

Readers' Forum...

'Shared Learning' Decision Raises Big Storm

Concerned About Future of Livonia

EDITOR: Hate, hostility, prejudice—but mostly fear—was apparent at the Oct. 28 public meeting of the Livonia Board of Education. And now I am fearful—fearful of the elements in our community who denied the right of free speech to those who disagreed with their viewpoint; fearful of the individuals who denied opportunities to their children and to mine; fearful for our youngsters who will suffer from our denials of opportunity. What frightens me most, though, is the idea among many that the "danger" lies elsewhere. It is in our community that: ● Armed guards were posted at the entrance to a subdivision to keep "them" out,

● Negroes were fired upon as they traveled Seven Mile Road on their way to work. ● More than 3,500 people, including city officials attempted to deny an Open Housing ordinance. ● A resident, to whom some look for "leadership," was recently charged with the illegal possession of arms, including automatic weapons. And now, a few children were denied by fewer adults an opportunity to try to make things better.

REGRETS REJECTION OF SHARED LEARNING
EDITOR: Four Little Pumpkins sitting on a fence. The first one said, "My, it's getting late." The second one said, "I hear a noise!"

The third one said, "We'd better run." The fourth one said, "It's Halloween fun." With that familiar kindergarten rhyme, Messrs. Brashers, Brown, Taddonio, and Mrs. Joyner voted not to Shared Learning programs in four Livonia schools thereby causing the light of hope for better understanding to be dimmed as the witches and goblins of fear and prejudice run rampant once again. Fortunately for the kids, Dr. Katz, Craft and Murch supported the programs. We can only hope their voices will be heard in the future as they have been in the past reassuring us that "help the poor" is not a cry in the night which will go unheard; that the poverty caused by lack of contact with other cultural, racial and religious groups will continue to be fought. We must try again and again

to implement Shared Learning programs until the members of the school board and those in the community whose opinions they reflect can see that the witches and goblins who make so many protesting noises are just regular people clothed in masks of fear. BOO!! boo hoo. KAY SWANSON Livonia

DISAPPOINTED WITH SCHOOL BOARD VOTE
EDITOR: I was very disappointed in the vote on the Shared Time issue. We can only hope that the loud minority group in Bentley's auditorium did not influence the board. I, for one, feel very let down that a few people could deprive our children of a fine opportunity in human relations. Our young children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. When they are out in the world, they will be meeting and dealing with all kinds of people. How much better for all races, nationalities and economic groups to learn to understand and share one another's culture now while they are young and their opinions are being formed. We haven't done a very good job on human understandings in our world—let's give our children a chance to change things. It seems to me that the programs in our schools should be left in the hands of the teachers and the Administrators rather than the board and the parents. They are the ones who have been trained and prepared and are giving many hours of thought in planning programs which are best for our children. EDNA MANNS 28205 W. SIX Mile Livonia

IRKED BY TAXES
EDITOR: Seventeen years ago we brought our family to Livonia because we could not afford Detroit's high taxes and wanted to live among our own race. I was raised in Detroit and went to Northwestern High School, I thank my Lord I did not have to raise my children in Detroit nor send them to Detroit schools. I have not ever brought race, creed, nor nationality issues into our home. Our family all form their own opinions in these.

Yet when they see, read, and hear all around them how the rights of the colored race troublemakers are upheld and the white people hurt by it, you can bet there will be no love there for your minority groups. When they hear how the Board of Education is trying to solve Shared Learning down the public throat, they know it is just another way to try to brainwash them as is the new history books praising with half truths the Negro progress and history. Why don't the teachers stick to what they are being paid to do? We need less so-called do-gooders and more teaching our children to read, spell and write so they can at least get a job. Comes summer we are selling. Why? You guessed it, taxes. Our taxes have gone up 100 per cent. Since our pay raises can't keep up with federal, state and city taxes we propose to drop out of the sucker home owning racket. Buy another home? Not on your life. Own a piece of Michigan? I can't afford it. R. MacMAIN Livonia

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