

The Oscars for nonwatchers

I missed the Academy Awards Sunday night, which is a real shame because I wanted to see what Gwyneth Paltrow was wearing.

Luckily, my girlfriend watched the awards and she told me all about them. She was watching television with about 50 other girls in what can only be described as the Super Bowl for women . . . the Oscars. To me the Oscars seem like a lot of pomp for what is essentially a competition for some little, naked gold guys.

I like movies, but I'm not really a movie "buff." In fact, I don't even know anyone that refers to themselves as a "buff." When it comes to movies, my real talent is reviewing movies that I haven't seen, which makes me a perfect correspondent for the Oscars. So here is my breakdown of the Academy Awards:

My girlfriend tells me that "Shakespeare in Love" cleaned up at the Oscars, winning Best Picture, Original Screenplay, Actress in a Lead Role (Gwyneth Paltrow), Actress in a Supporting Role (Judi Dench) and even the highly coveted award for Costume Design, as well as two others. I won't bother to review this movie because I've seen it (it was pretty good).

However, John Madden did not win the directing award for "Shakespeare in Love." Personally, I think it's amazing that this guy can direct such a fine film, telestrate NFL games and produce high-quality video games like "Madden '99."

Steven Spielberg won the award for directing "Saving Private Ryan," which I've also seen. I will say this seriously: the first 15 minutes of that film are the best anti-war footage ever found in a movie, except for the final scene in "Animal House."

I guess some people are surprised that Tom Hanks didn't win the best lead actor award. I'm not surprised at all; he's already won it twice. This is a guy who

but Bill Gates bought them all, and now he runs the show. Basically, what these guys do is rent out a theatre, get really drunk and watch porno flicks. The next morning they quickly fill out their ballots on a Scantron sheet and submit them to Hillary Clinton, who is responsible for tallying the votes.

I'm glad Don, Tony, Boutros Boutros and Bill picked Mr. Benigni for best actor. I think their choice reinforces the integrity of the Academy, or maybe it shows that Bill Gates really likes funny little Italian men. All I want to know is why the Academy snubs Adam Sandler every year!

Some highly nominated movies that came up empty this year were "Gods and Monsters," starring Ian McKellen, and "American History X," not to be confused with Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" or "Rocky X." I haven't seen "Gods and Monsters," but I believe it's a documentary about college professors.

That's my take on the Oscars that I failed to watch. I'll admit I don't have great taste in movies. My favorite Christmas film is "Die Hard" ("Ho Ho Ho. Now I have a machine gun") and I think "Menace II Society" is a modern epic. Well, until next time, I'll see you at Grafton-Stovall Theatre.

Gabe Uhr is a senior English major who likes movie butter better than real butter . . . he thinks it's more consistent.



Conduwit

— Gabe Uhr

went from starring in movies like "The Money Pit" and "The 'Burbs" 10 years ago to being considered a more highly acclaimed actor than Robert DeNiro is these days.

Rightly so, the award for best actor went to . . . (drum roll on your desk) Robert Benigni for "Life is Beautiful." I really want to see this movie because some people have told me that it's a laugh riot compared to "Schindler's List."

Now some people might be wondering who the Academy is, and how do they select the winners? Well, I'll tell you.

The Academy is made up of Don King, Tony Bennett and Boutros Boutros Ghali,