

# Cable Comments

By LARK L. SAMOUELIAN  
Executive Director,  
SW Oakland Cable Comm.



Has the list of your New Year's resolutions finally wound itself around your feet? Now that

1991 is upon us, do you find yourself negotiating compromises with yourself on how many pounds you *really* play to lose (fifteen is much more realistic than 20, isn't it?) or on how you will stay at your job just a *little while longer* before you start to look for a new one? Well, as long as you're *trying* to get off to a good start, you should be applauded. Rome was not built in a day, after all.

There are lots of local cable chows this New Year's week that might help you bolster your dedication to your goals of being slimmer, smarter, better looking, successful and more tolerant of your kids, spouse and in-laws.

The exercise shows on our community channels are a testament to our collective American obsession with fitness. Whether you choose "Simply Aerobics" or "Body By You," both on Southfield Channel 35, "Body By Janis" on Channel 11, or "Southfield Body Shop" and "Southfield Body Shop Low Impact Aerobics," on Southfield Cable 8, you are bound to, if not whittle yourself down to a shadow of your former self, at least put some years on your life by pumping that old cholesterol out of those old arteries.

Young people aren't immune to the "start-over" fever the New Year inspires either, and the haunting specter of finances affect them, too, in the post-Holiday glow. This Thursday at 7:45 p.m. on "Southfield Students Ask," students find out how to make their money work for them, through smart money management. This will especially come in handy for those teens who spent \$300 on designer la-

bels this holiday (for themselves). This show is followed at 8:00 p.m. by "Explorations: Careers" which this week focuses on future careers in accounting (a career well-suited to the above-mentioned dollar-crazed kids, no doubt!). In this achievement-oriented society, it seems it's never too *early* for youngsters to map out their career-plan or to learn fiscal responsibility.

Southfield Cable 8 plans to get you in the right frame of mind, even before Father Time transmogrifies into the Baby New Year, with an inspirational program entitled "It's 4th Down and You Have a Lifetime To Go." The show features WXYZ Channel 7's human-interest reporter John Gross, who is perhaps best known for his "Athlete Of The Week" feature. Gross brings along a group of "special" people who have beaten the odds to become winners in all aspects of life, including a young man with cerebral palsy who has bicycled cross-country, a local musician who is deemed the "best guitarist in the United States," and a roller skating grandmother who has been Ms. Senior Michigan. Gross teaches his audience that nothing is impossible with perseverance. The show plays Monday, New Year's Eve, at 8:00 p.m.

If you're looking to find out how to peacefully integrate the demands of family, work and play this year, "Contemporama" on Local Origination Channel 11 may be just your ticket to the 90's. This weekly one hour video-magazine focuses on contemporary issues and lifestyles, including education, business and how-to health care. It plays Monday at 8:00 p.m., and Thursday at 9:00 p.m.

Also on Channel 11, those of you who have no more ambitious New Year project than to get in closer touch with your cable viewing, should tune in for "Cable Highlights." This week



Pictured from left to right: John Kelly, Marilyn Turner, co-host Stacey Winteringham and Patrick Harris.

the show will present a forecast of what HBO has to offer in 1991. "Cable Highlights" can be seen Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., Thursday at 9:00 p.m. and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

There are lots of things we can do to make our lives better and easier this year, and you *may* just get some ideas from a local cable program. And the great thing is, it's never too late to try, so when you miss those self-imposed goals, take a deep breath and start over again. My New Year's resolutions, you might ask? I'm not telling. That way, when I break them, no one will know but me.

### THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS:

The sports-craze on local cable rages on, and not that the weather is chilly and you can't get out and toss around the football (baseball, basketball) yourself, you can live vicariously through coverage of community sports leagues. On Channel 11's "LO-11 Sports" this week, high school sports will be in the spotlight, Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday's team names are yet to be announced. Sunday's game is basketball action between Oak Park High School at Southfield High.

What's more frightening than a six year old wielding a hockey stick? Not much that I can think of, but it also makes for some fun television, and that's why Southfield Cable 8 will bring you

Please turn to Page 36

# "Dillinger" re-made for television

## Mark Harmon and Sherilyn Fenn star

By Amy Schmidt

On the evening of July 22, 1934, John Dillinger went to the movies. He was 31 years old. He had been Public Enemy No. 1 for exactly one month. With his girlfriend, Polly, and her landlady, Anna — radiant in her red dress — he went to see Clark Gable in a gangster movie at the Biograph Theatre in Chicago. So the story went and so the story goes.

On Sunday, Jan. 6, ABC continues the Dillinger film legacy with the premiere of "Dillinger," starring Mark Harmon and screen legend's heir apparent Sherilyn Fenn. The first made-for-TV movie on the subject, the film is a David L. Wolper production, produced by his son Mark.

Such is the clout of Wolper Productions that ABC asked them what kind of movie they had always wanted to do. (Wolper's long history of credits includes the beginning and ending ceremonies of the Olympics, "Roots" and "North and South.") "Dillinger" was their answer.

Why would anyone want to re-make a movie that has been done twice before? The first "Dillinger" was made in 1945 and starred Lawrence Tierney. (Film buffs will spot Tierney making a cameo appearance in this film.) The second starred Warren Oates in 1973.

Mark Wolper explained that what his company sought to do was create a film that was as historically correct as possible. He believes his "Dillinger" is the most accurate of the three. For example, contrary to popular belief, Polly Hamilton, Dillinger's girlfriend, was not "the woman in red" who fingered him for the FBI that fateful night. The handmaiden of history was a woman named Anna Sage, a disreputable immigrant who set up Dillinger in a deal to avoid deportation. (Hamilton is played by Patricia Arquette and Sage by Lucy Childs for the ABC movie.)

According to Wolper, this is the story: In the summer of 1933, John Dillinger was just another ex-convict released after having served a prison term for attempted robbery. A year later he was the most wanted man in America, with a series of flamboyant bank robberies and two jail breaks to his discredit.

It was Dillinger's arrogant style that made him an FBI target. He delighted in informing the press when federal agents blew an easy chance to catch him. So brazen was he, that he took one of his preferred ladies, Billie Frechette (Fenn), for a nearly public picnic at his father's family farm, inviting the neighbors

to be photographed with the outlaw. Dillinger, as Wolper would have it, was actually a likeable character with many friends and supporters.

ABC's "Dillinger" was filmed in well-preserved areas of Milwaukee, Wis., resembling Chicago. Shooting a period film from 50 years ago was no easy task. The main problem, said Wolper, was eager Milwaukeeans in modern dress appearing on roofs and windows in the street scenes. Then there was the problem of telephone lines and freeways showing up in the shots.

Even so, Wolper says his film is extremely stylish, and that he and ABC are pleased. But you can be its judge.

## CABLE NEWS

### Cast made up of many 'Steel Magnolias'

By Christy Bergslien

Here's the cast; you name the film: Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field, Daryl Hannah, Dolly Parton and Olympia Dukakis. Yep, this bevy of Hollywood's leading ladies is to be found starring in *Steel Magnolias* Tuesday, Jan. 1, on HBO.

**Bowl Week** on ESPN comes to a close with live coverage of the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1. The network's *College Gameday: New Year's Day Special*, airing in the early hours, will preview all eight New Year's Day bowl games.

Roseanne Barr does double duty this week. First, the controversial comedienne stars opposite Meryl Streep and Ed Begley Jr. in *She Devil*, premiering on Showtime Jan. 1. Then on Saturday, Jan. 5, Roseanne returns to stand-up comedy on her second solo HBO special. After the show's premiere, you can tell the domestic goddess and her husband, Tom Arnold, just what you think on a live call-in segment.

**War Chronicles**, the highly acclaimed PBS series documenting World War II, debuts on cable. "The Battle of the Bulge," the first episode of the 13-part

series, airs on The Discovery Channel Wednesday, Jan. 2.

The heartwarming tale *Cheetah* makes its world premiere on The Disney Channel Sunday, Dec. 30. Set against the splendor of the African veldt, two American teenagers and a native herdsman raise an orphaned cheetah.

•Walk-ins  
•Welcome  
•Braiding  
•Spiral  
•Perms are  
our  
Specialty



## DIMENSIONS IN HAIR

42827 Five Mile Rd  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
**420-3540**

**20% OFF  
ALL SERVICES**  
with coupon • For new clients  
only

With Gina, Kelly or Eddie Long hair extra.

Evening Appointments  
Available  
Offer Expires 2-28-91