

"Last Temptation" Controversy Hits Campus

by James Martin

The Last Temptation of Christ, a movie which has sparked controversy, boycotts and petitions across the country, may make its first local appearance at Behrend.

The Round Table Society, a Behrend English-literary organization has made inquiries into the possibility of bringing the movie to Behrend, but have met with financial and ethical opposition.

The movie, directed by Martin Scorsese, has been the subject of national controversy since its release by Universal Pictures.

Based on the novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, Last Temptation has drawn the wrath of Christians across the country by painting Christ as a weak human plagued with doubts.

Specific complaints concern Scorsese's love scenes between Christ and Mary Magdalene, a prostitute who, according to the Bible, became a follower of Jesus.

The movie also paints Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, as the strongest and best of the apostles. The apostle Paul is also cast in a negative light.

The primary criticisms, however, concern the movie's unfavorable presentation of Jesus.

"They make him seem like a wimp," said Sister Maria O'Connor of Campus Ministry.

While Erie City Council has recommended by a 4-2 vote that the movie be boycotted, their decision

carries very little weight, according to Dr. Dean Baldwin who advises the Round Table Society.

"It's a joke, considering there aren't any movie theaters in Erie (within the city limits)," said Baldwin.

Some Round Table members feel that whether or not people want to see the movie, they should have the opportunity.

"If the decisions of a few narrow minded people in the community are going to stop others from seeing

this movie, then it is up to the broader minds of higher education to give everyone the opportunity," said Rob Prindle, a member of the Round Table Society.

Prindle reports that the film could be rented for a short run from Universal Pictures at a cost of \$22,000, a cost the organization feels is far too great.

The movie will be available in four to six months from Swank Pictures, a company which releases movies to schools at a lower cost.

Current costs for renting Swank movies are between \$500 and \$1,000.

Both Round Table members and Chris Reber, Dean of Student Services believe the movie will come to Behrend as soon as it becomes available at the reduced rate.

Prindle explained that when the movie becomes available Round Table will solicit the help of other groups to fund the Behrend presentation.

Despite the delay, Behrend may still earn the distinction of being the first local organization to show the movie. While the national, General Cinemas chain, which includes the nine Millcreek Mall theaters, has made a corporate decision not to show the movie, no other local theaters have announced plans to show Last Temptation.

Reber indicates he would not have a problem with showing the movie but favors having discussion groups before and after the movie.

While a sampling of students indicates the majority believe the movie should be shown, campus ministry and a number of students are expressing different views.

Rev. Ray Sines, a student and a member of both Campus Ministry and Round Table voted against bringing the movie to Behrend.

"It's blasphemous," said Sines, who reports he is not against seeing Christianity challenged, but feels the movie isn't a challenge but is fiction.

Sister Maria O'Connor has a similar view.

"I am offended that it is offensive to Christians in the same way that I am offended by a movie that misrepresents blacks or Jews," said O'Connor.

"I'd like to see people ask what's the best movie we can get about Jesus- then get that one."

Despite such protests from Round Table members and members of the religious community, various student groups, including the Student Programming Council, have expressed an interest in co-sponsoring the presentation of Last Temptation at Behrend College.

New Lot Built, Opened

by Laura A. Weaver
Collegian Staff Writer

With the great influx of students onto the Behrend Campus this year, one of the greatest needs has been that of those persons who require parking space.

Struggling to meet that need for parking space, a temporary parking lot has been constructed north of the apartments and south of Lawrence Hall.

The parking lot was constructed to meet the needs of the multitude of students who have been forced to park illegally and will accommodate approximately fifty cars.

The lot is open to residential parking only.

Built at a cost of around \$6,000, work got underway on Labor Day and was completed September 13.

Due to the rain factor on Monday, there was a slight delay in initial construction.

When asked if there were any permanent parking facilities in the near future, John Ream, director of operations said, "We have made requests for some permanent parking lots."

Hopefully these requests will come through and bring relief to commuter and resident students alike.



OH WHAT A FEELING! No this isn't a Toyota advertisement. These freshmen and orientation leaders are participating in Playfair activities. Playfair is an icebreaker that encourages new students get acquainted.

Opening Delayed

by Steve Decker
Collegian Staff Writer

The new book store, scheduled to open on October 6 and the recently completed Winter Garden are just one part of Reed Building renovation plans.

The new book store has been plagued with delays that prevented a planned summer opening. "A book could be written on the delays that have taken place," said book store manager Robert MacDonald. The latest and, hopefully, last delay involves the store's lighting system. The lights can't be finished until a supportive stem to hold them is delivered and installed.

When the lights are installed, MacDonald hopes to make the move on the weekend of September 17 and 18.

The grand opening on October 6 will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony and will include an autograph party featuring Behrend authors.

The new book store, which is two and a half times the size of the present book store, will have a larger gift line, more Penn State apparel, and a trade book section with books by Behrend faculty and optional reading material. In spite of all this, MacDonald does not expect a price increase on any book store goods.

In addition to the new book store and Winter Garden, plans call for a total renovation of the Reed Building's first floor, including new club offices, a counseling center, a study area, and commuter student mailboxes, are planned.

"All the plans are drawn and we must now wait for University funding," said Dean of Student Services Chris Reber. Since construction could begin thirty to sixty days after acceptance, the renovation could start by Christmas.

If the plans are accepted, the existing book store and lobby will be transformed into office space and a work area for student organizations, a new television

lounge, and a studio for WBCR, Behrend's radio station.

The RUB Desk and MAC machine will be moved to the Winter Garden, and a new counseling center housing Career Placement, Division of Undergraduate Studies, personal counseling, Minority Affairs, and an interview room will occupy their place.

A quiet study area with private cubicles will be built in the area near

the current television lounge.

Finally, a few walls will be knocked out near the Back Room to make room for commuter mail boxes. All commuter students will receive private boxes to keep them better informed of school activities.

This area would also contain a new Collegian office and a remodeled, more arcade-like, Back Room.

Shields Joins Student Services

by Ken Anderson
Collegian Staff Writer

Dave Shields has been named as Penn State-Behrend's new Assistant Dean of Student Services, replacing Jamie Grimm.

Shields graduated from Youngstown State University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He originally wanted to work for the FBI. However, as an undergraduate, Shields worked as an assistant to the coordinator of student organizations and activities at Youngstown State, and developed an interest in the field of student services.

After receiving his masters from Bowling Green College in 1985, Shields began his first job at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, as Director of Greek Life. After three years there, he decided to return to the field of student activities.

Shields said he was looking for a good professional opportunity at a well-respected university and was happy to apply here at Penn State-Behrend.

"From the moment that I drove through the (Behrend) gates... I fell in love with the campus," he said.

"I really want to make sure that whatever programs we provide, we meet the needs of the students.

That's the key," he said. Shields has several ideas and plans in mind. He feels one way of meeting student needs is to move programming back into student hands. For example, Student Programming Council will become the programming segment of the campus, taking on a greater amount of responsibility. Councils and leadership groups will be involved in more hands-on learning experiences, applying their academic learning to student activities.

Shields is excited about the upcoming renovation of the ground floor of the Reed Building, especially the planned leadership library, which student groups and others can use.

Shields hopes to see the Student Information Service (SIS) re-instituted on campus. The SIS is a television network system with various monitors around campus informing students of campus activities, cancelled classes, and other pertinent campus information.

In planning the future of student activities at Behrend, Shields utilizes a five-year development plan. He hopes this plan will prevent stagnation of Student Services' yearly activities by encouraging a positive direction with distinct goals to help make advances and improvements each year.

Rifkin Appears

by Dawn Davis
Collegian Staff Writer

Author, activist, and philosopher Jeremy Rifkin was the first speaker in Behrend's Speakers Series.

More than two hundred students, faculty, and area residents attended Rifkin's lecture on Tuesday, September 6.

Rifkin discussed the transition in world history and alternative futures for the 21st century.

Rifkin spoke of the transition from fossil fuels as the energy base of civilization to renewable resources (both biological and genetic). He suggested an approach based on a balanced ecological "budget" to the next stage of history.

He went on to say that if we fail to balance the ecological budget and

end up owing against the ecosystem, the next generation will end up paying the bill.

The greenhouse effect is the final bill for the industrial age. He explained that because of the momentous volume of fossil fuels that we burn, the level of carbon dioxide being emitted cannot be recycled.

Climatologists say that, as a result of the greenhouse effect, there will be a global rise in temperature of five to fifteen degrees within the next forty years, the greatest temperature increase since the ice age.

This will radically disrupt our ecosystem. For the first time, Rifkin said, we have affected the temperature and climate of the earth.

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Dave Shields, Assistant Dean of Student Services photo by S. Inman

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