

## GI SPECIAL 7B18:

YOU MARCHED IN '03, YOU THOUGHT ABOUT STARTING A LIBERAL BLOG IN '06, NOW YOUR ACTIVISM HAS PAID OFF: BARACK OBAMA IS PRESIDENT! TIME TO CHILL OUT, IT'S TIME TO KICK BACK, ENJOY A WELL-DESERVED REST, STRETCH OUT, RELAX AND

### **TAKE A VACATION FROM OUTRAGE**

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**“Bring Our Soldiers Home Now”**

**“We’ve Found The Enemy”**

**“They’re Closing In”**

**“The Government Loaned The Detroit 3 Money On Condition That They Close Factories, Cut Jobs And Slash Wages”**

# “Workers Aren’t Responsible For The Failing Economy Or The Sinking Of The Flagship Of American Industry”

## “Bankers, Bosses And Bureaucrats Failed, Not Workers”



**The plan will result in more desperate workers lining up for fewer desperate jobs. It's a bust in the chops to the working class, but a boon to bankers and bosses as high unemployment depresses wages and curbs inflation.**

February 23, 2009 By Gregg Shotwell, Socialist Worker

Gregg Shotwell, a retired GM/Delphi worker and founder of the Soldiers of Solidarity network, shows how the Detroit 3 are scheming to ditch retiree health care and pensions. And, he argues, the UAW's ruling Administration Caucus--nicknamed the Concessions, or Con Caucus by rank-and-file militants--is letting them get away with it.

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THE DETROIT Three cite legacy costs as their biggest competitive disadvantage. Their solution?

Add to the legacy costs by retiring more workers faster with buy-out packages subtracted from the pension.

**When the market crashed, the government loaned the Detroit 3 money on condition that they close factories, cut jobs and slash wages. Then, the government passed a stimulus bill to create jobs.**

General Motors estimated its retiree health care costs at \$50 billion and committed half that amount--\$24.1 billion (and promises)--to a union trust fund (Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association, or VEBA).

Now the government demands that 50 percent of the already 50 percent underfunded trust be replaced with stock worth less than six rolls of toilet paper.

It's illegal for a company to invest more than 10 percent of pension assets in their own stock. Why should a VEBA be different? Over and above the question of legality, the government's proposal compromises the union's ethical capacity to represent workers. The union will have a vested interest in the company's stock.

**But you haven't heard the punch line.**

**GM is planning a government-run bankruptcy. The union won't be left with an investment for retiree health care. The union will be left holding a bag of chicken necks.**

And the slapstick at Chrysler makes the situation at GM look like romantic comedy.

Government mandates neglect the fact that the Con Caucus already ratified contracts that will ratchet working conditions down to nonunion levels by 2011.

Well, actually, the company-government didn't neglect the Con's con--they just want to pop the clutch and hit the wall at maximum rpm.

**The government is strong-arming workers into accepting terms that will achieve the benefits of bankruptcy without litigation.**

**The wage scale will become nonunion; the VEBA won't last a decade; on demand will replace the eight-hour day; the pension is underfunded; the Detroit 3 will close dozens of plants and import half the cars they sell in the U.S.; all without the hassle and haggle of bankruptcy.**

**What the hell is there to vote for? More plant closings?**

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A REAL union solution would advocate for all workers, not just an isolated gaggle in the gated community of the UAW elite. A real union would reject the VEBA demolition derby and pit all its energy into Rep. John Conyer's health care bill (HR 676), which would

insure everyone equally, not just the privileged. A real union would resist buy-outs and job cuts by demanding a short workweek to offset reduced demand.

The company-government-union cartel prefers to reduce labor costs by curtailing Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB), thereby pushing more workers into early retirement or foreclosure.

**The plan will result in more desperate workers lining up for fewer desperate jobs. It's a bust in the chops to the working class, but a boon to bankers and bosses as high unemployment depresses wages and curbs inflation.**

**Screw that.**

**We deserve a union solution: a collective action that unites rather than divides workers.**

If the union demanded a short workweek in exchange for SUB, all affected workers would remain employed and equal. When the market goes up, workers would return to a 40-hour week without diminished wages.

**A real union could back the talk with a one-day walkout and send an army of unemployed workers on buses to Washington with a petition to convert closed auto plants into nationalized manufacturing centers for energy independence.**

But don't expect the Caucus that negotiated two-tier (wages) to unite the union. Collective action is not their agenda. They're collaborators, not organizers.

**We can debate economics until the pyramids collapse, but there's a chronic and undeniable tic in our current fix: class conflict.**

**Bankers get handouts without conditions, but a blue-collar industry in need of a loan--because reckless bankers destroyed the economy--gets boiled in a vat of Republican venom and ordered to return for more of the same in 90 days.**

I'm no fan of management. The Detroit 3 are grossly mismanaged and overcompensated. They deserve a dressing down.

**But workers aren't responsible for the failing economy or the sinking of the flagship of American industry.**

**Bankers, bosses and bureaucrats failed, not workers.**

**It's like the Pentagon procurement racket. War profiteers get no-bid contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars.**

**Soldiers get shot, killed, traumatized and maimed.**

**It's a bad deal.**

**We deserve better.**

**We deserve a union that represents all workers everywhere equally including our brothers and sisters in arms.**

**Bring our soldiers home now.**

**We've found the enemy.**

**They're closing in.**

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

**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 wars, 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**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad**

27 February 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20090227-01

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division–Baghdad Soldier died Feb. 26 from combat related injuries while conducting a patrol in Baghdad. The Soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

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### **Army Admits Two Copters Downed By Enemy Fire; Four Soldier Killed Last Month**

February 28 2009 AP and Duluth News Tribune

The collision of two U.S. Army helicopters in Iraq last month that killed an Iron Range native and three other American pilots was caused by enemy fire, military authorities at Fort Drum, N.Y., said Friday.

Chief Warrant Officer Philip E. Windorski Jr., 35, who grew up in Grand Rapids, died Jan. 26 when two Kiowa Warrior helicopters crashed in Kirkuk.

The military at first did not believe that enemy action contributed to the crash. But on Thursday, the Army said forensic evidence revealed the helicopters collided while evading enemy fire and crashed. The details were announced after a memorial service for the soldiers at Fort Drum, where they were based.

“The two OH-58D helicopters were engaged and struck by hostile fire while conducting a reconnaissance mission,” Fort Drum spokeswoman Julie Cupernall said Friday.

A Sunni nationalist group had claimed responsibility for the attack in a posting on a Web site.

Also killed in the crash were Matthew Kelley, 30, of Cameron, Mo.; Joshua Tillery, 31, of Beaverton, Ore.; and Benjamin Todd, 29, of Colville, Wash. All were warrant officers in the 10th Mountain Division’s 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, married and had children.

Windorski had three children. A funeral for Windorski was held in Grand Rapids on Feb. 7. During the ceremony two military helicopters flew over.

Windorski had joined the military in 1991. He was deployed to Iraq for 16 months in 2003 and 2004, and was deployed to Iraq again in October 2008.

**His death brought to 75 the number of people with strong Minnesota ties who have died in connection with the war.**

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## “And It’s One Two Three Four What Are We Fighting For?”



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (L) welcomes his Iraqi counterpart Jalal Talabani during an official welcoming ceremony in Tehran, February 27, 2009. REUTERS/Morteza Nikoubazi

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Romania Soldier Killed Near Kandahar**

27 February 2009 Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Romania's Defence Ministry said a soldier serving in the country's peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan was killed when his vehicle drove over an explosive device.

The ministry said the soldiers were on patrol on Thursday on the highway between Kabul and Qalat, a town near Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. The dead soldier was identified as 30-year-old Sgt. Maj. Chira Claudiu.

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### **Soldier Had Wanted To Go Fishing With His Father When He Returned Home From War**



February 18, 2009 KTBS

The body of a soldier from Sabine Parish who was killed in Afghanistan has been returned home for burial.

"I had bought a new boat and I was showing him the pictures on the internet. And he said, 'Daddy that's a nice boat. When we come home, I want you to carry me fishing,'" Bobby Watson, the father of Army Pfc. Jason Watson, said after his son's body was returned to Many on Tuesday.

Jason Watson, 19, and another soldier were killed a week ago by a roadside bomb.

Watson had turned 19 two days before he was killed. He has a twin brother. He was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Hundreds of people lined the streets of Many as a hearse brought Watson's casket to a funeral home.

"I wanted to do something for the family, because if it was my child I would just want to know the community cared enough," Cindy Ezernack of Many said.

Visitation for Watson will be 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at Rose-Neath Funeral Home chapel in Many. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. Thursday At Rose-Neath with burial following at Aimwell Baptist Church Cemetery in Zwolle.

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## Iwakuni Marine Killed In Afghanistan Bombing



Staff Sgt. Daniel Hansen trains for explosive ordnance disposal during an exercise in Australia in August. Hansen was killed on Feb. 14 while deployed to western Afghanistan. Joseph Marianelli/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

February 21, 2009 By Travis J. Tritten, Stars and Stripes

A Marine based in Iwakuni, Japan, was killed Feb. 14 while deployed in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced this week.



Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Hansen, 24, of Tracy, Calif., died while supporting combat operations in Farah province, according to the DOD. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 with the III Marine Expeditionary Force, which is based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in western Japan.

Hansen was part of an explosive ordnance disposal team. His family said the Marine was killed by a roadside bomb, according to his hometown newspaper.

The Marine Corps posthumously promoted Hansen to staff sergeant, base spokesman Maj. Guillermo Canedo said.

“He was always willing to learn, and I tried to teach him all I could,” said Staff Sgt. Aron Cheatham, who is on the same EOD team with MWSS 171 at Iwakuni. “I never had a problem with giving him a task. ... He was a good tech.”

Cheatham said Hansen was sent to Afghanistan as an individual augmentee, and the unit received reports that his work there “really shined.”

A funeral service was scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday at the air station chapel, Canedo said.

Hansen, who was engaged to be married, joined the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 2002, the Tracy Press reported.

His twin brother and fellow Marine, Matthew Hansen, told the newspaper that Daniel Hansen had clearance to cover former President George W. Bush at Camp David and had been handpicked to guard two generals during a deployment to Fallujah, Iraq.

Hansen deployed to western Afghanistan in October to work EOD. Fighting has intensified over the past year as the United States begins to shift its military focus back to the region.

Hansen is the second servicemember from Iwakuni killed in Afghanistan in the last six months.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Eichmann A. Strickland, 23, of Arlington, Wash., died Sept. 9 from injuries suffered when the vehicle he was driving hit an improvised explosive device in Afghanya Valley.

Strickland was assigned to Combat Service Support Detachment 36 and was deployed as a member of an embedded training team.

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## **Collegeville Soldier Dies In Afghanistan**

Feb. 15, 2009 By Josh Goldstein, Inquirer Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Marc J. Small, an Army Special Forces medic from Collegeville, died Thursday from combat wounds in Afghanistan, according to a statement yesterday by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Small, 29, was on a reconnaissance patrol when insurgents wielding small arms and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher attacked his unit. He was wounded by enemy fire, the Army said.

“We cannot describe our grief,” Small’s family said in a statement. “But Marc would want everyone to know he died doing what he loved, fighting for his family and for his country.”

Small graduated in 1997 from Methacton High School in Worcester Township. He enlisted in December 2004 and was with the Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha team, Company B, First Battalion, Third Special Forces Group (Airborne).

In the statement, his family noted that Small had done more in Afghanistan than battle insurgents. He also used his medical training to help Afghans. “In his short time there, he provided medical treatment to 40 to 50 people per day,” the statement said.

Small was killed during a battle near Faramuz, in Oruzgan province, southwest of Kabul in central Afghanistan. He was on his first tour of duty in Afghanistan after being deployed in January.

Small went through basic and advanced training at Fort Benning, Ga. He later received Special Forces training at Fort Bragg and earned his green beret in 2007.

He is survived by his father and stepmother, Murray and Karen; his mother and stepfather, Mary and Peter MacFarland; a brother, Matt; sisters Heather MacFarland Wellock, Jennifer MacFarland and Megan MacFarland; and stepbrothers Travis and Tyler Baney.

He was engaged and planned to get married when he returned from Afghanistan, the family said. “We also want to ask for your thoughts and prayers for Amanda Charney, who Marc loved deeply,” the statement said.

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## **Mesquite Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Only Ever Wanted To Serve**

February 19, 2009 By MICHAEL E. YOUNG, The Dallas Morning News

Raymond Munden never talked about being a doctor or a lawyer. All he ever wanted to do was join the Army.

Over 17 years, he completed five tours of duty overseas, including two in Iraq. On Monday, three weeks shy of completing his sixth stint – his second in Afghanistan – Sgt. 1st Class Munden was killed in a grenade attack in a remote outpost near the Pakistani border.

The 35-year-old soldier leaves behind a wife and four children, the youngest 2 years old, and a record of commitment to the job he loved.

**He is the second Dallas-area soldier from the Band of Brothers unit – the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division – to be killed in that corner of Afghanistan in six days.**

Army Cpl. Peter Courcy of Frisco was killed on Feb. 10 by a suicide bomber. Courcy was in Company D; Munden was with Company B.

Munden was at Forward Operating Base Tillman, about two miles from the Pakistani border, when a sniper launched an RPG, or rocket-propelled grenade, said his stepfather, Dwaine Clark of Mesquite.

His stepson was off duty and walking back to his barracks when the grenade landed about 10 feet behind him.

“He was very alert, very cautious,” Clark said, “but no one was expecting that.”

Munden’s mother, Billie Clark, has been struggling with the news, her husband said.

“She can’t sleep, but she’s so dead-tired she can barely stay awake,” he said.

“We’re Christians, and she knows he had a salvation experience when he was 14, so she has that to fall back on. But this world will never be the same for her,” he said.

Munden and his mom moved to Mesquite when his parents divorced, Dwaine Clark said.

“She always said Raymond was her protector, even though he was only 13, because it was just the two of them then,” his stepfather said.

Munden graduated in 1991 from Mesquite High School, where he played football. His coach, Mickey DeLamar, said Munden didn’t start for the Skeeters but played quite a bit and practiced hard. “He was one of those kids who just loved the game, and he took a lot of pride in practice. He played a lot on the scout team,” DeLamar said.

“When you think about it, those kids were the reason we were successful – they did such a great job simulating what we’d see on Friday night. “He had a great attitude.”

But even in high school, he was set on joining the Army.

His father, Ralph Munden of Richland, Mo., made a career of the Army, and his brother, Brad, did the same with the Navy.

“He was a gung-ho soldier,” his father-in-law, Henry J. Koshofer of Lancaster, N.Y., told the Buffalo News. “He loved it. The loves of his life were his children and wife and the Army.”

In 2002, People magazine wrote about Munden, then in his first tour in Afghanistan, and his family back home. He was overseas when his older daughter, Sydney, was born back in the states, half a world away, and he remembered speaking his first words to her over a video hookup.

Munden and his wife, Kelly, later had another daughter, Kailey, now 2. He also has two sons from a previous marriage, Gaven, 13, and Garrett, 12.

After his overseas deployments, including tours in Somalia and Haiti, and the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, Munden was eager for his upcoming stateside assignment at West Point, Koshofer said.

“He was coming home in three more weeks, which makes it all the worse for us,” Dwaine Clark said. “He was going to West Point to help train the cadets in urban combat, the house-to-house fighting.

“We had started breathing a little bit easier because it was so close to being over with.”

Munden’s body was returned to the U.S. on Thursday, with services pending.

Services will be in Buffalo, where his wife is from.

“But because he has a lot of friends in Mesquite, we’ll have a memorial here sometime,” Dwaine Clark said. “We just don’t know when.”

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## **Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Wounded Near Paktika; Nationality Not Announced**

27 Feb 2009 Reuters Foundation

A roadside bomb hit a NATO-led force convoy in southeastern Paktika, wounding two soldiers of the organisation, a provincial official said on Friday.

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## **Collaborator Cops Recruit For Resistance In Ghazni**

27 Feb 2009 Reuters Foundation

Six people were hurt on Friday when Afghan police fired on demonstrators who said U.S.-led troops had desecrated copies of the Koran during a raid on a mosque in Ghazni province southwest of Kabul, residents said.

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## **U.S. Air Attack Kills Men, Women And Children:**

# **“It Was Difficult To Know Whether To Classify The Women And Children As Militants”**

27 February 2009 Associated Press

The UN said a record 2,118 civilians died from violence last year, up from 1,523 the previous year.

The UN report noted that despite new battlefield rules meant to reduce civilian casualties, US, NATO and Afghan troops killed 31% more civilians last year than in 2007.

The US-led coalition said that a “precision strike” overnight in Herat province killed a Taliban commander and other insurgents.

Police chief Ekremuddin Yawar put the death toll at five men, six women and two children.

He said the attack hit a tent and two vehicles far from a residential area, but it was difficult to know whether to classify the women and children as militants.

**“The international coalition in Afghanistan is losing public support, one fallen civilian at a time,”** said CIVIC, the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict.

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## **“The Reasons Why The War In Afghanistan Cannot Be Won Are Directly Connected To Why The War Is Wrong”**

### **“People Do Not Like Their Country Occupied For Years On End, Especially When The Occupiers Are Routinely Killing Civilians”**

Those who are fond of talking and writing about President Obama’s admirable progressive values will, sooner or later, need to come to terms with the particulars of his actual policies.

February 25, 2009 by Norman Solomon, CommonDreams [Excerpts]

Obama didn't mention the additional number of U.S. troops -- 17,000 -- that he has just ordered to Afghanistan. But his pledge that he "will not allow terrorists to plot against the American people" and his ringing declaration, "We will not allow it," came just before this statement: "As we meet here tonight, our men and women in uniform stand watch abroad and more are readying to deploy."

Get the message?

In his first speech to Congress, the new president threw down a 90-month-old gauntlet, reaffirming the notion that committing to war halfway around the world -- in Afghanistan and now in Pakistan too -- will make Americans safer.

With drumrolls like that, the mission could outlive all of us.

The reasons why the war in Afghanistan cannot be won are directly connected to why the war is wrong.

In essence, people do not like their country occupied for years on end, especially when the occupiers are routinely killing civilians (whatever the rationale).

Monochrome words like Taliban and "terrorists" might seem tidy and clear enough as they appear in media coverage, or as they roll off a president's tongue, but in the real Afghan world the opponents of the U.S. war are diverse and wide-ranging.

With every missile strike that incinerates a household or terrorizes a village, the truly implacable "extremists" can rejoice at Uncle Sam's assistance to their recruiting efforts.

Those who are fond of talking and writing about President Obama's admirable progressive values will, sooner or later, need to come to terms with the particulars of his actual policies.

In foreign affairs, the realities now include the ominous pairing of his anti-terrorism rhetoric and his avowed commitment to ratchet up the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan.

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## **Breaking News!**

# **“Winning” In Afghanistan Will Require 1000,000 to 150,000 Troops, Not Including Sustainment**

February 27, 2009 By ANNE GEARAN, AP Military Writer

**[To suppress insurgency supported by the population, minimum 10 to 1 superiority of occupation forces required, combat forces that is, not including sustainment: See *The Guerrilla In History*, Robert B Asprey – USMC ret'd. T]**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Afghanistan's interior minister says there may be between 10,000 and 15,000 Taliban fighting inside his country, and the insurgent group is operating across about 17 provinces.

Mohammad Hanif Atmar offered a rare estimate of the size of his government's most organized and potent opponent during a visit to Washington.

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## **BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW**



A U.S. soldier with the 32nd Infantry Regiment during a house-to-house search in the village of Semkar, Kunar Province, eastern Afghanistan February 12, 2009. (Oleg Popov/Reuters)

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## TROOP NEWS



## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### Resistance Action

February 26, 2009 PakTribune & Reuters & Feb 27 (Reuters) & Feb 28 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD: Iraqi officials say two Iraqi soldiers have been killed and 2 wounded in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.



Two Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb exploded on Thursday morning near an Iraqi army patrol on a road to Baghdad University in southern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol, wounding two policemen, on Wednesday evening in the Ilaam district of southern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb near the home of a police officer wounded one policeman on Thursday in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles), north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two army officers in western Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three police officers, when it struck a police patrol in Baghdad's eastern district of Zaafaraniya on Saturday, police said.

Insurgents shot dead two members of a group of U.S.- backed neighbourhood patrolmen, and wounded another two in an attack on their checkpoint in Hawija, 210 km (130 miles), north of Baghdad, on Friday, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**Frederick Douglas, 1852**

**“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**

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”  
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

## **Welcome Home**



From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special  
Sent: February 23, 2009  
Subject: Welcome Home

### Welcome Home

The police from Minneapolis-St. Paul welcome home IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War) at the RNC in August 2008.

Protecting Americans from enemies,  
both foreign and domestic.

You get shot at in Iraq,  
and arrested at home.

Multiple Tours.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
February 23, 2009

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](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

### Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

# 2204 South 11th Street

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

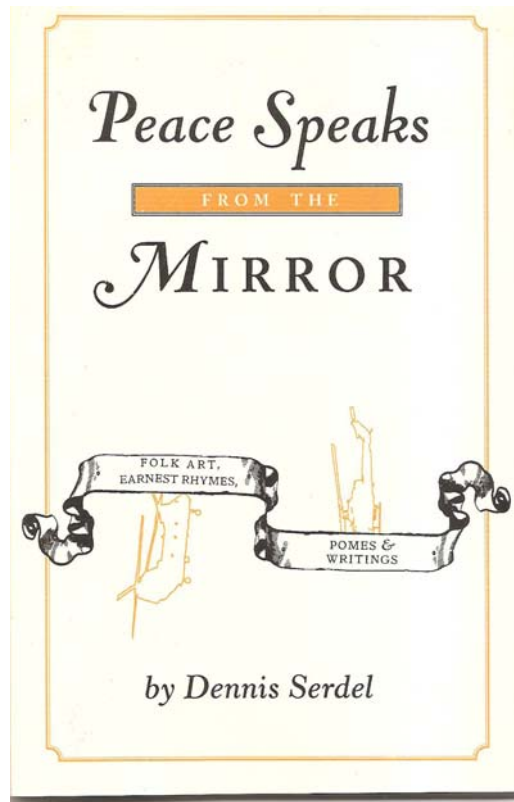
\*\*\*\*\*

**2204 South 11th Street**

**It is a little white house  
later embarrassing Carl and his sisters  
as they grew up and compare it  
with other kid's houses.  
But in Vietnam it is home  
so far away and America seems so small,  
but the little white house  
on 2204 South 11th Street seems so big.  
Back from the jungle and boonies  
when Carl and the brothers  
are back at base camp,  
they clean up and get stoned  
He writes letters to his mother  
and father and sisters, never tells them  
though, how many of the others,  
were killed or wounded bad.  
Carl and his brothers didn't want them  
to worry, by telling them the truth,  
how bad it was, so Carl writes  
letters filled with love and not war  
to 2204 South 11th Street.  
They went through 3 Captains or more  
and so many Ltn's and by the end,  
the original company was whittled down to  
little more than a dozen including Carl.  
But they did not need to know this  
during his tour, all they needed to know, was Hi Mom, Hi Dad and Hi Sis  
written most of the time stoned.  
'We're back at Base Camp  
for a while, eating food the right way,  
not out of cans and everything is OK.  
There is nothing to worry about.'  
and he would address it  
to 2204 South 11th Street.  
His home is like heaven  
that he was sure, he would never see again  
but he did, and he didn't know how.  
The only problem now is that Carl still holds  
the war inside of himself again.**

**MORE:**

# Get Some While There Still Are Some To Get:



Books are \$12 plus \$4 for postage and mailer = \$16 due.

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Perry,  
Michigan 48872

Money Orders sent next day, Personal Checks after 3 days.

Over Seas Orders, please write first and I will send the Postal costs. Let me know if you want USA Postal costs, Western Union Perry Michigan, Money Gram, Fed Ex, Pink Japanese International Money Order.

Or payment can be made by well hidden American dollars in a Registered Mailing.

Let me know.

Dennis Serdel

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### “Obama’s Congressional Speech Earns Rave Reviews”



26 February Steve Bell

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**

**Welcome To The Occupied USA:  
“Student Facing Trumped-Up  
Charges For The ‘Crime’ Of**

# **Attempting To Ask Coulter A Question”**

## **Attacked By Cop Scumbags, Arrested & And Charged With Disorderly Conduct**

February 24, 2009 By Matt Hoke, Socialist Worker

EWING, N.J.--Arch-conservative Ann Coulter's February 18 visit to the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) brought dozens of students and community members out to protest her backward views--and left one student facing trumped-up charges for the "crime" of attempting to ask Coulter a question.

Before Coulter's visit, the campus was energized by a "sidewalk chalk war," with both sides covering the campus in slogans for or against Coulter. The campus was buzzing with anticipation of the event--on a tiny campus that had ranked as one of the nationally most politically apathetic campuses just a few years ago.

A coalition of student groups came together to oppose Coulter's appearance, including the antiwar group ACTION, the TCNJ Islamic Society, Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX), College Democrats, allies from an LGBT rights group, and a small handful of International Socialist Organization members.

Although somewhat subdued, Coulter spewed her usual toxic brand of politics, claiming that women, gays and Blacks are only "pretending" that they are oppressed in order to get attention.

She also tried to whip up racist hysteria by drawing attention to Barack Obama's middle name, Hussein.

Protesters led raucous chants against war, racism and homophobia, and in support of abortion rights.

During Coulter's speech, approximately 50 demonstrators, wearing black clothes and white armbands with progressive slogans, stood up from all points in the audience and walked out. They were followed by approximately 100 more audience members, who were also disgusted with Coulter.

Coulter supporters booed as protesters chanted "Gay, straight, Black, white--same struggle, same fight" and later chanted in support of Arabs.

After walking out, protesters took over the student center for an impromptu speak-out that included addressing misconceptions about Islam, encouraging people to protest the war and the next Wall Street bailout, and assessing the protest.

AFTER THE lecture, Mike Tracey, a member of the College Democrats, attempted to ask Coulter a question about her race-baiting around Barack Obama's middle name.

For this harmless act, he was tackled by police, arrested, brutalized and charged with disorderly conduct.

As Tracey later explained in a statement:

“After chatting with some people in the audience for a few minutes, I got in line to speak to Coulter. I was planning on introducing myself and following up to my question that I’d asked earlier...

“When it was my turn in line, I walked onto the stage, and toward Coulter. I was immediately cut off by two security officials, one a police officer, one in plainclothes. They said that I could not come up to her table if I did not have a book.

“I said I just wanted to ask a question, and approached the table.

“At no point did I make physical contact with anyone on stage. I simply “side-stepped” the individuals that obstructed me.

“Coulter, apparently startled by the commotion caused by the two officials, jumped backwards in her chair, as if she thought I was on the verge of attack...I did not lunge at her, nor yell anything at her; I only calmly walked up to her table.

“But, as it happened, I did not utter more than three words of my question before I was forcibly escorted to the end of the stage, led down the stairs, told ‘you’re outta here,’ and pushed in the direction of the building’s exit without so much as a pause or an explanation.”

When Tracey began walking in the opposite direction from the officer, he was suddenly grabbed.

“The officer suddenly started to pull my coat and grab at my shoulders. Instinctively, I didn’t simply allow him to do this, and kept moving forward. I did not resist, nor did I shove or strike the officer in any way. I simply started walking in a different direction.

“I was then tackled to the ground by the officer and surrounded by several others. It was impossible for me to tell how many of them were involved, because my face had just hit the ground head first.

“One officer restrained me to the floor by my legs, while another knelt on my head, his knee crushing my face.

“He applied a considerable amount of body weight as my head was pressed against the carpet. I cried out, ‘Get off my head,’ and ‘Help!’ because I was in terrible pain. I have a relatively large abrasion on the left side of my head and on my left ear. At this point, I was handcuffed.”

In addition to injuries to his head and ear, Tracey also suffered abrasions to his hands and wrists--and since most of the protesters had already walked out, people were unable to immediately come to Tracey’s defense.



Tracey is now facing disorderly conduct charges. A defense campaign has been started to pressure authorities to drop the charges against him, and raise funds for his legal defense.

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# **“Welcome To The U.S. V. Barry Bonds; Please Disregard The Stench”**

## **Justice Department Psychopaths Sunk To New Lows In Their Drive To Convict Barry Bonds For His Alleged Use Of Steroids; “Even The Mafia Spares The Women And Children”**

February 24, 2009 By Dave Zirin, The Nation

Dave Zirin is the author of *Welcome to the Terrordome: the Pain Politics and Promise of Sports* (Haymarket) and the forthcoming *A People's History of Sports in the United States* (The New Press). and his writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Sports Illustrated.com*, *New York Newsday* and *The Progressive*. He is the host of XM Radio's *Edge of Sports Radio*.

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THIS IS a story about garbage.

There's the actual garbage that overzealous federal investigators examined in their efforts to prosecute a surly sports celebrity.

There's the shredding of the Bill of Rights, crudely ignored by the government in the name of obsession and ambition. Finally, there's the thorough trashing of people's reputations, not to mention the game of baseball.

Welcome to The U.S. v. Barry Bonds; please disregard the stench.

The case to prove that slugger Barry Bonds perjured himself in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative (BALCO) steroid investigation begins March 2.

Yet after seven years of investigation, millions of dollars in work hours and countless ruined reputations, the U.S. Attorney's Office will arrive in court with virtually no leg to stand on.

Judge Susan Illston struck down most of the prosecution's case, a move ESPN legal expert Lester Munson called a "devastating" setback for prosecutors. The ruling was an indictment of not only the government's case, but its entire approach toward Bonds from day one. John Ashcroft's Justice Department always seemed irrationally determined to prosecute Bonds. It was as obsessive as the fisherman Santiago attempting to bring home the great marlin in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

The embodiment of this obsession was IRS agent Jeff Novitzky. He broke open the BALCO case after spending a great deal of time, to the adulation of the press, literally sifting through garbage and sewage.

Novitzky was given the green light by President Bush and Ashcroft to go for the jugular. In 2004, accompanied by 11 agents, he marched into Comprehensive Drug Testing, the nation's largest sports-drug testing company. Armed with a warrant to see the confidential drug tests of 10 baseball players, he walked out with 4,000 supposedly sealed medical files, including every baseball player in the major leagues.

**As Jon Pessah wrote in ESPN magazine, "Three federal judges reviewed the raid. One asked, incredulously, if the Fourth Amendment had been repealed. Another, Susan Illston, who has presided over the BALCO trials, called Novitzky's actions a 'callous disregard' for constitutional rights.**

**All three instructed him to return the records. Instead, Novitzky kept the evidence."**

**It was a frightening abuse of power, all aimed at imprisoning a prominent African American athlete.**

Yet despite the landfills of trash, the government's case always rested on a flimsy premise. Bonds' contention under oath was that anything illegal he may have ingested was without prior knowledge. The only person who could contradict Bonds was his trainer and longtime friend Greg Anderson.

The government pressed Anderson to give testimony.

He refused, citing a promise made by the feds that he wouldn't have to testify after pleading guilty to steroid distribution and money laundering in 2005. The feds stuck him in jail for 13 months to soften him up, but he didn't crack.

**Anderson has remained firm even though in January, 20 FBI and IRS agents raided the home of his mother-in-law and threatened to punish her for tax evasion if Anderson didn't spill.**

**Similar threats have been made against his wife.**

**Mark Geragos, Anderson's attorney, told Yahoo Sports, "It's such a blatant and transparent attempt to intimidate Greg. They're acting like the Gestapo. Even the mafia spares the women and children."**

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WITHOUT ANDERSON, the state's case was always weak. But now it is on serious life support. Illston ruled most of Novitzky and the government's case inadmissible, for good reason.

The prosecution wanted to submit a surreptitiously recorded statement from Anderson as well as notations on what it calls his "drug calendar," even though he would not testify to authenticate any of the evidence.

Illston, to her credit, said no dice and declared those items inadmissible.

The government has raised the specter of jailing Anderson again, but Illston remarked in a raised voice that jailing someone twice for refusing to testify would be beyond the pale.

The government is hinting that it will appeal Illston's ruling, but that would indefinitely delay the trial.

If the U.S. Attorney's Office does continue the case, it has made clear its next line of offense: it will have Bonds's former mistress, Kimberly Bell, testify in detail about the alleged "shriveling" of Bonds's testicles.

Jeff Novitzky should be proud.

It's way past time to say enough is enough.

Whether or not you are a Barry Bonds fan, or consider him to be just a step above a seal-clubbing, pitbull-fighting bank executive, every person of good conscience should be aghast at the way the Justice Department has gone about its business.

Barry Bonds, Greg Anderson and maybe thousands of others have had their rights trampled on, all for the glory of a perjury case that looks to be going absolutely nowhere.

Attorney General Eric Holder and President Obama have strongly indicated that the government is getting out of the steroid-monitoring business. That is welcome, but after so many years, so many tax dollars and so many reputations destroyed, it all feels positively pyrrhic.

At the end of *The Old Man and the Sea*, when Santiago finally returns to shore, his 18-foot catch has been reduced to a skeleton.

A crowd gathers to gawk and imagine what the magnificent marlin once was. Santiago completed his journey with nothing, but he felt purified for the battle and slept deeply and proudly.

As we pick through the bones of Barry Bonds, I can't imagine Jeff Novitzky feels the same.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## Get The Message?



(AP Photo/Andre Penner)

**AP: An Embraer employee stands with a symbolic coffin displaying a photograph of Frederico Fleury Curado, Embraer's president, at a protest outside the company's plant after Embraer laid off roughly 4,000 workers in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil, Feb. 27, 2009.**

Last week, Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica SA laid off employees, saying the financial crisis has reduced demand for its midsize passenger and executive jets.

A labor court has ordered Embraer to suspend the layoffs until next Thursday, when a conciliation round will be held to see if the company and trade unions can reach an amicable agreement.



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