

Letters to 1

Letters printed here do not always express the views of the editor, but they are keeping with the philosophy that, in a free Democracy, every person has the right to speak his own thoughts.

All letters must be signed, but names will be omitted, if requested. There is no charge for publication, but space is limited. Therefore, we preserve the right to cut parts of the letters.

Letters cannot be libelous or anyway subject to a law suit. They cannot be used by private business enterprises as a way of advertising.

May 31, 1975

Dear Editor:

As a recent graduate of the Bridgeport High School, taxpayer in Dist. No. 63, and concerned citizen of Bridgeport, I am writing to you, perhaps to give an insight to parents and the rest of the community, as to what is happening in YOUR school system.

While I attended BHS, I was probably considered somewhat of a "liberal" and perhaps to some a "degenerate teenager". (NOTE: you see students who speak out on almost any issue and are considered liberals and if you don't conform to the mold created for you then you have regressed to "degenerate".)

I heard at the hearing a teacher asked "what alternative did she have" and she didn't answer. Well, let me tell you the fair treatment Dr. Miller advocated is something my friends and I fought for all during school and were happy when students were finally allowed to speak out against a teacher who was being unfair.

I witnessed teachers beating, and I don't mean casual slapping around, of students. To this day there is probably the dent in a classroom wall created by a teacher's violence against a student. I am acquainted with students who have quit school because of the beatings and not bad students either, but students who felt there was no sense in this sort of educational system, where the whole administration advocated brutality.

I understand students will sometimes think all discipline is unfair but even at that they are entitled to their opinion and the right to appeal without fear of their grade being altered because they questioned a teacher's actions. If teachers were always trying to be fair they would have nothing to fear from students going over their head. Right? But they aren't always

fair and because of this unfairness students have thrown up their hands and quit school.

I will possibly have children of my own in this school system some day and would hate to think of them attending under the same conditions as I did.

It is much easier to question my friends and I about trouble in town instead of investigating and finding out who really is causing the problems. It worked the same way at school — it was easier to blame Dr. Miller rather than find the "truth" behind the matter.

I was the first (and only one to my knowledge) person who called Dr. Miller and asked him what the problem was with Mr. Wells and the suspension question after the students had demonstrated at school. How many people actually know Dr. Miller?

This is the main problem and my personal pet peeve about this town — that everyone relies on gossip and hearsay and never tries to find out the truth about things.

I could go on and on but in closing, since MPSS has been such an issue around town and so much speculation given to it's meaning (which I personally don't know) Perhaps it could mean "More People Should Speak" or as some would prefer "Most People Shouldn't Speak".

JOHN W. PEONIO