



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

'Temptation' not tempting to all in area

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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 HAVE NOT admonished our people in any way, whether to see the film or not. It is not the role of the church to do so. People must judge for themselves, based upon the merits of the film," Blomquist said.

In contrast, the Catholic Church has condemned the film and given it an "O" rating for objectionable content.

The rating, according to a priest at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, is meant only as a guide and not intended as "don't go or do go. American theater-going audiences

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— Mike Telischak
Jehovah's Witness elder

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

The Rev. Gerald McEnhill, 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 Telischak, 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."

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, councilman Aldo Vagnoni 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 admonition. "It is perceived by 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 when 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."

"I apologize to the council for not bringing this to you sooner. I apologize to the public. I've learned from my mistakes, and I hope we can put all this behind us..." Costick said.

Following Marks' apology, Mayor Jody Soronen issued a reaffirmation of city policy regarding favoritism. The memo reminds administrators and city employees of the policy, which "requires that all residents of the city of Farmington Hills and those doing business with the city be treated with fairness and equality."

"No special privileges are to be afforded members of the city council, members of boards and commissions, employees or particular segments of the general population," Soronen said. "I don't intend this to change anything that's happened by no means."

IN HIS APOLOGY, Marks said that "there never was a time that I felt that the public trust had been breached. If there are those who feel differently and are offended, to them I also apologize."

In response to questions whether he received any other special treatment not afforded other residents or builders, Marks said, "Absolutely not." He said he had been cited for fire code violations and had to meet requirements of the city's building and zoning codes as other builders must.

Costick confirmed that the building's final certificate of occupancy had been withheld pending payment of the tap-in debt. Marks said he expects further inspections of the building. A final certificate of occupancy is expected to be issued by the end of the month.

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