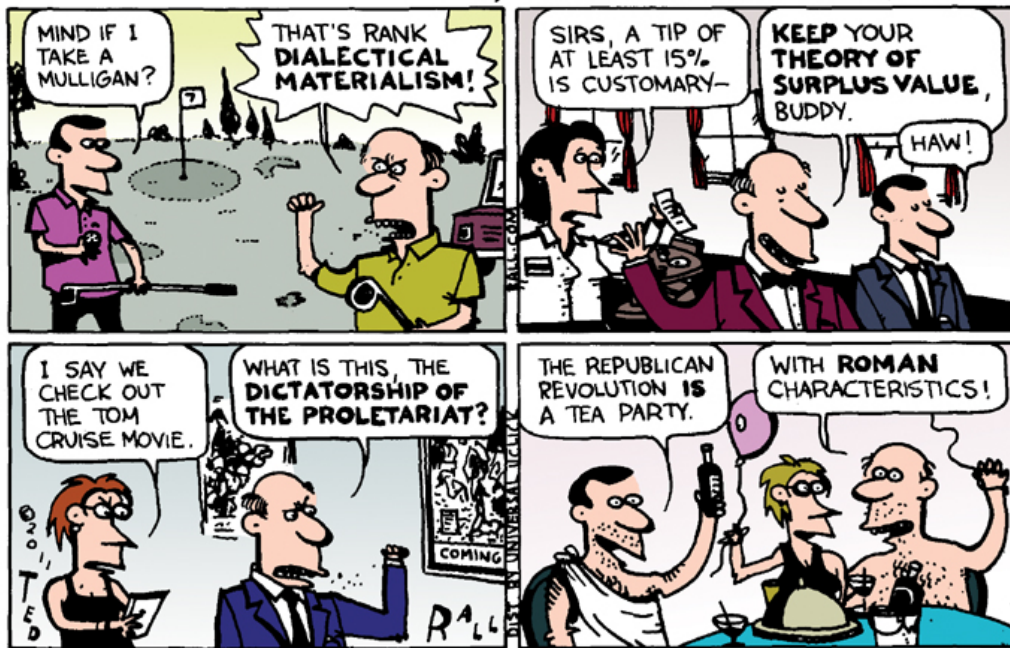


Military Resistance 9J10

REPUBLICANS HAVE HIJACKED THE MARXIST TERM "CLASS WAR" AND PERVERTED ITS ORIGINAL MEANING. WAITING IN THE WINGS:

MORE COMMUNISM, REPUBLICAN STYLE



**About-Face:
Troops Target Stray Eyebrows
In Afghanistan:
"Combat Chic"
"Male Soldiers With Eyebrows
Professionally Shaped Into Slender
Arches"**

“Lt. Col. Turner Dismisses The Trend As One Of Those Kids-These-Days Mysteries Of A Younger Generation”



Pfc. Richard Guillemette, 20, of Lyman, Maine, had his eyebrows shaped by accident the first time, but decided he liked the thin, slightly arched look. Photo Michael M. Phillips/The Wall Street Journal

OCTOBER 13, 2011 By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, The Wall Street Journal

SHINWAR, Afghanistan—Emerging amid the camouflage and crewcuts is the latest in combat chic: male soldiers with eyebrows professionally shaped into slender arches.

“I just wanted them to shape up my eyebrows,” explains Private First Class Richard Guillemette, whose job is to call in artillery barrages from the front lines.

The private’s first brow ‘do was an accident.

He had asked for a haircut and shave at the Afghan barber shop on the U.S. Cavalry base here in Shinwar. Only when it was too late did he realize the barber was tackling uncharted territory. Using a straight-edge razor, the barber sculpted his eyebrows into thin arches, tapering into points at the flanks.

That was a month ago. Pfc. Guillemette, a 20-year-old from Lyman, Maine, decided he liked the look, and he has had two touch-ups since then.

“They were getting a little bushy,” he acknowledged in the chow hall recently.

Gulam Farooq, 21, camp barber at Forward Operating Base Joyce, near the Pakistan border, says Islam forbids eyebrow-shaping for Muslim men.

But he happily performs the service, using a razor or a special threading technique, for an average of one or two U.S. soldiers a day. “I trained for it at a barber school in Kabul,” where religious strictures are less rigidly observed, he says.

These threaded, plucked or shaved young soldiers are proving befuddling to an older generation of bushier warriors.

Army regulations are silent on the subject of male eyebrows, except to say that one's hair must not reach so far south.

In 2007, however, the Marine Corps added a line to its grooming regulations stating that "excessive plucking or removal of eyebrows is not authorized, except for medical reasons."

The Marines left open the question of what constitutes a pluck too far, though the Corps did make a half-hearted, circular attempt to define what would count as eccentric and faddish (bad), compared with conservative and inconspicuous (good).

It was just last month that it suddenly dawned on Lt. Col. Jerry Turner, commander of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, at Shinwar, that some young men under his command had eyebrows shapelier than Nature intended.

Lt. Col. Turner dismisses the trend as one of those kids-these-days mysteries of a younger generation.

A tall 43-year-old from Sacramento, with an aw-shucks grin and free-range brows, the colonel just shakes his head when he spots pruned arches beneath camouflage caps.

"I don't get it, I just don't get it," he says.

"And you're not going to get me to get it."

Combat is a testosterone-soaked environment and the small minority of soldiers who practice extensive eyebrow-grooming can face some teasing.

When Pfc. Guillemette described his regimen in the chow hall one day, Sgt. Dan Mendez, a 25-year-old Cavalry scout from Spokane, mocked him from the next table: "I wish mine grew like that."

The sergeant's brows are medium thick. "It's pretty obvious I don't do mine," he added quickly.

The owner of the plywood barbershop at the Shinwar base, Juma Khan Rahmudin, says Afghan men would never get their eyebrows shaped the way some American men do. But Afghans do pluck the stray whiskers from their cheekbones, he says, providing greater definition to their often-dense beards. "To each his own," says Mr. Rahmudin, a 30-year-old blessed with well-separated eyebrows.

He offers soldiers 30-minute threading sessions, in which he twists thread around unwanted eyebrow hairs and yanks them out in a clean line.

Other barbers at his shop shave brows.

The camp is rife with unconfirmed rumors of waxing.

Sgt. Matthew Cordell, a 26-year-old cook from Mechanicsburg, Ohio, initially had his eyebrows threaded during a tour of Iraq a couple of years ago. Back then, he just wanted to beat back the unibrow. But he liked the more-distinct brows that threading produced, and he kept it up at malls or the base PX in Hawaii, 3rd Squadron's home station.

"I tell them, 'Don't make me look like a girl,'" reports Sgt. Cordell, who has a memorial rhyme to his father tattooed on one arm and his wife Sarah's name tattooed on the other.

Staff Sgt. Mark Prodigalidad, a 32-year-old infantryman from Tampa, Fla., gave threading a try on a lark. The camp barber included it in the price of a \$5 haircut. Sgt. Prodigalidad says he found it so painful that he had to call a timeout halfway through.

"I'll probably never do it again because it hurt like hell," he says.

Spc. Rene Ruiz, a 22-year-old from Oxnard, Calif., leaves his own brows in their natural state. But he knows a few other soldiers who indulge in super-orbital grooming.

He even knows one soldier who shaves his arms and legs to bring out his tattoos. "They're straight guys—just a little metrosexual," says Spec. Ruiz.

In his command post at Shinwar one day, Lt. Col. Turner was surprised that a female officer on his staff, Capt. Ashley Leach, jumped in to defend one of his browscaped soldiers.

"It doesn't bother me that they clean it up a little bit," says Capt. Leach, a 27-year-old from Alexandria, Va. "But once they start getting it shaped like a woman would, that's a little much."

Capt. Leach's husband, 26-year-old Capt. Ryan Leach, is a civil-affairs officer at the same Afghan base. The furthest he'll go is to allow his wife to pull a few strays from above the bridge of his nose, "the bare minimum" to keep the monobrow at bay.

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

10.13.11 AP

A foreign service member died Thursday following a roadside bomb explosion in southern Afghanistan and another died in a roadside bomb explosion in the east.

Missouri Soldier Dies Of Injuries After Afghan Missile Attack



Family photo of First Sgt. Billy J. Siercks

October 3, 2011 BY KIM BELL, STLtoday.com

A soldier who was born and raised in Missouri has died of injuries he suffered last week in an attack in Afghanistan, the U.S. Department of Defense says.

First Sgt. Billy J. Siercks, 32, was injured last Tuesday in Logar, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit. He was flown to a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where he died Wednesday.

The Defense Department announced his death Sunday.

The Defense Department gave his hometown as in St. Louis County; however, his mother said he was born and raised in Lincoln, Mo., a town south of Sedalia in west-central Missouri.

He was stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., and lived with his wife, Georganne Thorpe Siercks, and their two young sons in Nokesville, Va. The sons are ages 3 and 7.

Georganne Siercks and Siercks' father, Joe Siercks of Warsaw, Mo., returned late Sunday from Germany. Siercks' mother, Toni Siercks, said her son enlisted in the military during his senior year at Lincoln High School and eventually became part of the elite group of Army Rangers.

He had served several tours of duty in countries including Iraq and Afghanistan, and had only a few weeks left in Afghanistan.

"He loved the camaraderie and the closeness of the guys. They loved him and he love them to death," Toni Siercks said. "He believed in what he was doing."

Toni and Joe Siercks have learned some details about the attack that killed their son. When the missiles were coming in, Siercks was trying to round up the other soldiers and herd them into a bunker. Others were injured in the attack, but only Siercks died, his parents say.

Some of his friends in the military grew up in rough environments and didn't come from strong families like Billy Siercks did, his mother said. "He wanted to be their protector and their leader," she said.

Ultimately, his plans were to return to Lincoln, Mo., open a small business and build a home on the family farm, his mother said.

Siercks was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. Family and friends of Siercks put together a "Prayers for Billy" page on Facebook and a video tribute.

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

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

**Resistance Attacks Checkpoint Set Up
To Stop Resistance Attack**

October 14, 2011 Radio Free Europe

A car bomb attack in southern Afghanistan has killed three police officers and wounded four other people.

Police said a car bomb exploded in the town of Spin Boldak, near the border with Pakistan in Kandahar Province, when police were busy checking vehicles.

Three police officers were among the wounded.

Provincial government spokesman Zalmay Ayubi said the checkpoint had been set up because of an intelligence warning that an attack was imminent.

Food Poisoning Hits 206 At German Base In Northern Afghanistan

Oct 13, 2011 DPA

Berlin - Food poisoning has sickened 206 soldiers who ate in a German army canteen at Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan, defence authorities in Berlin said Thursday.

They said the 138 Germans and 68 military from other nations quickly had quickly recovered from the symptoms and overall fighting strength was not affected. **[No shit?]**

All had eaten Wednesday at the canteen in the ISAF regional headquarters in Mazar-i-Sharif. The kitchen was disinfected and preparation of meals resumed there on Thursday. Army scientists were still hunting for the source of the infection.

**Resistance Statement Condemns
Torture Of Their POWs:
“During Interrogation The Removal
Of Nails, Electrical Shocks, Water
Boarding, Sleep Deprivation, Threats
To Life, Electric Shocks To Genitals,
Stripping And Other Penalties Have
Become A Norm”**

“Prisoners Are Tied To Cars And Dragged Until They Are Martyred, The Burning Of Prisoners, Letting Dogs Lose On Them And Other Kinds Of Heinous Acts About Which We Have Records And Witnesses From Kandahar, Helmand And Other Provinces”



12 October 2011 By Zabihullah Mujahid, Spokesman of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Shahamat-english.com

For a long time now, torture has been rife in the different detention facilities of Kabul regime while holding or interrogating political prisoners as was indicated in a recent report published by the United Nations.

With earnest concern, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan would like to call upon the United Nations, Human Rights Watch Organizations and other International circles to prevent and pay serious attention to this matter.

It is praise worthy that the United Nations showed its concern on this subject and published a report about it but this step should have been taken a long time ago because this kind of persecution has been taking place in the secret prisons of the occupying forces inside our country and also in the Ministry of Interior and Intelligence centers of the Kabul regime and by the remnants of the former communist regime as well as other criminal rings with full expertise and experience.

Thousands of Afghan prisoners are languishing in such conditions daily while this method goes on with full force.

The report of United Nations finds that 34 percent of the torture has taken place in the secret detention centers of Kabul's intelligence agency.

During interrogation the removal of nails, electrical shocks, water boarding, sleep deprivation, threats to life, electric shocks to genitals, stripping and other penalties have become a norm for any prisoner who has been detained no matter the allegation, forcing them to wrongly confess in order to free themselves from the suffering.

When such a confession is extracted by the intelligence department, it is proudly displayed to the media by its spokesman as a great achievement which in it self is a shameful act strongly condemned by us.

We would similarly like to voice our concern to the United Nations and other International Rights entities about the treatment with political prisoners in the detention centers of Ministry of Interior of Kabul regime.

Pul-e-Charkhi prison in general and its Guantanamo block in particular is witness to deplorable conditions in which hundreds of prisoners are always locked up in very small rooms, given atrocious food, kept in utter darkness, always deprived of sleep, denied family visits, are not briefed on their cases or sentences, are forced to wear clothes against Isalmic and Afghan customs and are not given tools to manage their hair.

In the past Eid, the prisoners from south east areas of the country were forced to shave their moustaches without their consent to put them under mental stress.

The murder of prisoners especially in the provinces of Kandahar and Helmand under mysterious conditions.

In order to gain false confessions, prisoners are tied to cars and dragged until they are martyred, the burning of prisoners, letting dogs lose on them and other kinds of heinous acts about which we have records and witnesses from Kandahar, Helmand and other provinces and which we are willing to share with anyone if needed.

And finally of cases about which no Human Right Organizations or other groups have heard.

If we estimate on provincial level then such disgraceful cases would number in the hundreds which our defenseless people and detainees are subject to. But the United Nations and other Human Right organizations should have long been aware of such cases and should have taken practical steps for its prevention.

Even now if attention is paid perhaps positive transformation can take place in prison and prisoner conditions. They should focus considerably on the point that the estimates mentioned in their report is far less than the actual number.

It is hoped that in this case all the prisons located in our country, be they connected to foreigners in their bases or to the Kabul regime; be they located in the capital or in the provinces should be properly investigated, visited and assurance should be taken from them in every way possible that human rights be not trampled on.

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

Half Dozen Fried Not To Go



An Afghanistan-bound convoy of fuel supply trucks for foreign military forces in Afghanistan was attacked by militants who set fire to six of them on a highway near Shikarpur, about 24 miles from Sukkur in Pakistan's Sindh province October 13, 2011. REUTERS/Nadeem Soomro

THE UNDOUBTED SUCCESS OF THE U.S. MILITARY EFFORT MAY BE SEEN HERE, SHOWING THE VAST QUANTITIES OF AFGHANISTAN THAT HAVE BEEN LIBERATED, AND WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW, FREE, DEMOCRATIC AFGHAN SOCIETY



September 26, 2021: US soldiers patrol near the border with Pakistan, in Khost province, east Afghanistan. AFP



U.S. soldiers from Alpha Co, 2nd Battalion 35th Infantry, Task Force "Cacti" walk towards the Serkey valley, in Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan October 1, 2011. REUTERS/Erik De Castro

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MILITARY NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME:
ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Burial service for U.S. Army Spc. Christopher D. Horton at Arlington National Cemetery October 12, 2011 in Arlington, Virginia. Horton, of Collinsville, Oklahoma died September 9, 2011 in Paktia Province, Afghanistan of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked with small arms fire. (Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)

**Obama Regime Wants “Cuts To
The Military Health Care Package
And A Proposal That Could Be
Expected To Cut Even More From
The Military Retirement System”
If President Obama Gets Away With
This, It Will “Break Faith With Those**

Who Served The Longest And Sacrificed The Most For Their Country”

“How Can Those In Washington Even Go There And Ask Of Those Who Have Given So Much Already?”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
October 17, 2011

The Obama administration unveiled its plan to cut the deficit by \$3 trillion over the next 10 years.

The proposal includes \$27 billion in cuts to the military health care package and a proposal that could be expected to cut even more from the military retirement system.

The language in the president’s plan makes it clear that the intent of his initiatives is to generate large savings by making the military health care and retirement system more like civilian plans.

This shows a shocking insensitivity to the radical difference between military and civilian careers and the reasons why these military programs were built.

The whole purpose of the unique military retirement and health care package is to offset the extraordinary demands and sacrifices inherent in a service career.

If President Obama gets away with this, it will not only break faith with those who served the longest and sacrificed the most for their country, it also promises to break the back of the otherwise hugely successful all-volunteer force and reinstitute the draft, by necessity, instead. This time, you can be sure the draft will include women.

Maj. Ed Coet (ret.)
Killeen, Texas

MORE:

Army Times Forum
October 17, 2011

Obama wants to attack retirement and health benefits of military personnel so he can reduce the national debt? (“Obama’s plan to cut benefits,” Oct. 3)

How can those in Washington even go there and ask of those who have given so much already?

— Bill

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.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

The State Of The Occupation Of Wall Street:

**“Although The Occupy Movement Is
Going From Strength To Strength,
There Are Problems Brewing Beneath
The Surface Of OWS's Success”**

**“We Need To Be Clear And Honest About
What Can Be Done Better If We Hope To
Build On This Success”**

October 14th, 2011 by Pham Binh, Dissident Voice

Pham Binh is an activist and recent graduate of Hunter College in NYC. His articles have been published at Znet, Asia Times Online, Dissident Voice, and Monthly Review Online.

He can be reached at: anita_job@yahoo.com. Read other articles by Pham Binh, [<http://dissidentvoice.org/author/PhamBinh/>] or visit his website [<https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=blogger&hl=en&passive=86400&continue=http://www.blogger.com/blogin.g?blogspotURL%3Dhttp://prisonerofstarvation.blogspot.com/%26zx%3D1wso7gc1durt4<mpl=private.>]

When activists began to occupy Wall Street, the corporate media and parts of the progressive community castigated them for not having demands. I believed that it would be necessary to settle on concrete demands at some point if the protest was to expand beyond the hundreds they attracted in the occupation's first week.

The growth problem was solved by the New York Police Department's (NYPD) crackdown and the determination of Occupy Wall Street (OWS) activists to continue on

despite repression. Their actions electrified the country and won the movement mass support.

A union-sponsored march to join OWS called a few days after the NYPD lured 700 activists onto the Brooklyn Bridge for mass arrests drew 20,000-30,000. Usually union marches are publicized months in advance and most of the people on them are union members. They come, listen to speeches, wave union-printed placards, go home after a few hours, and the status quo continues undisturbed the day after.

Not this time.

Most of the marchers did not appear to be union members, judging by their homemade signs and lack of union shirts. They had a spirit of defiance about them. They were energized by the militancy of OWS activists, outraged by the NYPD's tactics, and felt safe to march because the unions secured permits.

As the masses poured into the Financial District that evening, 1,000-2,000 protesters held a mass meeting and decided via consensus to push through the police barricades at the intersection of Wall Street and Broadway in front of TD Bank in an attempt to march on the New York Stock Exchange one block away.

They were repelled twice by the NYPD's night sticks and pepper spray, and scattered skirmishes occurred thereafter. At one point cops on motorcycles rammed protesters. Over two dozen were arrested.

OWS's heroism in the face of repression has ignited a mass movement.

Occupations and marches have taken place in 250 cities and towns across America: thousands in Los Angeles, California, 500 in New Orleans, Louisiana, 5,000 in Portland, Oregon, 1,000 in Tampa, Florida, dozens in Des Moines, Iowa, 150 in Nashville, Tennessee, 50 in Mobile, Alabama.

All of them are led by determined, mostly young people who are willing to brave arrest and police brutality. All of them see reclaiming public space and the right to protest as being just as important as the underlying economic and political problems that drove them to the streets in the first place.

The sweep of the Occupy movement is as wide as it is deep.

Everyone in America is mad as hell at Wall Street for nearly destroying the world economy, handing taxpayers the bill, and awarding themselves even bigger bonuses than before even though the economy is on life support.

Wall Street and Corporate America did everything in their power to turn the 99% against them and the Occupy movement has succeeded beyond even the wildest dreams of OWS's initiators.

This is a mass, grassroots movement, one that does not have leaders or leadership in the conventional sense. The people leading this movement are the people participating in it.

It is direct democracy, unmediated by unions, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, political parties or organizations.

At Liberty Plaza, OWS can only be described as a self-organized mass of humanity, a combination Woodstock, Berkeley Free Speech movement, Bonus Army, and anarchist commune all rolled into one.

During week one, there were about 100 overnight occupiers in Liberty Plaza; during week two, it grew to over 200; now, there are over 600. After work hours, the number of people at the encampment grows into the low thousands.

When you approach the area, you hear the low hum of thousands of unending conversations, some political, some not, with various drummer groups pounding away, their rhythms echoing off of office buildings containing the 1%. The scene gives new meaning to the term "concrete jungle," and it sits just hundreds of feet away from the nerve center of world capitalism, the New York and Nasdaq stock exchanges.

OWS's working groups deal with food, sanitation, medical, security, media, outreach to other activist groups, transparency, facilitating meetings, and meeting a variety of other needs of the hundreds-strong collective (last week they had a makeshift barbershop and gave people free haircuts).

Many of the working groups are divided into subgroups due to the complex nature of the tasks they are responsible for.

All working groups report to the General Assembly (G.A), an open mass meeting that operates using modified consensus, meaning almost everyone must agree for decisions to be made.

“Although The Occupy Movement Is Going From Strength To Strength, There Are Problems Brewing Beneath The Surface Of OWS’s Success”

Although the Occupy movement is going from strength to strength, there are problems brewing beneath the surface of OWS's success.

There is an intense level of frustration among occupiers with the G.A. process and the dysfunctional nature of some working groups.

This has given rise to talk of creating a spokescouncil, a body composed of the working groups that would more efficiently deal with mundane, practical matters, allowing the G.A. to be more focused and productive.

Some people in working groups skip the G.A. altogether because they feel it is a waste of time. One woman in the sanitation working group spends 20 hours a day cleaning the plaza and has no time or energy left to participate in the political process.

Bobby, a self-described anarchist who is part of three different working groups, complained at a discussion about the proposed spokescouncil that the G.A. was often held hostage by the "tyranny of the minority."

(A minority can block decisions from being passed in a system based on consensus; conversely, the pressure to agree unanimously to get something done led to ugly racial tensions after people of color repeatedly blocked the G.A. from incorporating the absurd claim that racial divisions no longer existed in the text of OWS's first official declaration.)

Bobby also complained that decisions passed by the G.A. were often impractical, such as the G.A.'s approval of the sanitation working group's request to buy trash bins to help clean Liberty Plaza.

The G.A.'s approval came with conditions: they had to be "fair trade" trash bins and the sanitation group had to look on Craigslist first for the best price. This hampered execution of the decision and made meeting a vital need of the occupiers very difficult.

The simple, horizontal structure originally created around a G.A. using modified consensus has become a barrier to practical and political work getting done now that over 600 occupiers and an even greater number of people (workers, students) are involved through working groups. What was once an asset has now become an impediment.

There is even more tension surrounding the issue of money.

At least \$40,000 has been donated to OWS mostly via the internet, and OWS has yet to figure how to account for and control spending.

The G.A. process is too inefficient and arbitrary to be responsible for deciding this question on its own. For example, the G.A. voted to give \$200 to one of the protest organizers after he said he lost his phone and needed to buy a new one.

He was not forced to buy a "free trade" phone or look for the best price on Craigslist.

The biggest challenge facing OWS is not the lack of formal demands. As someone in the OWS media group put it, "we'll settle on those once the movement stops growing." Not having demands allows the movement's message to be shaped by rank-and-file participants; this all-inclusive openness, combined with the heroic determination to march on Wall Street no matter what, is the key to the Occupy uprising's fast and furious growth.

Demands are not decisive. The 1955 Montgomery bus boycott was declared before a formal list of demands was adopted at a mass meeting. The boycott led to the complete end of segregation on the bus lines, a far more radical outcome than the boycott's modest demand that seated blacks not be forced to give up their seats for standing whites on segregated buses.

Historical experience shows that the fate of movements and the course of history are not determined by lists of demands but by mass action.

The biggest challenge facing OWS is sustaining the movement for the long haul because the dramatic regulatory, economic, and political changes we want are not on the cards in the near future. It is going to take even more protest than we have seen thus far to win things like a tax on all financial transactions or the separation of commercial

and investment banking, which would mean splitting up “too big to fail” institutions in an operation dwarfing the division of “Ma Bell” into four smaller telecom companies in the 1980s.

However, there are many things on the local and state level that are within reach: reversing the Bush-style tax cut for millionaires championed by New York’s Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo, raising New York City’s local income tax rate for the 1%, getting banks or states Attorneys General to halt foreclosures and fraudclosures are a few examples.

Anything that alleviates the suffering of the 99% is worth fighting for.

Creating a sustainable movement also means building or modifying our infrastructure of protest and organization to be more responsive to our needs, more democratic, and more open to mass participation beyond the core of people who can “all day, all week, occupy Wall Street.”

Properly staffed and well-run working groups would take the burden off of the very committed occupiers who are members of multiple groups and are working so hard they do not or cannot participate in the time-consuming decision-making process.

OWS is the vanguard of the Occupy movement, and what happens at Liberty Plaza will play a disproportionate role in shaping the future of the biggest rebellion to rock this country since the 1960s.

OWS has succeeded beyond anyone’s expectations thus far, and we need to be clear and honest about what can be done better if we hope to build on this success and reign in the most greedy, powerful, and ruthless 1% the world has ever known.

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

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.

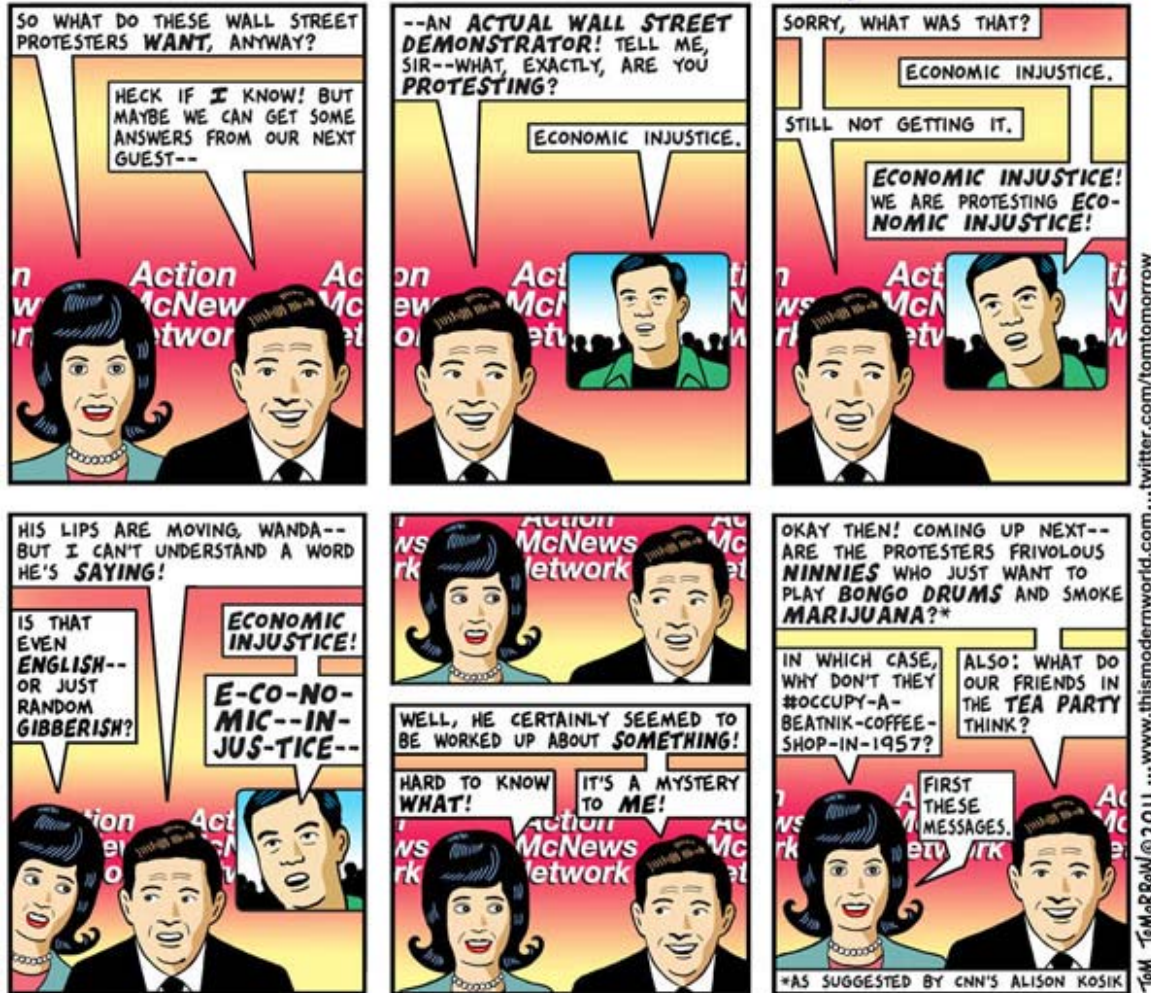
Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties enlisted troops inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help organize resistance within the armed forces.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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CLASS WAR REPORTS



“Day 17 Of The Renewed Hunger Strike By Prisoners In Pelican Bay State Prison, And Other Prisons In California”

“513 Of The 1,111 Prisoners Held At Pelican Bay Have Been In Solitary Confinement For 10 Or More Years, And 78 Have Been Held For More Than 20 Years”

“Prisoners Have Been ‘Denied Medications, Including Prescriptions For High Blood Pressure’”

October 12, 2011 By Andy Worthington, Uruknet [Excerpts]

On Day 17 of the renewed hunger strike by prisoners in Pelican Bay State Prison, and other prisons in California, prisoners, their relatives and their supporters fear that there will soon be deaths amongst the hunger strikers, because, as SF Bay View reported yesterday, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) “has been treating the current strike, which began on Sept. 26, as a mass disturbance and has refused negotiations.”

As the article explained, prisoners have begun to report “grave medical issues.”

A relative of a striker at Calipatria State Prison said, “Men are collapsing in their cells because they haven’t eaten in two weeks,” adding, “I have been told that guards refuse to respond when called. This is clearly a medical emergency.”

As I explained yesterday, in my article, Pelican Bay and American Torture: Prisoners in Long-Term Isolation Continue Hunger Strike Despite Authorities’ Brutal Response, in an attempt to stop the strike, the CDCR has been isolating prisoners regarded as leaders in Pelican Bay, moving them from the Security Housing Unit (SHU), where they have been in almost total isolation — some for years, some for decades — to Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg).

To give some sense of the horrors of the system, the hunger strikers have stated that “513 of the 1,111 prisoners held at Pelican Bay have been in solitary confinement for 10 or more years, and 78 have been held for more than 20 years without access to light or open space for prolonged periods of time.”

Moreover, there are three other SHUs in California, and nationally at least 75,000 prisoners are currently held in solitary confinement, even though it is self-evidently a form of torture when used for more than a short period of time.

Reports received by the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition indicate that, since the hunger strike resumed in California, prison officials have been attempting to freeze the prisoners out, “using the air conditioning system in conjunction with cold weather conditions where the prison is located.”

SF Bay View also noted that, last week, a hunger striker in Pelican Bay suffered a heart attack, and was taken to a hospital in Oregon, and that other prisoners have been “denied medications, including prescriptions for high blood pressure.”

With the authorities refusing to negotiate, to improve the horrendous conditions in California’s prisons, and especially in the Security Housing Units, Dorsey Nunn, the executive director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and a member of the mediation team working on behalf of the prisoners, explained how many of the prisoners were not prepared to back down under any circumstances.

“The prisoners are saying that they are willing to take this to death if necessary to win their demands,” he said, adding, “Any deaths that result from the men starving themselves will be on the hands of the CDCR. We are at a point where we are calling

on the media to make inquiries on prison protocol if and when prisoners begin to die. If they want to avoid that kind of scenario, the CDCR can start negotiating.”

Illustrating these points, prisoners at Corcoran State Prison have made the gravest statement to date. “Due to what they have done here to us,” they have said, “some men have stopped drinking water completely, so we may well be close to death in a few days.”

The fear, amongst everyone concerned with the welfare of the prisoners, is that the CDCR is not essentially concerned, and wishes only to break the strike at any cost.

As SF Bay View noted, prisoners and their supporters have long expressed “serious concerns about the state of medical care in Corcoran, Calipatria, Pelican Bay and Salinas Valley,” where the hunger strike is ongoing.

In 2009, Dr. Michael Sayre, the chief medical officer at Pelican Bay, was successfully sued by a prisoner for “knowingly disregarding his severe medical needs,” and, as Terry Kupers, M.D., a member of the mediation team and an expert on prison health issues, has said, “The California prison system is in federal receivership in part due to the substandard medical care provided inside. It is my professional opinion that the hunger strikers are not receiving the care that they need and that their conditions could be exacerbated by the CDCR, especially if force-feeding comes into play.”

In the hope of providing further insight into the rotten and unacceptable conditions of confinement practised not only in California, but across the United States, I’m also cross-posting below the testimony of Dr. Craig Haney, Professor of Psychology at the University of California at Santa Cruz, regarding the issue of California’s Security Housing Units, as delivered to the California Assembly’s Committee on Public Safety on August 23 this year.

That is a rather mild introduction to what is an extremely hard-hitting statement by Dr. Haney, demonstrating, in no uncertain terms, that solitary confinement has the power “to drive prisoners mad,” that the CDCR has known this all along, and that California prison officials have deliberately ignored the evidence provided to them to demonstrate that they are destroying prisoners’ minds on a colossal scale, even though their policy is not even effective as “a technique to control prison gangs.”

In some of the most powerful passages, Dr. Haney stated:

“It is critically important in this hearing that we not lose sight of the fact that all of the men confined at the Pelican Bay SHU and in other housing units like it in CDCR continue to be treated very badly, routinely worse than prisoners in any civilized nation anywhere else in the world are treated, under conditions that many nations and international human organizations regard as torture.

“They live their entire lives within the confines of an 80 square foot windowless cell, which they leave for an hour a day when are allowed to enter a concrete encased but otherwise barren outdoor exercise pen.

“Save the small glimpse of overhead sky they have when they look directly up inside this pen, they have no contact with the natural world, not even to touch or see a blade of grass.

“They have no contact with the normal social world either.

“Indeed, the only regular physical contact they have with another human being is the incidental brushing up against the guards who must first place them in handcuffs and chains before they escort them out of their cells and housing units.

“They visit loved ones through thick glass and over phones, and are thus denied the opportunity to ever touch another human being with affection.

“This has gone on unabated, for years and years, for some of these men for several decades now.

“Elizabeth McGovern Preoccupied With America’s Growing Income Disparity”



Oct. 13, 2011 Globe and Mail Celebrity Photos of the Week

Week Five of the Occupy Wall Street movement finds couture-and-pearls-bedecked actress Elizabeth McGovern preoccupied with America's growing income disparity at the New York Film Festival premiere of "My Week With Marilyn" in a swank New York City hotel on Sunday. (Getty Images)

Enemy Terrorist Attacks Unarmed Legal Observer At Occupy Wall Street: [Bring The War Home Now]



A New York City police officer runs over a National Lawyers Guild observer near Broadway & Exchange place as Occupy Wall Street demonstrators marched to Wall Street, Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, in New York.

NYPD drove scooters into a crowd of marchers. One person was run over. The bright colored hat beside victim is the official NLG hat that legal observers wear so that they can be identified by police and protesters.

UPDATE: Attorney Gideon Oliver, a member of the National Lawyers Guild, confirms that the man seen was arrested and then hospitalized with a broken leg. He's currently in police custody in the emergency room.

“NYPD Spokesman Frank Hannefy Explained The Controversial Decision To Arrest Occupy Wall Street Protesters While Leaving The People Who Had Brought The Nation’s Economy To The Brink Of Armageddon Unmolested”

October 14, 2011 The Borowitz Report

NEW YORK - Millions of Americans cheered the news on Friday that arrests had finally been made on Wall Street, but were soon disappointed to learn that the wrong people had been taken into custody.

“I was like, finally they’re going to get those bastards,” said Tracy Klugian, 27, of Queens, New York, whose hopes were raised by an “Arrests on Wall Street” graphic he saw on CNN. “I guess it was too good to be true.”

NYPD spokesman Frank Hannefy explained the controversial decision to arrest Occupy Wall Street protesters while leaving the people who had brought the nation’s economy to the brink of Armageddon unmolested.

“As far as soulless individuals pillaging the country for their personal gain, that’s none of our business,” he said. “But we’ll be damned if we’re going to let people march on newly seeded grass.”

At banking giant Goldman Sachs, chairman Lloyd Blankfein admitted that when he heard police sirens outside his building, “I was sure they were finally coming for us.”

The Goldman chief said he started running up and down the halls “screaming at people to feed the document shredder like Chris Christie at a pie-eating contest.”

Mr. Blankfein said that he felt “palpable relief” when he realized that the police had come to arrest the protesters and were leaving the bankers at large.

“That was a close one,” he said, chuckling. “We’re all going to have a good laugh about this over the weekend in the Caymans.”

Elsewhere, Texas Governor Rick Perry announced what he called his “1-1-1” plan: “Every American gets 1 percent tax, 1 mandatory vaccination, and 1 execution.”

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