SPIELBERG'S list

Academy finally honors director

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Steven Spielberg finally got to hold an Oscar on Monday night, winning best director and picture for "Schindler's List," a stark epic of heroism amid the Holocaust that took seven awards in all.

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"This is the best drink of water after the longest drought of my life," Spielberg said as he came to the stage a second time, for the best picture award.

In two decades of turning out Hollywood's biggest hits from "Jaws" to "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," Spielberg had never won for best picture or director. It had led all competitors at the 66th annual Academy Awards with 12 nominations.

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True to the Academy's tradition of honoring portrayals of affliction, Tom Hanks, a lawyer fighting discrimination while dying of AIDS in "Philadelphia,"

and Holly Hunter, the mute mail-order bride of "The Piano," won as best leading performers.

'The streets of heaven are too crowded with angels, Hanks said in tribute to people who have died of AIDS. "We know their names; they number a thousand for every red ribbon worn tonight.

Among the actors Hanks defeated was Liam Neeson, who portrayed Oskar Schindler, the savior of more than 1,000 Polish Jews during World War II.

"Jane Campion: I love you, I love you," Hunter said in paying tribute to her director and author of the screenplay. "Thank you so much for giving me a character and an experience that was so difficult to say good-bye to — except I don t have to say goodbye. It's everybody's now and that is such a gift

"Schindler's List" also won for screenplay adaptation, art direction, film editing, John Williams' original score and its mostly

black-and-white cinematog-

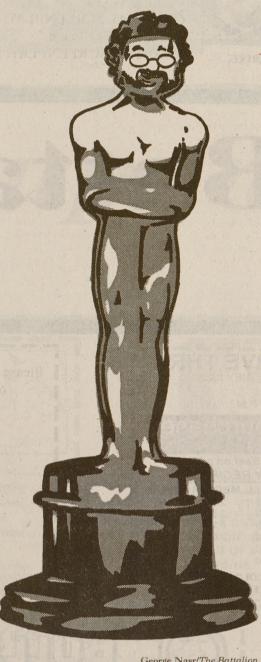
Another Spielberg movie also had a good night. "Jurassic Park," the sciencefiction fantasy that recreated dinosaurs with dazzling realism and record box-office success, won awards in all three categories for which it was nominated - visual effects, sound and sound effects editing.

'The Piano" also took three Oscars. Eleven-yearold Anna Paquin was a surprise winner for supporting actress as the precocious daughter who interprets for her mute mother, and Campion won for her screen-

play.
Tommy Lee Jones, the lawman who doggedly pursues Harrison Ford in "The Fugitive," was best supporting actor.
Paquin's eyes lit up with

amazement when she heard her name. The actress, who said earlier she had not prepared a speech because she doubted she would win,

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George Nasr/The Battalion

Reviews

Leary rises above 'The Ref's' foul plot

Film

By Paul Neale The Battalion

> "The Ref" Starring Denis Leary, Judy Davis, Kevin Spacey, Glynis Johns and Raymond J. Barry Directed by Ted Demme Rated R Playing at Hollywood USA

Got two words for ya: "The Ref." Got two more: stale plot.

Twas the night before Christmas, and Gus, a jewel thief played by Denis Leary, is in the spirit of taking. But

cowardly partner Murray (Richard Bright) panics and takes off in the getaway car. The only thing Gus comes away with is a couple of hostages to escape his pursuants.

To his dismay, Gus discovers that he has hijacked a dysfunctional couple on their way home from a disastrous session with their marriage counselor. Caroline (Judy Davis) and Lloyd Chasseurs (Kevin Spacey) bicker incessantly, and Gus loathes his irritating captives

immediately The trio returns to the

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Beck's new album is no 'Loser,' baby

Music

By Kyle Burnett The Battalion

"Mellow Gold" Beck Alternative DGC Records

Unless you spent spring break with your head in the sand, you must have heard the song that goes something like, "I'm a loser baby so why don't ya kill me.'

Well, in case you missed it, don't fret. The song, "Loser," is an MTV "Buzzclip" and can

be seen on channel 98 about every half hour or so.

Beck, the 23-year-old songwriter/performer of the hit song, describes his work as "folk noise." And Beck's first album, "Mellow Gold" is, well, some folk and a lot of noise — but that's good.

Beck's experimental musical style combined with his stream-of- consciousness lyrics makes "Mellow Gold" a very entertaining collection of works.

One of Beck's strong points is that he can write about almost anything and make it in-

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