**Protestors interested in looting, not social justice**

**NADIA ADOLF**
**Contributing writer**

It is Sunday night, and police and residents in Oakland are on the alert, concerned about possible rioting if a grand jury decision in Missouri angers activists. People all over the country are anxious about the reactions that could follow the grand jury decision regarding the shooting of teenager Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson. They fear that the grand jury decision will lead to more arson and destruction.

Some note that protestors seemed more interested in looting and vandalism than in social justice. They are saddened by the loss of beloved businesses, including a well-loved barbecue restaurant that was burned down by rioters. Most of the remaining downtown Ferguson businesses have been decorated with tasteful, unpainted CDX plywood sheets or steel grates over windows and doors, in the hope that rioters won’t be able to break in, steal and burn them down. In Hazelwood, the school district plans to release students early if the decision comes on a weekday, saying that the St. Louis County prosecutor’s office has promised to give it an early warning of the decision. The district has formulated a plan to take children home, and close and secure the schools.

In Florissant, a town whose residents have many ties to neighboring Ferguson, some residents fear they will be targeted by spreading violence, a fear that seems reasonable given both proximity and the fact that there isn’t much left to loot in downtown Ferguson.

Florissant residents have expressed worry. "I’m hoping that we can have a peaceful settlement,” said a retired black resident who drives a bus part time for additional income. “I find it hard to believe that this was just like last time. I was in the military during the 1960s race riots and it’s sad to be seeing all of that all over again.”

One Florissant resident noted that, “I have problems with the government too — I think we are overtaxed and underrepresented. You want to speak out, I’m there. But throwing rocks, spitting on cops? That’s over the line. This isn’t a black and white issue, it’s a right and wrong issue.”

**OPINIONS**

**Thanksgiving non-break gets no thanks from me**

**EMILY BURKHARDT / MONITOR**

Strange schedule made me miss family vacation

**RYAN PARCHER**
**Editor-in-chief**

On Monday, my fiancée will pack my two sons in the car and drive down to southern California to visit her parents for Thanksgiving. My sons attend two different schools in Fremont. My fiancée is a college student currently completing her master’s degree and a middle school teacher in Cupertino. I am a student too, here at Ohlone. The only difference is I won’t be joining them on Thanksgiving non-break.

I feel frustrated enough that every spring my kids, my fiancée and I all get different spring breaks. What on earth is so hard about coordinating school holidays? Instead of getting a break during my mid-semester break, I am tied down to my house, and while my kids are on holiday I’m forced to try to find some way to provide daylong day care for them since my fiancée and I are still bound up in classes.

With all that going on, it seems the least Ohlone could do is give us the entire week for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving should be an easy one. It’s a snow day holiday, so you don’t have to worry about people “not believing” in it, and every other school (that I’m familiar with, anyway) grants the entire week. I would be tempted to take the entire week off to spend with my family, but Ohlone’s eccentric scheduling already has my classes in a crunch.

One of my science teachers has lamented in numerous lectures the loss of a full week of class time. We missed a day for Veterans Day and we will miss one for Thanksgiving. “How do they expect me to teach a 15 week course in 14 weeks?” he asked the class. “That is part of the reason I won’t be joining my family until I can fly down on Wednesday. How do they expect us to pass a final that covers material that wasn’t ever lectured on? I have to make sure I at least get what information and preparation I can from the teachers. I just wish flights weren’t so expensive. I would happily attend one massive construction project that doesn’t have to worry about material that wasn’t ever lectured on, I have to make sure I at least get what information and preparation I can from the teachers. I just wish flights weren’t so expensive.

I suppose it is good to see blacks and whites working together for a common goal, but the common objective wasn’t racial hatred.