

Street violence resumes in protest over shooting

CINCINNATI — Police fired bean bags and rubber bullets to quell demonstrators who broke windows downtown Tuesday in a protest over the police shooting of an unarmed black man.

It was the second day protesters ran through the streets, and police in riot gear formed protective cordons around City Hall and nearby police headquarters. Some officers were on horseback.

About 50 people threw rocks and bottles at windows and a sidewalk

vendor's stand was ransacked, said police Lt. Ray Ruberg said. At least five were arrested. No one was reported injured.

Mayor Charles Luken appealed for calm during a Tuesday evening news conference inside City Hall, where riot-clad police guarded the front door. He called for a public dialogue to replace violence.

"If we can't do that, then I'm not optimistic that the future will be that much better than the past," Luken said.

The confrontation came four days after Timothy Thomas, 19, was fatally shot as he ran from a police officer trying to arrest him on 14 warrants. Thomas, of Cincinnati, had been wanted for misdemeanors and traffic violations, including driving without a license and failing to wear a seat belt.

The FBI on Tuesday opened a civil rights investigation and will forward its findings to the Justice Department, said FBI spokesman Ed Boldt. He said a ruling is not expected for

months.

Prosecutor Michael Allen said a Hamilton County grand jury might also investigate the shooting, which came as tensions were already high between police and many blacks. Four black men have been killed by officers since November.

On Monday, police also fired bean bags as about 800 demonstrators gathered downtown. Some of them disrupted a City Council committee meeting.

By midnight the number dwindled

to about 150 and the crowd eventually broke up, police said. Only TV camera crews were outside the police headquarters Tuesday morning.

The Rev. Damon Lynch III, head of the civil rights group Cincinnati Black United Front, said the protest at the City Council committee Monday allowed people to vent some of their frustration and anger.

"The attitudes of police officers and city officials toward the black community must change," he said.

The Associated Press

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since I started doing this job," he said. "Most the time when I go out, it's to a particular classroom, or an assembly of first and second graders."

But the demonstrations aren't purely for their entertainment value, he said.

“I've been going out to schools since I started doing this job.”

Stan Micklavzina
Senior Instructor
physics department

"I usually like to have the teachers tell me what they're covering," he said. "I'd rather build on something they're trying to teach...sound, lights, electricity and magnetism ... I like to keep it to what the students are looking at."

The opportunity to awe, spark interest in science and actively interact with eager and interested youngsters provides Micklavzina with gratification he doesn't always receive from undergraduate physics classes.

"I want to keep everybody engaged," Micklavzina said. "I try to get the students to do that in the physics classes — the [younger] kids are very cooperative — when you lecture here, you try to get students excited and to ask more questions, but most students want to say 'yeah, yeah, yeah, I just want to get out of here — I want to go eat lunch.'" He said without the lecture-demonstrations fewer students would be inclined to take courses in the sciences.

On Sunday, the long-time University instructor performed "Dr. Stan's Science Circus" at the WOW Hall, a Eugene community arts performance center.

The event attracted nearly 175 guests and raised almost \$650 to benefit certain jeopardized programs at River Road Elementary School, where Micklavzina's seven-year-old daughter is a student.

"[The money] goes into a general parent funding committee," he said "We had a particular mission last year; we were trying to keep music, P.E. and our library services open in the school."

At Sunday's performance, Micklavzina provided the audience with a well-rounded lesson in physics.

One demonstration charged the sodium contained in a pickle, resulting in a lighted pickle — and awful smell. A demonstration in static-electricity caused a little girl's hair to stand on end — literally. Matches carefully placed in a microwave, something Micklavzina warns against trying at home, displayed the physics of an awesome fireworks-like effect.

Sunday's performance provided only a glimpse into what the Demonstration Room has to offer.

Some apparatus in the room date back to the early 1900s, when the physics department was housed in Deady Hall, the oldest building on campus.

"The 'patent pending' on that electro-static machine there reads 1904," Micklavzina said while looking at a machine perched high upon a shelf.

Various gizmos fill shelf after shelf in this room of endless surprises.

"Along with the shelves, there's all the stuff that's in the drawers," he said. "There's a lot of stuff in here."

Micklavzina recalls a number of years after the passing of the former Demonstration Room head, when the room was run by undergraduate and graduate students, with an occasional faculty member popping in.

"During those years, the room was basically beginning to fall apart," he said.

Until 1995, he directed both the Demonstration Room and the undergraduate labs, but felt the effort he was able to put into each duty was not up to par.

Micklavzina became really involved with the Demonstration Room in 1995 when he became Director of Instructional Support.

"I decided to stop going for my Ph.D. and take the position," Micklavzina said. "Whether or not that was the best decision, I don't know — I'm happy though."

Currently, three undergraduates and one graduate student assist Micklavzina in the demonstration room; they also assisted Micklavzina with his WOW Hall performance.

Micklavzina said that the demo room experience sometimes leads to students becoming involved in research labs on campus.

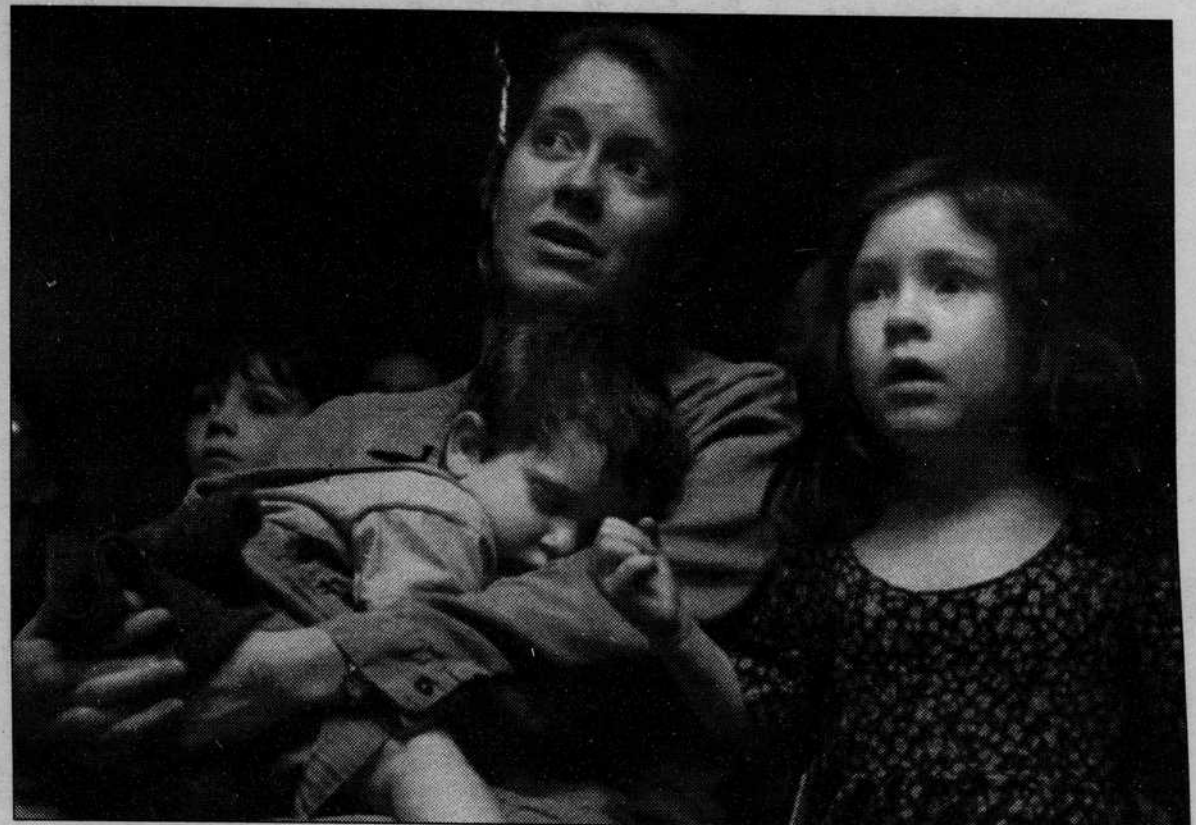
For the assistants, the experience provides an escape.

"Instead of always dealing with the thick mathematical process of physics, I go to the demo room and play with toys; it's fun," physics major Travis Shaw said.

River Road Elementary School held a kick-off event Thursday in anticipation of Sunday's event, bringing River Road and Whiteaker students together for the first time.

River Road Elementary School Principal Sara Cramer said the feedback she has received from Whiteaker parents following the assembly has been positive. She said she has heard about several Whiteaker students disappointed in the closure of their school, but thanks to Micklavzina's assembly, now look forward to attending the River Road Elementary.

"It's a really great thing he's doing for the school," Cramer said. "We're really glad to have him as an involved parent."



Shannon Vyff enjoys the show with her children, two-year-old Avryn (asleep) and four-year-old Avianna. Each of the three exhibit a different reaction to "Dr. Stan's Science Circus," as did most of the more than 175 in attendance for Sunday's program.

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