



Dan Greenberg's picks include Paul Newman ("The Color of Money") for Best Actor, Marlee Matlin ("Children of a Lesser God") for Best Actress and "Platoon" for Best Picture, as well as Best Original Screenplay, Best Sound and Best Editing.

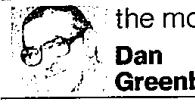
# Picking winners isn't easy

**I**T'S TIME TO GET out your best lounging robe. Oscar night is one week from tonight — and settle in for a long evening watching Hollywood's glitz, glamour and touching sentimentality.

A lot of crass materialism is necessary in the film industry because movies cost so much to produce. Although it's always easy to rag on the motion-picture business, we should thank Hollywood for its many enduring images of life, love and beauty and for its many hours of entertainment. So join the industry's annual celebration next Monday night (March 30).

Movies present images of horror as well as the more joyous ones. Sometimes those dreadful visions are distilled from the fantasies of the mind, sometimes from the malice of the world. While violence is unpleasant, there are times when it is necessary to come to grips with the terrors that fill our world.

"Platoon" is one such film and, for good reason, has been nominated for eight major Oscars. The early line has it that "Platoon" will sweep all eight because academy members tend to vote a straight ticket, but there's so much good competition that I'm only awarding five of those eight to "Platoon."



the movies  
**Dan Greenberg**

**My contest is tougher, and my prize is much less — you have to pick 10 winners, four of which must be Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Actress.**

Coppola's "Gardens of Stone," Lionel Chetwynd's "Hanoi Hilton" and Jim Carbone's "Hamburger Hill."

As with "Platoon," the last of these is a semi-autobiographical effort by a Hollywood screenwriter/Vietnam veteran.

FOR BEING THERE first — and more importantly, for doing such a good job — Stone's "Platoon" is my pick for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Sound and Best Editing.

Foreign Film, as well as the Documentary and Short categories. I haven't screened enough of those entries to make mistakes.

Well, there you have it. My neck is out on the chopping block. Everyone does better than I do, so enter our "Oscar Contest." Pick the top six categories, and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in cooperation with the AMC Theatres will send you to Hollywood for six nights. Their rules are elsewhere in the paper.

I'm not such an easy mark. My contest is tougher, and my prize is much less — you have to pick 10 winners, four of which must be Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Actress. My prize is lunch for two at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. The college's Hotel and Restaurant Management Program runs a superb, prize-winning dining room.

MAIL YOUR entries (postmarked no later than Saturday, March 23) to me in care of the Observer & Eccentric, Entertainment Department, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

In case of ties, tie-breakers will be used, and the judges' decisions are final. Sharpen your pencil and enter today — and enjoy the Oscars.

ALTHOUGH THERE were many faults in "The Mission," photography was not one of them. That film's beautiful and haunting images will garner the Best Cinematography Oscar and Best Art Direction as well.

Best Original Score to Herbie Hancock for "Round Midnight," a film that would win many more statuettes if the competition weren't so heavy this year. Best Original Song is "Mean Green Mother..." from "Little Shop of Horrors."

For Makeup, I'll bet on "The Fly." "Top Gun" gets my Sound Effects Editing award, and I'll pass on Best

## upcoming things to do

- **BINGING STAR**  
Josh White Jr. has taken himself off the road after 20 years and is appearing at 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays through April at the lower level of the Red Cedars in Southfield. The singer offers a musical tour of folk, blues and gospel, ranging from classics learned from his famous father to his own songs of today. Cover charge is \$6 per person. Phil Marcus Easer performs his nightclub cabaret-style show Fridays-Saturdays through April 25 upstairs at the Red Cedars. There is no cover charge. For reservations call 353-3170.
- **BENEFIT NIGHT**  
A benefit performance of Neil Simon's "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers," sponsored by the Friends of Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization, will be given by the Birmingham Village Players at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, at the playhouse in Birmingham. Tickets at \$10 are available at the door or by calling 646-3094 or 879-6080 anytime.
- **'ANTIGONE' OPENING**  
Jean Anouilh's play "Antigone" continues through April 4, at Varner Studio Theatre at the Oakland University Center for the Arts on campus in Rochester Hills. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, March 27-28, and April 3-4, and 2 p.m. Sundays, March 22 and 29 and Saturday, April 4. The modern version of Sophocles' story was written in 1942. Area residents in the cast include Jerry Hatgett of West Bloomfield as the Chorus and Preston-Irvine of Rochester as the Messenger. Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$4 for senior citizens and children under 12, and \$3 for OU students. For more information call the Center for the Arts box office at 370-3013.
- **GREEN FIELDS**  
Rochester songwriter Jeff LaDuke appears Wednesdays through March at Four Green Fields in Royal Oak. LaDuke opened the De-
- **troit Pistons vs. Indiana basketball game Monday, March 16, in the Pontiac Silverdome, with an a cappella rendition of "God Bless America." The game was picked up for live national distribution on the PASS cable network. LaDuke also has just completed work on a music video for his self-penned song "Rebecca, Send Another Letter," a single set for release in the spring.**
- **COMEDY COMING**  
Come Blow Your Horn" by Neil Simon will be presented by the Troy Players at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, March 27-28 and April 3-4 and 10-11, at the Troy Community Center. General admission tickets are \$5. Tickets for senior citizens and students (18 years and under) are \$4. For reservations call 879-1285.
- **JEWEL HEIST**  
Radio station WJJC's mystery night to solve the "Jewel Heist at the Stardust Ballroom" will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Troy Hilton Hotel. Detroit Police Commander Gilbert Hill will host the evening, a benefit for HAVEN, the Oakland County shelter for abused women and children. Invitations are available at Sutter's Antiques & Vintage Clothing in Pontiac, which is co-sponsoring the event with the Troy Hilton, or by calling WJJC Radio at 399-7600.
- **AT WILL-O-WAY**  
"Prisoner of Second Avenue" by Neil Simon has been rescheduled to open at 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 3, at Will-o-Way Repertory and Apprentice Theatre in Birmingham. Performances will run Fridays-Saturdays through May 2. Open house and registration for adult and children's classes at the apprentice theater are slated for 2-6 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and 7-9:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, May 11-12. For more information call 944-4418.

**WHY HAS A FILM** about our Vietnam tragedy garnered so much critical acclaim, box-office success, media attention and popular interest? Again, the conventional wisdom has it that America was ready to come to grips with the Vietnam experience, and "Platoon" does so in no uncertain terms.

It is not a pleasant evening's entertainment, but it is an excellent example of the very best of motion-picture crafts bleeded into an important artistic statement about the world in which we live.

Oliver Stone wrote "Platoon" in 1976, basing it on his own combat experiences. He peddled it around Hollywood for years before finally getting it produced. Why has Vietnam finally found a receptive audience? The time for "Rambo's" fantasies has passed, and we're ready to face the realities of that war.

Stone had the good fortune to be first, as everyone lines up to produce and distribute realistic views of Vietnam. In coming months, your local screens will feature Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket," Francis

"Platoon" also received two nominations in one category, Best Supporting Actor. Tom Berenger's sergeant wins because of the film's momentum and the strength of his portrayal, which sums up the evil of our Vietnamese tragedy.

Best Director to Woody Allen for "Hannah and Her Sisters," for a couple of reasons. That may just be a sentimental choice, but I do think that "Hannah" is one of Allen's best. In the academy's mind, and this, maybe the thought was that this is one of Allen's most commercially successful ventures.

Best Actor goes to Paul Newman for "The Color of Money." Best Actress to Marlee Matlin for "Children

## DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

# On the Town

**A SURE BET**

CLIENT RESOURCES PROSPECTORS BUYERS YOU

**THE Business Exposition**  
May 5, 6, 7, 1987

presented by the  
**Livonia Chamber of Commerce**

at  
**Schoolcraft College**

for exhibit space  
information call  
**CAROLYN SKINNER**  
(313) 478-3187

Diabetes is a major contributor to heart disease, kidney disease and blindness. So when you support the American Diabetes Association, you fight some of the worst diseases of our time.

**LAS VEGAS PARTY**

**TWO BIG DAYS OF FUN**  
MAR. 28 - Saturday 3 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
MAR. 29 - Sunday 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

- Blackjack
- Craps
- Roulette

**NEW LOCATION**  
**WARREN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB**  
28116 W. Warren  
Just West of Beech Daly  
**FREE ADMISSION - CASH BAR**  
**FOOD AVAILABLE**  
**CALL 535-7272**  
Sponsored by St. Charles's Parish Council

**EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH**

**Silly bunny.**

...and a host of other delicious delights, happily prepared, for your enjoyment. The menu is available in the dining room. Please bring your own beverage. Reservations are suggested. Call for more information.

**3300 W. WARREN**

Woodward on Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills • (313) 542-0100

**ADVERTISING WINNERS CIRCLE**  
BY LAURIE KIPP

The Michigan Lottery will move to a twice-weekly \$144 Super Lotto game on May 13 replacing the present Wednesday \$140 Lotto game. The following provides basic information about the game change:

Q: Why is the change being made?  
A: Since its introduction in April of last year, Super Lotto has consistently outperformed the \$140 Lotto game when both had regular jackpot amounts. This change also will eliminate confusion regarding different jackpots for two games.

Q: What have been the average jackpot shares?  
A: Through the end of February, the average Super Lotto jackpot share was nearly \$3.5 million, while \$1.7 million was the average \$140 Lotto jackpot share.

Q: What was the largest individual Super Lotto prize?  
A: Through February, two players each won \$10 million prizes.

Q: Will twice-weekly Super Lotto create more large jackpots?  
A: With longer odds in the game, Super Lotto has had more jackpot rollovers. Consequently, twice-weekly drawings should result in more frequent large jackpot amounts.

Q: What have been the average second and third prize shares in the Super Lotto game?  
A: As of March 1, the average Second Prize share was \$2,622, while the average Third Prize share was about \$90.

Q: Does the game change mean I can't no longer play for a full year with a subscription?  
A: As a player service, the Lottery has begun a service for 26, 52 or 104 Super Lotto drawings. Subscribers in \$140 Lotto have received refunds for unused periods.

Q: Will the multi-draw wagers still be offered for Super Lotto game?  
A: Yes. Players wishing to buy tickets for 2 to 10 drawings at one time can do so at any Lotto retailer.

Q: Will there be a prize for matching three winning Super Lotto numbers?  
A: The Lottery is developing plans for a special bonus drawing for players who match three numbers in Super Lotto. Details will be announced when plans are complete.

Q: Has Super Lotto helped increase the Lottery's donation to the state school aid fund?  
A: Super Lotto helped increase Lotto play by 28 percent in the past fiscal year. Along with sales growth in other Lottery games, this provided a record \$415 million to the School Aid Fund. This was equal to \$18 per Michigan household.

For submitting a question answered in this column, Ann Dunn of Livonia will receive 50 tickets to the newest installment game, "Cash Deal!"

If you have a Lottery question not covered in these monthly columns, send it to: "Winners Circle," Michigan Lottery, P.O. Box 30077, Lansing, MI 48909.