OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas
Bargain matinee daily plus $3.25 (Twi-Lite) show daily

Canton 6
Ford Rd., 1 Mi west of I-275
(313)981-1900
Advanced same-day tickets available
*Denotes VIP restrictions

GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
1:00, (4:00 @ $3.50) 7:00, 9:50
THE RAINMAKER (PG13)
9:45
AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R)
2:25, (4:50 @ $3.50) 7:20, 9:50
TITANIC (PG13)
1:00 (5:00 @ $3.50) 9:50
SCREAM 2 (R)
2:30 (5:05 @ $3.50) 7:35, 10:00
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
2:30 (5:00 @ $3.50) 7:30, 10:00
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
2:15 (4:40 @ $3.50) 7:15

Novi Town Center 8
Novi Rd. South of I-96
(810)344-0077
Advance same-day tickets available

GIFT BOOKS NOW ON SALE

TITANIC (PG13)
12:00, 1:00 (4:00 & 5:00 @ $3.50) 8:00, 9:15
HOME ALONE III (PG)
2:30 (5:00 @ $3.50) 7:30
JACKIE BROWN (R)
3:15, 6:30, 9:45
FOR RICHER OR POORER (R)
7:30, 10:00
ANASTASIA (G)
10:00
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
1:00 (4:00 @ $3.50) 7:00, 10:00
*FLUBBER (PG)
2:30 (4:45 @ $3.50) 7:40
POSTMAN (R)
1:15 (5:30 @ $3.50) 9:30
AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R)
2:30 (4:50 @ $3.50) 7:10, 9:40

Keego Twin Cinema
Orchard Lake Rd at Cass Lake Rd.
682-1900
Sat. & Sun. only All Seats $1.50 before 6 pm; $2.50 after

THE LITTLE MERMAID (G)
SUN 1:00, 3:00, 5:00
THURS 1:00, 3:00, 5:00
AIR FORCE ONE (R)
SUN 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45
MON-TUE 7:15, 9:45; WED. 7:15
THUR 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45
THE RAINMAKER (PG13)
SUN-TUE. 6:50, 9:30; WED. 6:50; THUR. 6:50, 9:30

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
810-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

JACKIE BROWN (R)
12:20, 3:50, 4:00, 6:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00
MR. MAGOO (PG)
10:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
AMERICAN WEREWOLF (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
POSTMAN (R)
12:15, 3:30, 9:00
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
TITANIC (PG13)
12:30, 4:30, 8:15
TITANIC (PG13)
2:15, 7:15
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
10:10, 3:50, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30, 10:15
MOUSE HUNT (PG)
12:25, 2:30, 4:55, 7:05, 9:10
AMISTAD (R)
1:30, 5:00, 8:30
SCREAM (R)
1:30, 4:20, 8:40, 7:20, 9:20, 9:50
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
12:15, 2:40, 5:05
FLUBBER (PG)
12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 7:00
ANASTASIA (G)
1:45 PM

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily.
All Shows until 6 pm.
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

AMERICAN WEREWOLF (R)
12:40, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
POSTMAN (R)
12:15, 3:40, 9:30
MR. MAGOO (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
1:10, 3:45, 7:15, 9:50
SCREAM (R)
1:30, 4:00, 7:20, 9:20, 10:10
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
7:05 pm
AMISTAD (R)
12:20, 3:25, 8:30
FLUBBER (PG)
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:40

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph
810-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

MR. MAGOO (PG)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:20
JACKIE BROWN (R)
12:30, 3:45, 6:50, 9:50
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 7:20, 9:10, 9:45
FLUBBER (PG)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
POSTMAN (R)
12:15, 3:30, 9:10

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
810-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

SCREAM (R)
1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 9:55
AMERICAN WEREWOLF (R)
12:50, 3:15, 5:20, 7:40, 10:05
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
TITANIC (PG13)
12:45, 4:30, 8:15
TITANIC (PG13)
3:00, 7:15
MOUSE HUNT (PG)
12:35, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:25
AMISTAD (R)
12:25, 3:25, 8:30, 9:30
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
12:30 PM

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY
THRU THURSDAY

JACKIE BROWN (R)
1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00
MR. MAGOO (PG)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
AMERICAN WEREWOLF (R)
1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
MOUSE HUNT (PG)
1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 8:20, 9:50, 10:30
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
1:00, 3:15, 6:10

Showcase Westland 1-8
6800 Wayne Rd.,
One blk S. of Warren Rd
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

GOOD WILL HUNTING (R)
12:45, 3:50, 6:50, 9:25
POSTMAN (R)
12:15, 3:30, 9:15
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
12:40, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50
TITANIC (PG13)
12:30, 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 8:15
AMISTAD (R)
12:10, 3:25, 8:30,
SCREAM (R)
1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 7:25, 9:30, 10:00
FLUBBER (PG)
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20,

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star John R at 14 Mile
32289 John R. Road
(810) 585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP GOODWILL HUNTING (R)
11:40, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NP POSTMAN (R)
11:00, 2:45, 6:30, 10:10
NO VIP TICKETS
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:25, 9:45, 11:00
TITANIC (PG13)
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MOUSEHUNT (PG)
12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 8:40, 10:50
AMISTAD (R)
11:15, 2:30, 6:15, 9:30
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
1:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20
NO 7:30 1/6; NO 1:00 1/7
FLUBBER (PG)
11:30, 1:45, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
ANASTASIA (G)
10:50, 1:30, 4:15

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
853-2260
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (R)
11:10, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
10:50, 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP THE POSTMAN (R)
1:15, 5:00, 8:45
NO VIP TICKETS
NP JACKIE BROWN (R)
11:20, 2:30, 6:15, 9:30
NO VIP TICKETS
TITANIC (PG13)
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:00, 10:15,
NO VIP TICKETS
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15; 9:50, 10:55,
AMISTAD (R)
11:45, 3:15, 6:30, 9:40,

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern off I-696
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP WAG THE DOG (R)
10:00, 12:20, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP THE POSTMAN (R)
10:30, 2:45, 6:40, 10:25
NO VIP TICKETS
NP JACKIE BROWN (R)
11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R)
10:40, 1:20, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NP DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (R)
11:15, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10
NO VIP TICKETS
NP MR. MAGOO (PG)
10:00, 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
NO VIP TICKETS
NP GOODWILL HUNTING (R)
11:40, 2:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:50, 8:45, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
10:20, 1:45, 1:30, 3:20, 4:20, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30, 10:20
NO VIP TICKETS
NP TITANIC (PG13)
10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:15
NO VIP TICKETS
NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
10:15, 12:45, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:15, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP MOUSEHUNT (PG)
10:45, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
AMISTAD (PG)
10:30, 1:10, 2:40, 4:45, 6:30, 8:10, 10:00
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
10:00 am ONLY
SCREAM 2 (R)
10:00, 12:40, 3:20, 6:10, 8:50
HOME ALONE 3 (PG)
11:00, 1:20, 3:40
FLUBBER (PG)
11:20, 1:30, 4:45, 7:00

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd.
Winchester Mall
(810) 656-1160
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP MR. MAGOO (PG)
11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:50
NO VIP TICKETS
NP AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R)
11:30, 2:10, 4:20, 6:40, 9:20
NO VIP TICKETS
SCREAM 2 (R)
11:10, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
12:45, 3:15, 6:10, 9:00
MOUSEHUNT (PG)
12:15, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
HOME ALONE 3 (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00
FLUBBER (PG)
11:15, 1:15, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
ANASTASIA (G)
1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:20
LA CONFIDENTIAL (R)
8:15 PM ONLY
RAINMAKER (PG13)
8:40 PM ONLY

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted

United Artists Fairlane
Fairlane Town Center
Valet Parking Available
313-593-4790
ALL TIMES FOR SUN-THURS.
BARGAIN MATINEES DAILY FOR ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 6 PM.
SAME DAY ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (R) NV
12:15, 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
JACKIE BROWN (R) NV
12:45, 4:30, 8:15 & 1:45, 5:30, 9:15
TITANIC (PG13) NV
11:30, 3:30, 7:30 & 12:00, 4:00, 8:00
MOUSEHUNT (PG)
12:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
HOME ALONE 3 (PG) NV
12:30, 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 9:20
ALIEN RESURRECTION (R)
12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
EVE'S BAYOU (R)
12:50, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
ANASTASIA (G)
12:40, 2:55, 5:05,
THE RAINMAKER (PG13)
7:05, 9:50,

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
810-585-7041
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13) NV
12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30 & 1:00, 4:00, 8:00
MR MAGOO (PG) NV
12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:00, 9:15
SCREAM 2 (R) NV
12:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10 & 1:15, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
810-585-7041
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS.

TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13) NV
11:45, 2:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20,
MOUSEHUNT (PG) NV
12:30, 2:40, 4:40, 7:15, 9:30,
AMISTAD (R) NV
1:00, 4:15, 8:00
SCREAM 2 (R) NV
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:30
MR. MAGOO (PG) NV
12:15, 2:25, 4:30, 6:40, 9:15

United Artists West River
9 Mile,
2 Block West of Middlebelt
810-788-6572
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

TITANIC (PG13) NV
12:00, 4:00, 8:00,
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG) NV
11:50, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 10:05
JACKIE BROWN (R) NV
12:05, 3:30, 7:00, 10:05
AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R) NV
12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35
THE POSTMAN (PG13) NV
12:15, 4:10, 8:15
MOUSEHUNT (PG) NV
12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25;
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13) NV
8:15, 10:30
FLUBBER (PG)
12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30,
HOME ALONE 3 (PG) NV
11:45, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10
SCREAM 2 (R) NV
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15

Birmingham Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644-FILM
NP Denotes No Pass Engagements
PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE! CALL (248) 644-FILM AND HAVE YOUR VISA, MASTERCARD OR AMERICAN EXPRESS READY. A 75¢ SURCHARGE PER TRANSACTION WILL APPLY TO ALL TELEPHONE SALES

$10, $20 AND $50 GIFT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

NP TITANIC (PG13)
11:00, 2:50, 6:40, 10:30
NP AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
NP JACKIE BROWN (R)
1:20, 4:25, 7:25, 10:30
NP THE POSTMAN (R)
12:50, 4:20, 8:55
NP TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
11:00, 2:45, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
NP MOUSEHUNT (PG)
11:00, 1:25, 5:05, 7:00, 9:50
AMISTAD (R)
11:00, 2:00, 6:55, 10:00
SCREAM 2 (R)
11:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30
HOME ALONE 3 (PG)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:45
FLUBBER (PG)
11:00, 12:50, 4:55, 7:50

MJR THEATRES

$1.00 Ford Tel $1.50
313-561-7200
$1.00 Til 6 pm
After 6 pm $1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center
Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn

Please Call Theatre for Showtimes

AIR FORCE ONE (R)
IN & OUT (PG13)
FAIRY TALE (PG)

No Children under 6 after 6 pm for R & PG13 Rated Films Strongly Recommended

99¢ Livonia Mall
Livonia Mall, Middlebelt at 7 Mile
810-476-8800
ALL SEATS 99¢ ALL SHOWS
FREE Refill on Drinks & Popcorn
HOLIDAY MATINEES

THE LITTLE MERMAID (G)
1:20, 3:20, 5:30
IN AND OUT (PG13)
7:30, 9:30
MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG13)
7:40, 9:40
AIR FORCE ONE (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
FAIRY TALE (PG)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20,

NO CHILDREN UNDER 4 AFTER 6 PM EXCEPT ON G OR PG RATED FILMS

Waterford Cinema 11
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
(810) 666-7900
CALL 77 FILMS #551
Stadium Seating and Digital Sound
Makes for the Best Movie Experience in Oakland County
$3.25 (TWI-LITE) SHOWS DAILY

THE POSTMAN (R)
12:45, (4:20 @ $3.25) 7:50
AS GOOD AS IT GETS (PG13)
1:40, (4:10 @ $3.25) 7:00, 9:45
AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS (R)
12:15, 2:30, 4:40 @ $3.25) 7:40, 9:45
TOMORROW NEVER DIES (PG13)
11:50, 2:20, (4:50 & 4:50 @ $3.25) 7:20, 9:50
MOUSEHUNT (PG)
12:10, 2:15, (4:30 @ $3.25) 7:10, 9:15;
TITANIC (PG13)
12:00, 1:00, (4:00 & 5:00 @ $3.25) 8:00, 9:00,
HOME ALONE 3 (PG)
12:20, 2:40 (5:10 @ $3.25) 7:20, 9:40,
SCREAM 2 (R)
SUN-TUE 12:00, 1:20, 2:30, (5:00 @ $3.25) 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00; WED 12:00, 2:30, (5:00 @ $3.25)
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
12:00, 2:32, (5:00 @ $3.25) 7:30, 10:00
FOR RICHER OR POORER (PG13)
11:45, 2:20, (4:50 @ $3.25) 7:30, 9:35
FLUBBER (PG)
12:30, 2:45, (4:45 @ $3.25) 7:15, 9:20
ANASTASIA (G)
11:40 AM

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

Terrace Cinema
30400 Plymouth Rd
313-261-3330

All Shows $1 Except shows after 6 pm on Friday & Saturday & 75¢ all shows Tuesday.

SUNDAY - THURSDAY
Box Office opens at 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday only

Call Theatre for Features and Times

I.D. required for "R" rated shows

Main Art Theatre III
118 Main at 11 Mile
Royal Oak
248-542-0180
call 77-FILMS ext 542
Phone Orders 2 pm -10 pm call (248) 542-5198
$3.25 (TWI-LITE) SHOWS DAILY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 810-542-0180
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50
THE SWEET HEREAFTER (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
1/8 '98- no 7:00 and last show at 9:45 instead of 9:30
THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (R)
1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

BOOKS

'A Dance in Deep Water' shows insight into state

A Dance in Deep Water
By Doug Allyn
(St. Martin's Press, $22.95)

VICTORIA DIAZ

"The sun was just creeping over the horizon, glowing gold through the forested hills to the east like a distant fire. The woods were damp and dappled with shadows. A perfect day for skullduggery."

Though it's a bit flawed, "A Dance in Deep Water" is a tale worth spending some time with. One of the reasons is this Montrose writer's knowledge of the Wolverine State and its brand of people. Another is his seductive gift for storytelling, his ability to draw a reader into his story, apparent in such passages as the above.

Though labeled "A Mitch Mitchell Mystery" on its front cover, don't open up this book expecting the traditional whodunit, in which a murder occurs early on and a clever somebody tracks down the killer in ensuing pages.

Anticipate, instead, something of who-am-I-and-where-did-I-come-from tale. Some deadly crimes do figure in, but so late in the game that they seem slightly secondary, making the focus of this book a little wishy-washy from start to finish and blunting its ultimate impact.

Michelle "Mitch" Mitchell – single mother, diver, owner of an unpretentious bar on Lake Huron's shore – finds herself in deep water and deep trouble again in this, the third novel in the Mitchell series. (Others were "Black Water" and "Icewater Mansions.")

Much of her trouble stems from the fact that her son, Corey, who is entering adolescence, seems to be turning into one, a stranger and/or, two, his long-gone, heartless father. Mitch isn't sure which is the less-appealing prospect. In a kind of semi-destructive attempt to bond anew with the insular boy, she decides on a short trip together before the summer ends. As the story opens, the two are traversing the wilds of Michigan's Upper Peninsula in Mitch's Jeep Cherokee.

Somewhere between the Lake of the Clouds and the Porcupine Mountains, mother and son turn off the woodsy road and come to a stop before a little curio shop that resembles something out of the Twilight Zone. Inside, an aging artisan works at "a small totem." He is alone except for the strange cross-wolf at his feet, nursing a brood of squirming cross-wolf pups.

"I know you," insists the old man, as he comes forward and begins to take a closer look at Mitch. And, though she is certain she has never once seen him, he will soon prove that he not only knows who she is, but where (and who) she came from. Eventually, he will unravel something deeply disturbing about her past.

He doesn't know everything, however, and reveals only enough to represent a kind of Pandora's box, as yet unopened.

As it turns out, it will be up to Mitch and Corey (with the help of a few devoted pals) to delve into what may or may not be the truth about their "awfully short family tree." We shall see that this will involve some probing beneath surfaces in more ways than one, as crack diver Mitch explores long-deserted mine shafts in the UP, vividly illustrating an extremely harrowing way of conducting genealogical research. (Her resiliency in diving tight spots gets to be downright cartoonish after awhile.)

Above ground, she and her cohorts find themselves entangled with a couple of extremely down-and-dirty, chain wielding bikers and a militia group who call themselves The Third Coasters.

Significant others in the adventure include Red, the big-boned, big-hearted lesbian barkeep who can always be counted on when things get rough for Mitch. Not exactly a beauty ("If Jack Palance had a tough sister, she'd probably look a lot like Red") and certainly "not everyone's cup of tea," she's nevertheless one of the liveliest and most memorable characters in the Mitchell series.

Series regular, Sheriff Charlie Bauer ("a linebacker in his college days at Michigan State"), adds to the action, but the teddy bearish lawman isn't exactly the most riveting character in the world. Though it may be true, as Mitch believes, that "nice guys are ... a rarity," that doesn't necessarily add to their interest as characters in fiction, of course.

Allyn's depiction of a militia group, though not complimentary, does provide some food for thought on how ordinary (extraordinary) citizens find such organizations attractive, and come to make them an integral part of their lives.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia free lance writer who specializes in book and theater reviews. You can reach her by voice mail at 953-2045, then press 1854.

Book spolights regional beers

The Great Lakes Beer Guide (Eastern Region)
By James MacKinnon
(The Boston Mill Press, $14.50)

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

For those who love beer, here's another guide.

James MacKinnon must have been delirious with joy with the recent news that moderate alcohol consumption is healthy for you. (In fact very healthy, as recent research suggests that *moderate* drinkers are 20 percent less likely to have a heart attack).

MacKinnon is quick to argue the health benefits of beer in his book and now he has science to back him up.

The Canadian author loves beer – real beer, beer rich in malts and hops, beer with character. He has equal disdain for the watery, pale yellow, overly bubbly stuff turned out by major breweries (including the national brews Molson and Labatt).

It is MacKinnon's strong views that give his guide book the satisfying body of a fine ale.

MacKinnon offers some interesting perspective on beer and beer culture. He provides essays on the history of beer, the special qualities of beer, the types of beer from pilsner to stout and the finer points of being a beer connoisseur (including a lexicon of words you can use to describe the taste of your beer other than "Yeah, it's pretty good"). Indeed, MacKinnon suggests that it's as easy to be a beer snob as it is to be a wine snob.

After soundly criticizing the major breweries for everything from the poor flavor of their brews to their marketing and distribution practices, MacKinnon launches into the heart of the book – a trip through five states and two provinces (New York, Michigan, Vermont, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Quebec) to sample the brews of several micro-breweries and brew pubs. He provides a five-star rating system, from "A classic, hinting at heaven" to 1/2 star for "Awful. Thoroughly noxious; should not be called beer."

Michigan beers featured include the Traffic Jam's Motor City Brewing Works with a 4-1/2 star rating for the Nut Brown Ale and Duster's Microbrewery which gets four stars for its Imperial Oatmeal stout. Other Michigan brewers listed are the August Brewing Co., Big Buck Brewing, Boyne River Brewing, King Brewing and Traverse City Brewing. Surprisingly, Bell's Brewing out of Kalamazoo and some of the recent brew pubs in Ann Arbor are not listed.

MacKinnon stretches the Great Lakes to include Vermont and Quebec so he can include some beers he truly loves including several brews from Unibroue Incorporated in Quebec which has two five-star beers. MacKinnon describes each beer, and his description of the Blanche de Chambly is especially poetic. He also explains the ingredients of the beers, alcohol content and style.

Some of MacKinnon's views on beer might offend some people. Though he makes a case for promoting responsibility rather than prohibition and argues that beer is a common, legal, family-centered drink for the young everywhere but in North America, he doesn't address the growing problem of excess drinking by teenagers. He is much too flippant about a very real problem. But then, prohibitionists don't address the problem very realistically or helpfully either.

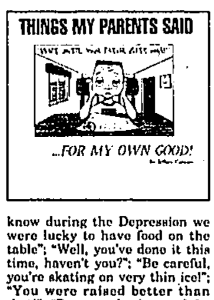
If you're thinking of taking a trip and want to sample some local brews, this is a good place to get the basics and compare your palate with MacKinnon's.

Do these words sound familiar?

Things My Parents Said ... For My Own Good
By Jeffrey Parsons
(Erin Layne Books, $8.95)

Writer Jeffrey Parsons has compiled an amusing compendium of parental bon mots that prove beyond questions that nothing new has been said in generations – centuries – ages.

This tiny book features illustrations by Ken Taylor of a freckle-faced, brush-cut haired young boy as he reacts to the latest admonition from on high. As a parent you'll hear the echo of your own voice in these phrases. As a child or former child you'll hear your parents' voices. Isn't it scarey to realize how alike those voices become over time?



Some examples: "Don't press your luck, mister" (with visions of luck getting ironed); "You know during the Depression we were lucky to have food on the table"; "Well, you've done it this time, haven't you?"; "Be careful, you're skating on very thin ice!"; "You were raised better than that!"; "Because they're good for you, that's why!" (while the young man ponders a plate of broccoli and beets); "Believe me, it's for your own good."

The book contains 160 sayings, pared down from an original list of 400 considerations. And you've probably heard or used everyone of them at one time or another.

Though the author dates these phrases to a simpler time (the '50s), they continue to have currency with parents. Though some parents might harken back to the '60s with a phrase like, "In my day, young people stood for something." The idea is still the same.

The book, published in Bloomfield Hills, is an amusing reminder of how we use language and how we pass language, phrases and a common set of core values from one generation to the next, almost subconciously.