

Letters

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knew him personally or not. Please let us not let Dan's death be in vain. Let all of us students, parents, teachers, administration, and community fight for safety on 12 Mile Road.

If you drive on 12 Mile around 7:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. you see mayhem. There are many parents dropping off their children, inexperienced teens trying to hurry and park their cars, buses dropping off students and drivers commuting to their jobs.

There is a traffic light at the school's main entrance with a left-turn lane available for approximately three cars. The student parking lot has no left-turn lane or traffic light at all. Approaching the school from either the east or the west, the only sign is the yellow triangle school sign. The word "SCHOOL" on the pavement is almost worn away. There are no activated lights (like outside North Farmington High School) reminding drivers they are approaching a school zone. There is no green arrow allowing drivers to turn only. The area is and has been a "danger" zone.

School officials, city officials, and the police department are working on changing things on 12 Mile Road. The Harrison High School parent forum is working and has been working on getting this traffic problem resolved for quite a while. I spoke with both Chief (Bill) Dwyer and traffic manager Kevin McCarthy and they are working with the county to

ensure some changes be made. Twelve Mile Road is a county road so is serviced by the county, not the city of Farmington Hills.

"What can I do as a parent of a Harrison student and as a friend to the Lee family?" I ask. Mr. McCarthy said for parents to write to our county commissioners and insist on changes and settle for nothing less. He said letters sent to the city hall, traffic department will also be forwarded to the Oakland County Road Commission. So I ask everyone to please write to these addresses: David Moffett, county commissioner 32944 Marygrove Ct. Farmington Hills, 48334; Terry Sever, county commissioner 34436 Beechwood Dr. Farmington Hills, 48335.

Harrison High School is setting up a scholarship fund in Daniel Lee's memory. The Lee family is very honored that this scholarship fund is being implemented. If you would like to contribute, please send checks to: Harrison High School, attn: Mrs. VanAmeyde 29995 W. 12 Mile Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3901.

I realize the city has worked with Oakland County to make improvements on 12 Mile, near Harrison High School, by lowering the hill about seven years ago. I also realize that a misjudgment in driving was made and know we all make misjudgments. However, I think we can all work together to make improvements for the students' safety.

My deepest sympathy to the Lee family.

Marilyn Huksa
Farmington Hills

Improvements

An open letter to the teachers/administrators of Farmington Public Schools:

As a resident of this community for the past 20 years and as a parent of three children of various ages and educational needs, I have become rather familiar with our public school system at virtually every level.

By and large, I have been pleased with the opportunities provided our children. To most of the teachers who have educated our children, we are indeed pleased, and eternally grateful for their efforts. As teachers, you have been given a tremendous gift; the gift of an opportunity to educate, develop, challenge and nurture the minds and bodies of the very future of the world. The vast majority of you do it so very well.

We as parents also have a gift. The gift is our children. There is perhaps no greater force than the power of the love and bond between parent and child. It is now, it is tomorrow, it is forever. It is our responsibility to provide them with a foundation of values that will carry them through life's journey.

Teaching and parenting are both a gift. More than gifts, they are privileges, and with privileges come responsibility. In a perfect world, the two can do great things together in preparing our youth for their entry into the adult world. In a less than perfect world, one or the other can do irreparable harm.

It is a secret to perhaps only a few in our community that serious concerns have been raised regarding the content of

material being taught in the classroom. There have also been objections raised with regard to teacher conduct, material and conduct that senior administrators of Farmington Public Schools have acknowledged as "totally distasteful and inappropriate." Yet little has been done over the past two years to discipline or curtail these behaviors.

Let me assure you that this is not the "Salem Witch Trials Revisited."

From day one, I have been attempting to advocate accountable and responsible behavior. I have sought to eliminate the most vile of language and sexual content from the classroom, and have asked that a standard be established to provide our teachers with parameters of propriety. (Administration will be quick to point out that a new policy is being put together now to address the issue. I will

counter that the policy does not address specific language, and still provides a latitude of judgment, which will allow the same mistakes to be made again in the future.)

Secondly, I have been an advocate of eliminating all doubt about what is and is not expected to be acceptable behavior on the part of our faculty and administration through a manual referencing "Teacher Code of Conduct."

The board of education has created a similar document via a "Student Code of Conduct." It spells out the specific expectations of students and the ramifications for those who stray from the standard. I believe we all would benefit from the creation of a "Teacher's Code of Conduct," and I would argue that the standard of behavior and expectations should not only equal, but far exceed that which was created for the students of our community.

(Administration will say that they are looking into incorporating one for the new teachers' contract for the year 2002. I will say, "Why wait?")

Our children are our greatest gift, and preparing them for life's journey is no easy task. Like it or not, teachers are role models for our kids. I don't expect them to raise the children, but I do expect them to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with (and supporting of) the family values which the overwhelming majority of this community deems appropriate. The vast majority of our teachers do, but those who ignore those values must be held accountable and responsible.

We live in a wonderful community. Our public education system provides our children with far greater opportunity than most of us ever experi-

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