

Something for everybody

"The Color of Money" (R) has to be one of the best film merchandising concepts in a long time. Young women will rush to see Tom Cruise while their more mature counterparts are hurrying to catch Paul Newman.

For the gentlemen in the crowd, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is terrific. The fact that she gives a fine performance is an added plus. At the risk of exposing my male chauvinism, the film's subject, shooting pool, is more appealing to men than to women. So the script's lead: Pool and Mastrantonio for the guys, Cruise and Newman for the girls. Why else do you think "Color" is challenging "Crocodile Dundee" at the top of the charts?

"The Color of Money" uses Newman's character in the 1961 film, "The Hustler," Fast Eddie Felson, but that's where the resemblance ends. Eddie (Paul Newman) has retired from shooting pool, but he makes good money from liquor and has a girlfriend, Janelle (Helen



the movies
Dan Greenberg

Shaver).

EDDIE AND Janelle are trying to work out a permanent relationship when Vincent Lauria (Tom Cruise) and his girl, Carmen (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio), come into Eddie's place. Eddie is very impressed with Vince's pool game and gets the old fever.

Eddie offers to stake Vince on the road and teach him the finer points of hustling — when to dump a game and sucker a better, all that nice stuff.

As Eddie tells Vince, "It ain't about pool... it's about money."

Carmen understands that very well. She is a survivor. Eddie is correct when he tells her, "You are a hard broad."

Vince, on the other hand is just a hot-shot kid, a character who shoots a terrific game of pool and works in a toy store. He wants to win straight out, with a little grandstanding but no finesse and no tricky side-bets.

As it turns out, Carmen is the only one in the crowd who understands her priorities. She's going for the money. In spite of what Eddie says, it's not pool or money. Winning and being the best is all that matters. While discovering that, Eddie cor-

rupts Vince and teaches him how to hustle for the money. Vince learns his lessons well and winds up enjoying it.

DIRECTOR MARTIN Scorsese has devised some pretty nifty pool-shooting settings with swooping, moving cameras super-impositions and fast-motion sequences.

But they may have been hitting the eight balls too rapidly because character motivation gets a little murky from time to time. It may have been the rapid cutting or the low-level sound (whether print or projection is hard to say) but I had to work hard to understand the motivation at several points.

It certainly wasn't because of acting. Paul Newman is an accomplished professional and this polished performance as a middle-age man trying to decide what he wants to do is only add to his reputation. Mastrantonio's Carmen is, indeed, a "hard broad" but there's a nice,



As stars of "The Color of Money," Tom Cruise, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Paul Newman are personalities with appeal to moviegoers.

warm girl inside, if only she could trust people. Her performance is appealing. Tom Cruise is a little too much Cruise, the broadfaced and innocent young boy who just wants to have a good time. It was difficult to recognize a character different from his earlier roles. Most significantly, he seemed unchanged at the end,

merely mouthing words of a new personality.

Another fine movie, with some disquieting elements, is Sean Connery's latest, "The Name of the Rose" (R), which is beautifully photographed, well acted and directed and imbued with the essence of 14th century medieval Europe.

Dining experience doesn't measure up to high hopes

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambience, which includes general atmosphere and service; 55 points for food; and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 59 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 60-70 points signify from passing to good; 75-89 points designate very good with some extraordinary features; and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits you.

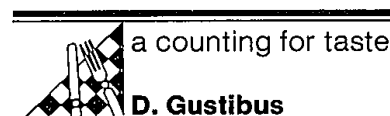
FOX AND HOUNDS, 1560 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills (644-4800), has a dark, wood-beamed interior, which simulates an English hunt club and is casual but substantial. The solid and intimate feeling is appealing, and the restaurant is suitable for either a business meal or a romantic evening. Not quite so appealing are the slightly smoky atmosphere caused by poor ventilation at some tables and, worse, a dirty men's room on the night we were there. Diners of all ages, men in jackets and women in skirts or dresses frequent both the bar and dining room. Our reservations were promptly honored, and dinner took almost 2½ hours. General Atmosphere — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

Our waitress was quite pleasant, and we experienced excellent ser-

vice when we first sat down and while the restaurant was not too busy. However, as the evening wore on — and on, our waitress appeared at longer and longer intervals. To his credit, the busman did return regularly to refill our water, clean our table and get our waitress when we needed her. When she recited the daily specials, our waitress did not tell us the prices for the items, and when we asked if we could order a mixed hors d'oeuvres plate, she suggested a cold seafood selection which, we discovered when our check arrived, cost \$9.50 per person. Perhaps we were partly to blame for not asking, but... Service — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

The seafood appetizer, although expensive, was delicious. There were shrimp and oysters, crab and herring, mussels and clams. Our order for three people was quite adequate to feed all four of us. The individual items were all fresh and tasty. Each was nicely prepared, and the platter attractively presented. The bread was also tasty, and — if you ask for it — garlic bread is very good. Our drinks were strong. Drinks, Appetizers and Bread — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

The traveling salad bar that is served with entrees is excellent. A



generous bowl of fresh lettuce is served with a chilled fork, and you select vegetables and garnishes to add from a large tray brought to the table. Choices of tomatoes, cucumber, bacon bits, eggs, chives and other offerings, along with five salad dressings, make it easy and fun to create your own salad without leaving the table. While this is fine when included as part of your meal, it is overpriced at \$6.50 when ordered separately. If you just want soup and salad, you'll pay for it here. Salad — 5 points maximum. Points awarded — 5.

Two of our group did order soup and salad, and the soups were excellent. The bouillabaisse (\$9.95) was really more a fish soup than a true bouillabaisse. It had plenty of every kind of seafood but lacked the traditional saffron and garlic taste. Still it was delicious. The cream of mussel and mushroom soup (\$2.75) was thick and rich, with a very appealing flavor. Of the entrees, the veal piccata (\$16.25) was nicely prepared, ten-

der and tasty. The dish was a bit sloppy, however, as too much stock was on the veal. A major disappointment was the daily special, Cajun-style New Orleans salmon (\$16.50). The fish came very dry, and when we asked about the accompanying sauce, we were told that the chef was new and had forgotten to include it on the plate. Even with the addition of the sauce, which was brought separately on the side, this was not an appealing entree. Entree, Vegetables and Garnishes — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 20.

Dessert was excellent and helped make up for some of the other shortcomings. Our fruit flan, with a nutty crust (3.95), was lovely to look at and just as lovely to taste. The raspberry mousse, served in a chocolate shell, was also outstanding. These delights are not prepared in the restaurant's own kitchen, but they are a fine conclusion to the meal. Dessert — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

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We thought that almost \$70 per couple with tip was too much for these meals. Although the appetizer was (more or less) worth the cost, the soup and salad entrees should have lowered the total price to a more reasonable figure. Price/Value — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

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