

ARTS SECTION



GARY BLAKELEY

GOOD COOKIN' WITH THELMA CLICK

By JANICE GOLDBERG

I thought it would be a lovely idea to begin my first column with a poignant little poem sent in by one of my students from Downsview, Ontario.

Ode to the Pea

Green, little, round,
A staple on my table.
You come in so many ways
Fresh from the grocery store
Or pre-cooked in cans.
Your vitamin enriched
Freshness
Forever preserved by the miracle of
Flash Freezing.
You add colour to my table
Your rich hue brings life to
Steak, Pot Roast, Glazed Ham.
And through your presence,
You bless the humble potatoe.

Now, wasn't that delightful. Frankly I printed that bit of touching literature for more than purely aesthetic reasons. Yes, meal makers of Metro, it is time that the pea is resurrected to its former glory. Like white bread, baloney and bread-and-butter pickles, once too, celebrated icons of the North American diet, the pea has been thrown by the wayside to make way for the new idols of the dinner table.

But, I ask you, where have hearts of palm gotten us? Certainly, the world is a more topsy turvey place than when the pea was the only vegetable to be seen in every good home. Yes, I say, let us return to those cherished values that the pea represented: children who didn't talk back when told to eat their vegetables, but who contentedly savoured the sweet tasting pea with gratefulness that the Green Giant was always able to meet production demands; family dinners during which dad lovingly directed the enlightening dinner conversation on

such topics as the wonders of modern science, today's golf game, and fertilizing the lawn; mothers who agreed with everything her wise husband uttered: a substantially lower divorce rate.

One cannot help but notice just how screwed up our world is. If eating occupys so much of our daily activities (are not our days so greatly organized around meal times?) would it not make sense to begin the process of rectifying our ills through diet reform? And of course the pea will be the backbone of this rehabilitation prescription.

I took the initiative of rounding up a couple of sure fire "more peas please response" recipes from our friends at the Canada Food Guide up in Ottawa. For good nutrition and a strong constitution, they recommend at least two to three fruit/vegetable servings per day. **DON'T PANIC; PEAS CAN BE SAFELY EATEN TWO TO THREE TIMES A DAY, THUS FULFILLING YOUR NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.** Just imagine, we can be healthy while improving our society through the consumption of peas!!!!

MMMMMMMMM, Delicious peas'n cheese—so easy, yet tasty enough to satisfy even the most finicky at the dinner table.

1 can of Canada Grade A peas
1/2 lb. of Velveeta cheese

Open can. Pour contents into saucepan. Heat at low setting. Cut Velveeta into medium sized chunks. Add to peas stirring gently until cheese reaches a creamy bright orange consistency. Serve this colorful dish with white bread and meatloaf.



GARY BLAKELEY

Meanwhile, in the lush backyard of our resident food columnist J. Goldberg... the humble bar-b-que has become obsolete. Ed Note: Peas are best cooked in the open air where they retain their plump freshness.

Scooby Who?!?

Justice Due: Scooby Doo delights in *Death Wish II*.

By KEVIN PASQUINO

Sequels have taken over the movie industry. We've heard of them, even seen some of them: Godfathers, Star Treks, Supermans. Everyone in Hollywood is looking for the sequel buck. Even foreign films are getting into the act, with *Return of Gandhi* and the recently announced *Bite of the Spider Woman* among the accused.

Yet amid all the crap comes a tiny, almost hidden jewel. When I first heard of the film I expected the worst, but *Scooby Doo: Death Wish II* is a remarkably intelligent and insightful film. Exploring the hidden, often sleazy world of cartoons, *Doo II* captures the confusion and angst of a lost generation of animated characters.

The film opens innocently, with Scooby Doo at home with his wife and two children. It's been years since the Mystery Mobile has seen action and Shaggy, Thelma and the gang are nothing more than the occasional Christmas card in Scooby's life. From the looks of things, the once mystery-loving dog leads an uncomplicated and satisfying existence.

While Scooby is happy to leave the rough and tumble days of mystery solving behind him, the horror that was once a part of his life is inescapable. For a reason that is later revealed to the audience, Scooby feels threatened. The tension and uneasiness he feels is hidden from his family, but it is apparent that something is amiss. Beneath the smiles and the laughter, Scooby is a troubled dog.

One bright and cheery day, Scooby's violent past comes knocking at his door. Seeking revenge in whatever form it can attain, the masked villain releases his wrath on our hero's family. The peaceful and tranquil life that Scooby had lived is forever shattered by the intrusion of violence.

The sorrow Scooby feels is turned to anger when he learns that the police have had to release a key suspect due to a technicality. Confronted with a system that assists the guilty and leaves victims helpless, Scooby decides to take the law into his own hands.

Writer/Director Chuck Jones creates a tension within the film which can only be compared to his early work on the Road Runner cartoons. The emotional range that he demands of Scooby Doo, from loving father to vengeful victim, is spectacular. While Scooby has always been a talented performer, under Jones' direction the clever canine is inspired to reach new levels of brilliance.

Rather than avoid controversy, director Jones explores the seamy side of cartoons, the side that is never seen on Saturday mornings. Not everyone has been as lucky as Scooby Doo, and the unkind fates of Josie and her pussycats, Roger Ramjet, Bullwinkle and others are revealed as Scooby attempts to unravel the plot behind his family's brutal murder.

Some critics have argued that Jones has only turned his eye to the



evil of the cartoon society, purposely leaving the positive lives of H.R. Pufnstuf and the Bugaloos unmentioned. After seeing the film, one could argue that, yes, indeed, this is true. But it is a side of animated life that has never been discussed before. After the interview with Johnny Quest on *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* it seems people have assumed that time has been kind to all of Saturday's heroes—Jones shows that the myth is just not true. *Scooby Doo: Death Wish II* is not a film for everyone to see. Those that would rather retain their childhood memories of the animated adventurers should not be forced to see the truth. For those who are willing to face the harsh realities of life, they will experience a monumental achievement in film-making, a film that examines the trauma of one dog and the battle he faces to regain his peace.

The Real Life Adventures Of A Make-Believe Cop.



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