

Military Resistance 13E11



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "We knew better back then."]

The Workplace From Hell: Some Material Reality From Oklahoma; “Workers Continued To Work As A Comrade And Co-Worker Lay Dying” “A Constant State Of Class War Is Evident Everywhere”

May 26, 2015 Socialist Worker.

A worker describes conditions at a plant where a co-worker was crushed to death.

A worker was killed on the shop floor at the Oklahoma City Quad/Graphics printing plant on April 24.

His death came as a shock and horror to his co-workers. While servicing equipment on a maintenance call, he was crushed to death under a crane. Quad/Graphics decided not to shut down, and workers were sent back to the presses.

Quad/Graphics, based in Sussex, Wisconsin, was founded in 1971 by Harry V. Quadracci. Previously, Quadracci was an executive at the print company W.A. Krueger. Following a protracted strike in 1969, Harry resigned to start his own, anti-union print company named Quad/Graphics after himself.

Quad is the fastest-growing print company in the U.S. It is second overall, but first in various categories, such as magazine production. It has a presence throughout the world, with plants in Mexico, Argentina, Chile and other Latin American countries, as well as Poland and India.

Quad is infamous among labor activists for its sweatshop conditions, vicious anti-union policies--like Walmart, management has been known to shut down a location if a union push is successful--and the lowest pay in the industry, averaging about two-thirds of what competitors pay.

Quad is also a big financial backer of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and of the misnamed "right-to-work" laws in various states.

Quad selected Oklahoma for a plant because it's an ideal location for shipping and distribution. Located in the middle of the country and with major interstate arteries like I-40 heading east and west and I-35 heading north and south, the Oklahoma City plant can ship anywhere.

It is the single largest print facility west of the Mississippi River, at nearly 1.5 million square feet. It houses nine web offset presses, six gravure presses and a huge finishing department. The Oklahoma City facility is Quad's premier magazine and catalogue plant, printing titles like Time, Sports Illustrated, People, US Weekly and more.

Labor conditions at the plant are horrible.

Employees work 12-hour shifts without breaks or even a sit-down lunch.

You are generally expected to eat while you work, if you have time at all.

It is common for workers to skip meals if the shift is especially busy. The base pay is horribly low, so most workers expect to do at least some overtime if they wish to survive.

Working more than 60 hours a week is routine, and 84 is also common. Various levels of exhaustion among workers are also normal.

Quad is kind enough to stock their vending machines with overpriced energy drinks.

Crewing levels are kept as low as possible, so very often, workers have to handle multiple tasks at once.

The company has a preference for hiring vulnerable and desperate workers, such as those with felony convictions. While people with records certainly need the work to piece their lives back together, Quad management hires them mostly for the tax advantages and because a desperate workforce is theoretically less likely to fight back against abuses.

The turnover rate is extremely high, with more than half of new hires not surviving the first week.

Quad practices a policy known sarcastically among workers as “promotion without pay.”

Due to the very high turnover rate, management rapidly promotes out of sheer necessity anyone who sticks around and tries, but does so without pay increases for as long as possible. At a traditional--and generally unionized--print plant, the turnover rate is much lower, and it can take years to move up to the next position. It can take several years to move from material handler, which is the entry-level position on press, to roll tender, but at Quad, it can happen as quickly as 30 days.

It's not uncommon for people to move from new hire to second pressman in less than a year--all without any pay increase. Management will tell their workforce to take a variety of utterly useless classes before any pay increases can occur.

Even then, it's very rare to get the full pay grade reflecting the current position held.

Various labor, safety and environmental laws are routinely ignored at Quad.

Workers are told to dispose of chemicals down the sink drain (something the Environmental Protection Agency bans).

When working with paper and flammable chemicals, fires are a common occurrence.

Occasionally, the air scrubbers used to maintain air quality (per the Clean Air Act) will malfunction, and polluted air is pumped into the building, forcing workers to breathe the air while they continue to work so that the press doesn't shut down.

During those times, the air is thick and hazy around the press.

Injuries are common, and though mostly minor, they can occasionally be catastrophic. Several years ago, a worker lost an entire arm.

Losing fingertips is more common.

New hires are told at orientation that they will get two 20-minute breaks per shift and a 20-minute sit-down lunch. No one on press actually gets a break.

The more class-conscious workers will often bend this rule and, if time allows, help give each other breaks in an act of solidarity, but management frowns on this practice.

The attendance policy is very strict. Calling in on an overtime day counts as two occurrences, so if an emergency happens, and you end up calling in several times in a row, you may be without a job.

People very often show up to work sick out of fear of losing their jobs.

The mood on the shop floor is dark and pessimistic. Morale is horribly low.

Anger toward conditions sometimes boils over in a variety of ways. In at least two recent incidents, recently laid-off workers came back to the plant with weapons and threatened management.

After this, police cars could be seen in the parking lot at shift change, with uniformed officers roaming the halls, watching the workforce.

There are more locks on more doors, and cameras have been installed everywhere. Management fears its workforce, but is unwilling to improve conditions.

A constant state of class war is evident everywhere.

Equipment is often badly maintained.

The mechanics and electricians in the maintenance department want to fix equipment, but far too often, their hands are tied. Parts are never ordered, and instead, things are repaired as much as possible with whatever is on hand.

Sometimes, vital parts of presses will operate in a suboptimal, if not an outright broken state for many months on end.

On April 24, an experienced veteran electrician was called out to the gravure press department on a maintenance call.

During the service call, an incident occurred in which he was crushed to death under a crane. It's not fully clear if it was a malfunction or a freak accident. No press in offset was shut down, nor was the plant ever shut down.

Workers continued to work as a comrade and co-worker lay dying.

Lawyers and insurance agents were in the plant before his family was even notified of the incident.

Before the Occupational Safety and Health Administration could come in, workers were told to clean up, properly label chemicals and to make the plant appear safer than it actually is.

Within a few days of the worker's death, the affected press was operational again. Production continued even while his blood dried.

The outrage is palpable, but for now people are keeping silent out of fear.

Conditions at Quad are unbearable on a good day. Now that a worker has died, it is plain for all to see just how little employees matter to the company as individuals.

Life has no dignity at Quad. Anger at times reaches a boiling point. Even senior skilled workers are known to walk out mid-shift out of sheer frustration at the conditions.

The anger is evident, but a deep fear is even stronger. Quad is infamous for its scorched-earth policy toward unions.

So what do we do?

Solidarity is evident and everywhere--workers supporting other workers, giving each other de facto breaks, and supporting one another in a variety of inspiring ways.

What is evident is that this situation cannot continue. Life has dignity, and this method of production of profits before all other considerations must cease. The working class creates society; we should run it.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Oakland Citizens Defy Mayor's Attempt To Forbid Evening Protests: They Get Arrested; "Oakland Police Officers Also Defy Policy On Wearing Body Cameras" They Don't Get Arrested

May 24, 2015 by Darwin BondGraham, East Bay Express

Oakland police last night detained 52 peaceful demonstrators — including Oakland Planning Commissioner Jahmese Myers — who were protesting Mayor Libby Schaaf's new controversial policy banning nighttime street protests.

In addition, numerous Oakland police officers appeared to openly defy the department's policy of wearing body cameras.

Just after sunset on Saturday, approximately 150 demonstrators marched from 14th Street and Broadway to the Police Administration Building and then to Jack London Square, taking over the street to protest the new ban.

At least one demonstrator was arrested on Broadway. Lieutenant Randell Wingate said the person was arrested for refusing an order to walk on the other side of the street.

Under the mayor's new policy, which civil rights attorneys say is illegal, demonstrators are not allowed on city streets after dark and can only march on sidewalks. The mayor has said that the ban is designed to end vandalism during protests.

The Oakland Police Department deployed a large force of officers to follow the demonstrators. No vandalism was apparent, however.

The rally was organized by the same group of Black women who attempted to march on Thursday night but encountered the first enforcement of Mayor Schaaf's new nighttime street marching ban.

Cat Brooks, one of the organizers, told the protesters that Schaaf is trying to "quell the resistance" of Black people against police violence.

"We're not going to walk on sidewalks," said Brooks.

At 9:00 p.m., police blocked the march from moving forward at the intersection of 3rd Street and Washington in the Jack London district. Demonstrators attempted to push their way through the police line.

They maintained that the nighttime ban is unconstitutional and violates OPD's own crowd control policy.

During the scuffle, several protesters were pulled behind police lines and detained. OPD then declared the march an unlawful assembly and issued a general warning that chemical agents would be deployed.

At least two teargas canisters were detonated near the scuffle, but behind police lines. According to Oakland Police Officer Johnna Watson, this was "to deter the demonstrators from continuing to physically push or assault officers."

A team of OPD officers, Alameda County Sheriff's deputies, and CHP officers ran behind the protesters, trapping many of them in preparation for a mass arrest.

During the evening, it was apparent that multiple Oakland police officers were not wearing, or did not activate their body cameras, as required by the department's own policy.

Geoffrey King, an attorney, journalist, and press freedom watchdog was on scene and tweeted that he observed “at least half a dozen OPD officers with no body cams whatsoever.”

King also tweeted that police officers had threatened to arrest journalists — a move that also would have violated city law.

The Express also observed multiple officers without chest cameras, and some whose cameras were clearly not activated.

Sergeant Daniel Royal was not wearing a camera. He said it was broken.

Officer William Berger was also not wearing a body camera. He said his camera “fell off” during the protest. Officer Luke Sincerny said his body camera was in his pocket, but that he wasn’t wearing it because it “ran out of batteries.”

Police officer Nicholas Calonge could be seen searching a woman’s bag after arresting her. Calonge did not appear to be wearing a body camera.

Multiple other officers who were not wearing body cameras could be observed arresting and transporting people.

It seems clear that demonstrators will continue to protest Mayor Schaaf’s new nighttime ban and that her new policy is resulting in more demonstrations.

Councilmember Desley Brooks attended the first half of last night’s march. Standing in front of the Police Administration Building, Brooks said “it looks like the mayor’s order didn’t work.” Already there is another protest planned for tonight in downtown Oakland.

**Baltimore Police “Often Disregard
Or Are Oblivious To Injuries And
Illnesses Among People They
Apprehend”
“Such Cases Occur By The
Thousands”
“Officers Don’t Care About The
Condition Of Detainees”**

May 9, 2015; Mark Puente, Meredith Cohn, Baltimore Sun [Excerpts]

When Baltimore State's Attorney Marylynn Mosby charged six police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, she said they had ignored Gray's pleas for medical care during his arrest and a 45-minute transport van ride.

Records obtained by The Baltimore Sun show that city police often disregard or are oblivious to injuries and illnesses among people they apprehend — in fact, such cases occur by the thousands.

From June 2012 through April 2015, correctional officers at the Baltimore City Detention Center have refused to admit nearly 2,600 detainees who were in police custody, according to state records obtained through a Maryland Public Information Act request.

In those records, intake officers in Central Booking noted a wide variety of injuries, including fractured bones, facial trauma and hypertension.

Of the detainees denied entry, 123 had visible head injuries, the third most common medical problem cited by jail officials, records show.

The jail records redacted the names of detainees, but a Sun investigation found similar problems among Baltimore residents and others who have made allegations of police brutality.

Salahudeen Abdul-Aziz, who was awarded \$170,000 by a jury in 2011, testified that he was arrested and transported to the Western District after being beaten by police and left with a broken nose, facial fracture and other injuries. Hours later, he went to Central Booking and then to Bon Secours Hospital, according to court records.

Abdul-Aziz said last week that jailers at Central Booking "wouldn't let me in the door as soon as they saw my face. ... I thought I was gonna die that day. Freddie Gray wasn't so lucky."

Some critics say the data from the state-run jail show that city officers don't care about the condition of detainees.

"It goes to demonstrate the callous indifference the officers show when they are involved with the public," said attorney A. Dwight Pettit, who has sued dozens of city officers in the past 40 years. "Why would they render medical care when they rendered many of the injuries on the people?"

Criminologists and law enforcement experts say Gray's death shows that police lack adequate training to detect injuries. Many suspects fake injuries in an effort to avoid a jail cell, they add.

"The curriculum has been generally the same for the past 20-30 years at the (police) academy," said Hamin Shabazz, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at Stevenson University and a former police officer in Camden, N.J.,

He served on the panel that reviewed the death of Tyrone West, who died from a heart condition made worse by a struggle with officers during a traffic stop amid summer heat in 2012.

Officers, Shabazz said, “do get some in-service training, but what happens is training is usually reactive, after something has happened.”

The Sun’s examination of more than 100 lawsuits against officers — in which the city paid more than \$6 million in court judgments and settlements — found that dozens of residents accused police of inflicting severe injuries during questionable arrests and disregarding appeals for medical attention.

Such problems have damaged relations between police and residents, according to officials and community leaders. On Friday, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced a broad civil rights investigation into the police department, a move designed to address the “serious erosion of public trust.”

Experts say it’s unknown how often officers deny medical care for suspects, who are constitutionally guaranteed health care before being booked into jail.

That denial can cause discomfort or worsen a condition — and lead to death, as prosecutors allege in the case of Gray, who had a severed spine.

In announcing criminal charges against the officers, Mosby said at least five of Gray’s requests for medical care were ignored.

After arriving at Central Booking, detainees are examined by intake nurses to determine whether they are stable enough for the four- to five-hour booking process, said Gerard Shields, spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. If someone is rejected, the responsibility falls on police to get medical care, he added.

Detainees rejected by intake officers represent about 2 percent of total bookings into the jail during from June 2012 through April.

The scrutiny applied before booking suspects also helps the jail control operating costs. Once a suspect is admitted to the jail, medical costs fall on that agency.

Officers run into problems in deciding whether an injury is legitimate or fake, Key said. While in the police academy, recruits complete some first-responder training, but eventually it comes down to an officer’s judgment about whether to seek medical help, he added.

“If they observe an injury like a compound fracture with bone through the skin ... or there is a condition, like a heart attack, they are supposed to call for assistance,” Key said.

The Sun investigation found a number of cases like that of Abdul-Aziz, who was arrested but later had charges dropped.

The city paid tens of thousands of dollars to suspects who had told officers about injuries or pre-existing conditions, but did not receive prompt treatment.

John Bonkowski, who received a \$75,000 settlement over allegations that he was beaten by an officer in 2012, “complained of pain at the scene but was denied medical treatment,” according to his lawsuit.

He was held without treatment at the Central District Station for about three hours before being taken by ambulance to a hospital where doctors found he had a fractured ankle, a broken jaw and cuts on his head and face, the lawsuit said.

Bonkowski, who had driven his car while intoxicated through a gate in a downtown parking garage, accused officers of pulling him out of a car and pummeling him with their fists and batons. Officers contended that Bonkowski crashed into another car and hit an officer.

Starr Brown, an East Baltimore accountant, called police to report a group of teenagers beating a girl in 2009, but wound up facing criminal charges herself. In fighting those charges, Brown and neighbors testified that officers were told she was pregnant as they pulled her off a porch.

At the trial, Brown testified that the officers ignored her pleas about the pregnancy. "They said they hear it all the time," Brown told the judge, adding that officers then threw her to the ground and rammed a knee in her back. Charges against Brown were dismissed and she received \$125,000 in a 2011 settlement.

In such settlements, the officers and city do not acknowledge liability for the injuries.

Bryan A. Levitt, who has represented plaintiffs in such lawsuits, said Baltimore's mayor and police commissioner frequently go before cameras to tout reforms, but nothing has improved the relationship between officers and residents.

"Policing is such a sad state of affairs," he said. "Nobody is held accountable."

Enemy Combatant Beats 9-Months Pregnant Air Force Veteran Hero: "She Received The Air Force's Highest Honor, The Airman's Medal, After Helping Drag Several Soldiers From A Burning Plane In Iraq"

"There's Nothing That Warrants What They Did To Me"



Deanna Jo Robinson offered her version of the events that took place at her parents' home in Quinlan on March 4, 2015. (Photo: WFAA)

April 6, 2015 Tanya Eiserer, WFAA

A Hunt County Sheriff's deputy is under investigation after a video posted online over the weekend shows a him hitting a woman in her ninth month of pregnancy.

Video of the violent March 4 confrontation shows the deputy hitting Deanna Robinson at least once as he and another officer push the woman into a kitchen counter at her parents' home in Quinlan.

Robinson, 38, was arrested on charges of resisting arrest, assault on a public servant, and interference with child custody. She was held in the Hunt County Jail for about six days.

Child Protective Services officials, accompanied by sheriff's deputies, had come to the home of Robinson's parents to remove her 18-month-old son Landry.

"I'm 38 weeks pregnant, and with my stomach again repeatedly pressed into that counter, and with my 18-month old son watching his mother be assaulted, and him screaming in fear," Robinson said.

"There's nothing that warrants what they did to me."

Her toddler — along with her three stepchildren ranging in age from six to nine — are currently in temporary CPS custody. Her infant son, Levi, was born in mid-March and is being cared for by her parents.

Hunt County Sheriff Randy Meeks posted a statement on the department's Facebook page after the video went viral. The statement said he takes all allegations of misconduct seriously, and that he had opened an administrative investigation to determine "if any violations occurred." The statement promised the results of investigation would be made public.

Sheriff's officials said they have received dozens of calls about the video.

Hundreds of people took to the department's Facebook page to express outrage about the deputy's alleged actions, and protesters have been standing at intersections urging others to view the online video.

"There's no reason in my mind that an officer should pull his hand up above his body and hit a pregnant woman multiple times," said Carol Gustin, one of Robinson's attorneys.

"Law officers are there to protect and serve. Where was the protection for her and this baby?"

Robinson acknowledged that she and her husband recently have had a turbulent marriage.

She is a native of Quinlan who was on active duty from 2001 to 2005, followed by eight years as a reservist.

She received the Air Force's highest honor, the Airman's Medal, after helping drag several soldiers from a burning plane in Iraq.

Three days before the March 4 incident, Robinson said she and her husband had gotten into a shoving match at their home as she held Landry.

Robinson said she took the boy and went to stay at her parents' home until tempers could settle. Her nine-year-old stepson — who is wheelchair-bound and has cerebral palsy — told a teacher about what had happened. The teacher reported it to CPS.

On March 3, CPS investigators removed her three stepchildren from their home.

The following day, Robinson said she received a call from a CPS investigator telling her that he wanted to interview her regarding the domestic violence incident, and to conduct a welfare check on Landry.

Later that night, there was a loud knock. She said she answered the door and saw several law officers standing there.

"He said, 'We're here to remove your son,'" Robinson recalled.

"I said, 'Nobody is touching my kid without a court order or a warrant.'"

When she asked to read the documents, Robinson said the officers refused to let her.

She said she tried to shut the door as they forced their way inside.

"I'm positioning myself in front of my child as the officers are screaming, 'There's the kid. Grab him,'" Robinson said.

She said officers pushed her up against the counter and handcuffed her.

Her parents' home surveillance system records in intervals. It captured about 30 seconds of the confrontation. The video shows her mother holding her son as two officers struggle with Robinson.

Robinson said she was struggling with the officers because she was trying to relieve the pressure on her stomach caused by being pushed into the counter.

Robinson was released from jail on March 9.

The last two frames of the video show the officer hitting Robinson once and then raising his hand, apparently intending to hit her again.

Robinson maintains the deputy hit her four or five times in the lower back, and she felt lingering pain for weeks.

Robinson said a nurse examined her at the jail, but she received no other medical attention.

Pictures of Robinson's stomach taken after her release show bruises covering a portion of her stomach.

Levi was born March 15. Her parents are currently taking care of the infant, and CPS is only letting her visit for two hours a day, she said.

"We're just thankful that he's healthy," Robinson said. "It certainly could have turned out differently."

Robinson said she's only seen Landry three times since he was removed. She said he cried and screamed when he was taken away from her.

"It goes without saying, I miss him so much," she said, sobbing. "I want my kids back."

Robinson said she wants the officer who hit her to be removed from his job.

"How many times has this happened before?" she asked.

Scott Cornuau, Robinson's other attorney, blamed CPS for bringing police into the situation in the first place.

"They're out of control," he said. "There's no oversight. They went about it the wrong way."

He also questioned by CPS officials did not intervene when they saw a pregnant woman being assaulted, and why they apparently failed to report the incident.

A CPS spokeswoman confirmed that four children are in temporary CPS custody. She said she could not comment further.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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 injustices, 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.

MILITARY NEWS

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter (No Military Experience Himself) Yells at the Iraqis



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 philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.

-- Karl Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”

We’re Gonna Take That Hill



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 20, 2015
Subject: We're Gonna Take That Hill...

We're Gonna Take That Hill...

**John Wayne, our hero on the front lines!
True Grit...**

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
May 20, 2015**

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

“I Have A Neighbor Who Insists On Working On The Sabbath”

“Am I Morally Obligated To Kill Him Myself, Or Should I Ask The Police To Do It?”

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, for passing this one along.]

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law.

I have learned a great deal from you and understand why you would be for banning same sex marriage.

As you said “in the eyes of God marriage is based between a man a woman.” I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can.

When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination... End of debate.

I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of God's Laws and how to follow them.

1. Leviticus 25:44 states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations.

A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you

Why can't I own Canadians?

2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness - Lev.15: 19-24. The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

4. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is, my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2. clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?

6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination - Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?

7. Lev.21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle-room here?

8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev.19:27. How should they die?

9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot.

Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? Lev.24:10-16.

Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

11. And one of my real concerns is that gay lobsterman who wears clothes made of two or more fabrics and hauls lobsters on the Sabbath....Four abominations in one day....Wow.....

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I am confident you can help.

Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Bible Readers of America

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome.

Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org:

Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

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ANNIVERSARIES

June 1913: A Heroine In Action; Elizabeth Gurley Flynn



Cover illustration by Arthur Machia for *The Rebel Girl*. Words & Music by Joe Hill (Ithaca, NY: Glad Day Press, 1940, c1915).

June 2, 1863:
Glorious Anniversary:
**“Col. Montgomery And His Gallant Band
Of 300 Black Soldiers, Under The
Guidance Of A Black Woman, Dashed
Into The Enemy’s Country, Struck A Bold
And Effective Blow, Striking Terror Into
The Heart Of Rebeldom”**

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, “led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted”.

Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

June 2, 1863

Abolitionist and former slave James Montgomery led 300 African-American troops of the Union’s 2nd South Carolina Volunteers on a raid of plantations along the Combahee River. Meanwhile, backed by three gunboats, Harriet Tubman’s forces set fire to the plantations and freed 750 slaves.

The following dispatch, quoted in part, appeared on the front page of The Commonwealth, a Boston newspaper, on Friday, July 10, 1863:



HARRIET TUBMAN

July 10, 1863:

Col. Montgomery and his gallant band of 300 black soldiers, under the guidance of a black woman, dashed into the enemy's country, struck a bold and effective blow, destroying millions of dollars worth of commissary stores, cotton and lordly dwellings, and striking terror into the heart of rebeldom, brought off near 800 slaves and thousands of dollars worth of property, without losing a man or receiving a scratch.

It was a glorious consummation.

After they were all fairly well disposed of in the Beaufort charge, they were addressed in strains of thrilling eloquence by their gallant deliverer, to which they responded in a song. "There is a white robe for thee," a song so appropriate and so heartfelt and cordial as to bring unbidden tears.

The Colonel was followed by a speech from the black woman, who led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted.

For sound sense and real native eloquence, her address would do honor to any man, and it created a great sensation.

Since the rebellion she had devoted herself to her great work of delivering the bondman, with an energy and sagacity that cannot be exceeded. Many and many times she has penetrated the enemy's lines and discovered their situation and condition, and escaped without injury, but not without extreme hazard.

The Combahee River, in South Carolina, was the first one visited by the Spaniards in the year 1520. Vasque de Ayllon, having discovered it, gave it the name "River Jordan."

Although subsequently renamed the Combahee, the stream now became a River Jordan literally for more than seven hundred and fifty Negroes who, under the leadership of Harriet Tubman and the auxiliary command of Colonel James Montgomery, delivered this number of blacks into the free lines.

The River Jordan has been in biblical history a reality, and in modern Negro allusion a symbol of the barrier between bondage and freedom, and it is an interesting coincidence, therefore, that the Combahee campaign should so parallel the ancient situation.

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, "led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted".

The N.Y. Tribune " says that the Negro troops at Hilton Head, S.C. will soon start an expedition, under the command of Colonel Montgomery, differing in many respects from any heretofore projected.

The Combahee strategy was formulated by Harriet Tubman as an outcome of her penetrations of the enemy lines and her belief that the Combahee River countryside was ripe for a successful invasion.

She was asked by General Hunter “if she would go with several gunboats up the Combahee River, the object of the expedition being to take up the torpedoes placed by the rebels in the river, to destroy railroads and bridges, and to cut off supplies from the rebel troops.

She said she would go if Col. Montgomery was to be appointed commander of the expedition...

Accordingly, Col. Montgomery was appointed to the command, and Harriet, with several men under her, the principal of whom was J. Plowden...accompanied the expedition”.

Actually in this raid it was Montgomery who was the auxiliary leader. The whole venture owed its success to the complete preliminary survey made by Harriet Tubman’s espionage troops.

Captain John F. Lay, the Confederate investigating officer, discussing the movement afterwards, said, “The enemy seems to have been well posted as to the character and capacity of our troops and their small chance of encountering opposition, and to have been well guided by persons thoroughly acquainted with the river and country.

It was a commentary, however indirect, on Harriet’s work and the labor of her subordinates.

About ten miles north of Port Royal Island, Harriet’s station, was St. Helena Island, and between this island and the mainland of South Carolina was the water known as St. Helena Sound. The Combahee River, a narrow, jagged stream that ran about fifty miles into the interior of the State, began at the Sound: and on its banks were rice fields and marshes.

During the night of June 2, 1863, Harriet and Colonel Montgomery, with a party of about 150 Negro troops in three gunboats, started up the Combahee River. Pickets located at stations near the mouth of the stream spotted the oncoming boats and dispatched word to the Confederate commander, Major Emanuel, located deeper inland at Green Pond...

Every plantation on both sides of the river was aroused; the Union soldiers, in small detachments, raced from one to another, creating a general devastation of the zone.

In the Combahee Ferry region the Blake, Lowndes, Middleton and Heyward plantations were in ruins. The Negroes fled to the gunboats and the slavemasters skedaddled inland. The bridge at Combahee Ferry was burning too “but not badly.

As the gunboats passed up the river, the Negroes left their work and took to the woods, for at first they were frightened.

Then they came out to peer, “like startled deer.” But scudding away like the wind at the sound of the steam-whistle.

The word was passed along that these were “Lincoln’s gunboats come to set them free.” From that moment on, the overseers used their whips in vain, for they failed to drive the slaves back to the quarters.

They turned and ran for the gun-boats; they came down every road, across every field, dressed just as they were when they left their work and their cabins.

There were women with children clinging around their necks, hanging onto their dresses, or running behind, but all rushed at full speed for "Lincoln's gun-boats."

Hundreds crowded the banks, with their hands extended toward their deliverers, and most of them were taken aboard the gun-boats to be carried to Beaufort.

This is about what happened all through the night and morning of June 2 when Harriet, Montgomery and the colored soldiers overran the Combahee.

"The Rebel Girl" In Person



Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, June 1913, speaking against capitalism and for working class revolution to a mass audience

Joe Hill dedicated his song "The Rebel Girl" to her a few months before he was executed November 19, 1915 by firing squad in Utah for organizing workers to join labor unions affiliated with Industrial Workers Of The World.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

The Egyptian Tyrant Continues His Bloody Work:

“A Military Court Tried Nine Defendants On Charges Of Attacking An Army Personnel Carrier, Sentencing Seven To Death”

“At Least Two Of Those Sentenced To Death Couldn’t Have Possibly Participated”

“They Were Being Held In Egyptian Prison At The Time Of Their ‘Crime’”



May 28, 2015 by Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker

Egyptian activists Mahienour el-Masry and Yousef Sha’aban have been remanded to jail while they await a May 31 hearing to decide on their appeal of a two-year prison sentence.

According to Egypt Solidarity, an international initiative against repression in Egypt, the court will be deciding on charges that are two years old:

“Mahienour, Yousef and seven others were sentenced to two years in prison and a 5,000 LE fine (about \$600)] last year in a case which dates back to the period when Mohamed Morsi was in power. The activists were accused of storming Raml police

station in Alexandria after they went to protest in solidarity with lawyers who were attacked by the police after attempting to represent arrested clients.

Last year, el-Masry served four months of a six-month prison sentence before it was suspended by a judge. Then, she and four others were again arrested in Alexandria in November after another protest.

The repeated attempts to imprison Egyptian revolutionaries are indicative of the regime's strategy of imposing its agenda of counterrevolution by means of the judiciary. Egypt's prosecutors have filed trumped-up charges against activists; its judges have presided over cases that lack the most basic due process and handed out sentences totally out of proportion to the "crime" of exercising the right to protest; and its prison wardens have abused and tortured countless people.

Currently, more than 41,000 people are being detained in Egypt. Former President Mohamed Morsi and many more have been sentenced to death--others face harsh sentences, running to life in prison, for daring to oppose Egypt's authoritarian rulers.

In the so-called "Arab Sharkas" case, a military court tried nine defendants on charges of attacking an army personnel carrier in March 2014, sentencing seven to death and two to life in prison.

But at least two of those sentenced to death couldn't have possibly participated because they were being held in Egyptian prison at the time of their "crime."

On May 16, six of the seven condemned to death were executed--the same day that Morsi and 100 others were given death sentences.

Egyptian democracy activists, revolutionary socialists, moderate Islamists--all are being targeted by the regime of Gen. Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi.

Sondos Asem, who is pursuing a graduate degree in public policy in Britain, recently learned that she had been sentenced to death in absentia by an Egyptian court.

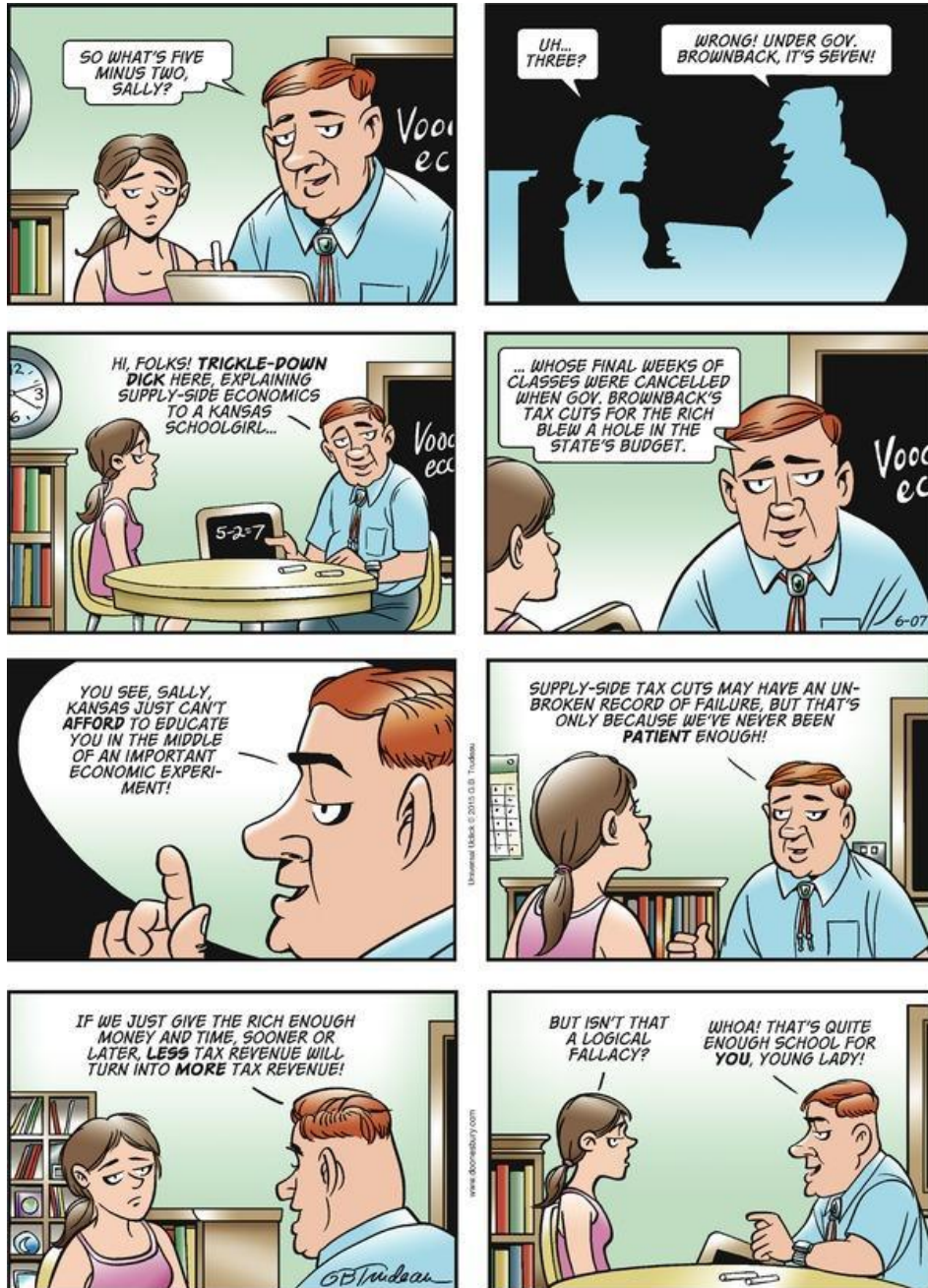
On May 26, she wrote in the Chicago Tribune: "I received with total disbelief the news that on May 16 an Egyptian court had sentenced me to death--along with former President Mohamed Morsi, a number of his aides and several respected public figures, including renowned scholar Emad Shahin.

"The charges in my case, like Morsi's, are false and entirely political. The world knows by now the nature of the Egyptian regime's kangaroo trials of political opponents, which international human rights organizations describe as a "charade" lacking due process and violating Egyptian and international law...

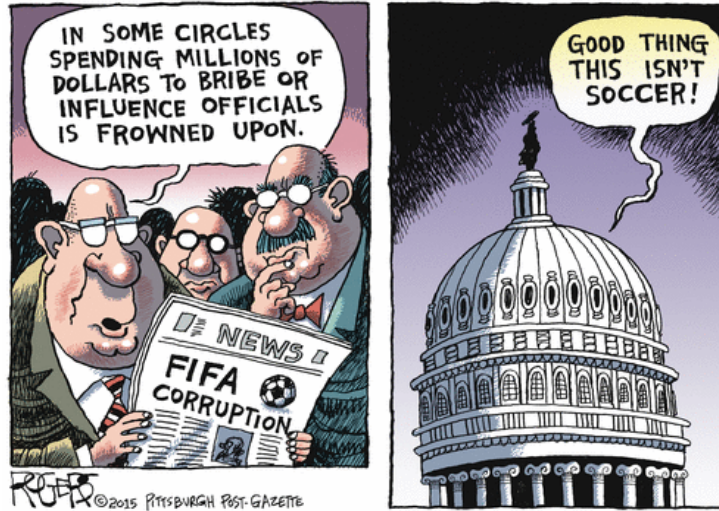
"I did not imagine that my support for democracy and my service in the administration of Egypt's first democratically elected president would land me in jail or be used against me as a crime warranting the death penalty...Though I was sentenced in the so-called grand espionage case, the Egyptian regime seeks to end my life for no reason other than who I am: an educated, politically active and independent woman with mainstream Islamic views...and this has earned me the dubious honor of being the first woman in modern Egyptian history to be sentenced to death for political reasons."

There will be protests on behalf of el-Masry and Sha'aban as well as global days of action in solidarity with all Egyptian political prisoners later in June.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



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