



Free expression was attacked

Your Sept. 4 editorial analysis of the vicious assault at the Concord Naval Weapons Station lacks both historical and moral vision.

You clearly fail to perceive that the attack by a naval munitions train was not simply an attack upon Brian Willson and the others peacefully demonstrating their objection to our government's policies in Central America, but an attack — perhaps deliberate, perhaps not — on our inalienable right of free expression. When we cannot peacefully express our opinions without fear of violent retribution, then the rights which Brian, and I, fought supposedly to preserve in Vietnam no longer pertain.

I object also to your statement that,

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"protesters who take dangerous risks forfeit some sympathy when they get hurt." Would you have said the same to those demonstrators killed by British troops in the Boston Massacre? Would you have similarly withheld your sympathies from the Freedom Riders, brutally assaulted while peacefully objecting to government policies in the South in 1961?

In those cases it was the behavior of both those assaulted and their attackers which brought injustice and oppression further into the public eye.

— John K. Mallory

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