

GI SPECIAL 6/16:



**“Now I Sit In Iraq, 23
Years Old With Two
Hearing Aids And No
One To Help Me”**

**“One More Bomb, And I Could
Never Hear Again”**

“The Army Is Not Looking Out For Anything But Itself In My Case”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
9.22.08

It has come to my attention that I am not the only soldier with the problem of the Army not caring about medical needs. I read an article about a soldier who was sent to Iraq with hearing loss, which may have caused another soldier's death (“A quiet danger,” Aug. 18).

I have served four years and two combat tours in Iraq. I have never had any trouble at all. I have always been the best I could be. Very decorated and motivated.

Now I sit in Iraq, 23 years old with two hearing aids and no one to help me.

They say if I hear one more bomb, I am deaf for life.

The medical personnel say I should leave and be stateside where I can find a job fitted for me.

The staff in my brigade say I should stay, but not work.

I love my soldiers and I am a soldier till the end, but I will not stand by and watch life go by.

One more bomb, and I could never hear again.

The Army is not looking out for anything but itself in my case.

Sgt. Michael S. Corbett
Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Iraq

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. Army soldier from 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in the Hamrin mountains in Diyala province, July 22, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed; Nationality Not Announced

Sept 20 (Reuters)

A soldier from the U.S.-led coalition force and two Afghans were killed when their vehicle hit an IED in southern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said.

It did not release the nationality of the soldier.

Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed; Nationality Not Announced

Sept 20 (Reuters)

Two soldiers from the NATO-led force were killed when their patrol struck an improvised explosive device (IED) in eastern Afghanistan, the alliance said. It did not release the nationality of the soldiers.

Resistance Forces “Operate In Virtually Every Province And Control Many Districts In Areas Ringing The Capital”

**“If They Decide To Come Here One
Day, There Is Nothing I Can Do To
Stop Them”**

**“In Many Regions A Short Drive From
The Capital, Some Of Them Considered
Safe Even Six Months Ago, Residents
And Officials Said The Taliban Now
Controls”**

September 20, 2008 By Pamela Constable, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

KABUL, Sept. 19 -- Just one year ago, the Taliban insurgency was a furtive, loosely organized guerrilla force that carried out hit-and-run ambushes, burned empty schools, left warning letters at night and concentrated attacks in the southern rural regions of its ethnic and religious heartland.

Today it is a larger, better armed and more confident militia, capable of mounting sustained military assaults.

Its forces operate in virtually every province and control many districts in areas ringing the capital.

The new Taliban movement has created a parallel government structure that includes defense and finance councils and appoints judges and officials in some areas.

It offers cash to recruits and presents letters of introduction to local leaders. It operates Web sites and a 24-hour propaganda apparatus that spins every military incident faster than Afghan and Western officials can manage.

"This is not the Taliban of Emirate times. It is a new, updated generation," said Waheed Mojda, a former foreign ministry aide under the Taliban Islamic Emirate, which ruled most of the country from 1996 to 2001.

"They are more educated, and they don't punish people for having CDs or cassettes," he said. "The old Taliban wanted to bring sharia, security and unity to Afghanistan.

"The new Taliban has much broader goals -- to drive foreign forces out of the country and the Muslim world."

Over the past two years, the Taliban's revival has been fueled by fast-growing popular dissatisfaction with Karzai's government, which has failed to bring services and security to much of the country.

Deepening public resentment against civilian deaths caused by U.S. and NATO alliance airstrikes is another factor.

But a series of spectacular urban attacks in recent months, notably the bombing of the Indian Embassy and an armed assault on a parade reviewing stand where Karzai sat, have turned Kabul into a maze of bunkers and barricades that drive officialdom ever farther from the public.

In many regions a short drive from the capital, some of them considered safe even six months ago, residents and officials said the Taliban now controls roads and villages, patrolling in trucks and recruiting new fighters. Its members execute government employees, bomb and burn cargo trucks on the highway, and search bus passengers for foreign passports and cellphones programmed with official numbers.

Abdul Jabbar, a former anti-Soviet guerrilla commander and a member of parliament from Ghazni province, said he no longer dares visit his home district. Interviewed in Kabul, he said Taliban leaders asked him to leave the government and join their cause, but he refused and now fears being killed. Last week, three Ghazni residents were hanged by the Taliban, which called them government spies.

In Wardak, the next province toward Kabul along a highway that is under constant Taliban attack, residents said they now ask relatives from the capital not to travel there for weddings or funerals.

Roshanak Wardak, the only private obstetrician in the region, said that since last spring, Taliban leaders have recruited dozens of young men from her town.

Wardak, who is also a legislator, said people in her province may not like the Taliban, but they relate to those in the movement as fellow Afghans and Muslims, at a time of growing public disenchantment with U.S. and NATO military forces.

“Their popularity is increasing day by day, because the government has done nothing for our province,” she said. “Now everyone is becoming a Talib.”

As in Ghazni, many of the Taliban supporters in Wardak are Pashtuns, members of the country's largest ethnic group. They believe that rival ethnic groups unfairly rule the country with the help of foreign soldiers. Though Karzai is a Pashtun, he is viewed in Taliban ranks as a traitor to his religion and community.

One aspect of the game the Taliban now clearly dominates is the propaganda war over battlefield victories, defeats and casualties. Once composed of largely illiterate fighters and clerics who shunned modern technology as un-Islamic, the Taliban now uses a variety of high-tech means to communicate its version of events, often far faster than its adversaries.

Today's Taliban also has a much greater degree of formal organization.

The new Taliban structure has councils for each area of governance, appoints officials in controlled areas and confers swift justice for crimes and disputes.

One Afghan journalist said he recently visited the capital of Logar province, less than an hour's drive south of Kabul, where the Taliban now wields enormous power. He said a man had walked into a Logar radio station and politely introduced himself to the astonished manager as the new provincial spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

According to Mojda and others, the Taliban is still led by Mohammad Omar, a village cleric who headed the 1996-2001 administration and has been a fugitive since its overthrow. Some former leaders hold senior posts in the new movement, although many have been killed. The rank-and-file fighters are a mix of old members and new recruits.

Their statements focus on ridding Afghanistan of foreign occupiers and incompetent leaders.

So far, the insurgents have not emerged in daylight there, but Razzak, the police chief, said he was unsure how long his force of 147 officers could continue to protect a sprawling district of 186 villages that borders Taliban-controlled Wardak.

“The Taliban used to have nothing, but now they have more modern weapons than we do,” he said.

“Our people feel safe for now, but just over the border they operate freely and have their own checkpoints. If they decide to come here one day, there is nothing I can do to stop them.”

After U.S. Command Orders Attack Inside Pakistan Last Week, Pissed-Off Locals Practice Payback



The crater from the bomb at the Marriott hotel in Islamabad September 20, 2008. A truck bomber attacked, killing at least 40 people, wounding nearly 250 and starting a fire that burned the building in the Pakistani capital. REUTERS/Mian Khursheed



The Marriott hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan Saturday, Sept 20, 2008. Photo/Anjum Naveed

“I Would Rather Live In The Dark Ages Under The Taleban Than Be Subservient To Any Foreign Power”

“Is There Is No End To It? The Americans Are Now Bombing Pakistani People. What Are They Doing Here 12,000 Miles Away From Home?”

After one recent suicide attack, the brother of one of the victims was quoted in the press. Did he blame the Taleban? He did not. “America is responsible for my brother's death,” he said. “If the Americans went back home everything would be calm here.”

20 September 2008 By Owen Bennett-Jones, BBC NEWS [Excerpts]

US raids on Taleban and al-Qaeda targets in Pakistani territory have caused outrage in Pakistan. And that has added to the loathing that some people there have long felt for the way that the US conducts itself on the world stage, as Owen Bennett-Jones discovers.

“I would rather live in the dark ages under the Taleban than be subservient to any foreign power.”

The unexpected comment comes from an urbane, sophisticated and, I had always thought, Westernised Pashtun lawyer.

He wears none of the badges of Islamic piety - a beard, for example - and he normally sports a navy blazer not the local shalwar kameez.

He is a former minister with the Pakistan People's Party, the most liberal in Pakistan.

The word liberal in the Pakistani context means modern, educated, secular rather than theocratic and, up until now at least, pro-Western.

“You can't mean it,” I protested. “Do you know what the Taleban were like in Afghanistan when they ran it, with compulsory prayers five times a day, do you want that?”

“Look,” he said. “I can deal with Taleban, they are my own people. They come from here. I know them.

“I will be able to get around them. But the Americans never. No way.”

That is how badly the battle for hearts and minds is going in Pakistan. It could scarcely be worse.

Taken aback by that conversation, I chatted about it with another senior Pakistani politician, a senator, again a well known liberal.

“I agree with him,” he said. “Is there is no end to it? The Americans are now bombing Pakistani people. What are they doing here 12,000 miles away from home?”

I guess that seen through some young Pakistani eyes there are things we do that they do not want.

Still, anti-Americanism in Pakistan has reached quite fantastic levels.

There are now bombs every few days and no-one doubts that the Taleban recruit, train and equip the bombers.

After one recent suicide attack, the brother of one of the victims was quoted in the press.

Did he blame the Taleban? He did not. “America is responsible for my brother’s death,” he said. “If the Americans went back home everything would be calm here.”

There is, I think, universal agreement amongst Pakistanis that, if the US continues to rely so heavily on military firepower in Afghanistan, and increasingly in Pakistan too, then the Taleban will win.

TROOP NEWS

Iraq Veterans Against The War To Open A Coffeehouse That Caters To The Needs Of Soldiers Just Outside Fort Lewis’ Gates:

“The Priority Will Be On Soldiers’ Resources And Rights, Such As Openly Objecting To The War Without Fear Of Reprisal” “An Interface Between The Peace Movement And Soldiers”



September 11th, 2008 Brent Champaco, Tacoma News, Inc. [Excerpts]

Seth Manzel took a pull from his cigarette, sipped his coffee and recalled some of the most haunting scenes from his one-year tour in Iraq.

Sitting at a table outside a downtown Tacoma cafe, the 28-year-old Lakewood man painted mental images of what he saw over there: strong-arm interrogations by Iraqi police officers on prisoners; nighttime raids by his Stryker unit on civilian homes; and himself shooting at drivers for fear they might be suicide bombers.

“To see pictures from Abu Ghraib on television was one thing, but to see it live, from that perspective, was another,” said the former sergeant assigned to Fort Lewis’ 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He served in Iraq in 2004-05.

With each story, Manzel sipped his coffee. He said it helps him decompress. Now he wants to give soldiers still active in the service a similar opportunity.

A member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Manzel is working with others to open a coffeehouse that caters to the needs of soldiers. It would be located in the Tillicum neighborhood, just outside Fort Lewis’ gates.

Manzel's group envisions a one-stop shop where members of the military can talk openly about the war, learn about their rights and find resources for those who struggle when they return from the war zone.

Though members of Manzel's group have yet to find a building, they already have a name: Coffee Strong. It's a play on the Army's current slogan, "Army Strong."

The idea is modeled on GI coffeehouses during the Vietnam War era.

"It was an interface between the peace movement and soldiers," Manzel said. "That's something that's been lost."

A Lakewood location would be at least the third such coffeehouse that's opened or is preparing to open near a major military installation since the Iraq war began. There are others near Fort Drum in upstate New York and Fort Hood in Texas.

Manzel's group estimates it needs about \$15,000 to start, most likely in one of Tillicum's defunct dry-cleaning businesses.

Manzel says organizers have raised one-fifth of their goal following a fund-raiser last month in Seattle. They'd like to open sometime in the fall.

Josh Simpson, a member of IVAW who also served in Iraq, said the motive for the coffeehouse isn't just to advance a political agenda.

The 26-year-old from Olympia said soldiers often don't get the treatment they need to deal with problems they developed overseas, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Or they worry about the stigma if they do seek help within the military system. "There are tons of issues and resources soldiers need to know about," Simpson said. "It's going to be somewhere soldiers can come and relax and not have to worry about their command."

Manzel stressed that the priority will be on soldiers' resources and rights, such as openly objecting to the war without fear of reprisal.

He said he served four years in the Army before his honorable discharge in 2006. Today, he's in the individual ready reserve, which means he could be called up again, and he works as a private security guard.

"Regardless of how you feel about the war," Manzel said, "if you really support troops, you want them to know what their rights are."

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

One For Our Side: Kathy Sanborn Supports GI Resistance Loud And Clear; Right Here, Right Now



Kathy Sanborn!

From: kathysanborn.com/index.htm

Some call her the American Enya.

Singer/composer Kathy Sanborn is the founder of the musical genre, Organic Protest Music. Sanborn calls her music "Organic Protest" because of its unpretentious yet haunting style of social commentary.

Sanborn's new CD, Peaceful Sounds, exemplifies the Organic Protest Music genre to a tee.

The just-released album dives into controversial subjects including war, poverty, and homeless veterans, all in a style that, Sanborn says, "hits you in the gut with honesty."

Featuring soulful performances from trumpeter Wayne Ricci, Peaceful Sounds is a juicy organic treat of fourteen original songs ranging from jazzy instrumentals to powerful vocals.

Two of the tracks are sung in Spanish, showcasing Sanborn's flair for the Latin beat.

Author and award-winning journalist Dahr Jamail says, "Peaceful Sounds is a great CD, and Kathy has an amazing voice." **[And that's the understatement of the year. Begin with a mix of Marlene Dietrich, Billy Holliday, and go on to someone new, all her own, outstanding. T]**

Hollywood actor, director, and film producer Paul Cross says, "Kathy is the American Enya . . .with an important message."

Listening to Peaceful Sounds will ignite a fire in your belly for positive change. Spread the word . . .

Album credits:

Vocals, lyrics, and music by Kathy Sanborn
All trumpet and trumpet solo arrangements by Wayne Ricci
Produced and arranged by Kathy Sanborn
Engineered and mixed by Kathy Sanborn
Mastered by Art Mastering
Cover photo: Roy Wilcox

Tracks:

1. Mission Accomplished
2. Bailando
3. Goin' with the Flow (Walking Man)
4. Anyone Can Be Rich in America
5. Forever War
6. Ridin' the Rails
7. I Wonder
8. Angela
9. You're the One I've Waited For
10. Déjenos en Paz
11. What Does It Take
12. DU
13. Forever War (Instrumental)
14. Kissed by the Sun

In addition to her songwriting, Kathy is a published author and frequently contributes articles and interviews to a variety of web sites.

Read Kathy's featured articles on [Republic Broadcasting Network](#). [Including an interview with Fabian Bouthillette, Iraq Veterans Against The War & The Military Project.]

You can write to Kathy Sanborn & Join the new MASH unit (Military Against Sexual Harassment): sanbornkathy@yahoo.com



FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

You Read It Here First, Last Year: “A Bankrupt Empire Hits The Wall” [From GI SPECIAL 7.29.07: 5G25:]

Comment T

Contrary to absurd fantasies, crises that interrupt the operation of capitalism don't just go on day after day at the same or increasing levels of panic and collapse. There will be weeks ahead when everything seems quiet, and alarming news reports like the ones below fade away.

But as the contagion spreads through more and more realms of production, distribution and accumulation, dramatic upheavals become more frequent and severe; the interruption of the cycle of production, distribution and accumulation becomes more pronounced; and it becomes ever clearer to everyone in the society that a serious downturn has arrived, with falling production, cuts in employment, and intense downward pressure on wages.

Occasional violent shocks -- the bankruptcy of some major corporation or financial institution -- grab headline attention transiently, but play out against the background of a slower, grinding attack on the standard of living of the working class as a whole.

And who better suited to preside over attacks on the standard of living of the American working class and use the government to impose discipline upon it than the Democratic Party?

And who less suited to do so than the Republican Party, too clearly identified with wealth and naked, crude corporate greed?

The relatively few remaining political representatives of the American ruling class who still have enough intelligence to perceive reality know that.

Meanwhile, within a year or two, the want of ready money, called a credit crisis, will finally reach the debt instruments of the Imperial government itself.

Those who today look for safety from the violence shaking financial markets by buying U.S. treasury bonds and notes, the famous “flight to quality” reporters love to point to today, will come to regard those instruments as toxic waste, and wonder how they could ever have been so foolish as to seek safety in the worthless paper of a bankrupt Empire.

[For more about that, now, not last year, see the next article. T]

With that, the crisis matures into a crisis of confidence in the government and the class of capitalists the government was instituted, designed, and is operated to serve.

No, we have not been through this before.

Never before.

Certainly not during Vietnam, when the U.S. economy was still relatively stable, with substantial capital reserves and deriving some income from the Empire, rather than seeing the relative costs of the Empire pile up mountains of dollar denominated debt that can never be repaid short of a violent depreciation of the dollar sufficient to impoverish much of the population.

Never before in U.S. history has a major crisis in the sphere of economic relations, expressing both massive private and governmental bankruptcy, come at the same time as a failing Imperial war draining off what little national capital remains.

Those who babble mindlessly about a new world being possible had best appreciate that this indeed will be a new world, and it will not be pretty.

One question, of some importance, will be whether our troops will choose to serve the vast majority of Americans who are the working class of the United States, or will choose to serve the few on top who oppress, exploit, and torment us for their own benefit, and who preside over the hopelessly antiquated economic relations that bring on Imperial war abroad and economic disaster at home.

The answer to that question will depend, more or less, perhaps decisively, on what links we have forged with our class brothers and sisters in arms.

Now, not later.

Those who are willing to invest substantial amounts of time in forging those links, and see no greater priority in their lives, of necessity must find each other and begin the work.

A few who have made that commitment can accomplish infinitely more acting together in an organized way than an assortment more numerous who half-step their way lamely and hesitantly along because they have other priorities.

It has been said there is a world to win.

There is also a world to lose, a more dangerous possibility now than has been the case previously in human history.



MORE:

**75% Of United States
Federal Reserve Bank
Cash Assets Gone:
Replaced By Worthless, Toxic
Paper Bought To Save Wall St.
Capitalists;**

[They Got The Cash, You Got Fucked]

["If You Can Remain Calm While All Those Around You Are Panicking, Maybe You Don't Understand The Situation"]

18 Sep 2008 By Brian Blackstone, Wall St. Journal. Jessica Holzer contributed to this article. [Excerpts]

The central bank's bailouts of Bear Stearns and American International Group, as well as lending programs created in the past year, are putting the Fed's once-mighty balance sheet at risk.

The Fed held close to \$800bn in Treasury securities a year ago.

By last week, that had dwindled to just under \$480bn.

The amount drops to less than \$200bn if the \$200bn pledged to the Term Securities Lending Facility -- a Fed lending program created in March for investment banks -- and the full \$85bn line to AIG are accounted for, Fed watchers say.

"The tally is so low that it is becoming imperative for the Fed to take actions to enlarge its balance sheet," said Tony Crescenzi, a strategist at Miller Tabak in New York.

MORE:

Stupid Arguments Not Worth A Second Look

Comment: T

1. "The financial crisis happened because Wall St. wasn't regulated enough by the government. So, the answer is more regulation of Wall St. by the government."

The international financial system is beyond the power of any mere government or central bank to regulate. Even if that were not the case, the wealthy and powerful will be in charge of "regulating" capitalism, and rightly so. It's their system. They always have and always will "regulate" it for their own benefit until the whole system itself is wiped off the face of the earth. Duh. Anybody who won't be honest with you about that, instead promoting "regulation" as the solution, is a lying weasel full of shit right up to the eyes.

2. “Speculators” are at fault. They bought oil and ran the price up, or sold stocks short, or whatever.

Oh please. That’s such infantile bullshit.

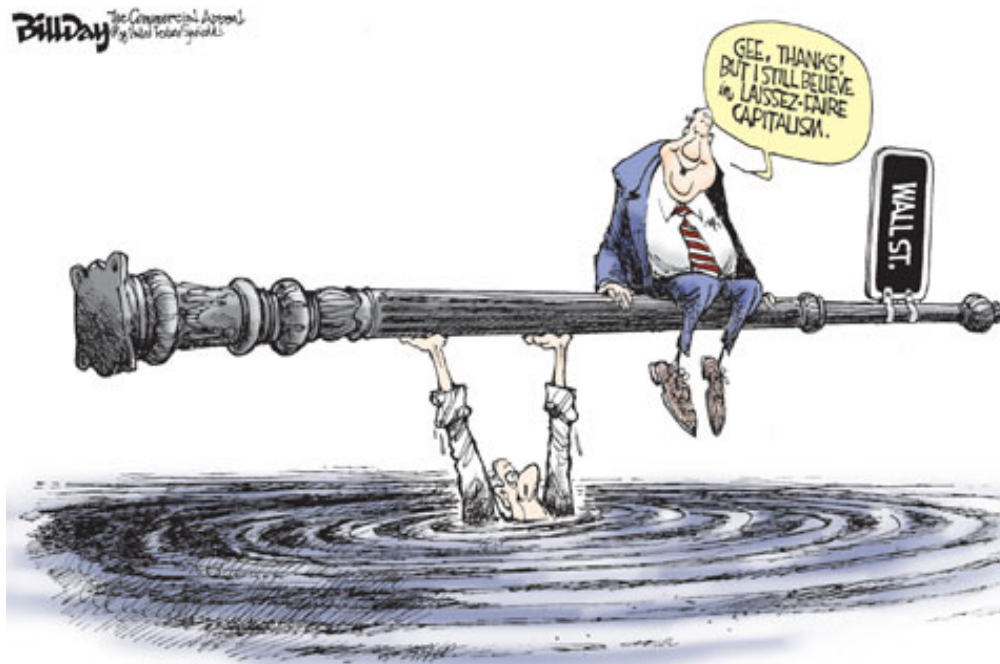
Sure they exist, like fleas on a dog.

But “speculators” didn’t bankrupt the Empire, or destroy the exchange-value of the dollar, or create the present financial crisis. Some merely made money correctly seeing the trends already set in motion by infinitely more serious underlying developments, and a whole lot more speculators bet wrong and got wiped out.

The minute you see some writer whining about “speculators” causing economic crisis, rather than the functioning of capitalism itself, reach for the wastebasket, or the barf bag, because.....

MORE:

It’s A Bit More Complicated



[From Karl Marx, The Story Of His Life; By Franz Mehring, 1935]

The general law of capitalist accumulation is as follows:

The growth of capital includes the growth of its variable section, or that part which is changed into labour-power.

If the composition of capital remains unchanged, if a certain quantity of the means of production demands always the same quantity of labour-power to set it into motion, then obviously the demand for labour-power will grow in proportion with the growth of capital, as will also the subsistence funds of the workers; the quicker capital grows the quicker they must grow also.

As simple reproduction constantly reproduces the capital relation itself, so accumulation reproduces the capital relation on a larger scale: more capitalists or bigger capitalists on the one hand, and more wage-workers on the other.

The accumulation of capital is therefore the increase of the proletariat also, and in the case supposed this increase takes place under the most favourable conditions for the workers.

A larger part of their own increasing surplus-product, which increasingly changes into capital, returns to them in the form of means of payment so that they are able to increase their consumption and to equip themselves more generously with clothing, furniture, etc.

However, their relation of dependency towards the capitalist does not change in any way, just as a slave does not cease to be a slave if he is well-fed and well-clothed.

They must always provide a certain quantity of unpaid labour, and although this may diminish it can never do so to an extent seriously endangering the capitalist character of the process of production.

If wages rise above this point then the profit incentive is blunted and the accumulation of capital slackens until wages sink again to a level corresponding to the needs of its utilization.

However, only when the accumulation of capital takes place without any change in the relation between its constant and variable components can the golden chain which the wageworker himself forges grow lighter and less irksome, but in reality the process of accumulation is accompanied by a great revolution in what Marx calls the organic composition of capital.

Constant capital grows at the expense of variable capital.

The growing productivity of labour causes the mass of the means of production to increase more quickly than the mass of labour-power embodied in them. The demand for labour-power does not rise proportionately with the accumulation of capital, but sinks relatively.

The same effect is produced in another form by the concentration of capital which takes place, quite apart from its accumulation, owing to the fact that the laws of capitalist competition lead to the swallowing up of the smaller capitalists by the larger ones.

Whilst the supplementary capital formed in the process of accumulation demands fewer and fewer workers in comparison with its quantity, the old capital which is reproduced in a new composition disposes more and more of the workers formerly employed by it.

In this way there develops a relative surplus mass of workers, relative that is to the needs of the utilization of capital, an industrial reserve army which is paid below the value of its labour-power in bad or middling business periods, which is employed irregularly and which at other times is dependent on public assistance, but which at all times serves to lower the resistance of the employed workers and to depress their wage standards.

This industrial reserve army is a necessary product of the process of accumulation, or of the development of wealth on a capitalist basis, and at the same time it develops into a lever of the capitalist mode of production.

With accumulation and the accompanying development of the productivity of labour, capital's power of sudden expansion also grows and demands large masses of workers who can be employed at a moment's notice in new markets or in new branches of production without interrupting the work of production in other spheres.

The characteristic course of modern industry, the form of a decennial cycle (broken only by minor vacillations) of periods of average activity, of production at high pressure, of crisis and stagnation is based on the continuous formation, the greater or lesser absorption, and reconstitution of the industrial reserve army.

The greater social wealth, the amount of capital at work, the extent and energy of its growth, and the greater therefore the absolute size of the working population and the productivity of its labour, the greater is relative over-population or the industrial reserve army.

Its comparative size increases with the increase of wealth.

The larger is the industrial reserve army in relation to the active industrial army, the larger are those sections of workers whose poverty is in inverse ratio to their labour torment.

And finally, the larger is the Lazarus section of the working class and the larger is the industrial reserve army, the greater are the numbers of those who are officially acknowledged paupers.

This is the absolute general law of capitalist accumulation.

The historical tendency of capitalist accumulation develops from this law. Hand in hand with the accumulation and concentration of capital develops the co-operative form of the labour process on a steadily growing scale, the conscious technological application of science to production, the organized and joint cultivation of the land, the transformation of the means of production into forms usable only jointly, and the economizing of the means of production by their use as joint means of production of combined social labour.

With the steadily diminishing number of those capital magnates who usurp and monopolize all the advantages of this process of transformation, there is a corresponding increase in the volume of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation and exploitation, but at the same time also in the indignation of the working class, which steadily grows in size and is trained, united and organized by the mechanism of the capitalist process of production itself.

The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter to the mode of production which has grown up with and under it.

The centralization of the means of production and the socialization of labour reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist shell.

The knell of capitalist private property sounds and the expropriators are expropriated.

Individual property based on individual labour is restored, but on the basis of the achievements of the capitalist era, as the co-operation of free workers and as their common property in the land and the means of production produced by labour.

Naturally, the transformation of capitalist property, which is already practically based on a social mode of production, into social property is by no means as wearisome and difficult as was the transformation of scattered property based on individual labour into capitalist property.

In the one case it was the expropriation of the masses of the people by a few usurpers, and in the other case it will be the expropriation of a few usurpers by the masses of the people.

Cops Vs Protesters At The RNC



From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008
Subject: Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

This protester was soaked in the face with pepper spray, just before the cops took him down and arrested him. On many occasions the police baited the protesters to fight back. In most situations, the bait did not work. But, the police got their licks in. I saw more police in the ten days that I was in Minneapolis-St. Paul, than I have seen in a lifetime. As far as dissent goes in America, we do not live in a police state--we live in a military occupation.

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
Sept. 18, 2008**

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)

Repression Not Only A Republican Tool [And Don't Ever Forget It]

Sept. 19, 2008 By Jesse Zarley, Madison, Wis.; Socialist Worker

DURING THE excellent protest against the recent Republican National Convention, one of the most unavoidable sites had to be the bloated police presence. On nearly every turn of the march, cops sporting riot gear, clubs and rifles lined the streets.

I learned that this police presence was funded to the tune of \$50 million in federal grants (taxpayer dollars). After word of the arrest of hundreds of protesters and three Democracy Now! journalists, I heard from many activists who were appalled at the repression.

While I totally agree with that sentiment, most people I talked to wrote this off as the logical "police state" or "fascistic" nature of the Bush administration.

While the links between the Bush administration, the gutting of civil liberties and egregious violations of human rights are undeniable, I think it's important for leftists to know the history of state repression in the U.S. under Republican and Democratic administrations that has been key to maintaining their control on the political system.

A few examples come to mind: the crushing of the Bonus Army following World War I; the Palmer Raids in which thousands of radicals and Reds were rounded up; COINTELPRO and the systematic destruction and murder of members of the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement; and the brutality of the attacks on activists 40 years ago at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

The violence at the 1968 Democratic National Convention took place under both a Democratic president and mayor.

Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin's conception of the state--as the vehicle for serving the interests of the ruling elite, which needs a repressive apparatus given the fact that it is a minority--holds true for all forms of government: fascist, parliamentary or liberal democracy.

Repression of leftists and radicals is nothing new in this country.

It is a necessity to prevent threats to those who are raking in super-profits while millions are uninsured, without work and being sent to fight and die in wars abroad.

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 SPECIALS BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA. 917.677.8057

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, REPUBLICANS CAN ALWAYS RELY ON...

THE POLITICS OF RESENTMENT

GRANTED, THEIR DENUNCIATIONS OF BIG CITY ELITISTS ARE OFTEN LESS THAN **CREDIBLE**...

CAN YOU **BELIEVE** THESE EAST COAST WACKOS AND THEIR "COSMOPOLITAN" VALUES? **SNICKER!**

THEY'RE CERTAINLY NOT REGULAR FOLKS LIKE YOU AND **ME!**



BUT SOMETIMES THEY FIND A MORE PLAUSIBLE STANDARD-BEARER.

SO BARACK OBAMA THINKS WE'RE **IGNORANT**--JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T BELIEVE IN **BIRTH CONTROL**, OR **SCIENCE**, OR ANY OF THAT STUFF!

IS THAT GUY A **KNOW-IT-ALL** OR **WHAT?**

McCAIN FOR PRESIDENT

PALIN FOR PRESIDENT- AS-SOON- AS-McCAIN- CROAKS



YOU HAVE TO WONDER IF THE STRATEGY WOULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL--IF ITS TARGETS WEREN'T SO **EAGER** TO PLAY ALONG...

IF DEMOCRATS WANT TO WIN, WE MUST SHOW THAT WE, TOO, EMBRACE THE MYTHICAL VALUES OF SMALL TOWN AMERICA AS DEFINED BY REPUBLICANS!

I WISH WE WERE IN SUCH A TOWN RIGHT NOW!

WE COULD GO TO A COUNTY FAIR OR SOMETHING!



BLAME IT ON THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE...IF PRESIDENTS WERE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE, WE'D HAVE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT GAME...

REMEMBER THE **OLD DAYS**--WHEN THE CONCERNS OF A SMALL MINORITY OF SOCIALLY CONSERVATIVE SWING STATE VOTERS COMPLETELY DOMINATED OUR POLITICAL DISCOURSE?

WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN THINKING?



IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WHICH PARTY **ACTUALLY** VIEWS AVERAGE AMERICANS WITH CONTEMPT...

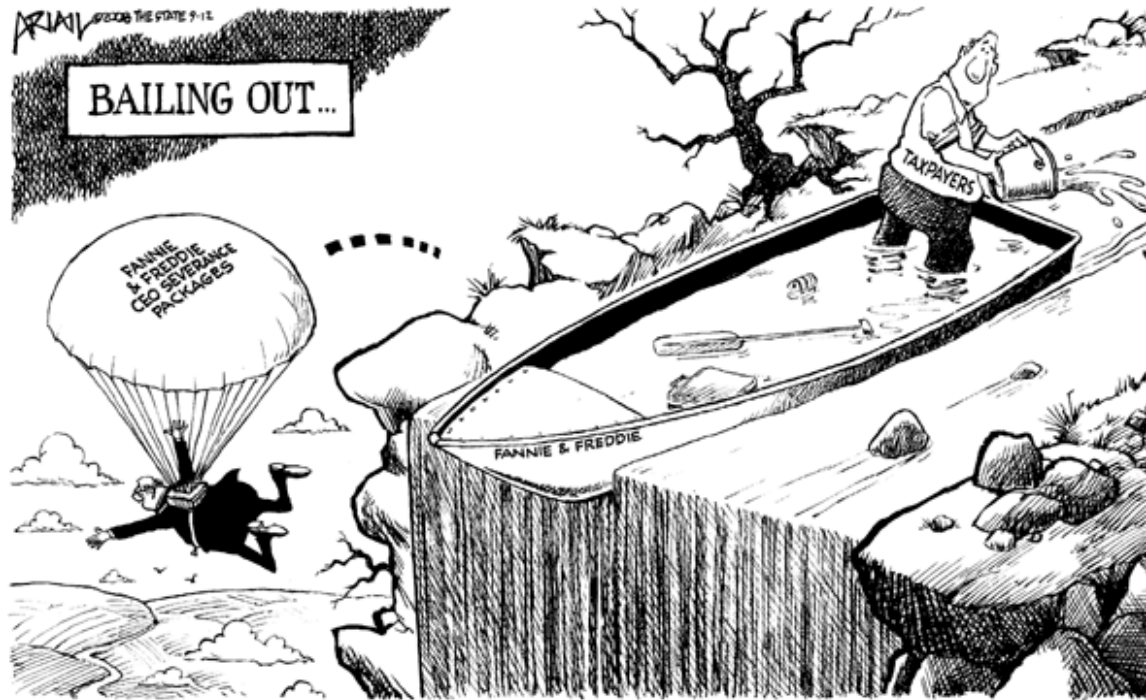
YOU THINK VOTERS ARE **REALLY** GONNA FALL FOR ALL THIS **RESENTMENT** CRAP?

SURE! LIKE PHIL GRAMM SAYS, THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF WHINERS!

ANYWAY, WHAT ELSE HAVE WE GOT?



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Germans Force Neo-Nazi Rats To Cancel Racist Conference



Counter-demonstrators are confronted by police as they block the street during a protest against a neo-Nazi "anti-Islamification congress" in the Cologne, Germany. (AFP/DDP/Torsten Silz)



Counter-demonstrators celebrate the news that a rally of a neo-Nazi “anti-Islamification congress” was forbidden by the police for security reasons in the western city of Cologne. (AFP/DDP/Torsten Silz)

GI Special www.militaryproject.org
This is how Bush brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.



GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=->

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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