

## State and Local

# 'Temptation' audiences small as protesters voice objections

By Richard Tijerina  
Staff Writer

The opening of director Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ" has sparked a wave of controversy throughout the Bryan-College Station area, with disputes about whether or not the movie should be banned.

The movie, which opened last Friday at the Plitt Cinema Three, was viewed by unexpectedly few people over the weekend, and was protested by picketers at each showing.

Protesters said that their presence at the theater was in part responsible for the scant weekend crowds, and that the protesters not only affected attendance at "The Last Temptation of Christ," but at all the other movies showing at that theater as well.

"I think our presence really affected (attendance)," graduate student Mike Lawson said. "They had really poor ticket sales all weekend at that theater, and not just at 'The Last Temptation of Christ.' People just didn't want to go to that theater."

Lawson said many groups protested the movie. He was the leader of just one of those groups.

Protests against the film have arisen over scenes in the movie that portray Jesus Christ having sex with Mary Magdalene.

Lawson said that particular scene was not the only complaint he had about the movie, however.

"In my view, I have two problems with the movie," he said. "It is destroying the concept that Christ was sinless. The dream sequence says that he was tempted and that he gave in to the temptation of lust. But the whole reason why he was able to die and save people was because he was without sin."

Lawson also pointed out that scenes in the movie showed Christ as being out of control and filled with anger, a depiction Lawson said is inaccurate according to the Bible.

Lawson was referring to a scene in which Christ becomes angry with a money changer, picks up a table and slams it into a stone wall.

"(The scene) portrayed that he was actually out of control, that he was a man with rage," he said. "There is nothing given in the scriptures that he was a man filled with anger or that he was out of control."

Lawson said that he had not yet seen the movie and that he probably would not.

The controversy sparked such an uproar that Texas A&M's Debate Society is planning a public debate on whether or not the movie should be banned from campus.

In an audition Monday to select the two debaters, members of the Society gave assenting or dissenting opinions on whether or not the movie should be banned.

Of the ten speeches given, nine opposed the proposition of banning the movie.

"When we allow this film to be banned, we have gone over the line," Society member Ellen East said. "We need to draw that line again and say it's not going to happen. Give people all the information and let them decide for themselves."

# Murder conviction overturned by court

AUSTIN (AP) — The Court of Criminal Appeals today overturned the conviction and death sentence of a man tried in the screwdriver slaying of a Houston tavern owner.

The court said Sam Edward Cumbo's lawyer was improperly forced to use a peremptory challenge to eliminate a potential juror who was biased against the defendant, then later accept another juror who was objectionable to the defense.

The case was returned to the trial court. Cumbo had been convicted in the September 1985 slaying of George Nick Voinis, owner of the Tip Top Lounge in downtown Houston.

According to court records, Voinis normally went to the bank between 11 and 11:20 a.m. each day. On Sept. 12, a neighboring businessman saw Voinis return from the bank with a money bag. As he was unlocking the gate to

his lounge, a man ran up to him and demanded the money. The businessman saw the assailant begin to stab Voinis with a shiny object.

The witness, George Stafford, and his wife, Louise, ran to Voinis' aid and began striking the attacker. A third person joined the struggle, and the attacker fled. One witness saw the attacker discard a screwdriver as he ran away.

In an opinion authored by Presiding Judge John Onion, the Court of Criminal Appeals noted that Cumbo didn't challenge the sufficiency of the evidence to sustain the conviction.

However, Cumbo's lawyer did contend that several errors were made by the trial judge during selection of the jury. Cumbo's lawyer exhausted his 15 peremptory challenges to jurors, causing him to have to accept a juror he considered totally unacceptable, the opinion said.

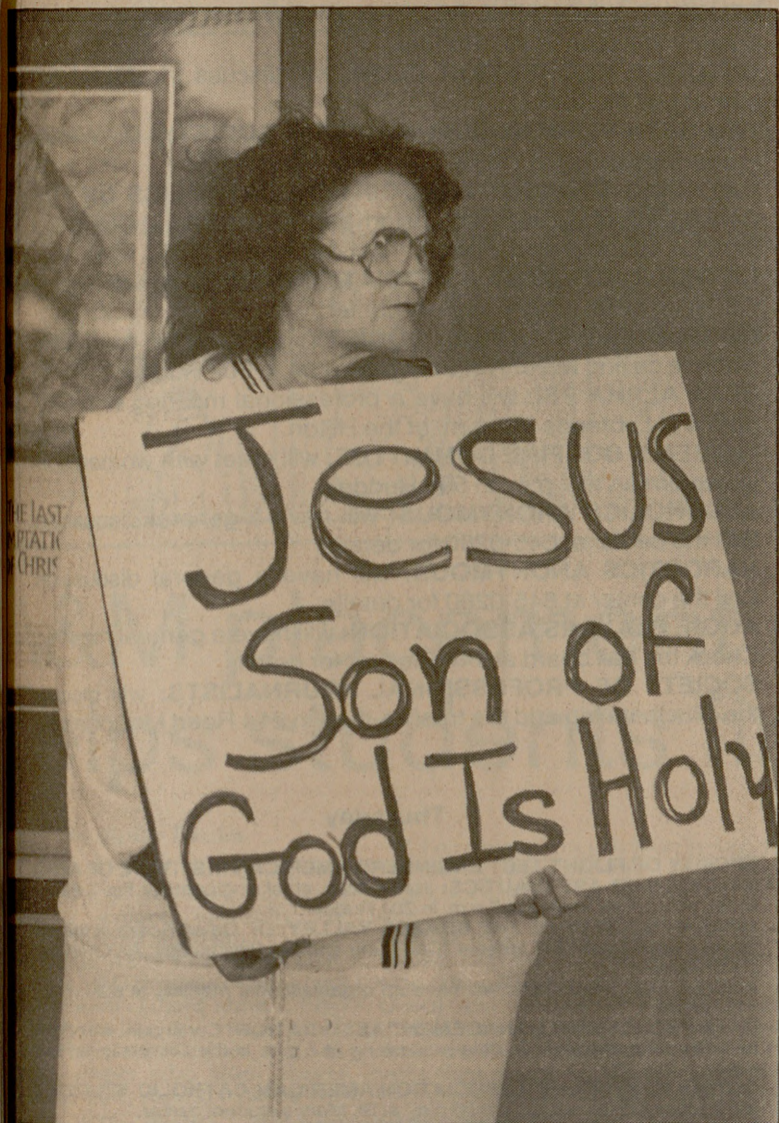


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Brian Beckie, from Bryan, participates in the Bryan Catholic Church protest against "The Last Temptation of Christ." The group will continue protesting the movie as long as it plays in the area.

# Modular dormitory construction promotes new plans for campus

By Fiona Soltes  
Staff Writer

Construction of five modular dormitories is causing a chain reaction of modifications around the Texas A&M campus.

Keith Chapman, manager of construction at A&M, said that the dormitories — one near Sbis Dining Hall and the others in the Commons area — have led to plans for a satellite utility plant, expansion of the Commons dining area and a new parking lot.

"All of the people who will be needing a room to stay in will also need a place to park, a place to eat and a utility plant in operation to cool them off with air conditioning," Chapman said.

The satellite utility plant, to be completed by Fall 1989, will be located south of the Military Sciences Building.

"We need additional air conditioning capacity, and we plan to start construction within the next 40 to 45 days," he said.

The Commons dining area will be expanded to seat the additional students and new equipment will be added to the kitchen, he said.

Construction at that area, also scheduled to begin in 40 to 45 days, should be completed at the same time as the utility plant, he said.

The new parking lot, located near Duncan Field, will be reserved for the dormitory students, but it will be complete within the next few weeks, Chapman said.

"We needed a lot to take care of the problems that come with construction," he said. Chapman said the cost of the project will be close to \$30 million by the time it is completed. Funding for the project will come from University bonds.

# Scholastic Opportunities For Outstanding Undergraduates

The following scholarships are currently open for competition:

**Truman Scholarship**  
Sponsored by: Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation  
For: Current college sophomores intending to pursue careers in government service of all kinds, including scientific research.  
Terms: Up to \$7,000 annually for tuition, fees, room, board, books for last two undergraduate years and up to two more years of graduate study.  
Application Procedure: By nomination of Texas A&M University.  
Application Deadline: October 31, 1988.

**National Endowment For The Humanities Younger Scholar Awards**  
Sponsored by: NEH  
For: Current Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors  
Terms: \$2,200 for Summer research and writing in the Humanities; \$400 of which is allotted to your advisor for the project.  
Application Procedure: Direct application by student and advisor.  
Application Deadline: November 1, 1988.

**Time College Achievement Award**  
Sponsored by: Time Magazine  
For: Juniors  
Terms: One time cash award of \$3,000.  
Application Procedure: Direct application, applications will be available in the Honors Program Office late in the Fall term.  
Application Deadline: February 1, 1989.

**Smithsonian Internships**  
Sponsored by: The Smithsonian Institute  
For: Undergraduate and Graduate Students  
Terms: Stipends vary with program, positions are 3-4 months in duration.  
Positions: Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; National Air and Space Museum; National Museum of African Art; National Museum of American Art; National Zoological Park; Office of Architectural History and Historical Preservation; Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.  
Application Procedure: Individual Application  
Application Deadline: Vary according to position

**Smithsonian 10 Week Graduate Student Fellowships:**  
Sponsored by: The Smithsonian Institute  
For: Individuals formally enrolled in a Graduate Program and who will have completed one semester of such prior to the appointment period.  
Terms: Stipend of \$250 per week for 10 weeks. Travel to the Smithsonian to conduct research.  
Application Procedure: Direct application and faculty evaluation of proposal.  
Application Deadline: Postmarked by January 15, 1989.

**Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities**  
Sponsored by: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
For: Current college seniors.  
Terms: \$11,000 annually plus tuition and fees for up to two years (possibly three) of graduate study in History, English, Philosophy, Languages, or American Studies.  
Application Procedure: After nomination by a faculty member (no professor may nominate more than two students.)  
Nomination Deadline: November 7, 1988.

**National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships**  
Sponsored by: NSF/National Research Council.  
For: Current college seniors.  
Terms: \$12,300 annually plus up to \$6,000 for tuition and fees for students pursuing graduate study in science or engineering.  
Application Procedure: Direct application by student.  
Application Deadline: November 14, 1988. Applications available in the University Honors Program Office in early October.

**National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellowships**  
Sponsored by: NSF/National Research Council  
For: Current college seniors of American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Native Alaskan, or Native Pacific Islander background.  
Terms: \$12,300 annually plus up to \$6,000 for tuition and fees for three years for minority students pursuing graduate study in the sciences or engineering, veterinary medicine.  
Application Procedure: Direct Application by student.  
Application Deadline: November 14, 1988. Applications available in the University Honors Program Office in early October.

**Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowships for Minorities**  
Sponsored by: Ford Foundation/National Research Council  
For: Current college seniors of American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Native Alaskan, or Native Pacific Islander background.  
Terms: \$10,350 annually plus up to \$6,000 for tuition and fees for up to three years of graduate study in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, engineering, mathematics, or physical and biological sciences.  
Application Procedure: Direct application by student.  
Application Deadline: November 14, 1988. Applications available in the University Honors Program Office in early October.

**Committee on Institutional Cooperation Graduate Fellowships For Minorities**  
Sponsored by: Committee on Institutional Cooperation  
For: Current college seniors and masters students of American Indian, Black American, Mexican-American or Puerto Rican background.  
Terms: Full tuition plus a minimum stipend of \$8,000.  
Application Procedure: Direct Application by student.  
Application Deadline: Early January. Applications available late in the fall term.

**Eisenhower Graduate Scholarship**  
Sponsored by: Eisenhower Memorial Scholarship Foundation  
For: Seniors/others who will be full-time graduate students in 1989-1990.  
Terms: Minimum award of \$1,000; maximum of \$3,000 per year.  
Application Procedure: Applications requested, direct application by student.  
Application Deadline: February 1, 1989.

**Rhodes Scholarship**  
For: U.S. Citizen, unmarried, senior status, 3.75 or higher  
Terms: Tuition, fees, and maintenance allowance. Tenable at Great Britain's University of Oxford.  
Contact: Dr. John Reading, 505 Physics, 845-5073 or 696-9190.  
Application Procedure: Brief resume and personal statement due to Dr. Reading by 5:00 p.m., October 1, in order to schedule interview.

Detailed information and applications are available through the University Honors Program, room 101 of the Academic Building. See Scott Shafer.

