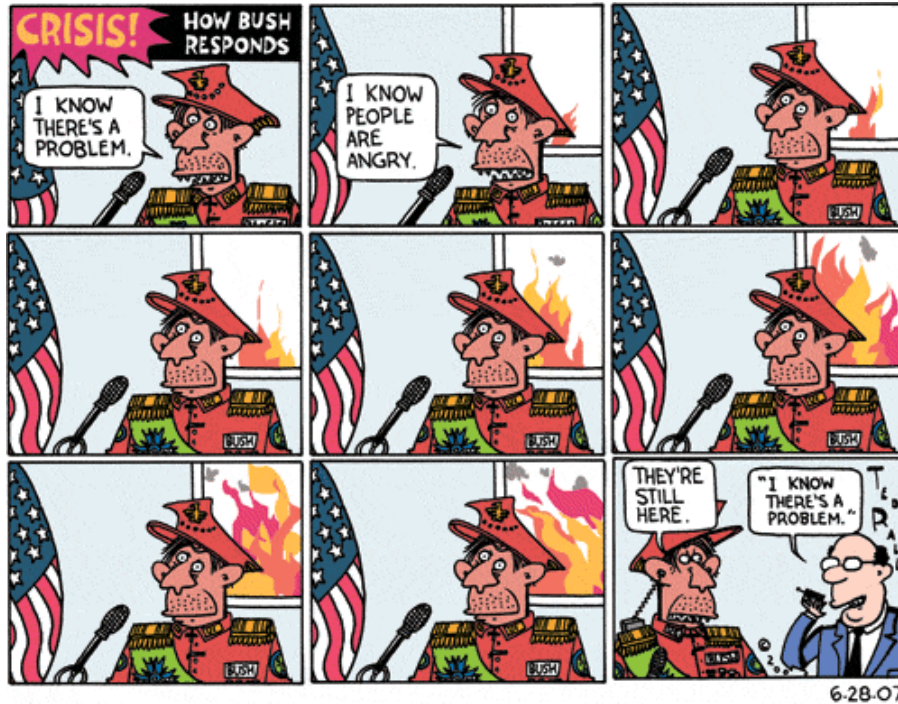


## GI SPECIAL 5G1:



### IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**“He Said It’s Like  
They’re Fighting A Ghost  
And They Were Not  
Equipped To Fight The  
Ghosts”**

**Bellevue High Grad Dies In Iraq**



Sgt. William Wayne Crow, 28, a Belleview High School graduate, was killed Thursday.  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR-BANNER

Jun. 30, 2007 BY NASEEM SOWTI, STAR-BANNER

INGLIS - It was around 9 p.m. Thursday when Kathryn Mondini drove up to her apartment, tired after driving all day from North Carolina. She had seen police cars in the neighborhood but didn't think much of it, figuring they were part of a regular patrol.

She went inside and picked up the phone to call a neighbor when someone knocked on the door.

She opened it and saw two Army officers.

"I slammed the door and threw myself to the floor," she said Friday afternoon, still in shock and weeping when she looked at a picture of her only son.

Sgt. William Wayne Crow, 28, a Belleview High School graduate, was killed early Thursday morning in Iraq when the Humvee he was driving rolled over an improvised explosive device, known as an IED.

Mondini held on to Associated Press stories she had printed off the Internet. She had circled the paragraphs that mentioned his death. "One American soldier killed" while in a combat patrol in eastern Baghdad, it read.

"He was my baby ... he was my lifeline," she said.

Her daughter, Candace Hudson, sat beside her Friday in their small living room. Her eyes were red, too, as she mourned her brother.

Her cell phone, and the house phone, kept ringing. Friends and family wanted to know what happened, to say how sorry they were, to ask how they could help.

Mondini, who had not seen her son since last February, doesn't have all the answers yet.

"Where's my son?" she cried. "In pieces?"

Miles away, in Fort Riley, Kan., Crow's wife, Michelle, kept the officers outside her door for 20 minutes early Thursday morning.

"I figured if I didn't let them in, I wouldn't have to know" what happened, she said on Friday, her telephone voice sad and monotone.

She and Crow married four years ago. She already had two sons, Chris, 10, and David, 8; with Crow she had two girls: Alexis, 4 and Kala, 2.

Crow wasn't there to see the birth of his daughters.

He wasn't there for Christmas.

And he wasn't there last week when his buddies gathered for their 10th reunion at Belleview High.

Crow enlisted in military right out of high school. He went to Korea, and then to Iraq. This was his third trip to Iraq. On a previous tour he was awarded a Purple Heart.

"We knew he's not coming back this time. His wife felt something wasn't right. I don't believe he was supposed to be there," Mondini said.

The last time Crow had come back from Iraq, he told his mother that the war was different.

"He said it's like they're fighting a ghost and they were not equipped to fight the ghosts," Mondini recalled.

Little did anyone know that one of those ghosts, an IED, would take the life of the tough-looking, big-hearted man who loved going to Ocala to skateboard and hang out with his buddies.

"He was a happy person. He liked to make people laugh. He was a joy to be around," recalled his close friend and high school classmate, David Bowman.

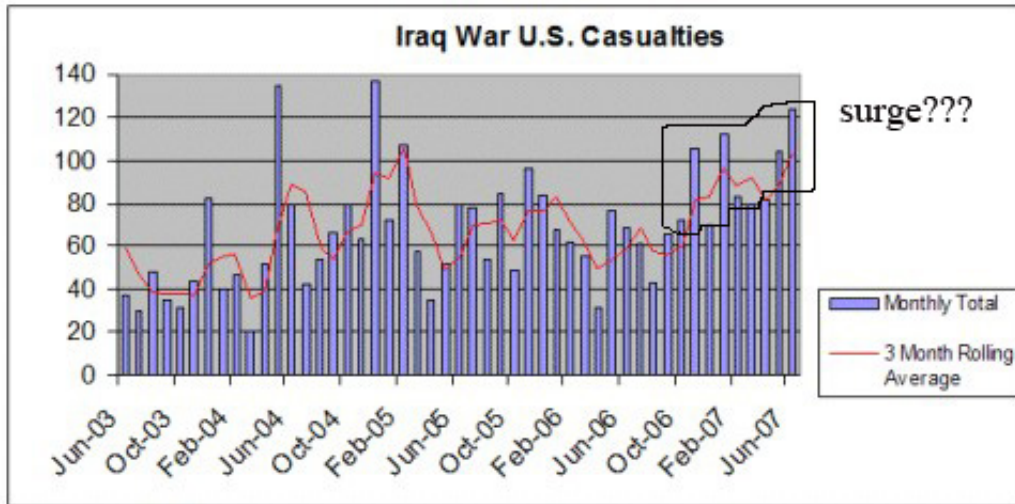
"It's like losing a brother," he said. The last time he saw him was five years ago.

The last time his sister saw him was five years ago. And Mondini last talked to him before Mother's Day.

"I'll miss his hugs," she said. "I just want to hear him say 'Mom, I love you. It's going to be OK.'"

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# Yeah, It's A Surge



[Thanks To Marco F., The Military Project, who sent this in.]

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



[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.] Photograph: Sean Smith, Guardian Unlimited

Guardian photographer Sean Smith spent two weeks with the US army's rapid reaction Stryker units witnessing the daily horror of life on Baghdad's frontline. The specialised

units operate in the most dangerous parts of the capital and face daily battles with insurgents.

**The Stryker unit stops to check the identities of fighters in Amiriya. The men, who wear white bandanas, are allowed to operate by US forces but are not integrated into the police or army**

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## **“I Would Hope Like Hell That The Loss Of My Son And The Loss Of Every Other Man And Woman Wasn’t In Vain”**

June 19, 2007 By MATTHEW RINK, The Independent

U.S. Army Spc. Zachary A. Grass didn’t need to join the service or give his blood for his country to be a hero to his parents.

The 22-year-old always played that role.

“He was a typical young man,” Frank Grass said from the family’s Beach City home Monday. “He liked to ride the four-wheeler and dirt bikes. When he came home on leave, he liked to have his keg parties and play beer pong.”

Frank Grass cradled his wife in a recliner at their Beach City home as she wept in his arms. Friends and family circulated outside of their home, the only home Zach Grass ever lived in.

They spent the day making funeral arrangements and fielding questions by the media. And they spent the day wrestling with sadness and confusion.

“He was our boy, our son,” Patty Grass said. “He never had an enemy. I don’t know of anybody that didn’t like Zach.”

Zach, a 2003 Fairless High graduate, was killed Saturday morning outside of Baghdad when the humvee he was traveling in struck a roadside bomb. He deployed April 11 from Fort Lewis, Wash., where he was stationed with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team).

Sgt. Danny R. Soto, of Houston, also died in the bombing.

His death comes a week after Sgt. Cory Endlich, of Massillon, who was also stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash., was killed in Iraq. Endlich will be laid to rest today.

News of Endlich’s death last week alarmed Patty.

“My stomach had been in knots,” she said. “Something just wasn’t right. I guess it was a mother thing. I just felt something wasn’t right.”

Zach celebrated his birthday in Iraq. He turned 22 on May 22.

Zach was last home in March, when he had a nine-day break before the April deployment. He had a party with friends and spent time with family.

His best friend, Dustin Wade, has carried with him a photograph of Zach's visit home. They watched the Ohio State Buckeyes basketball team play in the national championship with other buddies.

The photo hasn't left his side since Saturday.

"He was a great person," said Wade, who grew up with Zach and played basketball and baseball with him. "I liked everything about him. I can't believe it happened. You never think it's going to happen to someone close to you. I'm just glad I had so many memories with him. I can't believe he's gone. I've never had to deal with anything like this in my life."

Wade, like Zach's parents, didn't know why his friend decided to join the military. But he knew it was a decision that made Zach happy.

"Every time I talked to him, the kid was happy," the 22-year-old said sobbing. "That's what he wanted to do. He was excited about it. He was always pumped up and ready to go over there. It's not what I wanted him to do, but it's what he wanted to do and I'm happy he died doing what he wanted."

The last phone call Patty and Frank Grass took from their son was May 30.

"He said everything was OK," Frank said. "He was tired."

Zach was just as protective of his parents as they were of him. In the few months he served in Iraq, he assured his parents he was OK, that he was doing fine. Frank and Patty often went to Zach's cousins to find out more details.

"He didn't want us to worry about him," he said. "He figured the less he told us the less we'd worry."

After he graduated, Zach enrolled at Stark State and took courses in environmental health services. He changed direction, though, in 2005 when he enlisted in the Army.

"He never really said why he joined," his mother, Patty, said. "He just did it."

As a mother, she was also scared when her older son, Benjamin, joined the Air Force.

"I didn't like it," Patty said about her's sons decision to join. "I told (Zach). But he was of age. I couldn't tell him what to do. That's what he wanted to do so he had my blessings."

Frank didn't know his son chose to serve his country until three days before he left for training. His mother knew, but he asked her not to tell dad. Frank had encouraged both sons to enlist in the Army Reserves when they were nearing completion of high school, but both opposed the idea.

Patty last heard from her son in an e-mail Thursday, two days before his death. He'd broken an electrical razor and asked her to ship him a new one.

"I went out and got him an electrical razor and charged it," she said, noting that she would collect his favorite things, like Pop Tarts, and send them to her son. "I've got these boxes of stuff he'll never receive."

Frank said his son has always been and always will be a hero.

"He didn't have to go anywhere," he said. "He didn't have to join the military. He was our son. He was our hero. You don't need to get killed for your country to be a hero. He wasn't looking for glory."

**Frank Grass hopes the United States government applies more pressure to the Iraqi government to speed up and eventually end the war.**

**"It's unfair that we've lost as many as we have," he said. "It doesn't seem like we're moving over there. I would hope like hell that the loss of my son and the loss of every other man and woman wasn't in vain."**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed, Another Wounded; Nationally Not Announced**

Jun 30 (AFP)

An ISAF soldier was killed and another wounded battling Taliban in the south of the country, the force said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Americans Don't Support The War**

June 29, 2007 (CBS)

**U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD**

Increase

11%

Keep the same number

17%

Decrease

26%

Remove all troops

40%

---

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



The casket of Army Sgt. Eric Snell in Hamilton, N.J. June 30, 2007. Snell, 35, died Monday in Balad of wounds from small-arms fire in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Tim Larsen)

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**The Marine Corps Command  
Surrenders To Iraq Veteran  
Against The War, And Then Lies  
About It, Claiming Victory:**



# **“Madden Denied Reaching An Agreement With The Marine Corps About His Uniform”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, NY City Labor Against The War, who sent this in.]

June 30, 2007 From the Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, MO. — The Marines won't kick out an Iraq war veteran who made antiwar statements in a speech and wore part of his uniform at a protest, the service said Friday, despite a recommendation to discharge him early.

**The Marine Corps said in a statement that it would not proceed with the case, because it had “received sufficient indication” from Liam Madden, 22, that he would stop wearing his uniform in political activities.**

**However, Madden denied reaching an agreement with the Marine Corps about his uniform.**

**Madden said he had e-mailed the Marine Corps that he would agree to stop wearing his uniform at protests if the service put in writing “that my statements are neither disloyal nor inaccurate.”**

**Madden said he never received the letter he requested on Marine Corps letterhead.**

“I think it's a total victory,” Madden said, speaking on his cellphone from Columbia, S.C., where he was participating in a bus tour of East Coast military installations.

The corps later said its only action was to notify Madden of its intent to discharge him if he defied regulations.

**MORE:**

***The Letter From Liam Madden to  
The Marine Corps:  
“If The Marine Corps Decides To  
Not Accept This Condition, Then I  
Cannot Agree To Stop Wearing My***

# Uniform At Protests And We Must Continue To Exhaust My Legal Alternatives”



]Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Lt Col Blessing,

This letter is in response to the offer the Marine Corps Mobilization Command relayed to me via my military appointed attorney.

I am prepared to accept the settlement proposed in which the Marine Corps agrees not to continue with the discharge proceeding regarding my alleged disloyal statements and protest activity. I understand that this is contingent on my oral promise not to engage in further political protest while wearing articles of my Marine uniform.

**I will make such an oral agreement and stand by my good word if the Marine Corps is prepared to meet the following condition.**

**I will orally agree to not wear my military uniforms while engaged in any political protest, hell, I'll have it carved into stone if you'd like, upon receiving a signed, written statement on official USMC letterhead acknowledging that my statements in question were neither disloyal nor inaccurate.**

If the Marine Corps issues this statement, apologizing for erroneously (or possibly vindictively) accusing me of disloyalty to my country, I will not share it with another living soul.

I believe that the statements I make and the protest I engage in is necessary. If it's not true that the war in Iraq is illegal, then I believe it would be indeed disloyal to declare such a position. However, the fact of the matter is that the United States is violating the sovereignty of another nation without the approval of the UN Security Council or a legitimate claim to self defense. Sir, is honesty disloyalty?

Additionally, if it isn't true, I would hope the US Government would prove to the skeptical world that the war is legal instead, of trying to stifle political opposition. I am sure we can agree that protesting against an illegal war, premised on lies and baseless assertions cannot be considered disloyal.

**If the Marine Corps decides to not accept this condition, then I cannot agree to stop wearing my uniform at protests and we must continue to exhaust my legal alternatives. Which at present, include my right to an administrative board and may ultimately result in a case in federal appeals court.**

I assure you, as a fellow patriot, my actions are taken in the best interest of the American people and the people of the world.

**Therefore, if the Marines decide to stop pursuing this case, I will accept that measure as your implied tolerance and support of protesting against war crimes while wearing military uniforms.**

Thank you for considering my counter offer and I hope we can come to agreement on the matter.

I understand men in your position have their careers to think about, as I'm positive many German Colonels did in 1939.

Semper Fidelis,  
Liam Madden

## IRAQ VETS LEAD MARCH ON PENTAGON



Photo by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist (jeff@paterson.net) Indybay.org

**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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **Australian Activists Reach Out To U.S. Troops At Talisman Sabre 7**

**[This is a report about the work of Australian activists who reached out to U.S. troops in Australia during the Talisman Sabre 7. Exercise Talisman Sabre involves 7,500 Australian Defence Force personnel and 20,000 US troops. The exercise started last Monday. T]**

June 28, 2007 By Edwina Donald Via Max Watts, Australia

My name is Edwina Donald, I am a Stop the War activist who attended the convergence at Talisman Sabre.

I'd like to work on a bit of a report back about a discussion we had with some US troops in Rockhampton.

In Rockhampton we actually handed over reading material we had prepared for contact with troops, and gave them documentaries from the Vietnam resistance movement from within the army, and also "the Ground Truth" based on experiences of Iraqi Vets.

The discussion with the three GI 's confirmed that they were simply being silent about their own ideas, actually stating to us that they would prefer to go serve one more year in Iraq, ride it out and get back to their families, than the possible 20 year imprisonment with which they have been threatened for voicing or being seen to be in opposition to the war.

Two of them did however make the concession that they agreed with "at least eight out of the ten points" which we had made about why the war should stop now.

Pressed further as to which particular aspects they were in opposition to they wouldn't specify.

We are trying to organise a speaking tour for an Iraq Vet in August and it would be great to have as much info as possible about the resistance from within the armed forces, and to consider how to build it and support it.

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# “I Feel Like We Were There For No Good Reason” “I Don’t Think It Was Worthwhile At All”



photo by Emily DePrang

**The military says that they’re giving exit counseling and reintegration. What they’re calling re-entry counseling, in my experience, was, “Don’t drink and drive. Pay your bills on time. Don’t beat your spouse. Don’t kick your dog.”**

June 29, 2007 by Emily DePrang, The Texas Observer [Excerpt]

*Sue Randolph, 39, grew up in Saudi Arabia and earned her master’s degree in Arabic at the University of Michigan. After her service in 2003, she moved to Houston with her husband, a geologist. She now works in satellite communications and raises her 3-year-old daughter, a self-identified “princess,” and a 2-month-old kitten named Sparkles. Randolph’s family goes kayaking and hiking on weekends.*

*She is clever, quick-witted, passionate, and kind. She still struggles with anxiety while driving and when she’s near crowds.*

*She finds news about the war upsetting and frustratingly inaccurate.*

\*\*\*\*\*

I joined the Army because I had \$65,000 in student loans and didn't know how I was going to make payments. Since I had a master's in political science—Middle East studies and Arabic—I ended up doing translation as part of the search for weapons of mass destruction.

For a year, my team drove around behind the 3rd Infantry getting shot at, getting mortared, looking at warehouses of documents, chemicals, and parts of things that could be WMDs. I mean, you name it, we did it.

We talked to people. We went into people's houses.

The technological level of the things I saw wasn't anywhere near anything Colin Powell talked about. The buildings we went into, wiring was on the outside of the walls.

I didn't see anything like the equipment you'd see in a fifth-grade science lab. The most technically advanced thing we saw was a 12-volt car battery hooked up to bedsprings for torture. But not anything on the chemical or biological level.

Iraq looks like it's straight out of the Bible. It's mud brick, it's falling down. It's kids with sticks herding goats. There's like three high-rises in all of Baghdad, and those are the only ones you'll ever see on any newscast. The rest of it is mud brick, falling down.

At the time, I would see little girls on the side of the road, and I felt like I was part of a big machine that was going to help them have a better life. At the time.

**Now, looking at all of the lack of evidence for us being there except GW throwing a temper tantrum, frankly I feel — not used, because I signed up for it — but I feel like we were there for no good reason.**

**Eventually Saddam would have been overthrown, either by his own people or through Iran or someone else, and change would have come. It wouldn't have been on our timetable, but it would have happened.**

**I don't think it was worthwhile at all.**

When I went back to my base in Germany, it was like a bad dream. It was like nothing happened. Then I got out of the Army and came back to the States.

**Once you leave the Army, there's no reintegration help of any kind. Unless you went looking for it, there was nothing. And even if you went looking for it, you had to dig.**

**The military says that they're giving exit counseling and reintegration. What they're calling re-entry counseling, in my experience, was, "Don't drink and drive. Pay your bills on time. Don't beat your spouse. Don't kick your dog."**

All of these things that once you've reached a certain age, you're supposed to know.

None of it is, "If you have discomfort with dealing with crowds, if you don't feel comfortable with your spouse, if you can't sleep in a bed, if you don't want to drive down the road because you think everything is a bomb, here's what to do."

**No psychological or de-stress counseling is involved in this reintegration to garrison. And that's just if you're staying in the Army.**

**If you're leaving the Army, you get, "Here's how to write a resume."**

They don't prepare you to leave.

Hell, they didn't prepare me to be there.

**I was going into people's houses trying to tell the wife and kids as we're segregating them out from the men, that we're the good guys.**

**But they're crying because one of their kids got killed because he was up there sleeping on the roof when we decided to bust into their house.**

**I mean that's crazy.**

**But we're the good guys.**

Now I have to deal with that for the next 20 or 30 years. I have a 3-year-old. I deal with that every day.

I think we are going to end up like after Vietnam if we're not careful.

The Vietnam guys were treated really horribly, and whether they came back and quietly went back to their lives or not, they were all stereotyped in a criminal negative. And I'm afraid if we as a society don't learn what we didn't do for those guys, we're going to have that in spades.

We don't have low-end kind of industry jobs for them like working in the auto plant, so they're not going to be supporting their families.

And they're going to be angry.

They're going to feel like they're owed.

Do we get everybody counseling as soon as they get out, mandatory 90-day counseling? I don't know how. But there isn't enough money in this country right now to make some of these guys feel like what they went through was worthwhile.

We have no comprehension of the psychological cost of this war.

I know kids in Iraq who killed themselves.

I know kids that got killed.

OK, that's apparently the price of doing business.

But multiply me by 2 million.

If I'm fairly high-functioning, what about the ones that aren't? They're going back to small-town America, and their families aren't going to know what to do with them.

It's like, what do we do with Johnny now?

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## **The Chairborne Major Don't Give A Shit How Good A Soldier You Are; If You Got A Piercing With "Earring Device," You're A "Disgrace"**

July 02, 2007  
Letters To The Editor  
Army Times

According to Army Regulation 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia), Body piercing: "When on any Army installation or other places under Army control, soldiers may not attach, affix or display objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the skin while they are in uniform, in civilian clothes on duty, or in civilian clothes off duty (this includes earrings for male soldiers).

However, Spc. Jed Martin, in the June 4 issue of Army Times, doesn't appear to understand that policy ("He's a vegan cutie," Frontlines).

From his picture, one would deduce that he is in an Army barracks room, given the furniture behind him in the picture. If so, he is in violation of the above-mentioned policy because he has an earring device in each ear and a piercing in his lip.

**When are we going to stop glorifying the lack of discipline of soldiers in today's Army? To even put this picture in Army Times is a disgrace. I'm all for soldiers winning stuff [that's what the letter says, whatever the fuck that means], but let's portray the right image of our troops.**

**[OK. Fair enough. When the day comes that +10,000 soldiers in full battle rattle march up Constitution Avenue in DC to kick out the traitors that run the government and take our country back, their helmets will cover up any "earring devices." Happy now? T]**

Maj. Robert J. Purvis  
Fort Irwin, Calif.

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***Late Report:***  
**Vet Can Sue Government For Sand  
Fly Infection Acquired In Middle  
East;**  
**“They Should Not Be Allowed To Just  
Use Us Up And Throw Us Away,”  
Said Brown**

Doctors with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs could not pinpoint an ailment. They denied him disability benefits in 1995, and Brown said they prescribed painkillers and mood-altering drugs that made things worse.

Aug 07, 2006 Paul Egan, The Detroit News

**SWARTZ CREEK -- Nobody can say U.S. Army veteran Arvid Brown's Gulf War illness is all in his head.**

**Brown's late wife, Janyce, caught leishmaniasis -- a sometimes deadly parasitic disease borne by sand flies that can attack the body's cells and internal organs -- a malady he brought home from Operation Desert Storm.**

**So did the Swartz Creek couple's two young children.**

**Now, the U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled the federal government and the Department of Veterans Affairs can be sued for alleged failure to diagnose Brown's illness and for any injuries he and his family suffered.**

Veterans' groups are hailing the decision as a victory for families of tens of thousands of veterans of not only the first Gulf War, in which Brown served, but subsequent Mideast conflicts.

“This is a huge case,” said Joyce Riley, spokeswoman for the American Gulf War Veterans Association in Versailles, Mo. “This gives a lot of veterans a lot of hope.”

When Brown, now 48, returned from the Gulf War in 1991, he couldn't understand why his once-vigorous health was deteriorating. His head, muscles and bones ached, his strength was sapped; he was constantly exhausted but could not sleep.

**Doctors with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs could not pinpoint an ailment. They denied him disability benefits in 1995, and Brown said they prescribed painkillers and mood-altering drugs that made things worse.**

It was Brown's wife, Janyce, who had the research skills and persistence eventually to find a doctor who in 1998 diagnosed Brown with leishmaniasis.

By then, Janyce, too, had contracted the disease and both the couple's children had been born with it and other ailments, according to medical reports filed in the case from Dr. Gregory Forstall, then-director of infectious diseases at McLaren Regional Medical Center in Flint, now in private practice.

The government has not disputed the medical reports.

Janyce Brown developed a series of ailments and last year died at age 43 of a rare and inoperable form of liver cancer. Though no definite link was established between her leishmaniasis and other diseases, Arvid Brown said his wife was healthy before they met.

Janyce Brown in 2004 brought a \$125 million lawsuit against the government, but a federal judge in Detroit ruled the family couldn't sue for injuries a soldier suffered while on active duty.

U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara's decision was based on the Feres doctrine, after the soldier involved in a precedent-setting 1950 U.S. Supreme Court decision. Army Lt. Rudolph J. Feres died in a 1947 fire caused by a defective heater in a military barracks at Pine Camp, N.Y. The court ruled his widow could not sue because Feres was on active duty.

**Late last month, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati partially overturned O'Meara's decision, saying the government is not liable for injuries suffered while Brown was on active duty but it can be sued for what happened once he returned to Michigan. The government may appeal, officials said.**

**"They should not be allowed to just use us up and throw us away," said Brown, now alone and raising two disabled children, ages 9 and 10, on his disability income.**

**"Somebody has got to be accountable."**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

***Iraq: The Perfect Illustration***  
**"The Natural Hatred For Democracy**  
**Among The Powerful, Often**

# Accompanied By Eloquent Calls For Democracy

06/29/07 By Noam Chomsky, ZNet [Excerpt]

**The most recent polls find that 87 percent of Iraqis want a concrete timeline for US withdrawal, up from 76 percent in 2005.**

If the reports really mean Iraqis, as they say, that would imply that virtually the entire population of Arab Iraq, where the U.S. and British armies are deployed, wants a firm timetable for withdrawal. I doubt that one would have found comparable figures in occupied Europe under the Nazis, or Eastern Europe under Russian rule.

**Bush-Blair and associates declare, however, that there can be no timetable for withdrawal.**

**That stand in part reflects the natural hatred for democracy among the powerful, often accompanied by eloquent calls for democracy.**

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**“If I Were An American Soldier In Iraq, I’d Be Tempted Mightily To Say, “Good Luck And Goodbye,” And Then Start For Home”**

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veteran, who sent this in.]

June 27, 2007 Charley Reese, lewrockwell.com [Excerpts]

If I were an American soldier in Iraq, I'd be tempted mightily to say, "Good luck and goodbye," and then start for home.

What possible difference does it make to us who rules Iraq? As a matter of fact, we should not only pull all of our troops out of Iraq, but also withdraw them from Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and anywhere else they happen to be in the Middle East.

If our leaders had the brains to do this, they would discover that the people in that part of the world are quite capable of running their own affairs.

Some of them might kill each other, but eventually things would settle down. It is, after all, one of the oldest civilizations in the world. In the meantime, no one in that part of the world could use us as an excuse for doing anything, and it wouldn't be our guys who are getting killed.

The American people have been conned into accepting the idea of an empire, when there is no need for one. Wherever there is oil, it will be available for sale because it is otherwise worthless, and why should we care from whom we buy it?

Some of the worst people in the world are sitting on big oil reserves, and you know what? Their oil burns just as well as anybody else's.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi boy standing in the wreckage of his belongings holds a TV smashed up by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA who invaded and searched his home in the Ur neighborhood in Baghdad June 29. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in every decent, honorable, sane, self-respecting civilian who lives there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



**Troops Invited:**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Black Teen Faces 20 Years In Prison For Attack With “Deadly Weapon” “The Tennis Shoes Bell Was Wearing At The Time Of The Attack”**

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in. He writes: Found guilty by an all-white jury, that is. And who could question their impartiality?]

June 29, 2007 By Howard Witt, Chicago Tribune senior correspondent

HOUSTON -- An all-white jury in the central Louisiana town of Jena swiftly convicted a black teenager Thursday for attacking a white student in an incident that capped months of racial unrest and attracted the scrutiny of civil rights leaders concerned about the application of justice in the town.

Jurors convicted Mychal Bell, 17, of aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy charges despite conflicting testimony from witnesses about whether Bell was among a group of black students who allegedly jumped the victim as he emerged from the gymnasium at the local high school on Dec. 4, knocking him unconscious.

Bell, a former high school football star who has been jailed since the incident, faces the possibility of more than 20 years in prison when he is sentenced July 31.

**The attack followed an unsolved arson that destroyed the central wing of the school and a series of fights between whites and blacks that was triggered after three white students hung nooses from a tree on the campus in a threat aimed at blacks.**

School administrators in the mostly white town of 3,000 said they regarded the noose incident as a youthful prank and handed brief suspensions to the students involved.

That decision angered African-American students and their parents, who had demanded the white students' expulsion for what they saw as a hate crime.

**Blacks' anger deepened when the local district attorney, Reed Walters, initially charged Bell and five other black teenagers with attempted murder in the December attack on the white student.**

**The victim did not require hospitalization, prompting black leaders to protest that the charges were out of proportion to the crime.**

But on Monday, following a May 20 Tribune report about the case, Walters reduced the charges against Bell, the first of the accused to go to trial. Walters has not revealed his plans regarding the other defendants, one of whom is being prosecuted as a juvenile.

**The aggravated battery charge against Bell involved the use of a dangerous weapon.**

**Although no evidence of a gun, knife or other weapon was introduced, Walters argued, and the jury agreed, that the tennis shoes Bell was wearing at the time of the attack qualified as a dangerous weapon.**

There were inconsistencies in the testimony of prosecution witnesses. Some said they saw Bell strike the victim in the face during a melee outside the gym, others said Bell struck the victim in the back, while still others said they were not sure Bell was involved.

Bell's court-appointed public defender, Blane Williams, had urged the teenager to accept a plea bargain on the eve of the trial, but Bell declined.

**Williams, who is black, did not challenge the composition of the jury pool, which included no African-Americans, and the defense rested without calling any witnesses.**

**He also excluded the teenager's parents from the courtroom.**

**"Blane Williams did not want to go to trial, he was not prepared to go to trial and he was angry when he was forced to go to trial," said Alan Bean, director of Friends of Justice, a Texas-based civil rights group that has closely followed the Jena case.**

**"So he just sort of plowed ahead and decided to go through the motions."**

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***"Oh The Irony"***  
**"Wall Street Journal Reporters Across  
The Country Chose Not To Show Up To  
Work This Morning"**

**At a time when Dow Jones is finding the resources to award golden parachutes to 135 top executives, it should not be seeking to eviscerate employees' health benefits and impose salary adjustments that amount to a pay cut.**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: Oh The Irony, WSJ Staff Walk Out]

June 28, 2007 11:00 A.M. Newspaper Guild release

**A statement from Wall Street Journal reporters:**

Wall Street Journal reporters across the country chose not to show up to work this morning.

We did so for two reasons.

First, The Wall Street Journal's long tradition of independence, which has been the hallmark of our news coverage for decades, is threatened today. We, along with hundreds of other Dow Jones employees represented by the Independent Association of Publishers' Employees, want to demonstrate our conviction that the Journal's editorial integrity depends on an owner committed to journalistic independence.

Second, by our absence from newsrooms around the country, we are reminding Dow Jones management that the quality of its publications depends on a top-quality professional staff.

**Dow Jones currently is in contract negotiations with its primary union, seeking severe cutbacks in our health benefits and limits on our pay.**

It is beyond debate that the professionals who create The Wall Street Journal and other Dow Jones publications every day deserve a fair contract that rewards their achievements.

**At a time when Dow Jones is finding the resources to award golden parachutes to 135 top executives, it should not be seeking to eviscerate employees' health benefits and impose salary adjustments that amount to a pay cut.**

We put the reputation of The Wall Street Journal and the needs of its readers first. That's why we will be back at our desks this afternoon, producing the day's news reports. But we hope this demonstration will remind those entrusted with the future of Dow Jones that our publications' integrity must be protected, and sustained, from top to bottom.

For more information, contact: E.S. Browning (201) 491-8653 or Steve Yount (609) 220-5951

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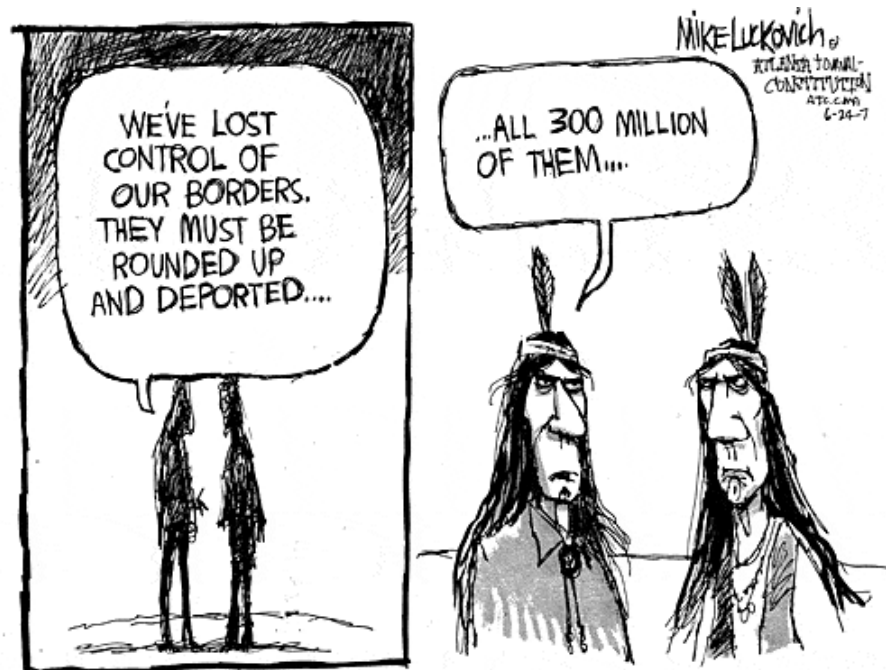
# “45% Of Americans Believe Immigration Is A Good Thing”

## “Only 19% Say It’s A Bad Thing”

June 18, 2007 By Al Giordano, The Narco News Bulletin [Excerpt]

[T]he latest Wall Street Journal-MSNBC poll shows a very different situation out here in public opinion land: 45-percent of American citizens believe ‘immigration is a good thing’ and only 19-percent say it’s a ‘bad thing.’

A whopping 85-percent of Americans know that deporting all illegal immigrants ‘is not a realistic or achievable goal.’



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