## EISURE

# New biography highlights St. Thomas More's beliefs

REVIEW

Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage, by Gerard B. Wegemer. Scepter Publishers (Princeton, N.J., 1995) 307 pp., \$24.95.

n tion soci-

)ach-

wife?

nan?

sibil-

10 in-

must

has

ered

num

≳s at

ner"

men

olds

ried

ther

They

her

old-

and

has

lder

) fo-

bilee

pots

rga-

nen-

our-

self,

City

wer

E

S

rt-

See

day.

deð.

3

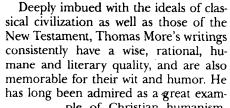
#### Reviewed by Father Richard F. Costigan Catholic News Service

St. Thomas More continues to attract the admiration of both authors and readers, as he richly deserves, and Gerard Wegemer's new book, Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage, is a worthy addition to the long list of books about him.

Thomas More (Feb. 7, 1477-June 22, 1535), surely the most admired man in England in his time, was a very successful and wealthy lawyer, educator, a leader of Parliament, counselor of King Henry VIII, and finally

Lord Chancellor of the realm, a post somewhat like prime minister. But when Henry broke away from the Catholic Church, More refused to recognize him as the supreme head of the church in England. For this he was convicted of treason and beheaded.

More is also known for the books that he wrote at many stages of his life, and Wegemer devotes his main attention to the religious and moral ideas expressed in them, creating a valuable and infor-mative "portrait" of More's character. More wrote from experience on marriage and family life, being a devoted husband and father, and on education, having in mind his own children. He wrote on the need for reform in society and in the church, but strongly opposed the doctrines and policies of Martin Luther and other Protestants.



ple of Christian humanism. People liked him personally and would agree with the famous Dutch scholar, Erasmus, a close friend of More, that he was "born for friendship."

Wegemer has especially good chapters on the books More wrote in prison in the Tower of London while awaiting his execution. "The Dialogue of Comfort Against Tribulation," considered by some to be his masterpiece,

tells in deeply religious terms of the value of all suffering, especially when endured because of false accusations. The hardest thing to bear was that his family, especially his wife, did not support him in his trials. They wanted him to comply with the king's will and rejected his most moving explanations of why he, as a matter of religious faith and conscience, simply could not do so.

Wegemer cites at the end of the book Pope Pius XI's comment, when he canonized Thomas More in 1935 during the heyday of Nazism and fascism, that he was a model of courage in the face of enormous abuse of state power. The book would make very good spiritual reading

Jesuit Father Richard F. Costigan is associate professor of theology at Loyola University of Chicago.



Paramount Pictures

Steve Dodds (David Spade, left) and Mike Donnelly (Chris Farley) are exiled to a rundown cabin knocked off its foundation in the comedy "Black Sheep."

## Two new films merit 'dogs' in titles

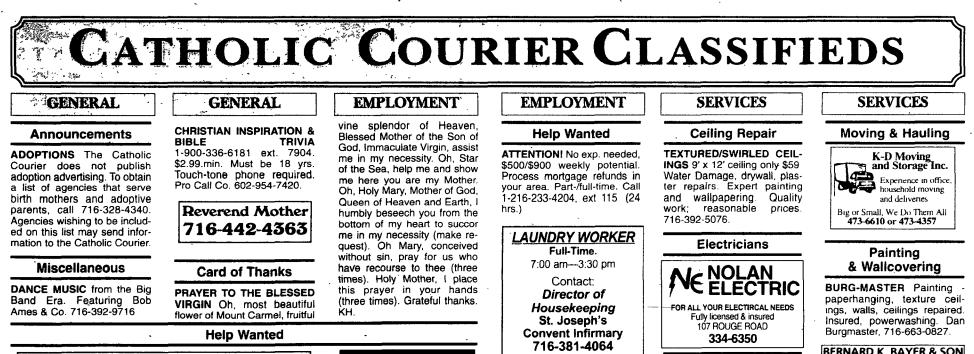
NEW YORK (CNS) - The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

## 'Black Sheep' (Paramount)

Inept comedy in which a well-meaning oaf (Chris Farley) nearly ruins his brother's chances to be elected governor, despite the efforts of a campaign staffer (David Spade) to keep the bumbler out of the public eye. A limp script and tepid physical comedy make director Penelope Spheeris' movie look more like an extended TV sitcom. Some slapstick violence, brief substance abuse, minor sexual innuendo, intermittent profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III - adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 - parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

### **'12 Monkeys' (Universal)**

Convoluted sci-fi tale set in 2035 when the few survivors of a 1997 killer virus seek to learn the cause of the epidemic by sending an expendable criminal (Bruce Willis) back in time to 1996 where a psychiatrist (Madeleine Stowe) helps in tracking the mysterious gang of the title (led by Brad Pitt). Directed by Terry Gilliam, the elaborate narrative gets lost in quirky byways and nasty turns which only obscure what is essentially the story of a youth witnessing his own death as a time traveler. Some nasty violence, sexual situations and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV - adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R - restricted.





- High-tech training
- Education
- Experience
- Excellent salary
- Management Opportunities
- Worldwide travel
- Advancement Tax-free allowances

coverage

Medical and dental

For more information call 1-800-423-USAF or contact your local Air Force recruiter.



**BERNARD K. BAYER & SON** Mon.—Fri. 9 a.m.— 2 p.m. Heating & Painting & Wallpaper The Catholic Courser, **Air Conditioning** weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester, seeks Wood Finishing and Gutters <u>RN or LPN</u> Aluminum Doors and Windows a motivated individual to present the newspaper as a **Hicks Home Heating** Est. 1952 (716) 381-0812 (Experienced) Part-time Call us for all your heating needs Heating & Air Conditioning viable advertising medium Every-other weekend, day shift Good orientation. to businesses and organizations. Specialists Plumbing This full-time display Pleasant working conditions Sales · Service · Installation advertising sales position offers an established territo-Family Owned & Operated Contact: CASSIDY Plumbing and Heating **Director of Nursing** 424-4848 Licensed, Bonded Bathroom Remolding ry primarily in Monroe St. Joseph's County. Contact will be via No Service Charges **Convent Infirmary** telephone and personal Senior Citizen Discount 716-381-4064 Masonry visit. Arrangements offer com-Mon-Fri 10:30am-Noon 11 Comfort St. petitive compensation, bene 232-2000 Rochester, NY fits, and pleasant working conditions. Sales experience AMERICAN MASONEY & CHIMNEY SERVICES **Roofing Siding** helpful but not required. CHIMNEY & Gutters Good communication, typ-SERVICE **Appliance Repair** ng, and grammar skills ICE PROBLEMS??? Call ALL MABON essential. Bowman Roofing. 671-3270 or For consideration, send We Make 865-4170 663-7360 resume and letter of interest A 671-2912. House Calls Ć **Advertising Director** Call 328-4340 to advertise in the Catholic Couries SEW & VAC REPAIR CTR 1150 Buffalo Rd. 724 Winton Rd. N. **Courier classifieds** Rochester, NY 14624

716-482-6111

E.O.E.