

Ash Grove firebombed

Cuban exiles strike again

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Cuban terrorists have struck once again in Los Angeles. Armed with an M-1 semi-automatic carbine and a 38 caliber automatic, three Cuban exiles firebombed the Ash Grove, America's oldest folk music concert hall and a movement center for years. This was the third violent attack in less than two weeks attributed to the Cuban exiles.

At approximately 6 pm, Sunday, June 7, three armed men entered the building of the Ash Grove. They accosted Gordon Alexander and Lee Stone, two employees, and forced them to lie face down on the floor. According to Alexander, the Cubans sprayed mace in his face when he asked what was going on.

One other employee, Berta Slote, was inside the building at the time of the attack. A Cuban came into the office where she was working and began cutting the phone lines. As the man was busy making the phones useless, Berta ran outside and called the police and fire departments from a phone across the street.

After the Cubans forced Stone and Alexander to lie on the floor, they began pouring kerosene around the building. Then, according to Alexander, the attackers said that this was going to be a "benefit for the people who had held a benefit for the Haymarket." (The Haymarket was firebombed by Cubans April 13 and the Ash Grove helped by giving them some tickets to sell.)

The kerosene was then ignited and the invaders fled out the door. Two waitresses who work at the Ash Grove were just entering the building as the armed invaders charged out the door. A police car which happened to be driving by at the time saw the waitresses screaming and directed their attention to the fleeing suspects. The father of one of the waitresses, having just dropped his daughter off at work,

pulled his car in front of the suspects' car and slowed them down. The LAPD car turned around and apprehended the suspects at Melrose and Crescent, walking distance from the Ash Grove.

According to LAPD Press Officer Robert Arguello, the suspects were apprehended with a loaded 38 automatic, a loaded M-1 semi-automatic carbine, a bull whip, and two ski caps.

The three suspects have been arrested, on a complaint filed by the Fire Department, on charges of arson. At the present time, no charges have been filed on assault or other related violations. This was the first time anyone had been arrested in connection with the recent wave of terrorist bombings.

Ed Pearl, owner of the Ash Grove, said on Tuesday that he would file charges on the three arrested Cubans. In a statement, Pearl called on Mayor Yorty and the City Council to investigate the matter. The attack on the Ash Grove is a carbon copy of other attacks and Pearl feels that a conspiracy exists.

In another statement, Pearl has come out in full support of the Citizen's Committee for the Right of Free Expression. The Committee was formed following the firebombing of the Socialist Workers Party (last week's Freep.) It will attempt to obtain the arrest and conviction of all those involved in the recent series of terrorist attacks in Los Angeles.

To accomplish this, the Committee will attempt to generate massive public support. It will do this by obtaining solidarity statements, sending delegations to city officials and a petition-letter writing campaign.

Any person interested in signing the solidarity petition or volunteering much-needed time should contact the Citizen's Committee, 1704 E. 4th St., Los Angeles, 90033 or call AN9-4953 or 262-4670.