

FEATURE

Film falls flat

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. The review includes the USCC rating and, where available, the Motion Picture Association of America rating.

Batman & Robin

Empty spectacle is the fourth entry in the series as Batman (George Clooney), Robin (Chris O'Donnell) and Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone) tangle with Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman) while trying to save Gotham and its residents from being frozen by demoted scientist Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger). Much cartoon-like violence and some sexual innuendo. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Father Dietzen's answers fill book

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Father John J. Dietzen has collected more of his popular question-and-answer newspaper columns about the Catholic faith in a new edition of his book, *The New Question Box*.

Subtitled *Catholic Life in a New Century*, the 574-page paperback is the 11th printing and updating of the book since it first appeared in 1981.

An earlier edition won first place as best popular presentation of the Catholic faith in the 1992 Catholic Press Association book awards.

The latest revision was published recently by Guildhall Publishers in Peoria, which also put out the earlier versions.

Albina L. Aspell, founder and head of Guildhall, told Catholic News Service there has been a great deal of interest in the book.

The column, titled *Question Box*, first appeared in *The Catholic Post*, newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria, when Father Di-



BOOK REVIEW

etzen was the paper's editor. Syndicated by CNS since 1975, the column is one of its most popular and is carried today by more than 50 Catholic papers — including the *Catholic Courier*.

In his preface to the new edition, Father Dietzen wrote, "Twenty-five years ago, the heaviest single topic in my mail concerned marriage, divorce and remarriage. Today the predominant subject is Holy Scripture."

The book, which answers more than 600 questions, is divided into 14 chapters.

General topics include: the Bible; the church; Mass; Holy Communion; baptism and confirmation; marriage and family

life; divorce, annulment, remarriage; right and wrong; penance and anointing of the sick; ecumenism; prayer and devotions; saints; and death and burial.

The final chapter, "Etcetera," contains questions on purgatory, the Gregorian calendar, Abraham Lincoln, devil worship, chain letters and healing on television.

Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Bloomington, Ill., since 1983, Father Dietzen also has served the Peoria Diocese as director of the Office of Family Life and chairman of the Respect Life Board.

In addition to his current and past duties, he has been a retreat master, teacher and lecturer.

Readers also may order the book prepaid for \$15.95 plus \$2.50 for handling from: Guildhall Publishers, P.O. Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651. Orders may be sent by fax to (309) 688-5985.

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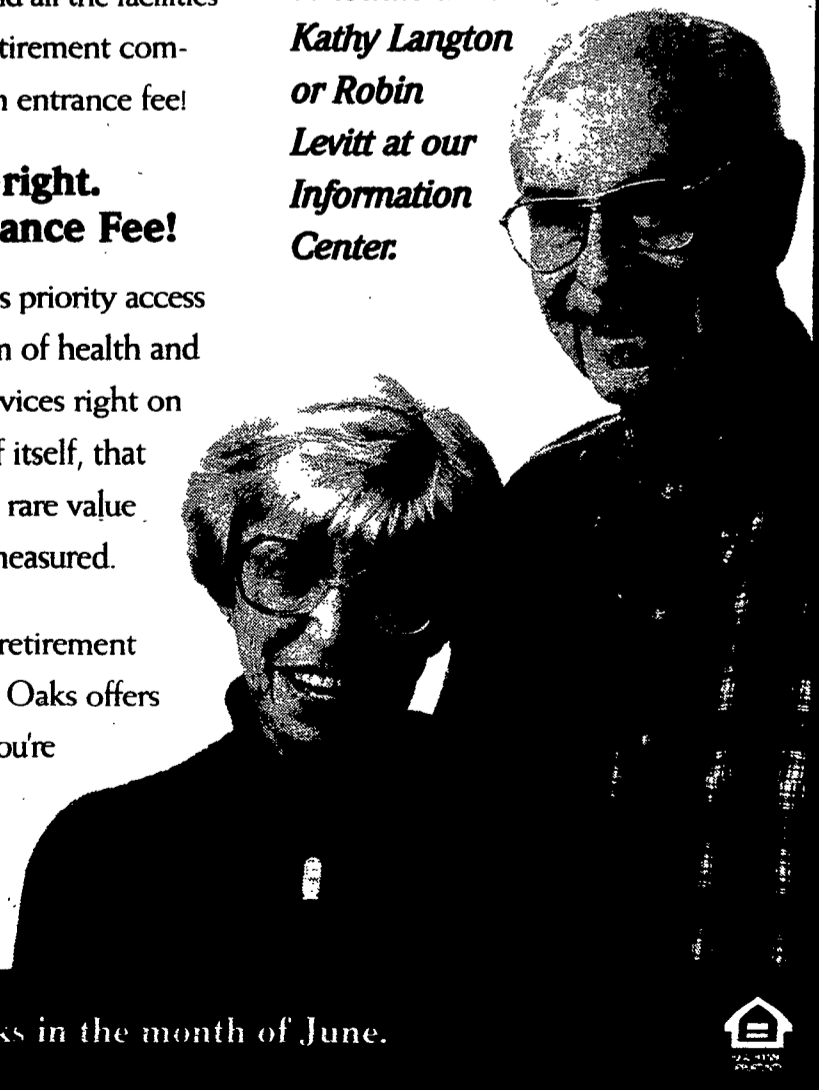
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