

Military Resistance 9B26



Vietnam War Days: cruzine.com/2010/10/19/war-memories-photography/
[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

The Gap Is Bridged: Our Future Will Be Secure In Their Hands

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, for sending this in.]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btuU_vIPaF8

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7K0wn73uJU>

**“The Pathway Of Tyrants Lies
Over Volcanoes”**

**“Oppression, Organized As Ours Is,
Will Appear Invincible Up To The
Very Hour Of Its Fall”**

**“Those Who Enslave, Rob, And Torment
Their Cooks, May Well Expect To Find
Death In Their Dinner-Pots”**



Your fathers have said that man's right to liberty is self-evident. There is no need of argument to make it clear. The voices of nature, of conscience, of reason, and of revelation, proclaim it as the right of all rights, the foundation of all trust, and of all responsibility. The sun in the sky is not more palpable to the sight than man's right to liberty is to the moral vision.

Not all the skill of politicians, North and South, not all the sophistries of Judges, not all the fulminations of a corrupt press, not all the hypocritical prayers, or the hypocritical refusals to pray of a hollow-hearted priesthood, not all the devices of sin and Satan, can save the vile thing from extermination.

May 1857 By Frederick Douglass, Speech on the Dred Scott Decision [Excerpt]

Dred Scott v. Sandford was a decision by the United States Supreme Court, 1857, written by Chief Justice Taney, ruling that people of African descent imported into the United States and held as slaves (or their descendants, whether or not they were slaves) were not protected by the Constitution, and that “The negro has no rights which the white man is bound to respect.”

While four millions of our fellow countrymen are in chains--while men, women, and children are bought and sold on the auction-block with horses, sheep, and swine--while the remorseless slave--whip draws the warm blood of our common humanity--it is meet that we assemble as we have done to-day, and lift up our hearts and voices in earnest denunciation of the vile and shocking abomination.

It is not for us to be governed by our hopes or our fears in this great work; yet it is natural on occasions like this, to survey the position of the great struggle which is going on between slavery and freedom, and to dwell upon such signs of encouragement as may have been lately developed, and the state of feeling these signs or events have occasioned in us and among the people generally.

It is a fitting time to take an observation to ascertain where we are, and what our prospects are.

To many, the prospects of the struggle against slavery seem far from cheering.

Eminent men, North and South, in Church and State, tell us that the omens are all against us.

Emancipation, they tell us, is a wild, delusive idea; the price of human flesh was never higher than now; slavery was never more closely entwined about the hearts and affections of the southern people than now; that whatever of conscientious scruple, religious conviction, or public policy, which opposed the system of slavery forty or fifty years ago, has subsided; and that slavery never reposed upon a firmer basis than now.

Completing this picture of the happy and prosperous condition of this system of wickedness, they tell us that this state of things is to be set to our account. Abolition agitation has done it all.

How deep is the misfortune of my poor, bleeding people, if this be so! How lost their condition, if even the efforts of their friends but sink them deeper in ruin!

Without assenting to this strong representation of the increasing strength and stability of slavery, without denouncing what of untruth pervades it, I own myself not insensible to the many difficulties and discouragement that beset us on every hand. They fling their broad and gloomy shadows across the pathway of every thoughtful colored man in this country.

For one, I see them clearly, and feel them sadly. With an earnest, aching heart, I have long looked for the realization of the hope of my people. Standing, as it were, barefoot,

and treading upon the sharp and flinty rocks of the present, and looking out upon the boundless sea of the future, I have sought, in my humble way, to penetrate the intervening mists and clouds, and, perchance, to descry, in the dim and shadowy distance, the white flag of freedom, the precise speck of time at which the cruel bondage of my people should end, and the long entombed millions rise from the foul grave of slavery and death.

But of that time I can know nothing, and you can know nothing. All is uncertain at that point.

One thing, however, is certain; slaveholders are in earnest, and mean to cling to their slaves as long as they can, and to the bitter end.

They show no sign of a wish to quit their iron grasp upon the sable throats of their victims.

Their motto is, "a firmer hold and a tighter grip" for every new effort that is made to break their cruel power.

The case is one of life or death with them, and they will give up only when they must do that or do worse.

In one view the slaveholders have a decided advantage over all opposition.

It is well to notice this advantage--the advantage of complete organization.

They are organized; and yet were not at the pains of creating their organizations.

The State governments, where the system of slavery exists, are complete slavery organizations.

The church organizations in those States are equally at the service of slavery; while the Federal Government, with its army and navy, from the chief magistracy in Washington, to the Supreme Court, and thence to the chief marshalship at New York, is pledged to support, defend, and propagate the crying curse of human bondage.

The pen, the purse, and the sword, are united against the simple truth, preached by humble men in obscure places.

This is one view.

It is, thank God, only one view; there is another, and a brighter view.

David, you know, looked small and insignificant when going to meet Goliath, but looked larger when he had slain his foe.

The Malakoff [a fortress in Russia stormed by French soldiers] was, to the eye of the world, impregnable, till the hour it fell before the shot and shell of the allied army.

Thus hath it ever been.

Oppression, organized as ours is, will appear invincible up to the very hour of its fall.

Sir, let us look at the other side, and see if there are not some things to cheer our heart and nerve us up anew in the good work of emancipation.

Take this fact--for it is a fact--the anti-slavery movement has, from first to last, suffered no abatement.

It has gone forth in all directions, and is now felt in the remotest extremities of the Republic.

It started small, and was without capital either in men or money. The odds were all against it.

It literally had nothing to lose, and everything to gain.

There was ignorance to be enlightened, error to be combatted, conscience to be awakened, prejudice to be overcome, apathy to be aroused, the right of speech to be secured, mob violence to be subdued, and a deep, radical change to be wrought in the mind and heart of the whole nation.

This great work, under God, has gone on, and gone on gloriously.

Amid all changes, fluctuations, assaults, and adverses of every kind, it has remained firm in its purpose, steady in its aim, onward and upward, defying all opposition, and never losing a single battle.

Our strength is in the growth of anti-slavery conviction, and this has never halted.

There is a significant vitality about this abolition movement. It has taken a deeper, broader, and more lasting hold upon the national heart than ordinary reform movements. Other subjects of much interest come and go, expand and contract, blaze and vanish, but the huge question of American Slavery, comprehending, as it does, not merely the weal or the woe of four millions, and their countless posterity, but the weal or the woe of this entire nation, must increase in magnitude and in majesty with every hour of its history.

From a cloud not bigger than a man's hand, it has overspread the heavens.

It has risen from a grain not bigger than a mustard seed. Yet see the fowls of the air, how they crowd its branches.

Politicians who cursed it, now defend it; ministers, once dumb, now speak in its praise; and presses, which once flamed with hot denunciations against it, now surround the sacred cause as by a wall of living fire.

Politicians go with it as a pillar of cloud by day, and the press as a pillar of fire by night. With these ancient tokens of success, I, for one, will not despair of our cause.

Those who have undertaken to suppress and crush out this agitation for Liberty and humanity, have been most woefully disappointed.

Many who have engaged to put it down, have found themselves put down.

The agitation has pursued them in all their meanderings, broken in upon their seclusion, and, at the very moment of fancied security, it has settled down upon them like a mantle of unquenchable fire.

Clay, Calhoun, and Webster each tried his hand at suppressing the agitation; and they went to their graves disappointed and defeated.

Loud and exultingly have we been told that the slavery question is settled, and settled forever.

You remember it was settled thirty-seven years ago, when Missouri was admitted into the Union with a slaveholding constitution, and slavery prohibited in all territory north of thirty-six degrees of north latitude.

Just fifteen years afterwards, it was settled again by voting down the right of petition, and gagging down free discussion in Congress.

Ten years after this it was settled again by the annexation of Texas, and with it the war with Mexico.

In 1850 it was again settled. This was called a final settlement. By it slavery was virtually declared to be the equal of Liberty, and should come into the Union on the same terms. By it the right and the power to hunt down men, women, and children, in every part of this country, was conceded to our southern brethren, in order to keep them in the Union.

Four years after this settlement, the whole question was once more settled, and settled by a settlement which unsettled all the former settlements.

The fact is, the more the question has been settled, the more it has needed settling.

The space between the different settlements has been strikingly on the decrease.

The first stood longer than any of its successors.

This last settlement must be called the Taney settlement. We are now --the second, ten years--the third, five years--the fourth stood four years --and the fifth has stood the brief space of two years.

This last settlement must be called the Taney settlement.

We are now told, in tones of lofty exultation, that the day is lost all lost and that we might as well give up the struggle. The highest authority has spoken. The voice of the Supreme Court has gone out over the troubled waves of the National Conscience, saying peace, be still.

This infamous decision of the Slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court maintains that slaves are within the contemplation of the Constitution of the United States, property; that slaves are property in the same sense that horses, sheep, and swine are property; that the old doctrine that slavery is a creature of local law is false; that the right of the slaveholder to his slave does not depend upon the local law, but is secured wherever the Constitution of the United States extends; that Congress has no right to prohibit slavery anywhere; that slavery may go in safety anywhere under the star-spangled banner; that colored persons of African descent have no rights that white men are bound to respect; that colored men of African descent are not and cannot be citizens of the United States.

You will readily ask me how I am affected by this devilish decision--this judicial incarnation of wolfishness?

My answer is, and no thanks to the slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court, my hopes were never brighter than now.

I have no fear that the National Conscience will be put to sleep by such an open, glaring, and scandalous tissue of lies as that decision is, and has been, over and over, shown to be.

The Supreme Court of the United States is not the only power in this world. It is very great, but the Supreme Court of the Almighty is greater.

Judge Taney can do many things, but he cannot perform impossibilities. He cannot bale out the ocean, annihilate the firm old earth, or pluck the silvery star of liberty from our Northern sky. He may decide, and decide again; but he cannot reverse the decision of the Most High. He cannot change the essential nature of things--making evil good, and good evil.

Happily for the whole human family, their rights have been defined, declared, and decided in a court higher than the Supreme Court. "There is a law," says Brougham, "above all the enactments of human codes, and by that law, unchangeable and eternal, man cannot hold property in man."

Your fathers have said that man's right to liberty is self-evident. There is no need of argument to make it clear. The voices of nature, of conscience, of reason, and of revelation, proclaim it as the right of all rights, the foundation of all trust, and of all responsibility.

Man was born with it. It was his before he comprehended it. The deed conveying it to him is written in the center of his soul, and is recorded in Heaven.

The sun in the sky is not more palpable to the sight than man's right to liberty is to the moral vision.

To decide against this right in the person of Dred Scott, or the humblest and most whip-scarred bondman in the land, is to decide against God. It is an open rebellion against God's government. It is an attempt to undo what God has done, to blot out the broad distinction instituted by the Allwise between men and things, and to change the image and superscription of the everliving God into a speechless piece of merchandise.

Such a decision cannot stand. God will be true though every man be a liar. We can appeal from this hell-black judgment of the Supreme Court, to the court of common sense and common humanity. We can appeal from man to God. If there is no justice on earth, there is yet justice in heaven. You may close your Supreme Court against the black man's cry for justice, but you cannot, thank God, close against him the ear of a sympathizing world, nor shut up the Court of Heaven.

All that is merciful and just, on earth and in Heaven, will execrate and despise this edict of Taney.

If it were at all likely that the people of these free States would tamely submit to this demoniacal judgment, I might feel gloomy and sad over it, and possibly it might be necessary for my people to look for a home in some other country.

But as the case stands, we have nothing to fear.

In one point of view, we, the abolitionists and colored people, should meet this decision, unlooked for and monstrous as it appears, in a cheerful spirit.

This very attempt to blot out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the downfall and complete overthrow of the whole slave system.

The whole history of the anti-slavery movement is studded with proof that all measures devised and executed with a view to ally and diminish the anti-slavery agitation, have only served to increase, intensify, and embolden that agitation.

This wisdom of the crafty has been confounded, and the counsels of the ungodly brought to nought.

It was so with the Fugitive Slave Bill. It was so with the Kansas-Nebraska Bill; and it will be so with this last and most shocking of all pro-slavery devices, this Taney decision.

When great transactions are involved, where the fate of millions is concerned, where a long enslaved and suffering people are to be delivered, I am superstitious enough to believe that the finger of the Almighty may be seen bringing good out of evil, and making the wrath of man redound to his honor, hastening the triumph of righteousness.

The American people have been called upon, in a most striking manner, to abolish and put away forever the system of slavery. The subject has been pressed upon their attention in all earnestness and sincerity. The cries of the slave have gone forth to the world, and up to the throne of God.

This decision, in my view, is a means of keeping the nation awake on the subject. It is another proof that God does not mean that we shall go to sleep, and forget that we are a slaveholding nation.

Step by step we have seen the slave power advancing; poisoning, corrupting, and perverting the institutions of the country; growing more and more haughty, imperious, and exacting. The white man's liberty has been marked out for the same grave with the black man's.

The ballot box is desecrated, God's law set at naught, armed legislators stalk the halls of Congress, freedom of speech is beaten down in the Senate. The rivers and highways are infested by border ruffians, and white men are made to feel the iron heel of slavery.

This ought to arouse us to kill off the hateful thing. They are solemn warnings to which the white people, as well as the black people, should take heed.

If these shall fail, judgment, more fierce or terrible, may come.

The lightning, whirlwind, and earthquake may come.

Jefferson said that he trembled for his country when he reflected that God is just, and his justice cannot sleep forever.

The time may come when even the crushed worm may turn under the tyrant's feet. Goaded by cruelty, stung by a burning sense of wrong, in an awful moment of depression and desperation, the bondman and bondwoman at the south may rush to one wild and deadly struggle for freedom.

Already slaveholders go to bed with Bowie knives, and apprehend death at their dinners.

Those who enslave, rob, and torment their cooks, may well expect to find death in their dinner-pots.

The world is full of violence and fraud, and it would be strange if the slave, the constant victim of both fraud and violence, should escape the contagion.

He, too, may learn to fight the devil with fire, and for one, I am in no frame of mind to pray that this may be long deferred.

Two remarkable occurrences have followed the presidential election; one was the unaccountable sickness traced to the National Hotel at Washington, and the other was the discovery of a plan among the slaves, in different localities, to slay their oppressors.

Twenty or thirty of the suspected were put to death. Some were shot, some hanged, some burned, and some died under the lash.

One brave man owned himself well acquainted with the conspiracy, but said he would rather die than disclose the facts. He received seven hundred and fifty lashes, and his noble spirit went away to the God who gave it.

The name of this hero has been by the meanness of tyrants suppressed. Such a man redeems his race. He is worthy to be mentioned with the Hoffers and Tells, the noblest heroes of history.

These insurrectionary movements have been put down, but they may break out at any time, under the guidance of higher intelligence, and with a more invincible spirit.

The fire thus kindled, may be revived again; the flames are extinguished, but the embers remain; one terrible blast may produce an ignition, which shall wrap the whole South in wild conflagration.

The pathway of tyrants lies over volcanoes; the very air they breathe is heavy with sorrows; agonizing heart-throbs convulse them while sleeping, and the wind whispers death as over them sweeping.

By all the laws of nature, civilization, and of progress, slavery is a doomed system.

Not all the skill of politicians, North and South, not all the sophistries of Judges, not all the fulminations of a corrupt press, not all the hypocritical prayers, or the hypocritical refusals to pray of a hollow-hearted priesthood, not all the devices of sin and Satan, can save the vile thing from extermination.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Col., “A Spokesman For The United States Military,” Calls Regime Slaughter Of 20 Anti-Dictatorship Protesters “Professional And Restrained”

Feb. 26, 2011 Angryarab.blogspot.com [Excerpts]

Upon learning that some 20 protesters were killed, this is what a US commander has said: “Col. Barry A. Johnson, a spokesman for the United States military, said Iraq’s security forces appeared to respond well to the volatile, sometimes violent, crowds. “The Iraqi forces’ response appeared professional and restrained,” he said in an e-mail.”

But really: 20 people mowed down in protests, and this is a “professional and restrained” response?

Recall the cries of condemnation that rightly greeted the attack on protestors during the December elections in Belarus. There, government thugs charged unarmed demonstrators and beat them. For this, and for repressions that in no way surpassed anything seen in Iraq daily, Belarus was hit with new sanctions.

Yet in Iraq, a corrupt regime shoots down 20 citizens in a blood-and-iron crackdown; and they are praised by the imperial progressives along the Potomac for their restraint.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Sunday: Nationality Not Announced

February 13, 2010 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Monday: Nationality Not Announced

February 28, 2010 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Another Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Monday: Nationality Not Announced

February 28, 2010 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Family, Friends Mourn Marine



Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Carpenter poses on the day of his wedding in 2010. He died Saturday following a gunshot wound to the neck while in Afghanistan. Courtesy photo

Feb 20, 2011 By CHRIS GRAHAM, Columbia Daily Herald

Kevin Carpenter watched as doctors turned off his son's ventilator.

"It took about five minutes, but it seemed like an hour," Carpenter said by phone Saturday, hours after he watched the final moments of his 27-year-old son's life.

Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Carpenter had been hospitalized at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany since Monday after he was shot in the neck while on patrol in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan. He was a member of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The bullet severed his spinal cord, his heart stopped and it took officials 43 minutes to revive him. Medical officials declared Andrew Carpenter brain dead.

Kevin Carpenter and his wife flew to Germany last week to spend time with their son.

"We got to tell him we love him. We got to see him. And even though he wasn't there, we got to hold him," he said.

Before Andrew Carpenter was taken off life support, his parents shared a final moment with their son.

"We told him we loved him and were very proud of him, and that his wife and son are very proud of him," Kevin Carpenter said as his voice began to crack.

A Marine spokesman declined comment Saturday, citing military policy that disallows comments on deaths until 24 hours after all family members have been notified.

Andrew Carpenter joined the Marines in 2007 and was serving his second deployment in Afghanistan. Kevin Carpenter said his son was due back sometime this spring.

He married Crissie Ponder in 2010. Crissie is pregnant and expecting to give birth to a baby boy, who will be named Landon, in less than two weeks.

The Marine's father said officials tried their best to keep his son alive and entertained the idea of flying him back to the U.S. to let Crissie see him, but officials believed he would have died in flight.

"He was seriously degrading every day," Kevin Carpenter said. "It came time to think of Andy and let Andy go. It was very admirable that she wanted to be with him, but it was safer to put it in the hands of God."

Cpl. Joseph Davis, who has known Carpenter since childhood and grew up in Columbia, will escort Andrew Carpenter's body back to Tennessee once he reaches U.S. soil.

Davis said Saturday his friend was always happy wherever he went.

"He lived a full life," Davis said. "He loved doing what he was doing. He was glad to serve."

Friends rallied around the family after word spread of Carpenter's injury. On Friday night, more than a dozen people held vigil outside Columbia Central High School, where Carpenter once attended.

Well-wishers left hundreds of messages on Carpenter's Facebook page. On Saturday, many thanked Carpenter for his sacrifice.

"You will be missed Andy! Thank you for fighting for our country and being a wonderful person! Rest in Peace. Watch over your family from above and protect them always. Thank you!" one friend wrote.

Crissie Carpenter, who has previously declined comment, also left a note on her husband's Facebook account.

"I love you, baby. You will always be my soul mate and my best friend forever," she wrote. "I know Landon will give me those hugs and kisses that I will miss so much. I look forward to seeing you in Heaven one day, baby."

Kevin Carpenter said arrangements have not been finalized but he expects his son's body will arrive in Columbia sometime this week.

"It's a devastating loss, but we'll get through it," he said.

Italian Soldier Killed North Of Shindad; Four More Wounded

28 Febbraio (AKI)

At least one Italian soldier was killed and four others injured on Monday in west Afghanistan when the Lince armoured military vehicle they were travelling in hit a roadside bomb. Massimo Ranzani was killed when the device exploded 25 kilometres north of Shindad at 12:45 pm local time as he was returning from a mission.

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

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

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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

**NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines from the First Battalion Eighth Marines prepare for patrol near the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, February 24, 2011.
REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly

MILITARY NEWS

**Libyan Special Operations General
Calls On Troops To Join The
Revolution;
Gadhafi Commander Surrenders In
Misrata**

26 February 2011 by: Nancy A. Youssef, Jonathan S. Landay and Margaret Talev,
McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpt]

In the latest high-level defection to rock the regime, the commander of the Libyan military's special operations forces also called on his men to join the insurrection against Gadhafi.

“I place all of my resolve and capabilities at the service of the youth revolution,” Gen. Abdul Salam Mahmood al-Hassi declared on Al Jazeera, and he urged other special forces to join to “protect the lives of the Libyan people and their property.”

In Misrata, about 100 miles east of Tripoli, heavy fighting raged around the sprawling headquarters of the Khamis Brigade, a military unit named after one of the Libyan dictator’s sons, said residents reached by telephone.

“We have surrounded it,” said one of the protesters, Mohammad el-Habab, referring to an air force school inside the complex. “We heard the military using its heavy weapons against the peoples’ lighter weapons.”

At one point, he said, a commander came out of the school and agreed to negotiate, having run out of food and water.

The rebels said they would put the commander on trial if he agreed to surrender his weapons, which he did. Habab said that despite the heavy fighting he knew of no deaths there.

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA’S WARS?



The remains of Marine Sgt. Matthew DeYoung of San Pedro Calif., at Dover Air Force Base, Del. on Feb. 19, 2011. Sgt. DeYoung was killed during combat in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

On Wisconsin: “This Is More Than A Union Dispute In Madison” “What’s At Stake Is Big Money’s Power To Squeeze Ordinary Americans Yet More”

27 February 2011 By Clancy Sigal, The Guardian [UK]

*On, Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! ...
Fight, fellows! Fight, fight, fight!
We'll win this game.*

– Football song of the Wisconsin Badgers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

My heroes have not always been cowboys but union organisers.

Mom and Dad were labour organisers, as were my cousins, Bernie (printing trades), Charlie (shipbuilders) and Joe (auto workers).

If we had a religion, it was One Big Union with loud, rambunctious mass meetings as its eucharist – such as we are seeing in huge numbers of drum-pounding, slogan-shouting local government workers in Wisconsin’s state capital Madison. We’re talking about teachers, custodians, clerks and garbage collectors, not to mention sympathetic cops and firefighters.

Some kids are raised to respect God and country; I was bred to respect a picket line.

My very first parade, probably at age eight or nine, was down Ashland Avenue – Chicago labour’s main drag – honouring a union official murdered by company goons.

In a dozen other state capitals – in Ohio, Indiana, Florida and others – there is a sustained, coordinated campaign by recently elected and highly pugnacious Republican governors to cripple what’s left of the American labour movement.

This assault is essentially an ambush of the working middle class.

It is openly financed by Big Money, like the hard-right multibillionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, who also fund – courtesy of the US supreme court's Citizens United decision – the Tea Party groups that supply anti-labour's ideological storm troopers.

Sensing a possible kill, union-busters are – unlike our side – in no mood to compromise.

So, it comes as no surprise when Jeffrey Cox, Indiana's deputy attorney general, calls Wisconsin public sector workers "thugs" against whom he advocates deadly force. "Use live ammunition," he tweeted. Reluctantly, his boss fired him.

Poor lawyer Cox was merely saying aloud what a whole slew of Republican state governors and elected officials are thinking, but dare not say ... yet.

They want to push us back not just to the 1930s, before New Deal labour laws mandated collective bargaining and anti-child labour laws, but to the red-in-tooth-and-claw pitched battles of the 1890s, in which unions were defeated by force of arms – as in Homestead, Pullman and Coeur d'Alene when local and federal governments felt little compunction about shooting down strikers.

Wisconsin's governor Scott Walker, a dim bulb but ultra-reactionary and with obvious political ambitions, has threatened to bring in the national guard, and dispatched armed state troopers to round up absent Democratic lawmakers who have fled to avoid a quorum vote to strip unions of collective bargaining rights.

Now, Walker is twisting the screw on unionists by issuing pink slips to state employees.

Wisconsin is a make or break fight for labour. The citizen demonstrators camping out, in tents and on sleeping bags, in freezing Madison can expect almost no help from their natural ally, the national Democratic party, nor from President Obama. For years, the now-defunct "centrist" Democratic Leadership Council has been indistinguishable from the rightwing US Chamber of Commerce and Business Roundtable.

Two years ago, a campaigning Obama promised, "When I'm in the White House, I will put on a comfortable pair of shoes and I will walk on that picket line with you as president of the United States."

Today, he says he has "no current plans" to go to Madison – while his partner Michelle chooses this exact moment to fly off to way-expensive Vail, Colorado for a ski holiday.

So much for solidarity!

We are on our own in this battle to save America's middle class. But it need not be so.

The Wisconsin workers will lose unless they turn their skins inside out and make this a community fight, too. Unions are notoriously insular and atrocious at public relations. They can't afford the luxury of that ineptitude now. Unions win when they reach out, convince people that a strike is their fight also, as Martin Luther King taught us during the Memphis garbage workers' strike, and in the more recent, remarkably successful "Justice for Janitors" campaigns, and my own Writers' Guild strike against studio corporations three years ago when we touched base with churches, synagogues and

mosques, community groups, rock bands and even reached into police and fire stations to ask for their support.

When you're walking a picket line, there's nothing more uplifting – and PR-savvy – than being serenaded by Bruce Springsteen or Billy Bragg while cop cars and fire engines drive by blowing their horns and flicking their lights in support.

But the public has to be convinced first. Junk those placards that accuse the opposition of being anti-union. Much of the Fox News- and Rush Limbaugh-propagandised public is anti-union because it perceives public sector workers especially as soft-living crybabies who refuse to sacrifice high-on-the-hog benefits and pensions along with the rest of us. Education, by any and all means, is the key. Make this what it is: a fight to protect the American middle class.

It's not easy to put it right out there, with pie charts, statistics and personal stories, among your neighbours, the family next door, the American Legion post.

The crux, as expressed by America's most successful investor Warren Buffet: "There's class warfare, all right, but it's my class, the rich class, that's making the war, and we're winning."

But pushing the case that it was labour unions that made the middle class could get through – because it's true. When unions at their height, with 35% of the private sector workforce in the 1950s (now down to 7%), bargained collectively for better wages and conditions, it impacted everybody and made their lives better, union, non-union and anti-union alike.

Wisconsin has suffered badly from the "rust belt" disease of outsourcing jobs, deindustrialisation and stagnating wages. Still, the state has a good many Forbes 400 companies like the plumbing giant Kohler, Harley-Davidson and Mercury Marine, whose billions are left untouched by Scott Walker's tax cuts to the rich.

And contrary to his absolutely false assertion that the "fiscal crisis" is due to bloated worker pensions, the latest report, from the Pew Research Centre, says that Wisconsin's state pension fund is one of the healthiest in the nation.

Go, Wisconsin! You're fighting for all of us.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

"Far From Supporting Popular Struggle, Chávez Has Embraced The

Most Unscrupulous And Autocratic Leaders Imaginable”

“Chávez Declared ‘What Simon Bolívar (The Great Liberator Of South American Independence Against The Spanish) Is To The Venezuelan People, Gaddafi Is To The Libyan People’”

02/26/2011 by BuzzFlash [Excerpts]

You've got to hand it to WikiLeaks: the whistle-blowing outfit sure has impeccable timing. Even as forces loyal to Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi fire on protesters in a mounting massacre and human rights calamity, Julian Assange has released U.S. diplomatic cables which should prove acutely embarrassing to Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

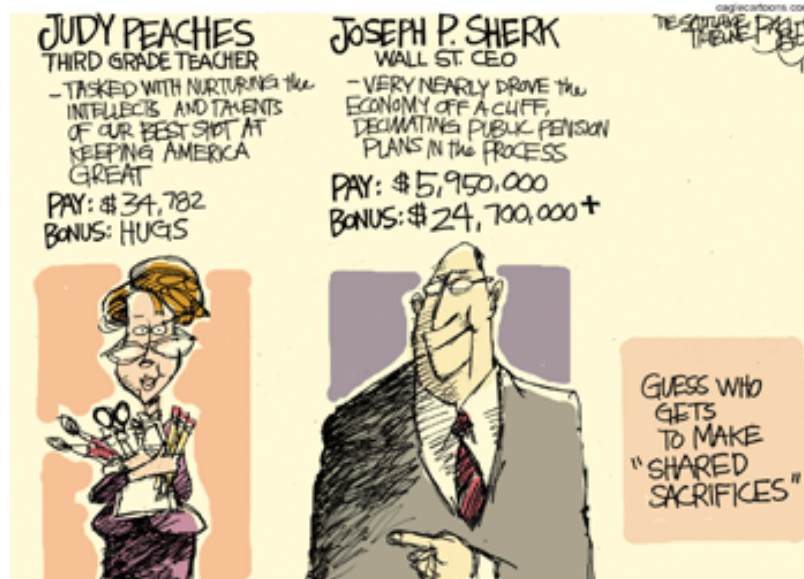
WikiLeaks cables lay bare the tight diplomatic and political alliance between Qaddafi and Chávez. In 2009, the U.S. Embassy in Caracas wrote Washington about an African-South American summit held on the Venezuelan island of Margarita. Chávez had called the meeting in an effort to highlight the historic unity between long-oppressed continents, though such public relations efforts were severely undermined by the roster of participants which included autocrats like Qaddafi and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. According to U.S. diplomats, Chávez and Qaddafi congratulated each other on their “revolutions” during the ceremonies.

Bizarrely, Chávez declared “What Simon Bolívar (the Great Liberator of South American independence against the Spanish) is to the Venezuelan people, Gaddafi is to the Libyan people.”

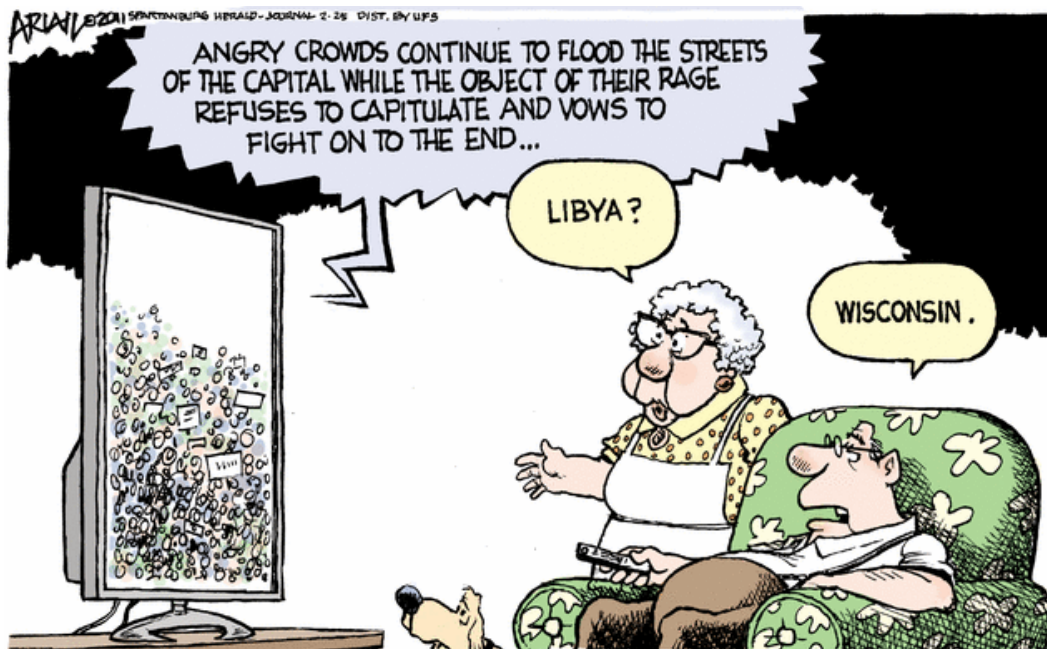
Qaddafi then praised Chávez for “having driven out the colonialists,” just as he had driven out those in Libya. “We share the same destiny, the same battle in the same trench against a common enemy, and we will conquer,” Qaddafi said. As if these exchanges were not preposterous enough, Chávez then took advantage of the occasion to award Qaddafi the “Orden del Libertador,” Venezuela’s highest civilian decoration, and presented the Libyan leader with a replica of Simon Bolívar’s sword

Now that Qaddafi has been discredited, will Chávez give second thought to his severely misguided foreign policy? Given the Venezuelan’s bizarre track record, it doesn’t seem very likely. For years, I’ve been writing about Chávez’s backward approach to African affairs up on my website. Far from supporting popular struggle, Chávez has embraced the most unscrupulous and autocratic leaders imaginable. Commenting on former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, the Venezuelan remarked “I don’t know, maybe he was a great nationalist, a patriot.”

As if it could get no worse, Chávez has also embraced Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir, a leader who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity in Darfur. The ICC has charged Bashir with five counts: murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture, and rape.



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Libya: The Most Traditional And The Youngest Come Together For The Cause



An armed Libyan against the regime in traditional dress in the main square in Zawiyah, 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Tripoli, in Libya, Feb. 27, 2011. Hundreds of armed anti-government forces backed by military defectors in Zawiyah, the city closest to the capital Tripoli, prepared Sunday to repel an expected offensive by forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi who are surrounding the city. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)



Young people against Gaddafi demonstrate in the streets of Nalut city in western Libya. Revolutionaries took control of several western Libyan towns. (AFP/Fred Dufour)



Revolutionaries of Al-Zawiya, a city to the west of Tripoli, display their weapons in the main square on Sunday. AP Photo

MORE FROM AL-ZAWIYA:

“Foreign Journalists Taken On A Government-Sponsored Tour Of Al-Zawiya Entered The Center Of Town To See The Tricolored Flag That Predated Col. Gadhafi’s 1969 Revolution Flying”

“We Don’t Want And We Won’t Accept Any Foreign Intervention On Our Soil”

“We Started This Revolution, And We Will Finish It”

FEBRUARY 28, 2011 By MARGARET COKER in Tripoli and CHARLES LEVINSON in Benghazi, Libya, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Foreign journalists taken on a government-sponsored tour of Al-Zawiya, to the west of Tripoli — which last week witnessed bloody clashes between opposition and pro-Gadhafi security forces — entered the center of town to see the tricolored flag that predated Col. Gadhafi's 1969 revolution flying.

Over the weekend, the government failed in repeated attempts to regain ground in the strategically important coastal city of Misrata.

Libya's third-largest city, it is located between Tripoli and Col. Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte, raising questions about the strength the leader's remaining loyalist forces.

Residents last week gained control of all major installations including the airport.

A local council run by military officers from Misrata and the local lawyers' association have been organizing the city's defense, as well as basic services such as water and electricity.

Misrata's independent city council has used the city's radio station to mobilize citizen militia patrols and help organize public works, residents said.

On Saturday, a military helicopter flying along the Mediterranean coast from the direction of Tripoli dropped seven pro-government paramilitary soldiers on the beach, who advanced toward the broadcast facility, according to a Misrata resident who witnessed the event.

On Sunday, the pro-government forces attempted the same tactic, and again failed to damage or knock the radio antenna offline, according to the resident, who was part of the city militia that fought off the attack.

In Benghazi, further east, pro-democracy activists in the rebel-controlled city on Sunday declared they were forming a provisional national government to administer areas freed from Col. Gadhafi's rule.

A spokesman for the provisional ruling body, known as the National Libyan Council, said it was meant to send a message that there was an alternative to Mr. Gadhafi.

"This council was created in defiance of Gadhafi's claim that there will be chaos after he leaves," said the spokesman, Abdul Hafidh Gogha.

"There is no chaos. In just 10 days we managed to cross the hard times and create local councils to govern."

Mr. Gogha ruled out negotiations with Mr. Gadhafi's regime. He praised the U.N. Security Council decision to impose sanctions on Mr. Gadhafi's regime, but said direct military intervention by the U.S. or other countries wouldn't be helpful.

“We don’t want and we won’t accept any foreign intervention on our soil,” Mr. Gogha said. “We started this revolution, and we will finish it.”

MORE:

Danger: Media Halfwits At Work

Comment: T

Halfwits in the media and agents of Gaddafi have slandered the revolutionary movement in Libya by repeatedly telling the same stupid lie: revolutionaries are flying the “monarchist” flag.

Nope.

**The Monarchist Flag Of *King* Idris, Last *King* Of Libya
[Note *Crown*: Duh]**



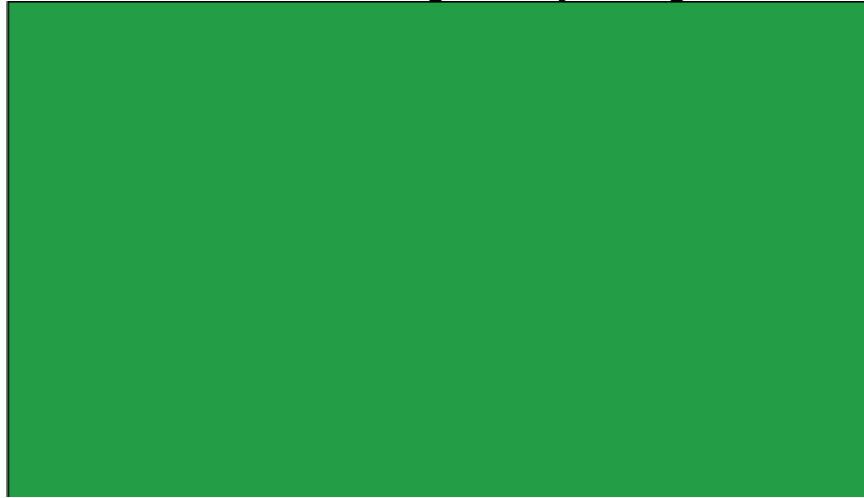
Flagspot.net

The Libyan Flag Before Gaddafi Changed It



Flagspot.net

The Gaddafi Regime Libyan Flag



Flagspot.net

The Flag Raised By Today's Revolutionaries



Any idiot can plainly see this flag in photographs of revolutionaries showing a flag, even idiots that work for major media -- see the flag in the photo from Al-Zawiya above, for example. Gaddafi apologists are not necessarily stupid; some know better and are simply despicable slanderers, yapping about "monarchist flags."

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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/)

RECEIVED:

Housing Is A Human Right, Gentrification Is Not!

MARCH 4TH DAY OF RAGE IN NEW ORLEANS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

From: M Howell
To: New Orleans C3 Discussion
Subject: New Orleans March 4 housing day of action
Date: Feb 26, 2011

The human rights violations being carried out in the name of building a "new" New Orleans are every bit as worthy of condemnation and resistance as are the human rights violations that the Mubarak regime inflicted on Egyptians during its 30 year dictatorship.

So in the dictatorship of profit driven greed that is New Orleans today almost four hundred public housing apartments in the Iberville Housing Development sit vacant while police seize the meager belongings of hundreds of homeless people living near the New Orleans Mission.

These homeless people have made it clear that they would rather sleep in the streets than be forced to grapple with the substandard living conditions inside the Mission.

There is a better way.

Join the March 4th New Orleans Day of Rage.

**11:00 AM, Friday.
401 Treme St. Iberville Development Office.**

Hands off property of the homeless

Repair, reopen & reoccupy all Iberville units, now

No cuts in federal affordable housing funding. Period.

Sponsors:C3/Hands Off Iberville, MayDay New Orleans.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/> ;

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

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

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