



By Philip H. Power
Publisher

OBSERVATION POINT

DISSENT

Community College Bombings Could Produce Backlash

Any notion that we might be able comfortably to escape the troubles now haunting the big universities at our own suburban community colleges went up in the smoke of last week's bomb blast at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Township.

The bombing followed the now typical pattern of black and liberal student demands for change, meeting with college administrators, scuffles on campus, and at least one reported threat to "blow the place up."

In many ways, colleges and universities are where the cutting edges of the generation gap and pressures for social change are the sharpest. Merely because community colleges happen to be here in the suburbs is no reason to assume that the pressures there will be any less intense than at big schools.

BUT THIS IN no way can change the fact that those who were responsible for planting three bombs on the OCC campus were clearly nuts. They should be arrested and prosecuted.

Some far left theorists have argued that planting bombs, so long as no one is hurt, is an effective means of forcing the establishment to consider seriously the need for rapid social change.

I don't agree with that argument. And those responsible for the Orchard Ridge bombing didn't even go that far: No warning calls were made to the college warning of the bomb and urging that people be evacuated; the bombs themselves had eight-penny nails wrapped around them, with the clear purpose of producing shrapnel to injure people.

No possible argument can be made that the bombing was in any way an effective step to resolve the problems at Orchard Ridge or at Oakland Community College generally. It was a criminal act, and should be treated accordingly.

THERE IS SOME reason to conclude that the OCC administration has been somewhat less than anxious to resolve student demands presented by the Association of Black Students Orchard Ridge Student Coalition. A list of demands was presented last October, and only last Wednesday did a meeting take place which Orchard Ridge Provost S. James Manilla says was effective in

resolving differences and working out agreements.

But in Manilla's defense, it should be pointed out that only two of the 14 demands could be resolved by independent action of Orchard Ridge authorities themselves. Settlement of the other issues has to come from Oakland Community College at large.

Manilla says that he doesn't think the bombing will harden the attitude of Orchard Ridge authorities against trying to work out solutions to student problems, but I don't see how such an event can make negotiations with the students any easier.

IN THAT LIES the real point of the horror and idiocy of the bombing, an event which has the backing of a minuscule minority of OCC students and which probably involved some people who were not even students at Orchard Ridge.

Bombings produce backlash from an important -- and too often forgotten -- constituency of any community college: The taxpayers.

Oakland County taxpayers now pay a large hunk of the College's \$14 million budget. At present, they are paying one mill of property tax for operating budget and another half mill for debt retirement. The rest of the money comes from the state (also tax-supported), student tuition and fees, and private gifts.

Approximately 20% of the College's students come from outside of Oakland County. Outsiders pay a higher tuition than Oakland County residents (\$16 per credit hour versus \$9 per credit hour), but tuition doesn't make up for the general support given the College by Oakland County residents.

It's that support which is seriously threatened by last week's bombing.

THROUGHOUT THIS AREA, people are saying, "Why should I spend my tax money to support outsiders going to the community college, when all they do is bomb the place. Let's throw them out. In fact, why should we subsidize the college at all?"

It's an easy conclusion to come to, in the face of the shock of the bombing.

In the past, some privately-raised money (mainly from the New Detroit Committee) had been used to provide transportation for students from Detroit to Farmington. But this program has wound down by

now, and College officials say that no College funds are being spent for transportation for outsiders.

But this won't change the rage and backlash produced by the bombings.

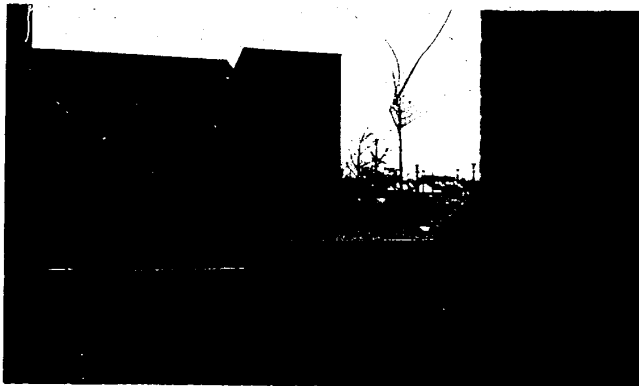
College officials, in their

meetings with students, have warned, "Don't push us too hard. You see, we have a constituency to worry about -- the taxpayers."

The student reply reportedly was, "That may be, but right now we're speaking about

our own constituency, the students."

That may be so. But the bombings may well stir into action the group of people who ultimately control the future of the college if only because they pay the bills.



No need to put up with bombings such as this at Orchard Ridge Campus.

Tim Richard writes

Time To Stop Pornographers

Pornographers must be feeling the heat of public indignation. Or maybe they're just getting more blatant than ever.

It used to be they would send samples of their wares in plain brown envelopes, but a lot of people objected to getting it. So one particularly low-level outfit, with three different box numbers in New York and Brooklyn, sent an unsolicited piece of mail to an Observerland resident. On the envelope, in smudgy red type, was this message:

"First Class Mail -- Personal -- Sexually Oriented Ad -- Read This Notice before Opening!"

THE MESSAGE: "This envelope contains written and/or photographically illustrated sexually oriented advertisements. As defined by Section 3010 (d) of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, a sexually oriented advertisement 'means any advertisement that depicts, in actual or simulated form, or explicitly describes, in a predominantly sexual context, human genitalia, any act of natural or unnatural sexual intercourse, any act of sadism or masochism, or any other erotic subject directly related to the foregoing.'"

"If you do not wish this mail, please return it to sender or destroy its contents without opening. Thank you."

Our friend commented: "Can you imagine anyone reading that warning and NOT tearing the envelope open as quickly as possible, whether they like pornography or not?" His point is well taken: The disclaimer on the envelope is insufficient; the stuff shouldn't be allowed in the mail in the first place when it hasn't been requested.

THE ADVERTISEMENTS, frankly, were the same old thing, with amateurish photography to boot, but the order form was interesting:

"Gentlemen: Please send me the items that I have indicated

below. I am an adult, being over 21 years of age. I believe that books should be free to portray to adults, matters pertaining to sex or nudity. I understand that the purpose of these books is to further sexual knowledge and to help free us from our outdated puritanical mores and beliefs concerning sex."

"I am not endeavoring to purchase these books in order to harass the sellers of same, or to interfere in any way with the exhibition to adults of material dealing with sex or nudity. I am not a member of a law enforcement agency, a Postal Inspector or Postal Department employee, nor am I working for any such agency directly or indirectly."

"Neither am I a member of any censorship group or working for any such group, directly or indirectly. I understand and believe that the more a person knows about sex, the less likely that person is to have marital or personal difficulties."

Thus, if you're a homosexual, a lesbian, a sodomist or some other kind of pervert, you are entitled to buy the stuff, but not if you're a healthy person who belongs to a church group or works for the PO.

If there can't be a law against pornography, then there oughta be a law against insulting the public's intelligence.

R.T. Thompson writes

Sign Slashing Is Fun?

There is an ancient maxim at area police departments to the effect that news stories of vandalism of one type invariably lead to a rash of incidents.

Such is the story in Livonia and Redford Township where police officers have been busy for the last few weeks trying to track down vandals who have been slicing street signs and placing them in other spots... much to the consternation of drivers strange to the areas.

It will be recalled that during the past several weeks officers of the Michigan State Police have been patrolling the expressways for gangs who have been cutting down the large billboards.

A couple of arrests were made but it didn't stop the sign cutting in other areas.

THE VANDALS, -- there isn't any evidence whether they are youthful or adults -- have to have the use of cutting tools since they have been slic-

ing the iron poles in two and then moving the street signs to another location.

This has been especially bad in Redford Township along Schoolcraft Road where homes have been removed for the new highway and even residents have trouble locating crossover streets in the sea of mud and water. It is bad enough in daylight but almost an impossibility at night to locate a street.

Thus when one sees a sign indicating a street, he is inclined to turn off and often finds his car mired in mud up to the hubcaps where it takes a tow truck to get out.

The dastardly thing is that many of the signs cut down are "Yield" and this could be the cause of accidents where drivers aren't aware of such directions.

It's time for the residents of the two communities to begin watching for such incidents and immediately report them to the police.

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.

By RAY KONRAD
Livonia

Discipline. In a world offering many and varied solutions to our mounting problems, this is the most important word and the key to a well regulated society.

Your youthful rebels will say this allows no room for "free" thinking. Discipline is based on intelligent thinking. An Army without discipline, is a mob. It will not fight well.

Patriotism seldom enters the individual soldier's mind when he is called upon to fight. Discipline forces him to do what he must, and in many cases it has helped to save his life.

A WELL REGULATED

Army will not subject enemy civilians to looting, murder, and rape by its personnel. This, if it is allowed to happen, will force the civilian population to resist the intruders, rather than be passive and accept defeat.

This lesson was learned in Germany when the American Army experienced a great deal less animosity from civilians than did the Russian Army. The Italian Army lacked discipline entirely, and was soundly thrashed.

When our youth lack this discipline, they run rampant as you can see. Regulations are necessary to keep the warped minds in check, and to protect us from the evil man. The warped minded person will expose society to filthy movies and can justify these productions by saying they are works of art and are expressions of free thought. What rot.

Look around yourself, and you will see the American version of the "Fall of the Roman Empire." A nation that was built with physical strength and guts is melting into the ooze of our savage and uncivilized beginning.

Will each man become his own island? If a criminal refuses to be disciplined, must we allow him to remain free?

If pollution is killing us, should we continue polluting or allow others to poison the environment? Without self-discipline, we will be subjected to dictatorial, Hitler-type controls. And we will have deserved this fate.



TYPICAL scene-- of slashed street signs in Livonia. Vandalism of this type must be stopped immediately before it causes serious injuries.

Editorial & Opinion

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Philip H. Power, Publisher
The Livonia Observer - The Redford Observer
The Westland Observer - The Garden City Observer
The Plymouth Mail & Observer - The Southfield News & Observer
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc.
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150

Serving the communities of:
Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton
Farmington Township, Redford Township, Garden City, Westland,
Southfield, Lathrup Village, Franklin, Bingham Farms,
Village of Beverly Hills