

Comedies rate 'all dogs' label

NEW YORK (CNS) - The following are home video-

cassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broad-



casting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a USCC classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video au-

All Dogs Go to Heaven 2

Animated musical sequel in which two canine angels (voices of Charlie Sheen and Dom DeLuise), in San Francisco to retrieve Gabriel's horn, help a runaway boy return home while outwitting a devilish duo. Directed by Paul Sabella and Larry Leker, the songs are sprightly but the animation often looks washed out in this shallow search-andrescue tale. The USCC classification is A-I – general patronage. The MPAA rating is G - general audiences.

White Squall

Fact-based account of a 1961 voyage in which the skipper (Jeff Bridges) of a floating prep school takes a dozen adolescent lads on an around-the-world cruise until a freak storm drowns some of the students and crew, leading to a maritime inquiry into the skipper's culpability. Director Ridley Scott's sluggish character study finally gives way to harrowing scenes of the storm's violence, its tragic results and the sober reflections of the survivors. Some sexual innuendo and crude references, fleeting violence and intermittent profanity. The USCC classification is A-III adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

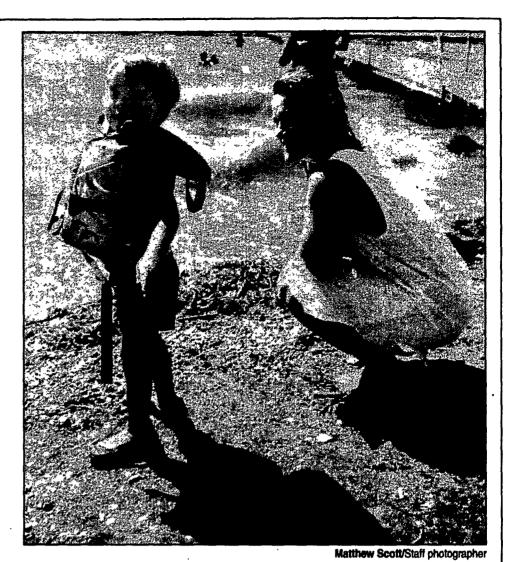
Happy Gilmore

Desperately unfunny comedy about an inept hockey player (Adam Sandler) who earns big bucks by turning his slap shot into power drives on a pro golf tour. Directed by Dennis Dugan, the feeble proceedings are as unamusing as the violent antics of the ill-tempered boor of the title. Slapstick violence, sexual innuendo and coarse language. The USCC classification is A-III adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

For reviews of current films, call the United States Catholic Conference's toll-free movie review hot line at 1-800/311-4222.

Ready to get in the swim

Connie Drojak tries to coax her son, David, into the water during camp swimming tests at the Single Parent Family Camp at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia. The Aug. 25-31 program is being sponsored by Beginning Experience, an organization for single parents. More than 50 campers are participating in the single parent camp this year, the 17th year the camp has been held at Stella Maris. The theme of the week is trust. Campers are exploring the theme through events that include a climbing adventure, guest speakers and other programs geared toward the children.



Parents share children's first-day fears

"But I don't want to go to school," cried 5-year-old Marisa on the morning of her first day of kindergarten.

Marisa is a lovely child who is usually pleasant and cooperative but on that particular morning she pleaded with her mother in a frightened voice to let her stay home that day, as she also did on many subsequent school mornings.

"From the moment she got up in the morning it started," her mother, Christine, said. "She would beg me not to make her go to school because she didn't want to be away from home. ... Every day was such a struggle that by the time we got to the bus stop we were both emotionally drained."

At school, things weren't any easier. Marisa was promised she could call home if she stopped crying. When she called, Christine listened to Marisa struggling for breath as she tried to compose herself long enough to be reassured by her mother.

Christine called me because she remembered that my son Bobby had had a similar reaction during his first weeks of preschool. I dreaded Mondays and Wednesdays because it meant a morning of tears as Bobby was being pried off my knee by a teacher and a teacher's aide. But Bobby's fears soon passed. A few weeks after the crying episodes, he told me that he loved his teacher and that he had a new best friend named William.

Fears come in all shapes and sizes, and children don't have a corner on the market. As adults, we often have a difficult time coming face to face with our own fears. I think that's one of the reasons our children's fears can upset us on such a deep level: We still know what it's like to be afraid.

When a child wakes up frightened during a nightmare or thunderstorm, we hold her tightly, hoping to shield her from all of life's bad dreams. As adults, we know that a warm hug will provide comfort but won't chase away the real darkness in our lives.

Too many parents and children experience living nightmares every day as drugs and violence overtake their neighborhoods. A mother living in poverty has fears about how she will feed and shelter her children. A hard working father worries about losing his job. Many families are scared when the darkness of illness, natural disasters, prejudice and injustice enters their lives.

But as parents, we have a responsibility to



help our children work through their fears as we continue to confront our own. As

reach out to others who live in fear and sorrow because of injustice, illness or hatred. We may think that fear, anxiety and panic are more common today. But the Bible is filled with examples of people who understood fear and who knew disease, famine, war and persecution. Even the apostles denied knowing Jesus and hid after his arrest

Catholics, we also have a responsibility to

because they were filled with fear. As we confront our own fears, it's comforting to know that Jesus, too, felt fear at its deepest level on the night before he died. St. Luke wrote that Jesus was so distressed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground." But in his anguish and sorrow he turned to his Father and prayed, "Not | husband and two children.

my will but yours be done."

St. Paul reminds us that only by turning our worries, fears and concerns over to God will we find true peace.

"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds," he wrote. "Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Jesus Christ."

Christine understands the importance of prayer, especially when dealing with fear.

"I would pray on my way to the bus stop that everything was going okay for Marisa,' she said. "I prayed while I was making lunch for my other two children, and I prayed while I sat there wondering if Marisa and her teacher would need to call home again. It might sound funny but it seemed like prayer was not only my connection with God but also with Marisa when she wasn't

"I think that prayer, time and a nurturing teacher all helped Marisa," Christine said. "Last week Marisa's dad was a chaperone on the class trip to the zoo. When the trip was over, Marisa said, `From now on dad, I don't think you and mom need to be at school anymore."

Marx lives in Lawrenceville, N.J., with her



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