

# State rep defends Farrakhan's right to speak

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Louis Farrakhan, controversial minister of the Chicago-based Nation of Islam, had every right to speak at Michigan State University, according to State Rep. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

Even if his speech was laced with anti-Semitism, said Honigman, one of nearly 100 protesters who picketed Farrakhan Sunday when he appeared at the MSU auditorium.

In that speech, Farrakhan called MSU a "modern plantation" where student minds are enslaved and he castigated Jewish movie-makers in Hollywood for stereotyping blacks.

"Farrakhan is a good speaker," said Honigman, who attended the speech after giving a talk of his own on campus at a Unity Rally against prejudice, bigotry and discrimination.

Unfortunately, he mixed facts with fiction and bias, said Honigman.

Farrakhan, for example, called on blacks to stay away from drugs, got a good education and develop self-discipline.

"But he also blamed Jews for stereotyping blacks," said Honigman.

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— Rep. David Honigman  
R-West Bloomfield



HONIGMAN, WHO is Jewish, said his role in attending Farrakhan's talk was to call attention to his anti-Semitism.

A university is a place for the free exchange of ideas, and Farrakhan had every right to be there, said Honigman.

"But we also have a right to challenge what he said. We have a right

to compete in the market place of ideas. I believe it was Brandeis (jurist Louis D.) who said, replace a bad idea with a good idea."

In his talk at the Unity Rally, Honigman said he was protesting Farrakhan because he had a duty to "speak out to repudiate racism and anti-Semitism."

"Mr. Farrakhan's message of eth-

nic pride, black self-sufficiency and economic self-help is admirable," Honigman said. "But his virulent and bitter message of race hatred against Jews evokes only moral horror."

Honigman said some of Farrakhan's previous statements are even more strongly anti-Semitic.

"I'm a liberal when it comes to free speech," said Honigman, a lawyer. "And I carefully researched his previous remarks to make sure they were not taken out of context."

SOME OF the views and ideas previously expressed by Farrakhan make his other remarks — namely calling Judaism a " gutter religion" and Adolf Hitler " wickedly great" — seem mild, said Honigman, who cited these examples:

• In an interview with the Chicago Sun-Times, Farrakhan endorsed as true, a statement made by an associate, Steve Cokely, that Jewish doctors inject the AIDS virus into black children.

• In a speech at Madison Square Garden, Farrakhan said, "The germ of murder is already sewed into the hearts of Jews in this country."

• In May 1984, Farrakhan was quoted in the New York magazine as

saying unless Jews celebrating Passover believe in Jesus, "then maybe the death angel will stop at your door and kill the first born of your house."

• In May 1988, the New York Post reported that Farrakhan referred to the "narrow-minded common Jew" and quoted him as saying, "The Jews can not defeat me. I will grind them and crush them into little bits."

• In a September 1987, issue of "Final Call," a publication of the Na-

tion of Islam, Farrakhan wrote, "The government of the United States, especially those Jews in positions of power, are frightened over the growing acceptance by the masses of black people of the message of Louis Farrakhan. . . they have even prepared for our wholesale incarceration in concentration camps."

Honigman said his actions Sunday were designed to expose Farrakhan's philosophy, not censure his free speech.

## Troy club hosts SMART talk

Oakland County deputy executive Patrick M. Novak will speak to the Troy Rotary about SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) at 12:15 p.m.,

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Novak is the chairman of SMART, the successor agency to SEMTA.

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