

Stop polarization

Break down racial barriers

SPRING IS for visions — you know, dreams of how this tattered and weary world should really be.

Suck in the fresh air, soak up the warm sun and swear to God it's going to be different. We all do it, even if it's just for a quiet moment with ourselves.

Most folks around here seem to dream big dreams of baseball. Opening day at Tiger Stadium is something more akin to a down-home religious revival than a game.

And while I wish our Tigers well, I've got a little different dream for this town and its team. For Detroiters, baseball means something more than than just the professional high-stakes tourney into which it has grown.

NO, IN Detroit, baseball means 1968 — the year this city made peace with itself, when blacks and whites sat down, side by side, and said amen to the year's previous disaster — the riots.

That's what baseball means to Detroit. It unified, if only symbolically, a metropolitan area that only months before seemed hopelessly rent asunder.

Sure the names change. Yesterday's applause for Kaline has been replaced with today's cheers for Gibson — a different type of baseball player for a very different generation of baseball fan.

But some things seem never to change. And it's one particular smear on this metro area's image that we all must strive to wipe clean — our racial barriers.

Nothing was particularly scientific about racial relations in 1967. Frankly, a whole lot of white folks thought everything was just dandy. They thought everything was just fine, that is, until a Sunday morning in July when all hell broke loose.

BUT IT really does take more than a baseball championship to fix a broken town. A recent study by Florida State University geographer Morton Winsberg shows us that.

His findings are alarming. Out of the 37 largest cities in the U.S., Detroit is the most racially polarized — by far.

That's right — by far.

Jaycees slate radio program

The Farmington Area Jaycees will have a locally produced radio show on WCAR Radio, 1090 AM, beginning June 1.

This is the first radio show of its kind in this community, and will focus on current business development and expansion, education, theater and arts, and other related topics.

The first guest speaker will be William Coslick, city manager of Farmington Hills.

Advertising opportunities are available for businesses and service organizations from the Farmington/Farmington Hills areas. Prospective supporters should call 478-4431 for more information.

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crackerbarrel debate

Steve Barnaby



Through a comparative point system, Winsberg found that Detroit's polarization has risen by 34 points between 1960 and 1980. We share distant company with the likes of Newark and New York, which register a 29-point increase.

The study shows that in 1960, whites made up 70 percent of Detroit's population. By 1980, that had dropped to 33 percent.

MEANWHILE, THE suburban white population has only de-

creased by 3 percent, from 96 percent to 93 percent today.

Winsberg noted that the riots seemed to have very little impact on the rate at which whites fled the city. They were fleeing just as fast before the riots as they were afterwards.

We really must stop fooling ourselves about this notion. A continually polarized society can only lead to more trouble — more trouble than even Kirk and all his buddies can handle.

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Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Republican pans Faxon

To the editor:

We thought you should now that your state senator, Jack Faxon, voted against a series of bills that would keep the dial-a-porn industry, a branch of the pornography business, which allows a caller to receive an ob-

scene message in exchange for a fee, from exploiting minors and eventually make it unprofitable to run the business.

Faxon opposed Senate Bill 82, a bill that would make it illegal to provide a dial-a-porn number to a minor.

Faxon opposed Senate Bill 529, a bill that would keep dial-a-porn companies from making a profit.

Faxon opposed Senate Bill 549,

a bill that would make it illegal to transmit dial-a-porn messages.

Why did he do it? Why not vote to stamp out the multimillion-dollar pornography industry, especially as it affects minors?

We thought you should know how your state senator voted on this issue.

E. Spencer Abraham, chairman, Michigan Republican State Committee

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You can ask friends, relatives or co-workers for a recommendation. Since there are as many opinions as there are people, you may end up with a confusing collection of names and phone numbers. Without having the slightest idea of who the doctors are or where they're located.

You may also choose to open up your telephone book and, well — good luck.

When you call the Physician Referral Service, we'll help you find a doctor close to your home or where you work. We'll put you in touch with physicians specializing in all areas of medicine. And if you prefer a male or female doctor, we'll see to it your preference is met. Most importantly, when you call the Physician Referral Service, you'll be put in touch with physicians who have a strong affiliation with one of Michigan's leading hospitals — Providence. Save yourself from the time-consuming frustration of finding a doctor. Call Providence Hospital's Physician Referral Service at 424-3999 and get the sound, professional advice you need in finding a qualified physician.

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