## Scorsese deals a winning hand in 'Casino' <br> By Jeff Randall

Las Vegas may be the city of lost wages for most. But for Martin Scorsese, it looks to be a highly profitable subject matter in his latest film,
This based-on-a-true-story feature
 Stars
DeNiro ("Rabert Bull," "Taxi
Driver") as Sam "Ace" Rothstein, a widely respected gambler who gets tapped by the mob to run a casino in opportunity eventually sours for wot
Rothstein, who discovers that running nds up ends up paying for it in the long run. also stars as Nicky Santoro, a lifelong friend of Rothstein and a prized asset for "the boys back home", the ringfor "the boys back home, the ringreaders who operate Las Vegas from
halfway across the country. A short-

## The Facts

Film:"Casino"
Stars: Robert DeNiro, Sharon Stone, Joe Pesci
Director: Martin Scorsese
Rating: R (violence, language)
Grade: B
Five Words: Las Vegas seedy past revealed
tempered and brash enforcer of sorts, Santoro keeps other criminals away ith Rothstein's casino and does so not.

Sharon Stone is Ginger McKenna a chip hustler who wins Rothstein's of both her greed and her addictions to cohol and an assortment of drugs

Although this tale of the Mafia and s day-to-day runnings is certain to garner comparisons to "Goodfellas," garner comparisons to "Goodfellas,"
Scorsese's award-winning 1990 film,

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"Casino" manages to get deeper into reprisal of his role as Tommy in the psyche of the organized criminal. "Goodfellas." His character has little "Goodfellas" was somewhat educa- portraying the sheer violent nature tional in an operations standpoint, this and street attitude of Santoro. film is deeper in its approach to character as it goes through the steps.
The first half of the film goes through the standard audience-wowing facts about how the mob runs things, especially in Las Vegas. All of ers are named and all of the minor
en incidents (cheating gamblers, dealing with state officials) are seen in overview.

But the second half - in which Rothstein, McKenna and Santoro slowly disintegrate - is where the real heart of this film resides.

DeNiro is excellent as Rothstein By now it seems that he can most often walk through his roles, but he seemsto give more in this effort. His voiceover narration throughout the film tells the facts, while his actions on screen ell the true story.
Pesci makes what amounts to a

## IMA

And Stone, who attempts to legitimize her acting ability in this film, mize her acting ability in this film, manages to turn in only a margina performance. She is convincing as a comes to her later stages of addiction and desperation, she seems out of her epth.

The film also includes a number of excellent cameoroles, including James Woods as McKenna's former pimp, Don Rickles as a casino manager and lan King as a connection between Vegas and "the boys back home.
Scorsese has now developed such a memorable bag of tricks that many past work. But "Casino" is still fresh and attractive. The freeze frame shots, the sweeping camera movements and the angled point-of-view shots are all exciting elements that make the film -all three hours of it-fly by with a surprising quickness.

'Toy Story' earns top spot for Disney in box-office debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) "Toy Story," Disney's com puter-animated tale of feuding spot at the box office in its debut spot at the box office in its de
over the holiday weekend.
The film earned an estimate $\$ 38$ million in ticket sales Wednesday through Sunday, industry sources said.
"Mources said.
Money Train,"(No.4), "Casino"(No.5) and "Nick of Time" No. 9) also opened in the top
"Goldeneye," the latest James Bond thriller, held its own with an estimated $\$ 27.1$ million to place No. 2, followed by "Ace
Ventura: When Nature Calls" with $\$ 19$ million.


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## Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson

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