

OUR OPINION

Lock step learning

November 12, 2013

A couple of weeks ago, Brown University students attending a scheduled speech by Raymond W. Kelly, who is the New York City police commissioner, refused to let him deliver his planned 20-minute address by shouting him down. University officials then cancelled his appearance.

The students, according to media accounts, were “protesting” — not in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but in the spirit of uncivilized thuggery — New York City’s “stop and frisk” practices. The policy has been credited with markedly reducing crime in vast sections of the city, but Mr. Kelly and his department have been heavily criticized by the left because it violates the rights of minorities. Never mind that the greatest beneficiaries of “stop and frisk” are the city’s minority communities; the misguided students apparently would prefer rape, robbery and murder to having law enforcement personnel carry out their sworn duty to protect the public.

So does that lead us to what members of the student body did at Victor Valley College at the end of last week? Sort of. The students, led by VVC’s Associated Student Body president, apparently approved of a resolution adopted by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges calling for an investigation of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The investigation, according to the SSCCC, is necessary because it is “out of compliance” in several areas, including, interestingly, “insufficient faculty representation on accreditation teams,” according to a Nov. 9 story in the Daily Press.

We suspect the “investigation” is designed to keep the ACJCC from carrying out its assigned (sworn?) duty to protect the general public (read: taxpayers) from poor administration overseeing the performance of community colleges across the state — including VVC. We’re told some 25 percent of the state’s community colleges are at present under some form of warning by the ACCJC, and the students — represented by the SSCCC — think this must be wrong. Apparently the SSCCC doesn’t think it’s possible that 25 percent of the state’s community colleges are performing poorly.

It must also be noted here that VVC is on accreditation watch because of its financial difficulties. The ACCJC demands a more realistic budget, properly reflecting the school’s revenue. We can’t think why VVC’s students should be protesting the ACJCC’s demands that the school get its financial house in order. If VVC won’t, or can’t, it will go bankrupt and be closed. Does that merit protests? No.

The Nov. 9 story quotes Evelyn Blanco, VVC Associated Student Body president, as saying that the resolution regarding the ACJCC was voted on and approved by student representatives in “one minute and eight seconds.” She’s apparently proud of this. Academia usually prides itself on deciding issues after careful and deliberate consideration. What the “one minute and eight seconds” sounds like to us is a student body marching in lock step. Acting like a mob, in other words.

Which is why we led all this off with a reference to the mob at Brown University.

Steve Williams