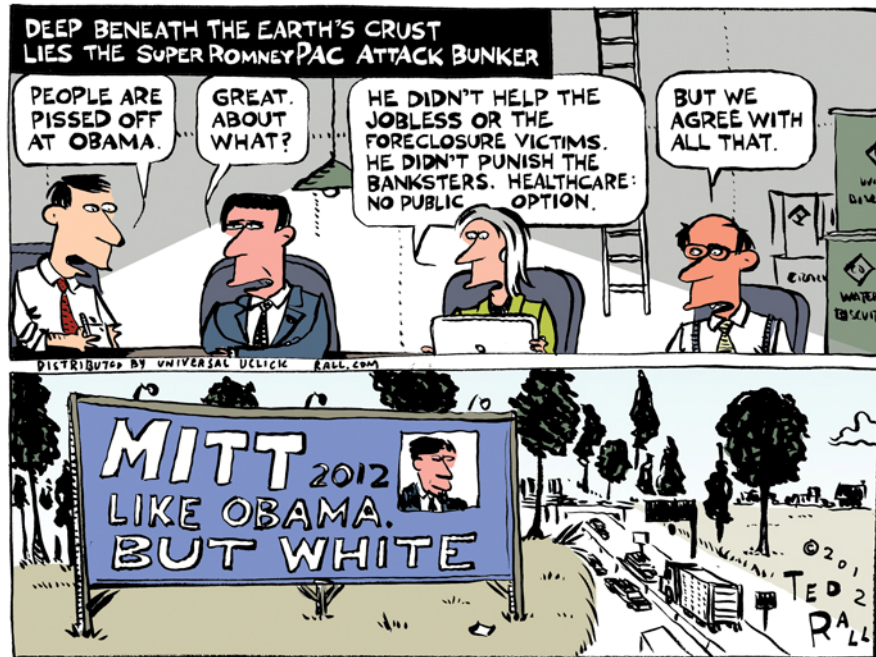


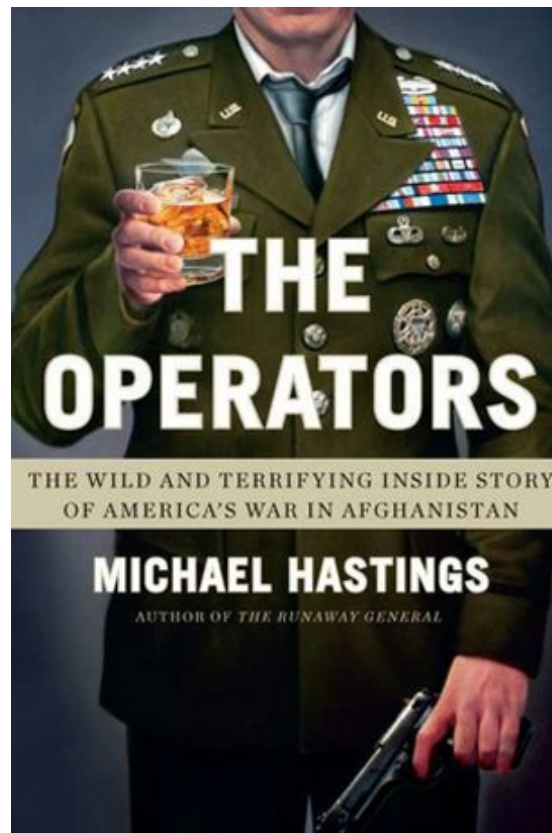
Military Resistance 10E16



“Hastings Shows The Troops Challenging The War And Disagreeing With McChrystal. One Soldier Tells Him, ‘Fuck McChrystal’”

“At A Meeting On Their Forward Operating Base, Soldiers Tell The General They’re Losing The War

**And They Reject
Counterinsurgency Doctrine”
“Readers Will Hate The War Machine
And The Four-Star Generals That
Cynically Operate It, Sending
Soldiers To Their Deaths For Empire”
David Petraeus And Stanley McChrystal:
“Cold, Calculating, Career Ladder
Climbing Killers Who Are Clueless About
Military Strategy And Who Lived In A
Dense Bubble Surrounded By Yes Men”**



Hastings writes toward the end of the book, “The simple and terrifying reality, forbidden from discussion in America, was that despite spending \$600 billion a year on the military, despite having the best fighting force the world has ever known, they were getting their asses kicked by illiterate peasants who made bombs out of manure and wood.”

Book Review: *The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America’s War in Afghanistan*; Michael Hastings; Blue Rider Press, 2012; 432 pages; \$27.95

Reviewed by Helen Redmond, International Socialist Review; May-June 2012

One of the most satisfying aspects of Michael Hastings new book, *The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America’s War in Afghanistan*, is how the good guys in the war in Afghanistan actually turn out to be the bad guys.

If you only read books by stenographer journalists who copy press releases written by the State Department and embed only with US troops — there are gobs of them — you might think American generals like David Petraeus and Stanley McChrystal really did intend to win the “hearts and minds” of the Afghan people, instead of seeing these generals for what they really are: cold, calculating, career ladder climbing killers who are clueless about military strategy and who lived in a dense bubble surrounded by Yes Men.

A contributing editor for Rolling Stone, Hastings has semi-rock-star status, and he uses it to his advantage. His prose is surly, full of F-bombs, and unencumbered by the journalistic pretension to be objective.

Hastings doesn’t write neutrally. He doesn’t just want to tell stories — although he has great ones. He wants to get at the truth.

After finishing the book, readers will hate the war machine and the four-star generals that cynically operate it, sending soldiers to their deaths for empire.

That is a triumph of reporting.

The Operators exposes how the Pentagon’s “Information Operations” systematically manipulates the media.

“The Pentagon had about twenty-seven thousand people working on public relations [in Iraq], spending \$4.7 billion in a single year,” Hastings reveals.

“We co-opted the media on that one,” McChrystal confides about Iraq.

That the media obediently spins the war in Afghanistan, Hastings book provides ample evidence. Using a timeline from 2001 up to 2008, Hastings lays out all the mainstream media declarations of success and progress in Afghanistan, despite overwhelming, documented evidence to the contrary.

In his chapter "A Short History of a Horrible Idea," he traces the origins of modern counterinsurgency (COIN) policy and demolishes the deceit that is counterinsurgency and the "COINdinistas" that promote it.

The book exposes the presidential election fraud in 2009 that was facilitated by Kai Eide, the former United Nations special representative to Afghanistan.

Eide is given proof by numerous Afghan election officials and Peter Galbraith, his number-two man at the United Nations, that the Karzai election was riddled with fraud.

Eide insists it is not, and warns Galbraith not to talk to the media about the "ghost polling" centers he saw all around the country.

Hastings writes that, according to Galbraith, "Eide wants to avoid a runoff, which means Karzai has to get over 50 percent of the vote. Eide wants to count the fraudulent votes to get Karzai over the top."

Galbraith is fired and goes on to publicly accuse the UN of helping to cover up election fraud in Afghanistan.

Hastings joins McChrystal's entourage in Paris as they drunkenly stagger around Europe like ugly Americans.

At formal receptions in five star hotels and military academies the general, who despises public events and dinners with dignitaries, tries to convince French and German generals with PowerPoint presentations and stale speeches printed on index cards to commit more troops to Afghanistan.

McChrystal's main message: Man Up! At the all male posse after-parties fueled by Bud Light Lime and surges of testosterone, the gay "jokes" are de rigueur. McChrystal and Co.'s contempt for the people of Afghanistan is on full display when they start to do an Afghan wedding dance and make up a song with a chorus that they all shout: "AFGHANISTAN! AFGHANISTAN!"

Hastings doesn't drink alcohol when he's on assignment so he can think clearly about what he hears and sees. He takes a break from the war, flies to Dubai and checks into the Atlantis Palm Hotel. He binge drinks to deal with his PTSD.

Still in his twenties, Hastings has been traumatized by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He survived a suicide bombing, saw severed body parts, and watched as a medic stopped profuse bleeding from the groin of an Afghan teen. His girlfriend was murdered in Iraq.

Questioning his work, he writes: "The correspondent's identity becomes inseparable from war. His essence, his habits, his worldview, prestige, personal life." After a three-day diet of alcohol and cigarettes, Hastings, the war junkie, heads back to Afghanistan for more war.

The book doesn't glamorize war, or make heroes out of soldiers.

Instead, Hastings shows the troops challenging the war and disagreeing with McChrystal. One soldier tells him, “Fuck McChrystal.”

At a meeting on their forward operating base, soldiers tell the general that they’re losing the war and they reject counterinsurgency doctrine.

One soldier says, “Ninety percent of the people here are not friendly. All they want is to kill us. Everybody else is watching the way we come in to put in the IEDs.”

Hastings notes that IEDs are responsible for more than 60 percent of American casualties. But McChrystal can’t feel the troop’s pain. He says, “That’s the way the game is, it’s complex.” McChrystal is also a master of putting a spin on unpleasant truths. As commander of special ops, McChrystal led a cover up of Pat Tillman’s death by friendly fire, and lied to Tillman’s parents and to the press.

In his must-read chapter “An Army of None,” Hastings nixes the notion that American and Afghan soldiers trust or even like one another.

A study by American trainers asked 600 Afghans and 500 American soldiers to list complaints about each side. The list sums up the futility of the US training Afghans to “take over” their own country.

Verbatim quotes from the Afghans include:

US soldiers kill many innocent civilians. They always shout and yell “motherfucker.” They are crazy. They are too arrogant. They treat us like thieves. They will break doors in before the people can answer.

They pee all over, right in front of civilians, including females. Two soldiers even defecated within public view.

Verbatim quotes from American soldiers on Afghans include:

They are high as fuck. They are totally infiltrated by insurgents. Theft among them is bad. They are garbage, shit. These guys are not soldiers: they are a rag tag bunch of thugs and civilians dressed in uniforms. They fucking stink. I’d just as soon shoot them as work with them. The people don’t want us here and we don’t like them.

Throughout the book, Hastings grapples with reporting the truth, knowing it could mean he’ll be denied access to military personnel, his sources won’t go on record, and he’ll be blacklisted. He constantly feels the pull of the green giant, the US war machine, the bloody bubble, but luckily for his readers, he remains outside of it.

The Operators is a vitally important book because it gets behind the scenes and reveals what the warmongers really think and do. It’s written in clear, accessible, and engaging language for a mass audience.

Hastings writes toward the end of the book, “The simple and terrifying reality, forbidden from discussion in America, was that despite spending \$600 billion a year on the military, despite having the best fighting force the world has ever

known, they were getting their asses kicked by illiterate peasants who made bombs out of manure and wood.”

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

27 May 2012 AP

Four foreign service members were killed in separate roadside bomb attacks in southern Afghanistan.

All four deaths occurred Saturday. There were no details on the attacks, including the nationalities of the service members.

One is thought to be a British soldier killed Saturday in an explosion in the Nahr-e Saraj region of southern Helmand province. The British Ministry of Defense announced late Saturday that the soldier died while traveling in a vehicle.

Another service member died Friday in an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan. No details have been given on that death.

Soldier From 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh Killed In Nahr-e Saraj

26 May 12 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce the death of a soldier from 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh in Helmand Province today, 26 May 2012.

The soldier was on a patrol providing security in the Nahr-e Saraj region of Helmand Province when the vehicle in which he was travelling was caught in the blast from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Bragg GI Dies Of Wounds Received In Afghanistan

May 21, 2012 Army Times

A Fort Bragg, N.C.-based soldier died Saturday of wounds he received last month in Afghanistan, the Pentagon announced Monday.

Spc. Samuel T. Watts, 20, of Wheaton, Ill., died May 19, in Bethesda, Md., of wounds sustained April 25, in Zharay, Afghanistan, when he was attacked with an enemy improvised explosive device.

Watts was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Lucerne Valley Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Army shows Sgt. Brian L. Walker. U.S. Army Alaska officials identified Walker of Lucerne Valley, Calif., as one of two military policemen who died in Afghanistan Sunday, May 13, 2012 in Bowri Tana, Khost Province, Afghanistan.

May 16, 2012 By Kris Reilly, Staff Writer; Victorville Daily Press

LUCERNE VALLEY

A 25-year-old soldier from Lucerne Valley was killed on Mother's Day while serving in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense has announced.

Sgt. Brian L. Walker died Sunday near Bowri Tana, Afghanistan, when a vehicle under his command was hit with an improvised explosive device. Pfc. Richard L. McNulty III, 22, of Rolla, Mo., was also killed during the attack, and three other soldiers were wounded.

John Cosato, a Navy veteran, displays pictures of local military members on the wall of his Lucerne Valley Barber Shop; among them is a snapshot of Walker in his Army fatigues, flashing the bright smile he was known for.

"He was one of the best kids we had in this town," said Cosato, who had cut Walker's hair since Walker was in elementary school. "Everybody has an enemy, but I didn't know anyone who didn't like Brian. ... It's always sad when we lose someone over there, but it hits a lot harder when it's someone you know."

Walker attended Lucerne Valley High School and was an officer in the FFA program there. LVHS agriculture teacher Troy Van Bavel said Walker was "a really nice kid" who had a lot of friends and worked hard to show his FFA projects at the San Bernardino County Fair during his three years with the program.

Karol Thompson, who worked at the high school while Walker attended there, accompanied him on a student trip to London during the 2004-05 school year and said Walker was the jokester of the group.

“He had a great sense of humor and he was very kind,” Thompson said. “He made jokes and he was just a happy-go-lucky guy.”

Cosato said Walker worked at a local animal feed store before joining the Army in 2007. Walker’s friend Anthony Vasquez said Walker had gotten married relatively recently.

Walker served at Fort Bragg, N.C., before arriving at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska in August 2011. This was Walker’s second deployment to Afghanistan. His previous deployment was from May 2009 to May 2010.

Walker was the commander of the vehicle at the time of the attack and McNulty was the driver, the release stated. Both were military policemen assigned to the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. The Army has already notified Walker’s next of kin.

An Army media relations official said the base would have a memorial ceremony for both soldiers — in addition to whatever local services the family may hold — but a date has not been set.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: Mother, Father And Six Kids Butchered In Suri Khail

May 27, 2012 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan - Afghan authorities said on Sunday that an airstrike by the U.S. killed eight members of a family in eastern Afghanistan.

Rohullah Samon, a spokesman for the governor of Paktia province, said Mohammad Shafi, his wife and their six children died in an airstrike around 8 p.m. in Suri Khail village of Gurda Saria district.

"Shafi was not a Taliban. He was not in any opposition group against the government. He was a villager," Samon said. "Right now, we are working on this case to find out the ages of their children and how many of them are boys and girls."

“Why Are Attacks By Afghan Soldiers On NATO Forces Increasing, Killing 35 Last Year And 22 So Far This Year?”

**“Because The Afghans Feel Disrespected, The Soldiers Say”
The Americans “Are Giving Us Old Weapons And Try To Make Them Look New With Polish And Paint. We Don’t Want Their Throwaways”**

“When We Have Shooting Practice I Have To Look At Two Things: How My Soldier Is Shooting And That He Doesn’t Fire At The U.S. Soldiers”

When foreign forces patrol with Afghan forces, “they don’t respect us. When we see that they don’t have respect we get angry. Even myself, I have seen how they behave in Afghanistan. They have sometimes been cruel.”

May 20, 2012 By Kathy Gannon, The Associated Press

GARDEZ, Afghanistan —

They say their M16s are dust-prone antiques. Their boots fall apart after a couple of months, they complain, and many of their helmets are cracked and patched. Yet they set out on patrol.

They are the men of the Afghan National Army, the critical part of the huge machine being built to protect Afghanistan's security after the NATO alliance is gone in less than three years.

An Associated Press reporter and photographer traveling with Afghan army forces in Logar and Paktia provinces are hearing a mix of messages from dozens of officers and enlisted men.

Why are attacks by Afghan soldiers on NATO forces increasing, killing 35 last year and 22 so far this year?

Because the Afghans feel disrespected, the soldiers say.

Handing out inferior equipment is disrespectful; burning Korans, however accidental, is disrespectful; urinating on dead bodies, even Taliban, as video that emerged in January showed U.S. troops doing, is disrespectful.

Washington spent more than \$20 billion in 2010-2011 on training and equipping a 352,000 strong army and police force — one of the costliest projects ever undertaken by the Pentagon.

Yet the footsoldiers don't have night-vision goggles to go after the Taliban under cover of darkness.

At the rock-strewn firing range of the 203 Thunder Corps in Paktia province, Sgt. Said Aga recalled his M16 jamming in the middle of a fierce firefight with the Taliban, and grimaced as his young charges aired their gripes about the Vietnam-era firearm.

"The Americans have really much better equipment than us," he said. "Our vehicles and weapons are very weak compared to theirs."

A soldier named Abdul Karim said he'd prefer a 30-year-old Russian-made Kalashnikov to an M16.

The Americans "are giving us old weapons and try to make them look new with polish and paint. We don't want their throwaways," he said.

Most American troops in Afghanistan carry the M4, a shorter version of the M16. Both models have been criticized by some in the military for jamming in harsh conditions and requiring greater maintenance.

The Kalashnikov is known as an easier-upkeep, all-conditions weapon, fueling its popularity in the developing world.

At the firing range, the complaints flew thick and fast.

Col. Abdul Haleem Noori grabbed a young recruit's foot to show a gash in the heel of his boot.

"It's only two months old and it is falling apart, and we are told it is supposed to last one year," he said.

The footwear was made by a manufacturer under contract to the Afghan Ministry of Defense.

Even the 3-year-old army band bemoans their equipment, including soldered trumpets dating back to the 1970s.

The conversation with Aga, the firing range instructor, shifted from poor equipment to the disturbingly high number of so-called "green-on-blue" attacks, a U.S. military term for Afghan soldiers killing their NATO counterparts.

Aga, a squat man with piercing brown eyes, gave off a strange mix of resentment, envy and appreciation.

Then he explained the issue of respect.

When foreign forces patrol with Afghan forces, "they don't respect us. When we see that they don't have respect we get angry. Even myself, I have seen how they behave in Afghanistan. They have sometimes been cruel. I saw in operations they have entered mosques, I have seen this myself."

Another complaint: The foreigners don't let civilians drive in front of their convoys even if they are rushing a sick person to treatment, referring to the heavy security measures U.S. troops impose around their vehicles.

Because of the attacks, international soldiers are no longer present at firing ranges, said Col. Asif Khan Saburi, in charge of recruit training in five provinces.

"When we have shooting practice I have to look at two things: How my soldier is shooting and that he doesn't fire at the U.S. soldiers," he said.

Cobbling together an army in a nation at war for more than 30 years is daunting, said Saburi. Education has been stunted, ethnic divisions have hardened and the country is awash with weapons.

At corps and brigade headquarters, soldiers are barred from carrying weapons because any altercation might explode into gunfire.

They have taken hundreds of battle casualties, but good men alone don't make a good army, he says, adding: "An army is an army that is completely equipped."

RESISTANCE ACTION

Fareed Ayal, a spokesman for the police in Uruzgan province, says a police vehicle hit a roadside mine Friday in Chora district, killing one police inspector and wounding two other policeman.

In Kandahar province, police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq says a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up in Spin Boldak district Friday, wounding one border policeman and two civilians.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from Alpha troop, 4-73 Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division break a new firing position in a wall during a mission in the Maiwand district of Kandahar province, April 10, 2012. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

MILITARY NEWS

**“Our Enemies Are Not 7,000
Miles From Home”
“They Sit In Boardrooms. They
Are CEOs. They Are Bankers.
They Are Hedge Fund Managers”
“They Are The Millionaires And
Billionaires Who Control This Planet,
And We’ve Had Enough Of It”
“So They Can Take Their Medals Back”**



May 21, 2012 Democracy Now!; The War and Peace Report [Excerpts]

**[Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War throwing away their
medals in Chicago]**

VINCE EMANUELE:

**My name is Vince Emanuele, and I served with the United States Marine Corps.
First and foremost, this is for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**Second of all, this is for our real forefathers. I’m talking about the Student
Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. I’m talking about the Black Panthers. I’m
talking about the civil rights movement. I’m talking about unions.**

I'm talking about our socialist brothers and sisters, our communist brothers and sisters, our anarchist brothers and sisters, and our ecology brothers and sisters.

That's who our real forefathers are.

And lastly—and lastly and most importantly, our enemies are not 7,000 miles from home.

They sit in boardrooms.

They are CEOs. They are bankers. They are hedge fund managers.

They do not live 7,000 miles from home.

Our enemies are right here, and we look at them every day. They are not the men and women who are standing on this police line.

They are the millionaires and billionaires who control this planet, and we've had enough of it. So they can take their medals back.

SCOTT KIMBALL:

My name is Scott Kimball. I'm an Iraq war vet.

And I'm turning in these medals today for the people of Pakistan, Iraq, Palestine, and all victims of occupation across the world. And also, for all the servicemembers and veterans who are against these wars, you are not alone!

JASON HURD:

My name is Jason Hurd. I spent 10 years in the United States Army as a combat medic. I deployed to Baghdad in 2004. I'm here to return my Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in solidarity with the people of Iraq and the people of Afghanistan. I am deeply sorry for the destruction that we have caused in those countries and around the globe. I am proud to stand on this stage with my fellow veterans and my Afghan sisters.

These were lies. I'm giving them back.

MAGGIE MARTIN:

My name is Maggie Martin. I was a sergeant in the Army. I did two tours in Iraq. No amount of medals, ribbons or flags can cover the amount of human suffering caused by these wars. We don't want this garbage. We want our human rights. We want our right to heal.

IRIS FELICIANO:

My name is Iris Feliciano. I served in the Marine Corps. And in January of 2002, I deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

And I want to tell the folks behind us, in these enclosed walls, where they build more policies based on lies and fear, that we no longer stand for them.

We no longer stand for their lies, their failed policies and these unjust wars. Bring our troops home and end the war now. They can have these back.

ASH WOOLSON:

My name is Ash Woolson. I was a sergeant. I was in Iraq in '03, and what I saw there crushed me. I don't want us to suffer this again, and I don't want our children to suffer this again, and so I'm giving these back!

JACOB CRAWFORD:

I'm Jacob Crawford. I went to Iraq and Afghanistan. And when they gave me these medals, I knew they were meaningless. I only regret not starting to speak up about how silly the war is sooner. I'm giving these back. Free Bradley Manning!

ZACH LAPORTE:

My name is Zach LaPorte, and I'm an Iraq war veteran from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Thank you. I'm giving back my medals today because

I feel like I was duped into an illegal war that was sold to me on the guise that I was going to be liberating the Iraqi people, when instead of liberating the people, I was liberating their oil fields.

SCOTT OLSEN:

My name is Scott Olsen. I have with me today—today I have with me my Global War on Terror Medal, Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal, National Defense Medal and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

These medals, once upon a time, made me feel good about what I was doing. They made me feel like I was doing the right thing. And I came back to reality, and I don't want these anymore.

AARON HUGHES:

My name is Aaron Hughes. I served in the Illinois Army National Guard from 2000 and 2006. This medal right here is for Anthony Wagner. He died last year.

This medal right here is for the one-third of the women in the military that are sexually assaulted by their peers. We talk about standing up for our sisters—we talk about standing up for our sisters in Afghanistan, and we can't even take care of our sisters here. And this medal right here is because I'm sorry. I'm sorry to all of you. I'm sorry.

NATE:

My name's Nate. I served in the U.S. Navy from '99 to 2003 and participated in the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. I was wrong to sign myself up for that. I apologize to the Iraqi and Afghani people for destroying your countries.



FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

The Government Of Quebec Had Best Be Afraid; Very, Very Afraid

<http://vimeo.com/42848523>

Posted on Friday afternoon, the beautiful black and white film [link above] shows protesters of all ages taking to the streets to protest the emergency law Bill 78.

Bill 78 limits the ability to protest by requiring groups to get police approval for demonstrations and restricting where they can take place, among other provisions.

People took up the percussive protest Thursday night in several towns and cities including Sorel, Longueuil, Chambly, Repentigny, Trois-Rivieres and even in Abitibi -- several hundred kilometres away from the hot spot of Montreal.

-- May 25, 2012 Michael Bolen, The Huffington Post Canada

**Where We Are Now:
“At A Certain Stage Of Their
Development, The Material
Productive Forces Of Society
Come Into Conflict With The
Property Relations Within The
Framework Of Which They Have
Hitherto Operated”
“From Forms Of Development Of The
Productive Forces These Relations
Turn Into Their Fetters”
“At That Point An Era Of Social
Revolution Begins”**

Preface To A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, Karl Marx, 1859 [Excerpt]

In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite, necessary relations, which are independent of their will, namely relations of production corresponding to a determinate stage of the development of their material forces of production.

The totality of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation, on which there arises a legal and political superstructure and to which there correspond definite forms of social consciousness.

The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life-process in general.

It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary it is their social being that determines their consciousness.

At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production or – what is merely a legal

expression for the same thing – with the property relations within the framework of which they have hitherto operated.

From forms of development of the productive forces these relations turn into their fetters.

At that point an era of social revolution begins.

With the change in the economic foundation, the whole immense superstructure is more slowly or more rapidly transformed.

In considering such transformations it is always necessary to distinguish between the material transformation of the economic conditions of production, which can be determined with the precision of natural science, and the legal, political, religious, artistic or philosophic – in short, ideological forms in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out.

Just as one does not judge an individual by what he thinks about himself, so one cannot judge such a period of transformation by its consciousness, but, on the contrary, this consciousness must be explained from the contradictions of material life, from the conflict existing between the social forces of production and the relations of production.

A social order never perishes before all the productive forces for which it is broadly sufficient have been developed, and new superior relations of production never replace older ones before the material conditions for their existence have matured within the womb of the old society.

Mankind thus inevitably sets itself only such tasks as can solve, since closer examination will always show that the task itself arises only when the material conditions for its solution are already present or at least in the process of formation.

Fixin' To Die Rag: Woodstock 1969

[It is absolutely impossible to hear this too many times.]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBdeCxJmcAo>

[And Another At No Extra Charge]

Fortunate Son:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7WtVJSJQaM&NR=1>

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Police Handcuffing 7-Year-Olds: The Brutality Unleashed On Kids With Disabilities In Our School Systems:

**“Autistic Student Evelyn Towry Made
National Headlines When She Was
Arrested After Becoming Agitated
Because Her Teacher Wouldn’t Let
Her Wear Her Favorite Cow Hoodie”
“A School To Prison Pipeline”**

By S.E. Smith, AlterNet [Excerpts]

There's a danger looming in schools today that's putting our nation's most vulnerable children at risk. Around the country, teachers and administrators are struggling to meet the needs of a growing population of disabled students, who are entering school environments ill-prepared to educate them responsibly, thanks to a lack of both adequate training and resources.

This lack of preparation for handling students' special needs is, in turn, sparking a disturbing and dangerous trend: the use of harmful "zero tolerance" policies that end in seclusion, restraint, expulsion and – too often – law enforcement intervention for the disabled children involved.

From coast to coast, the incidents are as heartbreaking as they are shocking:

In Brooklyn, NY, G.R., a 5-year-old autistic student, was traumatized when police were called to his school because he was having a temper tantrum. He was physically removed from the school by police, strapped to a stretcher, and when his family members tried to advocate for him, they were allegedly handcuffed.

His grandmother's ribs were broken in the altercation.

In Albuquerque, a 7-year-old with autism was handcuffed by police officers called to restrain him. His "offenses" included calling other children names, knocking over chairs, spitting, and shooting rubber bands at a police officer.

Tony Smith, a disabled student suing the Atlanta Police Department and his former school district, claims he was handcuffed to a filing cabinet for seven hours when the school investigated a crime that had taken place on campus. The officers involved, his suit argues, violated department policy and his civil rights.

In 2010, autistic student Evelyn Towry made national headlines when she was arrested after becoming agitated because her teacher wouldn't let her wear her favorite cow hoodie.

Her Individualized Education Plan (IEP) detailing her needs and how they should be met specifically included a clause allowing the school to contact law enforcement in the event of disruptive behavior, though her parents claimed they neither saw nor approved the document.

Such situations are growing extremely common across the United States, with school districts calling on police to handle routine disciplinary infractions rather than dealing with them on their own.

Many have adopted harsh zero-tolerance policies, where infractions are handled with a one-size-fits-all model, regardless of age, ability or the larger context in which they took place.

These policies can effectively set some students on the path of what the Florida ACLU calls a school to prison pipeline -- and, notably, many of the victims of this system, like Salecia, are minorities.

The increased use of law enforcement to deal with behavioral issues in schools gained heightened attention this year when Salecia Johnson, age 6, had a temper tantrum in her principal's office, and was handcuffed and detained by local police as a result.

She was so traumatized by the experience that she has trouble sleeping at night – and she's not the only one.

Racial disparities when it comes to school discipline are well-established in the United States; students of color are twice as likely as their white peers to be subject to out-of-school suspensions, according to the Department of Education's 2012 Civil Rights Data Collection.

Yet often, there's more to these cases than meets the eye, because many of the minority students who find themselves harshly penalized also happen to be students with disabilities, many of them undiagnosed.

As funding for special education drops and available staff members dwindle – and as disabled students with behavioral problems are increasingly mainstreamed in response to changing thinking on disability education – discipline is becoming a large problem in a growing number of mainstream classrooms.

In response, some districts have decided to bring out the heavy guns for handling disruptions associated with disabled students; from outbursts in class to tantrums in the hall, the new go-to solution in many districts is to call the police.

In addition to calling on law enforcement, Disability Rights Oregon notes that there has been an uptick in the use of restraint and seclusion in schools, as well.

The organization points out that these practices appear to disproportionately target disabled students, and can be fatal in some cases.

Last month, 16-year-old Corey Foster died after police were called to restrain him.

Though Foster's disability status is unclear, he was attending a school for at-risk youth that included a number of students with disabilities, and his fellow students say restraint is a common disciplinary tactic.

In Jackson, Mississippi, students at an alternative school are routinely handcuffed for discipline infractions, and many of them have emotional or intellectual disabilities.

Such treatment of disabled students is not uncommon; the Judge Rotenberg Center, for example, has been under media scrutiny for years due to practices like shocking autistic students.

And study on the use of restraint in Texas schools has indicated a looming "crisis in special education" as growing numbers of disabled students are restrained by their teachers, sometimes unsafely because these teachers had never been trained to perform such techniques appropriately.

These cases involved school staff, not law enforcement, but they are part of a larger pattern of criminalizing disabled students that has been criticized by disability rights organizations.

In response to these reports, the National Disability Rights Network has called for an end to restraint and seclusion in US schools, and along with that comes a radical need to rethink the use of law enforcement in the management of disabled students.

Police officers are typically not provided with specific training in working with disabled children, let alone handling the de-escalation of a situation where a disabled child is frightened and potentially reactive.

Clearly, the use of police officers to assist with school discipline is out of proportion to the need, and yet it persists.

Some school districts, like Evelyn Towry's, mandate a law enforcement provision in IEPs, which allows the school to call police officers to assist with discipline problems, often under a vague mandate that could involve anything from an episode of extreme violence to stubbornness in the classroom.

So why the push to outsource discipline?

Blame austerity measures again, which, on top of poor disability funding to begin with, have hit a number of districts hard. That's a recipe for frustration, and sometimes danger, when it comes to providing a safe and educational environment for disabled students.

Teacher Alicia Maude Wein from Guildeland High School in New York explained to AlterNet via email how her classroom support had radically decreased:

“(Before), it was me, a co-teacher with a literacy/special ed degree, and three additional adults providing support--5 adults every day to the 18 kids. This year, after 2 rounds of deep budget cuts (in a relatively affluent suburban district), it's just me.

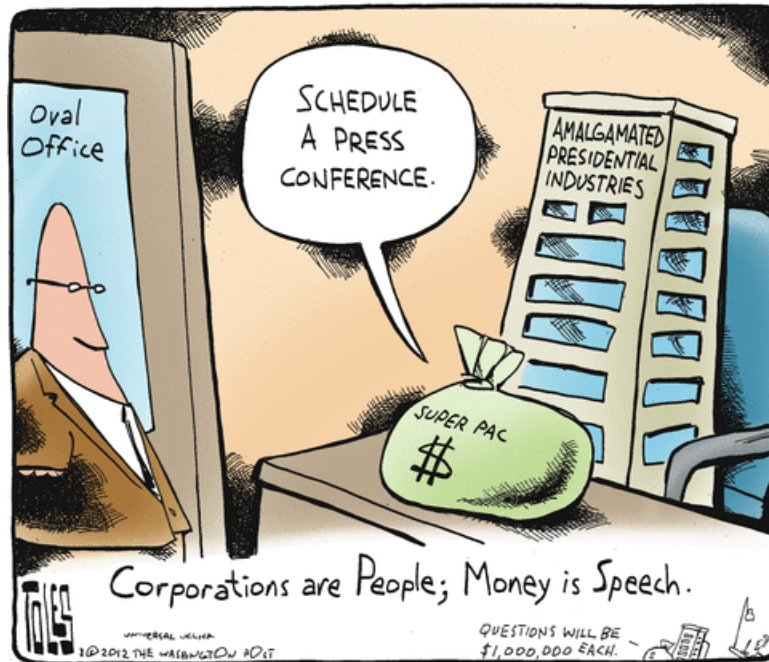
Overwhelmed by conditions like this, teachers struggle to keep order, and Wein says she understands why districts might be tempted to turn to outside options:

“I think similar circumstances (or worse) could be lending to the desperation that would sway some districts to call in outside supports like law enforcement (as grim, disrespectful, and embarrassing as that notion is) when things get out of control in the classroom.”

Poor training, funding cuts and increased pressure to teach to the test don't add up to much for the most vulnerable students in our schools – or many of the others, for that matter.

“Sadly,” Vicki Soloniuk points out, “we don't seem to care very much about our kids in this country.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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