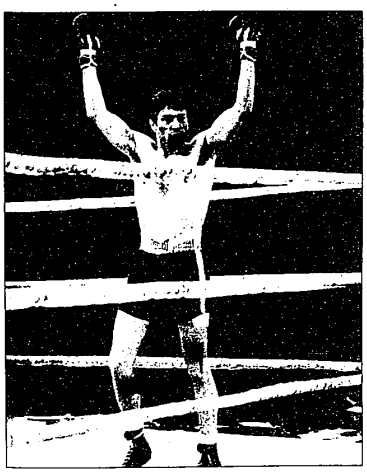

"Violence is beautiful" award goes to Martin Scorsese for "Raging Bull," starring Robert De Niro as boxing champ Jake La Motta.

the movies

Louise Snider

Picking the best and the worst of 1980's films

Believing that recognition should be more definitive than 10 best or 10 worst of anything, I've listed some specific awards I would like to bestow on movies of this past year.

Most disgusting horror movie: "I Spit on Your Grave," selected for reasons too disgusting to elaborate.

Funniest movie: "Airplane," a nutty spoof with splendid casting; it maintained its goofy vitality from beginning to end.

Technological breakthrough: black and white photography. You think color is something? Wait until you see the most recent discovery — black and white. Catch it in "Raging Bull." "The Elephant Man" or "Stardust Memories." Before you know it they'll make movies without sound.

FLATTEST COMEDIES of the year: all those mate-switching movies that seem to have Shirley MacLaine in them.

Most energetic and successful film debut: Dolly Parton, who did more than manage against tough competition in "Nine to Five."

The Sam Peckinpah "violence is beautiful" award: to Martin Scorsese for the boxing ring bloodletting in "Raging Bull."

Best music: "The Competition." How can you beat a score by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Brahms, Chopin and Liszt?

Unsung heros: Daniel Pollock, Eduardo Delgado, Ralph Grierson, Lincoln Mayorga and Chester Swiatowski — the pianists who made Richard Dreyfuss, Amy Irving and the other finalists in "The Competition" sound great.

Best animal actor: Clyde, the orangutan, in "Any Which Way You Can." Watch out when he learns to sing and dance.

Most misleading title: "The Great Santini," an exceptionally good film about family relationships with a title that made everyone think it was about a circus act.

BEST YOUNG ACTOR: a draw between Timothy Hutton, who played the tormented son in "Ordinary People," and Michael O'Keefe, who played the angry son in "The Great Santini."

Most disappointing film: "Popeye," for neutering the hero and overworking the social situation in order to make "a statement."

Most frustrating title: "The Big Red One." You have to see the movie to figure out which words get the accent and what the title means, then you have to ask yourself if it was worth it.

Best Taste: "The Stunt Man," for location shooting at Hotel del Coronado in San Diego.

Most damaging to a profession: "The Awakening." Lops 30 points off the IQ of every archaeologist.

Most confusing title: "Gates of Heaven," the documentary about pet cemeteries, which is not to be confused with "Heaven's Gate," "Days of Heaven," or for that matter, "Gate of Hell."

TURNABOUT AWARD: to Tommy Lee Jones, who was such a dolt in "The Betsy" and so surprisingly good as Sissy Spacek's (Loretta Lynn's) husband in "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Once is enough: to any movie with a "2," "II" or "Two" in the title.

Most successful film debut was made by Dolly Parton as executive secretary to lecherous Dabney Coleman in "Nine to Five."

table talk

SOME 500 persons are expected to celebrate their Feb. 9 birthdays on the house at Wickerworks restaurant in the Northfield Hilton, Troy. General Manager Arthur Gimson recently offered a complimentary dinner for two in Wickerworks to anyone whose birthday falls on that day.

The freebie is part of a promotion for the Northfield Hilton's fifth birthday. A rollback to 1976 room, restaurant and cocktail prices that day has resulted in rooms being sold out and heavy reservations coming in for Wickerworks on Feb. 9.

THE BIG BOY is taking off some weight. The Elias Brothers chain of more than 200 Michigan restaurants has introduced an exclusive Weight Watchers menu.

The restaurant will serve breakfast, lunches and dinners on the Weight Watchers Program. The regular menu, of course, still features the chain's Big Boy hamburger, for those not watching their calories.

GONZO THEATRE wants groups to "Go Gonzo." Ralph Valatka, producing director of Gonzo Theatre, explained that organizations may obtain special rates to attend a performance of the comedy revue presented at dinner theater in Stouffer's Northland Inn, Souuthfield.

For groups of 60 or more, the house can be sold as a private party. Mid-week performances can be scheduled if the usual Friday and Saturday night shows don't fit the group's needs. Also blocks of tickets to regularly scheduled shows will be sold.

MERRIE MELODIE Theatre at the MeadowBrook Village Mall in Rochester is offering an afternoon of old-fashioned entertainment.

Along with the movie ("Top Hat" with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers in March, "Sweethearts" with Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in April), the afternoon includes a complete luncheon at the mall's Oceania Inn, nostalgic theater organ music before the show, and an audience sing-along.

"LOVER'S DESSERT" is a sweet addition for Valentine's Day to the menu at Victoria Station restaurants in Southfield and Troy.

Strawberry syrup whipped into a creamy mousse, topped with whipped cream and red cinnamon candied hearts, will be served on Feb. 14 only. Restaurant hours Valentine's Day are 5 p.m. to midnight.

Merry Madrigals appear at dinner, music night

"Madrigals, Mirth and Merlin," a dinner and music presentation, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 on the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

Part of a series entitled "Elegant!" the program is sponsored by the Highland Lakes Campus, at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

The Merry Madrigals is a group of 12 female vocalists dressed in 16th and 17th century costumes who perform with old world instruments. The group specializes in music of the Renaissance. The Madrigals has performed at the Interlochen Music Academy and all across the state.

Charles Deak will appear in medieval costume as Merlin the Magician. He has performed at the Wassail Feast presented annually by the Detroit Institute of Arts and has made several television appearances in the U.S. and Canada.

The dinner prepared by Chef Richard Benson will accompany the entertainment and reflect the "Elegant!" theme. Roast capon and pork and medieval tortes will be part of the menu.

The series continues with "Basically Baroque" on March 20 and "Linguini and Puccini" on April 10. Tickets are $12 per person or $22 per couple. Reservations are requested. Contact the Student Activities Office at the Highland Lakes Campus for reservations and additional information, 363-7191, ext. 261.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE ON THE TOWN

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Japanese Dinner 5-9:30
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For Reservations
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Featuring: Petit Frog Legs (All you can eat) served with: Cheese Crock and Crackers, Soup, Salad, French Fries, Roll and Butter
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(formerly Monahans)
15% OFF
ALL LUNCHEONS & DINNERS
with this coupon only
during February
Senior Citizens do not need coupon
675 E. Maple - 646-6188 - Daily 11 AM-8 PM
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VALENTINE'S DAY IS A RED LETTER DAY AT SCHULER'S.
And our "Sweetheart Special" is Win Schuler's own valentine for the two of you. It's a complete dinner which includes a delicious brochette of beef tenderloin along with a boneless breast of chicken, marinated in a savory sauce laced with sherry. And from February 9-14 it's only $9.95! Also don't forget, when you buy flowers at a participating florist, you'll get a coupon good for two free desserts with your dinner.
Call soon for reservations.
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• present this coupon
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Valentine's Day
Share a special Valentine dinner with your loved one at Wicker Works. We'll be featuring a petite filet mignon and crab leg dinner for two, our famous Wicker Works Salad Bar, special orange blossom crepe dessert and a half bottle of red wine for just $28 per couple. Reservations are required, so call 879-2100 and plan to share Saturday, February 14 with your Valentine.
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5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75
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SPEEDWAGON DOES IT AGAIN.
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