

# Farmington Observer

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## Nuclear war morally evil, says bishop

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

America's "seriously morally flawed" deterrence strategy has forced the country into a nuclear arms race that undermines any possibility of world peace, said Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, one of the primary authors of the controversial U.S. bishops' letter on war and peace.

"You can't have peace in the world until you begin to develop trust between the nations. Deterrence does just the opposite. We hold them hostage. They hold us hostage," Gumbleton told approximately 50 people last Wednesday at a discussion of the bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Call and Our Response," sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington.

Calling the world's spending of \$550 billion on "arsenals of death and destruction" a "misuse of resources," Gumbleton said that money should instead be invested in food to feed the

800-million starving people in the world.

"Fifteen children die every minute from starvation," said Gumbleton, the regional archbishop for 170 parishes in the Detroit Archdiocese.

Although Gumbleton conceded that America's deterrence policy was developed to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, he told the gathering that it cannot be proved that the policy is the reason "we haven't had a nuclear war and that we won't have one in the future."

"DETERRENCE INCLUDES the intention to do evil on a vast scale," he said, saying nations like the U.S. and Russia build up their arsenals so they'll have the weaponry to use if they can't hold each other at bay.

"How can you ever have trust when you're holding a gun to someone's head?" he asked. "The more we build up arsenals, the more we threaten our chance for peace."

And throughout the past 38 years, Gumbleton said, both sides continually



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton talks peace with parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church.

try to match each other in the types and numbers of nuclear weapons, yet neither side ever stays ahead of the other for long.

"They (weapons such as the MX missile) become bargaining chips," the bishop said. "Well, they (Russia) are not going to sit back and let us devel-

op these kind of weapon systems.

"The facts are against us that we'll get so strong, so far ahead that the

other side will have to negotiate with us."

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Raindrops pelted moviegoers intent on seeing "The Return of the Jedi" at Old Orchard Theaters in Farmington Hills.

## 'Star Wars' fans swamp theaters to see newest chapter in saga

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

No way was Scott Sherburne going to miss the premiere showing of "The Return of the Jedi." So to be sure he was first in line, he and his friends camped out in front of the Old Orchard Theatre Tuesday night ready for the Wednesday matinee showing.

"We thought we'd really get flak from someone for sleeping here," said the Bloomfield Hills student. "It's kind of strange."

Phil Jones of Farmington, who was second in line after Sherburne, didn't spend the night in front of the theater, but arrived at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday to make sure he didn't miss his chance to see the third in a series of Star Wars films. In fact, he managed to get the day off of work.

"We're the ultimate fans," said Jones, who was lined in line by his friend, Andy Cirinell of Farmington.

"For six years we've been waiting for this."

"This is the sequel that will tell us the answers we've always wanted to know."

"The Return of the Jedi" is the George Lucas film which answers many of the questions raised in the two prior films, "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back."

By 11 a.m. Wednesday, a line in some places three people deep, had formed around one side of the Old Orchard Theatre. Many of the younger people admittedly were skipping school that day to see the film they had been waiting for.

Adults too stood in line dodging the rain. The ones who weren't waiting to see the film were waiting on their children's instructions to buy tickets for the later shows.

The 7:30 p.m. show had been sold out by 5 p.m. Wednesday, said Dan Mater-

ka, the theater manager. And the three matinee shows, with tickets sold at \$4.50 compared to the usual \$1.50 matinee admission, drew about 1,100 viewers and netted the theater approximately \$3,500, Materka added.

"It wasn't supposed to be that busy," Materka said Wednesday looking through a theater window at the crowd. "We didn't expect this with the kids in school."

"We had 'Rocky.' We had 'E.T.' School wasn't out then, but we never had this kind of crowd. 'E.T.' didn't do this until school got out. It's the publicity (for 'Return of the Jedi'). All the 'Star Wars' nuts are out there."

Nevertheless, Materka said he was going to play it by ear, hoping he had enough personnel on hand, as well as enough popcorn, candy and soft drinks to please the enthusiastic crowd. "We've been going through it like crazy," he said, referring to the popcorn

his employees generally make the night before and throughout the matinees.

While the kids were skipping school, some adults were skipping work and others, like Joel Zahler, a Bloomfield Township dentist, and his wife, Julie, were spending their day off at the movies.

"She isn't a fan (of 'Star Wars')," Zahler said. "But I am. That's true love."

And even Donovan Anderson of Bear Lake, a recent Alma College graduate, took a day off from his job search in the Detroit area to take in the "Star Wars" sequel.

"I wanted to be the first in Bear Lake (to see the movie)," Anderson said.

Although admittedly "not a big fan," Anderson said he had made a three-hour drive from Bear Lake to Grand Rapids to see "Star Wars."

## Fed money will pave sidewalks

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington's \$23,000 share of recent Federal Emergency Jobs Bill money will be used for a new sidewalk along Drake Road connecting the uncompleted Baptist Manor Senior Citizen housing project to shopping centers along Grand River.

Distributed to local governments through Oakland County's Community Development Block Grant program, the total \$2.1 million is intended to provide employment for the jobless, to in-

state construction or to provide assistance to the poor, said City Manager Robert Deadman.

After reviewing the city's five-year Community Development Plan, administrators recommended that continuing Farmington's sidewalk construction plan, calling for sidewalks along the city's major thoroughfares, was the best use of the federal money. County representatives told city administrators the proposed sidewalk appears to meet the Emergency Jobs Bill guidelines, Deadman said.

"We believe that the sidewalk should

be constructed along the east side of Drake Road so that the senior citizens living in this project (Baptist Manor) may have a safe walkway to shopping and recreation areas," he added.

City Council members last week approved the administrators' recommendation in a 4-1 vote. Although Councilman William Mitchell indicated he favored building a sidewalk along Drake, he was opposed to using federal money

for that project.

"I think this country is self-destructing with programs (emergency jobs bill) of this sort," Mitchell said. "It's abhorrent to me."

City engineers are estimating that the proposed one-half-mile long, five-foot-wide sidewalk along the east right-of-way on Drake, from Freedom Road north to Grand River, will cost about \$30,000.

## Legal woes beset commodities trader

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

Michigan Attorney General Frank J. Kelley and the federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) have asked the United States District Court in Detroit to stop a Farmington Hills woman from operating two commodity trading companies.

Barbara A. Skorupkas, 39015 Utley, is charged on three counts of violating the federal Commodity Exchange Act while running Baral Corp. at the same address and Sideral Corp., 6849 Tamelane, West Bloomfield Township.

Both corporations also are named as defendants.

A hearing on the complaint has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 6, before Judge Phillip Pratt in the U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Contacted at her home, Skorupkas refused comment on the complaint, referring all inquiries to her attorneys in New York.

A three-part complaint charges Skorupkas and the companies with fraud by a commodity pool operator by use of fraudulent disclosure documents, failure to keep and produce required records, and operating a brokerage

firm without the required federal license.

State and federal attorneys involved in the case claim that \$582,000 in investor funds were transferred by bank wire from Baral and Sideral accounts to Skorupkas at two Chicago brokerage firms.

The action also seeks a temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunctions and the appointment of an equity receiver to manage Skorupkas' personal and corporate assets to prevent misuse of investors' funds.

SAID A CFTC attorney, "What we're trying to do is to protect the customers

to the extent we can." He added that "at least 15" investors are involved.

Edwin Bladen, an assistant attorney general in charge of the state's Economic Crime Division, called Skorupkas' actions "a civil wrong" and a violation of the Commodity Exchange Act.

COMMODITY EXCHANGES are organized markets — like stock markets. Such commodities as gold, agricultural and forest products are bought and sold on such markets.

The exchanges are public and anyone can trade who makes the necessary arrangements with legitimate brokerage firms.

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