

Student reaction to "Last Temptation" mixed

by john santana

staff writer

The controversial new motion picture "The Last Temptation of Christ" has stirred up protest and difference of opinion around the nation. The opinions of UNLV students have been varied.

Overall campus reaction among students has not been lopsidedly for or against the movie. Those people interviewed who have deep religious feelings, however,

are against the film and feel that it is false in its history.

On the contrary, those students with little or no religious feelings or background have shown little opinion on the motion picture or its content.

When asked her opinion of the film's content, one student said, "They (producers) could have robbed some other part of history rather than the Bible."

"If people wish to see the film, they should be allow-

ed to. If they (fundamentalists) don't wish to see it, then they can stay away," another student responded.

The Chaplain for the Center for Religion and Life did not comment on how she felt about the film's content. Since she has not seen the movie yet, she refused to comment on a subject she knew nothing about.

"If the boycotters know about the film's content and disagree with it, they have every right to protest," she

said. On Tuesday, she will be taking a group of students to see the film.

The strongest reaction to the film came from Dr. Don L. Christensen who is the local public relations director for the LDS church.

"Our feeling is that it does not represent the life of the savior," Christenson said. "To assume that Jesus had thoughts of sexual relations with Mary is unconscionable. It is a complete

misrepresentation of the life of the savior. We recommend that our members do not go see it."

Christian fundamentalist groups that disagree with the film's content have led boycotts throughout the nation. Their methods include trying to prevent people from viewing the movie. They have also attempted to pressure theatre management into not showing the film to the public.

The fundamentalists object

to some segments of the motion picture. The most controversial scene is one in which Christ (played by William Dafoe of "Platoon" imagines himself breaking away from God, marrying a woman, and having children.

The movie is based upon a novel of the same name by Nikos Kazantzakis.

"Part of the goal of the book is to incite religious debate and discussion," screenwriter Paul Schrader

said

Bowers named new assistant dean of A&L

by schechter

staff writer

UNLV will soon be competing academically with top California schools, newly appointed Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Letters Michael Bowers said recently.

The recent addition of four new dorms and the rest of the new dorms that are going to be built in the near future will help attract students from other states, Bowers said.

The university has already improved considerably in the four years that he has been at UNLV, Bowers said. He contributed most of the credit for this to UNLV President Robert C. Maxson, however he said he feels that everyone on campus has worked very hard to help UNLV improve every year.

The fact that UNLV is located in Las Vegas gives it a rather unique problem of trying to overcome people's misconceptions that it is impossible to receive a quality education here, Bowers explained. He said that people simply don't realize that behind the glitter of the strip lies a very active community and university.

However, Bowers said he is optimistic that UNLV is quickly overcoming that reputation, and he said that we are steadily becoming one of the major universities in the West.

The most pressing problem facing the university now is the need for more class and office space, Bowers said. There simply won't be enough space to accommodate all of the new students that the university is expected to have in the next

couple of years, he stressed. He pointed out that the university is fortunate because there is quite a bit more land to build on. He said he sees none of the problems facing UNLV as being insurmountable.

Bowers said he is focusing on the growth and improvement of UNLV. He still teaches a class every semester because he really enjoys teaching and would not be happy if he were to be taken out of the classroom entirely, the political science professor said.

Among other responsibilities, his is the office which oversees curricular matters, handling student complaints, grade changes and suspensions within the College of Arts and Letters. He also coordinates the college's numerous part-time faculty.

Bowers has been at UNLV since the Fall of 1984. After completing his undergraduate studies at Cameron University, he received both his masters and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He then went on to teach for a year at San Diego State and then at the University of California at Riverside.

While in college, Bowers

managed to work full-time, take a full class load, and still graduate with a 3.9 grade point average, he said.

However, he does not recommend doing that. He said it is just too difficult to expect to spread yourself too thin and still make decent grades.

Still, he said he does encourage students to get in-

volved because it helps them to make friends and to keep up their interest level. He stressed that learning should be the first priority of students.

He cautioned that students should budget their time well and not become so overloaded with activities that there is no time left for their studies. He said it is important to create a balance.

Video yearbook editor optimistic about success

by rachelle McKinsey

staff writer

The video yearbooks lost around \$9,000 last year, but editor Jan Nicosia recently said she is confident that this year will be better.

She cited equipment costs as the major setback that faced the staff last year. Now that they have all the necessary equipment, they only have the expense of the tapes to contend with, Nicosia said.

She commented that the new residence halls should

help generate interest in the video yearbook.

"The university is becoming less commuter and there is more student life," she said.

The video yearbook staff wants to cover more organizations that aren't normally filmed during campus activities, Nicosia said.

CSUN President Steve Evenson talked about video yearbooks as a future trend among colleges and universities across the nation. He attributed the lack of interest in last year's video yearbook

to the lack of exposure UNLV students had to them.

"It's a new concept that a lot of people aren't used to," Evenson said.

He also said he felt that the attributes of the video yearbook outweighed those of the print yearbook.

The last year that the print yearbook was on sale, it sold 50 copies, as opposed to the 250 copies of the video yearbook that were sold last year.

The video yearbook should be out in May or June.



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