

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS
SEPT 7 1987

Publicity-seeking or just stupid?

In his Sept. 3 column about protester Brian Willson, Pat Dillon asks, "Was his an act of enormous courage or of foolish self-indulgence? Or was it blind faith that the train would stop? I'd like to offer two other possibilities:

- That an act of self-inflicted mayhem would generate the publicity that he and fellow protesters have lacked since the protest began June 10.
- That it was blind stupidity.

— Bill Mattos
Fremont

Story trivialized act of resistance

Brian Willson, like hundreds or thousands of other patriotic Americans, has taken up the responsibility to halt the criminally insane conduct by our government. They act under the Nuremberg principle that when the government acts in systematic violation of internationally recognized human rights, it is the obligation of citizens to oppose it.

Brian's act of resistance is trivialized in your story that asserts it was a protest against the "alleged" shipment of weapons from the station. Several millions have died in agony, have been mutilated or lost loved ones as a result of weapons shipped through Port Chicago from the Concord Naval Weapons Station during the past 30 years.

Brian and his friends have seen the devastation wrought by our government's effort to maintain hegemony, and they have taken upon themselves the responsibility that all of us share to bring it to a halt.

— David Sweet
Santa Cruz