

# Michigan tardy when it comes to school integration

Large numbers of students in 78 state school districts attend classes in segregated buildings, a University of Michigan study shows.

The proportion of students affected is as high as 75 per cent, according to how stringently one defines "segregation," explain researchers for the U-M Program for Educational Opportunity (PEO). They used four different measures to assess the racial composition of the selected schools and school districts.

"But even the casual observer can see that the number of black and other minority students concentrated in many Michigan school buildings is far out of proportion to their representation in the school district," said PEO Director Charles Moody Sr.

"It has been nearly a quarter-century since the U.S. Supreme Court declared that state-sanctioned racial segregation is inherently unequal and unconstitutional.

Yet it was only last June that the Michigan Board of Education even set up voluntary guidelines for school desegregation. A number of states had mandatory guidelines 10 to 15 years ago.

PEO's 99-page report, "The Status of Desegregation in Michigan," shows that the state has been no pacesetter in promoting integrated school systems.

In a few districts where comprehensive desegregation plans, the statewide improvement has been slight in relation to the magnitude of the problem which still remains," Moody said.

For four years PEO has been collecting census data for those 78 districts having a 15 per cent or higher minority population or having at least one building with more than 25 per cent black or 15 per cent Native American or Latino students.

The districts viewed over a six-year period, 1963-74, in order to demonstrate the progress—or lack of it—in reducing racial segregation. The report described segregation in several ways:

**Racial Isolation:** Eighteen school districts had one or more buildings with over 50 per cent minority students in the 1974-75 school year—four fewer than in 1968-70. Nearly two out of three minority students attended these buildings in 1974-75, all in urban areas.

**Racial Impaction:** Twenty-nine school districts had at least one building with more than 50 per cent minority enrollment in 1974-75. This included 221 mostly urban buildings or about 25 per cent of the schools in the 29 districts. The figures had decreased slightly from 230 schools in 32 districts in 1968-70.

**Racial Imbalance:** Forty-nine of the 78 districts had at least one building which was "racially imbalanced;" that is, the percentage of minority students assigned to the school building differed by more than 15 per cent from the percentage enrolled in the school district. Of 543 affected buildings, about three-quarters were elementary schools.

The percentage of racially imbalanced elementary schools in the 20 largest school districts studied varied dramatically—from less than four per cent in one district to more than 95 per cent in another. Unlike racial isolation and impaction, imbalance is found in town and rural as well as urban school districts.

"While in the 1974-75 school year, 260,000 white and minority students attended schools in which their race was significantly over-represented," the researchers conclude.

"There is no definitive way of assessing whether the schools experienced an increase or a decrease in segregation during the past half-decade. This depends on the measure being applied and whether one focuses on the number or the percentage of students, buildings or districts affected.

"It is apparent, however, that even to the extent that some indicators suggest a decreasing level in segregation, that decrease has been slight in relation to the magnitude of the segregation that remains.

# Oakland Republicans gear up for election



JOSEPH KNOLLENBERG



A. DAVID BAUMHART III

The Oakland County Republican Party's campaign machine is beginning to take shape.

Joseph K. Knollenberg of Southfield and A. David Baumhart III of Beverly Hills were recently appointed to high-level campaign positions by Arthur G. Elliott, party chairman.

Knollenberg, who was appointed campaign chairman, will coach the party's candidates and help them plug into the party organization, said Tim McCarthy, spokesman for the party. In addition, Knollenberg will coordi-

nate various campaign projects such as opinion polling, campaign rallies and fundraisers.

Baumhart was appointed general organization chairman. His duties include recruiting precinct leaders for Oakland County's 580 precincts, coordinating a telephone canvassing center, and organizing various training programs for volunteers.

The two men will report directly to General Campaign Chairman Margaret Thoms.



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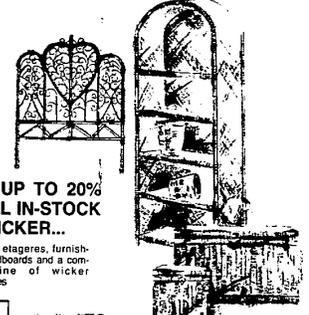
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