## Normally blase newspaper types went bonkers when Ed Asner, alias Lou Grant, arrived in Detroit this week. Asner, who was her to receive an award from Sigma Delta Chi (SDX), the Society of Professional Journalists, was honored at the group's dinner Monday at the Detroit Press Chub. Actually, he received several awards and asked, "Is this it?" when the major proposed to the proper server & Eccentric newsroom, gave the oath of office to new member of SIX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX including one from the O&E. Other O&E staffers are active in the GSX i

**Ed Asner roasts** town's journalists

Lee Entirty-winning I v series, "The Lou Grant Short warnings from Asner's business office that he was an actor and not to expect a stand-up comic, the performer proved to be very nearly that.

EVEN SITTING down, he preferred spontaneous, funny lines, actually roasting members of the professional group who rose to do him honors. Asner called out rowdy comments that had rough the standard out rowdy comments that had rough the standard proup board members who had escorted Asner around the metropolitan area Monday, were highly impressed with his generosity of time and enthusiastic interest.

He visited the city rooms of the Ma-comb Daily, the Detroit News and the

the ones done, and truer in uar respect."
The lettering read, "To Ed Asner from his friends at the Free Press— the place where it all started."
Besides arriving to receive the SDX honor (actually given to Lou Grant be-cause society bylaws do not permit honoring a non-newsperson such as an actor). Asner was in town to visit rela-tives in Wyandotte and Windsor. His chie wife, Nancy, accompanied him and bore up smilingly throughout his escapades.

When it came time for Asner to say a few words, he took out a pile of news-paper clippings which he used as a jumping-off place for a funny and pen-

jumping-off place for a funny and pen-etrating talk.

He told the society's members that journalists ought to do a better job of helping the public realize that a report-er striving for freedom of the press some brash punk fighting for himself but actually fighting for the public's right to know.

MORE STABS in our eyes currently.

right to know.

MORE STARS in our eyes, currently in town, are TV's Diana Canova ("Soap") and Steve Landesburg ("Barney Miller") who were the honored guests at a party Sunday night at Oscar's discotheque in Southfield.

Oscar's is the hottest disco, and the scene vibrated with slitchy attired couples moving to the sound of discodiscs. Ringside, other guests attending the party for season-ticket holders to the Birmingham Theatre's second season, watched and snacked on gourmet goodies.

dies.
Theater owner Gary Deeb, who is always either up or down depending on the fortunes of the new theater, said, "I'm excited."
Things are looking very good for the theatrical venture that spent a first season trying to decide whether to of-

Second Annual Country Music Spectacular arrives at the Pontiac Silverdome Saturday, March 24.

Both Ronnie McDowell, singing voice of Elvis in the recent television special about the legendary king of rock 'n' roll and T. G. Sheppard, a friend of Elvis who appeared with him in 1976 at the Silverdome, visited the stadium Tuesday to talk about the upcoming country music spectacular.

Other names on the program include Loretta Lyun, the country western starwhose life story is being made into a movier, Conway Twitty, Jerry Reed of Smokey and the Bandit, 'Johnny Paycheck ('Take That Job and Shove It'), Jerry Lee Lewis, Stella Parton, and Jim Ed Brown and Helen Cornelius. Romine McDowell looks a little like Elvis, but his voice is a dead ringer for Peakey's. McDowell sold five million records a words and record after the teach of Elvis Presley.

He had mixed feelings when Dick Clark asked him to do the voice track for the TV movie on Elvis, but finally agreed, and now says, "It was done with taste, and I am proud to have done it."

T.G. SHEPPARD said he appeared

of 1976 in concert with Elvis, whom he regards as "one of the finest people that walked the earth."

He knew Elvis for many years and said the star gave him a van and a couple of diamond rings he wears but that he valued their Friendship most. Elvis-encouraged Sheppard in his own aspirations to be a country music star and to "always be true to my own roots."

Last year the Country Music Spectacular, with a show filling 60,000 seats in the Silverdome, was billed as the "world's largest indoor country music show." This year, the show is being presented in the stadium's Mini-Dome, a curtained-off area that offers prime seating for 41,000.

Somy Simmons, "Mr. Nashville," who introduced McDowell and Sheppard at Tuesday's press luncheon, said country music should really be called American music rather than being contrasted with edy music. He explained its not the beat but the message that's

T.G. SHEPPARD said he appeared at the Silverdome on New Year's Eve

its not the beat out the message thats: important.
Simmons said 95 percent of all country entertainers are derivative of gospel, having started their singing careers in church or with professional gospel groups. He added that a professional gospel concert will be presented at the Silverdome on Sunday, March 25. Hambright to play Schuler's

Bruce Hambright, area entertainer, will appear in Rochester's Win Schuler's Grate Steak and Seafood lounge, Winston's The Bar, for four

weeks.

Hambright has played at many lounges in the Detroit area, such as Spaghetti Company, Midtown Cafe, and Fox and Hounds.

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days Jill Phillips will be joining him. Individually they have made various, radio commercials, and have been working together on a recording. Bruce and Jills style is a mixture of contemporary and light rock and their repertoire includes selections by James Taylor, Seals and Crofts, and Stevie

trasted with city music. He explained it's not the beat but the message that's

Fox and House and Croits, and Stevie

Fox and House distants, Bruce

An accomplished guitarist, Bruce

Bruce will be appearing from 9 p.m.

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## ED ANNER fer comedy, jazz concerts, drama or Las Vegas revues. The second season, which has the box office phones ringing off the walls, looks like a runaway success of ar, according to Deeb. The first show, Jules Feiffers "Hold Me" opens Monday, March 5 for two weeks, Ms. Canova and Landesburg head the cast for the comedy skelches. TWO PERFORMERS who identify with Elvis Presley in uniquely different ways will be on the program when the AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE







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Pictures as Documents"

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Max 18—Pianist William Bolcom and Soprano
Joan Morris

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