

“SECRETARIAT” REVIEWS

SPOOKS

The movie “Secretariat” is the subject of Catholic League president Bill Donohue’s news release:

Kudos to movie critic Roger Ebert, as well as to John Nolte at Breitbart.com, for lampooning Salon.com film reviewer Andrew O’Hehir’s feverish take on “Secretariat.” It’s not just the movie’s Christian overtones that upset O’Hehir, it’s the alleged racism—even Nazi-driven—aspects of this “honey-dipped fantasy vision of the American past” that gets his goat. Indeed, he says, “it’s legitimate to wonder exactly what Christian-friendly and ‘middle-American’ inspirational values are being conveyed here.” All this paranoia about a horse.

While O’Hehir’s review is the most apoplectic, there are others who at least share his uneasiness with all matters Christian. The *Sarasota Herald* is not happy with the movies’ “barely concealed religiosity” and “all the talk about ‘lifting up.’” The *New York Times* notes its “Bible-thumping” elements, while nj.com says, “the film is bookended by quotes from the book of Job, interrupted by mystical shots of clouds and sunbeams, and even has a scene where the horse gets a rubdown scored to a gospel song.” *Newsday* goes so far as to claim that the director “insists on turning the horse into Christ himself,” and New York 1 opines “it’s a bit much” to endure “passages from the Bible and playing gospel music.” Similarly, Hollywood.com complains the film “reeks” of “grandiosity,” even to the extent of “using Old Testament quotations and gospel music.”

By contrast, CNN.com and the *Los Angeles Times* both noted the Christian aspects of the movie, but were wholly free of the condescending and scornful commentary that marked these other reviews.

No doubt about it, Christianity clearly spooks many of our elites.