

Philadelphia police acted irrationally

It doesn't look good for a nation that claims to uphold the principles of justice. It doesn't look good for a city mayor who has the reputation of being calm and reserved. Most of all, it makes a mockery of Philadelphia's tradition of being the "City of Brotherly Love."

Americans have every reason to be both angered and saddened over the events that took place in Philadelphia on May 13. On that day, Mayor Wilson Goode gave the word to the Philadelphia police department that it was time to evict MOVE, a violent "back-to-the-land" group, from their Philadelphia house. What followed was, in the words of Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, "the most violent eviction notice that's ever been given." Conyers' statement is not out of line. After laying siege to the MOVE house for several hours, police dropped a bomb on the building. Within 24 hours, 61 homes had been burned to the ground, 250 people had been left homeless, and 11 members of MOVE, including four children, had burned to death.

There is no question that the cult-group MOVE is dangerous and violent. In a 1978 confrontation with the group, Philadelphia police were involved in a shoot-out that left one officer dead. For more than a year prior to the assault on May 13, police had received complaints from people living near the MOVE house. In almost all cases, those who made the complaints claimed that MOVE members had threatened local people and were terrorizing the neighborhood. The big question is, did the Philadelphia police deal with the situation properly? Certainly not.

There is nothing that can justify bombing a building that contains not only violent criminals but also innocent children. It is analogous to police confronting a terrorist-hostage situation and opting to bomb the building that contains both the terrorists and the innocent hostages. Furthermore, it is hard to understand why the police would risk causing a fire by bombing a building located in a city neighborhood consisting of row houses. There is no justification for the police action taken in the MOVE incident.

The police say that one of the reasons they decided to go after MOVE was that the group had stated in a written letter to city officials that, "We are going to burn them with smoke, fire, gas, and bullets. We will burn this house down and you up with us." But as things now stand, it was not MOVE but the police who burned down the neighborhood.

No One is accusing the city mayor or the police of wanting to burn down 61 houses and kill four children and seven adults in the process. MOVE was a danger and a threat that had to be dealt with. But the action taken by the Philadelphia police was irrational.

Dealing with terrorists or violent criminals holed up in a building is not a new experience for American law enforcement groups. As recently as April, 200 FBI and state law enforcement personnel lay siege to the Mountain Home, Ark. camp of the neo-Nazi group called "The Covenant." Because of the presence of women and children in the camp, the police ruled out any "heavy action." They simply kept the camp surrounded. Four days later, "The Covenant" surrendered.

When dealing with such a dangerous situation, the key is, and always has been, patience. This is what the Philadelphia police lacked. They had no need to act hastily and bomb the MOVE house. They could have cut off water, food and electricity and then waited for the group to come out. Whatever their options, bombing the building should have never been considered.



'WE ASKED CITY HALL TO GET "MOVE" OUT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, AND YOU MUST ADMIT THEY HAVE BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE TO OUR COMPLAINTS.'

letters

Unethical

Citizens need to support S.B. 409 (Parental notification of a minor child's intent to seek an abortion) by writing letters to the Senate Judiciary Committee (Senator Bill Frye, chairman).

To deny a parent's right to know of any medical/surgical procedure about to be performed on their child is not only anti-family, but unethical as well. Government must support the parent's role as primary influencer over their child's welfare, not attempt to subvert that role. The greater a parent's involvement in their child's development, the less the risk of delinquency, academic failure, and sexual promiscuity. Unfortunate teen-age pregnancy deserves the counseling and input that only a girl's mother or father can provide. Profit-motivated abortion facilities should support parental involvement if they truly care about a young girl's physical and psychological well-being.

Kit Greerty
Eugene

tle elevators, and over big bumps in the road — things I had never thought about. I was immensely frustrated after the trip to the store but my friend has to deal with these things every day. I will never again look at a disabled person without admiration.

On Tuesday, May 21, The Circle K Service Club with the ASUO is sponsoring Handicap Awareness Day. Among other events, there will be wheelchairs in the EMU Courtyard from 10-3 and at 12:30 p.m., there will be a speaker on handicapped issues. At 7 p.m., Eugene's men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams, along with UO basketball seniors, will play at Mac Court.

Circle K is not hoping to solve problems with these events, but to help the University population become more aware. I encourage everybody to attend these events so that they will become more informed of the issues and problems that face the physically limited.

Jenny Munro
Circle K president

day, and to have billed the five acts in the empty space on the advertising posters. After much anguish, I submitted to the ridicule only because it would have been unprofessional not to.

Richard Phillips
Eugene

New tribe

We are a new tribe, perhaps newly re-emerging. As with the Gypsy tribe, many have called themselves Hippy, who are not. Some people consider the word hippy an insult, as Gypsy, or Indian, or other tribal cultures have also become labels of insult to the ignorant.

We are a definable culture with shared traits and customs (a true ethnic group). We share a system of universal moral standards which basically say that it's OK to believe in anything, be anyone, do anything so long as those beliefs, ways, and doings don't intrude unprovoked or unwelcome into someone else's sphere of life.

We share the belief that it is our duty to assist anyone suffering unjust or unwelcomed intrusion, if assistance is asked for. We believe anyone thus invaded has every right to cast out the invader. We believe we have the duty to not seek to impose upon others' sphere of life uninvited.

There are no leaders among us, or you. We are worldwide. We are babies and elders and all of the generation in between. We are here to stay. Work for peace and love of life.

Tommy Whalen
(Laughing Deer)
Eugene

More aware

Recently, I had the opportunity to accompany a new friend of mine to the Bookstore. She is physically limited and in a wheelchair. I pushed her to the store, helped her buy her books and find the wheelchair entrances into her classes. Until then I had not realized how difficult it is to get around in a wheelchair — trying to open doors, get through narrow aisles, up steep ramps, into lit-

Owes apology

A long-time partner of mine, a blues musician known as Watermelon Slim, was openly solicited to submit an audition tape for the Willamette Folk Festival. I was out of state at the time; upon my return I submitted my folk album. It is beyond me how he was selected to be the opening act of the entire festival, while I was rejected altogether. When I asked about it, I was offered a spot as a lead-in act for him. I agreed to play at 2:45 p.m. on Friday. Nobody told me that I was one of five acts who would not be billed on festival advertisements, would be relegated to the classified ads as a "mini-festival," and would be set up on a tiny stage before a small audience out of sight of the festival grounds. We played a half-hour set of my songs at the top of our form. When Watermelon Slim took the main stage, I accompanied him on his opening number, but my microphone was turned off.

I think the Cultural Forum owes five musical acts a sincere apology for flagrantly treating us as second-class musicians. It would have been just as easy to have set up the main stage and sound system by noon on Fri-

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

oregon daily emerald

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