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UD Economics Professor Analyzes Dollars-And-Cents Side of Drought, "The Last Temptation of Christ" Draws Mixed Reactions

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UD ECONOMICS PROFESSOR ANALYZES DOLLARS-AND-CENTS SIDE OF DROUGHT

The federal government's new $3.9 billion drought relief legislation will bail out financially strapped farmers hit hard by crop losses but only bloat an already too-high farm subsidy program. And farmers aren't the only ones hurt from this summer's drought. In 1989, consumers can expect to pay between 5 and 6 percent more at the grocery check-out line.

Those are the predictions of Anthony Chan, an assistant professor of economics who has studied the financial downside of this summer's drought. "Based on economic grounds, you can't justify farm subsidies," he said. "On a humanitarian level, we're a country that has always cared about the unfortunate. It's an emotional issue."

In order to eliminate the government's farm support program, America's estimated 2.2 million farms would need to be reduced by between 30 and 50 percent, Chan said, noting that farm subsidies have risen from $3.1 billion in 1981 to $40 billion today. "Those subsidies are going to have to continue to rise at the same pace to keep many of the Mom and Pop farms in business."

For media interviews, contact Anthony Chan at (513) 229-2409.

"THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST" DRAWS MIXED REACTIONS

"The Last Temptation of Christ" hasn't opened yet in Dayton movie theatres, but the controversy continues to swirl around the Martin Scorsese-directed film that depicts Christ's humanity.

Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, director of UD's Center for Religious Telecommunications, previewed the film last week in San Francisco at a private showing for about 20 Catholic and Protestant theologians and communicators. "It's a low-budget film that's long and, at times, boring," she observed. "It's an interesting concept, but if someone asked me if I would recommend the film, I would say it's not worth investing your $4 or $5."

Thomas Martin, a professor of religious studies, has taught a "Religion and Film" class at UD since 1972. "One film won't challenge a person's values and behavior patterns," said Martin, pointing out that controversy has arisen and died out over other depictions of Jesus Christ on film, most notably "Jesus Christ Superstar."


To arrange interviews, contact Teri Rizvi at (513) 229-3241.