

Public Sounds Off On Race: 'Hypocrites' Versus 'Bigots'

By MARTHA MAHAN

Sixty-two speakers, almost evenly divided pro and con, told the Farmington Board of Education Monday how they felt about a program by the schools to foster minority understanding.

When the citizens felt ranged from calling the program "a scheme to divide and destroy the community" put forth by "hypocrites, the glibble and the naive" to a sorrowful: "What's wrong with human understanding?"

"How do you figure how the community really feels?" President John M. Washburn III mused after the rancorous three hour meeting.

"The speakers were almost 50-50. If you had an applause meter, you could judge for yourself" (that the antis were in the majority). "At the same time, any active group with a cause can get a big turnout."

A LEAFLET criticizing the minority understanding recommendations was passed door to door in the district earlier in the day by the South Oakland MOTOREDE Committee (Movement to Restore Decency), an ad hoc committee of The John Birch Society.

About 200 persons made up the audience. Of the 62 speakers, 30 opposed and 29 favored the guidelines for minority understanding. Three took no stand.

A proposal for a referendum was made by three speakers. Another hinted at recall action if the board approved the guidelines.

No date for board decision has yet been fixed, Washburn said.

"I hadn't expected so much open bigotry," commented

Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education who chaired the committee which drew up the guidelines. "I knew there would be opposition, but I had expected the speakers to try to use more veiled terminology."

THIS IS HOW it went: "The purpose of education is not to try to promote the concept that 'black is beautiful.'" declared Marshall Greene, 2170 Sky Drive W., the opening speaker. "Those driven from the city (of Detroit) know otherwise," he went on bluntly. "That's why they are willing to pay \$1,200 in taxes instead of \$300 and drive 20 miles to work." It was Greene who called the proposal "a scheme to divide and destroy the community."

Carl Licht said he feared the community was "being prepared or conditioned for something bigger which could lead to loss of local control."

"Exchange of teachers could lead to exchange of students, and we conceivably could have a change of board members," he said to audience applause. "We could have a doing away of school district boundaries and the board altogether, and then where could we go to complain?"

"There are activists who want to see blacks integrated in every community whether that community wants it or not," declared Walter de Mattia, 2744 Drake Road, chairman of Concerned Citizens for Youth.

"Plenty of blacks and orients will be here, all in good time," said Winston Wright. "Why go out and look for it and create an issue? You're proposing a shotgun marriage and it's not so

much the marriage I'm against; it's the shotgun."

SPEAKERS favoring the program had comments such as these:

"What is the danger of trying to know and understand people whom we don't know?" asked Allen Sipher, 3377 Heritage Hills.

"Where does it say we are going to bus in the militants?" queried Joanne Smith of Staman Circle Drive. "I wonder why any blacks would want to live here. They'd have to be like those hardy pioneers meeting the Indians — and we're the Indians!"

Carol Freedman, 30173 Muirland, called opposition "scarce tactics, threats, distortions and lies all used to disguise bigotry."

Parents, she said, "are teaching hatred, and it's a rather sad indictment of our school system that it has to be told how to do something that should have come about naturally a long time ago."

"Children need exposure beyond just fear based on being afraid of people who

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MAN OF THE HOUR -- Man of the hour Sunday was Gerald Harrison (left) after whom was named Harrison High School, Farmington's third high school in its first year of operation. Harrison, retired superintendent of Farmington Schools, was guest of honor at dedication ceremonies Sunday and is shown with Dr. Marinus Van Ameyde (center), assistant superintendent; and Richard Bey who expressed the parents' appreciation of the hopes for Harrison High. (Evert photo)

Ragdolls In Vietnam

A pre-Christmas appeal made in the Farmington Enterprise & Observer has resulted in a number of Farmington-sewn ragdolls being shipped overseas for South Vietnamese orphan children and youngsters living at a nearby leper colony. Some Farmington ladies are still sewing ragdolls but are asked to withhold shipment temporarily.

The Den Returns

Daniels Den has escaped from a cartoon of 100-watt bulbs and has reappeared to renew commitment on Farmington. First comment is prediction of an abort on threats to recall school trustees.

Election Deadlines

The Farmington City Council held a special meeting Monday night to adopt an ordinance establishing deadlines for candidates filing for city council election in November. The action was necessary because of a new state law switching municipal elections from the spring to the fall on odd years.

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23 Plead Guilty On Drug Raps

The narcotics raid March 19 in Farmington Township which netted 35 arrests resulted in 23 guilty pleas at pre-trial examination Friday, March 26, before Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand.

AN APARTMENT was raided at 31185 W. Ten Mile on March 19 by three detectives and nine patrolmen according to Irving Yakes, Farmington Township Police Chief.

Three persons pleading guilty to attempted sale or possession of drugs, which carries up to six months in jail and/or a \$500 fine, were: Roderick May, 21; Dale Popa, 20; and Mary Jo Kern, 17, all of Farmington.

The above three were released after posting \$1,000 personal bond, pending probation reports.

Charles A. Spooner, 19, of Farmington, pleaded guilty to unlawful use or addiction which carries up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine.

Spooner was taken to Oakland County Jail until the \$1,000 bond is posted or until a sentence date is set by Judge Hand.

NINETEEN OF those arrested pleaded guilty on Thursday, March 25 before Judge Hand, to a charge of loitering in a place where an illegal occupation is being

conducted. The 19 were fined \$50 plus a \$4 training fee.

Among the 19 were the following from Farmington: David A. Dehaan, 17; Robert Kessler, 19; Richard Dennis, 20; James S. Lofquist, 17; Thomas B. Anderson, 19; James E. Manross, 19; Ward A. Vanmeter, 19; Scott N. Stephens, 17; Ronald B. McDonald, 22; Paul Williamson, 18; Cynthia A. Taylor, 17; and Katrina M. Casby, 17.

Others of the 19 pleading guilty to loitering in a place of illegal occupation were: Paul Ruelle, 19, of Detroit; James Young, 23 Walled Lake; Donald Vandergriff, 19 of Detroit; Robert E. Edwards, 18 of Detroit; Debbie Pisan, 17 of Livonia; Duane Vandergriff, 22 of Detroit; and Denise G. Hewitt, 18 of Walled Lake.

Nine juveniles arrested have been turned over to the Juvenile Division, says Chief Yakes, and two persons charged with loitering in a place of illegal occupation pleaded innocent and are awaiting trial.

Township police report May, Popa, Spooner and Miss Kern were collecting rent for rooms in the apartment and allowing young persons to use narcotics.

GOOD LISTENERS -- Listening to remarks of Gerald Harrison, former superintendent of Farmington School District, are: (from left) Louis Schulman, Harrison High principal; Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of schools;

and John M. Washburn III, president of the Farmington Board of Education. Harrison was honored guest at the dedication of Farmington's third high school on Sunday, March 28. (Evert photos)



A CENTER DONOR -- The Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary has donated an announcement board to the Farmington Community Center as part of the auxiliary's continual support of the Center. Shown from left are: Mrs. Carol Kurth, Mrs. Suzanne Germek, auxil-

iary president, and Mrs. Alberta Taylor, executive director of the Center. March has been proclaimed Farmington Community Center Month by Farmington Township and the City of Farmington. (Evert photo)