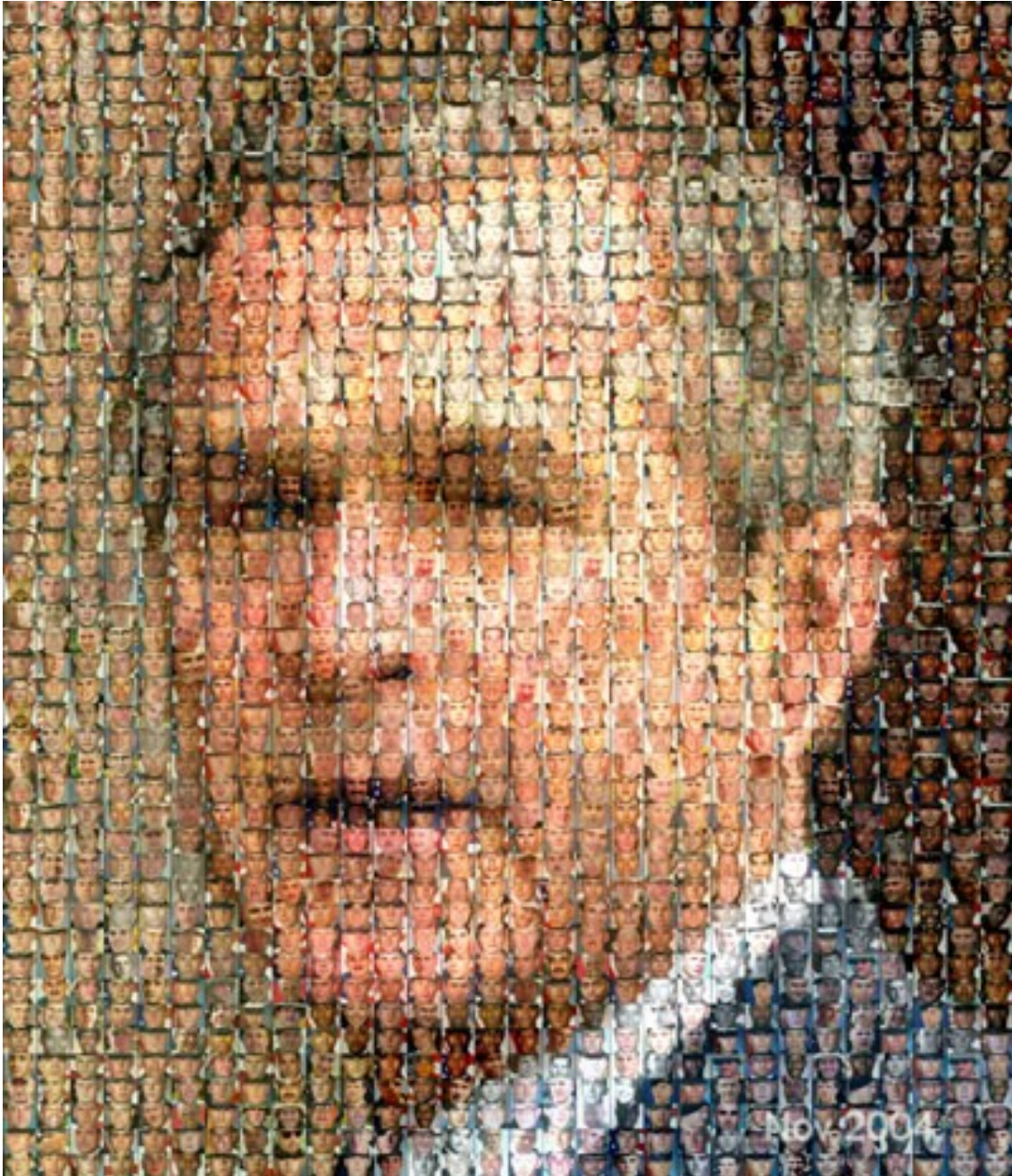


GI SPECIAL 5J14:

President George W. Bush



If Any Ask Why They Died, Tell Them Because Dubya Lied

[Thanks to Howard Wolf]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier; Eight More Wounded

October 20, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20071020-10

BAGHDAD – One Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed and eight others wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital Oct. 18.

Six of the eight wounded Soldiers sustained minor injuries, were treated and have returned to duty.

Hayward Man Killed By Small-Arms Fire In Iraq

10/08/2007 By Jason Sweeney, STAFF WRITER; Contra Costa Times

HAYWARD — Army Spc. Avealalo Milo, 23, of Hayward was killed by small-arms fire in Iraq, the Department of Defense has announced.

Milo died Thursday in Baghdad when insurgents attacked his unit. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division out of Vilseck, Germany.

He was born in American Samoa and lived there, and in nearby independent Samoa, until he moved to Hayward on Aug. 14, 2003, according to his sister, Veape Milo.

Veape Milo, 18, said by telephone from Samoa that her brother lived in Hayward with their uncle, Samu Leivaa, until joining the Army in 2005. "He went to California to seek a better future," she said.

Veape said it came as a surprise when her brother joined the Army. He had not talked about joining the Army before, she said.

Milo married his wife, Jocelynn, on July 18, she said. Jocelynn, who is also in the military, completed basic training Friday, Veape said.

Milo has two brothers and two sisters. She said she expects that Milo will be buried in American Samoa.

Veape said her brother liked playing rugby and soccer, and that he helped his siblings with their studies.

“Right when he deployed to Iraq, he always called trying to comfort our family so that we would not worry about him and his missions,” she wrote in an e-mail.

“He also wanted us to send him some corned beef and noodles, because these were his favorite foods that are not found in Iraq. And now he is gone without a word to us, but we know that he is truly safe in God's arms right now.”

Milo is the second Hayward soldier killed in Iraq this year. Twenty-three-year-old Mt. Eden High School graduate Michael Balsley was killed by a roadside bomb east of Baghdad on Jan. 25.

According to Pacific Magazine, Milo is the 15th Samoan soldier to die in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

**REALLY USELESS WASTE OF TIME:
NO MISSION;
HOPELESS WAR;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. army soldiers from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry take an Iraqi man through a field after conducting a pre-dawn raid in the Radwaniyah area of southern Baghdad, Oct. 11, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

TROOP NEWS

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



U.S. army medic Jeff Molles with the Charlie Company 2-227, Aviation Battalion called "witchdoctors", provides medical assistance in the form of a cardiac meter to an injured U.S. soldier as they travel to a military hospital in Baghdad October 7, 2007.
REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

**“Wounded Still Relying On The
Generosity Of Charities To Cover
Family Expenses While They Are
Being Treated”**

**“It Was Routinely Assumed That Orders
Would Be Written Specifically To
Minimize The Cost To The Government,
Regardless Of The Cost To Service
Members And Their Families”**

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

This is the same mentality that allows Congress to restrict “payday” lending to military members as a way of “supporting” and “protecting” the troops, instead of paying them adequate salaries so they don't need “payday” loans.

Oct. 20, 2007 By Marcia Slaven, Special to the Star-Telegram [Excerpts]

According to a story by Frederic J. Frommer of The Associated Press, almost half the members of a Minnesota National Guard unit that spent nearly two years in Iraq are one day short of eligibility for receiving certain educational benefits that they were expecting.

The 2,600 soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division served for 22 months in Iraq -- longer than any other ground combat unit. Their original tour was extended as part of the president's "surge" plan announced in January.

The soldiers returned home in July, only to learn that proximately 1,100 members of their unit were 24 hours short of the time needed to qualify for benefits offered under the Montgomery GI Bill.

The deployment and activation orders for those soldiers were written for 729 days instead of the required 730 days, resulting in the loss of benefits that could easily run into thousands of dollars for each soldier.

As the wife of a retired Navy officer, I have a hard time believing that this was merely an oversight on the Pentagon's part.

During our years in the military, it was routinely assumed that orders would be written specifically to minimize the cost to the government, regardless of the cost to service members and their families. It seems more likely that the orders were simply "standard operating procedure."

Meanwhile, soldiers receive discount-store-style benefits. Cost savings often come at the expense of adequate body armor, armored vehicles and other items desperately needed by the soldiers in the field.

This is the same mentality that allows Congress to restrict "payday" lending to military members as a way of "supporting" and "protecting" the troops, instead of paying them adequate salaries so they don't need "payday" loans.

Civilian leaders who believe that the Pentagon can be run just like any big corporation fail to understand the most basic reality: Soldiers are not merely employees.

They enter into a moral contract with the nation by willingly putting their lives on the line. In return, they expect -- and should be guaranteed -- that promises made to them will be honored, not avoided by cheap accounting tricks.

Wounded soldiers are still relying on the generosity of charities to cover family expenses while they are being treated. Months after scandals were uncovered in both military and VA hospitals, veterans still find it time-consuming, difficult and frustrating to collect the benefits to which they are entitled.

We must continue to insist that veterans programs be fully funded and that no expense is spared in protecting soldiers in harm's way.

We must ask those politicians what they really mean when they say, “I support our troops.”

It's the least we can do. It can't be that hard.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

A View From The Other Side



A masked nationalist fighter loads a rocket into a launcher at an unknown location in this image obtained by Reuters Television on October 14, 2007. Two militant groups have claimed responsibility for deadly rocket attacks on Polish targets in Iraq, saying they were in response to the alleged torture of Iraqi detainees by troops from Poland.

In the video, the hitherto-unknown Imam Hussein Brigades and Imam Moussa al-Kadhim Brigades said Poland, part of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, had allied with the “devil” America to kill Iraqis. REUTERS/Handout via Reuters TV

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Fighting The War On Terror” Has Become A Euphemism For U.S. Imperial Aims In The 21st Century”

“Demand Withdrawal Of U.S. Troops From Iraq And Afghanistan--And Reject The Fraud Of The ‘War On Terror’”

October 12, 2007 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

It's no small irony that the main base of U.S. forces in Afghanistan is Bagram Air Force Base, a former USSR military installation taken over by the U.S. in 2001.

“Envisioned as a temporary home for invading U.S. forces, the former Soviet outpost in the shadow of the towering Hindu Kush mountains is growing by nearly a third,” the Associated Press reported recently.

“‘We’ve grown in our commitment,’ said Bagram’s Col. Jonathan Ives. Another brigade is arriving and new barracks are being built, he said, ‘So this is going to become a long-term base for us.’”

The “war on terror” is also intended to be long term, no matter which party is in office. It’s the justification for the entire framework of U.S. foreign policy.

Why do congressional Democrats vote to keep funding the war on Iraq, and the party’s would-be presidents promise to continue the occupation?

Because a premature pullout would weaken the U.S. in the “war on terror.”

Why do the Democrats back an extraordinarily weak president as he threatens an attack on Iran?

Because Iran supports “terrorism” in Iraq and beyond.

Why is the U.S. training repressive militaries in Thailand and the Philippines?

Because the “war on terror” has spread to the Pacific as well.

This list could go on.

The point is that “fighting the war on terror” has become a euphemism for U.S. imperial aims in the 21st century--as much as “fighting communism” was the selling point for the Cold War against the USSR.

By holding up Afghanistan as a key battle in the “war on terror,” the U.S. foreign policy establishment is attempting to prepare us politically for a world of never-ending war--conflicts big enough to entrench the U.S. in every part of the world, but small enough (they hope) to be politically tolerated at home.

That’s why the antiwar movement must demand withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan--and reject the fraud of the “war on terror” in its entirety.

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.

**October 21, 1837:
Betrayal And The Stain Of Foul
Dishonor:
Courtesy Of The United States Army**



Osceola (“Black Drink”) (circa 1804-1838) Seminole leader
By George Catlin, 1838

The U.S. Army, enforcing Pres. Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act, captured Seminole Indian leader Osceola (meaning "Black Drink") by inviting him to a peace conference and then seizing him and nineteen others, though they had come under a flag of truce.

The Seminole had moved to Florida (then under the control of Spain) from South Carolina and Georgia as they were forced from their ancestral lands, then forced farther south into the Everglades where they settled.

Under the law Jackson urged on Congress, they and the others of the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Cherokees) were to be moved, by force if necessary, west of the Mississippi (Arkansas and Oklahoma).

Npg.Si.Edu [Excerpt]

Although neither a hereditary nor an elected chief, Osceola was the defiant young leader of the Seminole in their resistance to Indian emigration.

In 1835 he plunged his knife into the treaty he was asked to sign that would move his people from their swamplands in the Southeast to the unoccupied territory west of the Mississippi.

This action precipitated the Second Seminole War--a seven-year game of cat-and-mouse in the Florida swamps against federal troops.

Tricked into talking peace, Osceola was captured in 1837 while carrying a white flag of truce and was imprisoned in Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

This treachery so outraged George Catlin that he went immediately to the prison. He and Osceola became friends, and Osceola willingly posed for his portrait.

"This gallant fellow," wrote Catlin, "is grieving with a broken spirit, and ready to die, cursing the white man, no doubt to the end of his breath."

Soon after this portrait was completed, Osceola died of malaria. Osceola's name was derived from the Indian term "Asiyahola," the cry given by those taking the ceremonial black drink that was supposed to cleanse the body and spirit.

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

Killing Our Children



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 18, 2007
Subject: Killing Our Children

**We have to stop giving our leaders free passes
to kill our children, anywhere and everywhere.
Cindy Sheehan**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Technology And Apes

From: Dennis Serdel

To: GI Special
Sent: October 17, 2007
Subject: Technology And Apes

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Technology And Apes

**Looking at the war through the windshield
looking at it through the sand
sitting with all this armor
could you turn up the air conditioning
it's a drive around war in Baghdad
a drive around in Iraq
till the daytime starts to fade
like a sunset on the moon
then the fuel gauge says too low
as the Iraqi's look like death
long shadows look like spears
problem is those big drum beats
in the road just ahead
black smoke trailing off
like an oil well on fire
a drive around war
a flat screen windshield
drove over an Iraqi yesterday
this picture in front what is it
it's a picture frame that turns off
sometimes with crazy picture dreams
only to wake up screaming
with eyes that look out from a cave
on to the rolling life out there
drinking coffee trying to figure out
how did it ever get this way
from a home of safety and now this
another day in a drive around war
what is it that dies into blackness
what is it that keeps on burning
an IED is smoking in the mind
technology is so far ahead
a space station in the sky
yet solving problems with war
reaches back into the dark ages
of the animal psyche
when will that ever catch up.**

Comment & Response:

Comment:

From: Thomas C
To: GI Special
Sent: October 20, 2007
Subject: congressional approval

Pollster John Zogby said "They tell us they want action on health care, education, the war and immigration, but they don't believe they are going to get it."

Do the math: when the other side uses the filibuster more times since February 1, 2007 than it has been used in the 30 years previously, and you only have 51 votes in a closely-divided Senate and need 60, what you need to do is go elect 10 more Democrats to the Senate in 2008. When every Democrat in the House votes to override Bush and you come up 13 votes short of the 2/3 needed, what you need is 13 more Democrats in the House.

Fortunately, of the 22 Republican Senate seats up next year, 16 are "in play" - so getting at least 11 more, and a filibuster-proof majority, is definitely possible. In the House, 24 GOP seats are now "in play." There's the 13 seats needed.

You can't enact what you don't have the votes to do. All we managed to do last November was stop digging the hole deeper - now we have to build a ladder to climb out of the hole.

Do this, and it doesn't matter who's sitting in the White House in 446 days.

The American people may not be the "sheeple," but most of them definitely slept through "How A Bill Becomes A Law" in high school.

MORE:

Response:

[GI SPECIAL 5118; 9.18.07]

**Democrats Have Enough Votes To End
The War Now
[If They Choose To Do So]**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Sep 13, 2007 FAIR [Excerpts]

Following a pattern set when Congress passed supplemental funding for the Iraq War last May (FAIR Media Advisory, 6/1/07), major media outlets continued to “explain” the politics of the war in incomplete and misleading ways.

The point made by these media outlets again and again is that the Democrats have little power to affect policy in Iraq because it would be difficult to pass legislation over a potential Republican filibuster, and even harder to pass a bill over a presidential veto.

This sentiment is also voiced by many Democratic politicians, many of whom consider themselves opponents of the war.

But passing a filibuster- or veto-proof bill is not their only option.

As the Washington Post's Shailagh Murray and Dan Balz (9/10/07) put it: “Because of a Senate rule requiring 60 votes to shut off debate and 67 votes to overturn a veto, (Senate Majority Leader Harry) Reid faced an almost impossible challenge. Even if all his troops stood together, he started with just 49 votes.”

Newsweek's Howard Fineman declared that the Democrats' powerlessness was built into the constitutional system on NBC's Chris Matthews Show (9/2/07):

“Politically, what the president has been trying to do is to keep discipline among the Republicans because as long as he can keep most of the Republicans in the Senate, in the House with him, there's no way to overturn the policy because of the way the Constitution reads.... I hate to keep coming back to the Constitution. Sixty votes to stop a filibuster, 67 to overturn a presidential veto in the Senate.”

This sort of analysis was used to explain the Democrats' need to compromise with Republicans, watering down a firm withdrawal date in the hopes of winning bipartisan support.

This approach was endorsed in an Associated Press report (9/11/07) by Matthew Lee:

“If Republican support for the war holds, as it might for now, Democrats would have to soften their approach if they want to pass an anti-war proposal. But they remain under substantial pressure by voters and politically influential anti-war groups to settle for nothing less than ordering troop withdrawals or cutting off money for the war--legislation that has little chances of passing.”

The problem with all these accounts is that Congress does not have to pass legislation to bring an end to the war in Iraq--it simply has to block passage of any bill that would continue to fund the war.

This requires not 67 or 60 Senate votes, or even 51, but just 41--the number of senators needed to maintain a filibuster and prevent a bill from coming up for a vote.

In other words, the Democrats have more than enough votes to end the Iraq War--if they choose to do so.

The Democratic leadership may believe--rightly or wrongly--that such a strategy would entail unacceptable political costs. But that's very different from being unable to affect policy.

To insist, as many media outlets have, that the Constitution makes it impossible for Congress to stop the war obscures the actual choices facing the nation--by confusing "can't" with "won't."

MORE:

[GI SPECIAL 5126; 9.29.07]

Three Top Democrat Candidates Promise Not To End The War In Iraq: “The Key Question Is No Longer Whether U.S. Forces Will Remain In Iraq But What Size, Mission And Length A Post-Buildup, Post-Bush Force Would Take On”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

September 29, 2007 By Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

In their debate Wednesday night in Hanover, N.H., none of the three top Democratic presidential candidates would promise to have the U.S. military out of Iraq by January 2013 -- more than five years from now.

“I think it would be irresponsible” to state that, said Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.).

“I cannot make that commitment,” added former senator John Edwards of North Carolina.

And Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) put it simply when she outlined the dilemma that Democratic presidential aspirants face on Iraq.

“It is very difficult to know what we're going to be inheriting,” the party's front-runner said.

After President Bush's announcement this month of a limited troop drawdown and a continuation of the “surge” strategy through next summer, the key question for centrist Democrats in the presidential race is no longer whether U.S. forces will remain in Iraq but what size, mission and length a post-buildup, post-Bush force would take on.

Even if the Democratic hopefuls decline to offer specifics, some of the people mentioned as possible defense secretaries under a Democratic White House offer a vision of a U.S. presence in Iraq that does not differ markedly from that of the Bush administration.

Ultimately, however, it appears now that no matter who inhabits the White House, the United States may be resolved -- or resigned -- to an enduring presence in Iraq.

Comment: T

Isn't it fascinating how Ricks assumes that "the United States" is made up only of the Imperial politicians in Washington DC.

How else could he write about the "the United States" being "resolved" or "resigned" to stay in Iraq?

Obviously, to him, nobody else in the country matters.

He has to be terminally blind and/or stupid if he thinks the American people, or the members of the armed forces, are either "resolved" or "resigned" staying in Iraq.

He thinks that what the American people and members of the armed forces want has no importance whatever, and doesn't matter.

The overwhelming majority of Americans have decided this war must end. So have the overwhelming majority of the members of the Armed forces.

If the Imperial traitors in DC won't do it, then, as in Vietnam, the armed forces will rebel wholesale, end the war themselves, and, if necessary, arms in hand, have a word with the politicians in DC.

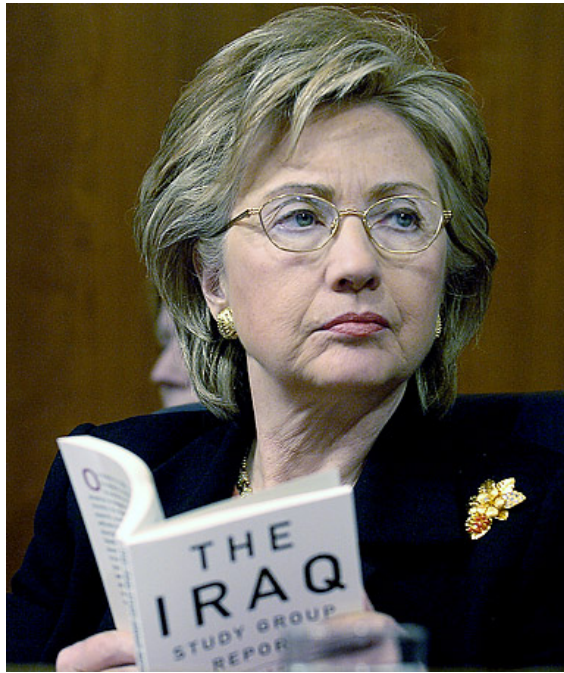
Americans will certainly "support our troops" then. Bring that on. These Democrat traitors leave us no other option. They're willing to kill U.S. troops and Iraqis to maintain their power and privilege.

They need to be forcefully instructed in what democracy means: the majority rules. One way or another. The sooner the better. T]

**Wow! Democracy!
You Get To Choose Which One Will Order
You To Die In Iraq!**

**NOT ANOTHER DEATH?
NOT ANOTHER DAY?
NOT ACCORDING TO THESE RATS**

Traitor #1



[powerlineblog.com]

Traitor #2



washingtonpost.com

Traitor #3



graphics.jsonline.com

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**“Meeting Resistance”
Film Review:
“The Strength Of The Film, Was To Let
The Iraqis Taking Part In The Resistance
Tell The Story”**

Soldiers and National Guard members who are questioning the war should see exactly what they will be up against; many would undoubtedly decide that if they were Iraqi, they too would join the resistance.

October 20, 2007 By John Catalinotto, Workers World

Meeting Resistance, a film by Steve Connors and Sally Bingham, opening at selected theaters in the U.S. on Oct. 20. See www.meetingresistance.com/

For the last four and a half years, the most powerful military in the world has been stalemated in Iraq.

Somehow, without a base or funding in another country, without jungles or mountain ranges to hide in, a home-grown resistance has brought the Pentagon to its knees.

How could this happen?

See "Meeting Resistance" and you'll know how to answer that question.

Steve Connors and Sally Bingham started work on their film in August of 2003, just as the Iraqi resistance was beginning to pick up steam and be recognized in U.S. government and media reports.

Their technique, and the strength of the film, was to let the Iraqis taking part in the resistance tell the story.

Naturally any directors will choose material and present it in a way they consider most effective. But in this film you are hardly aware of their presence.

The nine Iraqis and one youthful Syrian volunteer fighter who tell their stories over a period of 10 months are uninterrupted by the filmmakers. They represent different sectors of Iraqi society--teachers, soldiers, religious people, homemaker.

One driving force unites them: drive out the U.S. occupiers.

Some were staunch opponents of Saddam Hussein, but even those who hated him hated even more seeing the foreign occupier vilify the former Iraqi leader.

Their feelings of Iraqi nationalism — the nationalism of a country now oppressed by the U.S. occupiers — and of being Muslim motivated their struggle.

Not all were religious when their resistance work started, but it was obvious that Islam provided an ideology that not only approved resistance but made it a condition of a righteous life.

One woman, the wife of a soldier, tells of the combination of fear and pride she feels as she delivers messages and weapons to the resistance fighters.

No known resistance member is shown clearly enough to be identified. The filmmakers also avoided covering battles as such, avoiding anything that would compromise their basic role, to let the Iraqis tell their stories. All the fighters are very human and very determined.

If this film is not distributed widely in the commercial theaters, the anti-war movement here in the U.S. should make sure it is seen. Anti-war activists should see it to move their struggle up another level.

Soldiers and National Guard members who are questioning the war should see exactly what they will be up against; many would undoubtedly decide that if they were Iraqi, they too would join the resistance.

Only those whose thinking is distorted by the arrogance of U.S. imperialist ideology could come away from seeing “Meeting Resistance” and think that Washington can impose its will on these people.

“THIS BREAKTHROUGH FILM, the single most astonishing documentary yet on the Iraq war, portrays a full range of insurgents explaining their motives and actions, from the first days of the insurgency onward.” Sidney Blumenthal, salon.com

“A Dream’s Deferment” “An Original Satire With A Simple Message: War Is Stupid, But We’re Not”

[The playwright, Alan Stolzer, is a member of the Military Project.]

October 19 - 25, 2007 By Chris Lombardi, Chelsea Now [Excerpts]

The Ellington Room at Manhattan Plaza was darkened last Friday evening. A young man slouched in a chair looked resentfully at a blond woman portraying his mother. “They’re burying him now?” yowled the young man. “What time’s the funeral?”

Sally Davidson, a Manhattan Plaza resident whose real-life son returned from Iraq earlier this year, spoke in a flat voice. “One a.m., of course. You don’t think they’d bury him in daylight, do you?” After a moment of silence, she stood up. “Come on, get up and stop dreaming. Where’s your father?” Raising her voice, she called out: “Sweet Pea?” At the word “father,” actor Martin Treat stood, his feet trembling a little. “Yes, Mother?”

Thus began a reading of “A Dream’s Deferment” by Alan Stolzer, a one-act play directed by Martin Treat, actor and co-founder of the Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen Pedestrian Safety Coalition (CHEKPEDS).

A Vietnam veteran and former high school English teacher, Treat has redoubled his activism since he retired last year, both with Veterans for Peace and as a key member of Community Board 4’s Transportation Committee. And often, now, he can join with fellow residents of Manhattan Plaza to make a difference the best way they know how: with the theater.

At Manhattan Plaza, an affordable-housing complex for performing artists (applicants must have earned 51 percent of their income in the business for the preceding three years), it’s not hard to find veterans—from World War II to Vietnam—and actors of a certain age.

“Look at this play,” said Treat. “I have a writer like Alan in the building, a veteran who’s written 10 plays. I have Sally, who’s an antiwar activist, who can go out with me to Times Square read names (of servicemembers killed in Iraq), as we did two years in a row, but who is also an actress. And I have my old friend David, who was also in

Vietnam.” Treat was referring to David Cargill, who Friday night read the role of the Sergeant Major in “A Dream’s Deferment.”

In the play, a farce whose style resembles MacBird or The Zoo Story more than a conventional drama, Treat’s and Davidson’s characters are burying their son, dead in an unnamed war, and fretting over their younger son Gilbert (read by Treat’s son Aaron), who has managed to stay in bed for most of his 31 years.

Panicked about how to turn Gilbert into a “real man,” they turn to Cargill’s character, who personally enlists Gilbert in the military with tactics that combine Orwell, “American Idol” and “The Music Man.” In 2003, Treat took a sabbatical from teaching to write and perform his own one-man show: the story of the famed war journalist Ernie Pyle.

By then, Treat had been a member for years of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and embraced its motto: “Honor the warrior, not the war.” He had first been taught that principle, he says now, by the story of Pyle, who traveled with enlisted soldiers and died in 1944 before WWII ended.

Treat wrote “Ernie Pyle’s War,” drawn from Pyle’s dispatches for Scripps Howard News Services and two biographies on the journalist. The same height and coloring as Pyle, he only lacked the scribe’s prizefighter face and took the play all over the country, starting with a short New York run at McCaffrey Theatre in Holy Cross Church.

By the time he came back, the Iraq war was in full swing, and Treat was joining neighbors like Sally Davidson, the mother of an Army reservist, on buses to Washington protests. He was too busy to do anything else, but after retiring in 2006, he wanted to find a way to combine his activism, his acting career, and his long-term interest in the lives of veterans. In late 2006, he found it, in the presence of a writer who had lived upstairs from him for years.

Alan Stolzer had left the Navy in 1963, just as the U.S. presence in Vietnam War turned from spies to soldiers, and had worked mostly for unions for 15 years. He’d written numerous plays in the 1970s and 1980s, “mostly naturalistic ones about the Jewish experience,” he told Chelsea Now on Monday. He was able to focus more on his writing when he retired in 2005. Like Treat, Stolzer felt supported by the many Manhattan Plaza residents who were veterans and from military families.

Their first reading, this past February, was for a set of five plays far more explicitly agitprop, with titles like “Prosthesis,” “Issues of a Sergeant” and “Homefolks.” Some of the plays were as short as seven minutes; the readers included Treat, Stolzer and two members of Military Families Speak Out, Davidson and Ellen Whitt, whose brother is still in Iraq. Just as they did last Friday, said Stolzer, the audiences said they were deeply moved.

To Treat and Stolzer, Manhattan Plaza is a base from which their work can grow.

“In the old days, you could rent a theater for nothing,” said Treat.” Now, you need hundreds of thousands of dollars. So, we’ll do it here! Maybe eventually we’ll have a theater here, too.”

But Treat has higher ambitions for “A Dream’s Deferment,” including numerous production ideas he would like to integrate: “This is a yellow-ribbon household — you know the kind I mean,” he told the audience last Friday. “I have scenic elements that would tell you that immediately, before the first line.”

Calling Stolzer’s play “an original satire with a simple message: War is stupid, but we’re not,” Treat told Chelsea Now that only such a metaphorical play can shoot through Americans’ TV haze. “The guy who’s asleep all the time is the only sane one! We can get it out there and spread the word.”

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands’ Dimwitted Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



U.S. soldiers with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team 3-1 CAV search Iraqi workers at a brick factory during a major search operation for weapons and

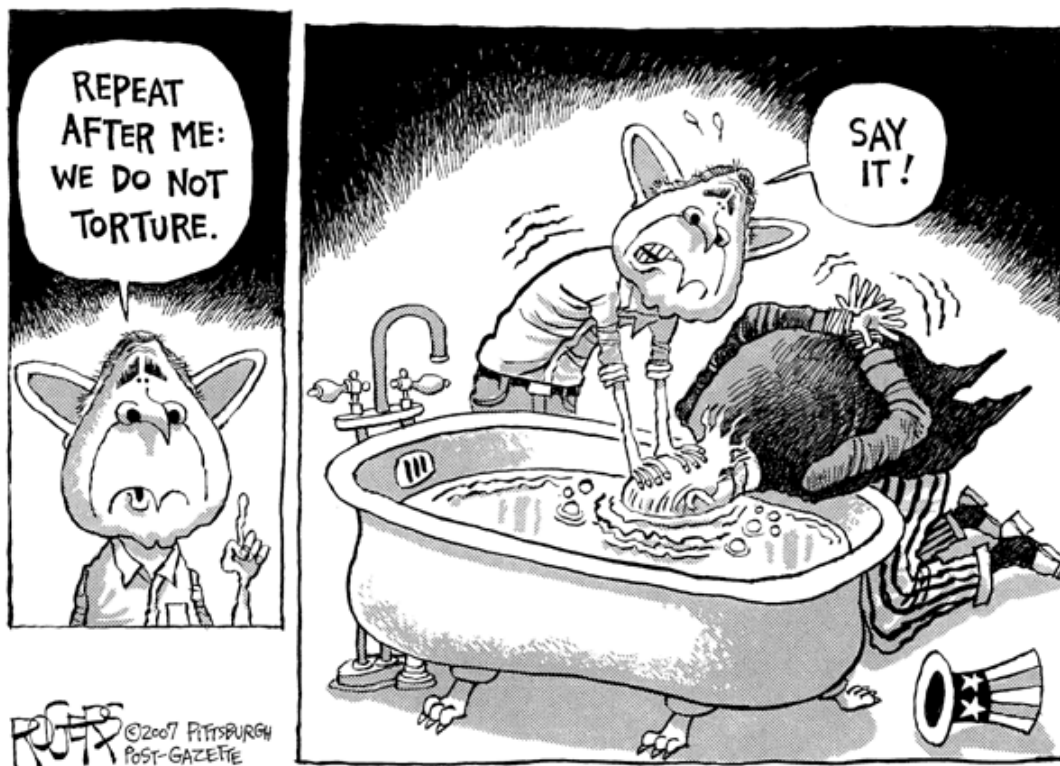
insurgents in the brickyard near the city of Narhwan, about 30km (18 miles) west of Baghdad October 12, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

[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



Government Wants Information About Airline Passengers' Sex Lives; Psychopathic Freaks At Department Of Homeland Security At It Again

October 18, 2007 Patt Morrison: Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Don't look now -- by which, of course, I mean do look now.

Look at all the ink and airtime lavished on the titillating stories about Southwest Airlines threatening to boot a couple of passengers off flights unless they tidied up their ensembles.

A student/Hooters waitress had to tug her miniskirt down and pull up her neckline, and a man flying home to Florida had to turn his T-shirt inside out to hide its "Master Baiter" joke tackle-shop logo.

While we were all getting some giggles out of that, the Department of Homeland Security and its Transportation Security Administration have been going ahead with something that could keep a lot of blameless people off planes, no matter what they're wearing, and might fill up dossiers with stuff they have no business knowing.

Never mind cleavage top or bottom: Someone may be taking note of what we do in the sack, who we travel with, what we read and whether we belong to a union.

"Secure Flight" is the latest remake of a TSA program that's undergone as many changes as Britney's hair. This time it would, among other things, make it the government's job -- not the airlines' -- to check passengers' names against watch lists and then clear them to check in and travel.

Haven't heard of Secure Flight? That's the way they like it in D.C. But some of the people who do know about it are not pleased.

Canadians are peeved: Some airline flights that merely fly over the United States, without so much as touching a wheel to U.S. soil, would have to fork over more information about passengers, and do it as much as three days before the flights take off.

Canada already worked with the U.S. to craft its own no-fly list and security policies. "What's the point of this cooperative approach if our list isn't deemed to be good enough for the United States?" asked Air Transport Assn. of Canada Vice President Fred Gaspar.

The AFL-CIO is peeved: A July 26 letter from Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff to the head of the Council of the European Union raised alarms.

Detailing new air safety policies, Chertoff outlined privacy safeguards for any personal data about EU passengers that reveal “racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership and data concerning the health or sex life of the individual.”

Since when is union membership -- not to mention the sex lives of French, Dutch, British or Italian tourists -- a terrorist risk factor?

Edward Wytkind, who heads the AFL-CIO's transportation trades department, is dumbfounded: “We don't think collecting data on union membership has anything to do with running homeland security or weeding out security risks . . . it really crosses over into a very dangerous place.”

Privacy advocates, already peeved by no-fly list mix-ups, are dismayed by Chertoff's letter and Secure Flight.

They wonder: Could all that EU data collection apply to Americans too?

Race, health, sex life, political opinions?

We're mostly just flying to see our mothers, not applying for work at the CIA. Who's gathering that info, and how would they get it? Would they get it right?

With all this going on, the one thing we shouldn't do is put our tray tables up and bury our noses in any old bestseller.

Bill Scannell is with the Identity Project, a privacy-rights group funded by IT rich guy and civil libertarian John Gilmore.

He told me that customs and border records he's seen for five Identity Project sympathizers noted that one carried a book called “Drugs and Your Rights.”

Another file noted chattily that the passenger had been traveling for about a month, had gone to a computer conference, visited friends and is -- in quotes -- a computer software “entrepreneur.” Which, when you put it that way, sounds more alarming than “union member.”

Oh, am I busted.

On my recent home-to-mother flights, I read Susan Faludi's new book, “Terror Dream,” about post-9/11 America; the New Yorker with a piece on Jenna Bush's first book; and a comic volume called “Unusually Stupid Politicians.”

TSA is accepting public comments on Secure Flight's latest plans; the deadline is Oct. 22.

Be careful what you say, unless you don't mind getting home for Christmas . . . in January.

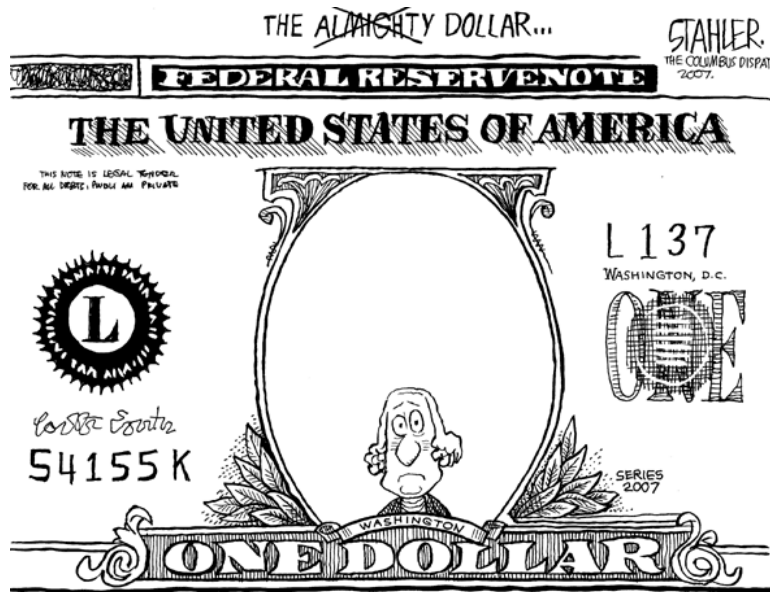
And Now, Some Messages For The Department Of Homeland Security Scum:

“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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Weapons Of Mass Financial
Destruction; The Credit Shock:
“They’re Well Along The Process Of
Turning The US Dollar Into Garden
Mulch”**



October 19, 2007 By Alan Farago, Pakistan Daily Times

The New York Times reports that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson will speak tomorrow (Friday) about the intervention of the US government in crumbling credit markets.

According to the Times, Mr Paulson will say, "This is not about finger-pointing, it is about putting an aggressive plan together and moving forward."

What was the first plan?

An ill-founded scheme to demonstrate how mercenaries supporting aspirants to the Junior Chamber of Commerce could secure a US beachhead in the Middle East?

Or, how historic low interest rates set by the Federal Reserve coupled with the crippling of regulatory authority for land use and natural resource decisions could trigger vast societal benefits through a boom in housing markets?

In any case, we are nearing the end of the Bush presidency whose legacy is as described in a 2002 conversation between a senior administration official, probably Karl Rove, with Times' writer Ron Suskind: "We're history's actors and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do."

Please, God, that we should be left only with that.

Three weeks ago major US banking institutions, represented by Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase and Co., began meeting with the former Goldman Sachs chief, now Treasury Secretary. The topic of conversation: a plan to revive the asset-backed commercial paper market.

In so far as the “reality-based community” is concerned, people who “believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernable reality”, investors aren’t wasting time cogitating: they’re well along the process of turning the US dollar into garden mulch.

In an exceedingly carefully phrased rollout in major newspapers, details are beginning to emerge of the new discernable reality: its essential features are bribery papering over fraud.

The fraud, as defined by cratering secondary markets for mortgage backed securities, is exactly as Warren Buffett predicted of financial derivatives: they are proving to be “weapons of mass financial destruction.”

The bribery appears to be in the creation of a new, multi hundred billion dollar fund — the result of the meeting between the big banks and the US Treasury — for which fees will be paid to Wall Street executives and lawyers in order to dispose in “an orderly way” off-book assets that are worth far less than banks have told their investors.

Cynics, gather ‘round: it’s nearly fascinating as watching the Greenland ice sheet melt.

Both are happening slowly but with a fair degree of certainty that the end of the day is a big stinking mess we lack tools to clean up.

The reality-based community of investors are not going to take this well. This is not how disaster capitalism is supposed to work (read Naomi Klein’s, ‘Shock Doctrine, the rise of disaster capitalism’), but it does appear to be the new Manifest Destiny.

As much as network news likes to feature stories of foreclosed homeowners, the real meat is Wall Street whose executives became addicted to the profits from financial derivatives.

Now, the banks themselves have to be rescued to restore “free markets” to normal operation.

In 1998, it only took four billion and the cooperation of the Treasury Department with the big banks to bail out the private hedge fund, Long Term Capital Management.

Today the mainstream media shies from reporting the extent of what is unfolding: a few hundred billion is a drop in the bucket compared to the total market for of asset backed securities at risk that underwrote the late, great building boom.

There are two reasons the mainstream media has lagged behind the story. First, the blizzard of profits from the housing boom obliterated depth perception as it might be applied by a critical analysis of how corporate America and government is organised: to keep consumers passive, dumb, and happy.

Second, the proliferation of financial derivatives - intended to diversify risk - has the collateral benefit of distributing the fantasy of asset values in slow motion.

Trillions of asset-backed securities are floating around the globe on digital pulses through fiber optic cables, but no major financial institution wants to be the first to re-price assets to market.

They will hold these on the books or off the books as long as possible, at inflated values that don't connect in any appreciable way to reality.

How odd that Wall Street lives and dies by quarterly profit reports from publicly traded corporations yet have been sitting on a toxic financial dump in credit markets for years with not even a whisper of complaint.

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

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

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