While thousands waited to hear Arlo Guthrie sing at the People's Bicentennial Commission rally on the far side of the Concord River, the official celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Concord continued, with "Minutemen" firing muskets on the Old North Bridge.

PBC: no glimpse of the revolution

(Continued from page 1)

were not talking to each other in the crowd, in fact, maybe no one was even listening. It was all quite unemotional — just self-serving for those on stage. The rhetoric was stale and has been horrendously oversold; the priorities of those gathered — seeing Peter Seeger and Arlo Guthrie — were misplaced. It was marginally satisfying to boo Gerald Ford across the Concord River, and to shake one's head at the size of the contingent of planes, helicopters and boats, and of the veritable modern-day militia protecting Ford.

But in terms of rekindling any sort of revolutionary spark in the US (or even in the Concord microcosm), or in terms of "sending a message to Wall Street," the event was a failure. A rebirth of radicalism? Hardly. An impressive display against the Presidency and the US economic/political structure? Even less the case.

The whole night and day spent in the mud of Concord served only to make me a bit more skeptical of the possibility of change in the American societal structure and even more of an embittered cynic. I'm glad I walked; that small feeling of accomplishment is probably the only positive feature I'll remember about the People's Bicentennial.

(Continued from page 1)