

# FEATURE

## Orphaned cat gets entangled

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a USCC classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating.



### Oliver and Company

Disney animated musical updating Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* to New York, where an orphaned kitten named Oliver (voice of Joey Lawrence) gets caught up with a con artist (voice of Dom DeLuise) and his rogue dogs, including the terrier Dodger (voice of Billy Joel). Directed by George Scribner, it's a children's movie that parents can enjoy, with just the right balance between pathos, action, comedy and music. Some cartoon violence. The USCC classification is A-1 - general patronage. The MPAA rating is G - general audiences.

### Once Upon a Time... When We Were Colored

Growing up in rural Mississippi after World War II, a black youth is nourished by the love and support of an extended family and, despite all the injustices of a segregated society, never loses pride in his race or hope in the American dream of equality. Tim Reid directs a reasoned case (headed by Al Freeman Jr.) in depicting a closely knit black community just before civil rights becomes a national issue in the 1960s. Racial tensions, some stylized violence and sexual references including a child-birth scene. The USCC classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG - parental guidance suggested.

# Let children know you value quiet

Noise has always been a big part of my life. With four brothers and one sister, the sounds of silence were nowhere to be found in my family's home. The sounds of the television, radio, stereo, laughter, fighting, teasing, game playing and lively conversations were the sounds I grew up with. "Stop that rough housing!" was the one sound heard above all others.



During my school years, I found it difficult to do my homework without rock n' roll playing in the background. And somehow it didn't seem like a Saturday morning unless I woke up to the blare of a lawnmower's engine coming to life or the grunts of football players practicing their drills at our nearby high school.

Then I had my children. Nothing makes you crave silence and solitude more than a crying newborn. If you have an infant with colic (which we had) you may find yourself in a corner of the basement or an attic crawl space in your own fetal position pleading for 15 minutes of peace and quiet.

Soon after parents have made it through their toddler's tears, the whining years begin. And you thought you craved silence when they were babies! My husband Joe, who has an extraordinary amount of patience with our two children, has a tough time when it comes to whining. In exasperation one night he started "The Whiny Patrol," a group of invisible police whose mission it is to find the whiners and tickle them until they stop. It works. There's still a lot of noise in our house but at least there's less whining.

We live in a world where we are bombarded by noise. We seem to be uncomfortable with quiet, stillness or even a brief lull in the conversation. Rather than listening to the rhythms of our souls, we're caught up in the beat of net-



## family matters

By EILEEN MARX

work news, talk radio, "Court TV," car phones, the daily newspaper and the Internet. We're a society of achievers and doers, not meditators and reflectors. Our actions are often influenced by our outside world, which hinders many opportunities to discover a world inside ourselves.

Most parents realize how necessary it is to find a few quiet moments each day and at the same time they recognize how nearly impossible it is to achieve. But throughout the season of Lent, we hear a lot about the importance of listening, prayer, reflection and silence. In most conversations, it is only when we are quiet that we can really listen to what another person is saying. And only when we are still and silent can we open our minds and our hearts to what God is asking of us.

I think we can give our children a wonderful gift if we build a little quiet time into their day. Ask your children to spend an hour in quiet time every afternoon to read, to dream, to imagine, to be still and to listen to their hearts. As a mother of two spirited children, I know this is easier said than done. On especially challenging days with my kids, I often take them to the library. A library is very appealing to me - a place where there is actually a rule to be quiet!

It's also important for parents to participate in quiet activities with their children: a hike in the woods, a trip to a mu-

seum or a visit to church. Try to closely monitor the noise in your children's life by limiting the time spent watching television or playing video games. We need to let our children know that we value peace and quiet in the truest meanings of those words.

In a deeply spiritual and significant work of non-fiction, *Dakota, A Spiritual Geography*, writer and poet Kathleen Norris reflects on her almost 20 years spent on the Dakota Plains. Norris is a married Protestant woman who has formed special relationships with the monks and nuns of the Benedictine communities in the Dakotas.

Norris writes, "Silence is the best response to mystery ... The silence of the Plains, this great unpeopled landscape of earth and sky is much like the silence one finds in a monastery, an unfathomable silence that has the power to reform you ... It was the Plains that first drew me to the monastery, which I suppose is ironic, for who would go seeking a desert within a desert? The irony and wonder of all this is that it is the desert's grimness, its stillness and isolation that bring us back to love. Here we discover the paradox of the contemplative life, that the desert of solitude can be the school where we learn to love others."

Silence isn't about isolation. It's a way to refresh and restore ourselves so we have the ability to know our true selves, to focus on what's really important and to discover ways that we can reach out to others. The quiet moments of our day can help us to appreciate God's handiwork in a beautiful sunset or a perfect spring day. And if we're really lucky, these silent times for prayer and reflection might even help us to see the presence of God in a whining child.

Marx lives in Lawrenceville, N.J., with her husband and two children.

## Think Above Average

Think about this - workers 45 and older are above average in:

- Judgment
- Experience
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- "Staying power"
- Commitment to quality

LIFESPAN Employment Services is your partner in developing a stable, highly qualified, above average work force for your above average business.

LIFESPAN has been serving Monroe County with qualified, job-ready candidates for 25 years.

Never any placement fees.



Named one of New York State's "Outstanding Older Worker Programs"

Call today for more information (716) 454-3224  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

**BRIAN C. BUETTNER**  
Attorney at Law

Wide range of legal services including:

- Criminal
- DWI
- Family Law
- Personal bankruptcy
- Wills/Probate

410 Reynolds Arcade  
16 E. Main St.  
Rochester, NY 14614 (716) 454-1760

**"IF YOU'VE MADE A WILL, THERE'S ONE MORE THING TO DO..."**

To learn more about prearranged funerals, please call us. Our counsel is always available free of charge and at no obligation.

David P. Crawford · Mark D. Wakeman

**Crawford**  
FUNERAL HOME INC.

495 N. Winton Rd. · Rochester · (716) 482-0400

**This winter, heat your home with...**

**FREE GAS\*!**

Purchase a Bryant Plus 90 or Plus 90i gas furnace from Betlem and you will receive a check for your highest month's gas bill just to get your savings started. Because with your new Bryant Plus 90 or Plus 90i furnace, you'll be saving on your gas for years to come. Offer expires 10/15/96.

\*Offer good through participating Bryant dealers only. Maximum of \$300 allowable as stated in the form GR #1.

**6 Months No Interest, No Payment, No Kidding Financing**  
Offer expires 11/30/96.

Buy Before October 15, Get Free 5 Years Parts & Labor Warranty

**BETLEM RESIDENTIAL Heating & Air Conditioning**

**271-HEAT (4328)**

Call Bryant to the rescue