

## GI SPECIAL 7D4:



**The Troops Betrayed  
And Abandoned:  
Faithless Recreants Sell Out To  
The Obama Regime:  
“The Anti-War Movement Shifted  
Into Low Gear After Obama’s  
Election”**

# **“Code Pink Activists Have Shifted Their Target From War To Wall Street”**

## **“The Once-Robust Out Of Iraq Caucus Has Also Been Largely Silent On The Troop Buildup In Afghanistan”**

**While opportunist rats sell out to the Obama regime, the public turns against the Afghanistan occupation: “There’s polling data showing a higher percentage of those saying that the war in Afghanistan has not been worth it,’ says pollster John Zogby of Zogby International.”**

April 04, 2009 By Gail Russell Chaddock, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

The anti-war movement shifted into low gear after Obama’s election.

Funding and staffing for most groups dropped, in some cases precipitously.

**Code Pink activists – a highly visible presence at war hearings and protests in the Bush years – have shifted their target from war to Wall Street.**

**On Capitol Hill, the once-robust Out of Iraq Caucus has also been largely silent on the troop buildup in Afghanistan.**

**United in opposition to the war in Iraq, liberal Democrats – many of whom have yet to state publicly their view on the buildup – are breaking out more nuanced positions on the war in Afghanistan.**

**Some favor it; some oppose it. All want the president to be successful, and they say it’s too early for a confrontation on the policy.**

But even before they confront the president, Democrats are confronting concerns at home about the new direction of the war in Afghanistan.

Rep. Paul Hodes (D) of New Hampshire, who campaigned against the war in Iraq, saw the first anti-war protests of the Obama administration last month in his hometown of Concord.

**“There’s polling data showing a higher percentage of those saying that the war in Afghanistan has not been worth it,” says pollster John Zogby of Zogby International.**

**As candidate, Obama clearly signaled his intent as president to withdraw US forces from Iraq to refocus energies on the war in Afghanistan.**

That clarity helps give credibility to the steps he's taking now, say Congress watchers.

**“You’ve got a lot of antiwar liberals who said he didn’t really mean that – that he’s just talking that way to look tough.**

**“What we’re learning is that, like many things he’s doing on the domestic front, he’s doing what he said,” says Norman Ornstein a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.**

“He’s got a year – and the protests will start before that,” he adds.

“If it looks like we’re bogged down and lot of Americans are dying, we’re in a different situation.”

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS



**“Changing of the guard: British forces hand over control of Basra airport to Americans” -- Steve Bell**

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# Resistance Action

April 3 (KUNA) & 4.5.09 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer

Five policemen, were injured in a bomb blast near the Police Directorate in Mosul.

Iraqi police officials say two roadside bombs in Iraq's western Anbar province have killed one officer and wounded 9 more police. Police Maj. Khalil Jabbar says a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol exploded Sunday in central Fallujah. Police 1st Lt. Bashar Khudaeir says a second roadside bomb targeting a patrol in another part of the city.

Someone threw a grenade at a police patrol in Samarra, killing one policeman and wounding four

Unknown assailants blew up a house on the western outskirts of Baghdad owned by a government adviser to paramilitary groups. Two guards were injured in the Saturday night attack but the owner, Thamir al-Tamimi, no longer lives there full-time, the official said. Al-Tamimi advises groups known as Awakening Councils or Sons of Iraq, which broke with the insurgents and now work with the army and police to provide security.

Seven policemen, were wounded by a bomb that blasted their patrol in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, according to police Col. Adil Zain al-Abideen.

Insurgent fighters wounded two Iraqi soldiers in two separate incidences when they hurled hand grenades at their patrols in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgent fighters killed a policeman and wounded another four when they opened fire at a moving police car in central Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two mortar rounds wounded a policeman when they landed on a police station, in southeastern Mosul, police said.

Insurgent fighters wounded a policeman when they shot at a police checkpoint in central Mosul, police said.

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

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

**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Evansville Marine Loses Lower Legs In Afghanistan: 23-Year-Old Was 15 Days Away From Coming Home

April 5, 2009 The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Wis. -- In response to her father's worsening medical condition, Stacey Schumacher of Evansville had planned to try to bring her son, a United States Marine, home from Afghanistan, in the hope that Jacob could see his grandfather one last time before he passed away.

But nothing could prepare her for the news that she was about to receive.

"I thought, 'I'm in a dream,'" said Schumacher about a phone call she received on Friday. "It was the scariest phone call I've ever had in my life."

It was a phone call that Schumacher thought was going to be from the hospital in regard to her father. Instead the call was from the U.S. military.

The words on the other end of the line were grim: "Your son has been involved in an explosion and I need to tell you what happened," recalled Schumacher.

23-year-old Jacob Janes, a marine for three years who last year was named "Marine of the Quarter" in the Alpha Company of the Second Combat Engineer Battalion, was badly injured after stepping on an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) while on patrol in Afghanistan.

The call contained more sobering information: "He was getting ready to be operated on," recalled Schumacher. "They were going to amputate both of his legs below the knees."

Later on Friday, Schumacher and some members of her family were at the hospital with her father when she received another call, this time from Jacob himself.

"He said, 'please tell me that my grandfather's not gone,'" said Schumacher. "I said, 'no, but he's pretty bad.'"

Unfortunately the bad news continued hours later when her father's heart gave out, leaving Schumacher to wonder how she would fulfill the promise she made to her son.

"He had said, 'if anything happens to my grandpa,' who's a veteran, he said, 'I want to make sure that you promise me that I'm the one doing the 21-gun salute for him.' And I said, 'OK, I promise,'" remembered Schumacher.

Schumacher plans to honor that promise, but first she'll have to wait for her son to come home, injured, but alive.

“I just want to see him and hug him and let him know that everything is going to be OK,” said Schumacher.

Jacob Janes was just fifteen days away from coming home on his second tour of duty.

Janes is a 2004 graduate of Evansville High School, where he was a varsity wrestler.

Janes is still in Afghanistan but will be transported to Germany in the coming days and eventually back to the United States.

His family said they plan to set up a fund for Jacob. Stay tuned to WISC-TV and channel3000.com for more information on that effort.

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## **NATO Will Send About 5,000 Additional Troops And Trainers To Afghanistan:**

**“Conspicuously Absent Are The  
Extra Combat Troops That The  
United States Had Requested”  
“The War Is Increasingly Unpopular With  
Many Europeans, Making Their Leaders  
Leery Of Sending More Soldiers”**

April 5, 2009 Henry Chu, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

NATO announced Saturday that it will send about 5,000 additional troops and trainers to Afghanistan, a boost that President Obama hailed, but one that failed to include the combat forces his administration had sought.

But even as European leaders stressed the importance of the Afghan mission, the boost announced Saturday pales in size next to the so-called “surge” of 21,000 U.S. troops that Obama has pledged to send to help fight the resurgent Taliban.

NATO’s increased deployment will include 3,000 soldiers on temporary assignment to assist in securing national elections scheduled for the troubled Central Asian nation in August. The remainder will provide training for the Afghan army, to encourage its transformation from a ragtag band into a professional, well-equipped military.

Conspicuously absent are the extra combat troops that the United States had requested, an indication of how deeply divided many NATO countries remain about the war effort and their role in it.

In detailing a new strategy last month, the Obama administration added 4,000 additional U.S. troops to serve as trainers, raising the new forces being deployed by Obama to 21,000.

That raises the overall U.S. force to nearly 60,000, serving with about 35,000 NATO troops.

But the war is increasingly unpopular with many Europeans, making their leaders leery of sending more soldiers.

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## **“Afghanistan Seems To Have A Deranging Effect On Its Occupiers” “The Illusion Is That Adding 21,000 Troops To The 38,000 U.S. Soldiers And 50,000 NATO Soldiers Could Possibly Make A Difference”**

April 2, 2009 By Conn Hallinan, Foreign Policy In Focus [Excerpts]

At first glance, the decision to send 21,000 more U.S. troops into a conflict that has dragged on for almost 30 years seems to combine equal parts illusion and amnesia: illusion that the soldiers could make a difference, amnesia in trying something that already failed disastrously in 2005.

But then, Afghanistan seems to have a deranging effect on its occupiers.

In the summer of 2006, British Lt. Gen. David Richards, then commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in Southern Afghanistan, backed a surge in troops to end the insurgency in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

The Taliban, he said, would soon “start dancing to my tune,” and the surge was creating an environment in “which most people, including many Taliban, have just had enough fighting.”

Three years later, though troop levels have more than quadrupled, Kandahar is under siege and Helmand is unarguably the most dangerous province in the country.

As former British Foreign Service officer Rory Stewart argues, “when the decision to increase the number of troops in 2005 was made, there was no insurgency.” Indeed, the

surge — and the civilian casualties that accompanied it — ignited the current resistance movement.

Back then the Taliban controlled 54% of the country. Today that figure is 72% and rising.

**The illusion is that adding 21,000 troops to the 38,000 U.S. soldiers and 50,000 NATO soldiers could possibly make a difference.**

**The United States, with 500,000 soldiers, couldn't prevail in Vietnam, a country of 67,000 square miles and 19 million people.**

**Afghanistan has half again that population and 250,000 square miles of some of the planet's most unforgiving terrain.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**



[Thanks to Elaine Brower, Military Project]

**“My Son Has Been There Twice, And He Believes Military Action Over There Is Just Not The Right Way To Go About This”**

**“They Marched To Protest An Increase In Deployments To Afghanistan”**

April 4, 2009 BY GIOVANNA FABIANO, NorthJersey.com [Excerpts]

FORT LEE – Forty-two years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous “Beyond Vietnam” speech, condemning the evils of war, a group of North Jersey protesters marched across the George Washington Bridge on Saturday to deliver a similar message about military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Jo Ann and Bob Drozd of West Milford, said they marched to protest an increase in deployments to Afghanistan, where their son, a specialist in the Army, has served two tours of duty.

“My son has been there twice, and he believes military action over there is just not the right way to go about this,” Jo Ann Drozd said. “Our economy is in trouble, and we’re pouring trillions of dollars into an abyss, with no end in sight.”

Her husband, Bob, said troops are being sent to the region for multiple tours, even when they have been injured.

“My son’s friend was wounded twice and was sent back again with shrapnel in his soldier,” he said.

“It’s just so wrong.”

**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

**Officer Kills Soldier, Runs Away  
From The Battlefield And Lies  
About What Happened:  
The Brass Solve The Problem By  
“Blaming The Dead Hero,  
Stonewalling His Family And  
Promoting His Killer”  
“We Felt Betrayed The Way Our Son Was  
Betrayed”**



Pfc. David Sharrett with his dad, David, at Fort Benning, Ga.

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: There's a video attached to the article, taken from a drone. It says that the squad found "unarmed insurgents".]

April 1st 2009 BY James Gordon Meek, DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WASHINGTON - Army brass in Iraq whitewashed an incident of a soldier killed by his own lieutenant by blaming the dead hero, stonewalling his family and promoting his killer, the Daily News has learned.**

The friendly-fire victim, Pfc. David Sharrett, 27, of Oakton, Va., was "misidentified" by 1st Lt. Timothy Hanson as an enemy gunman during a botched night raid Jan. 16, 2008, against an Al Qaeda in Iraq stronghold north of Baghdad, the Army belatedly acknowledged.

Sharrett bled to death as his buddies searched frantically for him for 25 minutes after the firefight ended.

**For four months after the Army knew the truth, it still insisted to Sharrett's father that he was killed by enemy fire - and gave only a temporary wrist slap to Hanson under pressure from the families of Sharrett and two other G.I.s killed in the clash.**

After The News uncovered new video evidence and raised questions, a 101st Airborne Division general said the probe into Sharrett's death may reopen. "The final decisions and dispositions have yet to be made," Brig. Gen. Steve Townsend said.

**Sharrett's family claims top officers in the legendary "Screaming Eagles" division initially - and angrily - denied friendly fire was involved, claiming for months that insurgents killed Sharrett when his eight-man team tried to capture six suspects in a rural thicket.**

The unit's ex-commander, Lt. Col. Robert McCarthy, insists he's been "nothing but open" with the families of Sharrett and two buddies killed by enemy fire that night, Cpl. John Sigsbee of upstate Waterville and Pfc. Danny Kimme of Fisher, Ill.

The families of those two men blame officers for other fatal errors.

McCarthy told The News last week he knew within days of Sharrett's death that a soldier had killed him, but he was unable to prove his father was notified before May - three months after the Army finished its flawed probe.

A ballistics test in February matched Hanson's M-4 rifle to the round removed from Sharrett.

"The Army lied to us," the slain hero's dad, also named David, charged Tuesday.

"We felt betrayed the way our son was betrayed."

Three days after the friendly-fire probe began on Jan. 24, McCarthy e-mailed the elder Sharrett, claiming it was "a fierce grenade and small-arms fight that resulted in the deaths."

**The Army's probe eventually faulted Hanson, 30, of Janesville, Wis., for a series of blunders, including flying away in a chopper and "leaving no leader from the team on the ground" to find and help his soldiers.**

**But his commanders didn't punish him.**

"I don't view it as colossal failures," McCarthy said. "I think he made some mistakes."

**He called Hanson a "great and steady" leader.**

**Hanson, since promoted to captain and serving as a brigade staff officer at Fort Campbell, Ky., would not return calls for comment.**

Nine months after Sharrett was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, McCarthy's boss, Col. Michael McBride, caved to pressure from the families with a temporary written reprimand for Hanson - which was removed from his file when he left Iraq days later.

This year, McBride and McCarthy reversed course again and recommended a tougher reprimand in Hanson's permanent record. But Gen. Townsend ordered a review by uninvolved officers.

The families want career-ending punishment for Hanson, McCarthy and McBride.

**"McCarthy should be relieved of duty and Hanson should be court-martialed," said Douglas Kimme, an Illinois cop.**

**Officers in the initial probe blamed Sharrett for his own death.**

**They said Sharrett and the others didn't switch on infrared lights, which mark them as "friendly," to other troops wearing night-vision goggles. They said Hanson shot Sharrett "mistakenly believing he was an enemy."**

After the shooting, "Sharrett's whereabouts were initially unknown" because his light "was not on," an investigating officer wrote.

**But the report ignored Hanson's own admission, backed up by one of his soldiers, that he did not give his men time to turn the beacons on, or order them to do so.**

That was a "leader failure," McCarthy said.

**The report also omitted that an overhead drone had an infrared camera clearly displaying Sharrett's body heat, which his commanders didn't use to guide the search for the dying soldier.**

**Hanson left the battlefield while it was still "hot" aboard a chopper, even though four soldiers were unaccounted for, which, McCarthy said, "I would not have done."**

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## **DoD Announces 4,000 Off To Obama's Afghan Slaughterhouse**

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

03 Apr 2009 U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) Release No. 214-09

The Department of Defense announced today the deployment of approximately 4,000 additional service members to Afghanistan, pursuant to the President's approval of the Afghanistan-Pakistan strategic review.

These forces will be assigned to the ongoing training and mentoring mission in Afghanistan.

Approximately 3,300 soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C., along with approximately 700 additional training and support personnel will deploy to Afghanistan in the spring and through the summer of 2009, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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## **Miss Universe Had A 'Lot Of Fun' In Guantanamo:**

**“We Visited The Detainees Camps  
And We Saw The Jails”**

**“I Didn’t Want To Leave, It Was Such  
A Relaxing Place, So Calm And  
Beautiful”**

**“We Also Met The Military Dogs, And  
They Did A Very Nice Demonstration Of  
Their Skills”**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

31 March 2009 Reuters

A “relaxing, calm, beautiful place” may not be everyone’s description of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the United States holds about 240 prisoners in a detention centre that has drawn condemnation from around the world.

But this was the opinion of reigning Miss Universe Dayana Mendoza of Venezuela, who visited the US naval facility in eastern Cuba this month on a trip organised by the United Service Organisations (USO) which supports US troops.

The Guantanamo Bay base, whose presence Cuba’s government has contested as illegal for years, is used by US authorities as a prison camp for foreign terrorism suspects.

Critics have condemned it as a symbol of abuses in Washington’s war on terrorism launched after the 11 September, 2001 attacks.

Caracas-born Mendoza, 22, who visited the facility between 20-25 March along with Miss USA Crystle Stewart, 27, enthused about her Guantanamo trip as an “incredible experience” in a blog entry posted on the Miss Universe website dated 27 March 27, 2009.

“It was a looooot of fun!” Mendoza wrote, describing how she and Stewart met US military personnel and took rides around the camp, which is encircled by a barbed-wire fenced, minefields and watchtowers.

She said they also visited a bar on the base and the “unbelievable” beach there.

“We visited the Detainees camps and we saw the jails, where they shower, how the(y) recreate themselves with movies, classes of art, books. It was very interesting,” she wrote.

“I didn’t want to leave, it was such a relaxing place, so calm and beautiful,” she added.

Former detainees and human rights groups have alleged the use of torture, including “waterboarding” (simulated drowning) and other physical abuses, at the Guantanamo prison.

Recounting her “memorable” trip, Mendoza, who was crowned Miss Universe 2008 in Vietnam, said: “We also met the military dogs, and they did a very nice demonstration of their skills. All the guys from the Army were amazing with us.”

Before the visit, USO had announced Mendoza and Stewart were being “deployed” to Guantanamo on an entertainment tour to visit US troops abroad to “boost morale.”

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## **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.**

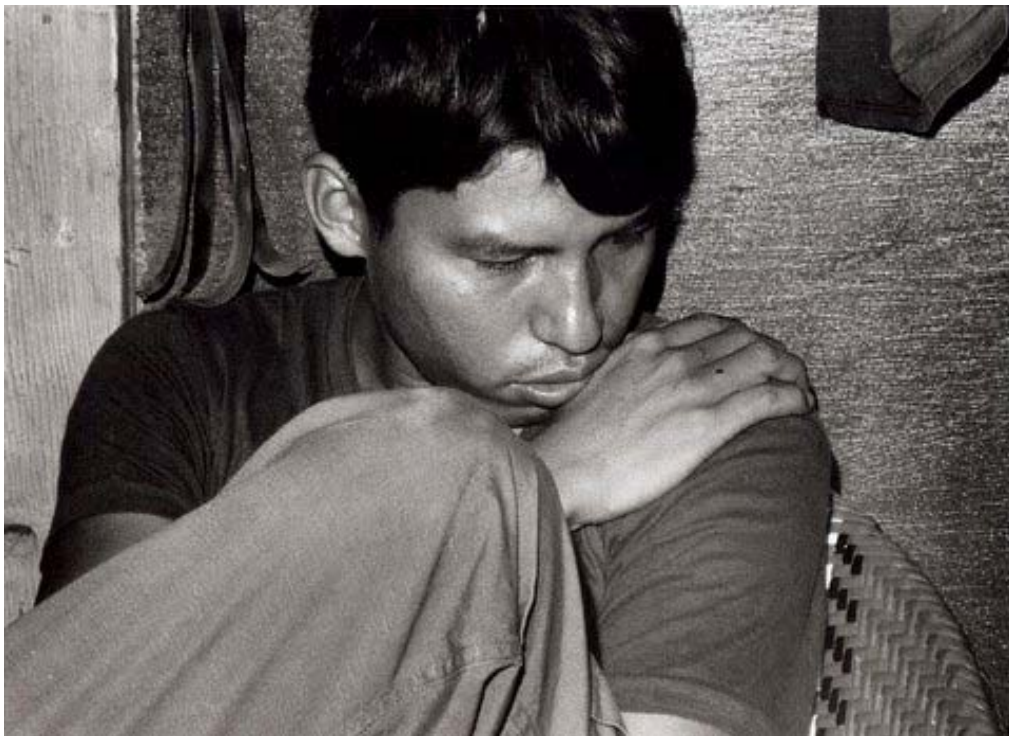
**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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## **The Issues Are In The Tissues**



**I took this of a fellow medic in Vietnam.**

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 31, 2009  
Subject: The Issues Are In The Tissues

### **The Issues Are In The Tissues**

**The U.S. Government is a Gangster Government.  
You can't dialogue with gangsters.  
Gangsters make money by killing and stealing.  
True democracy died a long time ago in America.  
In Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos,  
the U.S. Government bombed everything.**

Civilian targets were military targets.  
The U.S. Government killed anything that moved,  
because that is what gangster governments do.  
This is nothing new here with Empire Governments.  
Fast forward two generations after the Vietnam War,  
and we are the same gangster government doing  
the same thing in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.  
You don't have to have a Ph.D in History or Political  
Science to nail this one.  
It's not that difficult.  
As a Vietnam veteran, I still carry the lies of Vietnam  
in my body tissues.  
For me, it is not academic.  
It never has been.  
It is all about morality.  
It is all about putting your head on hold,  
and feeling the pain behind all of the lies.  
When the intellect can no longer censor the soul,  
the truth is born.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
March 31, 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

**The Wall Street Journal Gets It:  
“Populist Anger” Is “Like A Long-  
Caged Animal Now On The  
Loose”:**



**“Obama’s Strategy For Dealing With  
The Resulting Anger Has Been To  
Call It Understandable -- And Then,  
Having Accepted It As Legitimate, Try  
To Damp It Down”  
“The Distribution Of Income Has Become  
Skewed In Recent Years”**

APRIL 2, 2009 By GERALD F. SEIB, Wall St. Journal

Populist anger is like a long-caged animal now on the loose, and the success of President Barack Obama’s economic policy may well depend on whether he can tame it and put it to good use in the next few months.

The crucial test likely will come late in the year, if the president has to return to Congress to get another -- perhaps final -- dose of money to complete the rescue of the financial sector.

Right now, the surge in populist sentiment means there is virtually no political support for such a move; the key question is whether passions can be cooled by the fall.

To fully appreciate this challenge, consider a little-noted but significant turn of events in Congress this week. In the budget it submitted for the next fiscal year, the Obama administration tried to quietly pave the way for another dose of financial-bailout money by including a placeholder request for \$250 billion in rescue funds, to start financing the ultimate purchase of perhaps an additional \$750 billion in toxic bank assets.

But now the House and Senate are finishing up budget bills that have simply sliced out that money.

If the administration needs more rescue funds later this year -- and most analysts think that’s likely -- it will be starting from scratch.

That won’t be easy, because the populism now standing in the way has some deep roots.

**It’s tempting to think it all started with those big bonuses for executives from firms being bailed out with billions of dollars in taxpayer money.**

**Tempting -- but incorrect.**

**Bonuses may have sent the pitchfork brigades into the streets, but the social forces behind the surge have been years in the making.**

**The primary cause is a broad feeling, now upheld by a large body of academic work, that the distribution of income has become skewed in recent years.**

**Put simply, those at the top of the income ladder have done noticeably better in the past two decades than have those in the middle or bottom.**

Frank Levy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a leading scholar of income trends, has noted that median family income, in constant 2005 dollars, rose from about \$22,000 to \$50,000 during the period from the end of World War II through 1980.

Since then, except for a bump up in the latter 1990s, median family income has been relatively flat.

In fact, Census Bureau statistics show it actually fell from 2000 to 2007.

In the top 1% of American households, meanwhile, median income increased by about \$250,000 between 1986 and 2005.

But that tells only part of the story.

A disproportionate share of this increase at the top has come from the financial sector -- the very sector that has been dragging down the entire economy. Income growth for those in the financial sector tracked other industries through the early 1980s but then began moving well ahead of other businesses. "When we say that the top 1% of tax filers now receive something over 17% of all taxable income, it will not surprise you that a significant fraction of that top 1% comes from the financial sector," Mr. Levy noted in a late-2007 speech, just before the storm hit the financial world.

As the financial sector was soaring, the manufacturing base -- traditional source of so many of those earlier gains in the middle incomes -- was undergoing a broad contraction.

The recent numbers are dramatic. In this decade alone, the U.S. has lost 4.8 million manufacturing jobs.

While unemployment nationally hovers around 8%, in the manufacturing sector it stands at 11.5%, and has more than doubled in a year's time.

Meanwhile, some of the social sinews that once linked those at the top and those in the middle of the income scales also have come undone. Military service, once a great social equalizer bringing together upper and lower classes, is increasingly a middle- and lower-class enterprise.

As public schools in cities have declined, a growing share of upper-income Americans have opted for private education.

The cumulative result is a more stratified society.

**Mr. Obama's strategy for dealing with the resulting anger has been to call it understandable -- and then, having accepted it as legitimate, try to damp it down.**

That's why you saw the president, on the day the House passed a bill to slap a 90% tax on bonuses paid to executives of American International Group and others, issue a statement saying the vote "rightly reflects the outrage that so many feel" -- but then almost immediately dial back the rhetoric to say "we're all in this together."

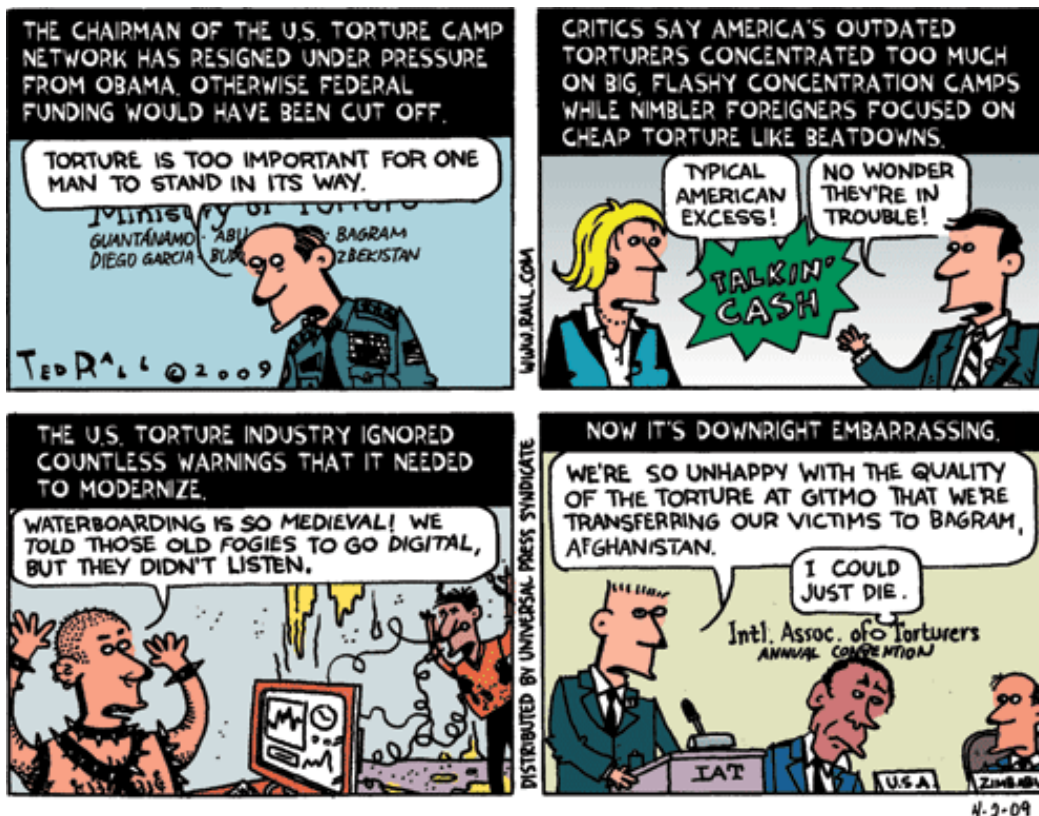
It's also why the White House has been quiet as the drive to pass any similar bonus-bashing bill in the Senate has slowed to a crawl.

In the long run, the administration is trying to tell the pitchfork brigades that it intends to use the power of government to try to reduce income gaps -- raising taxes on the wealthy, cutting those on the middle class, giving refundable tax credits to the working poor.

When Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was asked about income inequality on ABC's "This Week" last weekend, he said explicitly: "It should go down."

The goal, he said, is a recovery in which "the gains are more broadly shared across the economy as a whole."

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



3/31

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**Are We Ready For A National  
Strike?**

**“Are Citizens Ready To Defy The  
Corporate State? To Occupy  
Congress?”**  
**“Not Just Yet, But I Wouldn’t Park On  
The Tracks”**  
**“Our Soldiers Are Coming Home, And  
They’ve Been Two Tiered Too Long”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran and United Auto Workers, who sent this in.]

Mar 31, 2009 By Gregg Shotwell, Live Bait & Ammo #127

Gregg Shotwell is a retired GM/Delphi worker and founder of the Soldiers of Solidarity network

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THE CREDIT crisis jammed the automakers’ restructuring plan like a semi jackknifed on the highway.

But the rescue plan reveals a more insidious malady than credit default swaps and pimped-out politicians.

Two tier.

Two tier has morphed from a union concession in collective bargaining to a standard American bias. Two tier is a whopping bonus to the rich and a moral hazard whip to the poor.

Two tier delivers bailouts to the investor class and foreclosures to the outsourced class.

Two tier is not a cure, it’s a curse.

Two tier demands more jails and less schools; more arsenals and less tools; more greed and less kindness; more revenge and less justice.

Two tier is not a solution to economic crisis.

Two tier is a symptom of social decadence.

Master Madoff couldn’t devise a more sinister method of bankrupting a family every hour of every day than our two tier system of health insurance.

But health care for profit is just another symptom of social decay in the land of the free marketer and the home of the wage slave.

People express outrage when executives at AIG are rewarded for failure, but Delphi workers are used to it. Every three months for the last three years, Judge Drain has awarded millions of dollars in bonuses to the very executives whose mismanagement and fraud drove Delphi into a J.P.Morgan-financed bankruptcy.

Who believes the government will manage GM and Chrysler differently in a so-called “surgical bankruptcy”?

**We know where all the cuts will come.**

**Workers take pay cuts, job cuts, benefit cuts.**

**Executives take home cash in wheelbarrows.**

The crisis in manufacturing can't be quarantined in Detroit or amputated with buyouts. Every manufacturer in America is on the gurney. We are merging into the ranks of nations who are neither self-sufficient nor independently wealthy. No one needs or desires to import our financial wizardry.

**Manufacturing in the U.S. hasn't failed from a lack of skills or productivity.**

**It was waylaid by a lack of political will to provide (1) universal single-payer health care and (2) investment in products that confront the dual challenge of environmental crisis and energy independence.**

Government support for more concessions rather than long-term investment means more of the same.

Two tier is the predicate of class conflict.

A society that degrades rather than rewards labor is self-destructive, not competitive.

Two tier may prevail in the precincts of law and yellow dog contracts, but sooner or later, the underclass will push the pendulum back.

Some of us aren't waiting for leaders to emerge.

When Magna Inc. and their UAW partners presented workers at New Process Gear in Syracuse, N.Y., with an ultimatum--accept more concessions or the plant will close--workers voted to close. Twice.

Within weeks of the first vote, Magna was back with another offer, but workers had had enough.

**Every crisis has a bottom. Bottom isn't a wage cut, a speed-up or an unfair labor practice.**

Bottom is the point at which one worker says to another worker, "Enough is enough," and together, they begin pushing back.

Are we there yet? Are we ready for a national strike? Are citizens ready to defy the corporate state? To occupy Congress?

Not just yet, but I wouldn't park on the tracks.

Our soldiers are coming home, and they've been two tiered too long.

**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

## **'Ontario Residents Only' At Tent City**

**"They Are Tagging Us Because We Are Homeless" "It Feels Like A Concentration Camp"**

**"When My Husband Gets Out Of Jail He Can Bring My Marriage Certificate; Will That Count? Asked One Tearful Woman"**

**"Another Resident, Clearly Confused, Seemed Relieved To Get A White Band -- Not Understanding It Meant She Had To Leave"**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in, with comments in the text.

[She writes: Congress shall make no law. . .abridging. . . the right to peaceably assemble. I, (NAME), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. . .]



Tent City residents gather as the city of Ontario starts the process of sorting out who may stay and who must leave. The city issued wristbands – blue for Ontario residents, who may stay, orange for people who need to provide more documentation, and white for those who must leave. Photo: Irfan Khan, Los Angeles Times [The woman in gloves--is she afraid she'll catch something from her clipboard?]

March 18, 2008 By David Kelly, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

**Dozens of Ontario police and code enforcement officers descended upon the homeless encampment known as Tent City early Monday, separating those who could stay from those to be evicted.**

**Large, often confused, crowds formed ragged lines behind police barricades where officers handed out color-coded wristbands.**

**Blue meant they were from Ontario and could remain.**

**Orange indicated they had to provide more proof to avoid ejection, and white meant they had a week to leave.**

**Many who had taken shelter at the camp -- which had grown from 20 to more than 400 residents in nine months -- lacked paperwork, bills or birth certificates proving they were once Ontario residents.**

**“When my husband gets out of jail he can bring my marriage certificate; will that count?” asked one tearful woman.**



**Another resident, clearly confused, seemed relieved to get a white band -- not understanding it meant she had to leave.**

**Pattie Barnes, 47, who had her motor home towed away last week, shook with anger.**

**"They are tagging us because we are homeless," she said, staring at her orange wristband. "It feels like a concentration camp."**

Ontario officials, citing health and safety issues, say it is necessary to thin out Tent City. The move to dramatically reduce the population curtails an experiment begun last year to provide a city-approved camp where homeless people would not be harassed.

Land that includes tents, toilets and water had been set aside near Ontario International Airport for the homeless. Officials intended to limit the camp and its amenities to local homeless people, but did little to enforce that as the site rapidly expanded, attracting people from as far away as Florida.

"We have to be sensitive, and we will give people time to locate documents," said Brent Schultz, the city's housing and neighborhood revitalization director.

**"But we have always said this was for Ontario's homeless and not the region's homeless. We can't take care of the whole area."**

Officials believe the local homeless number about 140, less than half of those currently in residence.

**Schultz wants to reduce Tent City to 170 people in a regulated, fenced-off area rather than the sprawling open-air campsite it has become.**

**Even before the large-scale action Monday, police last week moved out parolees and towed about 20 dilapidated motor homes. [Only upscale motor homes need apply]**

A list of safety rules, including one banning pets, has been posted. The city says there is a threat of dog bites and possible disease from the animals.

**The no-pet order caused widespread anger and tears Monday as some homeless people said they could not imagine life without their dogs.**

Many have three or four and vowed to leave Tent City before giving the dogs up.

"I will go to jail before they take my dog," said an emotional Diane Ritchey, 47. "That's a part of me as much as anything. The dogs are as homeless as we are."

**Cindy Duke, 40, hugged Ritchey, who was sobbing.**

**"I had to give up my 6-year-old son because I was homeless and I'll be damned if I give up my dog too," Duke said.**

**Celeste Trettin, 53, rolled up in a wheelchair. She and her husband have an Ontario address but have lived for years in a truck, parking wherever they found a safe place. Trettin, who got an orange wristband, said she believed she would be able to find the paperwork to prove she was from Ontario.**

**“We thought if we came here we could save some money, but now they have pulled the rug out from under us,” said Trettin, who has fibromyalgia, a painful disorder.**

Marty Tovar took it all in stride. The 53-year old Mentone man had fresh bumps and cuts on his face after being on the receiving end of a recent assault. He didn't seem to care if he had to leave.

“It doesn't anger me; it angers a lot of other people here but not me,” he said, wearing no shirt under his blue overalls. “If I got to go I'll just catch the next bus to the next town. Every town has a park.”

Still, by noon only one man had taken up an offer of free taxi rides back to their home cities, returning the 50 miles to Victorville, said Det. Jeff Higbee, spokesman for the Ontario police.

**“By next Monday we should have everyone who is supposed to be gone out of here,” Higbee said.**

**“The wristbands are only temporary so we can identify everyone.”**

As the local homeless people were separated from the others, city workers were busy setting up fencing for the new encampment. Those who are approved will get 90-day renewable permits to stay.

Peter Bibring, staff attorney with the America Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, toured Tent City and spoke with local officials.

“We are concerned that however they go about trying to reduce this population they don't depend on arrests or property seizures for people who have no other place to go and are just looking for a place to sleep,” he said.

“We will continue to monitor the situation.”

Although no one at the camp seemed happy about efforts to shrink Tent City, some tried to see Ontario's point of view.

Tina Gove, 39, was evicted from her Pomona home and has been at the encampment for three months.

**Like many others in Tent City, her life has been marked by drug problems and mental illness. [Apparently none are homeless because of the economy? Looks like they took away the free press, too.]**

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