

Offensive movie exploits base instincts

By Gerri Pare
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Director Paul Verhoeven (*Total Recall*) exploits the shock value of violent sex and bloody carnage in Tri-Star's *Basic Instinct*.

The story opens on a kinky sex encounter that ends in an ice pick-wielding female murdering her male sex partner. It then centers on chief suspect Catherine (Sharon Stone), a bisexual novelist who entices Nick Curran (Michael Douglas), the detective investigating her, into a steamy — and possibly lethal — affair.

After Catherine's lesbian lover (Leilani Sarelle) and Nick's rival (Daniel Von Barga) are murdered, the police come to suspect Nick.

The plot turns more sordid when Catherine deflects suspicion onto Nick's lover (Jeanne Tripplehorn), who once slept with Catherine.

Basic Instinct's depiction of women is appalling, and it totally dehumanizes sex. Every sexual encounter is a nasty, frenzied assault.

The movie's trashy conclusion is just a cop-out — justice is not served, and for that matter neither is the audience when bludgeoned by images of savage

intercourse and graphic brutality.

This film received an R rating from the Motion Picture Association of America. Here, however, the rating — which requires persons under 17 to be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian — is misleading, given what the public has come to understand the rating to mean. The degree of graphic sexual violence in *Basic Instinct* should have placed it in the NC-17 category (none under 17 admitted).

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification for this film is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.



Tri-Star Pictures
Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone star in the psychological thriller *Basic Instinct*.

Reader will no longer be a fence sitter after reading challenging book

The Art of Choosing: Working Through Daily Decisions and Discerning Our Path in Life, by Carlos G. Valles, SJ, Image Books Doubleday (1989); 136 pages; \$14.95.

By Bishop Dennis W. Hickey

Pierre Corneille wrote in 1646: "Guess if you can, choose if you dare." Carlos G. Valles, SJ, gives us the tools for decision making and relieves our fears in *The Art of Choosing*.

Decisions are not simply the concerns of presidents, prime ministers, popes, bishops or corporate executives. Every person endowed with free will is faced several times each day with the challenge of choosing, making decisions which — to the individual — are just as important as those made by leaders.

Although the latter could profit by this book, those on the firing line will also find their problems addressed and a method of solution presented.

The book's tone is set in the first paragraph when the author relates a

friend's response on hearing of the projected work. "That's (choosing) very simple: first listen carefully to what all others have to say about it. And then go and do what you damn well want."

Father Valles was not swayed from his intention as he recalled Paul's words to the Thessalonians: "Examine everything, and then hold fast to what is best."

The author is delightful in proposing general principles followed by concrete examples with which the reader can identify — sometimes with a chuckle. For example, "Laziness, doubt and fear are the great enemies of the right choice" begins one chapter.

The troublesome religious is cited as one who refuses his superior's offer to choose his next assignment. He fears he will have to blame himself if it does not work out. Or the young man who said: "Let my parents do the choice. That way, if my marriage ever ends in failure I can blame them."

Father Valles has an insightful chap-

ter "The Blight of Compromise." God wants a clean choice — yes or no. He will not settle for yes but not now. This resonates with the words from Revelation "Would that you were either cold or hot."

Father Valles emphasizes in his work's latter part that the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius offer a method for choosing. He skillfully shows how they can be used from the simplest daily problems to that of discerning one's state of life.

He even suggests that Ignatius' daily examination of conscience can be an effective instrument in measuring these choices. "For me" writes Father Valles, "the art of choosing is the art of living. My choices are what I am."

One of today's commercials says: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." It's equally important that our wills be used in carrying out the intellect's dictates. It is so much easier to be carried along with the crowd — to avoid making our own choices.

"I shall always vote the party line

whoever the candidate may be" epitomizes the person who squanders the use of his God-given faculties. "The art of choosing, like any other art, has to be learned through practice and reading and asking others and making mistakes and gathering experience ... till it is mastered and becomes second nature," the author concludes.

I find the *Art of Choosing* not only challenging but enjoyable. The third reading proved as interesting as the first. One will no longer be a fence sitter after perusing this book.

Father Valles is an interesting person. Born in Spain, he chose the Jesuit way of life and traveled to India as a young man. He mastered several languages, taught mathematics at the college and graduate level for many years, worked closely with the poor and infirm, conducted retreats and authored several books on the spiritual life.

The Spiritual Book Associates are to be commended for introducing him to American readers.

★ ★ ★ ★ MOVIE ★ TRIVIA ★ ★ ★ ★

WIN ONE YEAR OF VIDEO RENTALS FROM

Question: Kevin Costner plays the District Attorney of what city in the movie, **JFK**?

Answer: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last month's winner: **Catherine Lennox** of Webster correctly identified **Walter** as the name of the fish that eluded Norman in the movie, **On Golden Pond**.

RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, APRIL 17. Random drawing of correct entries to be held APRIL 20 by Catholic Courier Representatives. Entries must be returned by mail to: Catholic Courier, Movie Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899. Winner will be notified by mail. Prize is one year of Wegmans Video Rentals (membership is free and is required). Prize is not exchangeable for cash or other merchandise.

WEGMANS HOME VIDEO COUPON

2 FOR 1 MOVIE RENTAL

Rent any movie at regular price and receive 2nd movie of equal or lesser value free. (Proper I.D. required for membership). Coupon not valid with any other specials. Limit 1 per transaction. Coupon valid on one day rentals. Valid only in stores with video depts. Coupon Value...up to 2.00 Limit 1 thru 4/23/92

77890 13661

Logos book store LOGOS GUARANTEED BOOK OF THE WEEK! Logos book store

At Logos, we bring you the best in Catholic Reading. If you're not completely satisfied, return the book with the original sales receipt within 30 days and you'll receive a complete refund. That's our MONEYBACK GUARANTEE, and it's that simple. (Guarantee applies to books purchased up to 6 months from date of this ad)

Playing with God is designed for pondering. It's about living the Christian life with one's full potential and taking our spirituality as seriously as we take our play.

"Here is a provocative way to discover God ... and yourself" —John Shea, Author, Stories of God.
"Each page is a work of art which startles, affirms and dares the artist within each of us." —Mary Southard, CSJ, Co-Director Spiritearth

The format of this book allows for the removal of pages for display and framing.

About the author/artist: Jean Morman Unsworth makes art, teaches art, writes about art. Her work with children has convinced her that creativity is the heritage of every child of God—no matter what his or her age. In *Playing with God*, she meshes her own experience as an artist with her life-long mission to bring others to wonder, to delight, to imagine and to create.

VISA VISA AND MASTERCARD ORDERS ACCEPTED BY PHONE OR MAIL
OUT-OF-TOWN CUSTOMERS, CALL: 1-800-755-6467 (Greece Store Only)

Logos book store

GREECE
THE STREET OF SHOPPES
1600 Ridge Road West
(716) 663-5085

TWO
CONVENIENT
LOCATIONS

PENFIELD
PENN-FAIR PLAZA
2200 Penfield Road
(716) 377-4480

