

Film canceled at Sheldon; Neubert says no censorship

From staff and wire reports

A controversial film about the birth of Jesus Christ has been canceled by the director of the Sheldon Art Gallery.

"Hail Mary," a film by Jean-Luc Godard, includes several nude scenes of the actress who portrays Mary. In the film, a contemporary version of Christ's birth, Mary works in her father's gas station and Joseph is a cabdriver.

By canceling the film's scheduled showing at the Sheldon Film Theater, Art Director George Neubert said he hopes to avoid controversy at UNL.

"I quite frankly felt it wasn't worth what it may cost the university," he said. "I felt it would be used and misused. I was more concerned about it being blown totally out of proportion."

Pope John Paul II has denounced the film and led a special prayer to repair "the outrage inflicted on the Holy Virgin." Some theaters showing the film have been picketed by Catholics.

State Sen. Bernice Labeledz of Omaha wrote a letter expressing concern about the movie to Film Director Dan Ladely, but Neubert said he received no direct pressure to pull the film.

Neubert said he wouldn't "be here if I had somebody tell me what I could hang on the wall or show." The decision not to show the film is not censorship, he said.

Last year, Ladely canceled "The Gods Must Be Crazy" at the Sheldon after he got complaints that the film is racist. The movie was shown later at a downtown Lincoln theater for more than a month.

Bylaw prohibits bias

ASUN from Page 1

In the spring of 1985, the Residence Halls/Greek Commission was established. The commission included leaders from residence halls, Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association and ASUN.

Although the commission could not prevent a snowball fight between some residence hall members and fraternity members, Doug Weems, commission chairman, said he thinks the commission has made a step in the right direction.

John Danforth, Residence Halls Association president, said lines of communication between RHA and ASUN have opened to help increase hall residents' awareness of ASUN.

Although ASUN's attempts to stop legislators from cutting state support to NU were ineffective, Deb Chapelle, Nebraska State Student Association chairwoman, said the protest outside the State Capitol was handled "professionally."

She also said ASUN's campaign against budget cuts was best represented by the football game between Iowa State and Nebraska. ASUN asked fans to wear blue as a show of support for NU's academics as well as athletics.

"It was a very cold day, but there were just as many people wearing blue there as there were

people wearing red," Chapelle said.

Budget cuts drew attention, but the issue that seems to have stirred the greatest emotional outbreak from students was ASUN's minority bylaw.

The bylaw, which was added to all student organization's constitutions Jan. 1, states that neither ASUN or any other student organization can discriminate in the selection of members on the basis of physical or cultural characteristics, where such characteristics include but are not limited to age, race, color, gender, creed, sexual orientation or place of residence.

The bylaw was amended by a senate vote to exclude the term sexual orientation.

Rodney Bell, president of UNL's Gay/Lesbian Student Association, said he thinks ASUN "didn't live up to their promises" to represent all students.

"Gerard has totally avoided the issues," Bell said. Removing sexual orientation from the bylaw "was discrimination blatant," he said.

"The student senate isn't effectively serving the needs of gay/lesbian interests," Bell said.

Bell said he also doesn't expect ASUN's new executives to be much better in serving GLSA's needs.

Bell said he will definitely question ASUN's next executives on their ethics and tolerance of others.

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