

Americana

AMERICAN THEATRES

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST
ROGER RABBIT COMING TO AMERICA
MARRIED TO THE MOB CLEAN AND SOBER
DIE HARD COCKTAIL YOUNG GUN



JERRY ZOLINSKY/staff photographer

The Rev. Bob Morton of Berkley preaches in front of the Americana Theatre in Southfield where "The Last Temptation of Christ" is showing.

Marks, Costick admit error in handling tap-in bill

Remarks don't allay all

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"There was obviously a double standard. There was an obvious violation of 'public trust,'" councilwoman Jean Fox said. The previous week Fox said she would ask for Marks' resignation if she knew she had majority council support.

When one of Marks' supporters asked why the city council did not support their colleague, councilwoman Aldo Vagozzi responded:

"The fact that we didn't know about it . . . makes it difficult to support something you didn't know about before it came out in the open," he said. The support was not forthcoming because he felt what Marks did was wrong, he added.

COUNCILWOMAN JAN Dolan accepted Marks' apology but not without an admission. "It is not appropriate for members of the public that you used your position as an elected official to receive preferential treatment that is not available to the general public."

Dolan added that it's incumbent on council members "to make every attempt to the best of our ability to see this city is operated entirely above board with no hint of wrong doings." She also advised city administrators "that any and all decisions concerning the operation of this city be in strict accordance with the (city) charter."

"This was an error in judgment. I apologize for this error. I deeply regret the embarrassment this has caused the council, the city, my family and my friends," said Marks, a local builder and four-year council member.

While mayor in 1987, Marks wrote a check for \$17,000 for sewer tap-in fees for his office building on the northwest corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. Twice, the check failed to clear because anticipated financing for the building didn't come through.

Though Costick urged Marks to pay the debt, the city manager kept the late payment as a receivable instead of putting it on Marks' 1987 tax bill last December, thereby placing a lien on the property.

AFTER FINANCING finally came through, Marks paid the

\$17,000 past due sewer tap-in fee and full accrued interest and late charges totaling \$22,528 on Aug. 13.

Costick, who has remained publicly silent at the council meetings where Marks' longstanding debt was discussed, announced Monday, "I do feel the need to make a statement."

"I've been in city government 20 years . . . I've never been accused of the misuse of my position. I'd like to set the record clear . . ."

Costick said he talked each month with Marks about the debt. "At no time was there not an expectation either on my part, the finance director's part or public services, city treasurer or the people who had knowledge of this that that would not be paid. A mistake was made. It should have been put on the taxes last year."

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because "it's not Biblically based."

The Rev. John Maki of Salem United Church of Christ also does not plan to see the film but strongly supports the right of others to see it.

"I'm very much concerned about censorship. We can disagree with the content of the film but we must allow others equal access, including those with divergent views. Freedom of the press, freedom of speech. They're very important," Maki said.

The Rev. Paul Blomquist of Orchard United Methodist Church addressed censorship in last Sunday's sermon.

"I'm not interested one way or the other. It has been dreamed up for financial reasons. My responsibility is teaching scripture."

— Mike Teltschak
Jehovah Witness elder

are pretty mature and independent. People will decide for themselves," added the priest, who declined to be named.

The Rev. Gerald McEhill, a 16-year veteran of the priesthood currently serving at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington, called the film and its surrounding controversy "typically Hollywood. It's getting much more publicity than it deserves."

Perhaps Mike Teltschak, a Jehovah's Witness elder with the Farmington Kingdom Hall, expressed the final word on the subject.

"I'm not interested one way or the other (in the film or the surrounding controversy). It has been dreamed up for financial reasons. My responsibility is teaching scripture."

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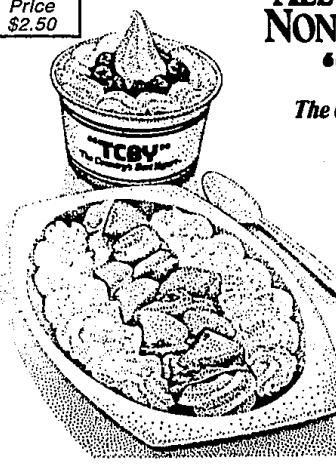
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