

NOW IT'S MURDER

Well, students, the maintenance man died and that puts quite a strain on your slogan, "Pigs off campus."

For now it's murder, with every reason to believe one of you is the murderer. The campus gate offers no sanctuary from that rap.

Dover Sharp died painfully. Three days he lay in the hospital after the bomb went off in his hands. The burns covered 70 percent of his body. Death was a mercy.

And don't try to read some obscure anti-establishment justification into his death. Dover wasn't oppressing you or anyone else.

He was only the maintenance man on the Santa Barbara campus of UC.

He found the bomb planted at the Faculty Club and started to carry it outside. It blew up in his face, and left four kids fatherless.

Damn you. Damn you, whoever you are who did such a thing.

Damn the student "leaders" whose wild example and warped insinuations have made bombings a fashionable expression of academic freedom.

And damn those professors who have served as apologists for campus violence.

What's that you say, professor? You have never condoned killing the maintenance man with a bomb?

That's true, you didn't.

But bombs have become a staple of the protest movement. Yet many of you have continued to seek out justification for student violence, ignoring the serious turn it was taking.

It's incredible, but a bomb on a college campus is no longer page one news. Now we have bombs in the high schools. And I say you professors who bent yourselves into pretzels to see virtue in chaos must share the responsibility.

You begin by condoning sit-ins and sleep-ins. You have found something of value in blocking troop trains, occupying induction centers, harrassing recruiters.

Your response was inert understanding when students invaded offices, ransacked files, threw typewriters out the window, pulled books from library shelves.

With wondrous ingenuity you discovered redeeming features in arson. And even when the bombs began to go off you kept your cool.

Now a man has been killed. And, oh no, you certainly don't condone that. Today there's a memorial service for Dover Sharp on the Santa Barbara campus with representatives of faculty, students and administration saying how sorry they are.

That isn't good enough. The educational establishment must acknowledge that the man is dead in large part because it has failed to deal with campus violence.

If the teacher's union at S.F. State had denounced the bombings there, instead of pledging support for the bomber's demands, this thing might have been headed off.

All along the progression from mill-in to murder has been clear to anyone willing to look ahead. Each time those in charge countenanced a new step in campus lawlessness, they made the next step inevitable.

By finding excuses for violence, they have helped make violence fashionable.

When there's a murder it's time to call the cops. --Guy Wright