

Current Movies

"Six Pack" (Fox) — In this feature film debut, singer Kenny Rogers plays a racecar driver down on his luck, who becomes, willy-nilly, the surrogate father of six orphans struggling to keep together by stealing auto parts. That's how they meet Rogers. They strip his car. From such an inauspicious beginning, affection blooms. Pretty soon Rogers is back on top with the kids as his pit crew, and he feels so good about it that he decides to marry the charming honky-tonk woman (Erin Gray) whom he had been favoring with his attentions every few months or so, whenever he happened to be passing through. Directed by Daniel Petrie from a script by Mike Marvin and Alex Matter, "Six Pack" is sheer, contrived mediocrity from start to finish. Because part of the fun is foul language issuing from the mouths of

babes, and because of a benign attitude towards Rogers love 'em and leave 'em ways — before he's reformed, of course — the U.S. Catholic Conference has given it an A III (adults). The industry rating is PG (parental guidance).

"Things Are Tough All Over" (Columbia) — This latest Cheech and Chong film is the worst yet, with, under Thomas K. Avildsen's direction, the usual problem of beating jokes into the ground. The duo drives a money-laden car from Chicago to Las Vegas for two rich Arabs, whose roles they also take. Though happily, the emphasis on narcotics has been dropped this time, there is the customary foul language and coarse humor and a brief bit of nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it O (morally offensive). The industry rating is R (restricted).

"Piaf — The Early Years" (20th Century-Fox International Classics) — This film biography dramatizes the life of French singer Edith Piaf from her birth in 1915 to her first step into the limelight of a top Paris variety theater in the early 1930s. Through the crushing hardships of those formative years, Piaf nurtured her talent and gradually left behind the seedy un-

derworld of criminals and prostitutes who befriended her to become an international celebrity until her death in 1963.

Because of the somewhat romantic treatment of Piaf's notorious affairs of the heart, the U.S. Catholic Conference has classified the film A III (adults). There is no rating from the MPA.

Books in Brief

The Religious Right and Christian Faith, by Gabriel Fackre. Eerdmans (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1982) 126 pp., \$8.95.

By Richard Philbrick

So much is being said about the political views and activities of the Religious Right, or the New Political Religious Right (NPRR), if you will, that comparatively little attention is being paid to its religious convictions. Going against the current, Gabriel Fackre devotes himself to the religious basis of the NPRR and almost ignores its politics.

"Basic theological assumptions underlie the Religious Right's political assumptions," he says, and they need to be examined from a theological point of view.

Abbot Professor of Christian Theology at Andover-Newton Theological School and widely known among theologians, Fackre is well qualified to conduct an examination. Other requisites, fairness and patience, are very evident in this book.

Beginning with an historical setting for the Religious Right, he goes on to take up one by one major beliefs of Christianity and compare traditional concepts of them with the assertions of NPRR adherents.

After a two-page treatment of salvation, for instance, he concludes with an assessment pointing out where tradition and the Religious Right harmonize and what weaknesses of the latter's doctrine of salvation are.

Couched in the language of a scholar, of a writer intent on being fair, the appraisals of the NPRR's beliefs are more explanatory than

judgmental, yet there is a sting in many of them.

Writing, for example, about the New Right's stand on consumption he comments, "Here again we see the covert entrance of Zoroastrian dualism into Christian proclamation. This perversion of Christian faith destroys political dialogue and rends the fabric of common life. It breeds the arrogance and intolerance which marks many single-issue groups whose constituencies are members of the Religious Right."

Certainly there are areas for disagreement in interpretation throughout the book, but the big handicap Fackre labored under is that the Religious Right simply has not put its doctrinal structure in order. To make the best of a difficult situation, he made extensive use of the statements of the Rev. Jerry Falwell, saying that his "his views, strategies, and tactics, are for the most part representative."

That may well be true, but the statements and so forth do not constitute a well-ordered, balanced presentation of doctrines. And, as he freely admits, there is more to the Religious Right than Falwell and his Moral Majority. Fackre has done extremely well with what he could find.

His book requires of a layman a great deal of effort, and it rewards accordingly. It would be great for a study group led by a theologian. The Religious Right does have basic theological assumptions, and Fackre is convincing when he argues that they should be brought to the fore and appraised.

(Philbrick is NC News Service book review coordinator.)

Recent Ratings

Following is a list of recent movies rated by the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Communication on the basis of moral suitability.

The first symbol after each title is the USCC rating. The second symbol is the rating given by the Motion Picture Association of America.

These are the USCC symbols and their meanings: A-I, general patronage; A-II, adults and adolescents; A-III, adults; A-IV, adults with reservations (this rating is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require caution and some analysis as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions); O, morally offensive. The word "recommended" in parentheses is inserted behind the titles of those films that merit such a designation.

These are the MPA symbols and their meanings: G, general audiences, all ages admitted; PG, parental guidance suggested, some material may not be suitable for children; R, restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; X, no one under 17 admitted (age limit may vary in certain areas).

- A**
 - The Amateur, A-III (R)
 - Amin — The Rise and Fall, O (R)
 - Annie, A-I (PG)
 - Atlantic City, A-III (R)
 - Author, Author, A-II (PG)
- B**
 - Barbarosa, A-II (PG)
 - The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, O (R)
 - Body Heat, O (R)
 - Blade Runner, O (R)
 - The Border, A-III (R)
 - Butterfly, O (R)
- C**
 - Cat People, O (R)
 - Chariots of Fire, A-I (PG) (Recommended)
 - The Chosen, A-II (PG)
 - Conan the Barbarian, O (R)
- D**
 - Das Boot, A-III (R)
 - Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid, A-III (PG)
 - Death Trap, A-III (PG)
 - Death Valley, O (R)
 - Death Wish II, O (R)
 - Diner, A-III (R)
- E**
 - The Escape Artist, A-II (PG)
 - E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial, A-I (PG)
 - Evil Under the Sun, A-II (PG)
- F**
 - Fighting Back, O (R)
 - Firefox, A-III (PG)
 - Fox and Hound, A-I (G) (Recommended)
- G**
 - Gallipoli, A-III (PG)
 - Ghost Story, (R)
 - Grease II, A-III (PG)
 - Gregory's Girl, A-II (PG)
- H**
 - Hanky Panky, A-III (PG)
- I**
 - I Love You, O (R)
 - I Ought to be in Pictures, A-II (PG)
 - If You Could See What I Hear, A-III (PG)
 - I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can, A-III (R)
- L**
 - Lady Chatterley, O (R)

- LaBau Marriage, A-III (PG)
 - A Little Sex, O (R)
 - The Long Good Friday, A-IV (R)
 - Love and Money, O (R)
- M**
 - Making Love, O (R)
 - Man of Iron, A-II (PG)
 - Megaforce, A-II (PG)
 - Mephisto, A-IV
 - A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy, A-III (PG)
 - Missing, A-III (PG) (Recommended)
 - N**
 - Night Crossing, A-I (PG)
 - Night Shift, O (R)
 - O**
 - On Golden Pond, A-III (PG)
 - An Officer and a Gentleman, O (R)
 - One From the Heart, A-III (R)
 - Paradise, O (R)
 - Partners, O (R)
 - Penitentiary II, O (R)
 - Pennies from Heaven, A-III (R)
 - Personal Best, O (R)
 - Piaf — The Early Years, A-III
 - The Pirate Movie, A-III (PG)
 - Pixote, A-IV (Recommended)
 - Pottergeist, O (PG)
 - Porcky's, O (R)
 - Private Lessons, O (R)
 - Q**
 - Quest for Fire, O (R)
 - R**
 - Raging Bull, A-III (R)
 - Ragtime, A-IV
 - Reds, A-III (PG) (Recommended)
 - Richard Pryor Live on Sunset Strip, A-IV (R)
 - The Road Warrior, O (R)
 - Rocky III, A-III (PG)
 - Rollover, A-III (R)
 - S**
 - The Seduction, O (R)
 - The Secret of NIMH, A-I (G)
 - The Secret Policeman's Other Ball, A-III
 - Sharky's Machine, A-III (R)
 - Shoot the Moon, A-III (R)
 - Six Pack, A-III (PG)
 - Some Kind of Hero, O (R)
 - Soup For One, O (R)
 - Squeeze Play, O (R)
 - Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, A-II (PG)
 - The Story of Christiane F., A-IV
 - Summer Lovers, O (R)
 - A Stranger is Watching, A-III (R)
 - T**
 - Taps, A-II (PG)
 - Tempest, A-III (PG)
 - The Thing, O (R)
 - Things Are Tough All Over, O (R)
 - Three Brothers, A-II
 - Ticket to Heaven, A-II (PG)
 - Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man, O (R)
 - From A-III (PG)
 - V**
 - Victor Victoria, A-IV (PG)
 - Visiting Hours, O (R)
 - W**
 - Windwalker, A-II (PG)
 - The World According to Garp, A-III (R)
 - Wrong is Right, A-III (R)
 - Y**
 - Young Doctors in Love, O (R)

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