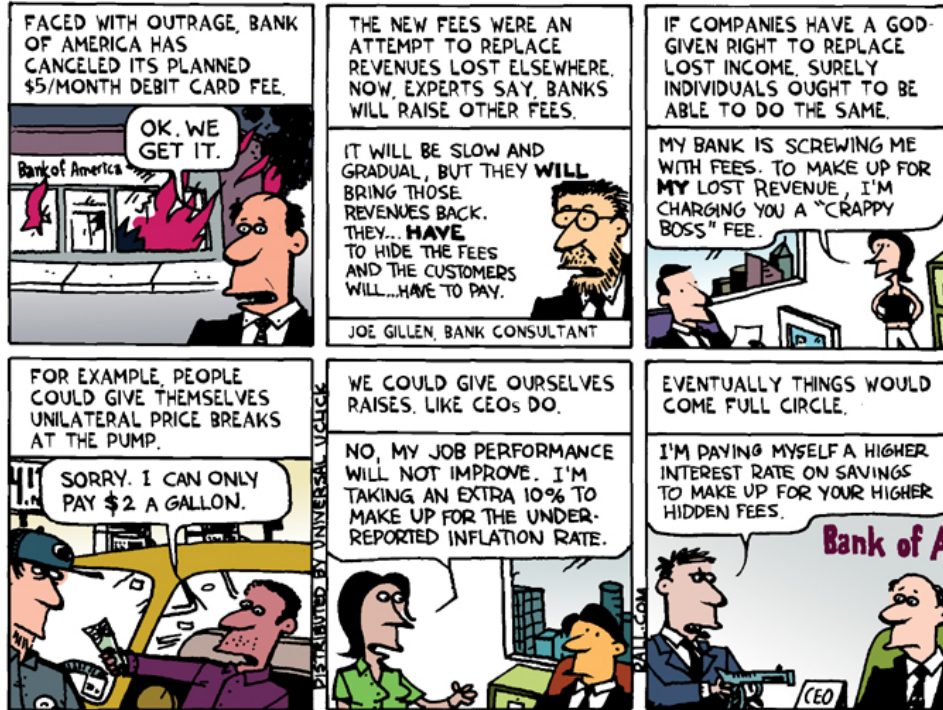


Military Resistance 9K9



“There Is An Online Petition Calling On California Gov. Jerry Brown To Send The National Guard To Protect Occupy Oakland Protesters From The City’s Police Department”

[The content is instinctively brilliant. The method, asking the Governor to slit his own ruling class throat, is so politically backward as to approach ridiculous.

Make friends with the National Guard at their monthly assemblies. The future you save could be your own.

When this Governor, or some other Governor, mobilizes a state National Guard and orders them to act against us, as Governor Walker threatened to do against union members in Wisconsin, it may be too late to start making friends then. T]

November 9, 2011 By Ruben Navarrette Jr., Special to CNN [Excerpts]

Just how bad is the civil unrest associated with the Occupy protests in some U.S. cities?
This bad:

There is an online petition calling on California Gov. Jerry Brown to send the National Guard to protect Occupy Oakland protesters from the city's police department.

Judging from video and firsthand accounts, the police in that city have been especially brutal in dealing with the protesters.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“Insurgents Launched Rocket And Bomb Attacks On US Forces”

13 November 2011 (AFP) & Nov 12 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - Insurgents launched rocket and bomb attacks on US forces.

The US military said four Katyusha rockets targeted its Forward Operating Base Warrior in the disputed oil-rich province of Kirkuk in northern Iraq. “There were no damage or casualties,” a military spokeswoman said by email.

And on Saturday evening, a roadside bomb targeted a US convoy in the Taji area, without causing casualties or damage, the military said.

BALAD RUZ - A sticky bomb attached to a car carrying a member of the government-backed Sahwa militia killed him when it went off in a village east of Balad Ruz, 90 km (55 miles) northeast of Baghdad, a police source said.

MOSUL - Insurgents killed an off-duty policeman on Friday evening in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

November 12, 2011 Reuters

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

More Lice At The End Of The Tunnel: “As The Afghan Air Force Is Being Built, It Is Also In A Perpetual State Of Disintegration”

November 13, 2011 StrategyWorld

The Afghan Army Air Force continues to grow. In the last year it has gained a thousand personnel (for a total of 5,000), and 26 aircraft (for a total of 66, mostly Mi-17 transports and Mi-35 gunships helicopters). In addition to the helicopters there are also Russian transports and Italian transports and some trainers.

Eventually, there are to be 8,000 personnel and 145 aircraft, mostly helicopters and transports, plus trainers that can double at light attack aircraft.

The current aircraft are not operating at the same tempo as American aircraft, mainly because the Afghans have chronic shortages of maintenance personnel.

In a nation with only a 30 percent literacy rate, it's difficult for the military to get technical personnel.

Worse yet, those it trains, are often lost to better paying, and safer, civilian firms.

There is also a generation gap between the older pilots (average age 46) who were trained by the Russians and speak Russian as a second language.

These men are experienced, but they don't get along with the younger, American trained, pilots.

These guys are in their 20s and 30s and speak English as a second language. Although less experienced, the younger pilots are more adept with new technology (like night vision goggles) and operating with American aircraft.

The older pilots feel underappreciated and left behind.

There is friction and morale suffers because of it. The older pilots cannot be fired, because most of them flew for the Northern Alliance, the group that was still fighting the Taliban on September 11, 2001.

Nine years ago, as the post-Taliban Afghan government began planning their new armed forces; it was believed that the Afghan air force would probably consist of a few dozen transports and armed trainer aircraft, plus a few dozen transport helicopters (some of them armed).

Russia would be a likely donor (or seller, at attractive prices) of the equipment as the Afghans have been using Russian air force equipment for more than 30 years. Eventually, Afghanistan would want jet fighters, but foreign aid donors would resist spending any money on these.

Russia could donate some older combat aircraft (currently in storage and wasting away anyway), but even the Afghan government would probably prefer to use the native pilots they have for transports and helicopters, which would be of more use in the next few years.

The original plan has been working, more or less. By 2015 the air force is to have a force consisting of over 60 helicopters (Mi-17 transports and Mi-35 gunships), 28 transports (20 G.222s, 6 AN-32s and 2 AN-26s).

The remaining aircraft are single engine trainers, some of them used for ground attack. The air force has a pilot training program, which has produced over 400 graduates so far, and some of the men (and a few women) are undergoing training overseas.

A major problem is hanging on to trained personnel.

There are few suitable people to recruit in the first place. Afghanistan has only a low literacy rate, and anyone who can speak English can make more as an interpreter for the American troops, rather than flying for the Afghan Air Force.

Same with maintenance personnel who, even if they don't speak English, can leave the country and get a much better paying job elsewhere with their aircraft maintenance skills.

Thus as the Afghan Air Force is being built, it is also in a perpetual state of disintegration.

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Marine Lance Cpl. Jason N. Barfield at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Oct. 26, 2011. Barfield, 22, of Ashford, Ala., was killed in combat Oct. 24, 2011 in Helmand, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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

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

**“The Military Law Task Force Of The
National Lawyers Guild Has Released
New ‘Know Your Rights’ Materials
For Military Members Participating In
The Ongoing Occupy Wall Street
Protests”**

“We’ve Got Your Back”

Contact:
Kathleen Gilberd,
Executive Director, Military Law Task Force
communications@nlg.org
619-463-2369

Nov 2, 2011
New York

The Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild has released new “Know Your Rights” materials for military members participating in the ongoing Occupy Wall Street protests.

“We have reports of active-duty GIs, reservists, and veterans taking part in Occupy actions across the country,” said Kathleen Gilberd, Executive Director of the Military Law Task Force (MLTF).

“The new MLTF pamphlet is designed to ensure that these protesters are aware of their rights and have access to the military regulations which protect them.

“As the pamphlet tells soldiers, the MLTF has your back.”

For nearly 75 years, the National Lawyers Guild has provided representation to individuals targeted for their criticism of U.S. policies.

And since its inception in the 1970s, the MLTF has provided crucial legal support to military dissenters.

“Despite the fact that they put their lives on the line serving the U.S. government, military members’ First Amendment rights are more limited than those of civilians,” Gilberd said. “What’s more, active duty soldiers and reservists may risk disciplinary action simply for exercising those rights at home.”

The list of such rights violations is long.

Inactive reservists have faced other-than-honorable discharges for participating in legal street theater protest actions.

To prevent attendance at anti-war demonstrations, some commands have gone so far as to illegally confine entire units to base.

GIs have even been charged with criminal offenses for handing out copies of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July.

Again and again in these instances, legal work by the MLTF has prevented unjust courts-martial and halted illegal harassment.

The Military Law Task Force grew out of the National Lawyers Guild's Military Law Offices, which provided counsel for GIs in Asia and elsewhere during the Vietnam War. The MLTF includes attorneys, legal workers, law students and "barracks lawyers" interested in draft, military and veterans issues.

The MLTF is an ongoing project of the National Lawyers Guild, which is actively providing legal support to dozens of Occupy encampments nationwide.

The National Lawyers Guild was founded in 1937 and is the oldest and largest public interest/human rights bar organization in the United States.

Its headquarters are in New York and it has chapters in every state.

GET MILITARY RESISTANCE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive Military Resistance immediately and directly, send request to contact@militaryproject.org. There is no subscription charge.

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.

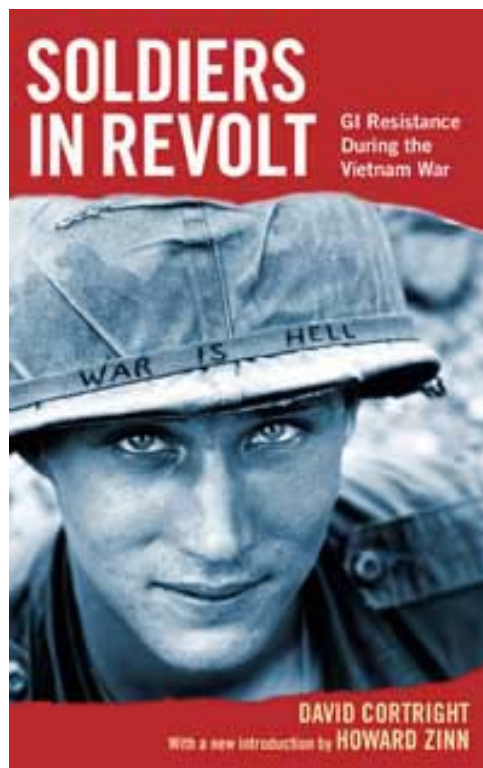
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

Marines Ranks Elect Councils “To Defend Themselves Against Command Reprisals And Continued Racial Abuse”



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

Perhaps the most tragic uprising of recent years took place on July 20, 1969, at Camp Lejeune.

Occurring a few days prior to a scheduled embarkation of the 2nd Marine Division to the Mediterranean, the fighting left fourteen injured and resulted in the death of one white Marine, Corporal Ed Bankston of Picayune, Mississippi.

Arising out of a dispute over discrimination at a base enlisted men's club, the brawl soon turned into a black-versus-white melee near the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, barracks area. Black and Puerto Rican GIs involved, most of them Vietnam veterans, later laid the blame for the incident not on anyone particular act but on the accumulated frustrations of months of command harassment.

Their interpretation was corroborated by the division's "Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Treatment and Opportunity," which had issued its findings months before the July 20 outburst. Obtained by the New York Times several weeks after the riot, the report contained the warning, apparently unheeded, that "an explosive situation of major proportions" existed on post.

Although the committee was composed of seven officers and had been appointed by the base commanding officer, it found that "many white officers and NCOs retain prejudices and deliberately practice them"; the report verified that many off-base facilities were segregated and that black recruits were subjected to excessive harassment from MPs.

The differing responses to the Camp Lejeune riot, by the Marine Corps on the one hand and the black enlisted men on the other, is instructive of the gap separating the two groups in a supposedly homogeneous military organization, and helps explain why black GIs and white commanders remained at odds -- despite official claims of improved relations.

In a frantic law-and-order crackdown, the Camp Lejeune command installed huge bright lights and armed sentries along troop paths between barracks; three reaction forces were also created -- equipped with tear gas, walkie-talkies, and loaded guns.

Twenty-six Marines involved in the July 20 incident were flown back to the States from the Atlantic cruise for criminal action -- twenty-four black and two Spanish-speaking men, but no whites.

The blacks, meanwhile, apparently assuming that little if any satisfaction would come from official quarters, set up their own organization, the "Council of Concerned Marines," to defend themselves against command reprisals and continued racial abuse.

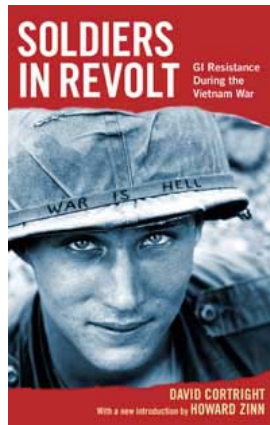
Among the Council's activities were a petition campaign to free those arrested for the riot and an effort to form a network of elected representatives from the black minority within each company.

At the same time, Marines aboard the U.S.S. LaSalle on cruise off the coast of Spain also organized to defend themselves. An organization was formed to work as an independent shore patrol for blacks (as protection from abuse by white MPs) and to press for more black representation in shipboard affairs.

In the 2nd Marine Division, as in so many military units, a virtual state of war raged between minority servicemen and their white superiors. ‘

MORE:

All About How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War Free To First 10 Active Duty who want one with APO/FPO/DPO or base mail address!



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York

**Civilians: \$16 including postage:
Buy one for a friend/relative in the service.
Checks, money orders payable to: The Military Project**

**Orders/requests to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

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 and economic injustice, 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

Sounds Of War

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 01, 2009
Subject: Sounds Of War

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Sounds Of War

**It's another grinder day
chalk scraping on a chalkboard
as the war goes on and on
combat boots slamming sandpaper
Soldiers goose bumping mountains
all gnashing clashing
trying to kill an enemy
like filing on steel
jets fighting rage
with rockets tumbling as an
out of control tank
into a village crowd leaving
mother father who can't run away
faster leaving an orphaned child
from their homes crackling
with fire in a level pointing
upward off balanced
as surviving villagers scratch**

Humvee's glass as Soldiers
watch twisting their tension necks
grinding and snapping along
pebbles and sand dragging
down a dusty road shots fired
with the double thump
of the body and the backpack
against a small crack
as the vertebrae clicks one
time like last time water being
gurgled washing down pills
hopes of surviving wondering
about this different place
in surround sound theatre
called Afghanistan proving
ringing a bell after
the first round in Iraq
this corrupt country too
doesn't vote with crumbling
folding purple paper
as fear fires across the land
and forehead
that those that
would have voted would be
whacked by a machinegun
rat-a-tat-ed then snipers
aiming as buzzards fly
looking for fresh American
food their favorite as
the Taliban and War Lords
just one-vote the Country
all by themselves
the needle pokes in
the mountains then chopper
back count down from 100
on the death meter
the slice of the incision
excoriating the night
roars gasping gurgling
screaming yelling hollering
whimpering wailing bellowing
gnawing teeth grinding
the explosions walk across
the target a bomber filled
with land mine opens
it's cargo as fighter jets
eject missiles
choppers mini-gun burps
thousands at a time

**“The Film About The Historic 2008
Winter Soldier Iraq & Afghanistan
Investigation, This Is Where We Take
Our Stand, Is Finally Going To See
The Light Of Day!”**

**“The Story Of The Iraq Veterans Against
The War (IVAW) Who Risked Everything
To Tell Their Stories Is Today More
Relevant Than Ever”**



From: Displaced Films

To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: This is Where We Take Our Stand Premiering in Los Angeles, Coming to PBS

Date: Nov 7, 2011

Los Angeles Premiere Screening

**UCLA's Hammer Museum
10899 Wilshire Blvd
Tuesday, November 22
7:00 PM**

Admission is free

Special guest Tom Morello is scheduled to perform.

Join the film's directors and subject Geoff Millard for a Q&A after the screening.

Dear friends of Sir! No Sir!,

The film about the historic 2008 Winter Soldier Iraq & Afghanistan Investigation, This is Where We Take Our Stand, is finally going to see the light of day!

The Los Angeles premiere will be at the Hammer Museum on November 22, and it will be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide in January/February 2012. Stay tuned for details of the broadcast.

The story of the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) who risked everything to tell their stories is today more relevant than ever.

As President Obama withdraws troops from a devastated Iraq (minus ten or twenty thousand "contractors" and the largest, most militarized American Embassy in the world), he sends more to Afghanistan and announces new deployments to other Gulf countries.

Nothing is over.

This is Where We Take Our Stand brings you into the powerful, damning testimony of veterans and soldiers at the 2008 event.

And it follows IVAW members Geoff Millard (National Guard), Selena Copa (Army) and Jason Washburn (Marines) as they struggle through controversy, attacks, and their own and their friends' demons to make this historic event happen.

This is Where We Take Our Stand was directed by Bestor Cram, Mike Majoros and David Zeiger.

Funding was provided by the Independent Television Service, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Fledgling Fund, The Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund, and individual contributions from Michael Locker, Victor Wallis, Paul Lauter, Richard Ohmann, Carolyn Blackwood, Lenny Potash, Ann Wright, Richard Flacks, and hundreds more.

Their Memory, And Ours:

Ninety Years On, The Coal Seams Of West Virginia Are A Battlefield Once More: For Working People, The Struggle Goes On



Kayford mountain in West Virginia is demolished by 'mountaintop removal': the historic site of Blair Mountain is under similar threat. Photograph: Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images

[Note: When this ran in a previous issue, the top line was cut off, including the name of the author, Clancy Sigal. No excuse. Apologies to the author. Here it is again, which is just fine. This article deserves more than one reading. T]

11 November 2011 by Clancy Sigal, Guardian News and Media Limited

My first time in Westminster Abbey, London, I was taken inside by a coal miner friend who was down from South Wales for a brief London holiday.

Suitably awed, we gawked at Poets' Corner, the Coronation Throne, the tombs and effigies of prelates, admirals, generals and prime ministers – England in all its majesty and pageantry.

Gazing at the Gothic Revival columns, transepts and amazing fan-vaulted ceiling, my friend said, "Impressive, isn't it? Of course, it's their culture not ours."

Our culture – class conscious, bolshie, renegade – rarely lay in plaques and statues, hardly ever in school texts, but mainly in orally transmitted memories passed down generation to generation, in songs and stories.

“Labor history” has become a province of passionately committed specialists and working-class autodidacts, keepers of the flame of a human drama at least as fascinating and blood-stirring as the dead royal souls in the Abbey.

It belongs to all of us who claim it.

I’m lucky because my family’s secular religion is union.

They include cousin Charlie (shipbuilders), cousin Davie (electrical workers), cousin Bernie (printers), my mother (ladies’ garment) and father (butchers and barbers), and cousin Fred (San Quentin prisoners).

Establishment history may have its Battle of Trafalgar and Gallipoli; we have Haymarket Square, Ludlow, Centralia and Cripple Creek: labor’s battle sites, more often slaughtering defeats than victories.

Until recently, a lot of this history casually disappeared down Orwell’s “memory hole”, forgotten, censored or ignored. But with the spectacular emergence of the Occupy Wall Street movement, and fight-backs in states like Wisconsin and Ohio, young people especially seem to be regaining and reinvigorating a living history. Memory stirs.

This contest for memory is a class struggle by other means.

Half our story – the half where unions created the modern middle class – is written in the pedestrian language of contracts, negotiations, wages and hours laws ... the nuts and bolts of deals. After all, unions exist to make a deal.

But the other half is inscribed in the whizzing bullets, shootouts and pistol duels of out-and-out combat.

Labor has its own Lexington and Gettysburg.

And none more bloodily inscribed than in the hills and hollows of the West Virginia coal fields.

The 1921 five-day Battle of Blair Mountain was the largest domestic insurrection in the nation’s post-Civil War history, pitting 15,000 armed “redneck” miners, with their fierce and family passions, against an army of imported gun-thugs, strikebreakers, federal troops and even a US army bomber, hired by the coal companies who owned the state and federal governments and believed they owned the human beings who dug the raw coal.

The Blair Mountain shootout had been preceded and provoked by the “Matewan massacre” when a local sheriff and his deputies, sympathetic to the young miners’ union, took on the coal company’s hired gorillas who were evicting pro-union miners and their families from their shanties. (See John Sayles’s film, *Matewan*.)

Enraged miners marched on to Blair Mountain in the next county.

When the smoke cleared over Blair mountain, along an eight-mile front reminiscent of Flanders trenches, a hundred on both sides had been killed with many more wounded.

Outgunned and under a presidential order, the miners, led by the fabulously named Bill Blizzard, took their squirrel-hunting rifles and went home – to face indictments for treason and murder, drawn up by the coal owners and their bought judges.

Sympathetic juries freed most of them. (For further interest: Bill Blizzard's son, the late William C, has a book, *When Miners March*.)

The beautiful, heartbreaking thing is that today the Battle of Blair Mountain goes on.

With protest hikes, films and pamphlets, the campaign to save the mountain – again – sets local miners and their families and friends, including archaeologists and historians, against West Virginia coal owners like notorious Massey Energy, still being investigated by the FBI for possible criminal negligence in the deaths of 29 miners in the Upper Big Branch disaster of 2010.

A billion dollars of undug coal inside the mountain is at stake.

The world is in the middle of a coal rush.

Dynamite is cheaper than people.

Incorrigible companies like Massey aim to blow up Blair, via “mountaintop removal” (aka “strip mining on steroids”), to get at the coal and, while they're at it, destroy the people's battleground, the ecology and any inheritance of resistance.

It is a fight over memory and honor, with very practical consequences for the coal valleys, its displaced families, poisoned rivers, contaminated communities.

For a while, it looked as if the miners and their union had won a great victory by getting Blair Mountain on the National Register of Historic Places. But with a Democratic state governor and a Democratic president refusing to take sides, the coal owners – who still control West Virginia – at the last minute suddenly found some landowners to object. With the connivance of Obama's departments of interior and environment and the Park Service, Blair Mountain was de-registered and thrown open to the pillagers.

Coal mining is where open class warfare is often at its sharpest, most visible and violent.

Something about the job underground, and the shrewd tactical skills it takes not to get yourself killed by roof falls and methane gas explosions, binds miner to miner in what the military likes to call “unit cohesion”.

Historically, miners worldwide have been in the advance guard of social progress.

It's one reason why coal companies in America, and Mrs Thatcher in Britain, always despised the miners and became obsessed with breaking their union.

Labor does not have its Westminster Abbey and probably shouldn't. Museums are no substitute for “talking union”.

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

STUCK ON STUPID

How About A Little Bit Of Help From Our Friends? [No, It's Not About Money]

As the pressure builds from below associated with the Occupy Wall Street movement, there has been a noticeable increase in message traffic sent to this Newsletter.

Readers can help ease the part of the production of Military Resistance that involves reviewing incoming emails by NOT sending in:

Material demonstrating George W. Bush, Rumsfeld, Cheney & Co. Etc. were bad. According to latest reports, they are not now killing U.S. troops and citizens of Afghanistan in Imperial war.

Articles explaining why U.S. troops should not be sent to Afghanistan, but fail to demand the immediate return of all the troops killing and dying there now. The stench of this hypocrisy is unwelcome.

“Open Letters To President Obama.” He’s not reading them. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

“Petitions To President Obama.” He’s not reading them. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

“Phone Calls To President Obama” He’s not answering the phone. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

Tedious articles warning Obama that if he does this or that or doesn’t do that, people won’t like him, or if he would just do this or that, people would like him. He’s not reading them. Not understanding that is a failure of situational awareness. Duh.

Articles that refer to the people who occupy Palestine as “Jews.” They are Zionists. Referring to Zionists as Jews slanders Jews who are implacable political opponents of Zionist politics and the state of Israel. There are a lot of them and always have been.

Articles that portray Obama as a wholesome reformer being forced to do this or that by the Generals, or Wall Street, or some other evil powerful political force that has taken the helpless man prisoner. Not only is that argument stupid, it’s racist.

All that idiotic crap about how the U.S. government is going to attack Iran NOW. That’s been puked out every year for over 5 years by the pretty much the same bunch of lame freaks. Send it instead to somebody who thinks alien worms have built a civilization on the dark side of the moon.

Articles arguing that Iraq and/or Afghanistan veterans are homicidal maniacs: “Iraq War Veteran Kills And Eats Three Neighbors.” FYI, the homicidal category runs the Imperial government.

Articles about this or that bizarre new weapon the Pentagon might or might not deploy five years from now.

Articles by ego-freak self-appointed lefty “leaders.” Do not send if the writer isn’t writing about a personal experience, but uses the word “I” more than once per 1000 words, as in: “I think the reason I have so much trouble with what I hear Americans say about the war is because I don’t get the sense that they understand what I have been arguing for the past six years.”

Articles by arrogant interviewers who say “talk about” to the person being interviewed, as in “Talk about the situation in Afghanistan.” This means the interviewer is too dumb or too lazy to frame a serious question, or is simply a condescending piece of shit treating the person being interviewed as if he or she were a child, or a performing animal to do some trick on demand.

Articles by smug left elitists, often smug racist left elitists: This species will write about “Martin” doing this and “Malcolm” doing that, when referring to Martin Luther King or Malcolm X, but wouldn’t dream of writing about “Leon” doing this and “Karl” doing that when writing about Leon Trotsky or Karl Marx. Oh no, then it’s always the respectful “Trotsky” or “Marx.” Don’t bother sending anything when you spot this condescending crap.

Thanks!
T

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”
Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



“The Police Found About 10 Grams Of Marijuana, Or About A Third Of An Ounce, When They Searched Penelope Harris’s Apartment In The Bronx Last Year”

“The Amount Was Below The Legal Threshold For Even A Misdemeanor, And Prosecutors Declined To Charge Her”

“The Police Had Reported Her Arrest To The State’s Child Welfare Hot Line, And City Caseworkers Quickly Arrived And Took The Children Away”

Over all, the rate of marijuana use among whites is twice as high as among blacks and Hispanics in the city, the data show, but defense lawyers said these cases were rarely if ever filed against white parents.

August 17, 2011 By Mosi Secret, New York Times [Excerpts]

The police found about 10 grams of marijuana, or about a third of an ounce, when they searched Penelope Harris’s apartment in the Bronx last year.

The amount was below the legal threshold for even a misdemeanor, and prosecutors declined to charge her.

But Ms. Harris, a mother whose son and niece were home when she was briefly in custody, could hardly rest easy.

The police had reported her arrest to the state’s child welfare hot line, and city caseworkers quickly arrived and took the children away.

Her son, then 10, spent more than a week in foster care.

Her niece, who was 8 and living with her as a foster child, was placed in another home and not returned by the foster care agency for more than a year.

Ms. Harris, 31, had to weather a lengthy child neglect inquiry, though she had no criminal record and had never before been investigated by the child welfare authorities, Ms. Harris and her lawyer said.

“I felt like less of a parent, like I had failed my children,” Ms. Harris said. “It tore me up.”

Hundreds of New Yorkers who have been caught with small amounts of marijuana, or who have simply admitted to using it, have become ensnared in civil child neglect cases in recent years, though they did not face even the least of criminal charges, according to city records and defense lawyers.

A small number of parents in these cases have even lost custody of their children.

As states and localities around the country loosen penalties for marijuana, for both recreational and medical uses, they are increasingly grappling with how to handle its presence in homes with children.

California, where the medical marijuana movement has flourished, now requires that child welfare officials demonstrate actual harm to a child from marijuana use in order to bring neglect cases, and defense lawyers there say the authorities are now bringing fewer of them.

But in New York, the child welfare agency has not shied from these cases.

For these parents, the child welfare system has become an alternate system of justice, with legal standards on marijuana that appear to be tougher than those of criminal courts or, to some extent, of society at large.

In interviews, lawyers from the three legal services groups that the city hires to defend parents said they saw hundreds of marijuana cases each year, most involving recreational users.

The lawyers said they currently had more than a dozen cases on their dockets involving parents who had never faced neglect allegations and whose children were placed in foster care because of marijuana allegations.

Lauren Shapiro, director of the Brooklyn Family Defense Project, which defends most parents facing neglect charges in Family Court in Brooklyn, said more than 90 percent of the cases alleging drug use that her lawyers handle involve marijuana, as opposed to other drugs.

“There is not the same use of crack cocaine as there used to be, so they are filing these cases instead,” Ms. Shapiro said.

Marijuana is the most common illicit drug in New York City: 730,000 people, or 12 percent of people age 12 and older, use the drug at least once annually, according to city health data.

Over all, the rate of marijuana use among whites is twice as high as among blacks and Hispanics in the city, the data show, but defense lawyers said these cases were rarely if ever filed against white parents.

Michael Fagan, a spokesman for the Administration for Children’s Services, said the defense lawyers were offering a simplistic portrayal of these cases.

Mr. Fagan said most of the cases involved additional forms of neglect, like a child who is not going to school or who has been left unattended.

But lawyers for parents countered that the agency often brought neglect charges based solely on recreational marijuana use, then searched later for other grounds to bolster cases.

“In some cases, there are other allegations, but we think they are add-ons,” said Susan Jacobs, executive director of the Center for Family Representation, which works in Manhattan and Queens. “The reason the person is being brought into Family Court is the marijuana use.”

State law makes possession of as much as 25 grams of marijuana — enough for 20 or 30 marijuana cigarettes — a violation similar to a traffic offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$100.

The Administration for Children's Services does not track the number of parents facing marijuana allegations. It compiles statistics only on the total number of neglect cases for drugs and alcohol, rather than for individual drugs. There were 4,891 such cases in 2010.

State law considers a child neglected if his or her well-being is threatened by a parent who "repeatedly misuses" a drug. But the law does not distinguish marijuana from heroin or other drugs.

The law says that if parents have "substantial impairment of judgment," then there is a presumption of neglect, but it does not refer to quantities of drugs.

Furthermore, the law does not require child welfare authorities to catch parents while they are high or with drugs in their possession. Simply admitting past use to a caseworker is grounds for a neglect case.

In marijuana cases, as in all others, caseworkers have the obligation to remove children who they believe are in imminent danger, but they can recommend that the agency file neglect charges against the parents without removing the children.

They can also close cases for unsubstantiated allegations.

Neglect findings, while sometimes allowing parents to keep their children, can have serious repercussions. They prohibit parents from taking jobs around children, like driving a school bus or working in day care, or from being foster care parents or adopting. And they make it easier for Family Court judges to later remove children from their homes.

The findings stay on parents' records with the Statewide Central Register until their youngest child turns 28.

The policy of the Administration for Children's Services to pursue marijuana cases is not widely known.

But when told of it, some lawmakers said the agency was overstepping its authority.

"I would hope that A.C.S., knowing what a wide-net strategy the N.Y.P.D. is using, would treat marijuana arrests with a grain of salt," said Brad Lander, a Democratic city councilman from Brooklyn.

"A neglect charge should not be leveled."

Ms. Harris, the woman briefly held in custody in the Bronx, said the police had searched her apartment because they believed drugs were being sold there, an allegation that she denied.

She said the small bags of marijuana the police found belonged to her boyfriend and were for his personal use. She tested negative for drugs after she was released.

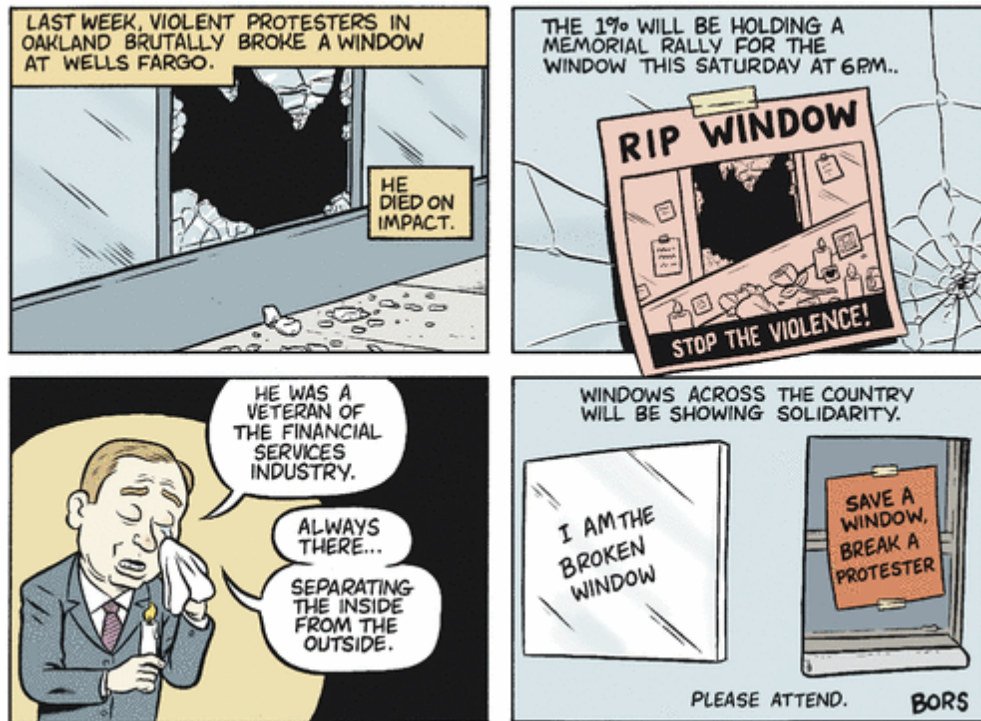
The Administration for Children's Services filed neglect charges about a week after Bronx prosecutors declined to press charges.

Ms. Harris was represented by the Bronx Defenders, a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to Bronx residents.

In a hearing the next day, the agency agreed to return Ms. Harris's son on the condition that her boyfriend not return to the home, that she enroll in therapy and submit to random drug screenings, and that caseworkers could make announced and unannounced visits to her home.

Ms. Harris's case was closed in April without a finding of neglect.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



RECEIVED:

“Side By Side”

From: Felicity Arbuthnot
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: “Serving” Multi-nationals.
Date: Nov 13, 2011 10:27 AM

Re Military Resistance 9K8:

When I read this:

“I Did Not Serve My Country In Iraq; I Served The 1%” “My ‘Service’ Served Exxon-Mobil, Halliburton, KBR, Blackwater, And Other Multinational Corporations”

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I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints.

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