

# Loonies on the loose in 'Dream Team'

## FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

In Movie Theaters

**THE DREAM TEAM (PG-13)** This slightly oddball slapstick comedy pits four mental patients against New York City. Not surprisingly, the Big Apple's craziness wins out. The four patients — played by Michael Keaton, Peter Boyle, Christopher Lloyd and Stephen Furst — are on their way to a Yankee game, when their therapist/chaperone (Dennis Boutsikaris) is attacked by some nasties after he witnesses a murder. Left alone, the quartet of patients wanders around the city, getting in one jam after another, while trying to find out what happened to their good doctor.

Directed by Howard Zieff ("Private Benjamin"), the movie depends upon our finding the weirdnesses of the patients both cute and amusing. Insanity here is nothing to take seriously. Instead, the four lead actors keep us entertained with niftily differentiated nut cases. The ever fresh and inventive Michael Keaton makes some-

one when he sings "Hit the Road, Jack" in the van, and another in a black church when he mistakes the congregation's clapping for an exhortation to take off his clothes. (He's an exhibitionist.) Christopher Lloyd does another of his richly deranged characters, and Stephen Furst has a blobby silliness as the fourth crazy.

A subplot about corrupt cops isn't up to the level of invention of the central situation, and there's another problem: Some of the early scenes are noticeably flat, the later ones a trifle sticky. But, as buddy comedies go, this one isn't too bad. **GRADE: ★★½**

**CHECKING OUT (R)** In this absurdist comedy about hypochondria, the gifted English writer and director David Leland tries a movie with an American setting. Though it has its moments, it's not as good as his English films "Wish You Were Here," "Personal Services" and "Mona Lisa."

Jeff Daniels stars as a California airline executive whose joke-telling buddy falls over dead at a pool party. Shocked by his friend's sudden death, Daniels starts to imagine that he's on the verge of dying too. He goes to a psychiatrist, which works — until the shrink dies. Soon he's scouting medical supply stores, and driving his horny wife (Melanie Lynskey) crazy. He even has a hellish vision of heaven where the dead dress in bright resort wear and sing "Dixie."

Leland and scriptwriter Joe Esz-

driacs will probably like it best (it's certainly better than the similar Burt Reynolds flick "The End"). Perhaps the subject is just too limited and un-seemly for wide appeal. **GRADE: ★★½**

## New Home Video

**GORILLAS IN THE MIST (PG-13)** MCA Home Video. Sigourney Weaver had her best full-scale role to date in this film bio of the late Dian Fossey. An anthropologist whose study of gorillas in Rwanda helped to rescue the animals from extinction, Fossey met an untimely death — the victim of a still unsolved murder.

The movie is best when it concentrates on Fossey's interaction with the gorillas. As Weaver plays her, Fossey is openly enraptured by the animals — imitating their movements and sounds, lost in a primeval reverie. But too much of the movie is about other things, including Fossey's aborted love affair with a dashing National Geographic photographer (Brian Brown). It's like leftovers from "Out of Africa." And the movie is short on a sense of the actual research that Fossey did. **GRADE: ★★½**

**CROSSING DELANCEY (PG)** Warner Home Video. Should a marriageable Manhattan Jewish princess (Amy Irving) choose the arrogant, rakish literary lion (Jeroen Krabbe) or the affable downtown pickle man (Peter Riegert)? At its best, this movie is an urban folk tale — a Jewish "Moonstruck." **GRADE: ★★★**

(Film grading: ★★★★★ — excellent, ★★★★ — good, ★★★ — fair, ★ — poor)

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## OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

One that is hunted or made a victim is prey. It's pronounced like pray, which isn't a bad thing for prey to do. Something cut-and-dried appears settled or routine. (That's the cut-and-dried definition, no matter how you slice it.)

Q. I find the use of me and I confusing in "you and I (or me) and the gatepost." Is there a rule for correct usage?

A. Use me in that idiom. Between you and me and the gatepost (or lamp-post) means that the conversation is to be kept secret or confidential. The preposition between requires the object me, not the subject I — let's keep that just between you and me.

Sham refers to something false or counterfeit. You'll have no trouble with sham if you remember that it's the start of shame.

Supersede replaces or sets aside something inferior. The verb contains no c; any misspelling of supersede should be superseded.

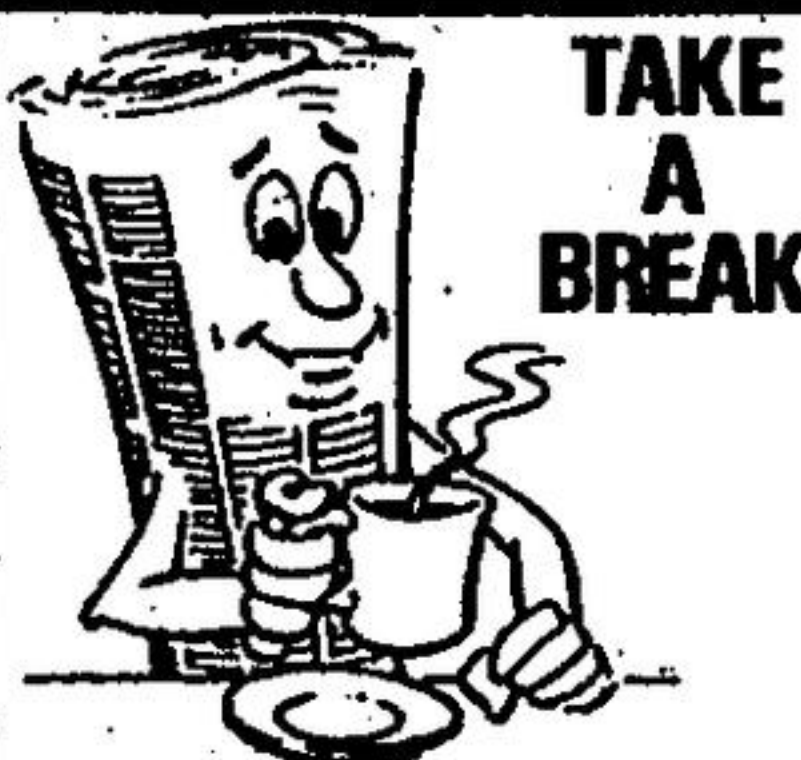
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MICHAEL KEATON and Christopher Lloyd play patients at a psychiatric hospital who end up in jail while in New York City in "The Dream Team."

thing quite plausible out of a manic guy whose refusal to accept reality is alternately a sign of prankish imagination and a mark of antisocial behavior.

Playing a former ad exec who thinks he's Jesus Christ, Peter Boyle has at least two choice moments —

terhas keep their distance from the characters — a risky strategy for audiences weaned on warm identification. Particularly alienating is a protracted sex scene between Daniels and his secretary in a car. Still, the picture has a terrific pop look and bits of macabre humor. Fellow hypochon-

## Peaches pep up pork chops

## FOOD



AILEEN CLAIRE

Canned fruits have come to the rescue of many harried cooks who forgot to buy fresh fruits or did not find suitable fresh ones in the market.

Small-children especially like fruits such as cling peaches at lunchtime.

Use a can of peach halves to dress up and add flavor to a sauce for baked pork chops.

## SOUTHERN PEACH PORK CHOPS

- 1 16-ounce can cling peach halves in juice or extra-light syrup
- 6 pork chops
- Garlic powder
- Lemon pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped shallots or green onions

- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ cup bourbon or apple juice
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup pecan halves

Drain peaches, reserving all liquid. Slice peach halves to form fans; set aside.

In a 10-inch skillet, brown pork chops on both sides. Sprinkle with garlic powder and lemon pepper. Place browned pork chops on baking sheet. Fan peach halves over pork chops. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, or until pork is cooked through.

Meanwhile, drain excess fat from skillet. Stir in shallots; cook until lightly browned. Stir in thyme and reserved peach liquid. Boil for 3 minutes, until reduced and thickened. Stir in bourbon; boil for 3 minutes. Stir in cream and heat through.

Pour sauce onto serving plate. Top with pork chops and sprinkle with pecans to serve. This kitchen-tested recipe makes 6 servings.

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Entertainer
- Leslie
- 7 Showered dish
- 12 Cheese dish
- 13 Actress — Address
- 14 Dely
- 15 Procedure
- 16 Acquire
- 17 Comples point
- 18 Caustic substance
- 21 Long stem
- 23 Guided
- 26 Mrs. Charles Chaplin
- 28 Jewish month
- 29 Flightless bird
- 30 Game played with clubs
- 31 Household appliance
- 33 Hunting guide
- 36 Monster
- 37 Dawn
- 38 the Mood for Love
- 40 Implores

**DOWN**

- 1 Flying saucer (abbr.)
- 2 Republican party, family
- 3 Econ. indicator
- 4 Work like
- 5 Artistic addresses
- 6 Bot
- 7 Linda Evans role
- 8 Abstract being
- 9 On the contrary
- 10 Tavern beverage
- 11 Chait
- 13 Beneficial
- 18 Woodchop- per
- 19 Hey!
- 20 Join the army
- 22 Although
- 23 Account book
- 24 Become apparent
- 25 Comput- son
- 27 CIO partner
- 32 Head
- 34 African female
- 35 Bestow
- 39 Four score and ten
- 43 Hidden supply
- 45 Roman road
- 47 Small valley
- 48 Ref's kin
- 49 Civil War general
- 50 Mrs. in Madrid
- 52 Actress
- 53 Sothem
- 53 Refrigerate
- 54 Danger color

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