

FBI responds to criticism of tear gas attack

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The FBI said its patience was never exhausted. But the bureau's decision to assault a Texas religious cult with tear gas and a battering ram — an assault that ended in fiery catastrophe — reflected at least an admission that 51 days of negotiations had failed.

The blame, federal officials insisted Monday, lay with David Koresh.

But questions about the federal handling of the siege won't be resolved quickly.

Why hadn't the FBI been willing to simply wait out the Branch Davidians? Why did the federal agents decide to strike when they did? Why weren't they better prepared for the possibility of fire, or mass suicide?

"It just seems to me law enforcement ran out of patience," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill. "The children and the women and the loss of human lives — wasn't there some other way and why wasn't it used?"

It was a long and frustrating road for the federal government from a botched firearms raid on Feb. 28 to Monday's blaze.

In the intervening weeks, the FBI tried every negotiating tactic in its quiver. It struck deals that were broken; it pleaded and argued and threatened; it shined bright lights and played loud music.

All for naught. Among the questions facing the government now is why the tactics were suddenly changed from negotiation and psychological warfare to aggressive, physical confrontation.

"At some point we had to up the ante," FBI spokesman Bob Ricks said. He added that the agency regretted the loss of life, but not its decision to increase the pressure on Koresh.

At dawn Monday, the FBI sent an armored combat vehicle to ram holes and blow tear gas into the cluster of buildings where the cultists were hunkered down. Several hours later, fire engulfed and destroyed the compound. The FBI said cultists started the blaze.

Sorority House

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column. According to Officer Kunkel, the damage to the structure and foundation, as well as the interior of the house, was extensive.

"The house is still inhabitable, but there is a crack in the wall all the way up to the second floor. There is a hug hole in their living room and a great deal of plaster

and insulation were found lying on the floor when we arrived. There is probably at least \$50,000 worth of damage to the house," Kunkel said.

As the car was slowly pulled out of the leaves and away from the house, onlookers were shocked to see that the car had sustained very minor damages.

"Surprisingly enough, the vehicle was not significantly hurt (it had a dented bumper and a flat

tire) considering the amount of damage it caused," Kunkel said.

Delta Zeta's House Corporations President, April Eyeington said the damage is still being evaluated, and no exact dollar amount has been determined.

She said the house is safe to live in, and repairs have already begun. Eyeington refused to comment on any legal action that the sorority might be undertaking.

What's Up

Tuesday

TAMU Freestyle Skate Club: A general meeting and group skate, weather permitting, tonight at 8 p.m. at Rudder Fountain. Beginners and advanced inline skaters are invited. For more information, call Bryan (847-1606).

Aggie Wranglers: Informational meeting for Aggie Wrangler tryouts. It is mandatory that the couples attend of the informational meetings (19th or 20th). Meet in room 308 of Rudder this evening from 5:45-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Clint Heath or Blaine Morgan (846-3815).

Pre-Law Society: Last general meeting, speaker: Daniel Hernandez, from the Texas A&M general counsel. All members encouraged to come! Meet tonight at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder Tower. For more information, call David McLean (696-8913).

Compensation & Salary Analysis Seminar: The Career Center is offering a seminar to help students learn to analyze salaries and benefits packages for better decision making about job offers. Meet at 10 a.m. in 404 Rudder. For more information, call the Career Center (845-5139).

Resume Writing Seminar: Meet today at 2 p.m. in 302 Rudder if interested in a seminar to help develop resume writing skills. For more information, call the Career Center (845-5139).

Eta Sigma Delta-International Hospitality Management Honor Society: Fundraiser for the Jimmy V. Fund and the American Cancer Society. Events include: Dunk Tank; Free-throw shooting contest; and

Grape Stomp contest. The event will be located by Francis Hall and the old Chemistry Bldg. from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. today. For more information, call Jason Lewis (846-8903).

FCA Cowboy Chapters/ Cowboys for Christ: A meeting will be held in the Dick Freeman Arena tonight at 7 p.m. For more information, call Bobby Davis (778-0321).

TAMU Photography Club: Accepting entries for the Spring '93 Photo Contest at the MSC University Plus crafts until Thursday, April 22. Rules will be posted there. For more information, call Curtis 9847-5001, Alan (693-9541), or Keith (847-2597).

The Medicine Tribe: A general meeting will be held today at 5:30 p.m. to prepare for the KKK Rally, Earthday, and other items. Meet behind Sul Ross Statue, in the Academic Bldg. if raining.

Environmental Issues Committee and Texas Environmental Action Coalition: Opening ceremony of Earth Day Extravaganza including student leaders, speakers, informational and game tables, live music and more... Starting today at 11 a.m.-4 p.m. until Thursday. For more information, call Carrie Thompson (847-3461).

Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences Club: Last general meeting of the year. Vote for 93-94 officers. Find out about banquet. Meet today at 7 p.m. in 202 Francis.

TAMU Flying Club: A general meeting with guest speaker - Jerry Voss from American Airlines. Meet at the clubhouse tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Kyler Trace (696-6255).

Liberal Arts Student Council: A liberal arts career fair will be held in the MSC Flagroom from 10-4 p.m. For more information, call Marshall Love (822-9538).

Floriculture Ornamental Horticulture Club: Greenhouse work party-maintenance, transplanting, propagation. Anyone interested in plants are welcome. Free meal after work party in the FOH greenhouse. Meet tonight at 6 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous: A general discussion will be held today at the Rainbow Center from 12:30-1:30 p.m. For more information, call the CDPE (845-0280).

Preparation for the TASP-Reading: These sessions are designed to prepare students for the state-mandated TASP test. Topics to be reviewed include skills necessary to succeed on the test, questions to likely be on the test, and general test-taking strategies. Meet tonight from 6-8 p.m. in 242 Blocker. FREE. Register in advance in 241 Blocker. For more information, call the Center for Academic Enhancement (845-2724).

TAMU Spanish Club: An evening with Octavio Paz - cultural credit for SPAN 101 & 102 students. Tonight at seven in MSC 206. Call Amy at 847-2328.

What's Up is a Battalion service which lists non-profit events and activities. Items for What's Up should be submitted no later than three days before the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not run in What's Up. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

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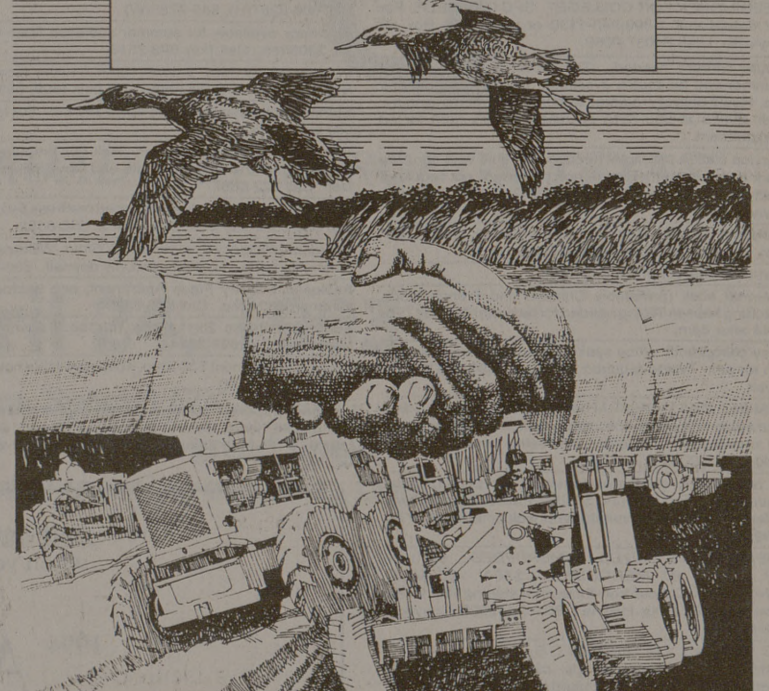
The deadline for turning in applications is 5 p.m. Monday, April 26. Interviews will be conducted on Friday, April 30 and Monday, May 3.

For more information, contact Michelle Kaye at 845-2682.

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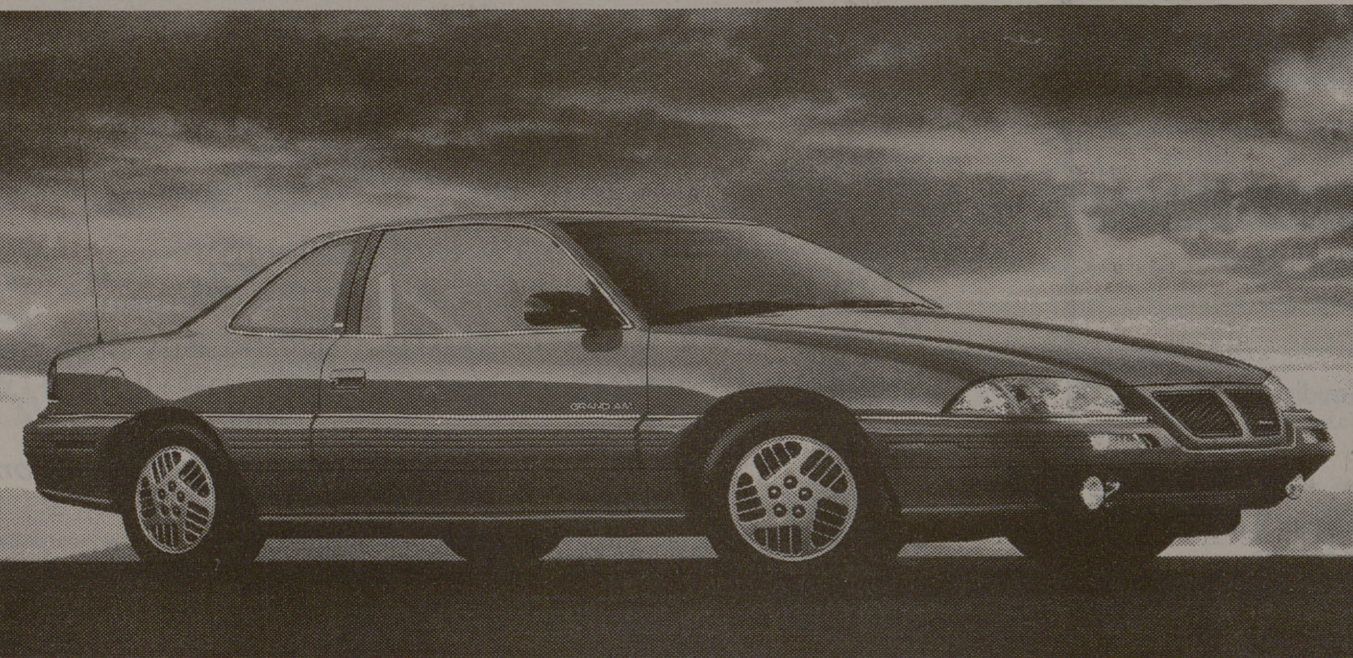
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