Stop polarization

Break down racial barriers

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

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 downhome religious revival than a game.

home religious revival than a game.

And while I wish our Tigers well, I've got a little different dream for this town and list earn. For Detroiters, haseball 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 rids.

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

Sure the names change. Yes-terday'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 im-age 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 dany. They thought everything was just dany. 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 ge-ographer 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 vill have a locally produced radio llow on WCAR Radio, 1090 AM,

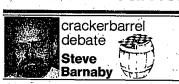
This is the first radio show of its kind in this community, and will focus on current business develop-ment and expansion, education, theater and arts, and other related

The first guest speaker will be William Costick, city manager of Sarmington 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.







Through a comparative point system, Winsberg found that De-troit'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 buddles can handle.

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Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, orginal 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-aporn 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.

to a minor. to a minor.

Faxon opposed Senate Bill 529,

a bill that would keep dial-aporn companies from making a

Faxon opposed Senate Bill 549.

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

es.
Why did he do it? Why not vote
to stamp out the multimillion
dollar pornography industry, es a
pecially as it affects minors?
We thought you should know
how your state senator voted on
this issue.
E. Spencer Abraham, chairman,
Michigan Republicat
State Committee.



