February 7, 1969

To: University Faculty and Administrative Staff
From: John E. Corbally, Jr.
Subject: "Green Ribbon" Commission

In 1964–65 during some problems on campus related to the "Speakers Rule" a group of faculty members dedicated to the preservation of orderly methods of dissent was formed to assist students, faculty members, administrators, and others in meeting this goal. For identification purposes, members of the group wore green ribbons on their coats and the group gained unofficial recognition as the "Green Ribbon Commission."

During the last and the current academic years, the Commission has been reactivated and has been of assistance in meeting several actual and potential problems. In the interest of communication and not with the aim of making an unofficial body "official," I want to inform you that the enclosed statement prepared by members of the Commission has been reviewed by administrative officers of the University and that the aims and principles of the Commission are supported by these administrative officers. Of particular interest is the fact that Vice Presidents Carson and Mount join with me in believing that the Commission idea can assist each of us in meeting special problems which fall within our areas of responsibility.

I would want to stress that the Commission does not replace various official agencies nor does it seek any official status. The Commission idea is a representation of faculty concern and is an attempt to translate this concern into effective action. Many of you may be asked to assist in this effort and it seemed important that all members of the faculty be aware of the status of the Commission.

JEC:ob
Enc.
Subject: The Green Ribbon Commission

To: President Fawcett; Vice-President Corbally; Vice-President Carson; Vice-President Mount; Mr. H. Anderson and Chief Marion Curry.

The Green Ribbon Commission is the invention of Professor Bernard Rosen. Since Professor Rosen is in Europe on Assigned Research Leave during the current academic year, he has asked me to take over the affairs of the Commission. I have agreed to do this provided that the Administration, the Police, and the Faculty Council all recognize the Green Ribbon Commission, and that they all agree with and accept the same definition of the appropriate activities of the Commission.

In order to achieve such recognition and backing, I have begun to seek meetings with relevant campus authorities to discuss the Commission. To date, I have outlined the pertinent facts in a brief way to Vice-President Mount and discussed them in some detail with Mr. H. Anderson, Vice-President Carson, and Chief Curry. Upon the request of Vice-President Carson, I am sending this letter of information concerning the Commission to the officials listed above. If the bodies represented by these officials agree to recognize and support the Commission, it is then my intention to contact the representatives of the Faculty Council in order to secure the same support from them, and to meet with the leaders of all known student groups for the same purpose.

The Green Ribbon Commission as presently conceived is to serve a temporary function, which may end when and if the recommendations of the Committee on University Rights and Responsibilities are considered and implemented, whether in part or in whole, by the Administration. However, if all parties involved agree at that time that the Commission has a continuing role, they may wish to maintain it as an institution.

The functions of the Green Ribbon Commission are to be the following:

1.) Members of the Commission, at least three of them, will be present at all and any demonstrations involving students which occur upon the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. By their presence, it is hoped that they will exert some influence against the possibility of violence in these demonstrations.

2.) Members of the Commission will undertake whatever liaison functions between Police, Administration, and students may be desired by any of these three groups.

3.) Members of the Commission, who will be completely informed about the rules of the University and the State governing possible occurrences at demonstrations, will undertake to inform the students planning any demonstration of these rules before the fact, if the Commission is informed of any pending demonstration. Included in this information will be the penalties which may be incurred for any violation of these rules.
4.) Members of the Commission who witness demonstrations will agree among themselves upon a description of the events which take place, and this description shall be placed at the disposal of all the groups concerned after the fact. The members themselves, if desired by any or all of the concerned parties, will be available upon request to serve as witnesses. Their testimony shall in all cases be confined solely to a description of the events concerned, and no evaluations of these events will be made by the Commission.

In order to serve these functions, it is absolutely essential that the Commission be recognized as a completely impartial body, and that they demonstrate themselves to be such. Accordingly, it is of the utmost importance to have as members of the Commission faculty members who hold diverging political and social convictions, and every effort shall be made to ensure such a membership. In order to gain and hold the trust and confidence of all groups concerned, and to ensure the continuity of the body so long as it is needed, it is recommended that all the members of the Commission be either tenured members of the faculty, or that they have served as faculty for at least six quarters. No graduate students or Assistants shall be among the members of the Commission. Members of the Commission shall be listed, together with their office and telephone numbers, and these lists will be given to the Police, the Administration, and to all known student groups in the University, together with instructions for contacting them in case of need. Whenever Green Ribbon Commission members are present at demonstrations, they will be identified by a green ribbon, which they shall wear upon their person in a conspicuous place. They shall also identify themselves to the Police, the students, and whatever Administration officials may be present.

In the event that control of the situation passes from the hands of the University Police to the State Patrol, or to the National Guard, it is understood that the members of the Commission shall be bound by the legal orders of the relevant authority.

Any further suggestions concerning the Commission would be greatly appreciated.

signed  Paul J. Olscamp
        Associate Professor,
        Philosophy

Office: 11A, University Hall
Telephone: 293-7916

PJO:efg
‘Green Ribbons’ Volunteer

Teachers Pacify Crowds

3-5-69

By SANDRA J. WHITE

Lantern Staff Writer

When dissidents assembled for a shout-down outside the Administration Building last Friday, members of the Green Ribbon Commission (GRC) were there trying to keep things below the boiling point.

The GRC, a group of self-appointed faculty members, mingled in the crowd and talked to students. They were prepared to answer questions about the students’ rights or about rules the demonstrators might be violating.

"It is hoped that the presence of the faculty members will be an influence against violence during demonstrations," said Paul J. Oscamp, acting chairman of GRC.

Group Prepares Report

GRC members who attend a demonstration also prepare a joint report of their observations and make it available to any group or individual.

The GRC, which was begun in 1964-65 during the "Free Speech" protests, is seeking the recognition of campus groups. Oscamp, associate dean of humanities, said he will introduce at Faculty Council’s meeting next Tuesday a resolution which would give the council’s approval to the purposes and goals of the GRC.

He then hopes to get further support for the GRC by asking student organizations to adopt similar resolutions and notify him by letter.

Total Acceptance Unlikely

Although he does not expect all groups to favor the idea, he feels that the groups "likeliest to be involved in a demonstration," such as leftists and black militants, will give their support.

University police and administration officials have said they approve of the GRC, Oscamp said.

If he gets the go-ahead from Faculty Council, Oscamp said he will invite all interested faculty members to join the GRC.

List To Be Compiled

“We want to get a good cross-section of the faculty, both liberals and conservatives, on a list," he said. From that list he would call at least three people to attend campus demonstration when it occurs.

After he gets the GRC into working order, Oscamp said he will appoint someone else to head it. "Although I am reasonably confident of my own ability to speak for no one but myself, it is clear that I might be looked upon by some as tied to the administration." Oscamp was only recently appointed to his position as associate dean.

“The GRC is entirely independent and unofficial, not an arm of any one group," he emphasized. The members wear green ribbons for identification purposes when they attend a demonstration."
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"The GRC is entirely independent and unofficial, not an arm of any one group," he emphasized. The members wear green ribbons for identification purposes when they attend a demonstration.
In what is generally an accurate statement of the role of the GRC, there was one inaccuracy and one fact about the piece which could adversely affect the achievement of our goal.

The inaccuracy is the implication that I said that, "Leftists and black militants" are the likeliest to be involved in demonstrations on the campus. I did not characterize the groups most likely to be involved. I said only that I thought that the groups most likely to be involved would approve of the GRC and its roles. If my personal opinion about this were to be solicited, I should say that what groups would be involved would depend upon the issues at stake. Words such as "leftist" and "militant" are emotively laden in most contexts, and ought to be left out of purely factual articles unless they are being quoted.

Secondly, I think that the title of the article, "Teachem Pacify Crowds," is misleading. It is certainly true that we hope to help in the avoidance of violence, and if this is pacification, then I suppose that is part of what we are doing. But the title also carries with it the suggestion of condescension on the part of members of the GRC, and could be interpreted by some as evidence that we are more closely associated with enforcement agencies than in fact is the case. We hope we are not condescending. Our association with the administration and the police is no closer than is our relationship with the students.

Paul J. Olescemp
Associate Dean

3-7-69
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
151 Denney Hall

April 21, 1969

To: The Faculty

From: Paul J. Olscamp, Acting Chairman, The Green Ribbon Commission

Subject: Membership on the Commission

Some time ago you all received a statement describing the Green Ribbon Commission, its goals and its methods. That statement contained a covering letter giving the approval of the University authorities and the police to the Commission, signed by Provost Corbally. The intention to obtain the official approval and support of Faculty Council was also announced, as was the fact that efforts would be made to enlist the support of all student groups in our behalf.

At its meeting on Tuesday, March 11th, the Faculty Council unanimously passed a resolution of support and approval of the Green Ribbon Commission, and urged the members of the Faculty to join in its activities. A letter requesting the cooperation and support of all student organizations has been mailed today.

It is therefore time to ask all of you to join the Green Ribbon Commission. It will take almost none of your time. From the list of respondents to this request, an alphabetical list will be composed. It will be given to the Administration, the Police, all interested Student Groups, and anyone else who may want it. When a demonstration, confrontation or incident occurs or appears likely to occur, from three to six of the people on the list will be called and asked to observe the incident. They will also be asked to draw up a report upon it. The report will be available to any who might request it. When subsequent incidents arise, the next few members on the list will be called, and so forth. Aside from this, you may be asked once, but no more than once, to speak to some student group in order to familiarize them with the laws and rules concerning demonstrations. This information will be made available to you. It is my genuine hope that aside from the one time you may be asked to speak to a student group, you will never be needed.

Please complete the form which is attached and mail it to the address which is given by Campus Mail. Your cooperation may help to avert serious trouble upon our campus.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Olscamp

P. S: I can be reached at 293-1882, and my home number is 267-9649.
To: Paul Olscamp

The Green Ribbon Commission

Room 158 Denney Hall - 17th Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43210

Name: ___________________________  Rank: ___________________________

Department: ______________________

Campus Address: __________________

Campus Telephone: ________________

Home Address: ____________________

Home Telephone: _________________
Faculty Green Ribbons To Unite and Expand

The GRC has no motives but protection of rights, prevention of violence and to provide objective accounts of incidents occurring at Ohio State," Olscamp said.

Formed in 1965
Formed during the 1965 free speech protests by Olscamp and Bernard Rosen, assistant professor of philosophy, the GRC has existed as an informal group of faculty, mainly from the departments of philosophy, history and English.

The group's only sources of information preceding incidents were either ad hoc or from individuals.

The reorganized GRC has the support of the central administration, campus police, the Faculty Council and the Council of Student Affairs. Student organizations will be solicited for their cooperation in notifying the GRC of planned or alleged demonstrations.

No Knowledge of Rights
"Part of the difficulty on campuses may be a result of poor communication about university, state and federal regulations that have a bearing on campus incidents," Olscamp said.

To improve students' knowledge of their rights, GRC members will speak to student organizations, outlining the laws and rules concerning demonstrations.

GRC members at demonstrations will be identified by the green ribbon they wear. They will be chosen to attend an incident from an alphabetical listing of all members.

Faculty Recruitment
Olscamp received over 73 replies to faculty recruitment in two days. Added to the original group of some 30 persons, the GRC now numbers over 100 members. Replies are expected to continue throughout the week.

Olscamp underscored the importance of GRC presence at campus demonstrations by citing the fact that their absence last April 26 during the Administration Building takeover left both the University and the indicted students without official objective witnesses.

He said that GRC witnesses in court would have been beneficial to both sides and could have decreased the threat of violence.

April 26 Takeover
GRC members were not present during the takeover because they were not aware of the incident before the doors were locked. As an informal group they were not admitted to the building by police.
The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Green Ribbon Commission this morning:

"The Green Ribbon Commission urgently requests the Ohio State University Administration to declare all classes and official extracurricular activities suspended between noon on Wednesday, May 6, and 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 11, 1970; provided, however, that this period will be used by all concerned, including appropriate Administration officials for thorough examination and genuine discussion of all outstanding issues that affect the vitality and purpose of the University community; and that by or on Monday, May 11, the Administration will issue a public statement describing the results of these discussions.

The Green Ribbon Commission offers its good offices to all or any part of such examinations and discussions in any way that may be helpful.

The Kent State tragedy, the advent on campus of students and others from outside, the presence on campus of loaded guns, the danger of violent reaction by non-strikers against strike sympathizers, and the explosive potential of the Corps Day ceremonies now place the University in clear and present danger, a danger that cannot in our opinion be contained by force alone.

The conflict is now rapidly reaching the point at which the Green Ribbon Commission can no longer effectively interpose itself."

The Green Ribbon Commission consists of faculty members who attempt, by their presence and use of persuasion, to avoid violence.

Commission members, acting under a rule of strict neutrality, undertake whatever liason or communication function may be possible or desired between Police, Administration, and students.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 6, 1970

The Green Ribbon Commission of The Ohio State University approved the following resolution at its noon meeting today:

"To The Honorable James A. Rhodes, Governor, State of Ohio:

The Green Ribbon Commission urgently requests that while members of the National Guard are on or about The Ohio State University campus, they carry their guns unloaded."

The Green Ribbon Commission consists of faculty members who attempt, by their presence and use of persuasion, to avoid violence.

Commission members, acting under a rule of strict neutrality, undertake whatever liaison or communication function may be possible or desired between Police, Administration, and students.
May 7, 1970

The Green Ribbon Commission and other interested faculty today endorsed the following resolutions of the Senate of the Faculty of the Arts and Sciences:

1. The Senate of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences requests the President to convene a meeting of the Faculty Council within 48 hours.

2. The Senate of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences strongly urges the Administration, students, and Faculty to engage in serious and responsible discussions during the time the University is closed, with the end in view of getting the University open in the shortest possible time in an orderly manner; we specifically request the Administration to take the initiative in opening discussions.

Reasons for No. 2

1. The maintenance of biological cultures requires immediate and continual access.

2. Filling nitrogen and helium dewars requires immediate and continual access.

3. Maintenance of the cold room of Institute of Polar Studies needs to be maintained.

4. Feeding and care of plants and animals requires immediate and continual access.

5. There are undoubtedly other departments where prohibiting the maintenance of essential functions will be costly and destructive to the purposes of the University.
The Green Ribbon Commission and other interested faculty endorsed today the following resolutions of the Senate of the Faculty of Arts and Science Faculty.

1.

2.
Resolution No. 1

The Senate of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences requests the President to convene a meeting of the Faculty Council within 48 hours.
Resolution No. 8

That the Senate of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, students, and Faculty to engage in serious and responsible discussions during the time the University is closed, with the end in view of getting the University open in the shortest possible time in an orderly manner; we specifically request the Administration to take the initiative in opening discussions.

The students demand in on the students' demands.
Resolution: No. 2

The Senate urges that access to the campus, including full access to all buildings, by faculty members be restored Friday, May 8, 1970 at 8 a.m.
1. The maintenance of biological cultures requires immediate and continual access.

2. Filling nitrogen and helium dewars requires immediate and continual access.

3. Maintenance of the cold room of Institute of Polar Studies needs to be maintained.

4. Feeding and care of plants and animals requires immediate and continual access.

5. There are undoubtedly other departments where prohibiting the maintenance of essential functions will be costly and destructive to
the purposes of the University.

200 copies
1/2 hour.

Cliff Tyson
461-8357
That the Administration - specifically the Senate, strongly urge the Administration and students to engage in serious discussions during the period during which the University is closed, with the end in mind of getting the University opened in the shortest possible time in an orderly manner.

Carried to Admin. or to Admin. & Students

Carried to include

Carried by whole, with one dissenting voice (the one student)
A member urged one address the students.

X moved by Senate of the College of Science to request the President to convene a meeting of the Faculty Council immediately within 48 hours.

Seconded.

Carried unanimously.

461 - 8351 Tyree

Tyree spoke to the Senate and answered questions.

Driffin moved that the Administration be most urgently requested to reconsider its decision not to negotiate.
Jastram

24 (+2) persons in attendance.

Matter of procedure must first be considered:

No agenda except the present situation.

For an action to be official, must be confirmed by a later meeting.

The meeting gave its assent to this.

The meeting assented to Cliff's appearing and answering question.

Phil Jastram gave a summary of the situation as of the moment.

Question arose whether Governor Rhodes ordered Pres. Fawcett to close OSU or empowered him to do so.
Members urged that faculty must have access to office — to maintain cultures, to keep

The Faculty Senate urges that the campus be accessible to the
including access to all buildings.

May 8

Unanimously carried

Jastram informed the Senate that on
3 occasions, the sufficient petitioners requested a faculty council, but the
President did not act.

Herb Barnes urges access of faculty to the administration.

George Collins urged it be done through the Green Ribbon Committee.
Get a Chemist (Dick Firestone) and

Reasons:

3. Maintenance of the cold room of Institute of Polar Studies needs to be maintained.

4. The needs of feeding and care of animals, plants, and animals requires immediate and continual access.

1. The maintenance of biological cultures and strains requires immediate access.

2. Filling nitrogen and helium dewars requires immediate and continual access.

[Call Dick Firestone]

5. There are undoubtedly other departments where immediate and continual access is necessary.
5. There are undoubtedly other departments where prohibiting access to buildings would cost the University and State thousands of dollars. The maintenance of essential functions will be costly and destructive to the purposes of the University.
For Faculty Quells Disturbance

Green Ribbons ‘Cool It’

5-9-67

They were punched, kicked and pelted with eggs, but they kept a semblance of peace.

Wearing business suits marked by a green ribbon hanging from the lapel, 16 faculty members formed a human demilitarized zone between pro and anti-ROTC demonstrators outside Mershon Auditorium Thursday.

The 16 are part of the Green Ribbon Commission, an organization of 212 faculty members dedicated to keeping the cool at University demonstrations such as the one Thursday.

Paul J. Olscamp, associate professor of philosophy, is head of the commission.

Egg stains spotted his green suit, and he said he had been accidently kicked in the groin and hit under the left eye during the demonstration.

“They’re the first we’ve ever had actual physical involvement,” Olscamp said. “And we’ve been around since the free speech movement of 1964.”

Olscamp said he chose the first 16 persons from his list of 212 Wednesday night. Five were assigned to the early morning demonstration at the Administration Building, and 11 others were sent to the Intramural Fields for the scheduled ROTC review.

When rain pushed the review inside to Mershon, demonstrators gathered and the 16 went to work.

Standing between the demonstrators they urged the crowd to disperse. But tempers flared and a flurry of fistfights started.

Green Ribbon men moved in and attempted to restore calm.

William E. Hall, director of the School of Journalism, jumped in between two such fighters. Hall, a six-footer, said both brawlers were bigger than he, but he broke up the scuffle.

“Students are fairly reluctant to smash a faculty member in the mouth,” Olscamp said. “After all, they know he’s there trying to keep peace.”

In case of injury, members are covered only by their own insurance policies, according to Olscamp.

He noted, though, none of the members were injured in any way during the fracas. Olscamp also had high praise for University restraint in not using police to contain the demonstrators.

“If police had been called we would have had a great confrontation,” Olscamp said.

Praise also poured forth for the commission.

John E. Corbally, Jr., vice president for academic affairs and provost, and John T. Mount, vice president for student affairs, commended the commission for its action.

Corbally also said any damage incurred by the members should be reported to him through Olscamp, and the University will pick up the bill. - J.S.
The Green Ribbon Commission has sought for the past several days to help preserve this campus for the imminent danger of unchecked violence. It is increasingly apparent that we can no longer avert major violence if it is provoked either by students, or armed police, or the National Guard. In cases of armed confrontation, we have reluctantly decided that Green Ribbon would have to withdraw.

In the current situation, we feel that no student on campus can be assured any measure of safety.

Executive Committee
Green Ribbon Commission
ORGANIZATION AND ACTION GUIDELINES
FOR
THE GREEN RIBBON COMMISSION
AS AFFIRMED BY THE
MEMBERSHIP ON MAY 11, 1970

I. FUNCTION. Members of the Green Ribbon Commission will be present at demonstrations on the OSU campus as impartial observers, to minimize violence and serve as liaison. Each member is identified by a green ribbon and a name tag.

The Commission is composed of people of widely divergent political and social beliefs. No one is asked to abandon his convictions nor is he asked to restrict his off-duty activities; he is expected, however, to be strictly impartial in his function as a Green Ribbon member.

II. HOW TO ACT IN A CRISIS. Intelligently and flexibly. Members are not policemen and do not try to enforce the law or University regulations; they merely inform persons of possible consequences, including violence or arrest, without arguing the issues. The green ribbon has no magical tranquilizing power. Members try to keep people cool and talking.

Any number of situations might arise, and members must act according to the instance. One, for example, which occurred often during the week of May 4, 1970, involved the blocking of entrances to buildings. The Green Ribbon policy was to inform those obstructing entrances that they were, obviously, subject to arrest. It was not to try to remove them by argument or otherwise. Those who attempted to enter despite the pickets were told that violence could easily result if they insisted on entering, and they were shown whatever other doors to the building were open, if any. Other than that, members merely tried to keep discussion going and the tone of the situation cool.

III. ORGANIZATION. There will be a chairman and two vice-chairmen, who may direct Green Ribbon members into given situations. A secretary will keep up-to-date membership lists and telephone numbers. There will be a department co-ordinator and alternate in each department. The Chairman will call an organizational meeting of the Commission in October, at which time officers will be elected and lists brought up to date.

IV. ACTIVATION. Any member who sees a potentially violent confrontation arising should inform the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman and himself proceed to the scene.

V. OFFICES. When necessary, the Green Ribbon Commission will establish an office with telephones.
To: Members of the Green Ribbon Commission

From: The Executive Committee

Though there has fortunately not been a need to mobilize the Green Ribbon Commission this year, we must again consider the possibility that demonstrations might occur and that you might be called upon to act as marshals. For the benefit of new members or people who have forgotten, we must again warn you that as a result of the existence of H.B. 1219 in State law, the risks are substantially greater than they were in 1970. Under the terms of the statute, a faculty member arrested for any of the offenses which are enumerated in it will be subjected to the risk of suspension after a hearing and/or dismissal with loss of tenure rights in the event of a conviction. This law applies to arrests on and around a campus so that, for instance, it would be in effect during a disturbance across High Street as well as on the campus proper.

Of particular hazard is the incorporation in H.B. 1219 of Sec. 2923.43 of the Ohio Revised Code, making it a crime to hinder or interfere with an officer, etc., or to refuse to obey his orders. This creates the possibility that overzealous police may erroneously or malevolently misconstrue the facts and conclude that a faculty member, who in his own mind is helping, is actually hindering and consequently is subject to arrest.

In the event that you take part in our service as a marshal or observer we strongly urge that you always operate in pairs.

If, for any reason, you wish to communicate with the Executive Committee, our names and telephone numbers are listed below.

Richard Stow, Chairman  2-5320  
Philip Jastram, Vice-chairman  2-2857  
William Tyznik, Vice-chairman  2-3443  
Hattie Williams, Secretary  2-5766  
Wallace Maurer, Past Chairman  2-3000  
Michael Geltner, Member-at-Large  2-0925  
Bernard Rosen, Member-at-Large  2-7169
Commission Praised for Work During OSU Fracas

By The Associated Press

An Ohio State University campus group known as the Green Ribbon Commission came in for some praise Friday for helping avert possible serious violence during a campus demonstration.

The commission, formed in 1963 to help keep peace at demonstrations, is composed of faculty members who identify themselves by green ribbons on the lapels of their business suits.

IN THURSDAY’S demonstration which broke out into some minor fistfights and scuffling between supporters and opponents of ROTC, 16 faculty commission members formed a “demilitarized zone” between the battlers.

The Thursday incident was the group’s first physical involvement, according to the commission leader, Prof. Paul J. Olscamp of the philosophy department.

Some of the members were punched, kicked and egged as they stepped between the opposing factions. Student tempers flared, and some fistfights broke out on the outside of Mershon Auditorium where the ROTC honors ceremony was being held. It was an annual affair for award ceremonies.

IT WAS May Week on the campus with a number of other events scheduled, and with thousands of students on the campus and some hundreds in and outside the auditorium, the potential for real trouble was apparent.

Inside the auditorium were riot-equipped Ohio Highway Patrol officers, augmenting the regular campus police force.

But police did not have any part in the events which brought the Green Ribbon Commission’s first action.

OLSCAMP himself said he had been “accidentally kicked” and was hit under the left eye. At least five of the commission members were pelted with eggs, he said.

“I don’t think this was intentional,” Olscamp added. “We just happened to be in the middle.”

THE FRACAS didn’t last long and soon the students dispersed to the campus oval for more talks, but no more fights occurred. The group finally broke up when a heavy rainstorm occurred.

Olscamp praised university officials for restraint in not using police, and in turn university officials praised the commission members for their participation.
Green Ribbon Commission Acts in Buffer Zone Role

By WILLIAM J. LUCAS

Working to avoid a tragedy of the magnitude of the Kent State or the Jackson State shootings, the Green Ribbon Commission (GRC) helped keep open lines of communication between Spring Quarter's strikers, the police and National Guardsmen, and the Administration.

The GRC, a loosely organized group of around 200 faculty members who have volunteered their services to act as an impartial "buffer zone" between both sides in the event of a campus demonstration, was formed by Paul J. Olscamp and Bernard Rosen, both associate professors of philosophy, during the free speech protests in 1964.

The GRC was originally conceived for use primarily during short, "one-shot affair" type demonstrations and not the long, protracted type of demonstration during the spring campus disturbances, according to George W. Collins II, associate professor of astronomy and member of the GRC executive committee. Collins said he thinks that even the strikers were surprised at the level of success of GRC's efforts during the spring demonstrations.

Extra Duties

Faculty members were called upon to serve with the GRC in a capacity far beyond the one or two days a year they had been told would be the extent of their duties before the spring demonstrations.

"Credit must be given to the faculty members who, having never attended a GRC meeting, put on the green ribbon and went out to try to prevent violence during the spring disruptions," said John O. Riedl Jr., assistant professor of mathematics and GRC member.

Riedl said that many times during the disruptions, he would see demonstrators or bystanders begin to show visible signs of becoming provoked enough to engage in a fistfight with the other side. He said he would immediately begin a conversation with such individuals to try to persuade them to back away from the point of confrontation and cool off.

After Riedl had persuaded one such individual that he really didn't want to get into a fight and be arrested, the student told him, "Well, if anything does happen, I've already got my man picked out."

Not Always Successful

Riedl said all such attempts by GRC members to cool off demonstrators and bystanders weren't always successful. He said Louis Nemzer, professor of political science, was cut with a knife while trying to take a brick away from a demonstrator.

Another important function of the GRC during demonstrations besides trying to prevent violence is the prevention of the spread of rumors and the dissemination of information concerning rules and regulations, the status of cordoned areas and the progress of negotiations.

"People become angry and frustrated because of a lack of information or conflicting information," Collins said. He said that often during the spring demonstrations, it would be rumored that the National Guard was forming to sweep the Oval when in reality they were only replacing with fresh Guardsmen some of their number who had been on duty for a while.

Tough Job Informing

Collins said that sometimes there was a reluctance on the part of the National Guard and the police to tell the demonstrators which areas were cordoned off and which were provided for picketing.

Occasionally during the demonstrations, the GRC would distribute on the Oval mimeographed news bulletins.

There have been no actual meetings of the GRC during the summer, but members of the executive committee have been keeping in touch with each other and are prepared to contact the rest of the membership in the event of further demonstrations during Autumn Quarter.
January 11, 1971

To: Members of the Faculty
From: The Green Ribbon Commission

The events of the O.S.U.-Michigan Football game weekend last November on High Street bordering the University have raised questions among Green Ribbon Commission members, civic officials, and University students as to the role of the Commission.

Within the GRC executive during that week, two opinions, in the main, took shape. One based itself on the history of the GRC. That is, the GRC originated to appear on campus only at demonstrations involving political and ideological confrontations which proceeded from differing conceptions of the nature, structure, and governance of this university, and, therefore, the Commission clearly had nothing to do with confrontations between football fans, before, during, or after games. The other opinion held that more than football fever was in the air, that memories of May were omnipresent, that massive gatherings of students could provide occasion, invented or perceived, for renewed confrontations between opposing groups whose differences were rooted in their perception of the condition of the campus. Besides the views of the GRC executive, some members of the Commission, following the traditional dependence of the Commission on the individual judgment of each member, revealed their opinions in actions; i.e., they had in fact already appeared in student crowds on High Street during events preceding the football Saturday. Some students also indicated their conception of the GRC by calling us several times during the week, asking the GRC to appear on Saturday. Finally, Mr. James Hughes, the Columbus Safety Director, looked to the GRC and to students for marshals. He had an agreement with Mr. Kling, president of undergraduate student government, for the provision of student marshals, of whom only a small number showed up, despite student government's efforts to provide sufficient numbers. Also Mr. Hughes assumed that the GRC would appear and was surprised to learn that we had no intention to appear as marshals. These opinions and assumptions show that there is no unanimous understanding of the role of the GRC among its members and in the community.

Here is how the GRC executive acted under the circumstances. Throughout the week preceding the Michigan game, we strongly felt that the GRC had no functions to perform before, during, or after the game. With the shooting of a student on the Friday night before the game, however, the two opinions alluded to above developed within the GRC, some executive members maintaining that the GRC had no real business at all after the game, others pressing a view that political tensions and confrontations might develop in the massive gatherings of people on High Street. We eventually decided that a few of us appear officially on campus, following the game, until the crowd had left the campus. We were pressured to call all the members necessary if trouble developed. After the game and after the crowd had dispersed without any incident that needed our attention, we moved to 15th and High. Here we decided that a few of us be on the streets unofficially as observers, without ribbons on, during the evening. Some of us were there until a little after midnight. Three or four were there until the block party broke up.

In the light of varying conceptions of the role of the GRC which the Michigan game week brought to the surface, we ask for our guidance that the members think out and let us know their conception of the Commission's role by indicating their reactions to the following statements:

A. 1. The Green Ribbon Commission should not appear at off-campus demonstrations under any circumstance.

   Yes  No  Uncertain

   Yes  No  Uncertain

2. The Green Ribbon Commission should appear at off-campus confrontations involving students, only if these confrontations originate on campus.

   Yes  No  Uncertain

3. The Green Ribbon Commission should appear at confrontations involving students whether on or off the campus.

   Yes  No  Uncertain
B. 1. The Green Ribbon Commission should appear at any campus gathering of students — whatever the cause — where there seems the potential for confrontation.

Yes ___  No X ___  Uncertain ___

2. The Green Ribbon Commission should appear only at those confrontations which involve political or ideological differences between students and other groups.

Yes ___  No X ___  Uncertain ___

3. The Green Ribbon Commission should appear only if students as opposed to faculty and non-academic employees are involved; e.g., consider a strike by non-academic employees.

Yes ___  No X ___  Uncertain ___

C. Give, if you wish, any comments you might have, e.g., relating to any of the statements above which may not be precise enough for you, or dealing with relevant matters concerning the Green Ribbon Commission not covered by the statements.

Comments: A faculty member has an obligation to his students, to his department, and to the University not to expose himself to the automatic penalties and probable sanctions contained in and flowing from Am. Subst. HB 1219. His presence at a student demonstration of any kind, as an individual or as a member of an organized group, clearly involves the substantial risk of such exposure. The Green Ribbon Commission should inform Safety Director Hughes that as long as the provisions of 1219 are law, faculty members cannot participate in demonstrations or confrontations in any capacity. The same applies to student marshals.

The Green Ribbon Commission can still usefully serve as a communication link and an advisory group. But in its observing and violence-preventing function at public gatherings, carried out with outstanding success last spring, it is clearly out of business on or off campus. The right of assembly does not extend to faculty members in Ohio, nor for students, and the automatic sanctions of 1219 are something less than compatible with the usual ideas of due process.

Please send your reactions to the statements to me or to the Secretary of the Green Ribbon Commission, Professor Bernard Rosen (campus addresses below).

A. E. Wallace Maurer
Chairman of the Green Ribbon Commission
C/o Department of English
Denney Hall Ext.: 2-3000

One other matter: It is of first importance that we have an official up-to-date membership list. If you regard yourself a member of the Green Ribbon Commission or if you wish to be a member, and if you have not yet since October 1, 1970 filled out a form like the one appended below, please fill it out now and send it either to me or to the Secretary of the Green Ribbon Commission, Professor Bernard Rosen, c/o Department of Philosophy, University Hall.