

SEARCH
DETNEWS.COM

GO



Monday, January 28, 2002

[Return to Metro](#)

The Detroit News

[E-mail this story](#)

[Comment on this story](#)

[Previous story](#) [Next story](#)



The Cost of Segregation || Part III: Where We're Headed

SITE INDEX

- [Homepage](#)
- [Search](#)
- [CyberSurveys](#)
- [News Talk](#)
- [Autos Talk](#)
- [Sports Talk](#)
- [Lions Talk](#)
- [Pistons Talk](#)
- [Wings Talk](#)
- [Tiger Talk](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- [Horoscope](#)
- [Hot Sites](#)
- [Lottery](#)
- [Recommendations](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Staff](#)

NEWS

- [Autos](#)
- [Insider](#)
- [Auto Show](#)
- [Consumer](#)
- [Joyrides](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Census](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Commuting](#)
- [Detroit History](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Metro / State](#)
- [Livingston](#)
- [Macomb](#)
- [Oakland](#)
- [Wayne](#)
- [On Detroit](#)
- [Nation / World](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Death Notices](#)
- [Politics / Govt.](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Technology](#)

SPORTS

- [Sports Home](#)
- [Lions/NFL](#)
- [Red Wings/NHL](#)
- [Pistons/NBA](#)
- [Shock/WNBA](#)
- [Tigers/Baseball](#)
- [MSU](#)
- [U-M](#)
- [More Colleges](#)

Thousands speak out on divide

Series prompts call for more discussion

By Ron French / The Detroit News

Readers flooded The Detroit News with responses to the series, "The Cost of Segregation," many offering lifelong perspectives and heartfelt recommendations for narrowing the region's racial divide.



Krzys



Simmons

Questions on The News' Web site have garnered more than 3,000 responses. Almost 300 readers have asked to participate in a public forum. And nearly 200 people have written letters or called.

"For years, I've argued with family and friends that Metro Detroit will never reach its full potential as long as the city and suburbs are content to drown themselves in the ignorance of racism," wrote Clifton Simmons, a 34-year-old black resident of Troy. "It amazes me how we, as African Americans, quickly dismiss how others fought for our right to live where we please."

"I used to treat it as a taboo subject to be avoided," said Jennifer Krzys, 25, a white resident of Livonia. "Now I know that racism and segregation is still there



The Cost of Segregation

[Jan. 14: Racial Attitudes](#)

The Detroit News looks at Metro Detroit's sometimes startling attitudes toward segregation today, the extent and reasons for racial separation and how they play out in the lives of families white and black.

[Jan 21: Paying For Preferences](#)

Segregation is the norm for Metro Detroiters, but it carries heavy costs. From segregated schools to stagnant property values to a lack of exposure to the nation's increasing diversity, we pay for our preferences. **Today** : Where We're Headed

Are we fated to continue living apart? If so, what will the future toll be? The Detroit News looks at the factors that could break down racial barriers, the factors that keep them standing and how living patterns in other metropolitan areas have changed.

More On WDIV/TV4

Watch for special reports on the Cost of Segregation today at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. on

- [more colleges](#)
- [Golf Guide](#)
- [High Schools](#)
- [Motor Sports](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [More Sports](#)
- [Scoreboards](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

- [Entertainment](#)
- [▶Casino Guide](#)
- [▶Movie Finder](#)
- [▶TV Listings](#)
- [Crossword](#)

HOMESTYLE

- [Homestyle home](#)
- [▶Decorating](#)
- [▶Food](#)
- [▶Gardening](#)
- [▶Home Improvement](#)
- [▶Home Life](#)
- [▶Home Tech](#)
- [▶Wine Report](#)

PHOTOS

- [Sports](#)
- [Red Wings](#)
- [Lions](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Joyrides](#)
- [News](#)
- [History](#)

Copyright 2002
The Detroit News.

Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated 08/09/2001).

racism and segregation is still there, whether we talk about it or not."

The series has led to the creation of a race relations student organization at Central Michigan University, and was part of the discussion in numerous Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations. The series has sparked a long-overdue debate, said Detroit City Councilwoman Sharon McPhail.

"Nobody's blameless in the situation," McPhail said. "We all need to examine our own attitudes and look at how we can get past our differences."

Some readers strongly disagreed with the series, saying it opened old wounds. Others asked how they could become involved in a community-wide discussion.

"I really see segregation as a serious problem in our area, and I fear that the problem is only going to get worse as my children grow up," said Jennifer Clark, 28, of Wayne.

"I am perplexed by those who ignore the (cost) of segregation," wrote Sandra Clemons, 56, of Detroit. "It begins with inflation of suburban property, continues with the depressed value and condition of Detroit property and spreads through every fiber of life in the Metropolitan Detroit area."

WDIV/TV4.

Public discussion on segregation

If you'd like to participate in a town-hall forum on the issue of segregation call (313) 222-2716, (313) 222-2717 or [click here](#).

-
- [▶Comment on this story](#)
 - [▶Send this story to a friend](#)
 - [▶Get Home Delivery](#)

[▶Comment on this story](#)

[▶Previous story](#) [▶Back to index](#) [▶Next story](#)