

Christian actor says 'Last Temptation' not offensive

By The Associated Press

Protesters of the film *The Last Temptation of Christ* have not been given accurate information, a veteran actor says.

"All these people are being deluged with secondhand information," said Leo Burmester, who portrayed the apostle Nathaniel in the film. "They haven't seen it. They haven't read the book, and they don't know anything about filmmaking."

Burmester is in Cherokee County as part of the cast of *The Abyss* being filmed at Earl Owensby's McKown's Mountain studio, formerly the site of the abandoned Cherokee nuclear station.

Burmester said that, as a Christian, he had no misgivings about appearing in *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the controversial film that has angered some religious groups.

He said many quotes attributed to the movie are from an experimental script written five years ago, or from early drafts that since have been changed. He said a script can be revised up to 20 times before production begins, and then, more dialogue changes occur as filming and editing proceeds.

"So, how can anyone make a judgment without seeing

it?" he asked. "It's like being afraid of the dark, or the light, I should say."

Burmester said there is no blasphemy or adultery in the film, which most Gaffney and Spartanburg theater owners have already agreed not to show, at the request of area ministerial groups.

The fact the film has more people talking about Christ now is "glorious," Burmester said. "People are talking about Christ who never talked about Christ and that in itself is glorious. It's wonderful."

The Last Temptation of Christ, based on a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis and released recently by Universal Studios, has drawn much attention for its portrayal of Jesus Christ as questioning his divinity and dreaming of making love to Mary Magdalene.

"I found the movie to be a great movie about faith and redemption and life and love and hope and faith and beauty and wonder," said Burmester. "It gives everyone who sees it, hopefully, a sense of greater love not only for the humanity of Christ, but the divinity of Christ as well."

Burmester, whose recent credits include parts in the movies *Broadcast News* and *Daniel*, and a 14-year stint in the hit Broadway show *Les Miserables*, said he expected

the furor the movie has caused, but noted most of it is coming from people who have never seen the film.

On Aug. 9, the Rev. J. W. Sanders, president of the Cherokee County Black Ministerial Alliance and mediator of the Thickety Mountain Baptist Association, said 75 percent of the 6,000 church members represented by the two groups had signed petitions opposing the showing of the film. He said church members will picket outside any area theaters that show it.

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Leo Burmester
actor
'The Last Temptation'

Sanders said that he has never seen the film, but said he objects to it because: "They have reduced him (Jesus) and

made him so human he has become as frail as we are to fighting off sin. We know Christ was sinless. Although he was human, he was the only perfect human."

In the movie's most controversial scene, William Defoe as Jesus hallucinates that he comes down from the cross and has sex with Mary Magdalene. The movie concludes with Jesus not succumbing to the last temptation of giving up his divinity, and he dies on the cross.

"I think (director) Martin Scorsese is a fervently religious man who is searching like everyone else is searching," Burmester said. "The epistles of St. Paul, the bulk of the epistles, were to my understanding trying to convince people of the divinity of Christ. Now, people are denying the humanity of Christ."

"The humanity of Christ means he had human desires," Burmester explained. "It is the overcoming of desire that ultimately brings everyone to their own salvation. . . . Temptation is not bad; it's giving in to temptation that's bad."

Burmester said he is sad people have reacted negatively to the film. "I realize the people doing it, for the most part, are good people with families and children who want to lead a good life. But, I feel, to quote a famous person, 'Father, forgive them. For they know not what they do.'"



Behind the eight ball

Business administration sophomore Doug Wilson concentrates on his next shot while playing pool in the Gameroom. The Gameroom, which is next to the Gamecock Grill, offers video games and pool tables.

Voter registration Continued from page 1

and newspaper editors across the country see this as a definite national priority," Franklin said.

Those who are unable to participate during Voter Registration Week may also register in the S.G. office, located on the first floor of the Russell House, any time before Sept. 30.

"By registering, students will be saying that they want to have an impact on their future," Franklin said. He added, "It's not important whether you are a democrat or a republican — just that you vote."

Franklin said S.G. intends to advertise Voter Registra-

tion Week like any other major student function. He also said they hope to make the program an annual event, adding that a presidential election year is not the only time when a person's right to vote can be exercised.

S.G. will invite Columbia area residents to participate in Voter Registration Week. Franklin said that S.G. wants to help increase voter participation in all communities and does not intend to limit its program to students.

"We want to invite the Columbia community to share in this momentous occasion," Franklin said.

Questions or comments on the voter registration program may be directed to Liza Shah at the S.G. office.

Cold shoulder Continued from page 1

pharmacy junior.

McMahon said that a member of resident student development also called University Services.

"They (University Services) told me that they were working with USC, and I wouldn't have to register my refrigerator," said Zack Coapland, graduate student and resident hall director at Columbia Hall.

McMahon said this claim concerned him because it was misleading to students; prices quoted by company operators were slightly lower than USC housing prices.

But because students must pay to

register the refrigerators with housing, the actual cost of renting from University Services is higher.

The registration fee for privately owned refrigerators in residence halls is \$10 if the refrigerator uses 1.5 amps or less and \$15 for 2 amps or less.

"I think this is unfair to the student. Students who rent from them on face value will run into problems when health inspection time arises," McMahon said. "They will have another expense of paying a fee for

the unregistered refrigerator."

Shinall, who contacted USC of-

ficials this past Friday because of this incident said his company would have no problems complying with any such procedures in the future.

This is the first time his clients have had troubles with USC officials, and he had no idea why such problems surfaced now, he said.

"Things have been really cordial," Shinall said. "They said we could deliver on campus as long as we followed the proper procedures."

Business from page 1

If all goes according to plan the Italian track will be launched in the summer 1990."

"Based on my experience with the Japanese track, I expect half a dozen students to participate in the Korean track initially. About a dozen students should take the Italian track in the first year. The Korean track is a 3-year program, and the Italian track lasts 2 years," Arpan added.

During the next two years, about 10 percent of the graduate students in the MIBS program will be affected by the new programs.



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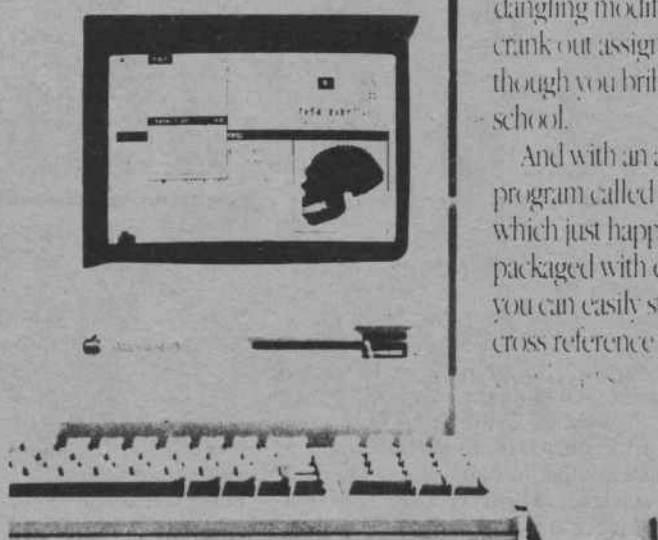
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