## Brando injects humor, surprise into amiable comedy

NEW YORK (CNS) - Capturing an escaped 6-foot-long lizard is a job Clark (Matthew Broderick) can't refuse in "The Freshman'' (Tri-Star).

Within an hour of arriving in New York City to begin his college career as an NYU film student, Clark's possessions are ripped off, but the good-natured thief, Victor (Bruno Kirby), offers to make amends by setting Clark up with a high-paying, part-time job working for Victor's uncle Carmine (Marlon Brando).

Clark is spooked by the Godfather-like figure that Carmine cuts and his questionable "importing" business, but it's clear he has no choice but to deliver an unspecified "package" for him to a New Jersey address. Clark is just as powerless in discouraging Carmine's daughter, Tina (Penelope Ann Miller), who decides on the spot that they are to be married - and soon.

The package turns out to be a rare komodo dragon — a gigantic lizard — that Clark briefly loses in a crowded shopping mall before delivering it to Larry London (Maximilian Schell), a decidedly weird individual who has an entire secret collection of animals that are endangered species.

Clark is further bewildered when two conservation department officials threaten him with a jail term unless he incriminates Carmine and London, whom they say have been — can you believe — cooking the endangered animals for a handsome profit. Clark chooses sides, and in a sting-like operation, both man and beast prevail.



Clark Kellogg (Matthew Broderick, left) is a freshman film student whose college career is dramatically altered when hustler Victor Ray (Bruno Kirby, center) introduces him to Carmine Sabatini (Marlon Brando, right) in the comedy 'The Freshman.'

Writer-director Andrew Bergman's serves up an amiable comedy whose main enjoyment is watching Brando parody his own previous performance as the legendary Godfather. With tongue firmly in cheek, he adds a new dimension of humor and surprise to the Carmine character, as when he's found unexpectedly and gracefully ice-skating.

At the same time Brando does not neglect the meaningful gestures and whispered mumbling that made the original figure so intimidating.

Broderick reacts appropriately in his typecast role of the young innocent un-

prepared for life's adult experiences. His first scene with the determined daughter is outrageously corny as she points out that the Mona Lisa on the living room wall is the real thing and she eagerly whips him into her arms for a slow dance as the Nat King Cole song of the same name conveniently starts playing in the background.

The editing is not tight enough to whisk the viewer along without wondering why Clark didn't scram when Carmine gave him the chance.

The idea that an elite group of the very wealthy gather regularly to dine on the last few species of a given animal is so bizarre

that it is only topped by Bert Parks' motion picture debut in this black comedy as the festive dinner's master of ceremonies who croons a specially worded Miss America theme to the unfortunate, about-to-bedevoured guest of honor.

The visual design of the film is consistently attractive and the movie is diverting despite the fact that the plot line is ultimately ludicrous.

Because of minimal rough language the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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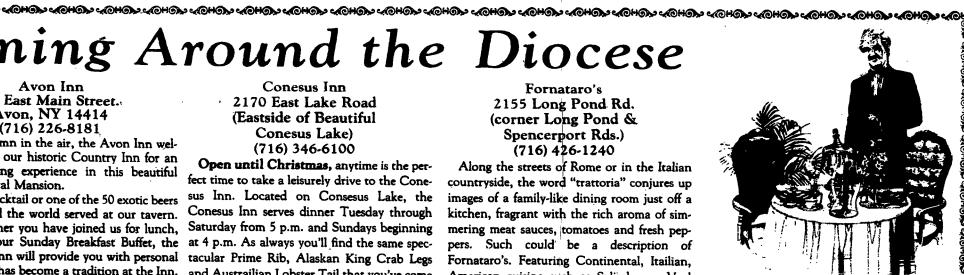
Along the streets of Rome or in the Italian countryside, the word "trattoria" conjures up images of a family-like dining room just off a kitchen, fragrant with the rich aroma of simmering meat sauces, tomatoes and fresh peppers. Such could be a description of Fornataro's. Featuring Continental, Itailian, American cuisine such as Salimbocca, Veal Frech, Fettucine Alfredo as well as traditional favorites like Steak Diane, Beef Wellington and others. Breads and pastas are homemeade. sine as are atrichoke hearts and fruits. Lunch served Monday through Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party

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Serving lunches 11:30-3p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring a Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and ners under \$8.00), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of October. Please present ad when ordering.



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Mrs. Murphy's Smorgasbord Plus-Menu-Service Bath, New York (607) 776-6211

Smorgasbord served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. From the menu; 18 Shrimp Feast Dinner: 10 Scampi Shrimp - 4 Broiled, 4 Grilled: 19.95. Center Cut Tenderloin Steak Dinner: \$9.95. Fridays-All-the-Fish-You-Can-Eat: \$5.95. Fried or Broiled: \$6.50. Sunday Champagne Brunch: \$6.50. Take scenic Route 9 390 south to Expressway 17, exit 37 or 38.

> National Hotel Bed and Breakfast Inn Rte. 20A & 39 Cuylerville, NY 14481 (716) 382-3130

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