

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

As my old *Sunday Independent* editor used to say, "Jack, this is no place for 'think pieces,'" so I didn't write any. But that was then and this is now.

What brought me to this was a recent column by Bill Thompson, former *Leader* associate editor and now a columnist for a Texas newspaper. Under the heading "FBI's Victory was a Wimp's Way Out," Thompson criticized the government for taking 81 days to "negotiate with thugs" and resolve the standoff in Montana.

Considering the debacles at Ruby Ridge and Waco it is understandable that Justice and FBI chose to move cautiously. Thompson seemed to wish for "decisive action" and while he brought up some fair arguments I'm not sure he fully understood exactly the type of minds the government was dealing with in those Freeman bodies.

Call them paramilitary, militia, constitutionalists, whatever title they use these people are dangerous. Expert Sgt. Mike Dailey of

They're real Patriots – not!

the Columbus Police Department says. "They are fed up with government. There is always a concern with these people because unfortunately, a number live on the edge."

He should know. There are 35 to 40 militias in Ohio with more than 1,000 active members. There is a total of 441 known paramilitary groups found in all states. Some have thousands of sympathizers, average people discontented with the two major parties. Many find this scary, and rightly so.

Typical of the situations they cause is the recent arrest of one Larry Martz. He was picked up after a scuffle with a state trooper and his recent trial, which attracted no national interest whatsoever, is worth consideration for what it revealed about one member of a militia group. His were called Patriots.

Martz, 53, and single, played football in high school, studied forestry, served three years in the Army as a lab technician. He then worked for two fire departments, tried real estate and generally drifted.

Martz represented himself at his trial, after close to an hour of discussion with the judge because he claimed the proceedings to be military since there was a fringe on the U.S. courtroom flag, and therefore his constitutional rights

would be lost! The judge prevailed however, and Martz started calling him "sir" so often the judge had to tell him it was not necessary.

During the altercation with the state trooper Martz admitted he had a loaded handgun in his belt but had told the trooper "I don't have anything personally against you. The world is a messed up place. I'm part of the militia. I could have killed you at any point."

Getting to my point, jurors were told of what was found in this nut's pickup truck: two assault rifles, a shotgun and a .45 handgun, all loaded, and 1,337 rounds of ammunition in the cab, plus six more guns and 3,800 rounds in the truck.

The prosecutor said, "This trooper found a time bomb ready to go off. Fortunately he got to it before it did. Did Mr. Martz think Trooper Fulton was after him that day? Mr. Martz thinks everyone's after him. He's out there to protect us. From what? From whom? I submit that we need to be protected from him."

The jury deliberated only a few hours before returning a guilty verdict. The judge, saying he would "not let the militia intimidate the judiciary," gave him two years in prison. Martz looked stunned.

Amen. Sometimes our system works.

New items added to library's collection

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas announces the addition of the following books to their collection.

NON FICTION

"In-Line Skaters" by Doug Werner  
 "In Contempt" by Christopher A. Darden with Jess Walters  
 "The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life" by Thomas Moore.

FICTION

"The Hippopotamus Pool" by Elizabeth Peters  
 "Walking After Midnight" by Karen Robards  
 "Now Face to Face" by Karleen Koen  
 "Love, Again" by Doris May Lessing  
 "Almost Adam" by Petru Popescu  
 "The Ugly Duckling" by Iris Johansen  
 "Neanderthal" by John Darnton  
 "Rose" by Martin Cruz Smith  
 "In Heaven As on Earth: A Vision of the Afterlife" by M. Scott Peck  
 "Dust and Ashes" by Anatoli Naumovich Rybakov  
 "The Names of The Dead" by Stewart O'Nan  
 "Sudden Prey" by John Sandford  
 "Her Own Rules" by Barbara Taylor Bradford  
 "The Pyramid" by Ismail Kadare  
 "The Rosewood Casket" by Sharyn McCrumb  
 "The Mouse on the Mile" by Stephen King  
 "Grand Jury" by Philip Friedman  
 "Notorious" by Janet Dailey  
 "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry  
 "The Runaway Jury" by John Grisham  
 "The Zero Hour" by Joseph Finder  
 "White Smoke" by Andrew M. Greeley  
 "The Fourth Estate" by Jeffrey Archer  
 "Drink With the Devil" by Jack Higgins  
 "Anything Considered" by Peter Mayle  
 "Annapolis" by William Martin  
 "Timepiece" by Richard Paul Evans  
 "Black Market" by James Patterson

"The Yellow Arrow" by Victor Pelevin  
 "Tarnished Gold" by V.C. Andrews  
 "The Magnificent Savages" by Fred Mustard Stewart  
 "Marry Me" by Pat Booth  
 "Fear" by Anatoli Naumovich Rybakov  
 "Babel Tower" by A.S. Byatt

LARGE PRINT

"Superstoe" by William Borden  
 "The Road Ahead" by Bill Gates  
 "Trial by Fire" by Nancy Taylor Rosenburg  
 "Breakfast In Bed" by Sandra Brown  
 "Amanda" by Kay Hooper  
 "That Camden Summer" by LaVyrle Spencer  
 "Silent Night" by Mary Higgins Clark  
 "A Forbidden Loving" by Penny Jordan  
 "All Rivers Run to the Sea: Memoirs" by Elie Wiesel  
 "The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams" by Lawrence Block  
 "The Well-Mannered Assassin" by Aline Romanones  
 "The Horse You Came in On" by Martha Grimes  
 "Disclosure" by Michael Crichton  
 "The Forest House" by Marion Zimmer Bradley  
 "Honor Among Thieves" by Jeffrey Archer  
 "Lasher" by Anne Rice  
 "Hope" by Len Deighton  
 "Belinda Goes to Bath" by Marion Chesney  
 "Beatrice Goes to Brighton" by Marion Chesney  
 "The Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton  
 "Five Days in Paris" by Danielle Steel  
 "Love in Another Town" by Barbara Taylor Bradford  
 "The Listening Sky" by Dorothy Garlock  
 "Running From the Law" by Lisa Scottoline  
 "Variation On a Theme" by Barbara Delinsky  
 "The Messiah Stones" by Irving Benig

MYSTERY

"Firestorm" by Nevada Barr  
 "That Day the Rabbi Left Town" by Harry Kemelman  
 "Hotel Paradise" by Martha Grimes  
 "Rumpole and the Angel of Death" by John Clifford Mortimer  
 "Stable Cat" by Allen Garrison

SCIENCE FICTION

"Cradle of Splendor" by Patricia Anthony  
 "Shadows of the Empire" by Steve Perry  
 "Stone of Tears" by Terry Goodkind  
 "The Ganymede Club" by Charles Sheffield  
 "Brightness Reef" by David Brin  
 "The Final Magic" by Isaac Asimov  
 "Legacy" by Greg Bear

VIDEO CASSETTE

"The Magic School Bus Plays Ball"  
 "The Magic School Bus Inside Ralphie"  
 "The Magic School Bus Hops Home"  
 "The Magic School Bus For Lunch"  
 "The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm"  
 "The Magic School Bus Inside the Haunted House"  
 "The Magic School Bus Gets Lost in Space"  
 "The Magic School Bus Gets Eaten"  
 "The Magic School Bus Goes to Seed"

AUDIO TAPES

"That Camden Summer" by LaVyrle Spencer  
 "Five Days in Paris" by Danielle Steel

YOUNG ADULT

"All That Glitters" by Jean Ferris  
 "Ghost Horses" by Pamela Smith Hill

BIOGRAPHY

"An Unquiet Mind" by Kay R. Jamison

SPECIAL DONATIONS OF AUDIO TAPES

"The Volcano Lover" by Susan Sontag  
 "Flow" by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi  
 "Charles Kuralt's America" by Charles Kuralt

Lake Twp. recycling center open July 13

The Lake Township recycling center will be open July 13, 10 a.m.-12 noon, accepting aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass, plastic #1 and #2 only.



Poepperling earns scholarship

Dwayne A. Poepperling, 20 Greenwich Dr., Shavertown, recently received an Offset Paperback Mfrs. Scholarship. He is enrolled part-time in the Graphic Communications/Printing Technology program at Luzerne County Community College. Joe Makarewicz and Adam Crahall, Offset Paperback, congratulated Poepperling on his achievement.

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