

On the MOVE

Screening Th

Molly McNamara has discovered movie ratings are not taken to heart by everyone. "When I'm babysitting, 11-year-olds are watching (R-rated) movies that I'm not allowed to watch. I say, 'OK, let's turn that off!'" remarked Molly, 16, a parishioner at St. Thomas More Church in Brighton.

Molly now understands the plight of many parents: What do you let your children watch? When are they old enough to handle such "adult" content in movies as foul language, sexual references, nudity or violence? Are they ever old enough?

Sometimes, noted Michele Lowry and Bridget Flint, their parents don't come to these conclusions until the last possible moment.

"I can remember my mother taking me to a movie. There was a bad part, and she covered my eyes," said Michele, from St. Ann's Church in Hornell.

Bridget, 14, frequently watches rental movies with her parents and two brothers, ages 18 and 11.

"If a scene comes up that my parents don't want us to see, they fast-forward it," said Bridget, from St. Mary's Church in Rexville.

Molly, Michele and Bridget all fall into an age range directly targeted by some movie ratings. Just two years ago, Michele and Bridget would not have qualified for entry into a PG-13 (not recommended for children under 13) movie. But by next year, Molly will have the option — age-wise, at least — of attending an R-rated movie (no one under 17 without an adult) by herself.

Molly said that she occasionally views an R-rated flick, but only with prior approval of her parents. Movies with a "a lot of violence and a lot of sexual content" tend to rank low on the list of acceptability, she said.

Ryan Healey, 15, from Greece's Holy Name of Jesus Church, admits he gets a little frustrated because his parents have not yet permitted him to see R-rated movies.

"I don't really like it, but I guess I have to go along with it," he said.

By the same token, Ryan said he enjoyed three movies with G (general audiences) and PG (parental guidance suggested) ratings at an overnight "Movie Madness." The event, held Feb. 22-23 at the Sony Webster Theatre, drew nearly 500 high school aged youth-group members. They viewed "Mr. Holland's Opus" and "Jumanji," both rated PG; and "Toy Story," rated G.

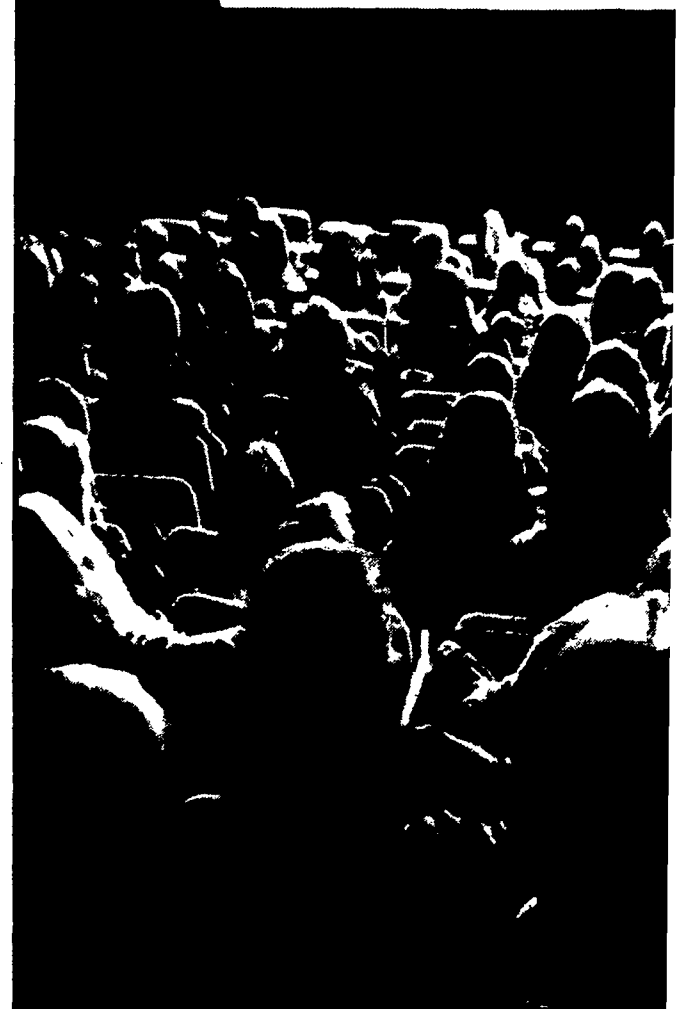
All three features were previewed in full by a committee of youth ministers. Pat Donohue, youth minister at Holy Name of Jesus, said that the committee was formed in response to complaints voiced after last year's "Movie Madness."

Some teens, he noted, were uncomfortable about the sexual content and language in two films — "Billy Madison" and "The Brady Bunch Movie" — shown at last year's event.

Donohue said he not only thought the youths had valid concerns, but that "it was interesting they were as concerned as the

Richard Dreyfuss
Mr. Holland's Opus

BRADY BUNCH
The
Movie



Diocesan teens recently viewed "Jumanji," "Mr. Holland's Opus" and "The Brady Bunch Movie" at last year's "Movie Madness" lock-in Feb. 22.

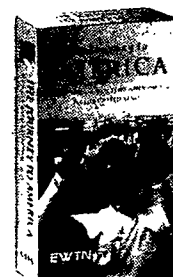
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