

Jonathan Siegle finelines . . .

Poor quiche. It's become quite symbolic lately. Real men don't eat it. Social critics use it and white wine to label a whole social 'set.' Tacky little restaurants have become quiche joints.

Why pick on poor quiche? Because it's pretentious. It's what's expected if you want to be nouveau bourgeois. You nibble a little quiche and murmur quiet platitudes. If you want to be at all literary, it's an absolute must.

There is hope, however. For those of you who do like a good book, a fine play or classical music but prefer to wash it down with a taco and a little Mad Dog, this exposition is for you. It's called 'Guilty Pleasures,' and I've wanted to write it a long, long time.

Burt Reynolds movies. Pepperoni pizza. Road Runner cartoons. Country music. Spiderman comics. Big Macs. Baseball. I love 'em all.

Picture this: You're at a white wine and quiche set sip-and-nibble party and some fellow lets out a hollow belch. Heads turn. "Burt Reynolds," he says, "is a fine American." Heads turn away.

The case against Burt Reynolds: He's Southern. He's cute. He played football. He can't act.

The case for Burt Reynolds: He's Southern. He's cute. He played football. He can't act.

The white wine and quiche folks don't like things Southern — too crude. They don't like football — too violent. And they don't like cute.

They're pretty judgmental, these folks. And 'course ol' Burt don't eat quiche, I'll betcha.

Digression: There's as much art in a boxing match as in an opera, if you know how to look at it.

Ah, boxing! Now there's a true guilty pleasure. Two guys beating the crap out of one another for money. And amateurs do it for fun.

Art is where you find it. There's only one criterion: either it's well done, or it's poorly done. Good and bad is a personal value judgment.

There is good country music, and bad country music. Good TV and bad TV. Good junk food and bad junk food.

Good or bad is based on execution, sincerity and/or style. Taste doesn't count.

When you drink white wine and eat quiche you're supposed to like certain styles, dislike others. When you're punk, the same rules apply. Ditto C & W.

A plea: The aesthetic is a human trait alone. Find it wherever you choose. When you do, roll in it. Rub it over your face and chest. Cuddle it. Love it. Kiss it.

Share it, but don't push it. Someone may feel as you do



about his, and you don't want to have to fight over it.

Or perhaps you do. It doesn't matter.

Enjoy your guilty pleasures. When your roommate says "You're eating . . . ?!" say "yup," smile sweetly and continue.

When he or she gives you that disgusted look, remember your roommate has guilty pleasures too.

Enjoy that fact.

Debbi Roberts/Film

Serious films dominate season

New films are coming in a big way. So far, it's a pretty serious season. Only a few comedies lighten the holidays, including **The Missionary**. Michael Palin of Monty Python plays a good-natured minister whose flock is 28 "fallen women." Set in Edwardian England, the film also stars Maggie Smith as a "very rich lady" who shares the minister's obsession with fertility symbols.

"The Missionary" tells the tale of a man and his mission, when men were men, ladies were ladies and butlers were people in black coats who sometimes knew their way around the house.

The tale of a man with a completely different mission is told in the life story of **Ghandi**. Richard Attenborough directed this film about Mohandas Ghandi — a man Attenborough says changed his life. Film newcomer Ben Kingsley portrays Ghandi in his



transformation from a young lawyer into India's modern spiritual and political leader. Made in India, the film also stars Candace Bergen, Trevor Howard and Sir John Gielgud.

On the lighter side, Dustin Hoffman goes drag in **Tootsie**, and he looks great! Hoffman plays an unknown actor who keep losing roles because he isn't a name star. One day, the

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