TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE DESEGREGATION OF LAFAYETTE SCHOOLS, A LOOK BACK AT A CHAOTIC TIME.

BY JANE NICHOLAS

I t was almost like living with a medusa in our midst, a policy of race mixes, and a battle of wills. We had won, but we were still fighting. Lafayette High School administration had decided to integrate the school, but the process was slow and painful. The school was divided into black and white sections, and the black students were forced to sit in the back of the classroom. This led to a lot of tension and unrest among the students.

The first year of desegregation was difficult. The white students didn't want to mix with the black students, and the black students didn't want to be forced into the white classrooms. The tension was palpable, and it seemed like nothing would change.

But gradually, things started to improve. The students began to get to know each other, and the tension began to ease. The black students started to feel more comfortable in the white classrooms, and the white students started to understand the challenges that the black students faced.

One of the most significant changes came in the way that the students were treated. The black students were no longer segregated, and they were treated with respect. The teachers began to see them as individuals, and not as a group.

After twenty years, integration has become a way of life at Lafayette High School. The students are no longer divided by race, and the school is a place where everyone is welcome. It has been a long journey, but it was worth it. The students learned to respect each other, and they learned to live together in peace.

The future looks bright for Lafayette High School, and I hope that the students will continue to learn and grow. Integration has been hard, but it has been worth it. I'm proud to have been a part of it.