

## GI SPECIAL 2#93

“And Dear God, please don’t let all those grunts we killed cost me the election.”



Bush, Arlington National Cemetery, May 31 (Larry Downing/Reuters)

# America's Abu Ghraibs

31 May 2004 By Bob Herbert, New York Times

**Most Americans were shocked by the sadistic treatment of Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison. But we shouldn't have been. Not only are inmates at prisons in the U.S. frequently subjected to similarly grotesque treatment, but Congress passed a law in 1996 to ensure that in most cases they were barred from receiving any financial compensation for the abuse.**

Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, represented several prisoners in Georgia who sought compensation in the late-1990's for treatment that was remarkably similar to the abuses at Abu Ghraib. An undertaker named Wayne Garner was in charge of the prison system at the time, having been appointed in 1995 by the governor, Zell Miller, who is now a U.S. senator.

Mr. Garner considered himself a tough guy. In a federal lawsuit brought on behalf of the prisoners by the center, he was quoted as saying that while there were some inmates who "truly want to do better ... there's another 30 to 35 per cent that ain't fit to kill. And I'm going to be there to accommodate them."

On Oct. 23, 1996, officers from the Tactical Squad of the Georgia Department of Corrections raided the inmates' living quarters at Dooly State Prison, a medium-security facility in Unadilla, Ga. This was part of a series of brutal shakedowns at prisons around the state that were designed to show the prisoners that a new and tougher regime was in charge.

What followed, according to the lawsuit, was simply sick. **Officers opened cell doors and ordered the inmates, all males, to run outside and strip. With female prison staff members looking on, and at times laughing, several inmates were subjected to extensive and wholly unnecessary body cavity searches. The inmates were ordered to lift their genitals, to squat, to bend over and display themselves, etc.**

**One inmate who was suspected of being gay was told that if he ever said anything about the way he was being treated, he would be locked up and beaten until he wouldn't "want to be gay anymore." An officer who was staring at another naked inmate said, "I bet you can tap dance." The inmate was forced to dance, and then had his body cavities searched.**

**An inmate in a dormitory identified as J-2 was slapped in the face and ordered to bend over and show himself to his cellmate. The raiding party apparently found that to be hilarious.**

**According to the lawsuit, Mr. Garner himself, the commissioner of the Department of Corrections, was present at the Dooly Prison raid.**

None of the prisoners named in the lawsuit were accused of any improper behavior during the course of the raid. The suit charged that the inmates' constitutional rights had been violated and sought compensation for the pain, suffering, humiliation and degradation they had been subjected to.

**The message with regard to the treatment of prisoners in the U.S. has been clear for years: Treat them any way you'd like. They're just animals.**

**The treatment of the detainees in Iraq was far from an aberration. They, too, were treated like animals, which was simply a logical extension of the way we treat prisoners here at home.**

### **GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

# Another Soldier Killed By Stop-Loss; South Bay Man Becomes 100th Californian To Die In Iraq

June 1, 2004 AP

**MOUNTAIN VIEW --** A Mountain View man serving as a tank platoon commander in Iraq was killed over the holiday weekend by small arms fire near the city of Najaf, his family confirmed Tuesday.

Army Lt. Ken Ballard became the state's 100th casualty in the Iraq conflict. **His mother - Karen Meredith -- received word of her son's death Monday morning. The two had talked nearly every day since his deployment either by phone or online.** The family kept a website updated with Ballard's communications and photos from the front.

**"He was an only child. I was a single mom," Meredith told the San Jose Mercury News. "He knew how important it was for me to hear from him."**

**Ironically, Ballard was supposed to come home last week but had been kept in Iraq by an extended stay order.**

Ballard was born and raised in Mountain View. He joined the Army shortly after graduating from Mountain View High in 1995. He had previously served in Bosnia and Macedonia.

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## One Soldier Dies, Two Wounded in IED Attack

6.1.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040531j

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - One Task Force Baghdad Soldier died and two others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated in southwest Baghdad at about 11:40 p.m., May 30.**

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# 2 U.S. Soldiers Wounded, 7 Collaborator Soldiers Killed By IED At Beiji Base Gate

6/1/04 Baghdad, Iraq

**Eleven Iraqis were killed and 23 other people hurt, including two Americans, in a roadside bombing Tuesday near a U.S. military base in northern Iraq.**

**Seven of the dead Iraqis were members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. Two of the wounded were soldiers from the First Infantry Division.**

The blast occurred outside the gates of the First Infantry Division's forward operating base in Beiji, about 155 miles north of Baghdad.

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## Marine Killed In Action; Marine Corps Continues Afraid To Release Details

6.1.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040601c

**CAMP FALLUJAH --** A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action in the Al Anbar Province May 31 while conducting security and stability operations.

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## Fighting Breaks Out Again In Kufa

June 01, 2004 Muslim American Society News

KUFA, Iraq, June 01(News agencies)

Fighting resumed in the Iraqi Shiite city of Kufa Tuesday despite announcement earlier that a fresh truce had been reached between US forces and the militia of Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, an AFP photographer reported.

**Four US tanks were deployed some 500 metres (yards) from the Kufa mosque and fighting broke out, with militiamen firing mortars and the tanks using their heavy machine guns.**

**It was not immediately clear who first opened fire.**

The renewed clashes come only hours after the governor of the twin city of Najaf, Adnan al-Zorfi, announced that the two parties had reached an agreement for a three-day truce.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Dead In Iraq At 22: “Didn’t Believe In The War”**

May 30, 2004 By Wayne A. Hall, For the Times Herald-Record

Highland Falls - A mile-and-a-half-long march by an estimated 300 chanting demonstrators noisily passed by West Point's main gate on the academy's graduation day yesterday.

The march was led by a Vietnam veteran in a wheelchair and included a tuxedo-clad protester who spoke of billionaires reaping wealth from the war and another in a George W. Bush mask who tossed a globe in a game of imperialism catch.

**Also there was a somber George Medina of Goshen, whose son, Irving, was killed in Iraq.**

**Medina said his boy, 22, didn't believe in the war. "But he said he had to go. He said it was his job," Medina said. But Bush lied about what that job was, he said. "This is an illegal war," he told the crowd. Irving's twin brother Ivan, also a veteran, denounced the war as well.**

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.** Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>

### **Wounded Chicagoan Worried About Wedding Ring**

June 1, 2004 [Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc.](#), CHICAGO

**A former Roosevelt High School basketball player who lost a hand in a grenade attack in Iraq says the first thing she thought about was losing her wedding ring. Danielle Green lost her left hand in a rocket-propelled grenade attack while guarding a Baghdad police station.**

She was at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington Tuesday undergoing further surgery.

Green told WSBT-TV in South Bend, Ind., that her platoon sergeant went up on the roof and found her rings. She now wears them on her right hand.

She graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1999.

Green enlisted in the Army in 2003 after coaching at a high school and college in her hometown of Chicago.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **68% Back al-Sadr**

From David S., [interpax@yahoogroups.com](mailto:interpax@yahoogroups.com)

**A recent poll by the Iraq Centre for Research and Strategic Studies shows Sadr backing by 68% of the Iraqi people while leading Shiite cleric al-Sistani has lost standing and power. Sheik Shibana told the LA Times Iraqis now have one enemy (the U.S.) under one Shiite leadership (Sadr).**

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### **Two Poles, Five Others Abducted Near Baghdad**

June 01, 2004 By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA, WARSAW, Poland (AP)

**Two Polish construction workers were abducted Tuesday near Baghdad, along with three security guards and two other aides, a spokesman for their company said.**

**The group was abducted from their office northwest of the Iraqi capital at about noon by people who drove up in two Jeeps,** Andrzej Polackiewicz, a spokesman for the Jedyinka construction company, told Polish television.

One of the Polish men got away and reached coalition forces, Lt. Col. Robert Strzelecki, the spokesman for the Polish-led multinational division in Iraq, said in a phone interview from Camp Babylon in Iraq.

``The man is in good condition. He suffered no injuries and he has gotten in touch with his family," he said.

Polackiewicz said the man who escaped, Radoslaw Kadri, managed to kick in a car window and jump out near a U.S. troop patrol, despite being handcuffed. The patrol gave chase but lost the assailants.

**Polackiewicz identified the other abductees as three Kurdish security guards and two female staffers whose nationalities were not given.** A search was under way for the missing Polish worker and the other abductees.

Polackiewicz said the kidnappers burst into the office and rifled through papers and drawers.

**“(The raid) looked like it was well prepared,” he told N24 television.**

Poland, a leading U.S. ally in last year's war to oust Saddam Hussein, commands some 6,200 troops from 17 nations in south-central Iraq and contributes some 2,400 troops of its own.

**Very few Polish civilians remain in Iraq, the Foreign Ministry said this week.**

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## **“State Of Emergency” Declared In Kirkuk**

31 May 2004 Agence France Presse

An Iraqi translator working at the US military base in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, was seriously wounded Monday when gunmen fired on his car, police said.

**"A state of emergency has been announced as police in Kirkuk are on high alert for new attacks against senior officials in the city," Tahseen Keha, head of the council, told AFP.**

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## **Three Dead In Kirkuk Grenade Attack On Trucks Carrying Security Barriers**

02jun04 AFP, From correspondents in Kirkuk, Iraq

**THREE Iraqis were killed and one seriously wounded yesterday when attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades at two trucks carrying cement barriers on a highway south of Kirkuk, police said.**

The assailants opened fire at the first truck at 10.30am local time, 160 kms south of Kirkuk, the main oil centre. The second truck was attacked in the same place at 11.40 am local time, police added.

Three civilians were reported killed in the attacks. One other Iraqi was left with serious injuries, police said.

Concrete slabs of the type carried on each truck are used across Iraq as security barriers outside government buildings, US military bases, hotels and many party political headquarters.

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## **Car Bomb Rips Through Kurdish Party HQ in Baghdad**

Jun 1 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

A car bomb tore through the headquarters of one of Iraq's main Kurdish parties in Baghdad on Tuesday, **killing and wounding dozens.**

**The blast came as U.S. and Iraqi officials announced the names of an Iraqi government due to formally take over sovereignty from the occupying powers on June 30.**

Iraqi policeman Sattar Jabar said he had seen at least 25 bodies.

**The blast was at the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, close to Iraq's Foreign Ministry and an entrance to the "Green Zone" compound where the U.S.-led administration in Iraq is based.**

A huge crater was blown into the ground at the entrance to the building. Officials said an anniversary party had been going on in the building and that it was packed with people when the bomb exploded.

Saad Adnan a driver at the transport ministry, said he was driving past the PUK headquarters when it was hit by the blast.

**He said guards at the building opened fire after the blast, killing some bystanders.**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Zinni Got That Right**

**"There's one statement that bothers me more than anything else. And that's the idea that when the troops are in combat, everybody has to shut up. Imagine if we put troops in combat with a faulty rifle, and that rifle was malfunctioning, and troops were dying as a result. Well, what's the difference between a faulty plan and strategy that's getting just as many troops killed?"** Anthony Zinni, . a former four-star Marine general and commander of the Central Command in the Middle East, 31 May 2004 San Diego Union-Tribune



**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **Masters of War By Bob Dylan**

Come you masters of war  
You that build all the guns  
You that build the death planes  
You that build the big bombs  
You that hide behind walls  
You that hide behind desks  
I just want you to know  
I can see through your masks

You that never done nothin'  
But build to destroy  
You play with my world  
Like it's your little toy  
You put a gun in my hand  
And you hide from my eyes  
And you turn and run farther  
When the fast bullets fly

Like Judas of old  
You lie and deceive  
A world war can be won  
You want me to believe  
But I see through your eyes  
And I see through your brain  
Like I see through the water  
That runs down my drain

You fasten the triggers  
For the others to fire  
Then you set back and watch  
When the death count gets higher  
You hide in your mansion  
As young people's blood  
Flows out of their bodies  
And is buried in the mud

You've thrown the worst fear  
That can ever be hurled

Fear to bring children  
Into the world  
For threatening my baby  
Unborn and unnamed  
You ain't worth the blood  
That runs in your veins

How much do I know  
To talk out of turn  
You might say that I'm young  
You might say I'm unlearned  
But there's one thing I know  
Though I'm younger than you  
Even Jesus would never  
Forgive what you do

Let me ask you one question  
Is your money that good  
Will it buy you forgiveness  
Do you think that it could  
I think you will find  
When your death takes its toll  
All the money you made  
Will never buy back your soul

**And I hope that you die  
And your death'll come soon  
I will follow your casket  
In the pale afternoon  
And I'll watch while you're lowered  
Down to your deathbed  
And I'll stand o'er your grave  
'Til I'm sure that you're dead**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Bremers' Clown Show Stews And Dithers**

31 May 2004 By Monte Morin and Alissa J. Rubin, Los Angeles Times & Luke Harding  
and Michael Howard, The Guardian U.K.

The top U.S. civilian administrator for Iraq on Sunday ordered the Iraqi Governing Council to delay nominating a president for a caretaker government that will take power at the end of June.

The US was last night locked in a dispute with Iraqi leaders over who should be the country's president when power is handed over on June 30.

The US governor of Iraq, Paul Bremer, and the UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, insisted the job should go to Adnan Pachachi, an 81-year-old former foreign minister. But the Iraqi governing council demanded that the largely ceremonial post should go to Sheikh Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawar, an Arab businessman in his 40s who has criticised the US-led occupation and who is the council's president.

L. Paul Bremer III, who heads the Coalition Provisional Authority, personally intervened when the council was on the verge of holding a vote to ratify its choice, Ghazi Ajil Yawar, a young tribal leader critical of the U.S.-led occupation.

**At a stormy governing council meeting yesterday, Mr. Bremer bluntly warned members not to hold another vote** on who should be the new president. If they did he would ignore it.

**"The behaviour of Mr. Bremer and Mr. Brahimi has been shameful," Dr Mahmoud Othman, a leading council member told the Guardian. "It's like being in a dictatorship again. Adnan follows the Americans around like a puppy. If the Americans told Adnan that yoghurt was black, he would go along with it."**

"Bremer came in and read them the riot act," a Governing Council aide said.

**Occupation authorities denied Sunday that they were applying pressure to the Governing Council.**

**"We have not been leaning on anybody to support one president over another,"** said Dan Senor, a spokesman for the coalition. **"Under international law, we have the ultimate authority for what happens in Iraq. We are the occupational power."**

**"The [Coalition Provisional Authority] and Mr. Bremer are pressuring us not to use our hearts,"** said Mahmoud Othman, an independent Kurdish member. **"If they insist on this, it will be very bad for the credibility of the U.S. They have no right to impose these things on Iraqis."**

**The bickering has done little to help the new government's credibility. "The people were never involved in the political process for 35 years. So what's new," Kareem Mahmoud, a Baghdad street vendor said.**

## **Questions For President Bush Meant To Help Strengthen His Remaining Speeches About Iraq**

June 1, 2004 by Chalmers Johnson, Common Dreams

1. Please tell us more about your notion of "full sovereignty" for Iraq. Will this be like our returning Okinawan sovereignty to Japan in 1972, when we retained exclusive control over the 38 military bases on the island and the deployment and behavior of American forces on them?

**2. Please tell us: If we plan to return Iraq to the Iraqis, why is the U.S. currently building fourteen permanent bases there?**

3. Presumably the American troops to be stationed on these bases will remain under the control of the Pentagon and beyond the legal reach of any "sovereign" Iraqi state. Such arrangements are usually covered by a "Status of Forces Agreement" (SOFA) that we normally impose on the government in whose territory our bases are placed. Who will sign the SOFA on the Iraqi side? What are its terms? Will it be binding on the new government you hope the Iraqis will elect early next year?

**4. The sovereignty discussion has been focused mainly on the question of who will control the actions of what troops -- Iraqi or American -- in the coming months. But American advisers will be stationed in every Iraqi "ministry"; the new government will evidently be capable neither of passing, nor abrogating laws or regulations laid down by the occupying power; and the economy, except for oil, will remain open to all foreign corporate investors. Please tell us if this really strikes you as "full sovereignty"?**

5. You say that we will tear down Abu Ghraib prison if the Iraqis so wish. What if they wish to preserve it as a monument to our cruelty as well as Saddam Hussein's?



Iraqi women stand outside Abu Ghraib prison awaiting information about relatives held inside, west of Baghdad, May 25, 2004.. (Zohra Bensemra/Reuters)

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION**

**BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**Two New Photos Prove Bush Possessed  
By Satanic Demon Bezuzu;  
Christian Sectarian Lunatics Declare  
They Will Oppose His Re-Election**



This photo of President George W. Bush, taken May 25, 2004, shows Bush accompanied by Bezuzu, Second Class Satanic Demon, who appears to humans in the form of a locust or cicada. (Larry Downing/Reuters)

This next photo, taken one day earlier, shows Bush's right eye turned inward and focused on his own nose. Several other recent photos show the same phenomena, associated with possession by malevolent forces.

Rev. Wilburt Scroggins, of the First Sanctified Apostolic Church Of The Devine Revelation Of Evildoers And Devil Worshippers, Oolitic, Indiana, said this proved beyond any doubt that Bush has been possessed by demonic forces. The decision by the Christian extremist groups dealt a fresh blow to the Presidents' fading hopes for re-election.

The Christian lunatics announced they will launch a write-in campaign for Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel. "After all," said Scroggins, "he's a lot better at killing off them

no-count A-rabs and Godless heathens than Georgie Boy. No wonder I-rack is such a mess. Bezuzu is in charge.”



President George “Bezuzu” Bush focusing right eye on own nose, May 24, 2004 (Mike Theiler/Reuters)

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## Vice President Cheney A Lying Rat

*(International Herald Tribune, June 1, 2004)* **A Pentagon e-mail says that Vice President Richard Cheney coordinated a huge Halliburton government contract for Iraq, Time magazine reported, despite Cheney's denial of interest in the company, which he ran until 2000. Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, was given the job of coordinating the contract by his boss, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Time said.**

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

# U.S. Soldiers In Afghanistan “Lack Confidence In Generals”

Robert Novak (*Chicago Sun-Times*, May 31, 2004)

The handful of valiant American warriors fighting the "other" war in Afghanistan is not a happy band of brothers. They are undermanned and feel neglected, lack confidence in their generals and are disgusted by Afghan political leadership. (Proving, once again, that soldiers in combat are highly intelligent individuals.)

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## Afghan Election A Fraud

(*Christian Science Monitor*, June 1, 2004) National elections in Afghanistan are still months off, but recent dealings between top power brokers have fed a **growing perception among ordinary Afghans and Western diplomats alike that the result is a foregone conclusion. Critics say interim President Hamid Karzai has promised key cabinet posts to warlord commanders in exchange for their support of his candidacy.**

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## CLASS WAR NEWS

### Wal-Mart: “Capitalism Of 100 Years Ago”

April 17, 2004 By Steven Greenhouse, New York Times

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., April 13 — We already know that Wal-Mart is the biggest retailer. (If it were an independent nation, it would be China's eighth-largest trading partner.) We also know that it is maniacal about low prices. (Some economists say it has single-handedly cut inflation by 1 percent in recent years, saving consumers billions of dollars annually.) We know that its labor practices have come under attack (It charges its workers so much for health insurance that about one-third of them do not have it)

The company's pay scale and hard-nosed labor practices said Simon Head, a fellow at the Century Foundation and author of "The New Ruthless Economy: Work and Power In the Digital age" (Oxford University Press, 2003) mean that **“Wal-Mart is certainly a template of 21st-century capitalism, but a capitalism that increasingly resembles a capitalism of 100 years ago.”** He added, **“It combines the extremely dynamic rise of technology with a very authoritarian and ruthless managerial culture”**

Wal-Mart has made a traditional sales force obsolete, said James Hoopes, a historian at Babson College, in Wellesley Mass. When retailing began centuries ago, salesmen were needed to explain goods to customers. But Wal-Mart follows a different model. **Using technology, the company collects detailed information on the billions of**

**purchases its customers make each year. Based on that information, it orders products (at low prices), confident that customers will like the merchandise and the prices, thus eliminating some of the need for an informed sales force.**

Everyone at the conference seemed to marvel at Wal-Mart's extraordinarily sophisticated use of technology. **The temperature of every one of its more than 3,500 American stores is controlled from its headquarters in Bentonville, Ark. Logistics gurus keep track of hundreds of thousands of shipments at home and abroad. Computers also keep close tabs on workers' hours and productivity.**

**"One store manager told me, 'I could tell you last year, July 12, how much in sales the store did and how much was rung up by Sally Jo, the cashier, within a particular hour,'** said Ellen Rosen, a professor of women's studies at Brandeis University, in Waltham. Mass.

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