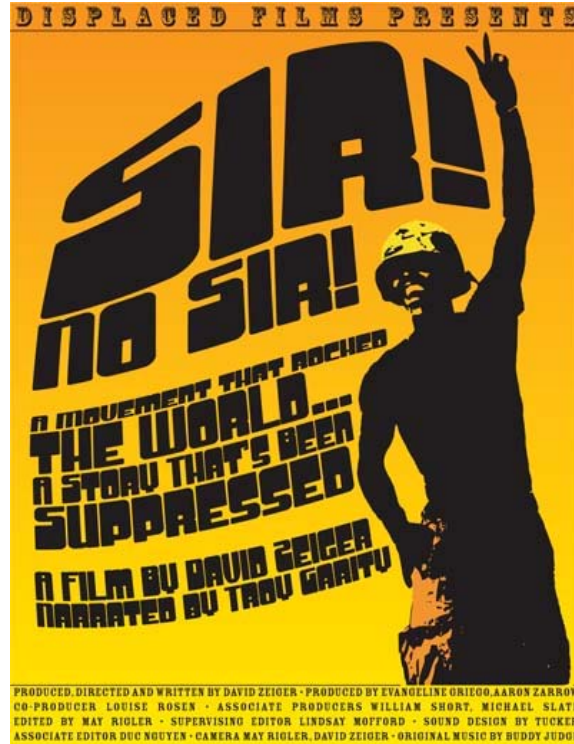


## GI SPECIAL 3C54:



# When Soldiers Stopped A War: Sir, No Sir! An Interview With David Zeiger

One vet even recalls an episode from 1972 in which Military Police joined enlisted men in burning an effigy of their commanding officer. The images that accompany such stories are just as powerful. As a young doctor is escorted into a military court for refusing to train GIs, hundreds of enlisted men lean out of nearby windows extending peace signs in support. It's an image that the Army didn't want the American people to see then, and probably wouldn't want the American people to see today.

**It became obvious to me very quickly that this was the most solid, most direct way to go after the war. It was a situation where people were opposing the war that no one thought would oppose the war. Not just because they were GIs. These were mostly working class guys, guys who had gone into the military out of patriotic motives or because that was just what you did. And they were becoming one of the strongest forces against the war.**

September 1, 2005 Interviewed By Jonathan Stein, Mother Jones

The Oleo Strut was a coffeehouse in Killeen, Texas, from 1968 to 1972. Like its namesake, a shock absorber in helicopter landing gear, the Oleo Strut's purpose was to help GIs land softly.

**Upon returning from Vietnam to Fort Hood, shell-shocked soldiers found solace amongst the Strut's regulars, mostly fellow soldiers and a few civilian sympathizers. But it didn't take long before shell shock turned into anger, and that anger into action.**

**The GIs turned the Oleo Strut into one of Texas's anti-war headquarters, publishing an underground anti-war newspaper, organizing boycotts, setting up a legal office, and leading peace marches.**

**David Zeiger was one of the civilians who helped run the Oleo Strut. He went on to a career in political activism and today, at 55, he is a filmmaker and the director of Sir! No Sir!, a new documentary on the all-but-forgotten antiwar activities of GIs from Fort Hood to Saigon.**

The GI Movement, as it was then known, was composed of both vets recently returned from Vietnam and active-duty soldiers. They fought for peace in ways big and small, from organizing leading anti-war organizations to wearing peace signs instead of dog tags.

By the early '70s, opposition to the Vietnam War within the military and amongst veterans had grown so widespread that no one could credibly claim that opposing the war meant opposing the troops. Veterans wanted an end to the war; their brothers in Vietnam agreed.

**Zeiger put off making this movie for years, convinced the public didn't want to hear another story about the '60s. What finally spurred the project was the Iraq War and the role some Vietnam vets are playing in keeping America's young men and women from seeing the same horrors they saw.**

When GIs from the current war started coming home and wondering about what they'd been fighting for, Zeiger's days at the Oleo Strut took on a new relevance.

**His film is a remarkable interweaving of vets' stories about their intensifying resistance to the war, starting with the lone objectors of the late '60s and culminating with open disobedience throughout the ranks in the '70s.**

**One vet even recalls an episode from 1972 in which Military Police joined enlisted men in burning an effigy of their commanding officer. The images that accompany such stories are just as powerful. As a young doctor is escorted into a military court for refusing to train GIs, hundreds of enlisted men lean out of nearby windows extending peace signs in support. It's an image that the Army didn't want the American people to see then, and probably wouldn't want the American people to see today.**

Sir! No Sir! won the Documentary Audience Award at the L.A. Film Festival and is slated for broad release before the end of the year. David Zeiger spoke with MotherJones.com from the Los Angeles office of his production company, Displaced Films.

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*MotherJones.com: Talk a little about your history with the GI Movement.*

David Zeiger: In the late '60s I reached a point where I believed that there was really no alternative for me than to become part of the movement against the war. My opposition to the war had grown very deeply but I hadn't been really involved in anything. I starting looking around for what was going to be the most effective place and situation to help.

I ran into this small group from the GI Movement, some vets and some civilians from Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas.

**It became obvious to me very quickly that this was the most solid, most direct way to go after the war. It was a situation where people were opposing the war that no one thought would oppose the war. Not just because they were GIs. These were mostly working class guys, guys who had gone into the military out of patriotic motives or because that was just what you did. And they were becoming one of the strongest forces against the war.**

*MJ: What brought you back to the project, some 35 years later?*

DZ: I started making films in the early '90s. I always knew that this story was one that needed to be told and had never been told. But the way I always characterized it was, "This is a film that needs to be made but I'm never going to make it." At the time, it just wasn't a film that would have much resonance for people. It would be another story from the '60s. What prompted me to make the film was September 11, and the War on Terror's segue into the Iraq War. I saw that this had suddenly become a story that would have current resonance, something that would immediately connect with what's going on today.

*MJ: How did you find the veterans that appear in the film?*

DZ: Several of these guys were people I knew because I had been at Fort Hood. Then there were veterans' organizations like Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Veterans For Peace—I put a call out for stories through their various means of communication.

**I also ended up in touch with people nobody had ever heard of before. Their missions were so top secret they were under threat of federal prosecution if they**

**went public with any of their stories. They came to me and basically said, “We want to finally tell our story. We haven’t been able to tell it for 35 years.” We still don’t know what will happen to them. We’ll know when the film is in theaters.**

*MJ: Did it take any effort to get the veterans to open up—the public conception of the Vietnam vet is of a man too pained to talk openly about his experiences.*

DZ: Yeah, that’s a very big myth. In this situation that was not at all a problem. These are people whose stories had been suppressed and ignored since the war. They knew that their story was a story of the Vietnam War that needed to be told. For most of these veterans, it was more a matter of finally being able to tell their story, stories the overall zeitgeist was against being told. It was not a matter of reluctance.

*MJ: The film has already gotten a good deal of interest in Europe. Do you anticipate that domestic interest will be as strong?*

DZ: Well, yeah, how to put this? I anticipate that kind of interest, but until the film was made I think U.S. television didn’t quite get how relevant the film is in the current world. It was hard to explain that to people.

Now that the film is made we’re getting much stronger interest. A big strength of the film, and what I think is going to bring it into the mainstream, is that this is historical metaphor. We don’t have to say a word about Iraq in the film for it to be clearly identified with Iraq for people. But, the film can’t be shoved into the category of a propaganda film.

*MJ: You mentioned that you were a civilian organizer at Fort Hood during the Vietnam War. At that time, was the civilian public widely aware of the GI Movement?*

DZ: The evidence suggests that they were. As you see in the film, there were CBS Nightly News stories about the GI Movement. There is a segment in the film of Walter Cronkite talking about the GI underground press. In the state of Texas, where there was a very large anti-war movement in Austin and Houston, and the center of the Texas movement for a time was at Fort Hood.

**The armed forces demonstrations were major events for the whole state. I think people knew generally that there was opposition in the military, but they didn’t know the details or how widespread it was. But it was certainly more prominent than people remember it. It has been thoroughly wiped out of any histories of the war.**

*MJ: How visible was the GI Movement amongst American soldiers in Southeast Asia? Were they aware that their fellow soldiers were protesting the war on bases abroad and in the States?*

**DZ: Yes. The GI anti-war press was everywhere. Just about every base in the world had an underground paper. Vietnam GI was the first GI paper. It was sent directly to Vietnam from the U.S. in press runs of 5,000 and they were getting spread all over the place because they’d be handed from person to person. Awareness of the GI Movement was at different levels but it was still very widespread.**

*MJ: How did the GIs manage to write and print these papers, especially when their actions were, presumably, being watched?*

DZ: That was where the coffeehouse came in. (The GIs) did the work, for the most part, off base. At the Oleo Strut we had an office that they worked in and we had a printer that would print it for us.

**Some of these papers would get mimeographed secretly on the military bases because the guys working on them would be clerks and they had access to the proper resources. So there was a range, from something someone had typed up and mimeographed and got out about 500 copies of, to these pretty sophisticated papers like the Fatigue Press at Fort Hood, where we'd have a press run of 10,000 copies. We'd hand them out off base but they'd also be distributed on base. Guys snuck on base and would go through barracks and put them on beds and foot lockers.**

**One story we didn't put in the film was about some guys at Fort Lewis near Seattle. They wanted to bring GIs to an anti-war demonstration, but they didn't have an underground paper yet. They took a bunch of leaflets on base late at night and drove around throwing the leaflets out the window. In the military, if there's litter on the base the brass doesn't pick it up; they send out the GIs out to police the base and pick it up. So the next morning they sent several companies out to pick up all this litter and before they realized what this litter was, it was too late. It's funny: repression breeds innovation.**

*MJ: The movie talks a lot about the GI coffeehouses and how some of them were attacked and shut down. Did GIs ever claim their First Amendment rights were being thwarted?*

DZ: Yes, and there were cases that went all the way to the Supreme Court about that. The Supreme Court fairly consistently ruled that so-called "military necessity" trumped free speech. But there was a tremendous support network of lawyers during the period of the GI Movement who would help challenge these things. There were many cases of GIs challenging the military's right to not allow them to distribute the underground papers on base. No one won, but there were a lot of attempts to create change.

*MJ: Another thing you discuss in the film is the FTA tour, a variety show packed with celebrities that wanted to counterbalance the pro-war Bob Hope. Where did the tour perform?*

DZ: Well, it was banned from bases. What they typically did was come into military towns that had a support organization like the coffeehouses, and they would either perform at the coffeehouses, or if it was possible, in a larger venue.

I know when the FTA show came to Killeen we spent months trying to get an auditorium or even an outdoor site rented to us and no one would do it. So the FTA Tour came to town and performed at the Oleo Strut, which had a capacity of maybe 200 people. Rather than doing two shows that day, they did four. When they did their tour of Asia,

which is where we got the footage for the film, they got a lot of outdoor venues and larger venues, but they were never allowed on bases.

Keep in mind, these were the top Hollywood stars of the day, Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland. They had just come off of Kluge, won a ton of awards. But of course they weren't allowed on any bases.

*MJ: And the GIs who saw the shows were free enough that 800 of them could go see the show in one day?*

**DZ: Yeah. By 1970 and 1971, the combination of the actual organized GI Movement and the general culture of resistance that had emerged inside the military was so strong that you could openly walk around bases wearing whatever anti-war stuff you wanted to wear. Actually, the guys in the U.S. couldn't do that as much; guys in Vietnam were doing it a lot more. But regardless, that sense of opposition, that sense of FTA, was so strong the army couldn't completely stomp down on it.**

*MJ: Your film never mentions John Kerry. Why?*

DZ: Because so many people wanted us to put him in. That was part of it. Frankly, we didn't have him in mainly because we didn't want that to become what the film was about. The film made about his military service during the campaign, Going Upriver, has a lot of footage about his involvement with Vietnam Veterans Against the War, which is also in our film. Ironically, that film was made to help Kerry's campaign, but if anything, it hurt it.

**It didn't win over anyone that was against him to begin with, but people who supported Kerry because of his anti-war stance during Vietnam saw how startlingly far he's gone in his ultimate betrayal of the stand he took in the 1960s. We thought anything like that would be distraction for this film.**

*MJ: Why do you think the GI Movement has faded from the public's memory of Vietnam?*

DZ: There's been a number of factors. There was this whole element in the mid to late '70s of people kind of wanting to forget. Hollywood, in depicting the war in the 1970s, never mentioned the GI Movement. Coming Home, which was a very good film in very many ways, started with a much more radical approach to what GIs had gotten into. But by the time the film was finished, it was a much more conciliatory film, and that became the theme that a lot of people latched onto about Vietnam in the '70s: Let's forget it all.

**Then in the '80s, the political climate with the Reagan administration became one of rewriting the history of the war. Of course, if you're going to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War from a right-wing perspective, the GI Movement would be written out completely. Both politically and in every film made at the time, the Movement was literally written out of history.**

*MJ: The rewriting of history you mention seems to posit the troops as honorable American boys that supported the war, distinct from hippie protestors. Your film makes it clear that that's a false distinction, and those are false labels. What impact do you think*

*your film will have on people from younger generations whose only experience with Vietnam is a history that has been revised?*

DZ: I hope it will really shock people. I want you walk out of the theater thinking, “Holy shit! I’ve been lied to so thoroughly I better take a really close look at this stuff.”

And it’s especially important when comparing it to now. I want people to seriously question this idea that opposing the war means opposing the troops. Hopefully they will come to the conclusion that it’s not a given. That’s a political perspective, and it’s a right-wing political perspective, a very pro-war political perspective.

**And it’s a political perspective that undercuts any serious movement against the war, both among civilians and among GIs. The way the Vietnam War gets summed up is that the Vietnam War was “unpopular,” and that’s what screwed up the GIs. So people today say, “If that’s true, then if the Iraq war is unpopular it’s going to screw up the Iraq GIs.” Well, the Vietnam War wasn’t unpopular. The Vietnam War was criminal.**

*MJ: One of the most compelling images from the film is the entrance to the Fort Dix stockade in New Jersey, where a sign reads, “Obedience to the Law is Freedom.” Vietnam began a period in American life where that axiom could no longer be taken as faith. What do you think the long-term ramifications of Vietnam are?*

DZ: That sign really summarized the Army’s view of military life.

**The ramifications are, if nothing else, that it’s possible to go up against and defeat a very powerful empire.**

One of the guys in the film made a point we didn’t end up using: The United States had the biggest army in the world, the best equipped, the best trained, the best fed—and we lost. We got beat by an indigenous force that totally undercut the ability of the United State to get a foothold in their country.

**And that’s a universal lesson, and that’s a lesson that is extremely dangerous for any country that, despite its protestations, is in fact bent on being a world empire. It’s inspiring for anyone who doesn’t want to live in that sort of situation anymore.**



David Zeiger

**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 inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Baghdad Car Bomb; Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded**

9.15.05 CNN

**In eastern Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near a U.S. Army convoy, wounding three soldiers and destroying their vehicle, an American military spokesman said.**

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### **Polish Military Base Under Mortar Attack**

15.09.2005 Polskie

**The Polish military base in Diwaniya, in the south-central stabilization zone in Iraq has been shelled with mortar fire during the night. One of the shots hit the premises directly, however, the explosion caused no injuries among the personnel.**

A red alert had been enforced for over an hour. A thorough search outside the camp revealed two mortars with ammunition hidden in the immediate area. According to the Polish division's press office they were ready for use. Patrols are now scanning the environs for those responsible for the attack.

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### **Attack Against Bulgaria's Base**

15.09.2005 bnn

No people were injured during Wednesday's mortar fire against the Bulgarian military base "Eko" in the Iraqi town of Diwaniyah, the Defense Ministry reported Thursday.



The attack occurred Wednesday evening at 10:05 p.m. local time as a mortar exploded about 20 meters from the fence inside the base. A second mortar landed 200 meters away from the base.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Game Over**

Sep 14, 2005 Peter Spiegel in Sharan, Afghanistan and Daniel Dombey in Brussels, Financial Times

Halfway through an intelligence briefing in a dust-choked military base in the north of the Afghan border province of Paktia, Captain John Popiak, the US army's local intelligence officer, throws up a slide showing a colour-coded map of the region.

**All along the Pakistani border the map of the province is a dull red, which the legend reveals as territory under “enemy influence”.**

**In the north, are three small splotches of green, representing areas under control of the Afghan government.**

**But the vast majority of Paktia is bright yellow, territory that Capt Popiak explains is “on the fence”.**

**The fact that vast swathes of Afghanistan's border provinces are still beyond control three years after the fall of the Taliban is an issue that goes to the heart of the US's continuing challenge in the country, since those ungoverned regions have been the site of increased anti-coalition violence, attacks that have led to 68 US casualties since April.**

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### **Assorted Resistance Action**

9.14.05 Daily Star

**On September 3, five men were captured in Kandahar Province, including one provincial council candidate.** While the Interior Ministry will not confirm their deaths, Hakimi claims that the five were tried by a Taliban court and executed.

**A British lorry driver was captured on August 31 on the Kandahar-Herat highway, and his body was found three days later, with the Taliban claiming responsibility.**

**A parliamentary candidate was killed on September 3 by a mine planted outside his home in Helmand. Violent protests erupted in Khost, mullahs were stoned in**

Kapisa Province, and bombs were found in Shahr-e-Naw Park, right in the center of Kabul.

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## **KANDAHAR IED WOUNDS TWO U.S. TROOPS; HUMVEE DESTROYED**



U.S. soldiers at the wreckage of a U.S. armored vehicle Sept. 13, 2005 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. **A roadside bomb went off wounding two U.S. soldiers, officials and witnesses said.** (AP Photo/Noor Khan)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Injured Marine Returns Home**

September 14, 2005 By Thanh Tan, KBCI TV

Boise Airport - After months of therapy in a San Diego hospital, injured Marine Staff Sgt. Chad Brumpton of Eagle arrived home Wednesday night.

**Brumpton was seriously injured last May, when his tank hit a roadside bomb in Iraq. He said shattered glass from the blast broke both his legs.**

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# Local Marine Comes Home After Injury

Sep 15, 2005 Tamika Hawkins, WSLN NewsChannel 10

"Just kinda swerved to hit a pothole...and just kinda like boom...your whole body goes numb."

Twenty-two year old Marine Kevin Blanchard remembers the day he drove over a landmine in Iraq and lost his left leg.

"I just kept asking if my legs were still there," he said. "I think my mind. . .cause I looked down and I saw both boots. . .I think my mind wanted to know that they were, but my left foot was not."

**Two months and ten surgeries later, Kevin's adjusted to his prosthetic leg and even looks forward to walking next month. But his heart remains with his fellow marines in Iraq.**

**"I don't know about going back, but I wish I hadn't left them."**

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### 16 More Occupation Cops Killed



(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

Sept. 15, 2005 AP & BBC & By ROBERT F. WORTH and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., The New York Times Company

**At least 16 police are killed in a car bomb attack Thursday morning at 0800. 13 were wounded.** Iraqis gather around the burned police truck at the explosion site in Baghdad's Dora neighborhood -

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## Got That Right

15 September 2005 Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd.

Sa'af Jabber Ajmi, a Shia labourer from Nasiriyah, lying in the Noman hospital in the Adhamiya district, with shrapnel in his leg, shoulder and back, said: "I thought what happened was a reaction to the Iraqi President's visit to the US."

**In another bed was Ali Ghazi, also a Shia from the Iraqi deep south. "I believe it is the Americans who are doing this, pretending it is the Sunni, so there will be a civil war and they can control our wealth."**

Many survivors lying mangled by this morning's bombs subscribed to a conspiracy theory according to which the US wants to rule Iraq by fomenting differences between Shia and Sunni.

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## WELCOME TO RAMADI: HAVE A NICE DAY



**Resistance troops in the center of Ramadi, Sept. 15, 2005.. (AP Photo)**

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## Collaborator Troops Blown Up In Tal Afar



Iraqi Army soldiers and Iraqi Special Police Commandos carry wounded in Tal Afar, Sept. 13, 2005. Three commandos were wounded and one killed in a roadside bomb attack. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

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## Assorted Resistance Action: Revenge For Tal Afar



Iraqi policemen inspect destroyed occupation cop car in Kirkuk. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

Sep. 15, 2005 UPI & By SLOBODAN LEKIC, Associated Press Writer & BBC & CNN & By ROBERT F. WORTH and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., The New York Times Company & Reuters & Aljazeera & By Patrick Cockburn, The Independent UK

**0745 - At least two policemen are killed and four wounded in a roadside bombing in the northern oil city of Kirkuk which completely destroyed a police patrol vehicle. Three of those wounded were in a serious condition.**

**Police Capt. Nasir Alusi said U.S. and Iraqi troops in Ramadi came under mortar attack as militants roamed the streets. Shops were closed and streets empty. Automatic gunfire echoed through the area, he said.**

**1200 - At least 10 police are killed and 17 wounded when two cars driven by attackers strike their patrol in Doura. Police and insurgents exchanged gunfire after the blasts.**

**1310 - A roadside bomb exploded in eastern Baghdad near a bus with Ministry of Trade employees, killing three person and wounding 16, police said.**

**A car bomber also struck this afternoon in Falluja, west of Baghdad, killing five Iraqi National Guardsmen.**

**HILLA - Sheikh Mehdi al-Attar, a senior official in the Shi'ite Dawa [Occupation] Party, was killed when armed fighters attacked his vehicle near Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad. A police source said three others were also killed in the attack.**

**BAQUBA - One policeman was killed when armed fighters attacked an elite police unit in Baquba, north of Baghdad, police said.**

**Wednesday's attacks demonstrated again how easily insurgents could still stage well-coordinated attacks, despite a series of highly publicized military offensives like the recent one in Tal Afar, a northern city that has been an insurgent base.**

**Bombings and other attacks soon followed the Kadhimiya blast, at a rate of several per hour. Police cars careered through the city struggling to restore order, and hospitals overflowed with the wounded.**

**Police officers transporting their own casualties to hospitals fired wildly and pointed rocket-propelled grenade launchers at drivers to force them out of the way.**

**Speaking in the United States, Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari also said the attacks appeared to be revenge for the military sweep of Tal Afar.**

**Near Noman hospital, armed fighters killed a police general and other senior officers. When people went to help them there was a second attack by a suicide bomber, which killed three soldiers and three policemen.**

**One US convoy was attacked just north of the Green Zone and the bomb injured 14 policemen. For 10 minutes afterwards there was the sound of heavy machine-gun fire.**

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

# END THE OCCUPATION

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### A Single Word

From: ZC  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 15, 2005  
Subject: a single word

A single word

When Confucius was asked  
to sum up his teaching  
in a single word,  
he replied:  
Perhaps that word is  
Reciprocity.  
He went on:  
Do not impose on others  
what you yourself do not desire.

So now we ask you  
o little white father:  
Do you desire your children  
to come home  
neatly packaged  
in blue white and red?

### He Don't Care

From: ZC  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 15, 2005

He don't care

Can he imagine:

Your first smile  
first tooth  
first word  
first step?



No.

He got no heart  
he got no brain  
ain't no surprise  
that he don't care.

Can he imagine:

Your first hurt  
first love  
first job  
first paycheck?

No.

He sure can pretend but

he got no heart  
he got no brain  
ain't no surprise  
that he don't care.

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## **“Enjoy The Misery We Put You Under”**

September 15, 2005 By Ibrahim Ebeid, watanarabi. **The author is a US citizen and a Vietnam era veteran** [Excerpt]

Former First Lady Barbara Bush, Dearest Mom of the President, visited the desperate victims of the drowned city herded to the Astrodome, the sport arena of Texas.

She did not show any compassion or sympathy to the victims because she has no consideration for the human beings who lost everything they ever had and who lost dear members of their families.

**Mrs. Bush who lives in a multi million dollars home said, “Everyone is so overwhelmed by the hospitality”**

**What type of hospitality she is talking about? Is herding the destitute and deprived to the arena hospitality instead of an obligation to help the people in need?**

**She continued to add an insult to the victimized and deprived people "And so many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this, this is working very well for them." This is what came from the mouth of Dearest Mom of President Bush!**



This is exactly what Bush says to the Iraqis, We brought you “Democracy” and “Freedom” which mean total destruction; occupation and misery; stay under occupation. Enjoy the misery we put you under.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### He Welcomed Occupation Terror: Big Mistake



An Iraqi detainee sits next to children as US and Iraqi soldiers search houses in Tal Afar, September 14, 2005. **Mohammed Younis welcomed a US army patrol outside his house in the formerly rebel-held Iraqi town of Tal Afar, pleading with them to stay. Three days later, they detained him.** (AFP/Ali Khalil)

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### Stupid Collaborators Caught In Stupid Lie

Sep. 15, 2005 SLOBODAN LEKIC, Associated Press

Iraqi authorities have taken pains in recent days to convince the population that the insurgency is overwhelmingly foreign, claiming, for example, that they arrested a Palestinian and a Libyan in the Kazimiyah attack. The bomber was a Syrian, the government said without detailing evidence.

The Americans have quietly contradicted that government line, saying the insurgency is only about 20 percent foreign. [According to previous U.S. command statements, it's about 5%, but hey, give the liars another 15%; they're having a bad day.]

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## Iraq Collaborator President Condemns Bush Occupation

9.15.05 By SLOBODAN LEKIC, Associated Press Writer

"Today, Iraq is facing one of the most brutal campaigns of terror at the hands of the forces of darkness." President Jalal Talabani

### Leader Of The Forces Of Darkness: Satan



**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

### Prehistoric Reporter Found Alive

[Never mind dinosaur sightings: check this out. No reporter for any major news service has written a line like this for at least a year. Evidently, Georgy is proof of how long a human being can remain alive with his head up his ass. Even the CIA

and U.S. Command gave up on this lame bullshit a long time ago. Guess that makes Georgy a Donald Rumsfeld die-hard dead-end remnant.]

Sep 15 Michael Georgy, Reuters

The guerrillas are mostly former members of toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's security forces or Muslim militants, mostly from other Arab countries, who say they are fighting a holy war against U.S. troops.

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## **Iraq Reporters Slaughtered: Pentagon Hiding Investigation Results**

Sep 15, 2005 (Reuters)

**A media watchdog criticized the U.S. military on Wednesday for consistently failing to investigate the killing of journalists in Iraq by its forces, and said the Pentagon was losing credibility as a result. [Wrong. The Pentagon has no credibility to lose.]**

The report by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, or CPJ, said U.S. troops had killed 13 journalists since the U.S.-led war started in March 2003, and at least 40 other reporters had been killed in the conflict.

The report also examined the deaths of 21 media support staff who were killed in Iraq, two by U.S. forces.

**It said that in most cases, the U.S. military had either failed to investigate journalists' deaths or it had not made its inquiries public.**

"By failing to account for all shooting deaths and demonstrate that it is taking steps to avoid future tragedies, the U.S. military shows an alarming disregard for the safety of civilians, including journalists covering this conflict," CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said.

**"As far as we know the military has conducted full investigations into only a handful of incidents and made public its reports on just two of them.**

**"With such a record the Pentagon needs to address its own serious credibility problem by showing some accountability and by providing real answers to outstanding questions about these shocking deaths."**

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. 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/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

## ***Evil Iraqis Strangle Babies With Kitten Guts!!***

### **Hysterical Pentagon Launches Silly New Propaganda Campaign**

September 15, 2005 By Robert Burns, Associated Press

**The U.S. military is mounting a counteroffensive in a war of words with Iraq's insurgents, firing off accusations of child murder, kidnapping, torture, brainwashing and plans to use chemical weapons.**

For much of the 2½ years since the U.S. invaded Iraq, Bush administration officials have complained of the insurgents' nimble use of propaganda to intimidate ordinary Iraqis and portray the Americans as anti-Islamic occupiers. U.S. officials have graded their own success in countering those charges as modest at best.

**It's not just the Iraqi population that U.S. officials want to influence. They also want to convince the American public that U.S. forces are winning and that the insurgents pose a threat that goes well beyond Iraqi borders.**

Whether by plan or happenstance, the latest anti-American charge — that U.S. troops used poison gas during fighting in the northern city of Tal Afar — is being answered with harsh words from U.S. commanders.

**On Tuesday, Col. H.R. McMaster, commander of the main U.S. force in the Tal Afar fight, unleashed a verbal barrage.**

**"The enemy here did just the most horrible things you can imagine," he told reporters at the Pentagon.**

**"Not only were they targeting civilians, brutally murdering them, torturing them, but they were also kidnapping the youth of the city and brainwashing them and trying to turn them into hate-filled murderers," he added.**

On Wednesday, Col. Robert B. Brown made similar claims about the insurgents in the portion of northern Iraq his Stryker brigade combat team has been operating in for the past 11 months, including the city of Mosul.

“It’s the most evil enemy we’ve ever faced,” he said. Twice he mentioned “brainwashing,” noting that he was not sure that’s an official term.

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## The Dog Salutes His Master



Iraqi Collaborator President Jalal Talabani Bush at the White House September 13, 2005. REUTERS/Molly Riley

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## OCCUPATION HAITI

**WELCOME TO LIBERATED HAITI:**





U.N. occupation soldiers grab Haitians during a military operation in Bel Air, Haiti, September 13, 2005. At least six people were detained after U.N. soldiers clashed with Haitians demonstrating against the occupation. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

### A GHETTO WALL COMES DOWN



Palestinians crowd at a gap in the border wall as they cross between the Rafah Refugee Camp, in the southern Gaza Strip and Egypt, Sept. 14, 2005. The once heavily guarded border has been wide open since the Israelis left, with thousands of people crossing in both directions. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



Palestinians stand on the border gate after soldiers from Islamic Jihad brought it down between the Rafah Refugee Camp, in the southern Gaza Strip and the Egypt border, Sept. 14, 2005. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **The Kerry Plan Lives On: Democrats Want More Dead U.S. Troops**

September 15, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

House Democrats unveiled a 12-page plan on Thursday that they hope to use to show they can be as tough on defense as Republicans.

**While some Democrats have called for a quick withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, the leadership plan calls for adding troops, increasing efforts to train Iraqi security forces and trying to get more allies involved without any premature pullouts.**

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## **BUSH: SADDAM MUST SHARE THE BLAME FOR KATRINA: President Rips Iraqi Madman for Distracting Federal Government**

September 14, 2005 The Borowitz Report

Just two days after taking responsibility for failures of the Federal government's response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, President George W. Bush modified that position somewhat, telling reporters that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein "should share at least some of the blame" for those failures.

"When the Federal government fails to live up to its responsibilities to the American people, the finger of blame should be pointed at one person," Mr. Bush told reporters in the White House Rose Garden. "And that person is Saddam Hussein."

After reporters appeared startled and taken aback by the president's remark, Mr. Bush said that he could "connect the dots" between the Iraqi madman and the government's poor emergency response after the devastating hurricane.

"For years, Saddam Hussein taunted us into believing that he had weapons of mass destruction, for one reason and one reason alone," Mr. Bush said. "To distract us from preparing for hurricanes."

**Adding that "his evil knows no bounds," Mr. Bush told reporters, "Now that Saddam Hussein is in the custody of the Iraqi government, he will never threaten the United States of America with his hurricanes again."**

**The president also said that he was prepared to take further actions to protect the United States from hurricanes, such as invading Syria.**

Reached at his prison cell in Baghdad, Mr. Hussein said that he was "disappointed" by the president's comments, adding, "Now is not the time to play the blame game."

Elsewhere, returning to Washington after his trip to the Gulf region, Vice President Dick Cheney said that Hurricane Katrina did little or no damage to the nation's tax cuts.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Bush Regime Approves Testing Pesticides On Abused/Neglected Children**

**"The rule says it's acceptable to test children if there is a direct benefit," Colangelo said. "How can any child possibly benefit from exposure to pesticides? What was EPA thinking about?"**

14 September 2005 By Andrew Schneider, The Baltimore Sun

**Washington - The Environmental Protection Agency's new rules on human testing, which the agency said last week would "categorically" protect children and pregnant women from pesticide testing, include numerous exemptions - including one that specifically allows testing of children who have been "abused and neglected."**

**The rules were revised under intense criticism from environmental groups, scientists and members of Congress, after the disclosure that subjects in some**



**earlier pesticide studies were unaware of what they were being exposed to and, in many cases, did not know why the testing was being done.**

In unveiling the new rules last week, the EPA promised full protection for those most at risk of unethical testing.

"We regard as unethical and would never conduct, support, require or approve any study involving intentional exposure of pregnant women, infants or children to a pesticide," the rule states.

But within the 30 pages of rules are clear-cut exceptions that permit:

**Testing of "abused or neglected" children without permission from parents or guardians.**

**"For the first time in our nation's history, the EPA has proposed a program to allow for the systematic and everyday experimentation of pesticides on humans," Rep. Henry A. Waxman, a California Democrat and leading critic of the testing policies, said in a statement yesterday.** "Moreover, the proposed program is riddled with ethical loopholes."

The exemptions are "obviously driven by the pesticide industry's goal of relaxing pesticide safety standards," said Aaron Colangelo, a senior staff lawyer with the Natural Resources Defense Fund, which has been involved in 18 lawsuits against the pesticide industry and government agencies.

**"The rule says it's acceptable to test children if there is a direct benefit," Colangelo said. "How can any child possibly benefit from exposure to pesticides? What was EPA thinking about?"**

Physicians and lawyers offered possible explanations for some of the exemptions.

**A study that could mean higher crop yields could be justification enough for the EPA to cite a "public health benefit" under the exemptions, said Dr. Alan Lockwood, an expert in human-testing ethics and past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility.**

**"This would be a public health benefit, even though the exposed children may experience an adverse effect."**

**[The best way to handle this: after their convictions for treason, Bush, Rumsfeld, Cheney, Kerry, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton, the Democratic Party leadership, the Republican Party leadership, and all the other politicians in DC opposed to bringing the troops home now, will be sentenced to serve as the subjects for any future pesticide experiments. In that way, they may, at long last, perform some useful service for society.]**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to**

**contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request.  
Replies confidential.**

**Received:**

**“The Merchant Class Cares More About The  
Fifty Dollars In The Cash Register Than  
Dying People”**

From: AH  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 11, 2005

I mean - all right - if you don't have enough helicopters, okay - but just say that then - or don't say anything at all, if you want to hide the reality.

**Please don't blame it on a bunch of suffering poor people though. It sucks that all the helicopters are in Iraq but, gain an ounce of decency for christ sakes.**

The same thing with the looting.

**It was obvious that it was the extreme exception that anyone was trying to loot "Game-Boy systems" and "designer shirts".**

**Why is it that anyone in the media gave a shit about that anyway? Every store in the poorest section of the city had been completely submerged under water so, who really gives a shit about shoplifting, when there are dead bodies floating around that Game-Boy that's not ever going to function well enough to be sold anyway???**

**Everyone wanted food, and the car-jackers wanted to leave. For a couple of days, it was just a matter of survival for people. Why did that have to get spun into the "Blacks Gone Wild" story. White people would have done the same thing in that situation. In fact, what white people were there, were doing that too.**

If those asshole cops on the ground were getting shot at, it was obvious that it was because they were depriving dying people from accessing necessities during the first few days; not because the "looters" were uncivilized.

If they would have just started saying immediately - "okay - stand back while we bust into the grocery stores for you", there would never have been much of a "looting" story to begin with.

**Yes, we all know that the merchant class cares more about the fifty dollars in the cash register than dying people but, the way that kind of collective callousness was actually expressed, seemed a little too extreme to be just an innocent mistake. That fact that there was an immediate willingness to scape-goat helpless**

**people, for governmental inadequacies, really makes a disturbing statement about our culture!**

So, what I'm saying is, that maybe there wasn't a conspiracy per say but, this wasn't like Three Stooges kind of bumbling either. I'm not saying that I think anyone plotted to do this for weeks in advance, since that would have pretty much been impossible. What I'm saying is that the treatment of the situation seems to represent something more than just the normal dumb-ass insensitivity of the ruling class but, from things I'm starting to hear all around me, it almost seems like their golden egg.

I've already started to hear people saying that they don't give a shit about helping the hurricane victims because, "the people who lived there were too stupid to get out of there", and that they were the "type of people that were being supported by well-fare anyway".

I've even heard the 'N' word a couple of times now... No rich W.A.S.P., with two functioning brain cells, is going to openly endorse joining the military as a solution to being displaced by this disaster, since that would expose their true selfish motives. The undertones are definitely there though, so watch for more manipulations of this disaster...

**I think the people of New Orleans have a right to be angry, and they should have more alternatives for resettling their lives, than having to become part of the body bag count in Iraq.**

**Yes, this disaster was not caused by evil men but, it sure looks like they're more than ready to try and capitalize on it.**

Thank you for hearing me.

**[Thank you, for a very sharp commentary. T]**

**Web Copies:**

For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,

[www.williambowles.info/gispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial),

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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