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Orange County College To Teach JFK Conspiracies

By Michael Granberry
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Mission Viejo, Orange County

The South Orange County Community College District has approved a course that teaches that a conspiracy was behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and has committed \$5,000 to fly in four guest speakers, one of whom says the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, masterminded the killing.

The course, scheduled September 26-28 and advertised by district literature as a "high-quality community education" offering, has angered some faculty members and citizens who say the board's decision subjects the college to ridicule and endorses the agendas of political extremists.

"All of this is out-and-out anti-Semitism," said Cheryl Altman, chairwoman of the department of

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reading at Saddleback Community College, which, along with Irvine Valley Community College, is run by the district.

The Anti-Defamation League, which voiced its opposition to the course at a trustees' meeting Monday night, accuses one of the speakers, Michael Collins Piper, of being a proponent of Holocaust denial and labels his claim that Israelis killed Kennedy as ridiculous.

Another speaker, Sherman Skolnick, is a member of the advi-

sory board of the Spotlight, "the most anti-Semitic publication in America," according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Steven J. Frogue, the controversial president of the community college's seven-member Board of Trustees, cast the tie-breaking vote to approve the course and will also teach the three-day seminar free of charge. Frogue said taxpayer money won't be used to pay the \$5,000 allocated to the speakers; instead, it will come from the \$99 course fees paid by students.

Frogue also said at the meeting that no student will receive academic credit for the course.

Some faculty members fear that the course will harm the district's reputation.

"I am profoundly embarrassed that the president of our Board of Trustees is a man who takes seriously crackpots such as these," said Roy Bauer, a philosophy instructor at Irvine Valley Community College.

Last November, Frogue received a bigger endorsement than

any other candidate in the district, garnering 128,361 votes in a reelection bid for a decisive 61 percent to 39 percent victory over his opponent.

Frogue did not return phone calls.

During an interview last fall, Frogue said he believes the Anti-Defamation League played a key role in killing Kennedy.

Calling the Anti-Defamation League "a group of spies that actively keeps files on people . . . people like me," Frogue added, "I be-

lieve Lee Harvey Oswald worked for the ADL. That's right. . . . I believe the ADL was behind it."

At the meeting Monday night, Frogue denied making the comment.

Piper, reached at the Spotlight's offices yesterday, said he is excited about the course and his involvement in it. He commended Frogue, "a personal friend," for having offered it. The author of "Final Judgment: The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy," Piper explained his views.

The assassination, he said, "was a joint enterprise conducted on the highest levels of the American

CIA, in collaboration with organized crime — and most specifically, with direct and profound involvement by the Israeli intelligence service, the Mossad."

Piper said Israel's motive stemmed from a dispute between Kennedy and the late David Ben-Gurion, the former Israeli prime minister.

"They were involved in a heated dispute just months before the assassination," Piper said, "over Kennedy's refusal to support Israel in its drive to build a nuclear weapon. Other authors have documented that this dispute, as much as anything, caused Ben-Gurion to resign."