

Matthau Saves 'Varrick'

By JAN WILLIAMS

Movie-goers have certainly been getting their share of blood and guts lately, and "Charley Varrick" is no exception.

But this film does have some good points, and Walter Matthau is one of them.

In the starring role, Matthau manages to keep this film alive. Without him it would've wound up as most of its characters did—dead.

It's the story of a small town cropper—bank robber who accidentally rips off three-quarters of a million dollars in Mafia money.

CHARLEY VARRICK
now showing at
Mai Kai
Rating: PG

Joe Don Baker, of "Walking Tall" fame, is the other good point about the film. As the Mafia hit man, it's his job to retrieve the money.

Through most of the film, it's Baker versus Matthau—brawn against brains. Both play their roles well.

Producer-director Don Siegel, also responsible for "Dirty Harry," probably

won't get any kind of award for this movie.

But he hasn't done a half-bad job, considering the "run-of-the-mill" content.

Personally, I've had it with the mediocre shoot-'em-up Mafia films. What's more, I

think it's a waste for talented actors to spend time making them.

However, if you happen to be hooked on this type of film, don't miss "Charley Varrick." I'd give it a plus in its own category.

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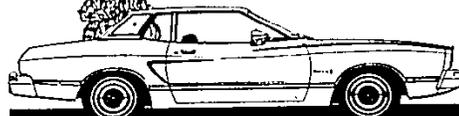
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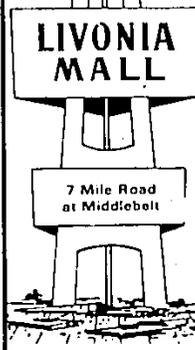


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