

Publicity helps criminal cause

By BILL OUTLAW

Assassination attempts, kidnappings, hijackings and other acts of violence are increasingly being committed because the assailants desire to do something sensational.

In her recent attempt to assassinate the President Squeaky Fromme admitted she did it because she knew she would receive publicity and have her political views (and threats) aired. Sarah Moore admitted she did not intend to kill the President, but she just wanted some attention.

Several of the hijackings that occurred in a rash have to be attributed to the publicity previous hijackers had received in their feats. Kidnapping of famous people, such as Patty Hearst, to use as political vehicles for radical groups such as the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), would not be as effective if it weren't for the publicity these groups receive in their groups.

Further proof of this is evidenced by Tania's taped messages to the press about her feelings toward society. Whether it was willingly done by Hearst or not, the fact remains that newspapers lapped it up and the SLA had a means to espouse their political convictions.

The same can be said for Squeaky From me and the Charles Manson gang.

How effective would Arab terrorism be if it was not played up by the press. The reporting of violent crimes and the tendency to project violence as a way of life rather a sick deviation from the norm can also be attributed in part to the press and television.

Ironically it was William Randolph Hearst who advocated sensationalism in the news. Unfortunately, it was his granddaughter who was victimized by it.

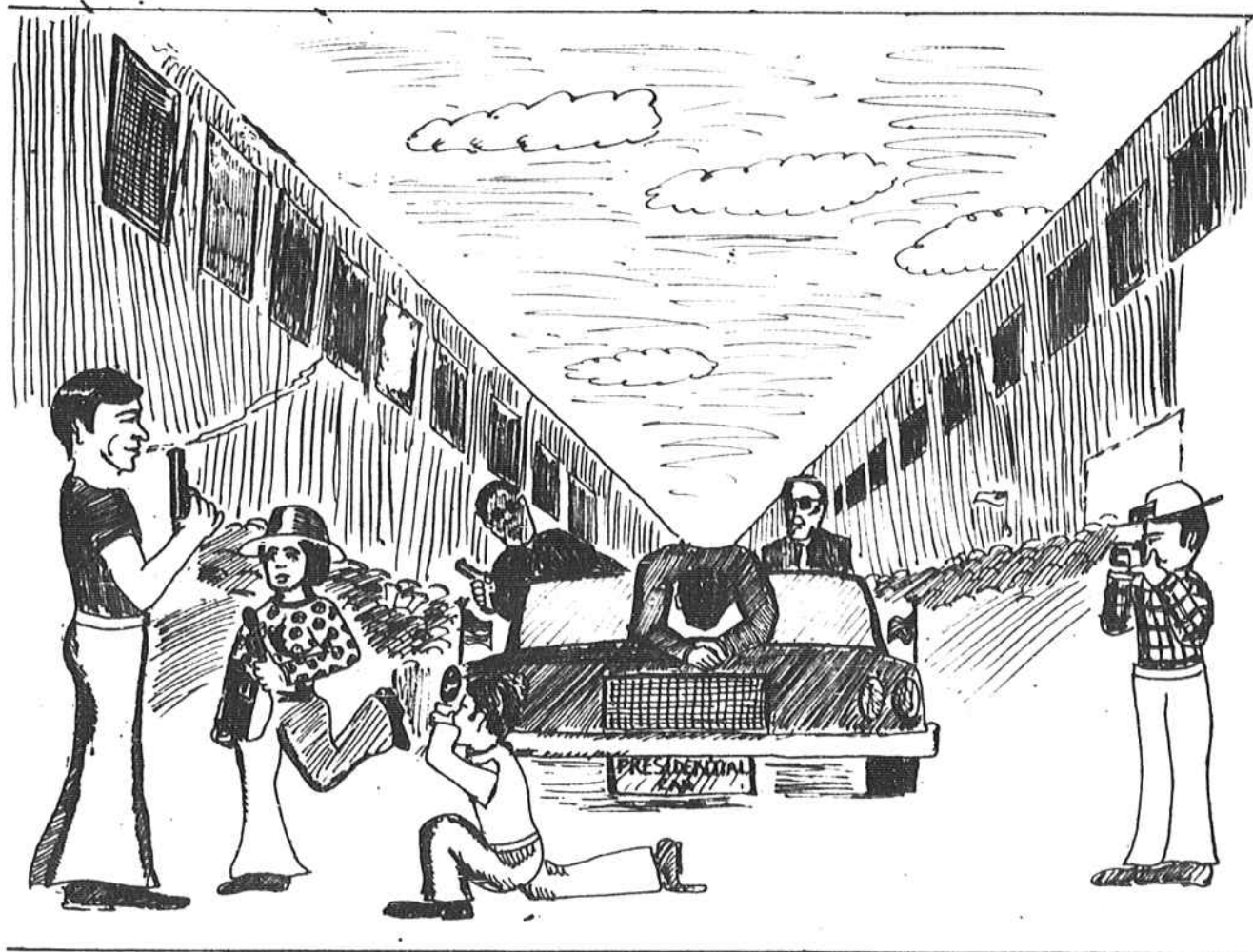
Although the press can be cited as the tool for these violent acts of sensationalism, the blame for this can not rest with the press. The press is merely a microphone for the voice of society. The press is placed in the difficult position of reporting violence and then being used by radicals to promote their self righteous views.

An assassination attempt on a prominent political official's life is news and the public has the right and the need to be informed about it. The same is true of hijackings, kidnappings.

The media can not and should not be blamed for acts of violence, but it may be possible for the media to play down the political ideas of the assailants.

Instead of writing about the history life of such people as Charles Manson, Squeaky Fromme, Lee Harvey Oswald, Richard Speck, etc., perhaps the press could report more about the victims of such violence. We seem to be making heroes out of the criminals and ignoring the victims.

The press only prints news it believes its readers will buy. It is a sad comment on the state of our society to have to note that the press will probably continue to be used as a forum for sensational crimes to be committed and publicized. It is even sadder to note that this is the type of thing the people want to read.



Smile for the cameras please

Striking out at strikes

By PATRICK PIZZELLA

Bumper stickers in many school zones this year are reading "drive carefully teachers picketing." In New York, Chicago and numerous other school systems, now including Boston, these public employees entrusted with educating the young members of society did not show up to work.

This unlawful act of kidnapping a child's education and holding it for a ransom to be paid by the taxpayers is becoming a traditional rite of the fall season. Teachers' unions are not the only culprits. Policemen in San Francisco and Albuquerque; firemen in Baltimore; and sanitation workers in New York city have used work stoppages (a euphemism for strike) in the past, forcing local governments to agree to their demands. This all leads to the question--should public employees be allowed to strike? I say no.

Webster defines public as "... of, relating to, or affecting all the people or the whole area of a nation or state." Before I discuss this further allow me to distinguish the differences between strikes in private industry and the public sector. For example, if the city of Baltimore purchases its office supplies, for use in its municipal buildings, from a local company and all of a sudden the employees of that company go on strike: does that mean the city bureaucracy stops functioning until the company management and the union reach an agreement? For the sake of the city of Baltimore hopefully not. The city would probably seek another supplier, and the free

market system provides numerous competitors.

In the industrial world of private enterprise the strike is universally recognized as a weapon of labor. That is fair play. But what if the fire department employees go on strike? What does the city of Baltimore do then? One does not simply phone Snelling & Snelling and find a couple of thousand experienced firemen.

Right now you may be thinking to yourself why not hire some of the unemployed and train them to fight fires? This might happen someday, but many of the present mayors involved in these disputes appear to have graduated from the "Alioto School for Settling Labor Disagreements."

Headquartered in San Francisco, this school of thought requires that one just give in to the unions demands, no matter what the long run implications are or the immediate cost to the taxpayers (sanitation workers in San Francisco start out at \$17,000 a year). But if you love bloodshed just watch a group of "peaceful" picket line marchers react to people attempting to fill their jobs.

Who suffers the most from public employee strikes? The public. President Franklin Roosevelt, one of organized labor's best friends, stated many years ago "A strike of public employees manifests nothing less than an intent on their part to prevent or obstruct the operations of government until their demands are satisfied. Such action, looking toward the paralysis of government by those who have sworn to support it, is unthinkable and intolerable."

People who are employed in public service jobs do so at their own choosing. They often select these jobs for reasons of security. How many garbage-workers have been put out of work due to automation? How many governments in this country have gone out of business leaving its employees out of work?

When a private business goes bankrupt it often dismisses its work force and sells its plant and equipment in order to pay off its debts. If New York city should file bankruptcy papers will the policemen be out of work or the subways grind to a standstill? No, because these are public service jobs that are provided by the one employer which will never go out of business--the government. These jobs are necessary for the general operation of the city.

There is no question that adequate procedures for hearing employee grievances should be available in all of our governments and that public employees should receive fair and just compensation for the work they are doing.

To be effective and efficient, government must be run by the elected officials, not the power hungry, due collecting, public employee union leaders who threaten the health, safety and general well being of us all by shutting down local governments.

The AFL-CIO recently announced it is looking into the possibility of unionizing the armed forces. I could just see a union requirement concerning the size of a foxhole; or wouldn't it be something if everyone in the infantry saved their sick leave until the next war broke out.

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