

Readers Express Views On Controversial Topics

Discovers Livonia

Has Some Weaknesses

EDITOR:

We moved to Livonia two years ago, living in a few other states before that. Through your newspaper, I came to know more about this community, finding it fit though quite progressive.

Suddenly, through personal experience, and from what is now being printed in the paper, I've discovered the bigotry and fear that I thought most prevalent only in our Southern States.

How can we have faith and feel secure if our newspapers choose to print certain things and omit others, subtly influencing the public?

For example, the fine editorial by Don Hoenshell in the May 1 issue of the Observer "Readers Must Catch up to Reality, or Follow".

Did you know that I didn't know about Mayor Moelke's policies before reading that, and also after talking to some of my "brainwashed" neighbors? Why weren't they made known before the elections? How can newcomers know how they are going to vote unless all the facts are presented? That is the prime responsibility of a newspaper, otherwise they're useless.

As things stand now, answering Mr. Hoenshell's editorial, I don't think Livonia or Redford Township are ready to follow Plymouth's example in Civil Rights.

There are too many, entrenched for too long, with the philosophies fed to them through our newspapers, parroting the ideas of some of the leaders of this community.

Thank you for printing Mr. Hoenshell's article. It's a step in the right direction. Perhaps in time, with more responsible reporting, it will help change the status quo.

MRS. LEONARD RASMUSSEN
35215 RICHLAND
LIVONIA

How Many Hours For a Councilman?

EDITOR:

I am a newcomer to Livonia, having purchased my home ten months ago. After reading about the council raising their expense allowance from \$150 to \$200 per month, I seem to find myself in the dark, the new figure of \$2,400 per year, simple arithmetic breaks this down to \$46.15 per week.

Would someone please explain to me how many meetings a councilman attends or how many transportation costs, correspondence costs, telephone costs, etc. he can accumulate in one week to justify the \$46.15 allowance. The best feature of this allowance is that no expense voucher or report is turned in by the councilman. He just collects his \$200 per month, no questions asked! This is a very nice bonus to add to a yearly salary.

A city the size of Livonia should be prepared to pay its council members an adequate salary in order to get the best possible if this is what the people desire. Since I don't know the average time per week or month a councilman will spend on city business, I cannot tell how adequate the present \$1,200 yearly salary is.

On the other hand, I don't feel that it is proper for the city council to in effect increase its salary, and the mayor's also, under the title of an increase in expense allowance with no justification as to what the expense actually is.

I feel it would be for someone to explain the duties and responsibilities of a councilman, so that we know what our money is doing for us.

JOSEPH W. BALNAVE

Reader Has Questions For Board Member

EDITOR:

Open letter to Dr. A. Edward Katz, Livonia Board of Education.

Dear Dr. Katz,

In regard to your suggested directive I'm sure many others are wondering as I am, what the board means by stating "The Livonia Schools Seek to Upgrade Student Attitudes on Civil Rights." Do you mean we will

cram Civil Rights down peoples throats whether they like it or not, because we know what is best for people?

If the idea is to teach responsibility, respect for law, authority, and each other, this is very good. We in suburbia as well as elsewhere, need this.

If it's to teach the sainthood of Dr. King, NO! He did not respect Law and authority. He may have been well aware of his intended limits when he broke the law, but he didn't educate the uneducated as to how far to go. This is the responsibility of leaders. (The leader of a company of Army men is responsible when his men loot!)

When there was rioting or looting, after he spoke, he either walked out, or was conveniently a few miles away. It is also a very old game (Dr. King said it himself "we will make the situation intolerable") teasing until the other side uses violence then go tell mom he hit me, Dr. King's people swore, and spit on the police etc, he knew of this and never stopped it. Is this freedom of speech or Mafia-like dictatorship?

After Dr. King's death several Livonia teachers sang his praises to my children, one even equated him to Christ. Dr. Katz, is this what is meant by "letting the staff know they have our full backing in Civil Rights issues? No limit?

I'm sorry but I do not think Dr. King is the man I want my children to look up to. There are many other Negro people who are doing so much for their people without wearing flags. Several black people in Detroit are working with others in job training, (not Federal financed) showing the thrill of achievement by studying, working hard and job placement. Results; respectability and no one "gave" it to them.

Explains Lions Club Stand On Housing

EDITOR:

I would like to comment regarding the recent article written by the Rev. David Girard in which he saw fit to criticize the local service clubs for not supporting the Open Housing Ordinance. His remarks sounded more like those of a sore-head loser than those of one on the winning side.

Granted open housing was presented as a humanitarian program, but it also had political overtones which our board felt were wise to avoid. While the club as a whole didn't announce support, many of our members worked long and hard to help the ordinance pass, and also contributed financially to pay for the full page ads supporting it.

Rather than working as a group, they worked as individuals, concerned citizens and after all Reverend, isn't this what politics is all about?

All of our programs are established for the benefit of the community and its citizens. None are politically motivated and our only reward is the personal satisfaction we feel from having helped others.

These programs are all accomplished quietly by nothing more than good hard work. We leave the politicking, the newspaper ads, and the speech making to those who will benefit by them.

FRED EISENLORD
PAST PRESIDENT
PLYMOUTH LIONS CLUB



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