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Letters from the issue of Wednesday, March 24, 2004

"So, How Do You Feel About That Scene?" Feature, 2/25

Thanks for the fine writing

You did go out on a limb to write the cinema therapy article, and I'm here to tell you that you retrieved some wonderful things out there. I was sitting at an outside table at the Montclair bakery, surrounded by others, and tears started leaking out of my eyes. I was not really prepared for this, and I abruptly packed up the paper and moved on away from there. I had to catch my breath before I went back in.

I've done some therapy under light hypnosis, and it surprises me what can come up in that state. Sure, the therapist may initially be "fishing," trying to link something, but invariably the inner landscape would reveal things that had meaning for me. I can't "will" meaning to happen, so I was impressed that these imaginary scenes had such power for me.

I can't agree with Dr. Goldenberg's criticisms of the therapy. Almost ANYTHING can be the launching pad for these kind of revelations, if you have two or more people who are willing to let it happen. Dr. Wolz would probably be an equally competent therapist if she used tea leaves or play therapy. It just happens that cinema is a good gateway for her to channel her talent.

Farrell Wills, Oakland