

GI SPECIAL 519:

**“Shut The Fuck Up, Delgado. This Is Not A
‘Metaphor For Our Situation,’ Whatever The
Fuck That Is”**



U.S. Army troops from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Baghdad, Aug. 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

**“It’s Over. Admit It’
“Get Over It. Get Out”
“Bring Them Home Now”
“History Will Record That A Decisive
Misstep In The Crash Of The American
Empire Was Taken On March 19, 2003”**

History will record that a decisive misstep in the crash of the American Empire was taken on March 19, 2003. September 3, 2007 will be a historical place-holder for a kind of death-gasp of empire ... former guerrillas sitting the Prez down as an equal across the table at Al Asad.

We haven't reckoned the body count yet, because it is still rising. That's the sinful part.

September 5, 2007 By STAN GOFF, Counterpunch [Excerpts]

Stan Goff is the author of "Hideous Dream: A Soldier's Memoir of the US Invasion of Haiti" (Soft Skull Press, 2000), "Full Spectrum Disorder" (Soft Skull Press, 2003) and "Sex & War" which will be released approximately December, 2005.

He is retired from the United States Army. His blog is at www.stangoff.com.

This is the way the world ends,
not with a bang but a whimper.

-T. S. Eliot

So President of the United States George W. Bush "diverted" a flight to Australia to a desert base in Anbar Province, Iraq (Sure he did.).

Anbar Province is now being effectively run not by US occupation forces, but by the armed Iraqi nationalist forces that fought the US to a standstill there -- with the cooperation of the same US forces.

This is being spun as a successful "counter-insurgency" campaign.

Many who opposed the war in Iraq, and the many more who just disliked the Bush administration, certainly had different expectations of what forms the end of that war might take.

And this is certainly the beginning of some kind of end.

That is not a call to complacency. Fight against this war like lives depend on it. They still do.

I just feel compelled to counter-spin it.

With El Presidente on this "surprise" trip, as it happened, were the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

Meeting them on this remote base between Baghdad and the Syrian border was none other than Bagwan Petraeus, the current Vivekananda of counter-insurgency doctrine and the latest in a long line of Generals who will be dragged into historical ignominy by this Commander-in-Chief.

The Ba'athists of Anbar seem to bear no grudges, even for the genocidal revenge that was visited on Fallujah.



Here is a picture of the meeting at Al Asad Air Base (credited to Jason Reed: Reuters). Looks like a real drive-by, doesn't it?

This bespeaks a political sophistication (or Realpolitik, choose your term) that is miles ahead of the power curve in Washington DC.

Only lately, it seems, as the mad mandarins of The Project for a New American Century chirp with bellicosity at Persia, has it occurred to the administration that the *raison d'être* of US policy in the region since 1979 -- containing the surprise independence of Iran -- has been judo-flipped into an Iranian Era, in the same moment that the privatized Islamist militias of the Afghanistan operation (also cranked up courtesy of the CIA circa 1979) have metastasized into a popular movement that threatens the US-obedient rulers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Pakistan.

The generalissimos of the New Crusade didn't consult enough scripture.

“And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell -- and great was its fall.”

--Matthew 7:26-27

Now the whole US National Command Authority is sitting together with former enemies surrounded by the sands of Anbar.

Someone is cutting deals.

Someone else is preparing to spin a victory, just as they are spinning the surrender of Anbar as the success story of the invasion and occupation.

In his public statements yesterday, Bush opened the window out of which he (or more properly, his Party ... he can soon settle back into golf, cocaine, and bass-fishing) will jump.

If the Generals "tell me that if the kind of success we are now seeing here continues, it will be possible to maintain the same level of security with fewer American forces. I urge members of both parties in Congress to listen to what they have to say. Congress shouldn't jump to conclusions until the general and the ambassador report."

Got it, George.

The opposition to the war has not only decimated Republican power, it has driven the Democrat establishment into a retrograde operation against its own leftwing. The war is political plutonium.

And the outcome -- even as Sadr challenges the pro-Iranian SCIRI and reaches out to Sunni nationalists, as the aspirations of the Kurds provoke the Turkish Army, as Pervez Musharraf watches his own security forces fracture and shift against him, as the Russians court Central Asia with the promise of a Gas OPEC, as the Sino-Russian SCO threatens to undo the strategic outcomes of the Cold War, and as the fictional-value crisis triggered by the sub-prime nosedive creates alarming tremors under the global economy -- will be that Iran is now and will remain a significant political actor on the world stage.

This is inevitable, even with the occasional ill-considered shenanigans of President Ahmadijad.

This meeting in Anbar is part of a last-minute bid to prevent the inevitable by exploring a realignment with what the administration has convinced itself are the "Sunnis," one of three categories in its simple-minded social taxonomy of Iraq.

Many believe that the administration will resort to strikes against Iran, but I have said, from the time this particular chicken-little rumor started, that I don't believe it will happen.

Before the Iraq occupation, the administration could harbor delusions about Iraq, about liberation parades across the Al-A'imma Bridge and cocktail parties at the Oil Ministry. Their information came from crackpot academics (Feith, Perle, Wolfowitz, et al) and an Iraqi confidence-artist (Chalabi).

But the recklessness of that decision cannot be mapped onto the current administration.

Regardless of their staggering apologetics from the podium, this administration has a lengthening list of political casualties on the one hand, and four-and-a-half years of bitter experience in actually-existing Iraq now. The interpreters of that experience are the Generals.

In those quiet enclosed spaces where they dare speak the truth, there is one truth that none of the Generals can withhold.

An attack against Iran would spark a general uprising in Iraq that would extend from Baghdad to Basra; and the US would find its already tenuous position in Iraq untenable.

The only thing that might be worse than an American attack on Iran would be one launched by the Israelis, who are rightly identified by Iraqis as an American forward base in the region.

The puzzle that will preoccupy both parties now, since neither knows who will inherit this dilemma, is how to salvage what is left of waning American imperial power.

You won't be able to slide shim-stock between Rudy or Hillary on this question... and neither of them will have the power to stand before the historical macrotrend of US power dissolution.

The first that acknowledges and learns to deal with the fact of Iranian ascendancy will be the one that will suffer least... but that's about it. In less than a decade, we will see Russia, China, and Iran at the head of a re-set Central Asian chessboard, and they will contend with a descendant American empire.

The end of all empires is inevitable.

The Great City always exhausts the rural soils and eats the seed-corn, and its debilitated, dependent rulers will always be usurped by "the barbarians" who were formerly bent before the Great City's plunder. As Dr. King -- once himself called one a barbarian -- said, "the arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice."

History will record that a decisive misstep in the crash of the American Empire was taken on March 19, 2003. September 3, 2007 will be a historical place-holder for a kind of death-gasp of empire ... former guerrillas sitting the Prez down as an equal across the table at Al Asad.

We haven't reckoned the body count yet, because it is still rising.

That's the sinful part.

It's over.

Admit it.

Get over it.

Get out.

Bring them home now.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Southwest Side Soldier Laid To Rest

August 31, 2007 NBC Universal, Inc

Pfc. Omar Torres, 20, died last Wednesday after being hit by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad. NBC5's Anthony Ponce reported that Torres' family and friends said Torres had an unforgettable personality.

"Even if he was getting in trouble, he always had that stupid smile on his face," said childhood friend Robert Janik. "You just had to laugh -- he always made you smile."

Frank Ward, Torres' uncle, said Torres was energetic as a child.

"He was aggressive, always, since he was a little boy," Ward said. "When he came in your house, you had to tie everything down."

Ward said his nephew used all of his energy to excel in school; in fact, he got a four-year scholarship to Ohio State and was a sophomore when he was activated.

"He said, 'My country needs me now,'" Ward said. "So, I'm proud of him. He's my hero, for sure."

Hundreds of others at his Southwest Side funeral shared that feeling, Ponce reported.

"I think the one thing about Omar is he always offered himself," said Torres' cousin, Beatrice Cuello. "No matter what the occasion, no matter what the situation was."

Family members said Torres had planned to start a career in politics.

At the service, an Army general spoke and read from a letter he had just received Thursday night from one of Torres' fellow soldiers, who was still over in Iraq. The letter said Torres was a hero not because of his death, but because of the way he lived his life.

Four Marines Killed In "One Of The Safest Places In Iraq" [According To Bush, That Is]

07 September 2007

A U.S. statement said four Marines assigned to Multinational Force-West were killed Thursday in combat in Anbar, but gave no further details.

On Monday, President Bush declared Anbar "one of the safest places in Iraq."

“An Almost Daily Barrage From Militias - 750 Times In One Month Alone”



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

6 September 2007 By Andrew North, BBC News, Basra air station [Excerpts]

It is not total safety at the British base outside Basra.

But it is still a welcome relief for the soldiers of 4 Rifles and the Royal Welsh now recuperating here after leaving their base at the Basra Palace inside the city four days ago and handing it over to the Iraqi army.

This base comes under mortar and rocket attack, but far less frequently.

Yet for more than three months at the Basra Palace base on the city's southern edge, the 550 soldiers were coming under an almost daily barrage from militias - 750 times in one month alone.

As they service their armoured vehicles, replacing tracks and other parts, many of the young soldiers wear green T-shirts emblazoned with the words: "Basra Palace, most mortared palace in the world."

Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, you could say.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; COME HOME, NOW



US soldiers from Bravo 1-12 Cavalry Battalion look at a confiscated grenade near the city of Baqouba, Sept, 6, 2007. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

TROOP NEWS

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



The funeral service of Cpl. Tracy C. Willis at Sunset Northwest Funeral Home in San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 7, 2007. Willis, 21, was killed in action in Iraq last month. (AP Photo/San Antonio Express-News, Bob Owen)

“After The ‘Surge’ And The Growing Deterioration Of The Situation In Iraq, More Are Resisting”

“We’re On The Verge Of Something Significant Because After Four-And-A-Half Years The War Is Going So Badly”



Sept. 6 By John Catalinotto, Workers World [Excerpts]. Catalinotto was an organizer during 1967-1971 for the American Servicemen’s Union, which opposed the war against Vietnam. Email: jcat@workers.org

[B]etween Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 Workers World held individual phone interviews with four IVAW board members and other organizers.

[Former Staff Sgt. Camilo] Mejia: There are now 575 IVAW members, double the number at the last convention. At least 10 new members are joining each month.

Former Marine Liam Madden, (IVAW organizer in Boston, co-founder of the “Appeal for Redress”): We always supported war resisters and have educated soldiers and service members what their rights are. The IVAW wants soldiers and service members to make an informed decision.

We were already on the track of stepping up active-duty organizing.

The IVAW’s role is to shed light on the political implications of the war and what it means for those fighting it. We explain why the U.S. is there in Iraq.

In effect, we are giving the active-duty troops the tools they need to resist, but in the end it is the soldier's decision.

Phil Aliff (IVAW board, active duty at Fort Drum): In the Army three years ago, while many of the rank and file were skeptical about the war in Iraq, they followed through with the mission.

Now, after the "surge" and the growing deterioration of the situation in Iraq, more are resisting, especially at Ft. Drum.

Madden: Over a year ago a poll said 70 percent wanted the U.S. to start getting out within a year. Now that year is up. This is compounded by the longer length of tours, the lack of a real break between tours, the accelerated operational tempo.

The troops are involved in a conflict where they see little progress is made. And they see a stark contradiction between why U.S. troops are told they are there and what the reaction of the Iraqis is.

Paul Foley (civilian organizer with the Different Drummer cafe in Watertown, N.Y., near Fort Drum, home base for the 10th Mountain Division, which has sent its brigades multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan):

Foley: Many of the IVAW members are in the First Brigade, which is shipping out to Iraq for a second time. The Third Brigade just got back this summer from Afghanistan. The Second Brigade is due back at Ft. Drum in November after an extended tour in Iraq doing house-to-house searches.

Now there are more hassles in town of soldiers who get into trouble because they are really upset. They've been through a lot.

Aliff: The number of AWOL troops and deserters is increasing. There is more drug use, people are escaping. They want to get out of the military and are finding many ways to do it.

The majority don't want to go back to Iraq. It's taking a toll on the chain of command--the brass are finding they have to deploy people who normally would be discharged.

On the other side there is growing resentment toward the brass.

We're on the verge of something significant because after four-and-a-half years the war is going so badly.

WW: Did the convention change the IVAW's political orientation?

Madden: What the convention did is show that the IVAW members were all more or less on the same page.

Stevens: [Margaret Stevens (of Newark, N.J., veteran of National Guard 1997-2004, new IVAW treasurer):

The political statement Mejia made at the convention was that we need to look at the root of the problem--not just the war but the capitalist system. People responded positively to this.

My own position is that the movement is limited if it says only, "Get the troops out of Iraq." The GI movement should also be an anti-racist movement. It should oppose not only U.S. intervention in Iraq but U.S. intervention in Sudan.

What Hutto is doing is important. He's in the military now, on active duty. He's saying, "I'm going to build the movement from within."

The real measure of the organization will be not in the leaders but in what the chapters do. I'm organizing a New Jersey chapter of IVAW at Essex Community College.

WW: Jon, you spoke at the convention. What was your message?

Able Seaman Jonathan Hutto (co-founder of the anti-war "Appeal for Redress"):

Even though 2,000-plus GIs signed the "Appeal for Redress" and IVAW convoys toured military bases and people have demonstrated and voted against the war, the government has been relentless in its decision to continue this war and occupation.

I told the IVAW convention that when the government closes off those routes for redress and frustrates political will, then the people will seek other routes. They will move beyond an appeal to a demand. This is the history of the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson--and he was a slaveholder--wrote that when a government becomes destructive then the people have an obligation to replace or overthrow that government.

The frustration can make you cynical. I learned though from Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) at Howard University 10 years ago how to combat this. He said you don't join the struggle to mobilize around an immediate issue, and then once you have resolved the issue, you move on with the rest of your life.

"The struggle is eternal. ...You have to take a long-term view, to be able to stay in the struggle."

We have to look at what a GI/vet movement has to be.

It should not be just to end the war but it should fight all forms of oppression. It should be interconnected with the fight against racism, sexism and the struggle of oppressed people all over the world.

The whole call to send the troops home is limited unless it also includes reparations to Iraqi people.

The GIs must understand that the average GI has more in common with people of Iraq than with the U.S. government.

Contacts: IVAW at www.ivaw.org, Hutto at appealforredress.org, Madden at BOSTON@IVAW.org, Foley at gicoffeehouseddc@yahoo.com .

Just One More Betrayal: “Many Parents With Sons And Daughters Who Died In Iraq Have Been Deported”

[Thank to Katherine G, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Sep 04, 2007 Domenico Maceri, New America Media

Three years after U.S. Army Private Armando Soriano, 20, died fighting in Haditha, Iraq, his father is facing deportation.

Soriano is now buried in Houston, Tex., his hometown, where his parents, undocumented workers from Mexico, are currently living.

Before his death Soriano had promised his parents he'd help them get green cards.

He only succeeded partially before losing his life. Although his mother was able to obtain a green card, his father did not qualify and is on the verge of being deported.

Enrique Soriano, Armando's father, is not the only person to have lost a son or daughter in the Iraq war and face deportation.

There are more than 3 million people born in the U.S. with parents who came into the country illegally. Those born in the U.S. are automatically citizens and have all the rights and duties enjoyed by Americans. That includes military service with the possibility of losing one's life.

Losing a son or a daughter is always tragic. To try to compensate the families the U.S. government makes efforts to help. In the case of individuals with family members needing immigration help, officials assist them to obtain green cards. That's what happened with Soriano's mother. But in spite of governmental flexibility, certain rules prevent some people from qualifying.

Enrique Soriano had been formally deported in 1999 when he returned to Mexico for a brief visit. That makes him ineligible for any immigration benefits.

Enrique Soriano is not alone.

Although exact figures are difficult to come by, many parents with sons and daughters who died in Iraq have been deported.

Official statistics show that more than 68,000 foreign-born military individuals are serving the U.S. How many of these individuals have relatives who do not have a legal right to be in the United States is not known. Figures from the National Center for Immigration Law show that one in 10 U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq have been immigrants.

One estimate claims that five percent of those serving in the American military are illegal immigrants who joined with false papers. The military does not recruit illegal immigrants. Yet, given the shortages of volunteers, meeting quotas may put pressure to close some eyes. Illegal immigrants may feel that joining the military will help them and their families obtain legal papers in addition to other benefits.

Inevitably, some die in the process. The first soldier to die for the United States in the Iraq war was in fact Marine Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, an illegal immigrant from Guatemala.

Enrique Soriano's case is also complicated by the fact that the rest of his family has a legal right to be in the U.S. His wife has a green card, three of their four kids are U.S. citizens, and another born in Mexico has applied for a green card. If Enrique is deported, the family will have to make the hard choice of going back or separating.

"I think it would be a travesty for these parents to be deported after their son died in Iraq fighting for his country," stated Congressman Gene Green, D-Houston. The congressman introduced a bill in the House, which would help Enrique Soriano obtain a green card. Nothing has happened yet.

Earlier this year President George Bush commuted the sentence of Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Cheney's former chief of staff. In so doing, the President spared Libby 2 1/2 years in prison for his conviction for lying to federal investigators. The President cited Libby's "exceptional public service" and prior lack of a criminal record as explanation for his action.

He concluded that Libby's sentence was "excessive" and the punishment "harsh."

In light of the sacrifice made by Armando Soriano, one wonders whether deporting his father is a far more "excessive" and "harsh" punishment?

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. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Get The Message?



Mahdi Army soldiers celebrate the withdrawal of British troops from Basra Sept. 7, 2007. Supporters of nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr took to the streets on Friday, celebrating the British handover of presidential palaces to the Iraqis . (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”
--Camille Desmoulins**

**September 9, 1971:
Heroic Anniversary**

The Attica State Penitentiary Revolt



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

The interracial revolt was led by blacks but featured cooperation between prisoners of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

It was finally brutally suppressed by the state five days later, upon orders from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who refused to become directly involved.

29 prisoners and 10 guards were shot and killed by attacking state troopers in the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history.

The prisoners had been demanding improvements in their living and working conditions at the increasingly overcrowded facility.

PBS.org/ [Excerpts]

On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, “a matter of principle.”

The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest. In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month.

Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured.

Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.

Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty and the removal of the prison's superintendent.

In their statement, they criticized the “unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year,” and the “ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States.”

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent.

He believed that the rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up. A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package.

On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a “massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us.”

The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person.

“We must have Rockefeller,” said one of the inmates’ leaders. “We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation.”

But Rockefeller wouldn’t budge.

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not “contribute to a peaceful settlement,” he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass.

“In life it’s not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved,” he told Commissioner Oswald, “But I think we have to look at these things not only in terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society.”

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.

Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.

The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.

Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshots inflicted by state troopers and guards.

Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture’s grim aftermath.

Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through.

One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done “a superb job.”

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion.

Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to

Attica, “because his responsibilities as the State’s chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life.”

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller’s hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the “tremendous need that existed” at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners’ revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974.

The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.



**“It Would Be Absurd To Think That
Everyone Traumatized By War Was
Mentally Ill”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

Paula J. Caplan, Tikkun Magazine, 2005 [Excerpt]

To call the devastating effects of war “mental illness” is to make the colossal mistake of thinking that the problem springs solely from within the person’s psyche.

Individuals vary in how they react to horror, but it would be absurd to think that everyone traumatized by war was mentally ill, rather than understandably devastated.

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

Question Of The Day: “Who In The Fuck Is William Bowles”

From: steve.wells@us.army.mil
To: GI Special
Sent: September 06, 2007
Subject: GI Special

Who in the fuck is William Bowles (Bowels, as in shit)?

Another douche bag latte liberal turd who is a gared A idiot I suppose. Seems as if he can’t find any facts what-so-ever, possibly because his head is so far up his ass he can’t find reality.

What kind of bullshit is this? “Free Kevin Benderman” BY Kevin and Monica Benderman. What, are they the only shitbirds that want to pick up a pen and wish his pathetic ass to be free?

Oh, by the way, spend any time in the Middle East coward? Probably not, just sit there in comfort while we protect you from the enemy. Sweet dreams dumbass,

Go to Canada,

Steve Wells

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. blindfold an Iraqi citizen after arresting him during a night home invasion in the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Relatives of the man who was arrested watch U.S. soldiers takes him away at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad, September 5, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**On Iraq, What's More Disgusting:
Being Lied To By Democrats, Or
Hearing the Truth From Republicans?**

I can't tell what's more disgusting: Being lied to by Democrats about their supposed powerlessness, or having the GOP tell the American people the war must continue and American troops must continue getting killed, all because it is supposedly good for the Republican Party's political fortunes.

September 6, 2007 David Sirota, Working Assets

If you read the news very carefully, you can see exactly what is going on inside the Washington debate over the Iraq War.

One party is lying, and one party is telling the truth - but which ones are doing what may surprise you (or, perhaps, not).

First, the lie, otherwise known as the Innocent Bystander Fable.

In a story headlined "Democrats Retreat on War End," The Politico notes that congressional Democrats are - once again - moving towards endorsing a legislative effort to cut the most unpopular president in contemporary American history a blank check to continue the most unpopular war in contemporary American history.

Within this story, comes the lie to justify it all:

"The strategic shift is certain to anger some war critics, but it reflects the reality that Democrats lack the votes to force President Bush's hand. 'We are trying to manage expectations that we can't end the war today or next week or next month,' said one Democrat involved in the discussions. 'We have to make sure everyone understands that.'" [Politico.com Sep 5, 2007]

Anyone who has read the U.S. Constitution knows this is a fabrication. Congress has the power of the purse, meaning it has the ultimate veto over the war.

Democrats control both chambers of Congress, meaning they have the ultimate veto over the war. If they chose not to schedule a vote to give Bush a blank check, the war would end.

The whole idea that they "can't end the war" is the highest form of dishonesty. It is the Innocent Bystander Fable - the oft-repeated lie where Democrats claim they are powerless even though they control an entire branch of the government, and their public efforts to try "to make sure everyone understands" the lie as truth is just another insult in a long string of insults (the latest of which is the one where Democrats have the audacity to suddenly portray a non-binding bill by Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar that Democrats themselves had previously called "toothless" as now - without any change at all - supposedly a heroic bill that ends the war).

How about the honesty? That comes from the Republicans. Here's what a top Senate GOP leadership aide told Roll Call about the Iraq War:

“Our strategy in Iraq, in the short term, causes a lot of pain, but in the long term, prevents a lot of problems for the party.” [Emily Pierce, Roll Call Staff, September 6, 2007]

Wow. I mean...wow. The Republican Party is now on record admitting that even though the war is “caus(ing) a lot of pain” (ie. American casualties, Iraqi casualties will refuse to support ending, weakened American national security, etc.), it will nonetheless stonewall efforts to end the war specifically because continuing the war indefinitely “prevents a lot of problems for the party.”

GOP operatives may try to spin their way out of that one post facto - but no amount of spin can change such a crystal clear direct quote like that.

I can't tell what's more disgusting: Being lied to by Democrats about their supposed powerlessness, or having the GOP tell the American people the war must continue and American troops must continue getting killed, all because it is supposedly good for the Republican Party's political fortunes.

What I can say is this: It is clear that less than a year after a national election that saw the American people demand an end to the war, both parties are going out of their way to continue it - because to folks in Washington, D.C., no matter how many people die, the whole tragic affair is all just a big game.

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 to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

Congressional Chumps Get The Safe, Pretty Tour Of Iraq: Staff Sgt. Josh Campbell, Told The Post Correspondent, “Personally, I Think It’s A False Representation”

[Thank to Pham Binh, Military Project & Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

The VIPs also get political benefits. They can return home with photos and anecdotes about how they shared the tough battlefield conditions with real-life soldiers. And it doesn't hurt to drop a little military jargon into a speech or two.

04 September 2007 By Robert Parry, Consortium News [Excerpts]

Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories in the 1980s for the Associated Press and Newsweek. His latest book, *Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush*, can be ordered at neckdeepbook.com. His two previous books, *Secrecy & Privilege: The Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq* and *Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & 'Project Truth'* are also available there.

Washington Post correspondent Sudarsan Raghavan investigated the security situation in Iraq and discovered that much of the perceived progress was a case of “Potemkin” scenes that looked promising on the outside but lacked either reality or durability when examined in greater detail.

“Visits to key U.S. bases and neighborhoods in and around Baghdad show that recent improvements are sometimes tenuous, temporary, even illusory,” Raghavan wrote. “In many areas, U.S. forces are now working at cross-purposes with Iraq’s elected Shiite-led government by financing onetime Sunni insurgents. . . The loyalties of the Iraqi military and police - widely said to be infiltrated by Shiite militias - remain in doubt.”

Regarding the P.R. use of shopping scenes at Baghdad’s Dora market as proof of Bush’s progress, some American soldiers assigned to the project complained about how the showcasing concealed critical shortcomings.

Under pressure from field commander Gen. David Petraeus, U.S. forces got about 300 shops to reopen in time for VIP visits (compared with more than 850 shops before the U.S. invasion). But some storekeepers had few goods to sell, stayed open only a few hours and took part in the charade because they were paid \$2,500.

“Although they sell dust, they are open for business,” said 1st Lt. Jose Molina, who was in charge of monitoring and disbursing the grant money. “They intend to sell goods or they may just have a handful of goods. But they are still counted.”

Another U.S. soldier, Staff Sgt. Josh Campbell, told the Post correspondent, “personally, I think it’s a false representation. But what can I say? I’m just doing my job and don’t ask questions.” [Washington Post, Sept. 4, 2007]

Even before Congress rushed off for its August recess, it was clear that a propaganda offensive could be expected around these war-zone tours.

On July 15, during a testy exchange on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, cited his multiple visits to Iraq to buttress his case in support of Bush’s policies. But Sen. Jim Webb, D-Virginia, a decorated Vietnam veteran, mocked the value of such trips.

“I’ve been seven times,” Graham said in chiding Webb for not undertaking his own visits to Iraq.

“You haven’t been to Iraq; you get the dog-and-pony shows,” responded Webb, recalling how he, as a young officer, had participated in similar briefings of VIPs during the Vietnam War.

But is anyone really fooled by the dog-and-pony shows of congressional/media guided tours of Iraq?

Some longtime Washington observers believe these trips often are taken by politicians and pundits who already have decided to shift toward a pro-war position and simply want to use the “battlefield visit” as a pretext for a “change of heart.”

One of the features making the trips so effective is that the VIPs are not coddled; there is much less wining-and-dining than people might think. Usually, the congressional delegation (or CODEL) is flown into the war zone on a no-frills C-130 cargo plane with people sitting in slings hung from the ceiling, much as combat troops would.

Once on the ground, the VIPs are hustled into crisp military briefings from officers in combat fatigues.

Then, there are flights aboard military helicopters to forward positions for the opportunity to chat with carefully selected soldiers, often representing the districts of visiting congressmen.

After the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983, I flew with a CODEL, including Rep. Dick Cheney, R-Wyoming, to a nearby island where a mopping-up operation supposedly was still underway.

Though we saw no actual fighting, we did join the soldiers as they ate their MREs, the barely edible “meals ready to eat” that are fed to troops in the field.

These trips achieve a “bonding” with the U.S. military much like what was accomplished by “embedding” American journalists in combat units during the Iraq invasion in 2003.

The outsiders begin to see the carefully selected reality through the eyes of their military P.R. chaperones, rather than as truly independent observers.

The VIPs also get political benefits. They can return home with photos and anecdotes about how they shared the tough battlefield conditions with real-life soldiers. And it doesn’t hurt to drop a little military jargon into a speech or two.

When I was on a helicopter trip with another CODEL in 1982 during the civil war in El Salvador, the VIPs got a taste of military action when the helicopter pilot reported that he had detected electronic signals from a surface-to-air missile locking on.

The pilot engaged in some evasive maneuvers that tossed the VIPs around and the copter circled back to a more secure landing site. I was never sure if the threat was real, if the pilot was just showing extra caution because of his payload, or if the exercise was put on for the benefit of the CODEL, whose members could use it to spice up their reports back home.

On Aug. 30 in Iraq, a similar situation occurred aboard a military cargo plane carrying three Republican senators and a Democratic congressman as it took evasive action while departing Baghdad's airport.

The VIPs - Sens. Richard Shelby of Alabama, Mel Martinez of Florida and James Inhofe of Oklahoma, and Rep. Robert Cramer of Alabama - said the C-130 drew fire from three rocket-propelled grenades as it climbed.

"It was a scary moment," Martinez told reporters. "Our pilots were terrific. They banked in one direction and then banked in the other direction, and they set off flares."

Martinez added that he quickly put his body armor back on.

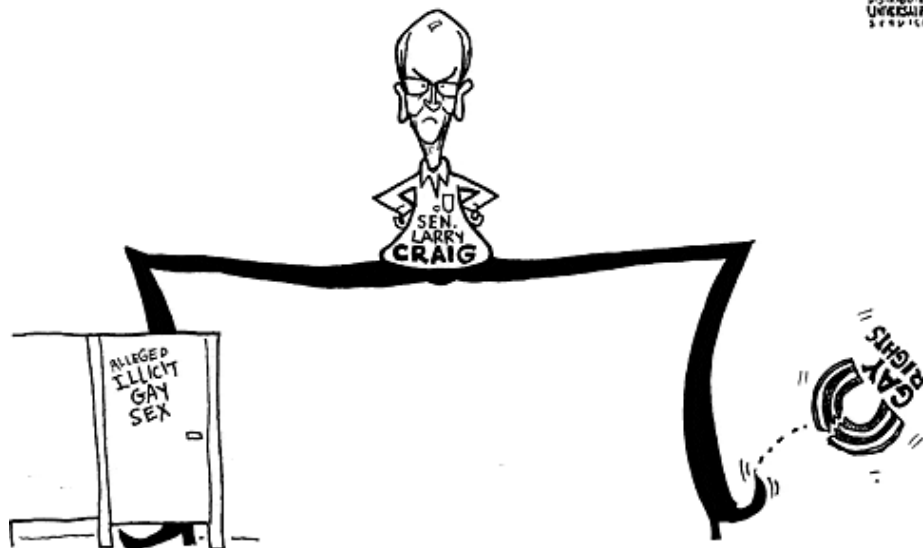
"We were jostled around pretty good," said Cramer. "There were a few minutes there where I wondered, 'Have we been hit? Are we O.K.?'"

Many similar tales of CODEL derring-do will surely liven up the Capitol Hill debate as Congress prepares to grant Bush a new round of spending authority so he can continue the war in Iraq through 2008.

The Real Crimes Of Larry Craig

REALLY WIDE STANCE

LALO
ALCARAZ
©2007+
DISTRIBUIDOR DE
UNIVERSAL PUBLISHER
SERVICIOS



9/6

He made a career out of scapegoating the most vulnerable people in society--in particular, going after undocumented immigrants and gays and lesbians--and could be counted on to support every punitive conservative cause, such as extending the USA PATRIOT Act, that his friends in the White House came up with.

September 7, 2007 EDITORIAL, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

LAST WEEK, another Republican member of Congress, Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, found himself in the eye of a scandal, forced to resign after it was revealed that he had pled guilty to disorderly conduct after allegedly trying to solicit sex in a Minneapolis-St. Paul airport men's bathroom in June.

But before he became known as the guy who tried to get out of being arrested by passing his Senate business card to a police officer and asking, "What do you think about that?" Craig was better known an arch-conservative who led the charge against Bill Clinton after it was revealed he'd had sex with a White House intern.

He made a career out of scapegoating the most vulnerable people in society--in particular, going after undocumented immigrants and gays and lesbians--and could be counted on to support every punitive conservative cause, such as extending the USA PATRIOT Act, that his friends in the White House came up with.

But the week of uproar among Republicans and in the media exposed more than Craig's rank hypocrisy. It also spoke volumes about what passes for resignable offenses in Washington politics.

As the footage of Craig's resignation announcement repeated endlessly in the cable TV news echo chamber--"I am not gay, I have never been gay," Craig declared--it was an infuriating commentary on what is considered a "crime" in U.S. society.

Craig's arrest was second-rate entrapment for something that shouldn't be against the law in the first place.

The real crime is the antigay atmosphere in the U.S., cultivated by people like Craig, who vilify gays and lesbians by banning same-sex marriage, keeping gay bashing off the federal hate crimes list, and enforcing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the military.

Their actions have reinforced a climate where people are afraid to express their sexuality because they might lose their jobs--or even their lives.

The blame for that doesn't just stop with Larry Craig, of course. It also belongs with his Republican friends like Trent Lott and Mitch McConnell, who forced him to quit, and with all the rest of the upstanding citizens in Congress.

Welcome To The Occupied USA:
“When I Attempted To Explain To Officer
Chance That We Had A Permit Signed By
Chief Keller, I Was Beaten, Kicked,

Choked, Sprayed And Blinded By Pepper Spray”

September 06, 2007 By Diane F White, South Allison Hill Chapter President, ACORN Member

On Saturday evening during the ACORN Back to School Block Party, I was viciously and brutally attacked by a Harrisburg Police Officer, Officer Chance, badge #65, as he attempted to execute an illegal arrest.

Officer Chance was trying to shut down the block party in spite of the fact that we had a signed permit from the Chief of Police.

When I attempted to explain to Officer Chance that we had a permit signed by Chief Keller, I was beaten, kicked, choked, sprayed and blinded by pepper spray, thrown to the ground, and kned in my back 3 times by this officer, before he called for backup.

According to my neighbors, over 20 police officers arrived on the scene with police dogs and line up in a show of force. The neighborhood was placed on “marshal law”.

Now I am facing “felony charges” for assaulting a police officer, which never happened.

This was a racist police officer “out of control”. Now in an attempt to cover his ass, he is alleging that I assaulted him first.

To date, there is no police report or criminal complaint in the police computer system.

To top it all off. I have just been informed by the ACORN Office in Harrisburg that their state office has told them to “stay out of it”.

How can ACORN stay out of it? I am the President of the South Allison Hill Chapter of ACORN and the ACORN Flag was flying from my front porch.

How can ACORN TURN ITS BACK ON ITS MEMBERS? How can POLICE BRUTALITY/TERRORISM in our neighborhoods not be an issue that ACORN DOES NOT ADDRESS?

This speaks to the issue of trust. How can the community trust an organization like that who will not stand up for its members?

Especially, at a block party where everybody is having a good time and there were not incidents.

The police had got a call from someone who had parked outside of the barricades that we had set up, not on the people who were participating in the block party, mostly women, children and Sr Citizen.

Diane F White

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.org/)

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

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

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

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.