

Entertainment

'Scoundrels' sacrifice sentiment; 'Hellraiser' oozes gore

By Judith Trojan

NEW YORK (NC) — "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" (Orion Pictures) is one of those classy-looking comedies that sacrifices laughs and a heart for surface panache.

A remake of the 1964 film "Bedtime Story" starring Marlon Brando and David Niven, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" tracks the shenanigans of two rogues competing for the big bucks of moneyed women in the fictional French Riviera town of Beaumont-sur-Mer.

Dapper Lawrence Jamieson (Michael Caine) already rules the turf as the con-in-residence. A mock potentate from an unknown country, Lawrence is "highly principled" — he only preys on rich, American women. He tells the trusting ladies that he needs money to stave off the communist takeover of his homeland, but in truth uses the money to live in glorious splendor, and to support local park and art museum maintenance. As con artists go, Lawrence is the cream of the crop. He even has the support of the local chief of police (Anton Rodgers), who tips him off to potential victims.

His life's work is jeopardized by the arrival of slovenly, crass Freddy Benson (Steve Martin), a tasteless American con artist with a small-potatoes talent for bilking women — both rich and poor — out of their money. Fearing exposure, Lawrence agrees to transform Freddy into an impeccably dressed and mannered con if he'll use his new talents elsewhere.

In some lightly funny sequences, Freddy is groomed into a clone of Lawrence, and the two work some jobs together. Freddy acts the part of Lawrence's nerdy brother Ruprecht, which provides Martin with his best comic if most vulgar moments in the film.

Ultimately, Freddy and Lawrence vie for control of the lucrative town with a bet to be the first to con \$50,000 out of unsuspecting American "soap queen" Janet Colgate (Glenn Headly).

As directed by Frank Oz ("Little Shop of Horrors" and the creator of The Muppets' Miss Piggy), "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" makes the most of its gorgeous Riviera setting but lacks major laughs or surprises. Caine steals the film as the suave con with a heart of gold, and Headly is a delight as a rube with hidden talents.

Unfortunately, Martin's Freddy is unredeemable and often distasteful. And the screenplay by Dale Launer, Stanley Shapiro and Paul Henning (with uncredited input from Martin) has an undercurrent of contemporary nastiness and cynicism that deflates its comic intentions.



Steve Martin (left) and Michael Caine portray rogues competing for the big bucks of moneyed women on the French Riviera in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." The U.S. Catholic Conference describes the film as "one of those classy comedies that sacrifices laughs and a heart for surface panache."

While both cons get their comeuppance of a sort in the end and the better man retains his dignity throughout, the film lacks both a heart and heartiness to endear it to audiences.

Due to some mild sexual innuendo, a cynical approach to women as easily conned targets and one incident of vulgar bathroom humor, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'Hellraiser II'

Blood oozes from every frame of "Hell

bound: Hellraiser II" (New World), a sequel to the original "Hellraiser" flick that saw a family skinned and sucked into hell by ghouls of unspeakable dimensions.

Although teenage Kirsty (Ashley Laurence) survived the first go-round with demons, she is tagged once again for evisceration, when an ancient puzzle box releases the anguished, skinless souls of the nether world. These bloody characters ravage the living for skin before pulling their victims' souls down to their level.

Also on hand is Pinhead (Doug Bradley) and his three equally dead and ugly henchmen. An

acupuncturist's dream come true, Pinhead ends up sacrificing himself to the skinless ones to save Kirsty, which may be the only human touch in this senseless mess directed by special-effects wizard Tony Randel and based on a story by Clive Barker. Barker masterminded the original film.

Due to an overabundance of blood, eviscerated humans and corpses; many close-ups of maggots and skinless flesh; brief nudity; some simulated sex with ghouls; and periodic profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Vatican finances

Continued from page 4

Vatican Publishing Office and *L'Osservatore Romano*, a daily Italian-language newspaper with several weekly editions in other languages — rose from \$7.6 million in 1985 to \$11.7 million in 1986 and \$13.9 million in 1987.

Publishing income grew faster, however — from \$11.7 million in 1985 to \$17.1 million in 1986 and \$20.7 million in 1987.

The 1987 report said that after adding in administrative and personnel costs, the Vatican Polyglot Press had a net profit of \$187,000, the Vatican Publishing Office had a net profit of \$117,000, and *L'Osservatore Romano* had a deficit of nearly \$5.4 million.

The combined deficits of publishing and broadcasting amounted to \$22.9 million, up slightly from the 1986 figure of \$21.5 million.

Anti-Semitic

Continued from page 1

"The tape is probably the most vicious piece of anti-Semitic material that's ever been produced in the United States," he said, noting that he was "appalled at the blatant anti-Semitism in the books and the tape."

When contacted for comment on Friday, Jan. 13, a friary spokesman who identified himself as "a member of the community" said, "We consider the tape to be a very objective tape and it is well-documented." He declined to discuss the matter further and said Father Vezelis was likewise not available for comment.

After viewing the tape, Rabbi Judea B. Miller, leader of Temple B'rith Kodesh on Elmwood Avenue, called it "vintage anti-Semitism."

"I think it's off-the-wall crazy," he said, noting that its content was "real old dirt stuff."

The stir caused by the bookstore's wares was not the first time the friary and its leader have been at the center of controversy. Father Vezelis, a "traditionalist," was suspended from priestly duties by his Franciscan superiors in 1978, and expelled from the order.

The increase in dollar terms was due entirely to the lower value of the dollar in 1987, however. In Italian currency, in which the actual costs of those operations are figured, the deficit dropped from 29 billion lire in 1986 to 26.8 billion lire in 1987.

In 1986, to cover an overall deficit of \$56.7 million, the Holy See used all \$32 million that it collected in Peter's Pence that year plus \$24.7 million which it still had in reserve from collections of previous years. It said in its 1986 report that those reserves "are by now nearly exhausted."

Its 1987 report — that with an additional \$13.5 million withdrawal those reserves are now "completely exhausted" — means that if new Peter's Pence contributions do not cover future deficits the Vatican will have to find other contributed funds or dip into the Patrimony of the Holy See, a 60-year-old investment fund already weakened by withdrawals used to cover earlier deficits.

Since 1979, Vezelis has operated the friary at the Mt. Read Boulevard location. In 1982, the diocese formally renounced any rites performed by the priest.

That same year, Bishop George Musey of Houston, Texas, consecrated Vezelis a bishop. Bishop Musey had been consecrated by Bishop Moises Carmona, who had been consecrated by Archbishop Ngo-dinh Thuc of Vietnam. The church considers the consecration of Carmona — and of all those he, in turn, consecrated — to be illicit because Archbishop Thuc lacked papal permission to consecrate Bishop Carmona.

To be recognized by the Church, a bishop's consecration must be both licit — that is, authorized — and valid, performed by a bishop who was himself ordained or consecrated to the episcopacy by a licit and valid source. Since Father Vezelis' episcopal orders can be traced to Bishop Carmona's illicit consecration, the church does not recognize the priest as a bishop.

In 1983, in fact, Father Vezelis' name appeared on a list of priests about whom the Vatican warned Catholics "not to take part in or support in any way liturgical activities or initiatives and works of another kind which are promoted by those mentioned above."

Personnel

Continued from page 7

ties, dropping numbers, aging priests, we need to devote more time to priests. We feel that in the 1990s they will need more attention."

Father Schrader likewise is looking forward to focusing his energies on the needs of priests in the diocese. In addition to the concerns cited by Father Mulligan, the outgoing division director said he plans to give more attention to the first assignments of newly ordained priests to make sure that these assignments will suit their abilities and meet their needs. He also hopes to visit sick and infirmed priests more regularly than he was able to do as division director, and to establish regular communication with diocesan priests serving outside the diocese.

Father Schrader said he will also be indirectly involved with the development of alternative staffing patterns in parishes. "My hope is that I will now be freer to work on the emerging concern regarding alternative staffing patterns, insofar as it will affect our priests," he said.

The ongoing Commitment to Ministry reflection program also will influence the kind of training priests will need and where they will be assigned, the priest said. The program, which will continue through the spring of 1990, is designed to determine parishes' future staffing

'Drug czar'

Continued from page 5

"The downside is that he is a hardhat, with the idea that you can whip a problem with the use of a heavy hand," Monsignor O'Brien said. "If he's not disabused of that idea, he's in trouble."

Progress on the drug problem, Monsignor O'Brien said, requires simultaneous attention to three factors: interdiction (of drugs from entering the country), prevention (by enforcement of laws against domestic sale and purchase) and rehabilitation (of people already addicted).

The federal government has been attempting to solve the problem almost exclusively by

needs. "I think in the long run, as priests and lay people study these issues, what will emerge will be good and our pastoral needs will continue to be met," he concluded.

Mason said he had not yet had a chance to read the NACPA audit report. He has already decided, however, that his first priority will be establishing lines of communication within the division, with other divisions, and with diocesan employees. "Personal interaction is important," he observed. "Personnel is a service part of an organization. We're there to ... to help resolve problems, to give advice. Communication is the No. 1 priority, especially (in a diocese) with 12 counties."

The new director said communication also will be important because of number and variety of people employed by the diocese. "I have never experienced such a diversified makeup within an organization, in terms of personnel — deacons, priests, sisters, lay people," Mason said, noting that he welcomes the challenge such diversity provides. "I see that as something I wanted to sink my teeth into."

In addition to having a personnel professional in place to run the division, Father Mulligan pointed out that the hiring of Mason will free Father Schrader to work more directly with priest-personnel concerns. "One of our goals is that he'll be able to devote more time to priests," he said. "With changing responsibili-

interdiction, with some effort at prevention and little at rehabilitation, he said.

"The federal government doesn't have a clue about drug addiction in the United States," Monsignor O'Brien said. "The American strategy has been mostly a series of photo opportunities."

Nancy Reagan's theme of "just say no or just say boo," he commented, works only "up to the third or fourth grade."

Mrs. Reagan visited Daytop twice during the 1980 presidential campaign and twice after her husband's election, and Daytop honored her with its Promethean Award in 1981. But they were later estranged, and in 1986 Monsignor O'Brien called the Reagans' anti-drug message "excellent theater" but "doomed to failure."

'Go from

BRIGHT ago, Roxar and she fe live. The phomore a sacrament count, she

One of t all confirm tend. At t questions f know who tant to the mendous k ticularly, i retreat-go cause she b

Since the run her lif member of group. The Johan Eng for an hou Anywhere turn up ea from the said.

At the g Salata, alo Maltz, lec Christ's de agers more group seen Christ's cr time.

"Did H dents, their the meetin varied resp

been raise release the go to heav freshman c crucifixion those who cross.

"If it we the cross r said. "He right there

Sp

Christm ginning of morning b the freedom ments. Vac dents' regu

As thoug year, stud familiar cl pressure t ments as re for a chem was balan ties such as tendance.

Soon af dreaded m terms are a that we lea the first ha be compar

Associ to bene

The Ass Impaired of ent Chefs' at the Hol

The ever cash bar, fe by member and Cooks clude hors

Cost for a table programs dren.

For more 716/232-11 January 19