

GI SPECIAL 4K23:

**NO MORE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Iraq: unidentified wounded: New England Journal of Medicine

The Stick Men

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 23, 2006
Subject: The Stick Men

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

The Stick Men

**The pimp on airforce one
uses his soldiers like whores**

and when the soldiers can't make money anymore,
he uses them like toilet paper
and flushes them away
in VA dumps that use cheap old style prostheses
that look like walking on sticks.
When finally at home
the soldiers die thousands of times
fighting for nothing
that they wanted in the first place
feeling an itch on their foot
only to remember
that they don't have legs anymore.
Waking and sitting up
in their bed at 3 in the morning
after seeing where an IED might be,
waking up their wife
as she asks, "Honey, are you alright?"
The stick men walk in public
as the wind blows against
their 2 inch stick legs
letting everybody know
that they have no real legs.
So they isolate and die
thousands of times more
for the rest of their lives
waking up at 3 in the morning
terrorized but
all alone now.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Three Marines Killed In Western Iraq

23 November 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20061123-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: Three Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died Wednesday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

New Mexico Soldier Killed



Army Sgt. Eric Vizcaino. Vizcaino, 21, a 2003 graduate of West Mesa High School in Albuquerque, N.M., was shot and killed in while serving in Iraq on Monday, Nov. 20, 2006 according to his father. Vizcaino's wife and 2-year-old daughter were in Fort Bragg, N.C., awaiting the arrival of the soldier's body from Germany. The family said memorial services were planned for Thanksgiving Day at San Jose Parish and at San Felipe de Neri church on Sunday. (AP Photo/Vizcaino family via KOB-TV)

Local Soldier Killed In Iraq



Jang Ho Kim, a member of the Army's 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, died Monday from injuries suffered when a homemade bomb exploded near his vehicle during a combat operation in Baghdad. COURTESY OF THE KOREA TIMES

November 17, 2006 By SUSHMA SUBRAMANIAN, ELLYN PAK and ADAM TOWNSEND, The Orange County Register

PLACENTIA: Jang Ho Kim never wanted his family to worry.

When his parents called him from their home in Placentia and asked where he was, he would never say he was in Baghdad, a war-torn city.

The private first class always told them he was just outside Baghdad.

"He always worried about his parents worrying," one of Kim's pastors, David Gysik Song, said Thursday night.

The day before, the parents had heard the worst possible news.

Kim, a member of the Army's 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, died Monday from injuries suffered when a homemade bomb exploded near his vehicle during a combat operation in Baghdad.

He was 20.

The blast also killed another U.S. soldier, Pfc. Daniel J. Allman II, 20, of Canon, Ga.

"My heart is empty, but I'm consoled because our son, Jang Ho, believed in God," his mother, Sang Soon Kim, said in Korean in a brief telephone interview Thursday.

Kim joined the Army last year. He wanted a challenge. A year into Fullerton College, he believed enlisting in the military and going to war would give him direction, the pastor said in his office at Grace Korean Church in Fullerton.

"He wanted to find his life's way – his sort of vision," said Song, who had known Kim for years.

Church officials, who were saddened by the news of Kim's death, remembered him as a bright, kind, intelligent man.

"He's so calm," Song said. "He always had a smile, and he wanted to help everyone."

Kim was born in Seoul, South Korea. The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1990 and lived in New York before moving to Orange County, The Korea Times reported.

His father, Seop Bae Kim, is a manager at a Samsung Electronics office in Irvine and an elder at Grace Korean Church. The soldier's mother is a church evangelist.

"When we heard the news, we wondered why us ... and we felt resentment," his father told The Korea Times. "But we're proud that the blood that our son spilled will spread the Gospel in the Islamic nation."

Kim dreamed of designing computer games one day, Song said.

Kim, who attended Valencia High School in Placentia, joined the Army in June 2005.

He joked with his parents about his decision to be stationed in Iraq instead of Korea. He was sent to Iraq in August after a stint in Germany.

Her son called last week to tell her that he probably wouldn't be able to go on a along with his family on a trip to Korea in February.

Georgia Marine Killed



Kristopher Cody Warren

November 14, 2006 By Ashley Rowland, Staff Writer, Chattanooga Publishing Company, Inc.

CALHOUN, Ga.: Cody Warren was a foot soldier with only three or four lines in the one-act play his high school drama group was performing at a competition. But he made sure the audience knew who he was.

"Every time it came to his lines, he'd just belt it out," friend John Lee said. "He really stood out from everybody else because he wanted to be heard. He wanted to stand out. He didn't want to be in the shadows."

It was a typical behavior for Kristopher Cody Warren, a gregarious student known on campus as a leader in the school's band and choral programs, and among his friends for his sunny disposition, his unwillingness to talk negatively about anybody and his dancing.

So was joining the Marines shortly after he graduated in 2005, Mr. Lee said: "It was just the next level for him to stop and say, 'Hey, I'm going to serve my country.' "

The 19-year-old died last week in Iraq, several months after arriving there for a seven-month deployment with a Chattanooga-based Marine battalion. Several of his friends said Monday he was killed by sniper fire, though a Marine Corps spokeswoman said the Marines could not release information about where or how Lance Cpl. Warren was killed.

Family members and students remembered Lance Cpl. Warren on Monday afternoon during service at his alma mater, Gordon Central High School, held on the football field where he marched and later was drum major for the school's marching band.

"I think it's a true testament to Cody's life to see the number of people who came out today," associate principal Betty Holland said, her voice breaking, during the 20-minute service.

"He could talk to anyone. He was such a good kid, so full of life," said Gordon Central social studies teacher Justin Timms. He coached the soccer team that Lance Cpl. Warren joined his senior year to help him get in shape for the Marine Corps, and the two would run together during soccer season.

Lance Cpl. Warren planned to go to college after he left the Marines, maybe to study science or criminal justice, said former girlfriend Alisha Garner, 18.

She said Lance Cpl. Warren was in good spirits when she spoke to him by telephone last Wednesday night, though he complained that one of the guys in his unit was getting on his nerves.

He told her conditions in Iraq were getting worse, and he wanted to see his family. The two made plans to spend time together in January, when he expected to come home on leave.

His stepsister called Ms. Garner at 7 a.m. Thursday to tell her he had died.

During Lance Cpl. Warren's first few weeks in Iraq, after he saw how dangerous it was there, Ms. Garner said he was scared and second-guessed his decision to join. But he believed he was helping people, and while he was worried that he would die, he had accepted that it might happen, she said.

"He wanted to (join the Marines) since I knew him years ago. He had talked about this every day, saying, 'I want to save somebody. I want to make a difference,' "Ms. Garner said.

He recently told Krista Leatherwood, a close friend on the verge of getting engaged, not to get married until after he came back from Iraq.

"He kind of talked like he knew that he wouldn't be coming back, but he was OK with it," she said.

Friends described him as smart and self-assured.

"He was such a good director. He stood up in front of a choir or a band, and you could not focus on anything else," said Whitney Woodard, now a senior. "He could hit any note, and he knew how to do it, he was so talented."

Nothing embarrassed him, not even the teasing of some of his bandmates after he became drum major.

"He knew who he was," said Laura McElrath, whose daughter was in the band with Lance Cpl. Warren.

Mrs. McElrath said his confidence showed even on his MySpace page, where he wrote that he loved the Marines, shooting howitzers, and that his dad was his hero.

On his MySpace page, he posted answers to a list of questions, including, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

His answer: "I'm already that person."

Lance Cpl. Warren was among 32 members of Chattanooga's Mike Battery who left Chattanooga in May to train for a seven-month deployment in Iraq.

He was the fourth soldier with Chattanooga area ties to die in the Iraq war.

Saline Marine Injured In Iraq

November 22, 2006 BY GEOFF LARCOM, News Staff Reporter, Ann Arbor News

Marine Cpl. John Lockwood, 26, of Saline was seriously injured Sunday when the Humvee he was traveling in struck a roadside bomb in Fallujah, Iraq, the military has confirmed.

Killed in the explosion was Lance Cpl. Jeremy Shock, 22, of Tiffin, Ohio, the Pentagon said.

Both men were members of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, which is based in Perrysburg Township near Toledo, Ohio.

Lockwood and Shock were among five people in the vehicle when it was hit; the others suffered only minor injuries, said Lt. Col Joe Reimer.

One of the men was a medical staff member, Reimer said.

Reimer said Monday that Lockwood is expected to recover, but would not specify what type of injuries he suffered.

Lockwood was evacuated to Germany, and will be transported to an American hospital, most likely the Naval Base in Bethesda, Md., Reimer said.

Lockwood is the son of Roger and Ruth Lockwood of Saline.

He arrived in Fallujah in the last week of September, and has been fighting enemy forces there, Reimer said.

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)

Great Moments In U.S. Military Command History: The Slaughter Of The Jamila Market Workers



An Iraqi weeps as he inspects the site where US forces killed four Iraqi citizens in Baghdad's Sadr City. (AFP/Wissam Al-Okaili)

November 23, 2006 Ammar Karim, AFP

BAGHDAD: An aide of Shiite cleric Moqtada Al Sadr Thursday accused US forces of killing four civilians in Baghdad's Sadr City as raging bloodshed left more than 3,700 people dead in October.

"US troops fired on a minibus carrying workers and killed a number of them in Falah street at 6:00 am today," Imam Abdel Zahra Al Suwaidi from the Sadr movement said. "I condemn this shooting that targeted the workers and accuse US forces of repeating such acts, which leave many victims every day," Suwaidi said.

A medic at the Sadr City hospital said that four people were killed and eight were wounded, including two women.

An Iraqi security source also confirmed the incident.

"US forces fired on the minibus as the vehicle was seen on the streets before the dusk-to-dawn curfew was lifted," the source said.

The US military when contacted said that it was "looking into the incident."

The security source said that the workers were headed to a market in the Jamila neighborhood close to Sadr City, the impoverished Shiite district of Baghdad, when the incident occurred early Thursday.

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
HOPELESS WAR:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers from 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team at a checkpoint in Baghdad, October 26, 2006. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Rocket Attack Kills Occupation Soldier
In Central Afghanistan, Another
Wounded;
Nationality Not Announced**

11.23.06 KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

An insurgent rocket attack killed one NATO soldier and injured another while they were on patrol in central Afghanistan on Thursday, the western alliance said.

NATO soldiers and rebels exchanged small arms fire, and air support was used against the insurgents, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said in a statement.

The nationalities of the soldiers were not released.

Attacks have fallen off in recent weeks as an early winter has brought snow to Afghanistan's mountains.

Afghanistan? Us? No Thanks!

November 23, 2006 PakTribune

Security for Afghanistan now falls mainly to a 31,000-member NATO-led force, which includes some 12,000 US troops. Another 11,000 US troops are pursuing separate counter-terrorism and training missions.

But NATO has had trouble finding countries willing to contribute troops for Afghanistan, and some member nations have placed restrictions on what their troops can do, often keeping them out of combat roles.

Assorted Resistance Action:

XINHUA NOVEMBER 21, 2006 & November 23, 2006 Daily Times & AFP

Militants raided a police post in the southern Helmand province Monday night, killing two policemen, local officials said.

KANDAHAR: Suspected Taliban on motorbikes ambushed a female provincial councillor's car in southern Afghanistan, killing her husband, police said on Wednesday.

The guerrillas struck as legislator Zarghona Kakar and her husband stopped at a roadside bakery in Kandahar province late Tuesday, provincial police chief Esmatullah Alizai said. Kakar was unhurt, but the gunmen mowed down her husband as he left the car to buy bread, Alizai said.

Meanwhile, one Afghan soldier was killed when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb on Monday night in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar province.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

Taleban Vow Fresh Offensive After Winter

11/23/2006 Reuters

"The Taleban are drawing up our strategy for attacks on American and NATO occupation forces next summer ... The suicide and other attacks will intensify as the weather gets warmer," Dadullah said from an undisclosed location.

Afghan fighting has ebbed and flowed with the seasons for decades, tailing off during the late November to March winter when mountain passes get snowed in. The melting snow in the spring traditionally heralds a new round of violence.

"It's difficult to stay longer in the mountains in winter ... that's why, like previous years, Taleban attacks have lessened," Dadullah said.

Winter set in early this year with icy rain falling in valleys and snow on higher ground across much of the country in recent days.

The one-legged Dadullah said fugitive Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar was in Afghanistan, personally leading the insurgency with other commanders.

TROOP NEWS

"I Am An Active Duty Soldier Stationed At Fort Hood" "I Speak Out Against The War In Iraq"

[Thanks to Bunkie, Veterans Against The Iraq War, who sent this in. She writes:
Active soldier who's against the war who's started a new site...peace, Bunkie.
Soldier site: Soldier Voices, <http://www.soldiervoices.net/>]

GIs have the legal right to:

Say what you think and feel about the military, and participate in peaceful demonstrations, when you're off duty, out of uniform, off base, and in the USA. (DoD Directive 1325.6) Source: GI Rights

I am an active duty soldier stationed at Fort Hood.

I speak out against the war in Iraq and have experienced firsthand the value of exercising the Freedom of Speech.

I started this website as a place for soldiers and civilians to exercise their freedom of speech uncensored (and anonymously, if need be).

Log in and say whatever you want whether it's pro-war, against the war or just something you feel like sharing your opinions on. It's anonymous and all that's required is a working email address.

It's your freedom as an American, you're the ones fighting for it, use it! Help spread the word.

This is soldier run (me) and an entirely word of mouth endeavor.

Thank you!

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The funeral of Marine Lance Cpl. Ryan T. McCaughn, Manchester, N.H., Nov. 20, 2006. McCaughn, 19, died Nov. 7 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. (AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

“I Don’t Think My Son Was Killed For Queen And Country” “Our PM Is A Disgrace To Our Country And To Our Troops”

[Thanks to NB, UK, who sent this in. He writes: This woman has a heart of pure gold!]

From Military Families Against The War (UK)

11.17.06 By Rose Gentle

We are all so proud of our troops, as I am of my son Gordon.

To be killed at 19 for what?

I don’t think my son was killed for queen and country, and I now know that the government don’t think the same.

I sat in the court room with Tony Blair’s lawyers, to hear them say that when our troops are killed in Iraq it has nothing to do with the government.

Did they not send them to Iraq?

If that is so then don’t our troops have the right to say no? Or ask who are we fighting for?

Our PM is a disgrace to our country and to our troops. If it wasn’t for him our troops would not be in this war. And when our boys are killed they don’t want to know. I am still waiting for Gordon’s inquest and he was killed on 28th June 2004.

No phone call to tell me when I will get the inquest, so the hurt and the pain will never go away. I just have to know what happened on that day.

Mr Blair says he is proud of our troops. More lies - if he is proud of them why did he not give them the right equipment?

And why have our troops got to go on NHS [National Health Service] waiting lists?

The best thing that man can do is go now.

I would love Mr. Blair to sit in a room with military families for 10 minutes. We would tell him the way some of our troops come home when they are killed.

I was one of the lucky ones, I saw Gordon.

My heart hurts for the families that could not see their loved ones.

Bring them all home, no more lies and the next time our government want to go to war, we should have a say in it.

Agent Orange: A Continuing Legacy Of The Vietnam War



Vietnam Air Force Nurse Joan Duffy addresses International Conference in Hanoi in March 2006. Joan lived in Santa Fe, New Mexico and died on Nov. 17, 2006 from Agent Orange related cancer. RIP

By David Cline, Vietnam Veterans Against The War; The Veteran, Fall 2006

Severe health problems associated with the U.S. military's use of chemical defoliants during the Vietnam War have long been an issue of concern for the veteran's community. These chemical weapons, popularly known as Agent Orange, were heavily contaminated with dioxin, TCDD, one of the most deadly cancer causing carcinogens known to man.

Over many years, Vietnam veterans who began to get sick, have birth defected children and often died, have struggled to have the Veterans Administration provide testing, treatment and compensation for those affected.

This struggle began in the 1970's and continued went through many twists and turns as the chemical companies who manufactured these chemical weapons and the US government who ordered and deployed them, tried to deny any responsibility and even claimed that they were harmless.

Eventually in 1984, the chemical companies who manufactured Agent Orange agreed to pay \$180 million in damages to veterans and in 1991, Congress passed the Agent Orange Act recognizing the negative health effects of these defoliants and acknowledging certain conditions for VA medical treatment and disability compensation..

Since that time, more conditions have been acknowledged but many others are still not recognized.

There have been lawsuits also from veterans who served in the South Korean, Australian and New Zealand militaries under the US command.

But one group, the largest number affected, who have never received any form of Justice have been the people of Vietnam, both NVA/VC and ARVN soldiers and many times more civilians who were trapped in the war zones.

In 2004, the suffering Vietnamese formed the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) and initiated a lawsuit in the US courts against the companies who manufactured these poisonous chemical weapons. That case is schedule to be heard in a federal appellate court in NYC this fall.

I support of the Vietnamese victims, we have formed the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign and are working with them and other Agent Orange victims throughout the world to continue this struggle until all those affected receive some Justice. At the end of March, I took a delegation of four other US veterans who are Agent Orange victims, Joan Duffy, Ralph Steele, Dan Shea and Frank Corcoran, to Hanoi for an International Conference on AO, that included participates from Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Canada as well as support groups from France, England and several other European countries.

After that we traveled to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Cu Chi and Hue were we were hosted by VAVA chapters and met with victims and visited hospices and friendship villages where some of the many thousands of the most seriously deformed AO children are cared for, some run by international veterans support, the Catholic church or local governments and hospitals.

This issue is an ongoing and unresolved legacy of the US war in Vietnam and is something that needs to be addressed and resolved if we are even going to heal the wounds of that period in our nation's history.

To find out more about and get involved in the campaign here in the United States, contact the VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF & RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN, P.O. BOX 303, Prince Station, New York, NY 10012 or visit the web site at www.vn-agentorange.org

“Fiest of Sacrafice”

[Thanks to Bunkie, Veterans Against The Iraq War, who sent this in.]

November 6th, 2006 Admin - Active Duty Soldier, Posted at soldiervoices.net/

So we're getting cultural awareness classes today it turns out one of the important aspects of Islam is the “Fiest of Sacrafice.”

This was projected onto a giant screen in front of about 200 soldiers

At least "of" was spelled correctly.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“The Men Thrust Their Fists In The Air”

“No, No! America Will Not Win!”

Nov. 23, 2006 By Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington Post

In Baghdad's Shiite stronghold of Sadr City late last month, aides to one of the country's leading Shiite clerics held a rally to urge followers to bide their time until the American forces leave the country. The rally was called by followers of Muqtada al-Sadr, a strongly anti-occupation figure who is one of the leaders in the current Shiite-led government and one likely claimant to power should the Americans withdraw.

“Will America win?” a speaker in a brown turban demanded before the more than 1,000 protesters, as a brewing storm whirled dirt and trash and pelted demonstrators with drops of cold rain. Loudspeakers shot his question back across the square.

The men thrust their fists in the air, shouting their answer out to a grim, gray sky: “No, no! America will not win!”

Assorted Resistance Action:

Nov 23, 2006 (Reuters)

About 30 militants attacked the Iraqi Health Ministry in central Baghdad with mortars and gunfire, an Interior Ministry source and the deputy health minister said. The ministry source said five people were wounded.

Deputy Minister Hakim al-Zamily said he could see them outside the building in Bab al-Muadham shooting at staff. He said mortar rounds had also been fired.

An Interior Ministry source said they had surrounded the ministry and were clashing with Iraqi security forces. Some casualties had been taken to hospital.

A roadside bomb wounded four police commandos in the southwestern Bayaa district of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen and two civilians in Palestine street Baghdad.

Guerrillas attacked a police patrol killing one policeman and wounding one in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Borat: Cultural Learnings Of America For Make Benefit Glorious Nation Of Kazakhstan

November 17, 2006 Film Review by Brian Jones, Socialist Worker: Borat, Starring Sascha Baron Cohen And Kevin Davitian.

FIRST INTRODUCED to the world as one of three hilarious characters in Sascha Baron Cohen's Da Ali G Show, Borat Sagdiyev makes his big screen debut in Borat.

The film's premise is that Borat, a Kazakh TV reporter, is sent by his government to America to learn what makes the country so great. Armed only with a small afro, a bushy moustache circa 1969, and a suit (which he never washes in order to smell "foreign"), Cohen uses this premise as a springboard for outrageous hi-jinks.

One of my viewing companions laughed so hard she almost peed herself. Be warned.

The hilarity originates from the fact that all of his costars (save Kevin Davitian as Azamat Bagatov, his producer) aren't in on the joke. Famous for never breaking character,

Cohen's Borat gets himself into ludicrous (and even dangerous) situations as he gathers "learnings" from unsuspecting Americans, interviews dignitaries and tries to capture Pamela Anderson in a burlap sack.

Much has been made of the Borat's virulent anti-Semitism. Cohen, himself a Jewish Briton, is of course poking fun at anti-Semitism.

The concern has been raised that not everyone who watches will get the joke, but in this reviewer's opinion, it would be pretty hard not to get, unless we're talking about people who genuinely believe that Jews have shape-shifting powers.

The real brilliance of the film is that it takes aim at all of the undigested bits of barbarism (to borrow a phrase from the Russian revolutionary Trotsky) in U.S. society.

Racism, sexism and homophobia are Cohen's real targets. Borat comes off as a foolish, stupid and incredibly sexist foreigner, but he uses these attributes to get people to let down their guard and tell him what they think.

Getting drunk with some fraternity brothers, they revel in sexist conversation ("How are the Russian bitches?" they ask Borat), and one of them admits he thinks that "minorities have too much power" and that America would be better if slavery was re-introduced!

Borat stumbles upon a Pentecostal service that is visited by several high-ranking politicians (including a state supreme court justice!), and the parade of speakers alternate between praising Jesus, denouncing the theory of evolution and speaking in tongues.

But Cohen doesn't buy into the red-state/blue-state thesis, and so smug coastal citizens aren't let off the hook here. Down South many strangers allow themselves to be greeted by kisses from Borat, while in New York the same thing nearly gets him killed.

Constantly pushing limits, Borat exposes the boundaries of social acceptance.

Apparently, there are many things you can do at a Southern high-society dinner and still be treated with grace and forgiveness, and Borat does them all. But when he invites a lower-class Black woman to join him at the table, he gets chased out of the house (literally). Interestingly, Borat befriends this woman (who is a prostitute), and she becomes the most sympathetic American in the film.

Perhaps what Borat learns is that he is welcomed when he participates in prejudice (an SUV dealer tries to explain what a "pussy magnet" is), but when he crosses those lines (kissing men, befriending a Black woman), he is not.

The fact that Borat is from a Muslim country is cause for concern. After all, the Jew-hating, gun-toting Muslim terrorist is an awful stereotype that plays right into the hands of Bush's war on terror. But while Borat is from a Muslim, Central Asian country, he reads more as a very secular Eastern European (actually Cohen got the idea for the character from a Russian doctor).

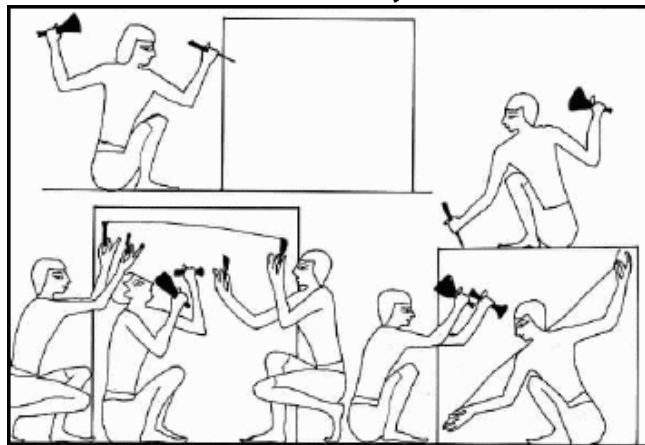
Many on the left are dismayed at the way he is making use of such awful stereotypes about foreigners, but miss the real spirit of the film. Cohen does not make fun of everyone equally, as, for example, The Daily Show does to achieve political “balance.”

It's no accident that Borat finds his way to a Confederate gift shop or to a gay pride parade, or goes on a bloodthirsty war-on-terror rant at a rodeo, or that when he finally encounters the Jews he fears, they're the gentlest Bubbe and Zeda you've ever met.

There is some making fun of the backwardness of Kazakhstan in the film, and many of Borat's appearances on TV talk shows give the impression that it's all about making fun of this character.

But in Borat, the camera “loves” his village-mates back home in a way that it doesn't the politicians, racists and homophobes Borat tries to befriend in the U.S.

Happy Anniversary: November 23, 1170 BC



Carl Bunin, Peace History

November 23, 1170 BCE

The first recorded strike took place in Egypt when necropolis workers who had not been paid for their work in more than two months sat down and refused to work until they were paid and able to eat.

OCCUPATION TONGA

Old Fashioned Imperialism On The March Again: Australian Government Invades Tonga As Citizens Rise Up For More Democracy

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in. He writes: **FLAG IMPERIALISM TRYING AGAIN! AUSTRALIAN INVASION OF TONGA SHOULD BE NEWS.** Max Watts should know: **LEFT FACE, Soldier Unions and Resistance Movements in Modern Armies, By DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX WATTS; Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107; GREENWOOD PRESS, New York • Westport, Connecticut • London]**

November 18, 2006 AAP

Australian troops have begun patrolling Tonga's international airport in an effort to restore calm, as dozens of Australians prepare to flee the strife-torn South Pacific nation.

About 50 Townsville-based troops of 1RAR and 34 Australian Federal Police (AFP) joined a deployment of 60 military personnel and 10 police officers from New Zealand.

The troops will initially work to secure Fua'amotu International Airport, with the New Zealand command to decide on any further action *such as street patrols.*

The airport has been closed to commercial flights since Thursday, when rioting destroyed 80 per cent of the central business district and left at least eight people dead.

The deployment also will be on standby to evacuate about 300 Australians estimated to be in Tonga. **[Note below that none of them reported being in danger, which exposes the "rescue" mission for so much Imperial greed.]**

A defence spokesman said a RAAF 707 jet carrying the troops had touched down about 7.15pm local time (5.15pm AEDT), shortly after a C-130 flight carrying the AFP officers.

Prime Minister John Howard and his New Zealand counterpart, Helen Clark, announced the peace mission late Friday night following a request from the Tongan government.

Three Australian warships are already in the region, having been sent to Fiji last month when it appeared the military was set to overthrow the government.

The riots erupted after Tonga's parliament went into recess for the year without voting on proposed democratic reforms to dramatically boost the proportion of elected MPs, and slash those appointed by the king.

The prime minister's office and other public buildings were attacked, shops were looted and cars overturned as hundreds of youths rampaged.

"The latest advice that we have is the situation has calmed to an extent and we hope that through this deployment we will assist in bringing even a greater sense of reassurance to the people of Tonga," Defence spokesman Brigadier Gus Gilmore told reporters in Canberra.

"Of course it's a serious situation and I don't think the government of Tonga would have called for our assistance had it not been."

AFP Assistant Commissioner Paul Jevtovic says his officers will primarily be relieving and supporting exhausted local authorities.

"The Tongan police have obviously been working extensively long hours and our role will be to support them and hopefully give them advice and share some of our experiences with them," he told reporters.

It was not yet known how long the deployment would stay.

Asked if the Australian defence force was becoming over-stretched in its overseas missions, Brigadier Gilmore highlighted the rapid deployment to Tonga.

"I think we've met this deployment quite comfortably and we still have a bit of fuel in the tank should that be required," he said.

DFAT said officials had been in touch with about 120 Australians registered with the consulate, and none had reported being caught up in the violence or injured.

Australians, Canadians and their immediate families are being offered seats on a returning defence force aircraft, with 34 people taking up the offer by 4pm (AEDT) Saturday.

The flight is due to leave Tonga in the early afternoon Sunday, bound for Sydney, although DFAT said unforeseen changes may affect its departure.

The trouble in Tonga follows destructive riots in the Solomon Islands capital Honiara in April, continuing gang violence in East Timor and the recent coup threats in Fiji, heightening concerns about failed states in the Pacific region.

Mr Howard said Australia and New Zealand, as the biggest countries in the region, had a responsibility to help. [Sort of like Hitler helped Poland.]

"It's too important to the stability of the whole region for us to be less than willing to respond to a request ... to a country that looks to Australia and New Zealand in its hour of need."

Labor said it was supporting the short-term deployment, but it was no substitute for Australia encouraging progress on the underlying issues of conflict including the need for democratic reform. [Right. Invasion and occupation with a human face. Just like Iraq.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Z, who sent this in.]

**Security Expert Says Bush Has No
Credibility, Unable To Initiate Iran
Attack;
Senior American Official Says "If
Bush Does Something Physical To
Iran, He Will Be Impeached"**

November 22, 2006 By Yaakov Lappin, Y-Net News

US President George Bush does not have sufficient credit to initiate a military strike on Iran , Giora Romm, senior researcher for the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, told a forum attended by members of the Foreign Ministry and delegates from the American Jewish community in Jerusalem Tuesday.

Romm was a former Air Force pilot, Assistant Director of IDF operations, defense attache to Washington and a former head of the Jewish Agency.

He recently returned from Washington, and described how senior American officials were completely preoccupied with the war in Iraq.

"Iraq is sitting very heavily on them," Romm said, adding that the problems of the Iraq war have robbed President Bush of any credibility.

Quoting a senior American official, Romm told the forum, "If Bush does something physical to Iran, he will be impeached."

"Bush has no military credit. Don't delude yourself by thinking that Bush has a military option (regarding Iran). I don't think the average American is convinced that his country is in danger (from Iran), and isn't moved by dangers in the Middle East. After 3.5 years in Iraq, he won't be convinced by wishy washy intelligence," Romm said.

He added that the same source, from the Democratic Party, said, "If there isn't a change in Iraq within six months, I'm told, people will take to the streets like in Vietnam."

Speaking to Ynetnews, Romm said he "could see a situation where we would attack Iran and the United States won't, but I can't estimate that now."

Romm added that the American-Israeli alliance has not been endangered following the Democratic upswing in the US elections.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

The Traitor Bush, In Vietnam, Says Lesson Of Vietnam Is To Keep The Iraq War Going;

Tells Vietnamese U.S. Should Have Stayed And Fought More

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Nov 21, 2006 By Robert Scheer, Truthdig.com & November 17, 2006 Times Newspapers Ltd. [Excerpts]

President Bush has said many dumb things in defense of his Iraq policy. Citing the Vietnam War as a model, however, is perhaps his most ludicrous yet.

This past week found the president sitting before a bust of the victorious Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, seemingly unaware that the United States lost its war with the Communist-led country.

Having long and vehemently denied parallels between the invasions of Vietnam and Iraq, he nevertheless admitted now to seeing one.

“Yes,” Bush said. “One lesson is that we tend to want there to be instant success in the world, and the task in Iraq is ... just going to take a long period of time to -- for the ideology that is hopeful, and that’s an ideology of freedom, to overcome an ideology of hate.... We’ll succeed, unless we quit.”

Bush’s rhetoric is frighteningly reminiscent of Richard Nixon’s escalation and expansion of the Vietnam War in an attempt to buy an “honorable” exit with the blood of millions of Southeast Asians and thousands of American soldiers. In the end, a decade of bitter fighting did not prevent an ignominious U.S. departure from Saigon.

Now, however, Vietnam is at peace with its neighbors and poses no security threat to the United States.

The United States dropped more bombs on tiny Vietnam than it unloaded on all of Europe in World War II, only hardening Vietnamese nationalist resolve. Hundreds of thousands of troops, massive defoliation of the countryside, “free fire zones,” South Vietnamese allies, bombing the harbors ... none of it worked.

Yet, never admitting that our blundering military presence fueled the native nationalist militancy we supposedly sought to eradicate, three U.S. presidents, two of them Democratic, lied themselves into believing victory was around some mythical corner.

Iraq and Vietnam are not the same country, yet both have long experience with imperial meddling and fiercely resist it. Bush has said Iraq “is in many ways, religious in nature, and I don’t see the parallels” to Vietnam, but that is just another sign that he probably cut most of his history classes at Yale.

He, and apparently the mass media, as well, seems to have forgotten that the United States tried to stoke a religious war in Vietnam by intervening to install a Roman Catholic exile in power in this primarily Buddhist country.

The struggle to overthrow that U.S. puppet dictator, Ngo Dinh Diem, began with Buddhist monks immolating themselves on the streets of Saigon.

To be sure, there followed a decade of constant talk about bringing democracy to the country we had occupied and a never-ending series of elections and new power arrangements that followed the U.S.-engineered murder of Diem, who like Iraqi exile

Ahmad Chalabi had been deemed by U.S. officials as “the George Washington” of his country.

At least Chalabi is still alive to complain, as he did to The New York Times this month, “that the Americans sold us out.”

But the final collapse of our puppet regime in Vietnam did not produce the domino effect of other nations surrendering to communism any more than a U.S. withdrawal from Iraq will inevitably lead to the spread of terrorism.

The lesson of the Vietnam debacle is that yesterday’s enemy is more likely to become today’s trading partner if we remove the specter of U.S. imperialism and leave the fate of Iraq to the Iraqis.

The US's escalating intervention on behalf of the right-wing government of South Vietnam against the communist Viet Cong began in the early 1960s and climaxed in 1975 with the humiliating evacuation from the roof of the US Embassy in Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City. From early on, opponents of Mr Bush have made the comparison with Iraq - another war fought in the name of democracy against a militarily inferior guerrilla army which is costing unimagined numbers of American lives and provoking more and more public opposition.

Mr Bush did not address the comparison directly today, but seemed to imply that the lesson of Vietnam is that a premature exit was a mistake - very different from the conventional view that the US should have cut its losses in the unwinnable war long before 1975.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Always Remember, Docks, Docks”

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 23, 2006

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

The truth sets us free, we must tell the truth to government lies. We must continue to poke holes in their lies until like a piece of cheese, they can't stand up anymore and are like swiss cheese and they churl up and fall over.

When we went out on a Wildcat in Kalamazoo, the GM fascists dick went limp as we kicked them in their balls and they knew they had a Union to deal with now. Actually, a Wildcat is the only True Strike. Men held their heads up high after that and their chests filled up with pride.

The GM fascists fucked with us one more time after that, so we set the fiberglass boards on fire. The boards were stacked up high and along the whole outside of the docks. It took 4 fire departments to put it out and they put it out barely in time before it would have ignited their gasoline pumps and tanks and exploded. That was the final blow to the GM fascists as we took over the shop floor.

Always remember that the Docks are their weakest link, if nothing comes in or goes out, they are fucked. The rest of the workers will line up and support the docks. The docks are extremely powerful; they can stop Japanese cars from being unloaded from Japan when the few Japanese factories in the US are only tokens.

They can stop wars when supplies for the war can not be shipped out.

Always remember, docks, docks.

For The Works,
Dennis

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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 email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

**General Strike Forces Out
Bangladesh Chief Election
Commissioner**

[Thanks to J, who sent this in.]

11/24/2006 Gulf News

Dhaka: A crippling four-day transport blockade was called off in Bangladesh yesterday after the chief election commissioner, under pressure from a 14-party political alliance to resign, stepped aside temporarily.

"We are lifting the blockade, but our pressure on the interim government will continue to further re-organise the election commission and update the voters' list," said Abdul Jalil, general secretary of the alliance's main party, the Awami League.

However, the air was not entirely cleared by the election chief's departure: the alliance raised objections to a plan by the interim government to appoint two election commissioners in addition to the three remaining in office.

Jalil told a news conference the alliance wanted the three existing commissioners to be removed because of their alleged bias towards the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia and its Jamaat-e-Islami ally.

"Instead of doing this, the president is planning to appoint two new commissioners without discussing it with major political parties....," Jalil said.

"This could further complicate matters." He said activists would rally outside the presidential palace on Monday, and lay siege to the election commission's office the following day.

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http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

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