MGM musical pilation of tamous MGM musicas numbers and recent interviews. Cyd Charisse, Lens Home, June Allyson, Gene Kelly, Debbis Rey-nolds and Mickey Rooney provide often insightful recollections. "Eat Drink Man Woman" (USA/Thailand — 1994), Aug. 26.31. (See Maple Thester list-ing.)

26-31. (See Maple I heater ins.)
"Willy Wonka and the Choco-late Factory" (USA — 1971), 4:20 p.m. Aug. 27, 3:20 p.m. Aug. 28. Gene Wilder takes kids on a guid-ed tour in this delightfully perverse children's fantasy script-ed by Roald Dahl.

REDFORD THEATER
17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call (313)
537-2560 for information. (\$3.50)

"The Thin Man" (USA—
1934) and "After the Thin Man"
(USA—1935), 8 p.m. Aug. 26; 2
and 8 p.m. Aug. 27 (organ overture begins a half hour before
show time). William Powell and
Myrna Loy in their best-loved
turns as the busband-and-wife
sleuthing team. The first of the

sleuthing team. The first of the series, based on a Dashiell Hammett mystery novel, finds a re-tired detective taking one last

case. "After" features a young a tor named James Stewart as a SUSPECT.

STATE THEATER

2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit... Call (313) 961-5450 for informa-

tion. (31)
"Scent of a Woman" (USA—
1992), 9 p.m. Aug. 22. Al Pacino
plays a blind man who teaches
Chria O'Donnell plenty about life

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT



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To enter to win, just send your name, address and phone number on a postcard to SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE PO. Box 1069

Birmingham, MI 48012 Correlments of Chaerver & Recentric All entries must be received by Friday, August 26 to be eligible to will.
Employees of 0 6 E, Touths and Friday and MEA. Advertising are not eligible to with.

Finney's

door prizes and give-aways. In celebration of the ann sary, a few area musicians reflect-ed on their gigs at the Woodward

sany, a few area musicians reflected on their gips at the Woodward Aranus pub.

Alex Porte, whose now-defunct funk/rock band Tick Wessel became a Finney's favorite, was always drawn to the club's "intimate settling." The room where the bands play is so small that many patrons at indian-style on the floor up against the stage.

"The people are ther are down to earth" said Porbe who now works as an industrial artist. "It's kind of a casual stmosphere because it's such a small and intimate setting. There's always the drawback because it's too loud for such a small room, at least in the bands I've played in It would be nice if it was bigger, but that's the charm to it.

Rich Thompson, lead singer for the alternative rock band Fiction, sgreed.

"It's kind of musint it's ame!"

asid.
Finney's is in a not-so-great
neighborhood near Detroit's oulburnel omiser. It's had an average
number of bad incidents, but
neary of them had a silver lining.
The beavy silternative rock band
Transparent Red met a die-bard
fan in the alley bahind the cluwhile police were responding
rather aggressively to a tripped

burglar slarm.

"All these cops showed up and jumped out of their cars. They had their doors open, their guns drawn and their windows down. We were watching that when this little skinny homeless guy starts going. I know you. You're bad,"

Brown sald.

The man had boosted a band member to the top of the PA system during a previous Transparent Red show at the State Thestre in Detroit.

"Ha tatally memorphesed."

"He totally remembered us."
While Finney's was responsible for launching the careers of many bands, it ended a few as well. The seat-side band The Jamersons called it quits after having a less-than-desired turnout for its show. (The other band on the bill didn't seen show ut.) m show up.)

even show up.)

"The last show we did went so poorly that we decided we had to break up because it happened at the very beacon of punk rock in Detroit," said Steve Kaminaki, a former Jamerson who plays beas for The Pretty Green.

"That beacon, Tick Weasel's Portee said, is a positive part of Detroit's music scene.

"Sue Summers is doing something really good for Detroit with Finney's," he said.

Finney's Pub is at 3965 Wood-ward Ave., near the Wayne State University compus, Detroit. Those aged 21 and older are admitted. For more information, call (313) 831-8070.

TARYA TUCKER
Michigen State Fair, 1120 State Feir at
Woodward Avenue, Detroit. (country)
(313) 369-8250 oversical. Oversical. With Pro-Pein at Harpo's, 14238 Harper, Detroit, metal) (313) 824-1700 STANDARY TAYLOR
With Tyrone Davis and the Persu
Chane Park, Detroit. (R&E/sout)
(313) 393-0292

agreed.
"It's kind of quaint; it's small

"It's kind of quant; it's smail and everything's up close and per-sonal. There's a history of bands that have come and gone written all over the wall next to the stage. It's next that it has a history," he

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

