

## **Military Resistance 15B4**

### **Sarah Silverman Gets It Right**



The Huffington Post

Feb 03, 2017 By Leslie Salzillo, Daily Kos [Excerpt]

Activist, comedian, and actress Sarah Silverman caused great unrest among conservatives late Wednesday night after she tweeted this message to her 9.8 million followers on Twitter:

**‘Wake up & join the Resistance. Once the military is w us Fascists get overthrown. Mad king & his handlers go bye bye.’**

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**“Trump Handing Economy ‘Back Over To Wall Street’”**  
**“This May Be The Most Spectacular Betrayal Yet By The President Of His Voters”**  
**“The Wall Street Bankers Against Whom Trump Ran Are Making Policy Now”**

February 03, 2017 by Deirdre Fulton, staff writer; Common Dreams [Excerpts]

President Donald Trump is handing the U.S. economy “back over to Wall Street” on Friday, with a regulatory rollback that critics say could put consumers and the financial system at risk.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Trump signed executive orders Friday to “establish a framework for scaling back the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial-overhaul law” and rolling back an Obama-era regulation requiring advisers on retirement accounts to work in the best interests of their clients. That rule was set to go into effect in April.

Trump signed the orders after meeting with bank CEOs.

“The Wall Street bankers against whom Trump ran are making policy now,” said Robert Weissman, president of watchdog group Public Citizen.

“The worst job-destroying economic crisis since the Great Depression was directly caused by deregulation and regulatory failure,” he said.

“Now the president who ran on a jobs-creation platform announces that he aims to slash the modest measures put in place to prevent a recurrence of the crisis. If Trump succeeds in rolling back Dodd-Frank rules he will rush the country straightforward into another job-killing financial crisis.

**“This may be the most spectacular betrayal yet by the president of his voters, as he shunts aside their concerns and pushes forward the agenda of his cronies and the well-connected.”**

Furthermore, White House National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, who formerly served as president of Goldman Sachs, told the Journal that Friday’s memoranda were merely “a table setter for a bunch of stuff that is coming.”

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## How It Is



forcechange.com

Feb. 10, 2017 By MICHAEL C. BENDER and REID J. EPSTEIN, Wall Street Journal & 12 February 17 By Robert Reich, Robert Reich's Facebook Page [Excerpts]

[I]n scenes reminiscent of tea-party opposition to President Barack Obama in the summer of 2009, a crowd of about 1,000 people packed a town-hall event in Utah, booing five-term Republican Rep. Jason Chaffetz in his own district.

Republican House members were surprised by crowds at home-district events in Tennessee, Michigan, Colorado, Florida, Virginia and California.

That was only the start of a weekend expected to put more House Republicans in front of potentially agitated crowds.

**Last night in suburban Salt Lake City, local police estimated some 1,000 people packed into a high school auditorium to see Republican Jason Chaffetz, as hundreds more waited outside.**

**For 75 minutes, Chaffetz confronted a crowd furious with Trump, and angry at Chaffetz for coddling him.**

The crowd erupted in chants of “Do your job!” when Chaffetz, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, was pressed on why his panel spent months investigating Clinton’s emails but has not yet launched inquiries into Trump’s taxes. Chaffetz received some positive reaction when he called top White House counselor Kellyanne Conway “wrong, wrong, wrong” for promoting Ivanka Trump’s business interests in a TV interview Thursday.

When others in the crowd complained about Trump’s pick for Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos, Chaffetz said “I want to get rid of Betsy DeVos!” A man shot back: “We want to get rid of you!”

**Some 1,700 miles away in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Republican Rep. Diane Black was met with a crowd of constituents upset at the pending repeal of Obamacare. “You want to take away this coverage — and have nothing to replace it with! How can I trust you to do anything that’s in our interest at all?” said one. Others shouted at her for enabling Trump.**

In both Utah and Tennessee, many attendees and protesters said they were first-time participants in politics.

Across the land, Americans have had enough of Trump and his Republican enablers.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **U.S. Soldier Severely Wounded In Sangin: Six U.S. Troops Reported Wounded In Combat “So Far This Year” “An Unspecified Number Of The Other American Casualties This Year Also Involved Special Forces Soldiers, Occurring On Combat Patrols”**

February 9, 2017 By: Andrew deGrandpre, Military Times [Excerpts]

An American Special Forces soldier was severely wounded Thursday when his base was attacked in Afghanistan’s Helmand province, raising to at least six the number of U.S. troops wounded in combat so far this year.

Speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Army Gen. John Nicholson indicated the unidentified soldier was wounded in Sangin, an endlessly violent district within Afghanistan’s poppy heartland.

“We have suffered casualties in Helmand in our advising capacity this year,” Nicholson said in response to questions from Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iowa Republican who served in Iraq with the Army National Guard.

The wounded soldier was part of an advisory force partnered with Afghan troops, said Navy Capt. William Salvin, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Afghanistan.

“We don’t yet have all of the details,” he told Military Times. “They were not on a patrol. Rather, initial information is that they were at a small base that took fire. The soldier is currently in surgery.”

**Nicholson indicated an unspecified number of the other American casualties this year also involved Special Forces soldiers, occurring on combat patrols while teamed with elite Afghan commandos.**

**Prior to Thursday, at least three U.S. troops — all Army personnel — had been wounded in February, according to the Pentagon’s open-source casualty database. At least two soldiers were wounded in January.**

No Americans have been reported killed in action there so far this year.

About 8,400 U.S. troops remain deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Resolute Support, the mission to advise and assist Afghan security forces, and a smaller counter-

terrorism effort called Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Nicholson told lawmakers that several thousand additional personnel would be needed to regain momentum after the 15-year war has become what the general characterized as a "stalemate."

**Security in Helmand valley is a particular concern, Nicholson said. Though mostly driven out by U.S. forces during the war's peak, the Taliban have fought like hell to reclaim their foothold there. And they appear to be succeeding.**

**With hopes of reversing those gains, the U.S. Marines will deploy a 300-person task force there in the spring.**

They'll work alongside the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps and the 505th Zone National Police, marking the first in what's expected to become a series of rotations to Helmand, where tens of thousands of Marines were deployed throughout the past decade.

Task Force Southwest, as the Marine advisory force will be known, is in the midst of a months-long workup.

**Last month, senior Marine Corps officials told Military Times that they consider the assignment to be "high-risk."**

**Afghan security forces responsible for Sangin took heavy losses in 2015, Nicholson said, requiring a "significant regeneration effort," he added.**

**Corruption within the local police force also remains a concern.**

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## **Top Government Official Killed By Insurgents In West Of Afghanistan**



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Feb 07 2017 By Khaama Press

A top government official was killed in an explosion in western Farah province of Afghanistan, local officials said Tuesday.

The incident took place late on Monday night targeting the district administrative chief of Khak-e-Safid Abdul Raziq Noorzai.

The provincial police chief Aamir Gul confirmed the incident and the killing of the district chief but did not provide further details regarding the incident and the type of explosion.

The government officials are blaming for Taliban for such attacks and specifically using Improvised Explosive Device (IED) to target the government officials and security forces.

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## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

### **Cops Lie And Lie And Lie And Lie:**

**“Judge Haberkorn Said In Court ‘All Officers Lied On The Stand Today. Many Many Many Many Times They All Lied’”**

**“Lying Is ‘Something That Has Been Endemic In The History Of The American Police System For The Last Three Or Four Generations’”**

**“And Why Do They Do It? The Main Reason They Do It, Historically And Now, Is They Can Get Away With It”**

02 February 17 By Albert Samaha, BuzzFeed' [Excerpts]

Officer Nicholas M. Buckley described the arrest in exceptional detail, the single-spaced lines covering two full pages in his report.

He had worked for the San Francisco Police Department for three years, and in recent months he had patrolled the Tenderloin district, a neighborhood of dive bars and homeless shelters wedged between City Hall and the city's booming commercial center

— a neighborhood, Buckley wrote, where “violent, felonious crimes are frequently committed.”

As he and his partner drove past the intersection of Eddy and Taylor streets shortly after 11 p.m. on December 1, 2015, they saw about a dozen men huddled on the sidewalk beside a chain-link fence. The cops suspected the men were gambling. As the officers pulled up to the curb, the men began to disperse.

Buckley homed in on the guy in the long brown coat, Brandon Simpson. While the other men nonchalantly headed north up Taylor Street, Simpson went in the opposite direction and “quickly walked away from the group upon detecting police presence,” Buckley wrote.

He noted what he considered Simpson’s suspicious body language: hands near his waistband beneath his coat. It was “consistent with a person trying to conceal a weapon,” he would later say in court.

Buckley ordered Simpson to stop and show his hands, and when he did not, Buckley “grabbed him by the shoulders.”

Simpson resisted and struggled to escape, the officer said. A battle broke out as more officers joined the effort to subdue Simpson, punching and kicking him until they were able to “gain control” and snap on handcuffs, Buckley said. Afterward, officers picked up a white object that had apparently fallen out of Simpson’s waistband or coat. It was a sock with a gun inside of it. Simpson was booked on charges of illegal firearm possession and faced 10 years in federal prison.

On April 13, 2016, officer Buckley repeated his story in a written court declaration, the same story he’d tell a month later on the witness stand during Simpson’s pretrial hearing.

When Buckley had finished testifying, the defense attorney stepped up. She had footage of the arrest, from a surveillance camera on a building across the street.

In full color and crisp definition, it showed what really happened that night.

The police car pulls up. The huddled men stroll away together. A man in a long brown coat near the back of the group — Simpson — walks with them. His arms are at his sides, clearly visible. He holds a water bottle in one hand. Seemingly picking this man at random, Buckley cuts him off on the sidewalk. The man tries to step around the officer. Buckley places a hand on his chest. The man takes a step back. Buckley grabs his arms, pinning his hands to his back. A second police car pulls up. Three officers rush to Buckley and knock the man to the ground. His body disappears beneath the scrum. With the man pinned against the fence, the officers let loose punches and kicks.

Judge Charles Breyer, a long-faced man with combed-down grayhair who often wears a bow tie beneath his robe, was incensed.

**“The video was unequivocal in rebutting everything the police officer testified to — at least to all the pertinent details,” he said, before he dismissed the case.**

**San Francisco officer Buckley lied in his police report, in his court declaration, and in his testimony.**

He lied about his reason for approaching Simpson, and the video showed that he violated Simpson's constitutional rights by stopping him without reasonable suspicion and then detaining him without probable cause.

So it didn't matter whether or not Simpson had a gun. The stop was illegal, Judge Breyer ruled in his dismissal of the case, and so the evidence it produced was legally useless. Prosecutors dropped the charges and informed Buckley's bosses.

Eight months later, Buckley remains on the force. The department would not say whether he has been disciplined but told BuzzFeed News that "this is still an active and open Internal Affairs investigation." Federal prosecutors have not charged him with perjury and would not comment on the case.

**"Lying Is 'Something That Has Been Endemic In The History Of The American Police System For The Last Three Or Four Generations'"**

Lying is "something that has been endemic in the history of the American police system for the last three or four generations," said Peter Keane, a former San Francisco police commissioner who now teaches law at Golden Gate University.

"And why do they do it? The main reason they do it, historically and now, is they can get away with it."

Cameras prove cops lie, and there are more cameras out in the world today than ever before.

**While its depth is unknown, the scope of police lying is wide. Officers lie in high-profile cases and little-known cases, and lie by fabrication, omission, and exaggeration.**

**Police officers lie when they or one of their colleagues kill.**

Officer Michael Slager, of North Charleston, South Carolina, claimed he fatally shot Walter Scott because he feared for his life after Scott grabbed his Taser and pointed it at him, but video showed Slager shooting him in the back from 17 feet away, then dropping his Taser by Scott's body.

After Chicago officer Jason Van Dyke shot Laquan McDonald 16 times, five cops claimed that McDonald lunged at Van Dyke with a knife, but the video showed the teenager walking away.

**They lie when they beat up people who were not resisting arrest.**

Officers Sean Courter and Orlando Trinidad of Bloomfield, New Jersey, claimed that Marcus Jeter hit one officer and tried to grab the other's gun, but video showed the officers pulling him out of his car and immediately assaulting him.



Five Marion, Florida, cops claimed Derrick Price resisted arrest, but video showed that he was on the ground surrendering with his hands up when the officers began punching and kicking him.

**They lie when they think no cameras are watching, like Reading, Pennsylvania, officer Jesus Santiago-DeJesus did when he smashed Marcelina Cintron-Garcia's cell phone and arrested her on a false charge of assault after she filmed him during a traffic stop.**

**They lie when they should know for certain that cameras are watching, like officers in Seabrook, New Hampshire, in Skokie, Illinois, and in Sweetwater, Florida, did when they slammed and injured suspects getting booked into their police stations, then falsely claimed the suspects had acted aggressively.**

**They lie when witnesses are around.**

New York City officer Paula Medrano failed to mention in her accident report that pedestrian Felix Coss had the right of way when the police van she was driving fatally struck him in broad daylight.

**They lie in groups, like the six cops in San Francisco, four in Chicago, and three in Kissimmee, Florida, who lied about having probable cause to arrest a suspect for drug possession.**

**They lie when no other cops are on the scene.**

Bullitt County, Kentucky, sheriff's deputy Matthew Corder arrested Deric Baize for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, claiming that he "caused alarm to neighbors," but video showed that Corder entered Baize's house and tased him only after Baize had cursed at him for blocking his driveway. "Next time you tell a police officer to fuck off," Corder said, "you might want to think about it."

**They lie in big cities.**

Houston officer William Wright accused Julian Carmona of pointing a gun at him at a gas station, but video showed that Carmona had merely picked up his gun when it fell out of his truck before quickly placing it back inside.

Baltimore officer Vincent Cosom claimed to have punched Kollin Truss at a bus stop in self-defense, but video showed that Truss was walking away, with his arms by his side, when Cosom attacked. Los Angeles officers Michael Ayala and Leonardo Ortiz claimed that Brian Beard, who was unarmed, was reaching for his waistband when they fatally shot him, but video showed that Beard's arms were raised at his sides.

**They lie in small towns.**

Neenah, Wisconsin, cops reported that they shouted a warning before opening fire and killing an innocent man during a hostage standoff, but video of the incident "does not give any indication that there was a verbal command given," the town's police chief acknowledged.

Lincoln, Rhode Island, officer Edward Krawetz claimed that he kicked Donna Levesque in the face “to defend” himself from serious injury, but video showed that she had lightly kicked his leg while sitting handcuffed on the curb.

Evansville, Indiana, cops said that officer Nick Henderson hit Mark Healy because he was resisting arrest, but video showed that Henderson struck him because his hand got stabbed by a needle in Healy’s pocket.

**They lie by omission, like the officers in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and San Antonio, Texas, did when they failed to note in their statements that the suspects they fatally shot had their hands up in surrender.**

**They lie by exaggerating or downplaying, like Bay Area Rapid Transit officer Nolan Pianta did after he violently slammed Megan Sheehan, then wrote in his report that he “guided her to the ground.”**

**They lie by outright fabrication, like King County Sheriff’s Office Sgt. Lou Caballero did when he falsely accused a bus driver of cursing at him.**

Or like Jackson, Georgia, officer Sherry Hall did when she accidentally shot herself, then reported that a black man had done it.

**Police officers lie about traffic stops.**

Kentucky state trooper Phillip Burnett arrested motorist Freddie Gregory on the false claim that he was “menacing” the officer after he ticketed him for not wearing a seatbelt. Dallas Sgt. Stephen Baker falsely claimed Marcial Salazar ran a red light.

**“Obviously This Is Very Outrageous Conduct,” Judge Catherine Haberkorn Said In Court. “All Officers Lied On The Stand Today. ... Many Many Many Many Times They All Lied.”**

**Some of them keep up the lie even in the face of the video evidence.**

Confronted with his own dashboard camera footage in court, Baker still refused to back down. “I don’t make too many mistakes,” he said, even as the defense attorney repeatedly played a clip showing that Salazar had a green.

When internal affairs investigators later asked Baker to explain his obviously false statements in court, Baker told them that he hadn’t been able to tell whether the light was red because he didn’t have his reading glasses with him.

**And those are just since 2008 and just what’s been caught on camera.**

A rotten culture of policing is perhaps the only way to explain what happened in a case Chicago defense attorney Steve Goldman worked in 2014.

During a surveillance operation sparked by a tip from an informant, police officers pulled over his client, Joseph Sperling, and found a duffel bag filled with weed in his car.

Goldman obtained the dashcam footage from a police cruiser at the scene. When the officers testified about the arrest during a pretrial hearing, Goldman realized, “Oh my god, they have no idea we have this video.”

Five officers took the stand and “started saying the exact same thing like it was scripted.”

Every cop testified that at least four minutes passed from the time Sperling was pulled over until he was arrested. Each one testified that officer William Prunte smelled weed while standing at the driver’s side window, searched the car after Sperling admitted to having weed, and handcuffed him after he found the duffel bag.

“I mean it’s not like officer Prunte just walked up and got my client out of the car, right?” Goldman asked one of the cops, Vince Morgan, in court.

“That’s correct,” Morgan replied.

“And when my client exited the vehicle, he wasn’t immediately handcuffed, was he?”

“No.”

When the fifth and final officer took the stand, Goldman played the video.

It showed Prunte walking up to Sperling’s car and, without questioning him or taking his license, immediately opening his door, getting him out, putting on handcuffs, and sitting him in the back of a police cruiser — and only then searching his car and finding the bag.

**“Obviously this is very outrageous conduct,” Judge Catherine Haberkorn said in court. “All officers lied on the stand today. ... Many many many many times they all lied.”**

Asked how so many officers could give the exact same false story, one cop testified that they had gathered with a prosecutor to go over the questions they would be asked in court and hear the answers their colleagues were giving. To get their stories straight, it seems.

Prosecutors, absolving themselves by noting that police hadn’t sent them the dashcam footage, dropped the charges against Sperling, then filed perjury charges against the officers.

In her closing remarks, Judge Haberkorn acknowledged the reality that a probably guilty man was going free because of police actions.

The evidence against Sperling was so strong that Goldman had initially advised him to plead guilty.

“But the deal they were offering wasn’t that good,” he said. And so they went forward with the case. It did not shock Goldman to hear police officers lie under oath. What shocked him was the casual disregard for truth and law they exhibited in what should

have been an open-and-shut case: “They had him!” Goldman said. “They had him! They didn’t have to lie about it. It was a done deal.”

Sperling sued the department for civil rights violations and won a \$195,000 settlement. Two years later, he was charged with aggravated DUI and reckless homicide after a car crash that killed another driver.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **Clinical Trial Using Marijuana To Treat PTSD In Veterans Gets Underway**

February 7, 2017 By: Kathleen Curthoys; Army Times

The first participant in a clinical trial designed to evaluate the effectiveness of smoking marijuana to treat PTSD in veterans was given cannabis on Monday, according to the organization conducting the study.

The study is the first such trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of using marijuana to manage symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder in U.S. veterans, officials with the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies said in a release on Tuesday.

MAPS is a California-based non-profit research organization focused on “the careful uses” of marijuana, according to its website. The study is funded by a \$2 million grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The study will look at the safety and effectiveness of four separate levels of marijuana potency in 76 veterans. It will provide data on marijuana dosing, composition and side effects, and the potential benefits of using pot to treat PTSD.

The data will be intended for clinicians and legislators considering marijuana as a potential treatment for PTSD.

The first veteran to participate in the study received the marijuana on Monday at the Scottsdale Research Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, the release stated.

The study is taking place in two locations: in Phoenix, led by Dr. Sue Sisley, and at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, led by Ryan Vandrey.

The study is recruiting adult military veterans who have experienced trauma during military service. Screening for volunteers began in January.

Volunteers will complete 17 outpatient visits to one of the study location clinics in a 12-week period, with a follow-up visit in six months.

**Veterans interested in volunteering for the clinical trial may email [arizona@marijuanasites.org](mailto:arizona@marijuanasites.org) for the Phoenix location or call (410) 550-0050 to reach the Baltimore location.**

“As this is the first placebo-controlled trial of cannabis for PTSD, we are breaking important ground needed to identify improved treatment options for veterans with PTSD,” said Marcel Bonn-Miller of the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine, in the release. Bonn-Miller is overseeing the project at the two study sites.

The research received approval in early 2014 from the federal Health and Human Services Department and was to get underway at the University of Arizona and other locations. The program was delayed after the school in Tucson terminated Sisley’s contract, Military Times reported in January 2015.

Sisley and MAPS worked for more than four years to develop the study protocol and win federal approval.

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## **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**

**There is something in human history like retribution; and it is a rule of historical retribution that its instrument be forged not by the offended, but by the offender himself.**

**-- Karl Marx; Dispatches For The New York Tribune. September 16, 1857**

## **Military Recruiters: Get Fired Up**



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: February 10, 2017  
Subject: Military Recruiters: Get Fired Up

### **Military Recruiters: Get Fired Up**

**The message from military recruiters:**

#### **1. Career Training**

**2. Travel**

**3. Money For College**

**4. Serving Your Country**

**What the military recruiters don't tell you:**

**1. For every artillery round fired from the gun on this banner (see photo), there is the potential for death.**

**2. Only a small percentage of people leaving the military will ever finish college. Why? Because they are too traumatized.**

**3. One US military veteran commits suicide every hour in this country.**

**4. Lying by one's own government for the purpose of going to war is the ultimate betrayal.**

**5. PTSD is a trigger epidemic with US veterans and active duty personnel all over this country.**

**I had friends who committed suicide when they came home from Vietnam, and I was at the scene when a few soldiers took their lives while in Vietnam.**

**Most Vietnam veterans I have known have lost at least one friend to suicide when they returned from Vietnam. To counter military recruiters, these stories have to be told.**

**Mike Hastie  
Army Medic Vietnam  
February 10, 2017**

**A quote from one of the most famous antiwar novels ever written:**

**"If the thing they were fighting for was important enough to die for then it was also important enough for them to be thinking about it in the last minutes of their lives. That stood to reason. Life is awfully important so if you've given it away you'd ought to think with all your mind in the last moments of your life about the thing you traded if for. So, did all those kids die thinking of democracy and freedom and liberty and honor and the safety of the home and the stars and stripes forever? You're goddamn right they didn't."**

**Dalton Trumbo**

## Johnny Got His Gun

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### Writer's purpose:

Over the years I have put out a large body of photographs with simplistic prose, and poems that appear under my pictures to create a synergistic effect between the writings and the images. Most of my work is really directed at the youth in this country who were born long after the end of the Vietnam War. I have spoken in many high schools and colleges in Portland, Oregon since the 1980s. I see the innocent faces of the kids I talk to in these classes close up. Sometimes I give gut wrenching information as I tell the stories not only from my experiences, but stories that were shared with me by other veterans. It is absolutely essential that this life saving information be given to our youth, as military recruiters swoop down on these kids and steal their precious lives. When I speak in these classes, I consider these rooms sacred ground. When a high school student comes up to me after I have spoken and tells me they have decided not to go in the military based on information I just gave them, it is a powerful emotional moment in human communication. There is no rest for the messenger until the message has been delivered.

Mike Hastie

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

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



# JUST ANOTHER JOB

From: Gregg Shotwell, Soldiers Of Solidarity--SOS  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Subject: Just Another Job  
Date: Feb 7, 2017

Gregg Shotwell is a retired autoworker and author of the blog Live Bait and Ammo as well as the book *Autoworkers Under the Gun: A Shop-Floor View of the End of the American Dream*.

For Soldiers Of Solidarity:

<http://www.soldiersofsolidarity.org/www.soldiersofsolidarity.com/index.html>

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## JUST ANOTHER JOB

By Gregg Shotwell

I've come to admire the sniper  
with the dead eye  
the scope and the long range rifle

I've come to respect the intrepid  
knife wielding stalker  
for his stealth and personal touch

I've come to regard the derelict  
raging mad in the dim lit street  
terrorizing crowds in his bare feet

I'm taking my time now  
I've made up my mind  
I'm at ease studying the traffic

Detecting the patterns  
calculating precise  
coordinates and connections

I'm almost ready  
I turn 18 this Friday  
I hope the Army will take me

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## Political Fervor Beneath The Super Bowl's Surface:

# “The Fight Goes On, And The Wind Is At Our Back”

February 5, 2017 By Dave Zirin, The Nation

The New England Patriots won the Super Bowl 34-28, in the most gobsmacking, unfathomable comeback in Super Bowl history. Down 28-3, they came all the back to win in overtime. That will mean joy in the White House—as Donald Trump’s favorite team is victorious—and also joy for Patriots tight end Martellus Bennett, who won’t be joining the team upon their inevitable White House visit because of the man inhabiting that space.

**But there was something else thrumming beneath the surface of this game: something far more meaningful than which billionaire ended up hoisting the Lombardi Trophy.**

**It was something in the anthems, something in the commercials, something in the way people were watching the action.**

It started with the Schuyler Sisters from the musical Hamilton—Phillipa Soo, Renée Elise Goldsberry, and Jasmine Cephas Jones—singing “America the Beautiful” and adding the word “sisterhood”—as in “crown thy good in brotherhood and sisterhood”—to the lyrics.

Given the women’s marches that exploded after the Trump inauguration, given that Vice President Mike Pence was in a VIP box, and given Pence’s own history of being rebuked at the musical Hamilton last November, it was difficult to see the performance as anything but a highly choreographed shot to the solar plexus of this White House.

Then Lady Gaga’s halftime performance started with “God Bless America” and then, as if taking a hand-off from Soo, Goldsberry, and Jones, she transitioned to the Woody Guthrie anthem “This Land Is Your Land,” an anthem being sung at protests around the country.

There are many who wanted Lady Gaga to be more political, but when you choose a song not only organically connected to present day protests but one with lyrics that include, “As I went walking I saw a sign there / And on the sign it said “No Trespassing.” / But on the other side it didn’t say nothing, / That side was made for you and me,” the significance is unmistakable.

**Then she sang her rousing 2011 anthem “Born This Way.”**

**Six years ago, this was a statement against bullying. It is difficult to hear it now as anything but an anthem against the biggest bully of them all.**

The verses Gaga chose to sing must have given Steve Bannon more heart palpitations than Falcons receiver Mohamed Sanu as she sang,

Don’t be a drag, just be a queen

Whether you're broke or evergreen  
You're black, white, beige, chola descent  
You're Lebanese, you're orient  
Whether life's disabilities  
Left you outcast, bullied, or teased  
Rejoice and love yourself today  
'cause baby you were born this way

No matter gay, straight, or bi,  
Lesbian, transgendered life,  
I'm on the right track baby,  
I was born to survive.  
No matter black, white or beige  
Chola or orient made,  
I'm on the right track baby,  
I was born to be brave.

This is what happened on the field.

The commercials attempted to capture this mood as well, from a “proudly feminist” Audi ad to an Anheuser-Busch campaign celebrating the immigration story of the beer company’s founding family, much to the chagrin of online Nazis now calling for a boycott of the brewery.

**There was even a hair-product commercial that started with the statement, “We are in for four years of bad hair.”**

This might very well be seen as an effort to “commodify dissent,” but it is stunning that the suits of Madison Avenue—after years of erectile-dysfunction and sexist godaddy.com ads—feel something in the air that they yearn to commodify.

This is just what took place around the Super Bowl.

Outside the stadium, Houston saw a weekend of protests, culminating in the participation of more than 1,000 people in a Sunday march that stretched over one half a mile.

It was for black lives and against the Muslim ban, and decidedly against the aims of this White House. That’s what happens when the Super Bowl is staged in a city that takes in more refugees than anywhere in the United States.

There is no doubt that people who equated a Patriots victory with a victory of sorts for Trump will feel, um, deflated by the turn of events tonight.

But the real world is more complicated than that.

The Patriots will go home to a city that Trump would not even be able to enter without provoking mass protests, a city that just a week ago had hundreds of people clogging Logan airport to protest the Muslim ban and two weeks ago shut down greater Boston with post-inauguration protests.

The fight goes on, and the wind is at our back. The resistance continues, and great comebacks should remind us that nothing is set in stone.

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# **Holiday In Falluja: “I Was In Falluja During The Last Two Days Of The Final Assault” [A Soldier Reporting 2004]**

GI SPECIAL 2#C27 11.21.04

**From:** [Soldier, Iraq]  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2004 2:03 PM  
**Subject:** Holiday in Falluja

**These are ugly times for the US military in Iraq. It seems everywhere you turn, more and more troops are being killed and maimed in vicious encounters with determined rebel fighters.**

**The insurgency is mounting incredibly in such places as Baghdad, Mosul, and Baquba; using more advanced techniques and weaponry associated with a well-organized guerilla campaign. Even in the massively destroyed city of Falluja rebel forces are starting to reappear with a callous determination to win or die trying. Many critics and political pundits are starting to realize that this war is, in many aspects, un-winnable.**

And why should anyone think that a complete victory is possible? Conventionally, our US forces win territory here or there, killing a plethora of civilians as well as insurgents with each new boundary conquered. However, such as the recent case in Falluja, the rebel fighters have returned like a swarm of angry hornets attacking with a vicious frenzy.

**I was in Falluja during the last two days of the final assault.**

My mission was much different from that of the brave and weary infantry and marines involved in the major fighting.

I was on an escort mission, accompanied by a squad whose task it was to protect a high brass figure in the combat zone.

**This particularly arrogant officer went to the last battle in the same spirits of an impartial spectator checking out the fourth quarter of a high school football game.**

**Once we got to the marine occupied Camp Falluja and saw artillery being fired into town, the man suddenly became desperate to play an active role in the battle**

**that would render Falluja to ashes. It was already rumored that all he really wanted was his trigger time, perhaps to prove that he is the toughest cowboy west of the Euphrates.**

Guys like him are a dime a dozen in the army: a career soldier who spent the first twenty years of his service patrolling the Berlin Wall or guarding the DMZ between North and South Korea. This sort of brass may have been lucky to serve in the first Gulf War, but in all actuality spent very little time shooting rag heads.

**For these trigger-happy tough guys, the last two decades of cold war hostilities built into a war frenzy of stark emptiness, fizzling out almost completely with the Clinton administration.**

**But this is the New War, a never ending, action packed “Red Scare” in which the communist threat of yesteryear was simply replaced with the white knuckled tension of today’s “War on Terrorism”.**

**The younger soldiers who grew up in relatively peaceful times interpret the mentality of the careerists as one of making up for lost opportunities.** To the elder generation of trigger pullers, this is the real deal; the chance to use all the cool toys and high speed training that has been stored away since the '70s for something tangibly useful...and its about goddamn time.

However, upon reaching the front lines, a safety standard was in effect stating that the urban combat was extremely intense. The lightest armored vehicles allowed in sector were Bradley tanks.

**Taking a glance at our armored humvees, this commander insisted that our section would be fine.** Even though the armored humvees are very stout and nearly impenetrable against small arm fire, they usually don't hold up well against rocket attacks and roadside bombs like a heavily armored tank will. The reports from within the war zone indicated heavy rocket attacks, with an armed insurgent waiting on every corner for a soft target such as trucks.

**In the end, the overzealous officer was urged not to infiltrate into sector with only three trucks, for it would be a death wish during those dangerous twilight hours.** It was suggested that in the morning, after the air strikes were complete, he could move in and “inspect the damage”.

Even as the sun was setting over the hazy orange horizon, artillery was pounding away at the remaining twelve percent of the already devastated Falluja.

Many units were pulled out for the evening in preparation of a full-scale air strike that was scheduled to last for up to twelve hours.

Our squad was sitting on top of our parked humvees, manning the crew served machine guns and scanning the urban landscape for enemy activity. This was supposed to be a secured forward operating area, right on the edge of the combat zone. However, with no barbed wire perimeter set up and only a few scattered tanks serving as protection, one was under the assumption that if someone missed a minor detail while on guard, some serious shit could go down.

One soldier informed me that only two nights prior an insurgent was caught sneaking around the bullet-ridden houses to our immediate west. He was armed with a rocket-propelled grenade, and was laying low on his advance towards the perimeter. One of the tanks spotted him through its night vision and hastily shot him into three pieces. Indeed, though it was safe enough to smoke a cigarette and relax, one had to remain diligently aware of his surroundings if he planned on making it through the night.

As the evening wore on and the artillery continued, a new gruesome roar filled the sky.

The fighter jets were right on time and made their grand appearance with a series of massive air strikes. Between the pernicious bombs and fierce artillery, the sky seemed as though it were on fire for several minutes at a time. First you would see a blaze of light in the horizon, like lightning hitting a dynamite warehouse, and then hear the massive explosion that would turn your stomach, rattle your eyeballs, and compress itself deep within your lungs. Although these massive bombs were being dropped no further than five kilometers away, it felt like it was happening right in front of your face.

At first, it was impossible not to flinch with each unexpected boom, but after scores of intense explosions, your senses became aware and complacent towards them.

At times the jets would scream menacingly low over the city and open fire with smaller missiles meant for extreme accuracy. This is what Top Gun, in all its glory and silver screen acclaim, seemed to be lacking in the movie's high budget sound effects.

These air-deployed missiles make a banshee-like squeal, sort of like a bottle rocket fueled with plutonium, and then suddenly would become inaudible. Seconds later, the colossal explosion would rip the sky open and hammer devastatingly into the ground, sending flames and debris pummeling into the air. And as always, the artillery—some rounds were high explosive, some were illumination rounds, some were reported as being white phosphorus (the modern day napalm).

Occasionally, on the outskirts of the isolated impact area, you could hear tanks firing machine guns and blazing their cannons. It was amazing that anything could survive this deadly onslaught. Suddenly a transmission came over the radio approving the request for "bunker-busters". Apparently, there were a handful of insurgent compounds that were impenetrable by artillery. At the time, I was unaware when these bunker-busters were deployed, but I was told later that the incredibly massive explosions were a direct result of these "final solution" type missiles.

I continued to watch the final assault on Falluja throughout the night from atop my humvee.

It was interesting to scan the vast skies above with night vision goggles. Circling continuously overhead throughout the battle was an array of attack helicopters. The most devastating were the Cobras and Apaches with their chain gun missile launchers.

Through the night vision I could see them hovering around the carnage, scanning the ground with an infrared spotlight that seemed to reach for miles. Once a target was identified, a rapid series of hollow blasts would echo through the skies, and from the ground came a "rat-a-tatting" of explosions, like a daisy chain of supercharged black cats

during a Fourth of July barbeque. More artillery, more tanks, more machine gun fire, ominous death-dealing fighter planes terminating whole city blocks at a time...this wasn't a war, it was a massacre!

As I look back on the air strikes that lasted well into the next morning, I cannot help but to be both amazed by our modern technology and disgusted by its means.

It occurred to me many times during the siege that while the Falluja resistance was boldly fighting us with archaic weapons from the Cold War, we were soaring far above their heads dropping Thor's fury with a destructive power and precision that may as well been nuclear. It was like the Iraqis were bringing a knife to a tank fight.

**And yet, the resistance toiled on, many fighting until their deaths.**

**What determination!**

**Some soldiers call them stupid for even thinking they have a chance in hell to defeat the strongest military in the world, but I call them brave.**

**It's not about fighting to win an immediate victory. And what is a conventional victory in a non-conventional war?**

It seems overwhelmingly obvious that this is no longer within the United States hands.

We reduced Falluja to rubble. We claimed victory and told the world we held Falluja under total and complete control. Our military claimed very little civilian casualties and listed thousands of insurgents dead.

CNN and Fox News harped and cheered on the television that the Battle of Falluja would go down in history as a complete success, and a testament to the United States' supremacy on the modern battlefield.

**However, after the dust settled and generals sat in cozy offices smoking their victory cigars, the front lines in Falluja exploded again with indomitable mortar, rocket, and small arm attacks on US and coalition forces.**

**Recent reports indicate that many insurgents have resurfaced in the devastated city of Falluja. We had already claimed the situation under control, and were starting to turn our attention to the other problem city of Mosul. Suddenly we were backtracking our attention to Falluja.**

Did the Department of Defense and the national press lie to the public and claim another preemptive victory?

Not necessarily so. Conventionally we won the battle, how could anyone argue that? We destroyed an entire city and killed thousands of its occupants. **But the main issue that both the military and public forget to analyze is that this war, beyond any shadow of a doubt, is completely guerrilla.**

**Sometimes I wonder if the West Point graduated officers have ever studied the intricate simplicity and effectiveness of guerrilla warfare.**

During the course of this war, I have occasionally asked a random lieutenant or a captain if he at any time has even browsed through Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare*. Almost half of them admit that they have not. This I find to be amazing! Here we have many years of guerrilla warfare ahead of us and our military's leadership seems dangerously unaware of what it all means!

Anyone can tell you that a guerrilla fighter is one who uses hit and run techniques to attempt a breakdown of a stronger conventional force.

**However, what is more important to a guerrilla campaign are the political forces that drive it. Throughout history, many guerrilla armies have been successful; our own country and its fight for independence cannot be excluded.**

**We should have learned a lesson in guerrilla fighting with the Vietnam War only thirty years ago, but history has a funny way of repeating itself. The Vietnam War was a perfect example of how quick, deadly assaults on conventional troops over a long period of time can lead to an unpopular public view of the war, thus ending it.**

**Che Guevara stressed in his book *Guerrilla Warfare* that the most important factor in a guerrilla campaign is popular support. With that, victory is almost completely assured.**

**The Iraqis already have many of the main ingredients of a successful insurrection. Not only do they have a seemingly endless supply of munitions and weapons, they have the advantage to blend into their environment, whether that environment is a crowded market place or a thickly vegetated palm grove.**

**The Iraqi insurgent has utilized these advantages to the fullest, but his most important and relevant advantage is the popular support from his own countrymen.**

**What our military and government needs to realize is that every mistake we make is an advantage to the Iraqi insurrection. Every time an innocent man, woman or child is murdered in a military act, deliberate or not, the insurgent grows stronger.**

**Even if an innocent civilian is slain at the hands of his/her own freedom fighter, that fighter is still viewed as a warrior of the people, while the occupying force will ultimately be blamed as the responsible perpetrator.**

Everything about this war is political...every ambush, every bombing, every death. When a coalition worker or soldier is abducted and executed, this only adds encouragement and justice to the dissident fervor of the Iraq public, while angering and demoralizing the occupier.

Our own media will prove to be our downfall as well. Every time an atrocity is revealed through our news outlets, our grasp on this once secular nation slips away. **As America grows increasingly disturbed by the images of carnage and violent death of her own sons in arms, its government loses the justification to continue the bloody debacle.**



**Since all these traits are the conventional power's unavoidable mistakes, the guerrilla campaign will surely succeed.**

**In Iraq's case, complete destruction of the United States military is impossible, but through perseverance the insurgency will drive us out. This will prove to be the inevitable outcome of the war.**

**We lost many soldiers in the final battle for Falluja, and many more were seriously wounded. It seems unfair that even after the devastation we wreaked on this city just to contain it, many more troops will die in vain to keep it that way.**

I saw the look in the eyes of a reconnaissance scout while I talked to him after the battle. His stories of gore and violent death were unnerving. The sacrifices that he and his whole platoon had made were infinite. They fought everyday with little or no sleep, very few breaks, and no hot meals.

For obvious reasons, they never could manage to find time to email their mothers to let them know that everything turned out ok.

**Some of the members of his platoon will never get the chance to reassure their mothers, because now those soldiers are dead.**

The look in his eyes as he told some of the stories were deep and weary, even perturbed. He described in accurate detail how some enemy combatants were blown to pieces by army issued bazookas, some had their heads shot off by a 50 caliber bullet, others were run over by tanks as they stood defiantly in the narrow streets firing an AK-47.

The soldier told me how one of his favorite sergeants died right in front of him. He was taking cover behind an alley wall and as he emerged to fire his M4 rifle, he was shot through the abdomen with a rocket-propelled grenade.

The grenade itself exploded and sent shrapnel into the narrator's leg. He showed me where a chunk of burned flesh was torn from his left thigh.

**He ended his conversation saying that he was just a dumb kid from California who never thought joining the army would send him straight to hell. He told me he was tired as fuck and wanted a shower. Then he slowly walked away, cradling a rifle under his arm.**

hEkLe

Falluja, Iraq

p.s. -pass this on to all your friends, especially your republican friends. thanx.

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## **The Origin Of The Golden Rule:**

# [Those Who Have The Gold Make The Rules]

By Frederick Engels 1887. Source: Marx and Engels On Religion, Progress Publishers, 1957

The world outlook of the Middle Ages was substantially theological. The unity of the European world which actually did not exist internally, was established externally, against the common Saracen foe, by Christianity.

The unity of the West-European world, which consisted of a group of nations developing in continual intercourse, was welded in Catholicism.

This theological welding was not only in ideas, it existed in reality, not only in the Pope, its monarchistic centre, but above all in the feudally and hierarchically organized Church, which, owning about a third of the land in every country, occupied a position of tremendous power in the feudal organization.

The Church with its feudal landownership was the real link between the different countries; the feudal organization of the Church gave a religious consecration to the secular feudal state system.

Besides, the clergy was the only educated class. It was therefore natural that Church dogma was the starting-point and basis of all thought.

Jurisprudence, natural science, philosophy, everything was dealt with according to, whether its content agreed or disagreed with the doctrines of the Church.

But in the womb of feudalism the power of the bourgeoisie was developing.

A new class appeared in opposition to the big landowners.

The city burghers were first and foremost and exclusively producers of and traders in commodities, while the feudal mode of production was based substantially on self-consumption of the product within a limited circle, partly by the producers and partly by the feudal lord.

The Catholic world outlook, fashioned on the pattern of feudalism, was no longer adequate for this new class and its conditions of production and exchange.

Nevertheless, this new class remained for a long time a captive in the bonds of almighty theology.

**From the thirteenth to the seventeenth century all the reformations and the struggles carried out under religious slogans that were connected with them were, on the theoretical side, nothing but repeated attempts of the burghers and plebeians in the towns and the peasants who had become rebellious by contact**

**with both the latter to adapt the old theological world outlook to the changed economic conditions and the condition of life of the new class.**

**But that could not be done.**

**The flag of religion waved for the last time in England in the seventeenth century, and hardly fifty years later appeared undisguised in France the new world outlook which was to become the classical outlook of bourgeoisie, the juristic world outlook.**

**It was a secularization of the theological outlook.**

Human right took the place of dogma, of divine right, the state took the place of the church. The economic and social conditions, which had formerly been imagined to have been created by the Church and dogma because they were sanctioned by the Church, were now considered as founded on right and created by the state.

Because commodity exchange on a social scale and in its full development, particularly through advance and credit, produces complicated mutual contract relations and therefore demands generally applicable rules that can be given only by the community — state-determined standards of right — it was imagined that these standards of right arose not from the economic facts but from formal establishment by the state.

**And because competition, the basic form of trade of free commodity producers, is the greatest equalizer, equality before the law became the main battle-cry of the bourgeoisie.**

The fact that this newly aspiring class's struggle against the feudal lords and the absolute monarchy then protecting them, like every class struggle, had to be a political struggle, a struggle for the mastery of the state, and had to be fought on juridical demands contributed to strengthen the juristic outlook.

**But the bourgeoisie produced its negative double, the proletariat, and with it a new class struggle which broke out before the bourgeoisie had completed the conquest of political power.**

**As the bourgeoisie in its time had by force of tradition dragged the theological outlook with it for a while in its fight against the nobility, so, too, the proletariat at first took over the juristic outlook from its opponent and sought in it weapons against the bourgeoisie.**

**The first elements of the proletarian party as well as their theoretical representatives remained wholly on the juristic "ground of right," the only distinction being that they built up for themselves a different ground of "right" from that of the bourgeoisie.**

On one side the demand for equality was extended so that equality in right would be completed by social equality; on the other, from Adam Smith's proposition that labour is the source of all wealth but that the product of labour must be shared with the landowner and the capitalist the conclusion was drawn that this sharing was unjust and must be either abolished or modified in favour of the worker.

But the feeling that to leave this question on the mere juristic “ground of right” in no way made possible the abolition of the evil conditions created by the bourgeois-capitalistic mode of production, i.e., the mode of production based on large-scale industry, already then led the major minds among the earlier socialists — Saint-Simon, Fourier and Owen — to abandon entirely the juristic-political field and to declare all political struggle fruitless.

Both these views were equally unsatisfactory to express adequately and embrace completely the working class’s desire for emancipation created by economic conditions.

The demand for the full product of labour and just as much the demand for equality lost themselves in unsolvable contradictions as soon as they were formulated juristically in detail and left the core of the question — the transformation of the mode of production — more or less untouched.

The rejection of the political struggle by the great Utopians was at the same time the rejection of the class struggle, i.e., of the only form of activity of the class whose interests they represented.

**Both outlooks made abstraction of the historical background to which they owed their existence; both appealed to feeling: some to the feeling of justice, others to the feeling of humanity.**

**Both attired their demands in the form of pious wishes of which one could not say why they had to be fulfilled at that very time and not a thousand years earlier or later.**

The working class, who by the changing of the feudal mode of production into the capitalist mode was deprived of all ownership of the means of production and by the mechanism of the capitalist mode of production is continually engendered anew in that hereditary state of propertylessness, cannot find an exhaustive expression of its living condition in the juristic illusion of the bourgeoisie.

**It can only know that condition of life fully itself if it looks at things in their reality without juristically colored glasses.**

**But Marx helped it to do that with his materialist conception of history, by providing the proof that all man’s juristic, political, philosophical, religious and other ideas are derived in the last resort from his economic conditions of life, from his mode of production and of exchanging the product.**

**Thus he provided the world outlook corresponding to the conditions of the life and struggle of the proletariat; only lack of illusions in the heads of the workers could correspond to their lack of property. And this proletarian world outlook is now spreading over the world.**

**USA**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **February 13, 1968: The Anniversary Of Five Honorable Soldiers Who Stood Up**

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

Five soldiers were arrested at a pray-in for peace in Vietnam at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Two were court-martialed for refusing to stop praying. The pray-in was repeated a year later.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**“Trump’s Popularity As President  
Has ‘Declined Precipitously Just  
Over The Last Two Weeks’”  
“Support For Impeaching Trump Has  
Crept Up From 35 Percent Two Weeks  
Ago To Its 46 Percent Standing This  
Week”**

February 10, 2017 by Deirdre Fulton, staff writer; Common Dreams [Excerpts]

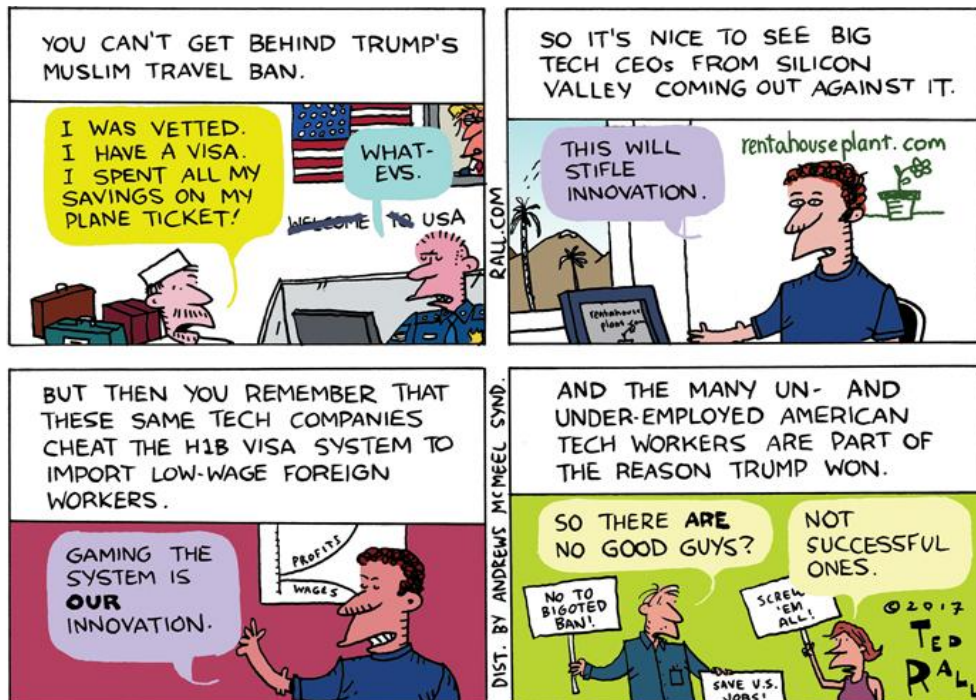
[A] Public Policy Polling (PPP) survey also released Friday finds that Trump’s popularity as president has “declined precipitously just over the last two weeks.”

The first PPP poll of Trump’s presidency in late January found voters were evenly divided on Trump, with 44 percent approving of him and 44 percent disapproving. Now, his approval rating is 43 percent, while his disapproval has gone all the way up to 53 percent.

What's more, the poll shows 46 percent in favor of impeaching Trump and 46 percent opposed. According to PPP, "Support for impeaching Trump has crept up from 35 percent two weeks ago, to 40 percent last week, to its 46 percent standing this week."

Respondents also told PPP that the television program "Saturday Night Live" has more credibility than Trump (48-43 percent, with 10 percent "not sure").

## DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



### YOUR INVITATION:

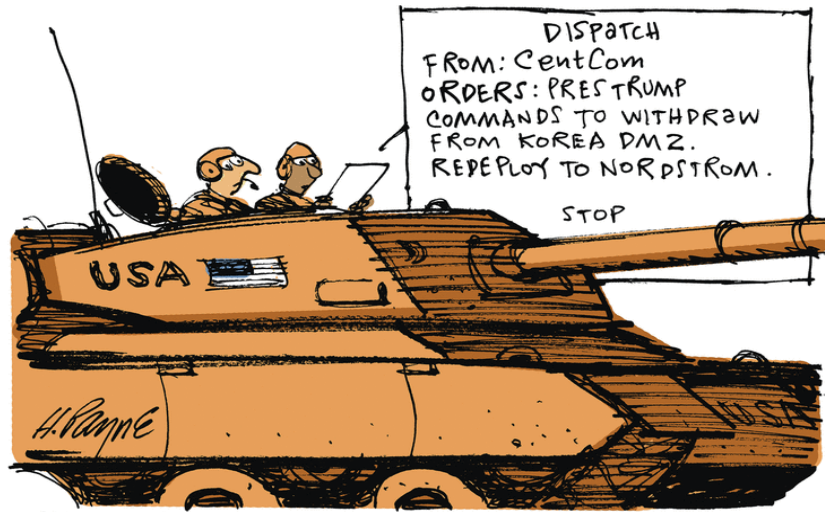
Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome.

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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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