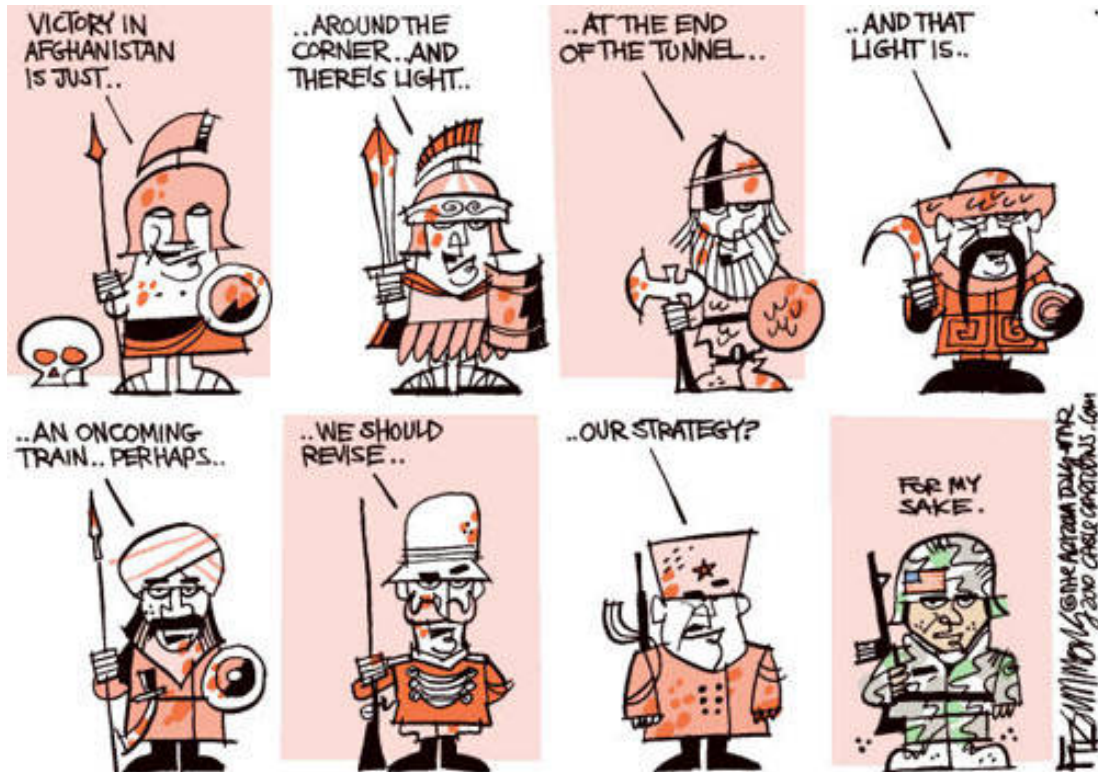


## Military Resistance 9C7



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

**Gates Whines And Pukes Up His  
Fears:  
He's Worried Other Countries Will  
Get Their Troops Out Of Afghanistan  
"In A Rush"  
"There Is Too Much Talk About Leaving  
And Not Enough About Getting The Job  
Done Right"**



A puke prepares to puke. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

03/11/2011 By SLOBODAN LEKIC and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press [Excerpts]

BRUSSELS—NATO defense ministers on Friday endorsed a list of the first cities and provinces where Afghan police and soldiers will take control of security—a key element in the West’s exit strategy from the decade-old war.

**The first allied troops are scheduled to depart in July, but U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates urged allies to resist political pressures to start leaving in a rush.**

**“Frankly,” Gates said, “there is too much talk about leaving and not enough about getting the job done right.” [Fair enough. Give him a weapon and drop his ass in Helmand for a year. Time to lead by example. T]**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**“We Are Here To Change The  
Despotic System, End The  
Corruption In Kurdistan”**

**“In Fallujah, Iraq, About 500 Protesters  
Chanted: ‘Oil Is Not The People’s  
Property, It Is The Property Of Thieves!’”**

12/3/2011 Agencies/Sulaimaniya/Baghdad; Gulf-Times & March 11, 2011, By BUSHRA JUHI, The Associated Press

Nasik Qadir, spokeswoman for protesters in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniya, said one demonstrator had doused himself in kerosene and tried to set himself ablaze. He was rescued by other demonstrators and suffered no major injuries.

In the northern city of Sulaimaniyah, riot police and other security forces did not appear to be present near Friday's gathering of about 4,000 people, although the main road leading to the protest at al-Saray Square was blocked off.

People gathered in Sulaimaniya chanting for the ouster of regional President Masoud Barzani and carrying pictures of protesters killed in recent weeks.

"There has been no response from the government. "We are here to change the despotic system, end the corruption in Kurdistan," said Qadir. "People feel the corruption and want jobs, justice and services."

Popular anger in the Kurdish region has been directed at a regional government which enjoys near-total autonomy, dominated for decades by two political parties whose former rebel guerrilla armies have been converted into security forces.

In Fallujah, Iraq, about 500 protesters chanted: "Oil is not the people's property, it is the property of thieves!"

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation "Servicemember" Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday: Nationality Not Announced**

March 10, 2010 Reuters

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

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

March 12, 2010 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died during an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

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## Las Vegas Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Mar. 2, 2011 By Steve Tetreault and Keith Rogers, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Army Spc. Brian Tabada of Las Vegas was killed Sunday in northeastern Afghanistan after insurgents ambushed his mounted patrol using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, U.S. military officials said Tuesday.

Tabada, 21, was a fire-support specialist, or “fister,” trained in calling in aircraft and artillery to quell attacks on NATO troops, according to the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Ky.

The attack occurred in the Darah-ye Pech district of Afghanistan’s Konar province.

**Six NATO troops have been killed in attacks across Afghanistan in recent days, some of the deadliest for the international force this winter.**

Tabada joined the Army in August 2008 and arrived at Fort Campbell in 2009. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

**He was the 73rd U.S. military member with ties to Nevada who has died in the nation’s wars overseas since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.**

He was the first Nevadan killed this year in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

At Tabada’s home in northwest Las Vegas, a Blue Star Mother’s flag flapped from the top of the front porch Tuesday.

Tabada’s mother, Leinette Mahan, already had departed for Dover, Del., to be there when his flag-draped casket is transferred from a military transport plane, said her friend, Aimee Caberto.

“He was like a big brother to my son,” Caberto said, recalling how Tabada and her son, Aaron Sabino, would hang out together as teenagers while she and Mahan worked at the Stratosphere.

Mahan, now a food and beverage manager at the Plaza, told Caberto before she caught a plane for the East Coast, “I just want him to rest in peace.”

Gov. Brian Sandoval issued a statement Tuesday morning after learning of Tabada’s death: “I was saddened to learn of the death of Spc. Brian Tabada of Las Vegas in service to his country. Spc. Tabada made the ultimate sacrifice and we are forever grateful. As our state mourns his loss, Kathleen and I extend our sympathies to his family.”

Sandoval also ordered flags to fly at half staff in Tabada’s honor.

Clark County School District records show Tabada entered May Elementary School as a fourth-grader in 1998 and attended Lied Middle School, Shadow Ridge High School and then Arbor View High School, where he was a sophomore in 2005. A district official said he moved out of state in 2005.

His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Overseas Service Ribbon, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his father, Muncko Kruize of Honolulu.

Soldiers at Fort Campbell will pay their respects for him and other fallen members of the Screaming Eagles 101st Airborne Division on March 9 at the fort’s monthly Eagle Remembrance Ceremony .

Information about a memorial service for him in Las Vegas was unavailable Tuesday.

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

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

## **WELCOME TO THE LONELY SIDE OF HELL: ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S. Marine outpost near Kunjak in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, February 22, 2011. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?**





The remains of Army Specialist David Fahey, Jr. is carried into a church in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., March 10, 2011. Fahey was killed Feb. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan by injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

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**“Senior Airman Anthony ‘Tony’ Mena Managed To Dodge Bullets, Rocket-Propelled Grenades And Roadside Bombs During Two Tours In Iraq”**  
**“He Couldn’t Survive The Onslaught Of Medications That Military, Veterans Affairs And Civilian Doctors Prescribed”**  
**“I Trusted The Doctors,” His Mother, Pat Mena, Said. “We Want To Get Across The Message That They Are Over-Medicating Our Troops”**

# **“Military Studies Have Cited Polypharmacy As A Factor In The Army’s Burgeoning Suicide Rate And In Fatal Accidents”**

**“We want to get across the message that they are over-medicating our troops,” Pat Mena said.**

**“They need to question the doctors about what they’re taking, whether they’re really necessary, and what the side effects are.”**

**Only two drugs are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat PTSD, Sertraline and Paroxetine.**

March 7, 2011 CHARLES D. BRUNT, Albuquerque Journal [Excerpts]

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Senior Airman Anthony “Tony” Mena managed to dodge bullets, rocket-propelled grenades and roadside bombs during two tours in Iraq.

But he couldn’t survive the onslaught of medications that military, Veterans Affairs and civilian doctors prescribed to treat his resulting post-traumatic stress disorder and back pain.

**Five months after being medically discharged, the former member of Kirtland Air Force Base’s 377th Security Forces Squadron died in his sleep — the result of a lethal mix of nine prescribed medications, including antidepressants, pain killers, tranquilizers and muscle relaxers.**

**The medical examiner ruled the 23-year-old’s death an accident: Mena had not taken more medicine than prescribed.**

His July 21, 2009, death set his family on a quest to force changes in PTSD treatment.

“I trusted the doctors,” his mother, Pat Mena, said from her El Paso, Texas, home. “I really thought they had a list of everything my son was taking.”

**Cases like Mena’s have prompted the military to revise its policies on polypharmacy, the use of combinations of multiple medications.**

**Military studies have cited polypharmacy as a factor in the Army’s burgeoning suicide rate and in fatal accidents.**

For the Mena family, that came too late.

“We can never bring him back,” Pat Mena said. “But I’m hoping we can raise awareness of this over-medication of our kids.”



Dr. Gerardo Villarreal, staff psychiatrist with the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System at Albuquerque's VA hospital where Mena had been treated said it's not uncommon for PTSD patients to be prescribed multiple drugs.

**Only two drugs are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat PTSD, Sertraline and Paroxetine, he said.**

A PTSD patient's medications list can grow longer if they suffered other injuries. Mena's mother said he was prescribed pain killers for a back injury.

Mena volunteered to deploy to Iraq. From July 2005 until January 2006, he did security work at a base in Mosul.

Although he described his initial six-month tour as "uneventful," his mother said he had trouble sleeping when he returned and was prescribed sleeping pills.

Ten months later, he returned to Iraq where he helped train Iraqi police forces in Baghdad.

He planned and conducted patrols through Baghdad's volatile neighborhoods, often as the lead driver in a convoy of armored Humvees. The convoys often showed up at suicide bombings and IED blasts and sometimes had to collect bodies and parts of bodies and attempt to identify victims, his mother said.

When her son returned home in late 2007, "something had changed," his mother said. He was impatient, forgetful and irritable, and often cut short phone conversations with his family.

His once regular visits home to El Paso became less frequent.

Civilian doctors discovered a lower-back injury that had healed improperly and added muscle relaxants and powerful pain killers to his list of pharmaceuticals.

**Physicians "changed out his medications over and over," Pat Mena said, making it nearly impossible for him to remember which to take when.**

Medications, their side effects and his recurring PTSD symptoms made it impossible for him to perform military duties. He accepted a medical discharge in February 2009.

Although he began showing signs of improvement, the mixture of medications wrote his final chapter.

Now his family won't rest until steps are taken to prevent similar tragedies.

**"We want to get across the message that they are over-medicating our troops," Pat Mena said.**

**"They need to question the doctors about what they're taking, whether they're really necessary, and what the side effects are."**



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

## **Issue 34 Special Issue: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya Soldiers in Revolt 2011**

Click here to download and view a PDF of issue 34:  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS34.pdf>

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/>

## 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**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.  
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

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

**“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**

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

**Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number,  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you-  
Ye are many — they are few**  
**-- Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.**

**The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”**  
**-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done**

**“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**

## **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**

# Bombs, Guns, Sanctions, and Math



Photograph by Mike Hastie: Gun Shop in Newberg, Oregon.

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: March 08, 2011  
Subject: Bombs, Guns, Sanctions, and Math

## **Bombs, Guns, Sanctions, and Math**

**Auschwitz was responsible for killing 1.1 million people.  
The United States was responsible for killing over 3 million  
Vietnamese people.**

**The United States was responsible for killing nearly 1 million  
people combined in Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.  
The United States was responsible for dropping over 250 million  
“bomblets,” from cluster bombs over Laos and Cambodia.**

**The United States was responsible for killing 500,000 Iraqi  
children as a result of U.S.-led economic sanctions against  
that country in 1991.**

**Madeline Albright, then secretary of state, stated:  
“We think the price is worth it.”**

**There is more to this story involving other countries that America  
has bombed since the end of World War II.**

**That tally is around 28 countries.**

**Auschwitz was responsible for killing 1.1 million people.  
When it all comes down to it,  
it’s all about the math.**

**Mike Hastie**

U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
March 8, 2011

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

## Happy Anniversary: March 12, 1912 Women Warriors Win Bread And Roses



IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addresses a strike rally

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) won the Lawrence, Massachusetts, "Bread & Roses" textile strike after 32,000 workers (mostly young female immigrants who spoke twenty-five different languages) stayed out for nine weeks.

They were striking for better pay, a 54-hour workweek and safer working conditions: the equipment was dangerous and the air quality caused lung disease in nearly one-third of the workers before the age of twenty-five.



Bread & Roses victory parade

**"Bread and Roses," by James Oppenheimer**

**As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray  
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses  
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, we battle, too, for men,  
For they are women's children and we march with them again.  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;  
Hearts starve as well bodies; give us bread but give us roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew;  
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.**

**As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days;  
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.  
No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes,  
But a sharing of life's glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

January 18, 2002 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker

JAMES OPPENHEIMER wrote the song "Bread and Roses" for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.

**He took the title from the banners of strikers, who demanded not just decent treatment at work, but the right to dignity and a better quality of life.**

The textile bosses in Lawrence had hired women and children because they thought they could pay poverty wages and never face resistance. And they employed immigrants--who spoke more than 25 different languages--with the aim of keeping workers from uniting and fighting back.

But the bosses were wrong on both counts. More than 20,000 Lawrence workers struck against a 30-cent pay cut in January 1912.

Many workers were lured to Lawrence by advertisements in their home cities--throughout the Balkans and the Mediterranean--showing happy textile workers carrying bags of money home from their jobs. Instead, the new immigrants were greeted with miserable labor at poverty wages.

The strike came as a surprise to bosses, considering that the workers were largely unorganized. Because of its craft orientation and its policy of ignoring immigrant and women workers, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had few locals in the textile industry.

AFL leaders actually opposed the Lawrence strike and by the end of the struggle had sided with the bosses -- denouncing strikers as anarchists and saboteurs. In contrast, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, saw the Lawrence battle as a key struggle in their strategy of organizing all workers into "One Big Union."

ALTHOUGH THE IWW had been organizing in Lawrence since 1905, at times working with the more conservative AFL unions, they accelerated their campaign when one of the largest mills, Atlantic Cotton, struck against speedups in 1911. The Wobblies sent in some of their best organizers--J.P. Thompson, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Arturo Giovannitti and Joe Ettor, whose ability to speak six languages was a tremendous asset.

But the backbone of the struggle was the workers of Lawrence themselves. In January 1912, Massachusetts passed labor reform legislation that limited women and children from working more than 54 hours a week. In Lawrence, the typical workweek was 56 hours. But because the law didn't have a provision preserving the two hours' pay, bosses instead decided to use the measure to cut wages.

Local 20, the Italian branch of the IWW, called a meeting on January 10 to discuss what action to take on payday. Some 1,000 workers showed up and voted to call workers on strike as soon as they received the checks.

**On January 12, strikers poured out of the mills, some of them forming flying squads to go into factories to bring out other workers. Mill owners ordered their goons to attack workers, hosing them down with freezing water in the subzero January weather. But workers resisted, going into the factories and smashing machinery and windows.**



**The governor used this as an excuse to call out the National Guard, which joined police on the streets in intimidating workers.**

**In the course of the struggle, Lawrence workers devised several new and effective strike tactics. One was the mass picket. Instead of small picket lines, Lawrence strikers organized all their forces to block workplaces.**

In the face of thousands of workers surrounding a factory, neither the bosses' scabs nor the police could do a thing.

And as they marched, sang and chanted in the thousands, workers built solidarity and a sense of their own power.

Building solidarity among the different immigrant groups--the largest were Italians, Poles, Russians, Syrians and Lithuanians--was critical to the strike's victory.

Questions in the struggle were debated and decisions made in weekly mass meetings attended by thousands of strikers. After each meeting, workers sang the workers' anthem from the Paris Commune, "The Internationale."

Day-to-day decisions were made by a strike committee, which was made up of elected representatives from each of the different language groups.

THE ROLE of women -- wives of strikers and strikers themselves -- was key to the strike's success, and the IWW did everything it could to foster their participation. The Wobblies organized special meetings for women and encouraged them to take on leadership positions.

**"The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and the care of the children," wrote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. "The old-world attitude of man as the 'lord and master' was strong. We resolutely set out to combat these notions. The women wanted to picket. We knew that to leave them at home alone, isolated from the strike activity, prey to worry...was dangerous for the strike."**

Women proved to be some of the fiercest fighters.

**On one occasion, a group of Italian women found a police officer alone on a bridge. They had taken his gun, club and badge and were in the process of removing his pants before throwing him into the water when he was rescued by the cavalry.**

**"The IWW has been accused of putting the women in the front," wrote Flynn.**

**"The truth is, the IWW does not keep them in the back, and they go to the front."**

So it is no surprise that several women were elected strike committee delegates.

Concrete provisions were made to provide for workers' families. Strikers ran six commissaries and 11 soup kitchens.

**And when the Lawrence schools taught strikers' children that their parents were "un-American" for striking, the IWW's Haywood organized meetings for the kids.**

When the growing threat of violence from police and company goons made strikers fear for their children's safety, the workers devised a brilliant plan. Strike supporters in other parts of the country--mostly from New York City--were called on to house and care for the children for the strike's duration. When supporters gathered to meet the Lawrence children at Grand Central Station, it became a huge labor rally.

**The strikers forced the mill bosses to settle in March--and won most of their demands. They got pay increases on a sliding scale, with the lowest-paid workers getting 25 percent raises; time and a quarter for overtime; and a guarantee that no striker would be discriminated against.**

The victory encouraged a wave of strikes in several New England cities. For example, as soon as Wobblies arrived in Lowell, Mass., mill owners offered workers a 5 percent raise.

**The history of this amazing struggle--especially its spirit of solidarity among men and women and between different immigrant groups--remains an inspiration today.**

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## **“Many Were Unaware Of How Stark Differences Were Between The Interests Of The Soldiers And The Generals”**

24 Feb 2011 by 'Abu Atris,' Al Jazeera [Excerpts]

[T]o the extent that the Egyptian military benefited from American foreign aid, Egypt was part of the American military-industrial complex, which is famous for its revolving-door system of recycling retired military men as lobbyists and employees of defense contractors.

Consequently it is almost unthinkable that the generals of the Supreme Military Council will willingly allow more than cosmetic changes in the political economy of Egypt.

But they could be compelled to do so unwillingly.

The army is a blunt force, not well suited for controlling crowds of demonstrators.

The latest statement of the Supreme Military Council reiterated both the legitimacy of the pro-democracy movements demands, and the requirement that demonstrations cease so that the country can get back to work.

**If demonstrations continue to the point that the Supreme Military Council feels it can no longer tolerate them, then the soldiers who will be ordered to put them**

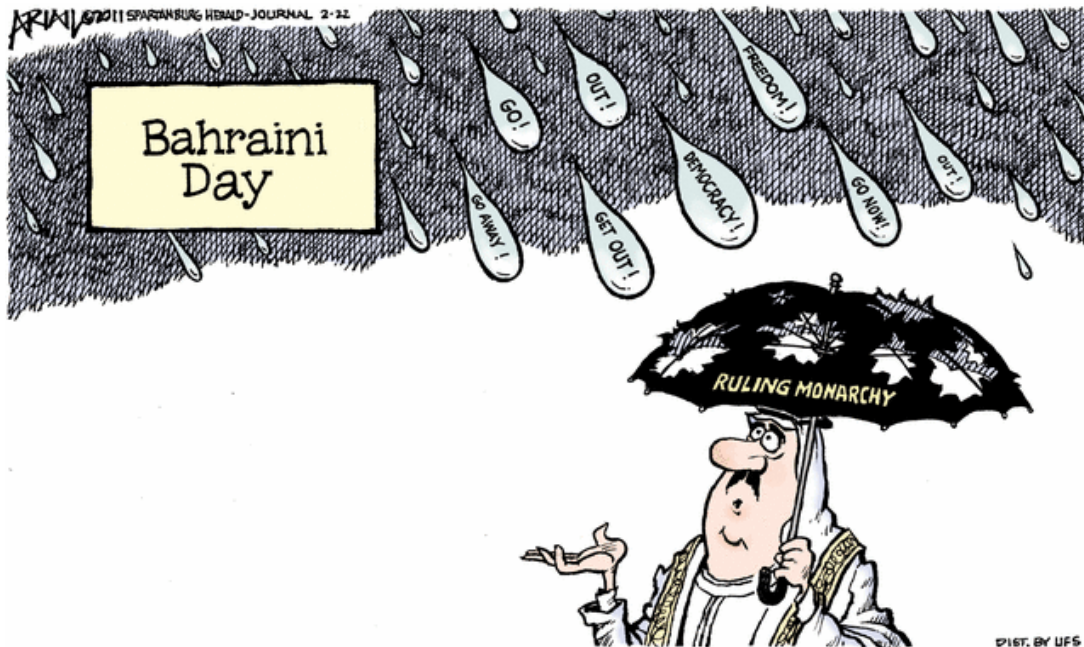
down (indeed, in some accounts were already ordered to put them down early in the revolution and refused to do so) with deadly force, are not the generals who were part of the Mubarak-era corruption, but conscripts.

Pro-democracy demonstrators and their sympathisers often repeated the slogans “the army and the people are one hand,” and “the army is from us.”

They had the conscripts in mind, and many were unaware of how stark differences were between the interests of the soldiers and the generals.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

## “Where Is Obama”



A sign says “Where Is Obama” as protestors outside of the office of Wisconsin Governor Walker after the signing of the bill that eliminated union rights for most public workers, at the state Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin March 11, 2011. REUTERS/Darren Hauck

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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## **What The Librarian Said: “I Would Be Embarrassed To Support Something So Ludicrous -- Taking From The Poor To Give To The Rich”**



Kelley McDaniel, who got the attention of lawmakers during a budget hearing Wednesday, is an award-winning librarian who also connects with students at Portland's King Middle School. 2010 Press Herald file

March 12, 2011 By Bill Nemitz, The Portland Press Herald

Some might have looked at the long lines of people waiting to testify on Gov. Paul LePage's proposed budget and decided it wasn't worth it.

After all, you can wait hours for your turn to speak.

And when they finally do invite you up to the microphone, you get only three minutes.

And while there may be strength in numbers, it's easy to wonder after a while whether those weary legislators on the Appropriations Committee -- or any of us, for that matter -- are truly capable of absorbing all that testimony over one full day, then another, then another ...

I got that feeling Wednesday afternoon as I sat at my desk with headphones on, listening online as a seemingly endless procession of Maine citizens decried all that's wrong with the governor's \$6.1 billion spending package for the next two years.

Some, understandably, sounded nervous.

Others apologized in advance because they had colds.

Still others, bless them, tried to cram too many words into too little time and had to be gently coaxed into conclusion by Sen. Richard Rosen, R-Bucksport, the committee's co-chair.

Then along came Kelley McDaniel of Portland -- No. 48 on the day's speaker list.

She's a part-time librarian at King Middle School -- and a very good one at that.

She drove to Augusta with her 11-year-old daughter, Aedin, in tow because Aedin is on King Middle School's debate team, loves politics and dutifully met her mother's condition that she write a letter to each of her teachers explaining why listening to her mom testify at a state budget hearing was at least as important as a day in school.

Talk about a teachable moment.

If politics these days is all about what the experts call "driving the message," McDaniel spent all of her precious three minutes in the fast lane.

She told the committee that she recently won a national "I Love My Librarian" Award from the Carnegie Corp. and The New York Times -- an honor that included a check, made out to McDaniel, for \$5,000.

"I plan to report that money on my income tax and I expect to pay taxes on it," she told the lawmakers. "Even though I donated the money in its entirety to the public middle school where I work."

You heard that right.

She gave the whole five grand, after taxes, to her school. If you live in Portland, that's your school, too.

It was only the beginning.

McDaniel said she's "happy to pay those taxes" because the way she sees it, taxes are "like membership dues" for being a citizen of this great state.

She said that while she gets lots of things (education, health and safety, arts and recreation) in exchange for those "dues," she realizes "I may not personally benefit from everything that tax money is used for."

She has no problem with that. As McDaniel put it, "I try to trust that elected officials will spend money to the best benefit of society and not just to a handful of individuals."

Then, without missing a beat, she turned her attention to the budget.

**She talked about how, over there, the budget contains \$200 million in tax cuts -- including an expansion of the estate-tax exemption from \$1 million to \$2 million -- that largely would benefit Mainers who aren't exactly scraping to get by.**

**And how, over here, that loss of state revenue is more than offset by \$413 million in various curtailments on benefits earned by retired state workers -- many of**

**whom, like McDaniel has at King Middle for the past 11 years, served long and nobly in Maine's public schools.**

Observed McDaniel, "I don't understand the rationale for this proposal."

**She said she doesn't buy the idea that the tax cuts, putting significantly more money back into the pockets (or portfolios) of Maine's wealthy, will stimulate the economy.**

**Citing reports from the Congressional Budget Office, McDaniel said "the best way to stimulate the economy is to give modest increases to the poor. Wealthy people tend to hold on to their money, while poor people tend to spend it as they get it."**

Then McDaniel, as those experts might say, "re-framed the issue."

"I don't think it's a moral decision, because taking money from people who don't have much money and giving it to people who have more money than the people you took it from seems, well, greedy," she said.

"Greed is frowned upon in every major world religion -- and I don't think agnostics and atheists look too kindly upon it, either."

She wondered aloud, "Is this about a quid pro quo? A gift from elected officials to wealthy people who have donated, or will donate, to election and re-election campaigns?"

Finally, as the clock wound down, McDaniel dropped the hammer.

**"It's not economically sound. It's not morally sound. And I think you know that," she said. "I would be embarrassed to support something so ludicrous -- taking from the poor to give to the rich.**

**"Maybe you're testing us, checking to see if we, your constituents, are really paying attention, really listening," she continued.**

**"I hope that's what's going on, because the alternative involves me losing faith in representative government, in democracy and in you, the elected officials."**

Not once did her voice waver.

Not once did she cross the line between on-point and off-the-wall.

And not once did she sound like she was feeling sorry for herself.

Truth be told, McDaniel decided to testify in honor of her stepfather, a retired high school social studies teacher who, like so many in this state, struggles to fit rising health care costs into a painfully fixed income.

After McDaniel finished, the packed hearing room erupted into applause. Rules being rules, Chairman Rosen reminded them that cheering is not allowed.

But as McDaniel gathered her daughter for the ride home to Portland, a proud young Aedin said she noticed something about her mother's testimony that she hadn't seen with the other speakers.

"All of the people on the committee -- they weren't on their computers or looking at their papers while you were talking," Aiden told her mother. "That's because you were using your teacher voice."

A teacher voice.

Now more than ever, it's worth a few minutes of Maine's time.

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## **Liberated Libyans Reject US Intervention: "The Entire Libyan Population Is Insisting Against US Intervention Or Any Involvement Of Foreign Powers Within Libya"**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

March 1, 2011 The Real News Network

DISCLAIMER: Please note that transcripts for The Real News Network are typed from a recording of the program. TRNN cannot guarantee their complete accuracy.

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*JIHAN HAFIZ, BENGHAZI, LIBYA, (VOICE-OVER): There is already talk of US military intervention in Libya. Here in Benghazi, Libyans overwhelmingly reject this possibility.*

UNIDENTIFIED (SUBTITLED TRANSLATION): You need to understand there are political issues going on in Libya now. The entire Libyan population is insisting against US intervention or any involvement of foreign powers within Libya.

UNIDENTIFIED (SUBTITLED TRANSLATION): Neither a European nor an American military should intervene in the country, but we want to put pressure on Gaddafi's regime to fall. The free Libyan youth will, God willing, oust this criminal dictator from Libya. We only want them to stand strong with us and prevent Gaddafi from bringing mercenaries from other African countries.



*HAFIZ: The residents of Benghazi criticized leaders who have maintained good relations with Gaddafi even after the bloodshed, from Europe to Latin America.*

TEXT ON SCREEN: Berlusconi, your friend is a tyrant dictator.

UNIDENTIFIED: South America actually know probably even more than the Middle East and North Africa what dictatorship is, so we advised them to really be cautious about what they hear from their leader.

*HAFIZ: Meanwhile, the rebels celebrated a new-found unity with Arab nations. They raised the flags of Egypt, Tunisia, and Palestine.*

UNIDENTIFIED (SUBTITLED TRANSLATION): It makes me proud. I am proud to be Egyptian, and I'm proud to be an Arab. Lift your head up high! We are Arabs!

TEXT ON SCREEN: We support the Libyan people and the 17th of February Revolution. Long live a free and independent Libya!

*HAFIZ: This truck coming from Egypt is loaded with donated food, 16 tons of pasta, rice, oil, and sugar. Inspired by Arab revolts in neighboring Egypt and Tunisia, the Libyan people here are welcoming this food convoy from Egypt.*

CROWD: The Egyptians have arrived!

*HAFIZ: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed concern over food shortages, but food is still being given out for free in these streets as donations keep pouring in from Libya's neighbors.*

*Jihan Hafiz for The Real News in Benghazi, Libya.*

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## **Saudi Arabia: “The Most Significant Escalation Of Unrest In The Kingdom” Royal Regime Uses Stupid Religious Crap To Defend Its Dictatorship**

MARCH 11, 2011 By SUMMER SAID in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and ADAM ENTOUS in Washington [Excerpts]

Saudi police fired live ammunition into the air Thursday to disperse at least 200 protesters in the oil-rich Eastern province, the most significant escalation of unrest in the kingdom since popular demands for change began to sweep through the region late last year.

Saudi activists have called for a “day of rage” on Friday, raising new concerns about stability in Saudi Arabia, the U.S.’s most important Arab ally and the world’s largest oil producer.

Three people were injured in the protest by activists in Qatif, in the oil-rich Eastern Province, calling for political reforms and the release of prisoners held without trial.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the U.S. was in consultations with oil-producing states, including Saudi Arabia, about the Mideast unrest and “the effect on oil prices.” “We remain confident that the global system has the capacity to deal with a major disruption,” Mr. Carney said. **[Stupid comment of the month, so far. T]**

Saudi Arabia has helped stabilize world energy markets by raising its crude production levels to make up for Libya’s lost supply.

**Saudi Arabia said protests, marches and sit-ins are banned and don’t conform with Islamic laws.**

Analysts said it remains to be seen if the Saudi protests gather momentum. “It is possible that the latest protests could be a trigger to a revolution, but no one can be certain,” said Tawfiq Alsaif, a political analyst based in Qatif.

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## Trash Have A Chat While The Future Marches



US Defense Secretary Robert Gates chats with Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa at Sakhir Palace in Manama. (Photo: AFP/POOL/Mandel Ngan)



Anti-dictatorship protesters condemn the Royal Government at the gate of Bahrain King's al-Safriya Palace in Zallaq, south of Manama, March 12, 2011. Thousands of protesters marched to the palace demanding an end to the regime. Photo: REUTERS/Hamad I Mohammed

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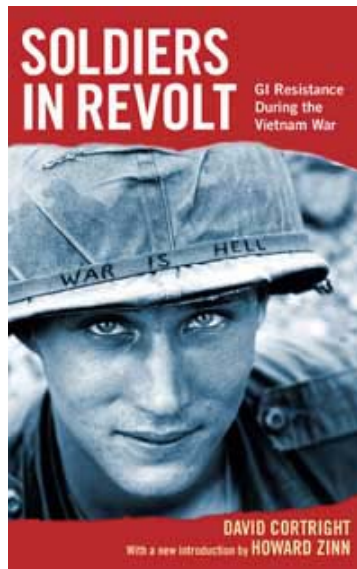
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