

Readers React To Shirleys' Unarmed Home

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our Livonia edition recently reported that *Shirley's* Editor, Fred Shirley and his wife were so appalled at racial slanders in the suburbs following the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that Mr. Shirley turned his weapons over to the police captain and in his window placed a sign saying his home is un-armed. The first few letters today are reactions to this news story.

Agrees With Shirleys

EDITOR:
This letter is a reply to the article written by Wallischewski, "Guns" in your Sunday, April 14, issue.
I am another Livonian who feels the same way as Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shirley. I am sick and tired of all the prejudices against the Negro. If only the so-called all-white race would open up their hearts and eyes and look at a Negro and see he is a man; not look and say he is a black man. All men are created equal; all men are born and all men die.
If the narrow-minded and bigoted people don't wake up soon, it seems the people in our country could be the cause of our nation falling. Why can't people treat others as they themselves want to be treated, but I am more Christian than some so-called Christians who go to church every day and on Sunday if these people would only live by the Ten Commandments, there would be a lot less trouble within our nation and the world.
When a Negro family moves into my neighborhood, I will be one person who will offer them a hot cup of coffee or a cold glass of beer. Amen! I pray that someday all men will shake hands and look into each other, and not at the color of our skin, outward appearances and foreign names.

Disagrees Entirely With The Shirleys

EDITOR:
We have just finished reading your article of Mr. and Mrs. Shirley giving up their guns. To say the least, we are disgusted, all this publicity about guns and people being so very honorable. We have never had a gun in our home and do not feel it is necessary to paint signs in our window to tell the world our children have learned the word "nigger" from school but they have also learned many others which we have tried to teach them are wrong.
Our children will probably continue to learn many things we do not approve of and hope we can help them to learn that they are wrong, but as long as so much publicity is given to these very items, such as even having a gun in the house, we will have a difficult time helping them.
Is this the best you can do on your front page? Did you bother to find out how many people do not have guns, are not causing trouble in Livonia? So what if Mayor Hubbard endorsed Mayor Moelke, that made very little difference to us, he has his opinion and every right to voice it, so what.
We live down the street from the Shirleys and like them very much but we do not feel articles such as this help our community in any way. We feel we must teach our children now to treat all human beings, regardless of color or anything else, and this must be done everyday not with signs or marches or big headlines but just in everyday living.
MR. AND MRS. A. GRECK
37708 Howell,
Livonia

Congratulations To Shirleys

EDITOR:
Congratulations to Fred and Natalie Shirley on their action reported in The Observer.
The time is overdue for all who are against racism to speak up. We are guilty of a situation when we remain silent and allow those who oppose to human rights to be the voice of the community. As Christians and as citizens, we must not remain passive but we must not speak out, vote, and conduct ourselves in such a manner to show that we are against racism and the degradation of human dignity that accompanies it.
BETTIE BETTASO
36047 Sherwood
Livonia

Appalled By Actions Of Livonia Teeners

EDITOR:
As I pause here for a moment of silence for Martin Luther King I cannot help but call the appalling situation that one of our city's businessmen must endure every day.
I am speaking of the little old man who runs the Stroks ice-cream parlor at 5 1/2 mile and Newburg road.
A few weeks ago his business was almost demolished by a group of teen-age brats from Holmes Junior High School merely because he was trying to prevent rowdiness.
This could have been a nice place where mothers and their children could go for a sundae, or whatever, for a few minutes. But believe me they dare not. I observed this disgusting situation myself. Upon entering I quickly discovered a place full of youths in black leather jackets wrestling and scuffling all over the place and in the process some of the owner's merchandise was knocked from the shelf and broken and the owner's efforts to stop this were completely ignored.
One of my children was also bumped and I quickly had to reprimand the youth, who, approached by an adult, quickly apologized.
I am writing this to voice my complaint and try to get help for this man and others like him. You parents sitting at home watching your child television should go take a look for yourselves. Your child might even be there.
DONALD W. HOPPE

King Memorial: Open Housing

EDITOR:
In cities throughout this country, the affairs of men have paused briefly during the past few days to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Plymouth, however, there has been no pause; we have carried on the process of living almost as if Dr. King never existed. That first Sunday's sermon elegized King, but of course, but, after all, the situation demanded it.
Almost everyone felt at least a little sorry, and it would have been awkward and embarrassing not to preach about him only three days after his death. With the exception of these comments, though, nothing has noted his passing as his contribution to American society. There have been no commemorative school assemblies, no memorial services.
This seems strange and, at the same time, understandable, how ironic, how inconsistent, how hypocritical it would be for us to honor the man in death when we systematically opposed his efforts in life.
Any elegies we might compose now would only ring hollow in the face of our past actions. Gliding will not hide our history. There are, let me say, no speeches, elegies cannot do justice to the man who inspired them, anyway. Great men always dwarf the words written about them.
Even Dr. King, eloquent as he was, will not be remembered primarily for his words, but for his deeds, his example of right-mindedness, justice, honor, and love.
However, we do not have to wait in embarrassed silence until the nation has finished lauding him. We can honor him without making hypocrites of ourselves. We can act. Plymouth can begin by enacting and enforcing an open housing ordinance. Anything less would be profane.

Horseowner Answers

EDITOR:
Disgusted isn't any more disgusted than we, the horseowners, are with people like you. You have plenty of nerve wanting to know why we don't move. Why do people like you move into a community like this and think you should take over?
As for the near accident, how do you know so much about it? Did you run out when you saw it? You're trying to find something to use to get things started? As for riding on lawns, I imagine if someone slipped one foot on a lawn, the whole thing would be torn up in your version. What really disgusts me is the way everything is so exaggerated by people like you.

Life must be very miserable for people who try to make trouble for other people.
We love our horses. Most of us, our best not to hurt other people's property when we ride, but people like you don't care who you hurt. As an excuse you act concerned, when all you really want is your own way, for us to either give up our homes or the horses we love. Livonia would do well to get rid of people who think like you do instead of our horsemen.

If City Council is fair, which I think they are, we won't be discriminated against. We are willing to try and do something about any problems we have, but not to give up all together.
MRS. M. SEVERSON

Stevenson Choir Wins High Praise

EDITOR:
Our Livonia Woman's City Club had the pleasure of having the Stevenson High School Symphonic Choir at our President's Day Tea. The choir is under the direction of Mr. Lowell Everzon. About 100 strong, they did a wonderful job of entertaining the club and its guests. They were superb, to say the least. They conducted themselves as ladies and gentlemen all the time they were with us.
It is a sad thing for Stevenson High School to have such bad publicity, when they have such talented, well-mannered, young people in the school.
MRS. PATRICK O'BRIEN

Praises Boys' Clubs

EDITOR:
The Boys Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit held their annual volunteer recognition dinner on April 1 in the Veterans Memorial Building on W. Jefferson.
Due to the fact that I'm a comparatively new member in the Mother's Service Club of Redford Township and had never attended any of these functions, I must say I was very impressed with the vast interest in our boys and young men.
Not only was the dinner superb and the entertainment excellent but I found the dedication and award ceremony to be both interesting and emotionally rewarding.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a personal tribute to all of the benefactors, board members and staff of the metropolitan area Boys Clubs. I consider it not only a privilege but an honor to be affiliated in any small way with this marvelous organization.

MRS. JEAN ANN THOMAS
MOTHER'S SERVICE CLUB
REDFORD TOWNSHIP

Income Tax For Schools

EDITOR:
I was pleased to learn about your House Bill #4095 in connection with adequately financing school needs from a tax

depending on income rather than property.
Perhaps the property tax on homes should be replaced with a tax on income with no exemptions, even if it may mean raising the personal income tax substantially.

Those who derive the greatest benefit from good schools, the students and the employees, should assume the full burden for better education and the present tax burden of the old, the poor, and the underprivileged.

Since housing, food, and clothing are the basic needs for all people, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, there should be no objection to the bill either in its present form or in a form that would encourage home ownership and

industrial expansion with equal opportunities for education.
STANLEY GLAME
GARDEN CITY

\$850,000 Of Pools On August Ballot

An \$850,000 bond issue to help finance the building of five municipal swimming pools will go on the Kalamazoo ballot Aug. 6. An additional \$150,000 has been pledged by the Kalamazoo Foundation, a non-profit community improvement organization. The city commission voted to put the issue before the voters after knocking it out of the proposed city budget earlier this year.

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FOAM "Soft Touch"

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WITH CHALK AND ERASER

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SPICE RACK

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with FIVE JARS

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SIX PACK

Reg Brand Reg. 99¢

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DOOR MAT - COCOA

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14x24 in. - REG. 99¢

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3 PIECE SET

1/2-1 1/2 Qt. - REG. 1.49

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Coronet 50 FT.

5 Year Guarantee

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Vitamin Ointment with A and D

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EDWARDS - 1 1/2 OZ.

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Candied Peppercorns & Peanuts

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BABY POWDER

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9 oz. Plastic REG. 79¢

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