though, once again obliterating the ever-changing line between responsible filmmaking and anti-Christian bigotry.

The first of these films is called **At Play in the Fields of the Lord**, and it spends three full hours assailing what it sees as a particularly pervasive problem of the twentieth century: evil Christian missionaries. The villains-in-question are Leslie Huben (John Lithgow), his wife Andy (Darryl Hannah), Martin Quarrier (Aidan Quinn), his wife Hazel (Kathy Bates, fresh from her Academy Award-winning role as the psychotic fan in **Misery**), and their young son Billy (Niilo Kivirinta).

Leslie, the veteran of the group, considers Catholic missionaries "the opposition" and treats them with overt hostility. He considers a massacre of several of their priests by savage Indians nothing more than a golden opportunity for his side. And later, when he can't convert the savages, he's just as willing to become an accomplice in their extermination with cluster bombs.

His wife Andy has a passionate moment with a half-Cherokee named Moon (Tom Berenger) that leads to most of the local Niaruna tribe catching her flu and dying.

Little Billy dies of black river fever, sending both of his parents spiralling downward emotionally. Martin ends up kneeling down at Moon's feet and worshipping him as god before he is killed and Hazel runs around their camp in Indian beads and paint, chanting a Niaruna song. When they finally take her away, she can do little more than mutter "Bye-bye" over and over again like a little child.

This is a vile and patently offensive film that is nothing but a slap in the face to the millions of Christian missionaries who have gone overseas and fulfilled the great commission of taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the uttermost parts of the earth, and who worked, bled and died to help feed and clothe and house and, yes, **save** Third World populations without ever thinking of themselves or their own material gain. It is intended to show how the white Christian male represents the greatest threat to society at large (a popular theme in this politically correct age), bringing death and destruction with him wherever he goes and doing it all in the name of the Lord. As Martin tells Moon at the end: "They would have been better off if we had never come here."

The next film, entitled **The Rapture**, focuses on Biblical prophecy concerning the end of the world as we know it. Mimi Rogers plays Sharon, a bored telephone operator who seeks fulfillment in an endless series of orgies and wife-swapping escapades along with her swinger boyfriend. When she doesn't find that fulfillment, she turns to God, commits her life to Jesus Christ and learns about the impending apocalypse.

After winning one of her skeptical lovers to Christ, the two get married, have a baby girl they name Mary and spend the next several years preparing for the return of Christ and their ascension into the sky to meet Him.

The church where they worship is run by a young man known only as **The Boy**, a prophet of God in the tradition of the Old Testament prophets, who knows when the rapture is going to take place. Of course, the Holy Bible is quite clear on the fact that no man—or boy—knows the day or the hour that it will take place and that, when Christ does return, it will be "like a thief in the night." But this film isn't interested in accuracy. That would negate its secular humanist message.

Sharon's husband is murdered by a disgruntled ex-employee and she gets a vision of going out into the California desert with Mary to await Jesus's imminent return. The Bible also calls for Christians to **occupy** until that day and not to sit around waiting for it (either in a desert or anywhere else), but The Boy instructs her to "obey God," so she and Mary drive out to the desert.

After waiting for several weeks in the same place with no sign or word from the Messiah, Sharon becomes embittered and disillusioned and ends up doing what any good Christian mother would do in a similar situation. She takes a gun and shoots her little daughter in the head so Mary can go to be with Jesus in heaven. Then she uses the rest of the bullets in the chamber to shoot up into the sky at God.

In the end, the rapture does indeed take place and she is brought to a dark and desolate field somewhere outside of heaven's parameters. Mary greets her there and begs her to tell God that she loves him, but Sharon refuses. God has lied to her, broken His promise, made her life miserable, allowed her to kill her only child and now, in spite of all this, demands that she declare her undying love for Him without so much as an explanation. Sharon's love for God has understandably turned to hate, and so she is left behind to spend eternity in this empty field (a place that differs greatly with the Biblical account of hell, where there is a lake of fire, torment, wailing and gnashing of teeth).

According to **The Rapture**, God is a cruel and spiteful and malicious deity who lies to those who follow and obey Him, brings misery into their lives, causes them to kill their children and then defies every law in the universe He created by demanding that they love Him with all their hearts. But my Bible tells me that it is impossible for God to lie; that He has never and will never break any of His promises to us. It also tells me that Satan is the father of lies and that he is the one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. And I'll believe the Word of God over a Hollywood fantasy any day.

The third and final film is even more egregious. But considering who directed it, that doesn't come as much of a shock. In

According to 'The Rapture,' God is a cruel and spiteful and malicious deity who lies to those who follow and obey Him, and brings misery into their lives.

Martin Scorsese's remake of the 1960 thriller **Cape Fear**, Robert DeNiro plays Max Cady, a psychopath who rapes underage girls, terrorizes families and, in one graphic scene, bites off a chunk of a woman's cheek as he beats her senseless. It is virtually the same character that Robert Mitchum created in the original version, with one major alteration: this Max Cady also happens to be a born-again Christian.

A "Pentecostal cracker" (as good-guy Nick Nolte describes him), he quotes liberally from the Holy Bible and has Scriptural tattoos covering his entire body. He tells Nolte's daughter that the greatest gift in the world is salvation, then smokes a marijuana joint with her. And in the climactic scene, as he prepares to rape Nolte's wife, he asks her: "Are you ready to become born again? I'll have you speaking in tongues in no time." This is a not-too-subtle way of equating the two most sacred experiences of a born-again believer to a violent sex crime.

At the end, as Cady floats down the river to his death, he begins speaking in tongues—despite the fact that (again, according to my Bible, which sharply contrasts Mr. Scorsese's) it is impossible for a brutal rapist/murderer/terrorist to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Movies such as **At Play in the Fields of the Lord**, **The Rapture** and **Cape Fear** don't shake my faith in God, but they do make me long for a Hollywood that has long since past away. A time when degrading Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible or Christian values was not considered art, but obscenity. A time when the American film industry was interested in quality rather than making a fast buck on the latest slasher flick, bad remake or fifth sequel. A time when going to the movies was an experience and not an assault.

Indeed, the "golden age" of Hollywood is gone forever. We are now in the "age of the golden calf."

And I, for one, have no intention of worshipping at the altar.

AFA Law Center sues in behalf of civil rights of Christians

In action growing out of the Wichita pro-life demonstrations of last August, the American Family Association Law Center has filed a civil rights law suit in federal court in Cleveland, Ohio, against George Tiller, a physician who performs late term abortions in Wichita, his attorneys, and two U.S. marshals.

The AFA Law Center represents Cleveland pastor Phillip Vollman, who was arrested and charged with contempt of court for violating District Court Judge Patrick Kelly's injunction prohibiting blocking the entrance of two Wichita abortion clinics.

On the word of Tiller's private attorney, Vollman was arrested for "intimidating" George Tiller. Vollman's "intimidation" consisted of preaching and praying on the sidewalk across the street from the abortion clinic. AFA attorney Dennis Staffelbach and Craig Schultz, a Wichita attorney, represented Vollman at the contempt hearing. After viewing a videotape of Vollman's actions, Judge Kelly agreed that Vollman's conduct constituted a proper exercise of his free speech rights.

The suit alleges that Vollman's arrest and detention violated his constitutional right to free speech, free exercise of religion, and the right to travel. The suit requests damages against Tiller, his attorneys and all those acting in concert.

Law Center sues school district

In another case, the AFA Law Center filed a federal lawsuit in Jacksonville, Florida, against a school district which ordered an 11-year-old fourth grader to remove his t-shirt because it contained a Christian message.

The lawsuit alleges that the student at Green Cove Springs Elementary School near Jacksonville was denied his constitutional rights to free speech by the school district.

The suit also alleges a violation of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause which prohibits the public school from hostile action against religion. The t-shirt contained a Christian message referring to the John 3:14 and showing a cartoon picture of a "brain in hell."

"This is nothing but blatant hostility and anti-Christian bigotry by the schools," said Nikolas T. Nikas, AFA Law Center attorney handling the case. "Students are allowed to wear the most outrageous, blasphemous, and offensive t-shirts imaginable and are not restricted in any way. However, wear a t-shirt with a Christian message to school and the full force of the state is aimed at crushing your free speech."

Attempts by the parents of the student to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the school authorities were rejected.

AFA sues film company, producer

AFA Law Center has also filed suit against Paul Yule and Jonathan Stack and their respective companies, Berwick Universal Pictures and Uptown Media Associates. AFA President Don Wildmon agreed to give an interview to Yule and Stack to be used as part of a documentary to be shown on Channel 4 in London, England.

Prior to the interview, Wildmon, Yule and Stack entered into a contract that prohibited Stack and Yule and their companies from disseminating any part of the interview anywhere except Channel 4 in London without Wildmon's prior written permission.

On June 24, 1991, Yule sought permission to disseminate the film in the U.S. On June 25, 1991, Wildmon advised Yule that he would not grant permission to show the film in the U.S. The film was subsequently released for showing in the U.S.

Recently, Cable News Network presented a news item concerning the lawsuit. In the presentation, the perspective of the litigation was that Wildmon was arbitrarily attempting to "censor" the film. Unfortunately, this is not an accurate portrayal of the matter. The lawsuit has been filed and is being pursued because the contract that the parties entered into has been violated.

The film contains much explicit language and graphics with which Wildmon did not want to be associated. He was not made aware at the time of filming that such content would be part of the film. Wildmon was led to believe that the film would be about his work and the work of two other organizations in the U.S. in their pro-family fight.

Poll shows Americans support traditional standards

A recent poll with over 100,000 Americans responding showed that 89% said the federal budget should be balanced by cutting spending, not raising taxes. The poll was done by Dr. D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries.

The poll also showed that 86% believed homosexuals should be barred from certain jobs, such as teaching and hospital work; 63% feel that legalized abortion will lead to "mercy killing" of retarded and elderly people, 95% said the U.S. Surgeon General should declare AIDS to be a contagious, communicable and sexually transmittable disease.

AT&T continues support for homosexuals

The January 1992 issue of Suncoast News reports on AT&T's continued support for homosexuals. "Good news for AT&T employees," an article in the publication said, "the company has a gay and lesbian support group, LEAGUE, which stands for Lesbian and Gay United Employees of AT&T. The group, which has chapters nationwide, was formed in Denver in 1988. The local chapter, LEAGUE Central Florida will be hosting the first national conference of AT&T LEAGUE employees in late February 1992."

AT&T supports the homosexual movement with material and meetings which promote the homosexual lifestyle. Thousands of AT&T customers have switched to another long distance carrier in the past several months because of the AT&T support for homosexuals.

Media support leftwingers with money

MediaWatch, a Washington-based conservative newsletter reports that CBS news has put its "mouth where its philanthropic money is" in a report on Sunday's CBS EVENING NEWS program that aired October 27. Following a story on the history of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the group's plans to form a third political party, anchor Connie Chung said: "Despite the arguments, NOW's new direction has not hurt the membership. After suffering declines in the 1980's, the organization is on the rebound and now bigger than ever with more than 250,000 members." CBS, *MediaWatch* points out, has never done a similar story on the 600,000-member Concerned Women for America. The group also points out CBS is a donor to NOW's Legal Defense and Education Fund. The network is not alone, though. NOW also lists as its contributors: Capital Cities/ABC Inc.; Columbia/Embassy Television; ESPN Inc.; Fox Television; Gannett Company, Inc.; Hearst Corporation; Lorimar Productions; NBC; the New York Times Company; USA Weekend; and the Washington Post Company.

MediaWatch, 11/9/91