

## **Military Resistance 9L1**



## **I Am A Soldier**

By Rich Raitano; Medic 4th Bn 3rd Inf. Rgt. (Old Guard) -- RVN 1967-68.  
From: The Veteran Fall 2011; Vietnam Veterans Against the War

**I am a soldier,  
One of America's own.  
Child of the father's before me  
Whose sacrifice I owe a debt  
Which can never be repaid.**

**I stand ready to honor that debt  
When called upon. I will take arms  
Against those who would seek to  
Cage liberty and set fire to peace.  
My life for these I do pledge.**

**All that I ask...  
Do not deceive me. Do not send  
Me to distant places to stand  
In harm's way for falsehoods and  
Riches earned by the letting  
Of my blood.**

Do not dishonor my sacrifice  
For the gains of your purse.  
Let not my life be your reward.  
I am a soldier,  
One of America's own.  
Father to those to come after me.

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### **Soldier With Fayetteville Ties Killed In IED Blast In Afghanistan**



Spc. Calvin Evangelista Pereda, 21, was stationed in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and deployed in April

Nov 15, 2011 By James Halpin, Staff writer, The Fayetteville Observer

A soldier who was a former resident of Fayetteville has been killed in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense said Monday night.

Spc. Calvin Evangelista Pereda, 21, died Saturday of injuries sustained after encountering an improvised explosive device while on patrol, the Department of Defense said.

"We're trying our best to keep it together because we know that his mom and his brothers are having it 10 times worse," said Pereda's cousin, Emerald Evangelista Salas, 26, reached Monday in Guam. "So we need to be the strong ones here, because if we all fall apart, then we are not able to move on."

Pereda was born in Guam, the third of five brothers, said his cousin.

As a boy, he loved playing outside in the tropical climate, climbing trees, camping and playing cars, she said.

“Calvin was very respectful, very soft-spoken,” said Salas, who learned about her cousin’s death Sunday. “We’re just going through a lot of emotion right now.”

His mother, Rosario Evangelista Pereda, moved the boys to the Fayetteville area in 2000, when Calvin Pereda was about 10 years old, Salas said. She was a single mother and wanted to start a better life for her boys, she said.

Calvin Pereda and his family lived here for several years, and he attended South View High School in Hope Mills.

Salas said Pereda wanted a change when he was a senior, so he left the school to live with his brother, Clifford Pereda, in Oklahoma. He graduated from Lawton High School before returning to North Carolina, Salas said.

He then followed in the footsteps of his mother and two older brothers, joining the Army in March 2010, she said. He was stationed at Fort Wainwright, near Fairbanks, Alaska, before deploying to Afghanistan in April.

Pereda was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Pereda’s body was returned to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Sunday. His mother and oldest brother were there to receive him, Salas said.

His body will remain in Delaware for about a week while an autopsy is conducted. He will then be returned to his homeland, to be buried with the rest of his family, she said.

Salas said Calvin Pereda’s grandmother died in April and he missed her funeral because he had just gotten deployed. He was planning to come home for the anniversary of her death next spring, she said.

“It’s really hard for our family right now,” Salas said. “We had just gotten over her death. She died at the age of 90, and we knew her time was coming.

“But Calvin’s death, that one really crept up on us. “We weren’t prepared for that,” she said. “I know that joining the Army, yes there’s a risk, but when you think deployment, you don’t want to think that death follows. You always think the positive.”

Robert Lizama, the mayor of Yigo, Guam - Pereda’s birthplace - said the death is the 41st for the Mariana Islands since the U.S. began the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the third from Yigo, a village of about 20,000 in northern Guam.

“We honor our fallen soldiers by placing black ribbons with bows on the power poles along Marine Corps Drive to recognize that we honor him for the ultimate sacrifice that he made while serving in the war zone,” said Lizama, who is also Pereda’s uncle. “We want to pay homage, of course, to one of our sons of Guam.”

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# Preston Iowa Remembering Marine Corporal Zach Reiff

November 22, 2011 By Kristy Mergenthal, Reporter; WQAD-TV

PRESTON, Iowa—

In just the last eight days, the war in Afghanistan has taken a heavy toll on three Quad City area families.

Now, the small community of Preston, Iowa is mourning the loss of United States Marine Corporal Zach Reiff.

Reiff was severely injured Friday, November, 18, 2011 when an IED he stepped on blew up. Late Monday, November 21, 2011. Reiff died at a hospital in Germany.

The flag flies at half staff outside the Reiff family home in remembrance of their son and brother, Marine Corporal Zach Reiff.

“You just don’t think it happened, you think he’ll pull through,” said friend Branden Michel.

Word of Zach’s death traveled quickly in Preston.

Tiny notes of love from elementary students and a show of support for Zach and his family surround the high school where he graduated in 2007.

“It’s the second one in our class that has passed away, it’s really weird. We haven’t even had our five year reunion,” said Michel.

Brandon Michel, a close friend of Zach’s says he just saw his classmate two months ago when he was home on leave.

“I was with a friend who got a text message and it just hit me,” said Michel.

Serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, Zach went straight into the marines after high school where he’s remembered as an athletic outdoorsman.

“Just a really fun kid. We would hunt, fish just hang out he was a great friend,” said Michel.

A community showing support for their marines, who made the ultimate sacrifice and paid the ultimate price.

“Everybody’s just willing to pitch in and help them out whatever they need,” said Michel.

Zach’s parents flew to Germany and were at his bedside when he died. Funeral arrangements are still pending.

## Get The Message?



Nov 30, 2011: Pakistani students in Lahore, Pakistan rally against U.S. air attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. (AP Photo/K.M.Chaudary)...



Nov 30, 2011: Pakistani students in Peshawar, Pakistan rally against U.S. air attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Placard in center reads: "Go ahead Pakistan army, we are with you." (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)



Nov 30, 2011: Pakistanis in Islamabad, Pakistan rally against U.S. air attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)...

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## ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers of the Georgia Agribusiness Development Team inspect a cooler storage facility during a cooler storage utilization assessment mission in Muhammad Aghah district of Logar province, eastern Afghanistan November 30, 2011. REUTERS/Umit Bektas

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Attack On Somali Army Base Kills Soldier And Four Officers**

Nov. 30 By Hamsa Omar (Bloomberg)

At least five people died when a bomber disguised as a government soldier attacked Somalia's military headquarters in Mogadishu, the capital, a military official and an emergency worker said.

Four army officers died in the explosion and 12 soldiers were injured, three of them sustaining "serious wounds," General Abdikarim Yusuf Adan Dhagabadan, the head of Somalia's military, told reporters today in the city. Al-Shabaab militia, claimed responsibility for the blast at the base, known as Villa Baidoa.

"We have implemented a holy attack on the so-called military base at Villa Baidoa," Sheikh Abdi Aziz Abu Musab said in remarks broadcast on Radio Andulus, an al-Shabaab-controlled broadcaster.

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**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 and all other forms of injustice inside the armed forces.**

**Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties enlisted troops inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help organize resistance within the armed forces.**

**We hope that you'll build a network of active duty organizers.**

## 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**

**“It’s Difficult To Think That Some Of  
My Good Friends Died For Nothing,  
But It’s The Truth”**

**Iraq Vet Seriously Injured By Oakland  
Police Attack Returns To Where His  
Skull Was Fractured Last Month**





Scott Olsen

November 28, 2011 By Rick Hampson, USA TODAY

OAKLAND – Scott Olsen, the ex-Marine Iraq veteran who became the bloodied face of the Occupy movement, returned to where his skull was fractured last month during a standoff between police and protesters.

What he found was a shadow of the vibrant encampment he first visited a few days before he was hit Oct. 25, possibly by a tear gas canister.

“This is not what it was,” he said Sunday, “although there are still some people here keeping a presence.”

Gone were the camp’s library, medical tent, garden and crowd. About 50 people milled about City Hall plaza.

Even the once-ubiquitous “We are all Scott Olsen” signs were gone.

Police raided the camp Nov. 14 and dismantled it, arresting some Occupiers, scattering the rest. “A lot has changed since the last time I was here,” Olsen told Caitlin Kelly, a friend who welcomed him with a hug.

Earlier, in his first interview since becoming Occupy’s most identifiable member and the focus of sympathetic protests around the world, Olsen described his injury as both ironic and unjust.

Ironic, he said, because he survived two combat tours in Iraq from 2006 to 2008 “physically unscathed,” only to be hit a few miles from the San Francisco office where he works as a computer systems administrator for an online security company.

Unjust, he said, because he was exercising the constitutional freedoms he’d joined the Marines and gone to Iraq to protect.

Olsen is a slight, laconic, polite 24-year-old with long brown hair he’s vowed not to cut until U.S. troops are out of Iraq and Afghanistan. He’s staying in an apartment in nearby San Mateo with his mother, Sandy, who came from Wisconsin to care for him.

He wears a neck brace and sometimes stammers, stutters or gropes for words. “My brain is starting to work better,” he said, “but it’s frustrating, because I still have to think about how to make the sounds come out.” His doctors say he won’t be fluent for months.

He does not remember, and probably never knew, what hit him last month, or who was responsible.

He agrees with Occupiers who assume it was a projectile fired at close range from a line of riot police.

**The scene, Olsen said, reminded him of Iraq — the helicopters overhead, the explosions, the smoke. After he was hit, there were frantic curses and cries of “Medic!” “It seemed like a battle, like war,” he said. “It did bring that back to me.”**

He was standing with an ex-sailor in uniform between the main bodies of police and protesters.

Olsen wore his Marines’ camouflage jacket over a Veterans for Peace T-shirt. He was posing for pictures, he said, and trying to use his status as a veteran to keep the peace.

After he was hit on the side of the head, he became a mute witness to his rescue by other demonstrators. “They kept asking me, ‘What’s your name?’ “ he recalled. “I couldn’t get the words out.”

At the hospital he was in a medically induced coma for about 24 hours while having surgery to repair his skull and ease pressure on his bruised, swollen brain. He didn’t regain basic speech for more than two weeks.

**The Oakland police, who have said officers had been targets of rocks and bottles earlier on Oct. 25, say they are investigating the incident.**

**“How long does it take to get to the bottom of that?” Olsen asked.**

Five big boxes of letters sit in the living room, a reminder of Olsen’s symbolic status, which he welcomes. He spoke glowingly of the Occupy movement’s openness, hospitality and diversity: “I liked everything about Occupy — getting the money out of politics, getting people back into their homes.”

And getting the United States out of Iraq and Afghanistan, the issue that led him to the movement.

He described a growing disenchantment with the Marines and the Iraq War. While on active duty, he created a website called “I Hate the Marine Corps” to give like-minded grunts a place to vent anonymously. His frustration grew from his feeling that while the Corps entrusted Marines with responsibility, “we still got treated like kids.”

Asked whether the website explained why he received an administrative discharge rather than an honorable one in 2009, he said he would not comment because he was trying to get the discharge upgraded.

He enlisted in the Marines in high school because “they’re the best at what they do” and “we were at war with those terrorists. ... I thought it was right to raise my right hand.”

Iraq turned him around: “I don’t see what good we were doing there. I saw Americans die doing nothing more than looking for (roadside) bombs, and I saw Iraqis die. ... We released all this tension, and they began killing us and each other.”

Once, he said, American fire accidentally killed an Iraqi serving in a local government the United States had helped set up in an area where his unit was based.

“We put these people in power, then we kill them,” he said. “It’s difficult to think that some of my good friends died for nothing, but it’s the truth.”

Olsen said he’s not angry at the Oakland police. (“I don’t get mad too often.”) Despite the now-defunct website’s name (“that was just marketing”), he doesn’t hate the Marines. He doesn’t regret enlisting; the military, he said, helped make him who he is.

Even when it comes to his injury, Olsen considers himself fortunate — and not just because he wasn’t killed.

He said that as a veteran he was shown more honor and treated with more respect than many others under the same circumstances. “It almost seems,” he said with a shrug, “like I got lucky.”

## **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**

# **Troops Gouged By Greedy Bankers And Other Money-Lending Scum:**

# **“Banks And Credit Unions On And Near Military Bases Continue To Charge Exorbitant And Multiple Fees Associated With Overdraft Protection”**

## **“New Predatory Lending Practices Have Arisen Which Continue To Victimize Our Clients”**

November 14, 2011 By Karen Jowers, Army Times [Excerpts]

Some lenders are still saddling troops with high-interest loans by “working around” the law that limits troops’ interest rates to 36 percent, advocates told senators in a hearing on consumer financial protections for service members and their families.

Nonbank lenders have morphed their products to work around the law’s implementation to effectively produce the same consequences that brick-and-mortar payday lenders previously did, said retired Adm. Steve Abbott, president of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

**But an even bigger concern for his relief society, he said, is overdraft fees charged by banks and credit unions.**

**“This is the top problem I’m seeing in terms of young service members coming in for help,” he said, noting that some are charged overdraft fees as many as seven times in a day.**

**At \$25 or more a pop, he said, it adds up.**

“Banks and credit unions on and near military bases continue to charge exorbitant and multiple fees associated with overdraft protection and direct deposit advance loans,” Abbott said.

Such on-base institutions “should be held to a higher standard, offering military families (and) retirees lower fees and better protection from predatory lending practices.”

Frank Pollack, president of Pentagon Federal Credit Union, said his credit union has worked to develop financial education materials to help teach military personnel how to manage their money, among other things.

In addition, it has developed a checking account disclosure, in collaboration with Pew Trust, to help members understand fees and costs associated with their accounts.

PFCU also has a program for active-duty members that waives overdraft fees up to two times during any three-month period.

And it has a quick payday loan alternative, offering a \$500 emergency loan or 10 percent of take-home pay, whichever is larger, for a flat \$5 fee.

**While the Military Lending Act has dramatically curtailed payday loans to active-duty members, it was implemented on a limited scale, Abbott said.**

He said lenders, including online payday lenders, “have found loop-holes in the regulations and new predatory lending practices have arisen which continue to victimize our clients.”

**He said a sailor in Norfolk, Va., was paying 365 percent interest on a motor vehicle line of credit with a title loan company — paying \$200 per month on a \$1,000 loan — and had recently filed for bankruptcy.**

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**Screwed Up VA Report On Burn  
Pit Poisoning Says Smoke Is Full  
Of Deadly Dioxin But Can't Say  
Sick Troops Were Poisoned:  
“For The Service Members Who  
Spent Their Deployments Wiping  
Black Soot From Their Housing Units  
And Furniture And Coughing And  
Vomiting From The Smell, The Report  
Offers Little Comfort”  
“It Was ‘Impossible’ To Collect Accurate  
Data At Balad Based On Wind**

# Conditions And Issues With The Power Supply”

**But the committee compared overall air pollution data at Balad with reports from other areas worldwide and found that air drawn from sites downwind of the Balad burn pit contained dioxin levels higher than Beijing, one of the world’s most polluted cities.**

November 14, 2011 By Patricia Kime, Army Times [Excerpts]

A group of the nation’s top researchers said available data does not conclusively link cancer, pulmonary and respiratory disease, neurological damage and other illnesses to the smoke that poured for years from open-air waste disposal burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

An Institute of Medicine committee, formed at the request of the Veterans Affairs Department to investigate possible long-term health consequences of exposure to burn pits for U.S. troops, examined 53 days’ worth of raw air data taken from locations near the largest pit at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, as well as other studies.

Based on the data — **which lacked details on whether air samples were collected during burn times**, measurements of pollutants associated with combustion such as such as ozone, sulfur dioxide or hydrogen cyanide, and specifics on what was burned in the pits — the committee was “unable to say whether long-term health effects are likely to result from exposure to emissions,” the report states.

**But the committee compared overall air pollution data at Balad with reports from other areas worldwide and found that air drawn from sites downwind of the Balad burn pit contained dioxin levels higher than Beijing, one of the world’s most polluted cities.**

Air from a site upwind contained smaller concentrations of dioxins — chemicals associated with cancers, immune disorders and neurological problems — than in Beijing but remained considerably higher than most U.S. suburbs.

**In 2010, Air Force bioengineer Lt. Col. Darrin Curtis, now retired, told Military Times it was “impossible” to collect accurate data at Balad based on wind conditions and issues with the power supply.**

Curtis sounded the alarm on burn pits in an official 2007 memo raising concerns about the potential dangers of the plumes.

**Although the IOM committee could not directly link burn pits to health problems, it said the over-all air quality in the area was cause for worry.**

The committee raised concerns about high levels of particulate matter — dust containing silica, carbons and metals — found in the air samples, which could amplify health risks

for “highly exposed populations such as those who worked at the burn pit or susceptible populations, for example, those who have asthma.”

The Defense Department shut down its last burn pit in Iraq in late 2010.

**It continues to maintain about 100 pits in Afghanistan but is working to replace them with cleaner-burning incinerators, Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said Nov. 2.**

For the service members who spent their deployments wiping black soot from their housing units and furniture and coughing and vomiting from the smell, the report offers little comfort.

**Fire Controlman 1st Class Justin Silva, assigned to Joint Base Balad from 2008 to 2009, said his colleagues could tell what was being burned on any given day based on the smoke’s thickness and acidity.**

**“Styrofoam, rubber, oil. Some days were much worse than others,” said the sailor, now based in San Diego.**

**He said he had respiratory problems while in the region and symptoms such as chronic cough and wheezing continue to linger.**

**“If there weren’t any hazards to burning this stuff, how come I can’t get a permit to do it in my backyard?” Silva said.**

Others cite far more debilitating illnesses.

**Rosie Torres, wife of former Army Capt. Leroy Torres, says her family has been torn apart by her husband’s maladies, which include constrictive bronchiolitis, an irreversible thickening of the lungs’ small airways.**

**“We’ve seen him go from this big strong man to barely being able to get out of bed on some days. When he has headaches, he ends up in the hospital,” she said.**

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# **Iraq Army Veteran Charged \$21 C.O.D. For Purple Heart: “This Is A Gross Injustice” “If They Would Do It To A Sgt. Major, They’ll Do It To Anybody”**



10/ 6/11 By Ben Muessig, Huffington Post

Rob Dickerson, Army Veteran, Forced To Pay \$21 C.O.D. For Purple Heart

War comes with an incalculable human cost.

And apparently a shipping fee of about \$21.

Retired Sgt. Major Rob Dickerson says that’s the price he was forced to pay when his Purple Heart -- the medal issued to soldiers wounded in action -- arrived at his door, C.O.D.

Instead of being awarded the military honor in a formal ceremony, the vet with 29 years in the service was handed his award, and a shipping invoice, by a FedEx deliveryman outside his Sioux Falls, S.D., home.

“Leaders need to pay attention and take care of soldiers,” Dickerson told The Huffington Post. “This is a gross injustice.”

The shipping-and-handling fiasco was the last aggravation for Dickerson in his four-year quest to get the medal. His story was first reported by Keloland.com.

In 2007, he was a reservist embedded as an advisor to Iraqi soldiers. He was training troops to fight the insurgency, when a rocket exploded nearby and severely injured him.



"It threw me 20, 25 feet in the air -- it just crumpled me," said Dickerson, who said the blow inflicted a traumatic brain injury, shrapnel wounds, injuries to his right shoulder, lower back and neck and nerve damage in his hip.

A Purple Heart should have been easy to obtain. But because Dickerson was serving alongside Iraqi soldiers instead of American forces, no U.S. Army medic was able to issue him a Casualty Feeder Card, a document that "goes up the chain of command and notifies them of American casualties," he said.

"Being with Iraqi soldiers, I had no American medic with me -- and all of my Iraqi comrades with me were killed."

**Dickerson says he spent two days in the hospital before returning to duty. But without the document, he couldn't convince Army officials of his merit.**

**"An American nurse who examined me issued a sworn statement, but that wasn't good enough for my commander in Iraq," he said.**

After returning to the United States, Dickerson, who also served in Afghanistan, pursued the medal through the peacetime chain of command.

**His request was granted, and the Purple Heart was shipped to his home in 2009 -- with a delivery fee.**

Army officials were not able to immediately explain how Dickerson wound up paying for his own Purple Heart. "I'm positive that's not typical," said Army spokesman Troy Rolan.

In an email, Rolan noted that the Army received Dickerson's request in June 2009, reviewed it the following month and shipped the medal in August.

"The normal practice is to send the award to the Soldiers (sic) unit ... It would be up to the unit or Congressional Office to coordinate a ceremony," he wrote.

"Unknown why the Soldier was charged postage for shipping."

Dickerson says he initially refused to pay the C.O.D., telling the deliveryman to charge the Army.

A week later, FedEx sent him a bill.

He paid that bill and brought the charges to the attention of Army officials.

**Army brass tried to make it up to by sending an apology and a money order to reimburse him.**

**But in yet another gaffe, Dickerson hasn't been able to cash the money order because it's made out to Roy Dirksen.**

It's been nearly two years since Dickerson was forced to pay for his own medal, and he remains frustrated.

After getting word that two other soldiers might find themselves in a similar position, Dickerson says he recently penned a letter to a local newspaper outlining his plight.

“When I was a Sgt. Major, I double-checked and triple-checked everything,” he told The Huffington Post. “Mistakes happen. This happened -- so resolve it.”

Dickerson hopes to track down other soldiers who find themselves in similar situations and offer his support.

“If they would do it to a Sgt. Major, they’ll do it to anybody,” he said.

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

## **USS George H.W. Bush Full Of Shit: “Working Toilets Elusive”**

[Thanks to Felicity Arbuthnot who sent this in.]

Nov. 15, 2011 United Press International

NORFOLK, Va., Nov. 15 -- Crew members on the George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf say they sometimes can't find a working toilet aboard because of plumbing outages.

The crew members say the lack of working toilets aboard the ship, which began its first combat deployment in May, has affected their morale, health and job performance, The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot reported Tuesday.

The mother of one sailor aboard the ship sent out a press release during the weekend about the widespread toilet outages.

“The sailors aboard the USS George H.W. Bush have already endured nearly six months with an unhealthy ‘inconvenience’ that most civilians would not tolerate for six hours,” Mary Brotherton wrote.

Her son, Petty Officer 1st Richard Frakes, said in an e-mail interview he sometimes has had to search nearly an hour for a working toilet.

“It definitely affects my morale,” said Frakes, an aviation mechanic. “When I was unable to relieve myself for two days, I was irate to say the least.”

Some sailors aboard the ship told the Navy Times they’ve urinated in sinks, showers and bottles and say some have developed infections from putting off going to the bathroom.

Brotherton said her son told her he had been limiting food and water intake so he didn’t need use the bathroom as often, and that can cause dehydration.

The Virginian-Pilot said the problem has been caused by the vacuum system that pulls water through 250 miles pipe aboard the ship -- the first aircraft carrier with a vacuum system, similar to the ones on commercial airplanes and cruise ships.

The Navy told the newspaper in a written response to questions most of the outages -- and the ones that take longest to fix -- have been caused by sailors flushing “inappropriate material or items” down the toilets.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



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

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

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

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

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**The past year – every single day of it – has had its consequences. In the obscure depths of society, an imperceptible molecular process has been occurring irreversibly, like the flow of time, a process of accumulating discontent, bitterness, and revolutionary energy.**

**-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January”**

## **Class War Ahead**



The last night of Occupy Portland 11-12-11: Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: November 17, 2011  
Subject: Class War Ahead

**Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)**

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

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

**“The 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

**How I Stopped Worrying And  
Learned To Love The OWS  
Protests:  
Much More Than A Movement  
Against Big Banks, They're A  
Rejection Of What Our Society Has  
Become;  
“It's About Providing A Forum For  
People To Show How Tired They Are  
Not Just Of Wall Street, But  
Everything”  
“People Don't Know Exactly What They  
Want, But As One Friend Of Mine Put It,  
They Know One Thing: FUCK THIS  
SHIT!”**



November 10, 2011 By Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone [Excerpts]

I have a confession to make. At first, I misunderstood Occupy Wall Street.

The first few times I went down to Zuccotti Park, I came away with mixed feelings. I loved the energy and was amazed by the obvious organic appeal of the movement, the way it was growing on its own.

But my initial impression was that it would not be taken very seriously by the Citibanks and Goldman Sachs of the world.

You could put 50,000 angry protesters on Wall Street, 100,000 even, and Lloyd Blankfein is probably not going to break a sweat. He knows he's not going to wake up tomorrow and see Cornel West or Richard Trumka running the Federal Reserve.

He knows modern finance is a giant mechanical parasite that only an expert surgeon can remove. Yell and scream all you want, but he and his fellow financial Frankensteins are the only ones who know how to turn the machine off.

That's what I was thinking during the first few weeks of the protests.

But I'm beginning to see another angle.

**Occupy Wall Street was always about something much bigger than a movement against big banks and modern finance. It's about providing a forum for people to show how tired they are not just of Wall Street, but everything.**

This is a visceral, impassioned, deep-seated rejection of the entire direction of our society, a refusal to take even one more step forward into the shallow commercial abyss of phoniness, short-term calculation, withered idealism and intellectual bankruptcy that American mass society has become.

If there is such a thing as going on strike from one's own culture, this is it.

**And by being so broad in scope and so elemental in its motivation, it's flown over the heads of many on both the right and the left.**

The right-wing media wasted no time in cannon-blasting the movement with its usual idiotic clichés, casting Occupy Wall Street as a bunch of dirty hippies who should get a job and stop chewing up Mike Bloomberg's police overtime budget with their urban sleepovers.

Just like they did a half-century ago, when the debate over the Vietnam War somehow stopped being about why we were brutally murdering millions of innocent Indochinese civilians and instead became a referendum on bralessness and long hair and flower-child rhetoric, the depraved flacks of the right-wing media have breezily blown off a generation of fraud and corruption and market-perverting bailouts, making the whole debate about the protesters themselves – their hygiene, their “envy” of the rich, their “hypocrisy.”

The protesters, chirped Supreme Reichskank Ann Coulter, needed three things: “showers, jobs and a point.” Her colleague Charles Krauthammer went so far as to label the protesters hypocrites for having iPhones. OWS, he said, is “Starbucks-sipping, Levi's-clad, iPhone-clutching protesters (denouncing) corporate America even as they weep for Steve Jobs, corporate titan, billionaire eight times over.”

Meanwhile, on the other side of the political spectrum, there were scads of progressive pundits like me who wrung our hands with worry that OWS was playing right into the hands of assholes like Krauthammer.

Don't give them any ammunition! we counseled. Stay on message! Be specific!

We were all playing the Rorschach-test game with OWS, trying to squint at it and see what we wanted to see in the movement.

**Viewed through the prism of our desire to make near-term, within-the-system changes, it was hard to see how skirmishing with cops in New York would help foreclosed-upon middle-class families in Jacksonville and San Diego.**

**What both sides missed is that OWS is tired of all of this.**

**They don't care what we think they're about, or should be about. They just want something different.**

We're all born wanting the freedom to imagine a better and more beautiful future. But modern America has become a place so drearily confining and predictable that it chokes the life out of that built-in desire.

Everything from our pop culture to our economy to our politics feels oppressive and unresponsive.

**The relentless sameness of the two-party political system is beginning to feel like a Jacob's Ladder nightmare with no end; we're entering another turn on the four-year merry-go-round, and the thought of having to try to get excited about yet another minor quadrennial shift in the direction of one or the other pole of alienating corporate full-of-shitness is enough to make anyone want to smash his own hand flat with a hammer.**

If you think of it this way, Occupy Wall Street takes on another meaning.

There's no better symbol of the gloom and psychological repression of modern America than the banking system, a huge heartless machine that attaches itself to you at an early age, and from which there is no escape.

You fail to receive a few past-due notices about a \$19 payment you missed on that TV you bought at Circuit City, and next thing you know a collector has filed a judgment against you for \$3,000 in fees and interest.

Or maybe you wake up one morning and your car is gone, legally repossessed by Vulture Inc., the debt-buying firm that bought your loan on the Internet from Chase for two cents on the dollar.

This is why people hate Wall Street. They hate it because the banks have made life for ordinary people a vicious tightrope act; you slip anywhere along the way, it's 10,000 feet down into a vat of razor blades that you can never climb out of.

**That, to me, is what Occupy Wall Street is addressing. People don't know exactly what they want, but as one friend of mine put it, they know one thing: FUCK THIS SHIT!**

We want something different: a different life, with different values, or at least a chance at different values.

There was a lot of snickering in media circles, even by me, when I heard the protesters talking about how Liberty Square was offering a model for a new society, with free food and health care and so on. Obviously, a bunch of kids taking donations and giving away free food is not a long-term model for a new economic system.

But now, I get it.

People want to go someplace for at least five minutes where no one is trying to bleed you or sell you something.

It may not be a real model for anything, but it's at least a place where people are free to dream of some other way for human beings to get along, beyond auctioned "democracy," tyrannical commerce and the bottom line.



We're a nation that was built on a thousand different utopian ideas, from the Shakers to the Mormons to New Harmony, Indiana. It was possible, once, for communities to experiment with everything from free love to an end to private property.

But nowadays even the palest federalism is swiftly crushed.

Even if 40 million Californians vote tomorrow to allow themselves to smoke a joint, the federal government will never permit it.

And the economy is run almost entirely by an unaccountable oligarchy in Lower Manhattan that absolutely will not sanction any innovations in banking or debt forgiveness or anything else that might lessen its predatory influence.

**And here's one more thing I was wrong about: I originally was very uncomfortable with the way the protesters were focusing on the NYPD as symbols of the system.**

**After all, I thought, these are just working-class guys from the Bronx and Staten Island who have never seen the inside of a Wall Street investment firm, much less had anything to do with the corruption of our financial system.**

**But I was wrong.**

The police in their own way are symbols of the problem.

All over the country, thousands of armed cops have been deployed to stand around and surveil and even assault the polite crowds of Occupy protesters.

**This deployment of law-enforcement resources already dwarfs the amount of money and manpower that the government "committed" to fighting crime and corruption during the financial crisis.**

**One OWS protester steps in the wrong place, and she immediately has police roping her off like yardward cattle.**

**But in the skyscrapers above the protests, anything goes.**

This is a profound statement about who law enforcement works for in this country.

**What happened on Wall Street over the past decade was an unparalleled crime wave.**

**Yet at most, maybe 1,500 federal agents were policing that beat – and that little group of financial cops barely made any cases at all.**

**Yet when thousands of ordinary people hit the streets with the express purpose of obeying the law and demonstrating their patriotism through peaceful protest, the police response is immediate and massive.**

**There have already been hundreds of arrests, which is hundreds more than we ever saw during the years when Wall Street bankers were stealing billions of**

**dollars from retirees and mutual-fund holders and carpenters unions through the mass sales of fraudulent mortgage-backed securities.**

It's not that the cops outside the protests are doing wrong, per se, by patrolling the parks and sidewalks.

It's that they should be somewhere else.

They should be heading up into those skyscrapers and going through the file cabinets to figure out who stole what, and from whom.

They should be helping people get their money back. Instead, they're out on the street, helping the Blankfeins of the world avoid having to answer to the people they ripped off.

People want out of this fiendish system, rigged to inexorably circumvent every hope we have for a more balanced world.

They want major changes.

I think I understand now that this is what the Occupy movement is all about. It's about dropping out, if only for a moment, and trying something new, the same way that the civil rights movement of the 1960s strived to create a "beloved community" free of racial segregation.

**Eventually the Occupy movement will need to be specific about how it wants to change the world. But for right now, it just needs to grow.**

**And if it wants to sleep on the streets for a while and not structure itself into a traditional campaign of grassroots organizing, it should. It doesn't need to tell the world what it wants. It is succeeding, for now, just by being something different.**

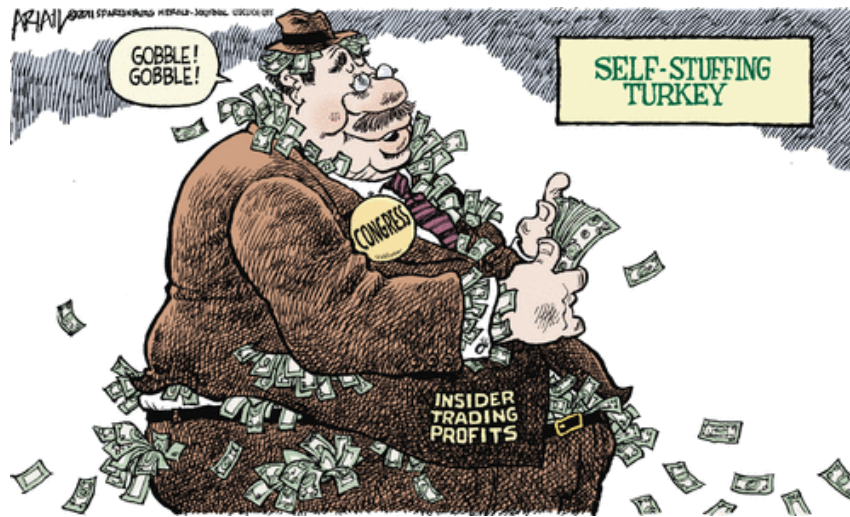
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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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# **Scum With Stinking Badges At It Again: Five Year Old Arrested For Battery On A Police Officer: His Hands And Feet Are Zip Tied; He Rightly Defended Himself When Cop Touched Him Without Provocation, Notice Or Consent**

[Hopefully, parents everywhere are teaching kids to resist when strange adults put hands or a hand on their bodies. T]

November 29, 2011 Digby's Hullabaloo [Excerpts]

Michael Davis is diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD. His mother says it has led to fights at school. But when the school district said it had a plan to change Michael's behavior, his mother says things went wrong...

(She) says the school, Rio Calaveras Elementary of Stockton, wanted to change that behavior by having Michael meet with a school police officer.

“He could come out and talk to Michael and the kids are normally scared straight,” said Gray, describing how she says the school district proposed the meeting.

But the meeting didn't go as planned.

Gray says Michael was agitated when the officer entered the room, and the whole meeting ended with Michael arrested and cuffed, with zip ties on his hands and his feet.

**“I was led to believe that Michael saw a police officer and attacked a police officer on sight,” said Gray, adding that that’s not what happened.**

**She knows because she ultimately obtained a copy of the police report.**

**In it, the officer, Lt. Frank Gordo, says he placed his hand on Michael’s and, “the boy pushed my hand away in a batting motion, pushed papers off the table, and kicked me in the right knee.”**

When Michael wouldn't calm down, Gordo cuffed Michael's hands and feet with zip ties and took the boy to the Stockton Kaiser Psychiatric Hospital in the back of a squad car.

He had not called Michael's mother or father at that point.

Michael was cited for battery on a police officer.

The good news:

A juvenile court judge eventually dismissed the battery charges against Michael

That's nice.

He is, after all, only five years old.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**Huge Tear Gas Shipment For Egyptian Police Sparks Opposition:  
“Upon The Arrival Of The Shipment,  
Massive Disagreements Broke Out  
Between Employees, Where Five**

# Employees Refused To Sign For The Shipment, One After The Other”

28 November 2011 By Manar Ammar, Bikya Masr

**CAIRO: The arrival of 7 and half tons of tear gas to Egypt’s Suez port created conflict after the responsible officials at the port refused to sign and accept it for fear it would be used to crackdown on Egyptian protesters.**

The shipment has been moved by the ministry of interior to its Cairo storage facility, amidst strict and secretive security measures.

Local reports say the staff, initially under investigation, have been spared investigation after having a discussion over the matter with their superiors.

Local news sites published documents regarding the shipment shows that the cargo that arrived in 479 barrels from the United States was scheduled to be delivered to the ministry of interior.

The reports also mentioned in the documents that a second shipment of 14 tons of tear gas was expected, making the total 21 tons, in one week.

The importing of tear gas comes after thousands of tear gas canisters were fired at Egyptian protesters last week as clashes raged in downtown Cairo, just off from the iconic Tahrir Square, where thousands of protesters had gathered.

The gas used has angered activists, who say the effects of exposure has yet to wear off, with a number of protesters telling Bikyamasr.com that they have coughing fits, chest pains, blurred vision and their arms often shake.

According to the Journal of Royal Medicine, the use of CS Gas – the most common choice of Egypt’s police last week – can have lasting symptoms for over one year.

Egypt’s al-Shorouk newspaper reported that upon the arrival of the shipment, massive disagreements broke out between employees, where five employees refused to sign for the shipment, one after the other.

**The five, being dubbed by activists as the “brave five”, were to be referred to a investigative committee as to why they refused to perform their duties, which has since called off.**

**The news about the shipment’s arrival stirred the Twittersphere, after it was consumed all day with the country’s first post-revolution elections, and activists mocked the reinforcement of weapons that is being used against them.**

**Many commented, saying that “gas bombs are definably more important than importing wheat to make bread.**

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