

OBSERVATION POINT

By PHILIP H. POWER
Publisher

A Letter To A Student Protester

DEAR JIM:

It was good to get your letter. I'm pleased you are getting occasional copies of the paper while you're away at school - it's the best way I know to keep up with what's going on in your home town.

Things have been comparatively quiet here in the suburbs, and I can sympathize with your mixed feelings about coming home over the summer.

You're not a demonstrator; really, a minority of college students are. But I can share your concern about what's going on in Cambodia, your rage at the shootings at Kent State, and your frustration over what's becoming of our country.

As you say, you have two courses open to you this summer: join any number of more or less radical groups to demonstrate, march and picket; or try to get involved in political activity to support a candidate who reflects your views.

I'd like to take a little time to reflect on your problem.

AS YOU POINT OUT, the demonstrations on campus have stirred up people enormously. I was talking to some people in Plymouth the other day, and their view was that we simply can't go on with our colleges and universities getting shut down day after day with student demonstrations. One man even said that he thought that the kids at Kent State got what was coming to them.

I can't agree with that, but it does reflect one important point: people in this country, in your home town, are getting fed up with demonstrations and violence, no matter how just the cause.

You can argue, as you do in your letter, that demonstrating and engaging in radical activity is the only really direct route open to you to express your feelings about the range of problems we face in this country.

But in making such an argument you ignore the fact that in this country - as long as it remains a democracy - social decisions are made by majority rule. If by continuing to demonstrate against the things you dislike, you merely enrage people who otherwise might be in agreement with your point of view - then you haven't gained anything.

Demonstrations, I would guess, have done one useful thing. They have increased the level of general awareness about some of the problems we are facing: pollution, the war, draft laws, etc.

But to concentrate solely on demonstrating as a way of making your voice count runs the risk of alienating a potential majority of supporters.

SO, YOU MIGHT ask, what can I do?

The answer is easy.

Come home this summer, to your own community.

Find some people who are running for office this fall - congress, state senate or house, governor, whatever - with whom you agree. It doesn't make any difference which political party they're in. The important point is to find candidates whose point of view you can support.

Then work in their campaign. Try to get them elected. Seek to have their voice, which represents your views, become effective by winning an election.

That's what makes what's going on in this country. We elect representatives who then vote.

We don't make changes merely by demonstrating. First because waving signs doesn't really make anything different. Second, because relying solely on demonstrations runs the risk of alienating what might be a majority to support your point of view.

ISN'T THIS COPPING out to the system? I can hear you asking that question.

No. It isn't. What you're doing by getting involved is working within the system to change it in the way you want.

Is there any real chance of this method working? I can hear you asking that, too.

You bet there is.

We've got lots of problems in this country. Unemployment is at 4.8% nationally, above 6% in Mich-

igan. Prices keep going up. We're involved in an unpopular war, and it seems to be widening into Cambodia. We've got problems of crime and violence. We're pollut-

ing our environment, and people now know that it can be stopped. There are issues aplenty. You may not be turned on by all of them, but there are plenty of

people in this country who are disturbed by what's going on. And that's a good recipe for political success.

WHAT I'M SAYING, Jim, is that you have two ways you can go: You can try to smash the system and try to develop entirely new institutions by which we make decisions in this country.

If you choose this route, you probably will be in a small minority for a long time; you will probably become very frustrated; and you run the risk of foreclosing any chance for the kind of change you want by alienating the plain folks who make up a majority in this country.

Or you can get involved in the system. You may not agree with some things about it, but you can stay within the framework of the ways we make changes in this country in order to get accomplished what you want.

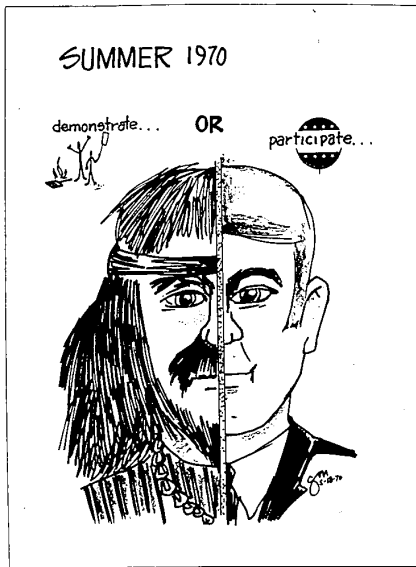
Personally, I think you should get involved in the system. You'll find it is hard work; you may have to make some tough compromises; your candidate may lose.

But you will have done something constructive, with a real chance of getting something accomplished, rather than having banged your head against a stone wall.

Look me up when you get home.

Sincerely,

Phil



W.W. Edgar writes

Time For Some Constructive Action

It's about time the Wayne County Board of Commissioners quit dilly-dallying and moaning about the over-crowded conditions at the County Jail and did something constructive to relieve what has become a very serious problem.

With a population of close to 1,450 in quarters to accommodate 1,200, the County Institution that has all the outward appearance of a modern high rise apartment in downtown Detroit has become one of the sore spots in county government.

FOR THE BETTER part of a year the Commissioners have recognized the problem, but as yet, nothing concrete has been done except an attempt to transfer some of the inmates to the Detroit House of Correction in face of a state law which prohibits it.

According to the statutes, inmates who are awaiting trial, which is the case in the county jail, cannot be housed with those

who already have been convicted and sentenced.

Instead of planning a permanent remedy, the county commissioners are attempting to get the law amended and, at the same time, take over three buildings at Dehoco, under a lease plan.

On the surface this looks like a possible remedy. But behind the politics of the maneuver and the "it" fighting between the City of Detroit and the County, the projected plan is fraught with danger.

First, the program instituted by William Bannan, superintendent at Dehoco, is rated one of the top four in the country and shouldn't be jeopardized.

Second, it has been pointed out that the three buildings, now under consideration, do not provide

quarters for women and this alone would cause a mix-up.

SUPT. BANNAN has raised several other points worth considering.

"What do you think will happen," he asks, "when we take our fellows out to play baseball as part of our recreation, and the fellows from down town must remain behind the fence?"

"And what's going to happen," he asks, "when our fellows are permitted to work on the farm and roam the outside, and the other must remain confined?"

The answer is simple - There would be trouble.

The County Commissioners have been told by the County Auditor that it would cost more than \$900,000 to place the three

projected buildings into proper condition to house the transfers and provide for maintenance.

At best, as it has been pointed out, this would be only a makeshift plan...and a costly one.

It might be better if the Commissioners would take a look at the vast amount of vacant property they own on Beck Road and start now to build an institution to remedy conditions downtown.

As is realized now, as it was warned at the time, that the building of the modern addition to the county jail downtown was a mistake.

So, the time has come to make a positive corrective move for the future.

Dilly-dallying with the program at Dehoco is only delaying what eventually will have to be done.

Tim Richard writes

Drive For Blacks Is Underway

Well, the great race has started. Every college is going to try to out-black the other by recruiting a bigger percentage of black students.

No sooner had the University of Michigan granted Black Action Movements demands for 10% of the enrollment by 1973-74 than Wayne State University proudly announced that it was at 13% already.

And now the university senate at Oakland University is going to try to top both of them. OU will shoot for 15%.

This is occurring in a society where it's reliably reported that only 6% of the current crop of high school graduates are black and 3% college material by current admissions standards. It all lacks dignity somehow.

WORSE THAN THAT, however, is the hurting the small, all-black colleges.

The small black colleges got hurt pretty badly in the last couple of years when "black studies" became a fad, and all the big northern universities began raid-

ing the small black colleges for faculty members.

Now comes forth the academic dean, one Stanley Smith, from Fisk University to decry the fad of recruiting black students to fill quotas.

"Some of our best students now are going to Michigan, Harvard and Yale, and so is support from the black community," said Dean Smith.

As a result, many previously all-black schools will be forced to close down or consolidate.

Such big universities as Fisk and Howard won't be hurt, he said. They have their own Phi Beta Kappa chapters and recruit from the top 10% of the black community. But it's "almost universally true" that about 100 black colleges in the south will get hurt, he declared.

"Nobody is bewailing the entry of black students into white prestige schools. But Negro administrators had better start soul-searching for top talent and top programs," he said.

U-M, OAKLAND and the other

northern universities who are seeking to boost black enrollments by heavy recruiting are backwards in their approach to the worthy goal of racial integration.

They're jacking up the demand for black college students, but they're in no position to do much about the supply.

Boosting the supply of black students will have to be done by the K-12 school system. It will take a lot of work and money. There will have to be supplemental funds for ghetto schools. There will have to be a lot of just plain propagandizing to convince smart black kids that a college education is (1) attainable and (2) worth attaining.

That job can't be done by a bunch of flashy recruiters from U-M, Oakland or any other college.

One version of the K-12 school aid bill in Lansing would have provided extra money for ghetto-type and poor schools. Some suburban lawmakers are against it. They're just as wrong as the U-M and Oakland.

DISSENT

View points expressed in DISSENT do not necessarily reflect those of Observer Newspapers Inc., but are presented in the belief that publication of all segments of thought on a public issue is a prerequisite to understanding and progress.

Trend
Must Be
HaltedBy DELORES WEINBURGER
Livonia

Today we are confronted with the greatest decision known to man - that of dehumanization.

Television and the news media glorify violence, materialism, sex, war and the devaluation of human life. We see and read about the graft, corruption, riots, and even witness the death of our national leaders.

We all share in this guilt because of our lax attitude toward legislation and apathy toward our fellow man. In traveling this path there has been a steady trend and decline of morals, increase in crime and major crisis. To continue on this road points to a model genocide law; it must stop.

MEDICAL SCIENTISTS are unable to agree upon the precise moment when life begins - yet all indications prove - growth is a process of life. All agree upon the gestation period of nine months for a normal birth.

Science has made great advances (rubella serum - changing the structure of the chromosomes, as in a mongoloid child). Isn't it reasonable to assume a break through in 100% natural birth limitation might be found soon through more scientific research without resulting to "manslaughter" or liberalized abortion.

It was sheer mockery at the public hearings to listen to proponents who are supposedly dedicated to the preservation of mind, soul and body speak out for liberalization. How glibly do they expect women to be? Are they really concerned with the women or the unwanted pregnancy, since the time would be limited to a few hours with the individual.

It is difficult not to believe some professions, associations and organizations are not considering the monetary values rather than ethical.

The obligation of civil government is to protect human life, this very dedication is the purpose of their representation - to do otherwise is contrary to their office.

Foreign countries have experienced the short step from liberalized abortion to sterilization and euthanasia, are we to re-staff our convalescent homes, clinics or hospitals for this?

We have a shortage in the medical profession now, consider the last visit to your physician. Nor does this state have the extra tax money for costly additions to hospitals or finances to staff them. Medical and financial assistance will still be denied to those in poverty areas, so why give license for more sexual irresponsibility.

WE HAVE POISONED the streams and lakes; polluted the air and used lethal pesticides on agriculture - do we have a right to dominate creation? Social and economic problems can be resolved through education, technology, and discontinuing needless subsidy to the privileged - "not killing the innocent of the future."

Conditioning our youth for automated abortion (via production system) will only be further deeducation.

Specifically, education and legislation for decent family living will gradually remove the conditions of life which lead to the demand for liberalized abortion.

Lectures, counseling, books, magazines, newspapers, radio, television and movies are the mass media of education. Increase instead of decreasing support of medical and scientific research which is already so successfully minimizing the incidence of defective children. Immunizing drugs and vaccines are eliminating many diseases - both mental and physical.

Reforming the discriminatory laws against illegitimacy by support, inheritance, name and custody. A stigma on the innocent usually leads to abuse or neglect.

We must learn to solve old problems of famine, overcrowding, poverty, ignorance, and disease with energies and discipline - and the preservation of human dignity and equality.

Specific remedies are many and controversial - guaranteed annual income, tax relief, subsidies for poor mothers, family benefits, universal Medicare, marriage and psychiatric counseling, and better housing are but a few of the possible avenues.

France, Germany, Greece are already noticing the national calamity in their depopulation war and production force. Japan has found the labor shortage "acute" and is seriously limiting the country's economic growth. Man threatens to be his own worst enemy, conspicuous by killing of his own defenseless offspring.

THE PERENNIAL challenge of life has met with a defeatism - out of place in an age of scientific wonders.

Modern abortifacients, the mechanical intrauterine devices and sophisticated chemical compound that prevents implantation will be the sure methods of the future, the most private and the most widely used without legislation, injustice, destruction of life or loss of human dignity.

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

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