



the college

Voice

FOR FREE TUITION AND OPEN ADMISSIONS

MARCH 2004



U.S. Vetoes Resolution Condemning Israeli Barrier

White House Denies a Top Aide Identified an Officer of the C.I.A. Administration Rejects Calls for Special Counsel

No Illicit Arms Found in Iraq, U.S. Inspector Tells Congress

U.S. Remains Leader in Global Arms Sales, Report Says

New Criticism On Prewar Use Of Intelligence
House Panel Leaders Cite 'Uncertainties'

U.S. BUDGET
78% of Bush's Postwar Spending Plan Is for Military

Unemployment Rate Rises To a 9-Year High of 6.1%

POORER COUNTRIES PULL OUT OF TALKS OVER WORLD TRADE

LIAR LIAR,
THE WORLD
IS ON FIRE!

Blair Doubted Iraq Had Arms, Ex-Aide Says

Racist Public Safety Resigns

In the fall semester of 2002, an Arab-American student at the College of Staten Island was racially attacked by a Public Safety Officer, Sergeant Peter Licata. On October 15, 2002, Ayman El-Sayed was posting up fliers advertising an event on the campus about the possible war with Iraq. The event was clue credit and approved by the school and funded by Student Government. Speakers who visited Iraq were invited to campus to speak about their experiences.

Ayman El-Sayed witnessed Sgt. Licata illegally tearing down the fliers. The student approached the Peter Licata who was standing with two other public safety officers, Officer Robertson and officer Flood outside of the Campus Center. The Arab-American student asked Licata "why did you tear down my flier". Licata told the student "I don't like what is says" and "we need to kill all the Arabs". The two other officers witnessed this incident. Officer Flood warned Peter Licata and told him "watch what you say". The student knew Officer Robertson. At the moment it happened she was very upset by the remarks and told Ayman "that was wrong, I'm going to tell the truth".

The student filed a complaint ironically with another public safety officer. The administration carried out a very unfair investigation. Dean Torres, who has no previous experience in such matters, was appointed by President Marlene Springer to head the investigation. He met with all three public safety officers at one time instead of interviewing them separately. This allowed them to collaborate the story and put Officer Robertson in a bad position because she was hesitant to say the truth right in front of Sergeant Licata. Officer Robertson was pressured not to tell the truth and to defend the public safety officer.

The end result of the investigation was that Sergeant Licata was found innocent. The students and faculty held two big rallies against the administration and public safety demanding a fair investigation. Since there was no result from the bogus investigation, Ayman El-Sayed decided to sue the College of Staten Island. The administration is very nervous about this lawsuit because it can expose several things.

First, that the administration held a very unfair investigation. The court will not accept the fact that all three of them met together instead of separately. Anybody carrying out an investigation knows that you interview the accused and the witnesses separately so you can get the truth out of each interview. That is why they created the Witness Protection Program in case the accused wants to go after the witness. Obviously the CSI administration did not want the truth they just wanted to make the demonstrators happy by holding an investigation period and hoping the protest would die down if there was some sort of investigation.

Second, if it is found that the administration knew this Sergeant made these racist remarks and still defended him Marlene Springer could lose her job. The administration can not depend on Officer Robertson. They do not know what she will say when the court day comes. Does Officer Robertson want to lie and risk perjury to defend a racist? No one knows until the trial. If Officer Robertson exposes the administration and tells the truth about who told her to lie in the first place and what really happened or the role of the administration, the CSI administration will have real problems.

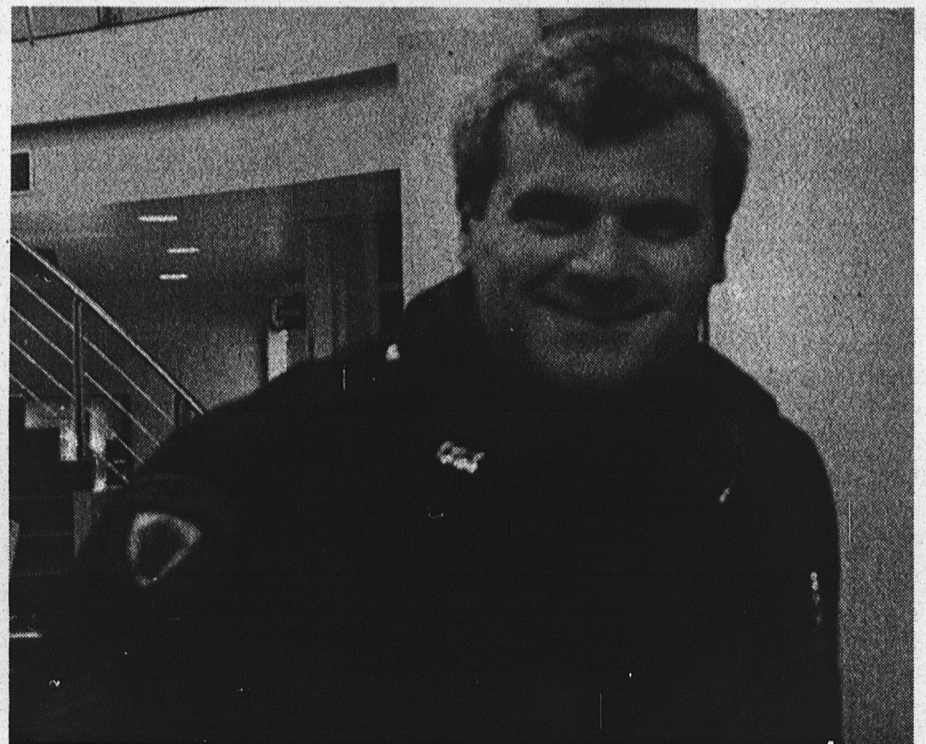
In the beginning of the fall 2003 semester Sergeant Peter Licata resigned. He resigned

for several reasons. The College Voice met with the Vice President for Student Affairs, Carol Jackson to see why he resigned. Carol Jackson said that she did not know why he resigned. Peter Licata embarrassed the administration big time. The administration knew what he did but still decided to defend him. There was enough evidence to suspend him or fire him. Officer Robertson would have told the truth had she met with Carol Jackson or Marlene Springer alone or even with the investigator alone. Officer Licata was pressured to leave his job both by the demonstrations and the administration. He was pressured to leave by the administration because they are hoping that Ayman El-Sayed would drop the lawsuit. The administration did not want to fire him right away because that would automatically prove his guilt so they waited after a while or a semester later then pressured him to resign. The administration already proved his guilt by the investigation cover up they carried out.

The point of the lawsuit is not just to get one racist public safety officer out of the campus but to set up a process to fairly investigate Public

Safety misconduct. Public Safety officers are human beings and make mistakes. We can't expect a public safety officer or the administration to fairly investigate another public safety officer. A procedure needs to be set up for incidents like this to be fairly investigated. The administration just gave itself more problems by not fairly investigating the matter in the first place. If the administration would have carried out a fair investigation in the first place then the lawsuit would not have occurred. Now the administration has to deal with covering it up, pressuring Officer Robertson to lie, and holding an unfair investigation.

The students on campus are happy a racist public safety officer is no longer amongst them. The students and faculty demonstrations did work and had an impact on the administration. The issue is not over yet. There is still a lawsuit in court and a process needs to be set up immediately so this does not happen again.



Racist Public Safety Peter Licata resigns after pressure from the students and faculty who demanded that racism not be tolerated on our campus.

\$800 Dollar Tuition Hike \$87 Billion Dollars for War CUNY Students Suffer, International Students Suffer More

AYMAN EL-SAYED

The Beginning of the Fall Semester 2003, CUNY students were hit with an extra \$800 on their bill. No justifiable reason was given for this tuition hike except balancing the budget on the backs of New Yorkers working and middle class. Besides balancing the budget, the president needs \$87 billion dollars for war in Iraq and he got it. This \$87 billion dollars could have been spent on something productive instead it is being used for something destructive.

CUNY students who are residents have to pay an extra \$800 dollars a semester, as a whole they have to pay \$2,200 a semester. International students got screwed over even more by this hike, they have to pay over \$5,000 a semester to attend a public university. This situation only exists in America. Every industrialized and many non-industrialized nation have free schooling. Even Iraq, the nation that the United States is currently occupying had free education all the way to college for Iraqis and non-Iraqi's alike before the war destroyed the economy. Many Arabs and Muslims use to flock to Universities in Iraq to get a decent college education for free. After the first gulf war and 10 years sanctions imposed in Iraq, education was still free in the universities for Iraqis but the government was no longer able to provide for non-Iraqs.

Cuba, the county constantly demonized by politicians and the media has free education and healthcare for all its citizens. Cuba is currently recruiting 2500 Americans to go to Cuba and get a free education to become doctors. The deal is that these American students become doctors and get a degree but when they come back to the United States they have to open clinics in poor neighborhoods and help people who can't afford to pay for doctors to get medical help.

The problem isn't only the tuition hike, but the fact that so few students and faculty did anything about it. Many rallies were held in City Hall and Albany but only a few thousand students showed up to protest

from CUNY that currently has over 200,000 students enrolled. If more students and faculty attended the rally then this tuition hike would not have passed or it would have been much less. Many students and faculty don't think that they can make a difference. This is false. Student's are the ones who pay tuition and pay the salaries for administrators and taxpayers are the one's who pay for the salary of Governor Pataki who is the one responsible for raising our tuition.

We can see how this tuition hike does not make sense especially with a war that is costing billions of dollars and thousands of lives. How can you give \$87 billion dollars for war and can't give a few billion dollars for education, healthcare and jobs. This tuition hike hurt students very bad, especially at a time when a good job is hard to find. It also affected students at a time public transportation has been raised from \$1.50 to two dollars, most CUNY students take public transportation.

International students have been affected the most. CUNY makes millions of dollars from international students every year because they have to pay double the tuition. For an international student it is not worth going to a public university for \$5,000 a semester. They can pay a little more and go to a much better private school in New York. International student enrollment has dropped drastically. At the College of Staten Island, an average of 100 new international students enroll every year. After the tuition hike only around 40 international students enrolled in the fall 2003 semester.

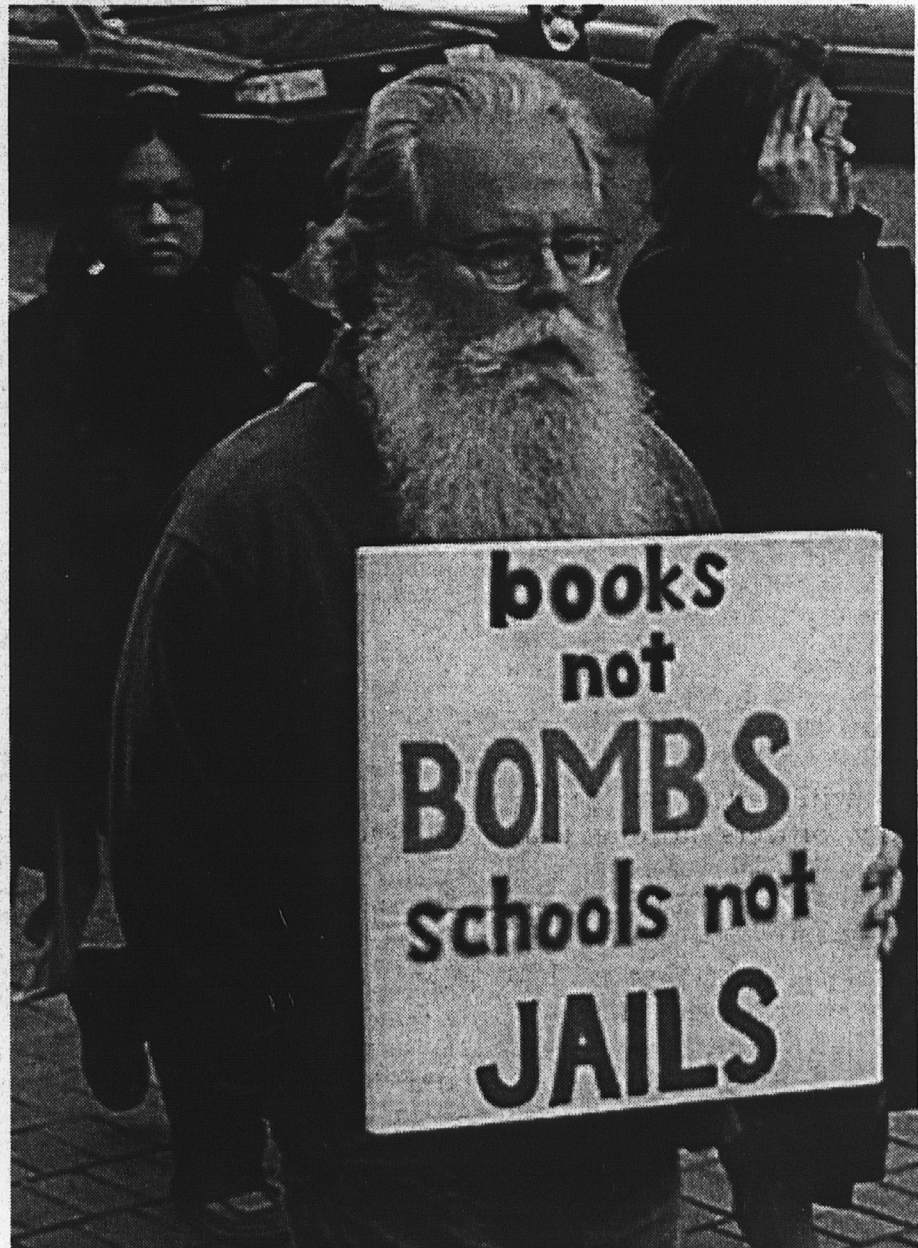
Students and faculty need to speak out more to protect the right for a free higher education. They are speaking of another tuition hike. Pataki original wanted to raise the tuition to an extra \$1,600 or 100%. Instead he raised it 50% to \$800 fearing student protest and outrage. He figured in stages it will be better. The tuition might go up another \$800. Many students didn't believe it was going to happen the first time but it did. If students and faculty do not speak out, things will not get

better but worse. Students will be forced to leave school and faculty will get paid less and not get hired full-time.

This will affect our society as a whole. Many students will be forced to join the Army or Marines even if they don't want to. The guns and gear they will be wearing and using to go and kill others could have paid for their 4 year college education. One bomb that is dropped in Iraq could have paid for hundreds of students to attend college. It is time for New Yorkers and Americans as a whole to see what their priority in life is and who will benefit from these wars. Would you rather your sons and daughters go to college and get a good job or go to fight in wars that will benefit and profit only a few?

Americans need to speak out against tuition hikes and connect it to this war which is costing Americans billions of dollars while nothing is getting cheaper.

Look at who benefits in these wars and who doesn't. Unless you are friends with the Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld team or you own a big company that is getting paid to do business in Iraq you are not benefiting from this war. Many American companies and politicians like Dick Cheney will be making millions and billions of dollars off this war but not you, the one reading this article. If you are part of the American poor, working or middle class you will not benefit in this war but lose big time. You will fight, kill and die in these wars but not to benefit you or your family but to benefit the already rich who are the same ones that have raised our tuition, raised public transportation and laid off thousand of workers. Who is attacking Students and Faculty? Pataki not the Iraqi's.



A "Clash of Civilizations"?

GHANIM KHALIL

In his article "Ethnocentric and Stereotyping Concepts in the Study of Islamic and World History", published in the renowned quarterly journal *The History Teacher* (August 1999), professor Joseph G. Rahme (University of Michigan-Flint) wrote: "In recent times, especially after the official collapse of the Soviet Union in December, 1991, 'Islam' and 'Islamic fundamentalism' have been depicted in the media and by politicians and scholars as the inheritors of the totalitarian mantle and/or global challenge formerly presented by communism. This crude interpretation of current transformations is in line with a long tradition of hostility toward Muslims and Islamic civilization."¹ Unfortunately, after September 11, 2001, crudeness has turned into outright hatred or what the former President of Ireland and former U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights, Mary Robinson, has called "Islamophobia" in Europe and the United States.² The fear is so deeply rooted that it has given free reign to xenophobes who have uttered the most misleading statements about Islam and Muslims in general with little condemnation from responsible local and national leaders. As the investigation of who attacked the Towers was only weeks underway scores of scholars, journalists, and "experts" like Daniel Pipes, Abraham M. Rosenthal, Charles Krauthammer, Lance Morrow, Zev Chafets, and Ann Coulter (some of them racists and extremely irrational in their commentaries) were calling on the government to bomb whole cities in several countries where Muslims live. (Bomb thousands, even millions of innocent people who have nothing to do with terrorism, in retaliation for the work of a network of stateless terrorists?) The psychology of fascism doesn't exist only outside these borders of our "manifest destiny".

So why is this important to us? After September 11 many Americans asked, "why do they hate us?" It's a very natural and appropriate question to ask but before it can be answered we need to know who "they" really are. To fear finding out (and thus keeping the fear of "them" alive) is an obstacle we must overcome all by ourselves - each one of us. This is what makes examining Islamophobia important, not because we want to justify what terrorists do, but to understand the 99.9% non-terrorist Muslims. Islamophobia is nothing new. It rises and falls just as anti-Semitism and Negrophobia rises and falls - when human beings fail to see in themselves their weakness of coming to terms with the fact that living in a diverse world requires substantial effort on their part to acknowledge the "other" as an equal. This in turn requires an effort to know the "other" without resorting to demonization and baseless generalizations. If a person adopts the rationale and language of the U.S. media to explain complex realities pertaining to the relationship between the "West" and the Muslim world, then we might as well wait until that person graduates the

kindergarten of life to offer a well-founded view. Therefore, people interested in this subject must familiarize themselves with the knowledge necessary to form a sound view. This way perhaps something worthwhile will be contributed which may expand our understanding of the subject. Otherwise, what is expressed may further decrease our understanding and keep the fear barrier between "us" and "them" fixed.

We come to the subject of "Western" - Muslim relations in recent times, particularly after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was in the 1990s that a scholar by the name of Bernard Lewis, former professor of Near Eastern Studies (Princeton University) and chief Orientalist of the age, coined the term "clash of civilizations" in his highly popular essay *The Roots of Muslim Rage*.³ The "clash", to Lewis, is between "Western" and Islamic civilization, where the former is the victim of the latter. The late Edward Said, after evaluating Lewis' views of Islam wrote: "Instead of making it possible for people to educate themselves in how complex and intertwined all cultures and religions really are, available public discourse is polluted with reductive clichés that Lewis bandies about without

(and America's in particular) current vast economic and military preponderance. The reverse perspective is never acknowledged or even considered. Professor Rodney Wilson of the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham, U.K., writes: "The Western media likes to depict Islamic fundamentalism as a threat, while not acknowledging the threat of their own civilization to others".⁵ In this drama of epic fiction, the "West" and the U.S. play the role of innocent bystander, while Islam and its Muslims play the drive-by shooters. This is not to suggest that all Muslims are innocent either. The Muslim world is itself full of voices for murder and hate. Religious ideals cannot be reached through extremist interpretations, regardless of the intentions. While "Western" ideologues talk war with Islam and conceal the crimes committed in the name of westernization, secularism, Zionism, and materialism, Muslim ideologues talk war with the "West" and conceal the crimes committed in the name of Islam - a reactionary callous way of making Halal (lawful) what many leading traditional Muslim scholars (past and present) have deemed *Hirabah* ("war against the society" or "unholy war") - a capital

So why is this important to us? After September 11 many Americans asked, "why do they hate us?" It's a very natural and appropriate question to ask but before it can be answered we need to know who "they" really are.

a trace of skepticism or rigor. The worst part of this method is that it systematically dehumanizes peoples and turns them into a collection of abstract slogans for purposes of aggressive mobilization and bellicosity. This is not at all a matter of rational understanding."⁴ Unfortunately, Lewis' views remain popular in not only the academic departments in American universities and colleges but also the U.S. State Department itself.

It was from Bernard Lewis that Samuel Huntington (Harvard professor of Government, Coordinator of Security Planning for the National Security Council 1977-78, and the founder of the *Journal Foreign Policy*) took the phrase "clash of civilizations" and gave it further importance in the arena of politics and history. Ever since, the phrase has been put to use by many people whose interest lies in demonizing over a billion human beings (Muslims comprise roughly 20% of the world's population) to justify all sorts of ethnocentric ideas. Hence, we see endlessly headlines like "The Green Menace", "The Red Menace is Gone. But Here's Islam", "the Sword of Islam", "Jihad in America", "The Green Curtain", "The New Crescent of Crisis", "The Islamic Threat", and my all-time favorite headline "The Muslims Are Coming! The Muslims Are Coming!" Amazingly, even after the "West" for centuries colonized, oppressed, bombed, manipulated, and distorted the lives of Muslims (economically, politically, and militarily) still Muslims are considered the threat. This is despite the "West's"

crime.⁶

If we are to understand how and why Islam has come to be seen as public enemy number one, then Huntington's contribution to this view cannot be overlooked. Indeed, it is primarily due to Huntington, Lewis, and others like them that such generalizations persist in remaining alive instead of dying a deserved death. Just like anti-Semitism and Negrophobia, Islamophobia is resurrected to serve its various purposes. Said aptly wrote in his *Covering Islam* that, "today's climate favors - one might even say requires - Islam to be a menace."⁷ What concerns us here is Huntington's most controversial work explained in his book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (1996). In this work we find ideas similar to Lewis' except that it goes a little further in identifying Islam and its current "Resurgence" as the enemy of Western civilization. He writes:

"The underlying problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power. The problem for Islam is not the CIA or the U.S. Department of Defense. It is the West, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the universality of their culture and believe that their superior, if declining, power imposes on them the obligation to extend that culture throughout the world. These are the basic ingredients that fuel conflict between Islam and the West."⁸

Islam (the faith of over a billion humans) is identified as the problem "for the West". Note how the term Islam is used in a simplistic, reductionist, and unconvincing fashion to portray a complex, rich, and varied system of beliefs and practices (of which some are similar, if not the same, as Christian and Judaic beliefs), in an "us vs. them" framework. We are geared up for a one-on-one street fight - Islam vs. the "West". Also note that Islam's people (not some or most - but all) are not only convinced of the superiority of "their" culture (which culture is this exactly since Muslims have so many different ones?) but also obsessed with the weakness of "their" power (all one billion Muslims-obsessed?). Muslims thus become the prime mentally disturbed people of humanity while the people of "Western" civilization, being more human, find themselves "obligated" (not obsessed) to "extend" (not impose) "their" culture to (not on) the rest of the world. So in other words the basic ingredients that fuel a conflict between Islam and the "West" is a conflict between a weak neurotic populace and a strong confident populous who have a sense of responsibility. Here we see the "West" become a victim of the Islamic "other". Seeing it this way has a history of its own. Stephen Zunes, associate Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco, wrote in June 2001:

"Although scientific and other advances from the Muslim world helped Europe emerge from the Dark Ages, the West has generally viewed Islamic peoples with hostility. From the time of the Crusades through the European colonial era to the ongoing bombing and sanctions against Iraq, Western Christians have killed far more Muslims than the reverse. Given this strong sense of history among Muslims, Washington's use and threat of military force, its imposition of punitive sanctions, and its support of oppressive governments result in a popular reaction that often takes the form of religious extremism."⁹

Huntington, however, explains that Muslim "fundamentalists" are not the religious "Mullah" types we are led to believe but modern, educated, young people (in their 20's and 30's) who are from lower-middle class (but not poor) backgrounds and live in the cities. These are the most populous members of what he terms as the "Islamic Resurgence" (a term he uses monolithically and numerously compares to "Reformation"). What is the cause of this "Islamic Resurgence"? It is the product of (1) the "West's" decline in the Muslim world, (2) the Arabs' use of oil as a weapon: "stimulated and fueled by the oil boom of the 1970's, which greatly increased the wealth and power of many Muslim nations and enabled them to reverse the relations of domination and subordination that had existed with the West"¹⁰ and (3) a future population growth of fanatics, which "will be disproportionately young populations, with a notable demographic bulge of teenagers and people in their twenties." Being "overwhelmingly urban and have at least a secondary education this combination of size and social mobilization has three significant

consequences."11 The Muslim youth, he explains, "will continue to power the Islamic Resurgence and promote Muslim militancy, militarism, and migration" 12 which will likely result in clashes with Western and non-Western civilizations. There is some difference among scholars about whether Huntington really believes it will happen or not, but he (and others who utilize his views) have used it to forward fantastic generalizations about Islam, Islamic civilization(s), and Muslim societies. Artfully, though, he manages to downplay considerably the obvious negative affects of U.S. foreign policy. For example he shocks us with statistics on how militaristic Middle Eastern nations have become, but fails to mention that chief among their suppliers was the United States, Britain, and France during the Cold War era. Who is worse, the supplier or the user? He makes his point in a time when American sociologists are grappling to understand the staggering increase in militarism and violence in American society. It is always harmful to project the evils of others while concealing the same in oneself. Many ethnocentric scholars before him have fallen pray to the same type of hypocrisy. Traveler-writer Francois Bernier (d. 1688) who traveled to India is one example. He wrote, "Actuated by a blind and wicked ambition to be more absolute than is warranted by the laws of God and of nature, the kings of Asia grasp at everything, until at length they lose everything" 13 This in the same century that Europe itself was plagued by constant senseless warfare (for example the 30 Year War). There is more.

A small portion of Huntington's book is dedicated to spreading one the most inaccurate statements about the Muslim "other" - "Islam's bloody borders". In describing the many conflicts which have taken place during the Cold War in different regions of the world he writes: "The overwhelming majority of fault line conflicts, however, have taken place along the boundary looping across Eurasia and Africa that separates Muslims from non-Muslims" which, "at the micro or local level [of world politics] it is between Islam and the others." 14 (Doesn't he mean to say Muslims and others?) He goes on to list the conflicts between Muslims and the "others": (Bosnian and Albanians vs. Orthodox Serbs, Turks vs. Greeks and Armenians, Chechen vs. Russian, Uighur vs. communist Chinese, Kashmiri vs. Hindu Indian, Thai vs. Buddhists, Indonesian vs. East Timorians, Palestinians vs. Israeli Jews, Sudanese and Nigerians vs. the Christian south in the same countries). "wherever one looks along the perimeter of Islam," he remarks, "Muslims have problems living peacefully with their neighbors. The question naturally arises as to whether this pattern of late-twentieth century conflict between Muslim and non-Muslim groups is equally true of relations between groups from other civilizations. In fact, it is not." 15 Huntington wants his readers to believe that Muslims cannot live peacefully with their neighbors because they are of a certain faith.

What Huntington doesn't mention is that most of his listed "bloody borders" have absolutely nothing to do with Islam and were not caused by Muslims. Bosnians and Albanians (who were almost completely assimilated) were the

victims of Serb aggression; Turkey is a pro-Western secular-military-dictatorship whose conflict with Greece has more political significance than religious; the Chechens are victims of the Russian government's violent attempt to prevent them from self-determination; the Uighur Muslims are a tiny minority oppressed by the Chinese government; the Kashmiri Muslims who constitute a majority in Jammu-Kashmir have been violently suppressed by the Indian government since 1947 and have since the late 1980's attempted to resist it militarily; the Palestinians are the victims of Zionist-Israeli colonialism16; and the violent clashes between Christians and Muslims in Sudan and Nigeria is the continuing reality of a problem caused by European colonialism (hardly an issue to be seen as a one-sided conflict where Christians are the only victims). The only places where Huntington can make a strong

Generalizations of both Islam (a belief system and way of life for over a billion diverse human beings) and the "West" (an extremely vague geographical term used to describe Russia, Europe, and North America) do very little in providing any real understanding of the relations between Muslims (any Muslims) and "Westerners" (any "Westerners").

case is the persecution of Buddhists in Thailand and the mass-murder of East Timorians by the Indonesian government (but here too one cannot ignore the involvement of the colonialists and the American government who helped set the seeds of hatred between these two peoples). If we examine the conflicts closely, we see that even though Muslims are involved, they are in most cases victims of aggression in circumstances that hardly can be explained as "Islam's bloody borders". This does not mean Muslims don't engage in violent acts like terrorism. They certainly do, especially in Sudan, Palestine, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. However, terrorist groups and acts do not represent the entire population in those countries.

Huntington, however, defends his view. After listing the "ethnopolitical" and ethnic conflicts in which Muslims are involved he concludes: "Islam's borders are bloody, and so are its innards." A footnote at the bottom of the page explains: "No single statement in my Foreign Affairs article attracted more critical comment than: 'Islam has bloody borders'. I made that judgment on the basis of a casual survey of intercivilizational conflicts. Quantitative evidence from every disinterested source conclusively demonstrates its validity". However, this only validates that Muslims were/are involved in the listed conflicts, not that Islam has anything to do with it, nor the fact that Muslims were/are the aggressors of most of them. But this is to be ignored. By convicting Muslims along the "perimeter of Islam" of creating "bloody borders" he is ready to assert the following sweeping-generalization: "Muslim propensity toward violent conflict is also suggested by the degree to which Muslim societies are militarized." He maintains, "'Quite clearly', James Payne concludes, 'there is a connection between Islam and militarism'", and that "Muslim bellicosity and violence are late-

twentieth-century facts neither Muslims nor non-Muslims can deny."17 Indeed violence has increased in the Muslim world as it has in every other area of the world, including the United States. It is not an epidemic one set of people suffer from but an epidemic humanity as a whole seems plagued. One can also make a strong argument about why violent films made in America have the most audiences or to what extent American culture itself is deeply shaped by violence. In addition to Islam, and connected to it will be a threat from Chinese civilization. China has long been prophesized as the next economic and military challenger of American Hegemony in Asia and especially the Pacific Rim. Huntington links China with Islam and presents an 'Islamic-Confucian' menace. Why not demonize two of the various civilizations together in one swoop?

No wonder then Bruce B. Lawrence

(Professor of Islamic Studies and Chair of the Department of Religion at Duke University) calls Huntington's polemical thesis "Lame and ludicrous" 18 as well as "banal, simplistic, and a historical." 19 The late Edward Said wrote that Huntington "draws such alarming conclusions... thereby engendering more fear and less knowledge about Islam." 20 John Esposito (Professor of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown University) tells us that Huntington has a tendency "to over-emphasize cultural differences", which, "contributes to an equally distorted vision which exaggerates the gap, or 'fault lines', that divide civilizations" And also that his "approach to civilizations is conditioned by a perspective that sees history in terms of sources of conflict- nation-state, ideology (liberal democracy versus communism), the Cold War- and thus, in looking for the source of future conflicts, he emphasizes differences in beliefs and values." About the "Islamic-Confucian" threat, Esposito warns that, "This view risks slipping into the racist perception of a cultural threat." 21 Ziauddin Sardar (writer, critic, and author of the international bestseller *Why Do People Hate America*) calls Huntington's work as "equally popular and equally slight" 22, comparing it to Francis Fukayama's *End of History and the Last Man* that also promotes the "West" vs. the "East" generalizations. Ahmed S. Moussalli (an Associate Professor of Political Science in the American University of Beirut) criticizes him for "Disregarding any diversity about interpreting Islam as well as its historical schools and modern different tendencies in religion and politics". 23 Political scientist Kristen E. Wolff maintains that his thesis provides "little evidence that the increased violence we have seen since the break-up of the former Soviet Union (in Muslim regions) can be attributed to Islam itself." 24 Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad (Professor of the history of Islam in Georgetown University) comments that Huntington's thesis "has reconfirmed to

Muslims that colonialism is not over, because it has echoes of themes heard since the nineteenth century." 25 However, it is people like Huntington, writes Lawrence, "who continue to dominate most media representation of issues that shape Islam and Muslims" 26

Generalizations of both Islam (a belief system and way of life for over a billion diverse human beings) and the "West" (an extremely vague geographical term used to describe Russia, Europe, and North America) do very little in providing any real understanding of the relations between Muslims (any Muslims) and "Westerners" (any "Westerners"). Bernard Lewis and Samuel Huntington's views about Islam and Muslims are imbedded in a culture of contempt for the "other". President Bush himself reflects a great degree of contempt and ethnocentrism whenever he makes such statements as, "We wage a war to save civilization itself." This contempt, which allows a person to reject the existence or relevance of other civilizations, is what needs to be addressed before another war of fear is waged for the sake of material resources and big business.

Recommended Titles: "The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality" by John Esposito, "Orientalism" by Ziauddin Sardar, "Covering Islam" and "Orientalism" by Edward Said, "Islam and the West" by Norman Daniel, "Shattering the Myth" by Bruce Lawrence, "A History of the Arab Peoples" by Albert Hourani, "The Next Threat" edited by Jochen Hippler and Andrea Lueg, "They Dare to Speak Out" by Paul Findley, "Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict" by Norman Finkelstein, "Original Sins" by Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi, "A New Religious America" by Diana Eck, "The Muslims of America" edited by Yvonne Haddad, "Freedom of Expression in Islam" by Mohammad Kamali, "Humanism in Islam" by Marcel Boisard, "Muhammad" and "Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions" by Martin Lings, "The Spread of Islam in the World" by Thomas Arnold, "Man and the Universe" by Mostafa al-Badawi.

1 Joseph G. Rahme, "Ethnocentric and Stereotypical Concepts in the Study of Islamic and World History," *The History Teacher*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (August 1999): 473-474.

2 Thalif Deen, "U.N. Official Deplores Spread of 'Islamaphobia'", *Inter Press Service*, March 19, 2002

Also see: <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines02/0319-04.htm>

3 Bernard Lewis, "The Roots of Muslim Rage," *Atlantic Monthly*, Volume 266, No. 3, Sept 1990, P. 47-60

4 Edward W. Said, "Impossible histories: why the many Islams cannot be simplified," *Harpers Magazine*, July 2002, also see: http://www.findarticles.com/cf_dls/m1111/1826_305/88998674/p1/article.jhtml

5 Quoted from Ali Mohammadi and Muhammad Ahsan's *Globalisation or Recolonisation?* p. xiii

6 Quoted from: www.cuii.org/hirabahq.htm

7 Edward W. Said, *Covering Islam*, Vintage Books, 1997, p. xx

8 Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, (Simon & Schuster), 1996, p. 217-218

9 Stephen Zunes, "U.S. Policy Towards Political Islam", *Foreign Policy in Focus*, Vol. 6, No. 24, (June 2001). See: <http://www.fpif.org/briefs/vol6/v6n24islam.html>

10 Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, p. 116

11 *Ibid*, p. 117

12 *Ibid*, p. 121

13 Quoted in Ziauddin Sardar's *Orientalism*, (Open University Press), 1999, p. 31

14 Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, p. 255

15 *Ibid*, p. 256

16 See Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi's *Original Sins: Reflections on the History of Zionism and Israel*, (Olive Branch Press), 1993

17 Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, p. 258

18 Bruce Lawrence, *Shattering the Myth: Islam beyond Violence*, (Princeton University Press), 1998, p. 162

19 *Ibid*, p. 215

20 Edward W. Said, *Covering Islam*, Vintage Edition, (Vintage Books - Random House, Inc.), 1997, p. 43

21 John L. Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?*, (Oxford University Press), 1995, p. 205-207

22 Ziauddin Sardar, *Orientalism*, p. 85

23 Ahmed S. Moussalli, Editor, *Islamic Fundamentalism: Myths and Realities*, (Ithaca Press), 1998, p. 15

24 Kristen E. Wolff, 'New New Orientalism', found in Moussalli's *Islamic Fundamentalism: Myths and Realities*, p. 46

25 Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, 'The Globalization of Islam', found in *The Oxford History of Islam*, (Oxford University Press), 1999, Edited by John L. Esposito, p. 631

26 Bruce Lawrence, *Shattering the Myth, Islam beyond Violence*, (Princeton University Press), 1998, p. 170

Conscience Over Obedience

GHANIM KHALIL

The purpose of the U.S. military is to protect and defend the Constitution and what it stands for. When this idealism is purposely translated into implementing imperial goals of a handful wealthy and powerful people, then it is up to the citizens to demand a stop to this abuse of the law. I did this by objecting to the war on Iraq, as did hundreds of thousands of other concerned Americans. This is not "picking and choosing" in the sense many proud members of the military see it, but a process by which a seriously concerned member of the U.S. armed forces actually performs his/her duty by doing what is often neglected and/c. disapproved of - thinking and listening to one's conscience. It is a person's conscience that convinces him/her to defend the principles outlined in the Constitution in the first place.

It is not only reasonable but also highly dutiful for military personnel to examine the issues that create the atmosphere of conflict or warfare and then go from there. Why? Because by law military personnel are obligated to uphold what is right even when their superiors fail to do just that. Legally, all military personnel must be able to think and therefore distinguish between lawful and unlawful commands. We did not enlist to be robots or ruthless extremists. There is an ethical-moral side to every soldier, sailor, and Marine. What good is it unused? If a member of the Armed Forces doesn't have any perspectives based on knowledge and reason derived by a sincere personal effort to identify what he/she is a part of, then there is no difference between him/her and a machine ready to be manipulated by a system that identifies that member by a number.

People who criticize military personnel who have spoken against the war on Iraq use the language of nationalism and patriotism (really nothing more than empty slogans) yet fail to point out how the war itself is a slap in the face to the U.S. Constitution. This is because many people have no real comprehension of the current situation due to a lack of independent thinking critical for the survival of any democracy. These critics have the passion of revolutionaries but the sense of children. As they label anti-war activists as traitors, government officials are tearing up the Bill of Rights.

Many people have also argued that resisting orders to deploy or fight, even after it has been determined that going along will

violate international law or human rights condemned by the majority of humanity, is a forsaking of a duty military personnel must not forsake. They must follow any and all orders; no questions or gripes, "just do as your told." When Nazi prisoners employed the excuse of "we were just following orders," the Nuremberg tribunal judges rejected it and for valid reasons. Today the same line is upheld to commit all sorts of violations in the name of patriotism and duty. This is hypocrisy that must be openly discussed without the fear of any type of threat or degradation to those who question it.

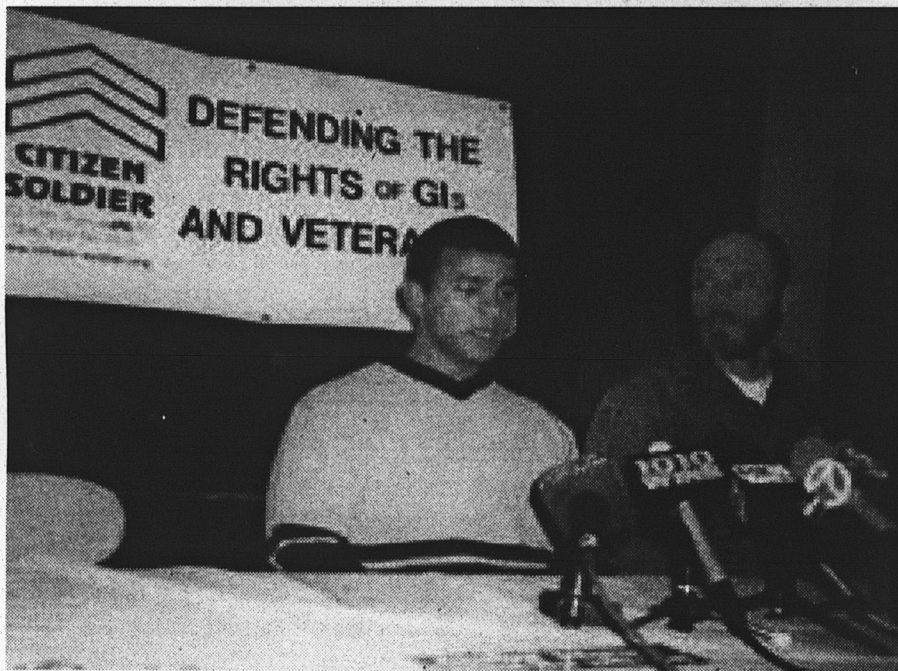
On the other hand, many regard military personnel who educate

functions on cold political and economic methods of survival. Being misled into thinking these methods don't affect us, because "we" are better than the rest of the world's peoples, is unfortunate and testifies to the level of both our arrogance and ignorance. Troops serving in recolonized Iraq are already experiencing this point. Whether they agree or not, their final categorization in the system is represented by numbers. When some of them are killed, it's only a matter of subtracting a few numbers and replacing them with freshly motivated troops (new numbers). From the outside, in the living room of a do-good flag-waver, this categorization is seen only through a

they are discharged from military service.

There is an active rebellion in Iraq against American occupation and military personnel are being wounded and killed almost daily from enemy fire. Occupation of their land and resources reminds Iraqis of the brutal Israeli occupation of Palestine. As soldiers were being shot at and dying, President Bush remarked "bring 'em on." The leadership isn't even on the same page with the troops. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld calls Iraqi resistance "unconventional warfare," while General John Abizaid, head of Central Command, calls it a "classical guerilla-type campaign." Which is it? Vietnam veterans see many similarities in the Iraq affair. Many of them have condemned the war in strong terms and are familiar with what troops there are going through. However, when troops themselves began to voice their views on the depressing situation in Iraq in July 2003, the military responded with a threat. "None of us that wear this uniform are free to say anything disparaging about the secretary of defense or the president of the United States... We're not free to do that. It's our professional code. Whatever action may be taken, whether it's a verbal reprimand or something more stringent, is up to the commanders on the scene," said Gen. Abizaid. At times, it is understood that "disparaging remarks" can lead to dishonor. This is not one of those times. The censorship is aimed at keeping the American public from knowing the troops have ascended into reality and discovered the false pretenses they were sent under. The troops are being wronged, and they are in turn wronging the people of Iraq.

All this, and at home the government is slashing veterans' benefits. Hypocrisy can go a long way. Many decorated combat veterans like David Cline (Veterans For Peace) and Charles Sheehan-Miles (Veterans for Common Sense) have pointed out the government's role in neglecting its troops. It's amazing how patriotic Americans have become since September 11—so patriotic that they forgot to protest the cuts on veterans' benefits and are ignorant about how the government refuses to treat thousands of G.I.'s who suffer from Gulf War syndrome/exposure to depleted uranium. Yet these patriots continue to "support the troops" with yellow ribbons, which apart from making it appear that "we" care, has done very little in terms of supporting the troops when/where



themselves about lawful and unlawful orders in the light of the Constitution and international law as the real patriots, because they do what is best for themselves in their own field of employment. They escape the errors of blind servitude that Americans criticize other national militias and armies for. Most of all, they reflect the genuine concern a member of the armed forces feels in doing what is right (which requires true loyalty), rather than going along with the flow. No matter how much obeying orders that violate human rights is stressed as necessary, troops must never surrender their common sense to such pressure, even it means going to the brig.

If a member of the Armed Forces doesn't have any perspectives based on knowledge and reason derived by a sincere personal effort to identify what he/she is a part of, then there is no difference between him/her and a machine ready to be manipulated by a system that identifies that member by a number. The reality is that the world

living defender of American/Western freedom, but G.I.'s know better, and the G.I.'s in Iraq right now know more than anybody else. (G.I. stands for General Issue - like uniforms, not genuine intelligence - like that of human beings). As ripped uniforms are turned in, thrown away, or replaced, so are the G.I.'s.

There are some troops who kill Iraqi civilians (elderly, women, and children) and have no regrets about it. They don't care about why they are really there, nor do they care to find out. To them it's a job where the human factor is an obstacle that must be suppressed. Whether these troops are killed in combat or not is not the point. They wrong themselves by wronging others. They have already died. Their bodies are merely waiting to expire. As for the troops that hold a value on each innocent life lost on both sides of the M16, they still have a chance to make a difference when they return and tell the home population what war is. But it seems for that they will have to wait until

Domestic Violence



SHEREEN KANDIL

"Of women who reported being raped and/or physically assaulted since the age of 18, three quarters (76 percent) were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, date or boyfriend."

Prevalence Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, U.S. Department of Justice, November, 1998.

Domestic violence does not affect only those of a certain race, nationality, culture, economics, sexual orientation, physical ability, or religion. There are many factors as to why domestic violence occurs in the home, and although substance abuse problems or mental illnesses are not excuses for this violence, these are just some excuses as to why people abuse.

As stated by the Commonwealth Fund survey, 1998, "Nearly one-third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives." There are about 960,000 to 4 million women a year who are physically abused by their partners. 21% of women are inflicted with violence compared to the 2% of men. "31,260 women were murdered by an intimate from 1976-1996," as reported in the Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends, U.S. Department of Justice, March, 1998.

Domestic violence does not only affect the abuser and the abused, it also affects the child in the home. Children may be forced to witness, intervene, call the police, or keep a secret, which in then can lead to a great burden. The child can either grow up abusing or become a withdrawn individual, becoming a target for an abusive relationship.

Some examples of domestic violence are stalking, cyberstalking, rape, beating, verbal, emotional and economic. It is reported that there are 1.4 million stalk victims a year. Stalking can include "following the victim, threatening or repeated phones calls, coming to the victim's place of employment, leaving written messages or objects, and vandalizing the victim's property (www.ncadv.org)." The warning signs of a stalker is if the person's phone calls have increased immensely, if they have contacted you in person, or if the notes they leave are no longer nice but threatening. At this time, one should notify the police and inform family members of what is happening. "A safety measure that should begin from the first signs that this may be stalking is a diary of events including any in-person contact, letters, phone calls, escalation of behaviors, contact with family, and if possible printed e-mails and answering machine messages. Change your locks if the stalker is an ex-partner, change your phone number and only give it to those who really need it. If possible keep the old phone to keep track of how many times they call or what messages are left. You do not need to listen to these messages, but keeping them will help with any possible prosecution or with obtaining a restraining order or order of protection. Be aware of your surroundings, and it is advised to not have contact or confront you stalker (www.ncadv.org)." The use of electronic communication for repeated harassment would be the new and improved way of stalking called cyberstalking. This is due to the increase of the internet use and the accessibility of the internet. Cyberstalking is harder to prove that "real life" stalking because the internet is extremely anonymous. "Do not give out personal information on-line, do not use your real name or nickname on-line, and

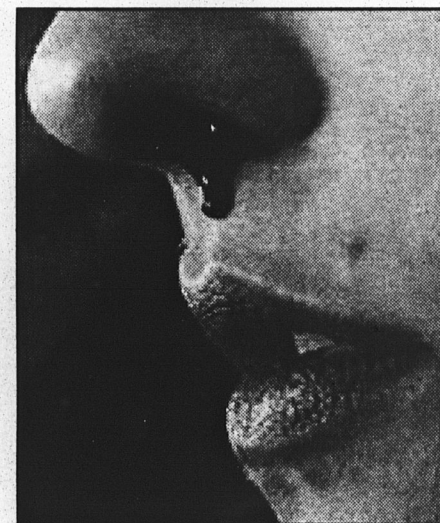
be very careful about meeting on-line acquaintances in person. If you are being cyber stalked change e-mail accounts, and again as with IRL [in real life] if possible keep old account open to document on-going abuse and only give new information those who really need it. If you cannot change accounts look in to filter programs. Within a chat room use gender-neutral nicknames, do not use real e-mail addresses, be careful with profiles, use ignore options, and do not answer individual chat requests. Notify the chat administrator or room moderators of abuse. If you are being harassed through e-mail or through a chat room you can notify the Internet provider (www.ncadv.org)."

There are two types of rape that can be placed under the domestic violence category. These are date or acquaintance rape and marital rape. Date rape is when the rapist is known to the victim. Marital rape is when a nonconsensual sexual act occurs between two people who are already in, or expected to be in an "intimate relationship." These sexual acts can range from intercourse, to forced oral sex. There are three types of marital rape. These are the force-only rape, the battering rape, and the obsessive rape. The force-only rape is when the husband feels the need to empower his wife and uses as much "force" needed to make his wife do as he wants. The battering rape is when the husband inflicts physical abuse and pain on his wife to make her have sex with him. The obsessive rape is the least common of all the marital rapes yet it causes the greatest physical harm. This is when the husband has vicious thoughts of sexual activities, and prefers to act out on these thoughts.

Some major concerns are with battered women who are immigrants. These women may stay in their abusive relationships in fear of being deported. Immigrant

women have a much harder time and are less likely to come forth about their abusive relationships. "It is important for advocates to familiarize themselves with some basic immigration issues. Because immigration law is complex and often changes, program advocates should develop strong relationships with local attorneys that specialize in this field (www.ncadv.org)."

There are some ways to ensure one's safety. First, one must try to know all the emergency phone numbers that would be useful in a worst case scenario. Secondly, one must recognize all the dangerous rooms in their house that have objects that may be used as weapons. Extra set of keys would be useful in the case of one who is trying to leave her home. Let others be aware of the situation and have them notify police if they see the abuser near or around you, your place of employment, or your home. Schools of your children should also be notified of the situation so that the school knows who the child can be released to. Always try to alter your route. Get a restraining order and make sure you keep it on you at all times. Keep any messages and/or notes from the abuser and also record, in full detail, everything that the abuser has done.



Conscience Over Obedience continued

continued from pg 6

they really need it. Incidentally, a new "mysterious illness" (pneumonia?) has struck troops in Iraq. The question is will the U.S. government provide sufficient aid to suffering troops if more report health problems or will it ignore them as it has troops suffering from the effects of Agent Orange and depleted uranium? Special Forces veteran Stan Goff, whose son was sent to Iraq, said it the best: "Rumsfeld and Bush care about the troops the same way that Tyson Foods cares about chickens."ii

Many soldiers and Marines in Iraq have expressed some difficulty in understanding why "liberation"

looks more like repression. History is so crucial in understanding this. President Bush has tried to identify with the suffering of the Iraqi people, not because he really cares, but because it sometimes becomes an effective tool justifying large-scale bombardment to secure a region for the benefit of the bombers. This concern has been sincerely adopted by troops who were energized into believing in the great cause of liberty. The President's hollow concern is nothing new in the Middle East. Before colonizing Egypt in 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte declared, "Peoples of Egypt, you will be told that I have come to destroy your

religion. Do not believe it! Reply that I have come to restore your rights!" The same deception was at work in 1917 under General F. S. Maude (commander of British Forces in Iraq) when he said, "Our armies do not come into your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators. Your wealth has been stripped of you by unjust men... The people of Baghdad shall flourish under institutions which are in consonance with their sacred laws." iii In the case of this most recent war troops are discovering the deceptions used on them and this has altered the way they see the military in general, especially as a tool under the current

administration. But unfortunately there is little these troops can do but try their best to stay alive and make it back.

i Kennedy, Helen, "Gen.: G.I.s who rip leaders will pay," New York Daily News, July 17, 2003, p. 9.

ii Kucinich, Jacqueline, www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20030818&s=kucinich.

iii Quoted from: <http://islamonline.net/English/Views/2003/06/article01.shtml>

See also: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,3858,4632959-111385,00.html>

COLLEGE VOICE WHO WE ARE

The College Voice (CV) is a publication committed to the interests of working people. The working class is composed of all those people who own nothing but their ability to perform manual or mental labor and are forced to sell it for a wage. As students at CUNY, we recognize that we are a part of the multi-racial, multi-national working class of New York City. The severe attacks that CUNY has undergone are mirrored by the endless assaults on the jobs, wages and living standards of working people, as well as by the attacks on trade union, democratic and civil rights.

We oppose the poisonous divisions fostered on the basis of race by the bosses, who make black and-white workers fight each other for the crumbs off their table...even though it is the workers who produce all the wealth.

We oppose the systematic attempts to reduce women to a defined "feminine" status, that serves to legitimize the special oppression they face as women and the additional exploitation they undergo as workers.

We oppose the vicious attacks on immigrant workers, who are the most vulnerable victims of the bosses job market, and who are thus used to drive all workers wages down.

We oppose every form of bigotry, on principle, as unbecoming our species and recognize that the fight for human liberation will be achieved only in the course of combating these divisions.

We oppose the use of the environment as a source of short-term profit and plunder by the ruling rich regardless of the consequences for the majority of the world's population.

The CV recognizes that it is the capitalist system, based upon the private ownership of the means of producing the wealth, that is fundamentally responsible for the fantastic hardship and misery that the vast majority of our species undergoes across the globe...in the midst of plenty.

The CV recognizes that this contradiction, far from being some "natural" condition, is one maintained by the armed power of the capitalist state (army, cops and courts) and ideological apparatus (media, church and schools) of the capitalist class that insures the domination of the few over the many; of the bosses, who produce nothing and appropriate everything over the workers, who produce everything but appropriate nothing.

The CV recognizes the possibility and the burning necessity for creating a society in which the productive forces are democratically organized through the cooperative association of workers and production is based on human needs instead of private profits in harmony with the environment.

The CV recognizes the necessity for creating a revolutionary party of working class, based upon a program of militant mass action and class struggle politics, that will organize internationally against world capitalism and its multi- and transitional corporations and fight for a socialist revolution against them.

The CV seeks to engage all those who are committed to fighting exploitation and oppression in common action against the common enemy...capitalism



EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

EDITORS: Shereen Kandil, Ghanim Khalil

Contributors: Omar Hammad, Roy Rollin, Niles French, VJ, Ayman El-Sayed, Renee Marhong

Design & Production: Ayman Elsayed, Renee Marhong, Shereen Kandil, Ghanim Khalil

Know us: The College Voice is a monthly journal published by the students of the College of Staten Island.

Visit us: Our office is located at 2800 Victory Boulevard, Room 1C-230, Staten Island, NY 10314

Sue us: Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily shared by anyone else.

The College Voice is a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, The Associated Collegiate Press and the College Media Advisor

Voice: 718.982.3091
Fax: 718.982.3098
collegevoice@hotmail.com

We welcome readers' views and criticisms.

You Goddam Lying Son Of A Bitch!!

Or How The Bush Gang Can Commit Mass Murder And Get Away With It

VI

What has become totally clear to all is that every drop of blood sacrificed by the Bush regime has been based on a lie. The tens of thousands of Iraqis who have been killed or maimed, the Iraqi cities bombed relentlessly and those who are now in the throes of a brutal occupation with tanks rolling down their streets are in this hellish condition because of Bush's lies. The hundreds of American working class GI's killed in Iraq were told they were going to stop a madman about to use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons against America and other countries. Bush lied to these American soldiers. Saddam's connections to the so-called Al Qaeda turned out to be a lie. Saddam's imminent acquisition of a nuclear weapon has turned out to be a lie. The stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons have turned out to be a lie. The Bush gang is trying to hide behind a supposed intelligence failure but this is just another lie. The intelligence that was provided by the CIA never claimed Saddam was an imminent threat to the US.

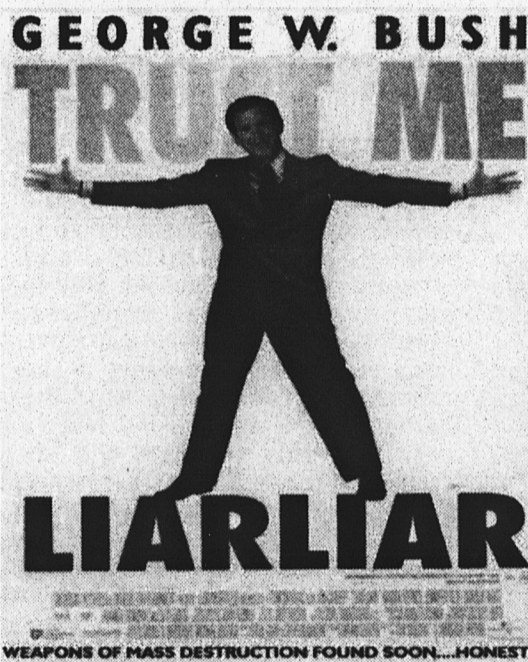
What is true is that the plans for an invasion of Iraq were being worked on long before the terrorist attacks on September 11 2001 occurred. The sinister Project for A New American Century (PNAC) which includes many current administration officials as well as influential advisors to the Bush gang was the group that was outlining the plans for conquering Iraq as part of a process of reshaping the Middle East to satisfy American corporate interests. Grabbing Iraq's oil and establishing political and military hegemony over the whole of the oil rich region was and is a key component of the plan. Such control it is thought by the PNAC would give the US dominance over their competitors in Europe and Japan and set up a "new American century."

September 11 provided the perfect excuse for these mad imperialists to execute their plan. However the circumstances of September 11 itself has not yet been fully investigated. The links between Osama Bin Laden and the Bush family and American intelligence in particular has never been publicly disclosed and investigated. But what is crystal clear is that the Bush gang lied to the American public and lied to the world about Iraq. Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell, Rice, Wolfowitz and the whole administration need to be fully investigated and brought up on charges for massive fraud and crimes against humanity. They should not be contesting elections for a second term, they should be in a courtroom facing justice.

The idiotically arrogant Bush and his gang continue to defend and even brag about their criminal invasion of Iraq despite their whole pretext turning out to be a fraud. They say it is still a good thing that Iraq was attacked because Saddam was a bad guy and may have done something bad in the future. Imagine a prosecutor arguing that in a courtroom? Imagine the world using that as a yardstick of how to measure whether to go to war or not? The judicial equivalent of such a standard of justice

is to shoot and kill someone because they are thought likely to commit crimes in the future. Furthermore aside from wrongfully overthrowing, hunting down and capturing a head of state, they are responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent Iraqi people who simply did not have to die. Even the most thickheaded should have realized that the WMD issue is simply a cover when the first places secured by the US military were the Iraqi oilfields.

The attempt to pass off the blame to an intelligence failure shows what contempt the Bushies hold the whole world in. There was so much intelligence to show that Iraq no longer had WMD from various weapons inspectors and governments that millions of people the world over tried desperately to stop Bush from launching his war. In fact the



largest demonstrations in the history of the world came together because of just how outrageous Bush's claims were. Ten million people protested on February 15 2003 across the world. There was a plethora of intelligence to show that at the very least there should be no rush to war. But Bush of course would not hear of it and launched his genocidal war.

The United Kingdom under Tony Blair also holds special responsibility for creating this war. Blair swallowed and repeated every Bush lie simply to get a piece of the action once Iraq was conquered. Most of the other countries in the so-called Coalition of the Willing either went along out of fear or out of craven opportunism hoping to get a few contracts afterwards. The United Nations also needs to put itself in check for not standing up for what it clearly knew were lies from the Bush Administration. After all it was UN sanctions and UN led disarmament, which, since the first Gulf Slaughter in 1991 further weakened Iraq. The UN went along as usual because the US is the big bully with all the money and guns. However how are international institutions to be taken seriously when one country can attack another based on lies and there is no attempt at calling the aggressor to account.

The remarkable calm surrounding such an explosive issue in the US is very instructive. It gives us a clear idea of

how undemocratic the US really is. The corporate media which became Bush's mouthpiece and cheerleader during the whole run-up to the invasion is now remarkably subdued in pursuing the fact that the Bush Administration lied. Now they could be feeling just a little stupid for throwing journalistic sense aside and assuming the mantle of a state press. But it also has to do with the fact that the big corporate media interests are tied in with the big money interests that control the White House. Of course we remember how the media had a field day with President Clinton getting a blowjob from an intern. And how the Republicans howled about Clinton's lying about it and how he was impeached. If Clinton was impeached for lying about oral sex then surely Bush should be impeached for taking the country and the world to war on a false pretext. The Democrats as usual find themselves compromised and not in a position to offer a real challenge to Bush. The Democrats, including leading primary candidate John Kerry, overwhelmingly voted with Bush for war. They also had access to wide ranging intelligence and brains that can add two plus two to figure out this was a big fraud. They went along with Bush so that they could be on the patriotism bandwagon that Bush was riding. But what sort of patriotism is it to join Bush in lying to the American public? The Democrats also felt that, well, even if the WMD story doesn't add up, if we can conquer Iraq easily and get our hands on all that oil, well, that's not so bad, even if we have to kill thousands of people to do it. This is the state of American democracy. A very sad state indeed.

The only real choice before youth and the working class of America is to resist the two-party system for the rich. This is no longer simply a matter of choice but one of necessity. The Republicrats have taken the world to the edge of global Armageddon and will not stop until they deliver us all to hell. They are driven by an unquenchable thirst for profits and a sense of unlimited power. Young people and working people in America must divest these madmen of their power. We must build a mass political alternative to the two party system and challenge the capitalists at the elections and the streets. For now activists should spend their limited resources building mass actions to bring the troops home now not on building the campaign of another warmonger.

The resistance groups form the frontline defenses of the people. It is critical in both Palestine and Iraq and also Afghanistan that there is a united front of all resistance groups. The left, the real left, not the Iraqi Communist Party that is collaborating with the occupation, must form their own brigades and carry out action against the imperialist invaders. At the same time the working class of Iraq particularly those in the key oil sector, must be organized into independent trade unions free of imperialist and local lackeys influence. For that reason they must not be simply organs of economic

defense but also politically anti-imperialist and patriotic. The peasants too must be organized by region. The students likewise by age group. Women must be organized. The revolutionary socialist forces must be the best defenders of the working class, peasants and students. We should be open to working with the Islamists in agreed upon common actions but maintain complete political and organizational independence. The Islamist program is mistaken fundamentally. The revolutionary socialists must adhere to the principles of equality and freedom and never be limited by any set of dogma. The war on Iraq is also a class war that involves a rich powerful country like the US fighting essentially a neo-colonial society like Iraq. This is a mirror of the war waged by the ruling capitalists against the working class from Detroit to Baghdad. The working class of the United States is at a relatively high level of class-consciousness in the USA as a result of the naked manipulations for the ruling rich carried out by the Bush regime. All the trillions going to the super rich while healthcare and education are in a state of crisis has been a wake up call for many people here in the US as well as around the world. Bush by declaring his "you are with me or against me" rule over the world and wrongly attacking two sovereign states has made the parameters of the general political and social crisis clearer. It is the ruling capitalists of the US leading ruling capitalists from other parts of the world who are determined to stamp out all resistance by workers, farmers, students, etc to the sucking out of profit and resources and power from the whole world. This has become a pretty clear picture. The flag waving patriotism of the warmongers is sheer cynical hypocrisy. The Bush's and Cheney's lead the flag waving leading working class sons and daughters to slaughter and be slaughtered so they can satisfy their greed for profit and power. The corporations make loud patriotic noises, including the corporate media. Where there service to society is supposed to be that of journalism and reporting facts they have become simply an auxiliary of the military-industrial complex.

The Center for Public Integrity in Washington found that nine out of the 30 members of the Defense Policy Board of the U.S. Government were connected to companies that were awarded defense contracts for \$ 76 billion between 2001 and 2002. George Shultz, former U.S. Secretary of State, was Chairman of the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Bechtel Group. When asked about a conflict of interest, in the case of a war in Iraq he said, "I don't know that Bechtel would particularly benefit from it. But if there's work to be done, Bechtel is the type of company that could do it. But nobody looks at it as something you benefit from." After the war, Bechtel signed a \$680 million contract for reconstruction in Iraq.

COLONIALISM CONTINUES IN THE CONGO

FROM BELGIUM TO CORPORATE AMERICA

RENEE MARHONG

One of the most mineral-rich pieces of land on earth is a nation wrought with traces of colonialism, imperialism, war and poverty. The beautiful nation of the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as Zaire has wealth beyond compare; this is essentially why the DRC has been so important to Europe and America. The DRC has a population of 55 million and is located in Central Africa. It is bordered by The Republic of Congo, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Angola and Zambia. DRC like many African nations were carved out by European imperialists with no regard for ethnicities. Today there are approximately 200 ethnic groups in DRC, about 45% of these groups consists of four groups who are Bantu and Hamitic.

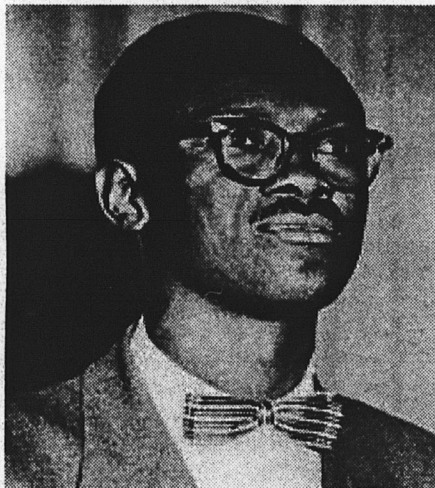
Some of the resources the Democratic Republic of Congo are blessed with are gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt, timber, rubber, oil and most importantly today, tantalum. Tantalum is a rare mineral that is made into a powder named coltan. This coltan is used to coat capacitors that are found in cell phones, lap tops, computers missiles, engines and any electronic device. Coltan enables products to hold high electricity charges which extend the longevity and capacity of electronics and weapons systems. The Democratic Republic of Congo holds 80% of the coltan in the world.

Anyone would think that with all these minerals, jewels and oil DRC would be rich and its people would be living well. Unfortunately colonialism and imperialism have consistently have treaded over the sovereignty of the Congolese. A brief history of the DRC shows the extent to which Belgium, the United States of America and African capitalists have worked to pilfer the Congolese nation of its wealth and autonomy.

Belgian Colonialism

1200's centered in modern northern Angola and including extreme western Congo and territories round lakes Kisale and Upemba in central Katanga (now Shaba) the kingdom of Kongo was first established. In 1482 a Portuguese navigator Diego Cao became the first European to visit the Congo; Portuguese set up ties with the king of Kongo. In the 16th-17th centuries British, Dutch, Portuguese and French merchants engage in slave trade

through Kongo intermediaries. In the late 19th century the infamous Belgian King Leopold II sets his eyes on Kongo to colonize it. European powers at the Conference of Berlin recognize Leopold's claim to the Congo basin in 1884. In 1885 Leopold announces the establishment of the Congo Free State appointing himself as the leader. In 1892 Belgians conquer Katanga. In the early 1900's Leopold and his army kill millions of Congolese either by working them to death or by assassination due to dissidence. Belgium annexes the Congo due to protests by the Congolese due to the massacres of King Leopold. Belgium begins to implement plan of increased self government for the Congolese. This translates into the training of Congolese bourgeoisie (capitalists) to take over the reigns held by the Belgium.



Patrice Lumumba, the first elected leader of the Independent Congo assassinated by the CIA

Lumumba's Independence

By 1959 Belgium loses its grip of the African nation. In 1960 the Congo establishes its independence with the Prime Minister of Patrice Lumumba. Lumumba greatly admired by Africa and many around the world. He is intelligent, charismatic and wants to genuinely uplift his country. Unfortunately this conflicts with the new superpower in the world, the United States of America. A military mutiny is instigated with the help of the CIA and Belgium complicity, Lumumba is arrested and assassinated less than one year after he was elected.

Military, Mobutu, Millions

After Lumumba the military reigns, in 1965 Joseph Mobutu is appointed to run the country, he renames the nation Zaire. In the early 1970's Mobutu forces some European companies out of the

Zaire and nationalizes many industries, a first step in getting Zaire on its feet. By 1977 Mobutu is inviting all the foreign companies back. Belgium has lent loans to Zaire to "aid" the nation. Zaire defaults on these loans in the 1980's, Belgium stops the loans and social programs begin closing down. The economy slides downhill. All the while Mobutu is amassing a fortune that will equal \$4 billion by the end of his reign. Opposition parties form against Mobutu by the 1990's. Aided principally by Rwanda, Tutsi and other anti-Mobutu rebels, capture the capital, Kinshasa. Laurent-Desire Kabila is installed as president. Zaire is renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kabila & War

In 1998, one year after the appointment of Laurent Kabila rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda rise up against Kabila and advance on Kinshasa. Namibia, Angola and Zimbabwe send troops to stop them. The rebels take control of most of the Democratic Republic of Congo's east. In July of 1999, the six countries made a move for peace by signing a cease fire. The Un Security council sends 5,500 troops to make sure the cease fire is carried through accordingly. Fighting persists anyway and in 2001 Laurent Kabila is shot dead by one of his body guards. Joseph Kabila, Laurent Kabila's son takes power.

Joseph Kabila & United Nations

Kabila meets with the presidents of Rwanda and Uganda and they agree to pull their forces out of DRC. UN statistics show that the war has killed over 2.5 million people in less than 3 years. The UN also reports that Rwanda and Uganda forces are deliberately prolonging the war to claim the DRC's resources, especially coltan. To make matters worse in 2002 a volcano erupts devastating the city of Goma.

By 2003 over 10,000 UN troops are station in DRC, peace talks have been established in South Africa and the main rebel groups have been pulling out. The French also have troops placed in the DRC. However, militias still remain dragging on fighting and the plundering of Congolese resources. An interim government has been set up which give privy to Rwanda and Uganda. Elections are pending for 2005 being the government remains stable.

Imperialism & Neo-Colonialism

Today, companies such as the American Mineral Fields are vying for DRC's minerals, especially coltan. Many hands are clawing for the cobalt, copper and coltan that are found in the DRC. European powers and American powers have played a great role in the fate of this nation. They have robbed its resources and instigated strife. All the while they have been cheaply consuming the nation's abundance of wealth. Under the guise of humanitarian aid, imperialist nations have interfered with the DRC. Today, the United States is consistently reaping profits of the country. An estimated 4.5 million people have died in just the last five years due to fighting. The Democratic Republic of Congo can be a prosperous nation, the imprint of colonization, debts and war can be overcome if African leaders can stop working with imperialist nations that just want to rape the country's resources.

The DRC like many countries, including Iraq are being destroyed by "liberators". Do not believe that every time the United States involves itself with a country it is for humanitarian reasons. More accurately, history shows that this has rarely happened. Even in World War II, the United States turned away Jewish people who had fled Nazi Germany. It is important, especially today to look at what our government is doing. It is our responsibility as American citizens to be involved in politics. Furthermore, it is not unpatriotic to question or criticize your government; actually it is your most important patriotic duty. The action of our government and others greatly affect the lives of people across the globe, don't you think we should inform ourselves about it? Education is the only way we as Americans can prevent terrorism. Obviously war and occupation does not work.



Tantalum is a rare mineral that is made into a powder named coltan, 80% of coltan is found in the Congo.

America's Policy of Abandonment

NILES FRENCH

If President Bush's statements regarding the end of the United States involvement in Liberia mark the last chapter in their long historical relationship, the chapter would surely be entitled abandonment. It would be the abandoning of a liaison that was forged over 150 years ago where the United States took the role of a big brother to the newly formed Liberian state. It would be abandonment to Liberia because in the country's darkest hour the United States looked the other way. On October 2, 2003, President Bush called for the last warships to return back to the United States that were providing peace and humanitarian aid to the eradicated country of Liberia. For over century and a half the United States have used Liberia as a strategic position for economic and political gain while the country floundered through a variety of tumultuous times. Now in the 21st century, Liberia is being left in the shadows of war wondering where its big brother has gone.

To understand the relationship between Liberia and United States, one must take a time machine back into the 19th century. In 1816, the United States government funded the America Colonization Society. This group was designed to bring former slaves back to the West Coast of Africa. Missionaries supported this idea in hopes to establish Protestantism in Africa. Southern plantation owners also supported the notion because of the fear of their own slaves. They were afraid because southern slaves saw the promise of free blacks in the North and rebelled in the South. In 1847, the Liberian Constitution was formed in the likeness of the United States Constitution. This is another example of historical ties between the two countries. Liberia was a mix of American blacks and native Western African tribes. During the 1850's and 1860's, Liberia was essentially functioning as a republic managed and governed by American born black. They maintained a formal diplomatic relationship with the United States and met frequently to discuss various issues of government. The Liberian government had a lot of input in their own decision making even though they were heavily dependent on the United States for economic assistance for industrialization and agricultural trade. The 1870's saw a change in policy towards Liberia where the United States began a series of self-benefiting policies that would not end until the end of the Cold War.

The Beginning of Oppression

In the 1870's, the United States began using Liberia for its own benefits and gains. The United States and several European countries forced Liberia to accept governmental loans at an inflated

interest rate that would have a long time negative affect on Liberia's economy. This had two major affects on the development and stability of Liberia. It created a long term economic dependency for Liberia on the United States and began a deficit that the country is still paying off. Another immense contribution to the problems the Liberian economy faced was the devastation of its capital city Monrovia. During World War I, German U-boats decimated the city with shells and destroyed much of the goods that were vital to the success of the Liberian economy. Liberia was only attacked because it was made a staging ground for United States military bases during World War I. The United States



continued to keep Liberia unequally dependent on it when the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Ohio moved into Liberia to acquire the vast rubber plantations in the 1920's. The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Ohio were able to profit enormously through the leasing of one million acres for 99 years at a low annual rate. The company was also allowed to keep any diamonds and gold that was found on the leased land. Liberia accepted a five million dollar loan for 40 years to pay off the United States and European countries that it owed money to. Liberia was being treated more as a colony than a country that was supposed to develop through the self-government of American blacks and West African tribes. The prior altruistic arrangements before the 1870's would be forever lost in the United States dominance over Liberia.

The Beginning of Liberia as a strategic point of the US

After World War II, Liberia became an important pawn in the battle against communism during the Cold War. From the 1960's to 1980's, Liberia received more than

280 million dollars for military and economic programs. In return, the United States was able to use Liberian land for military purposes. The long time President of Liberia, William V.S. Tubman also assisted the United States in carrying the flag for democracy to help promote the policy of containing communism. This was further increased when Ronald Reagan took office in 1981. The so-called champion of democracy andcrippler of communism used Liberia in the war against communism. The idea was to stop the penetration of political and economic ideas of communism in post-colonial Africa. Liberia played a significant role in this policy that Reagan promoted. Ronald Reagan displayed this notion in his political policies. In April of 1980, a young sergeant named Samuel K. Doe staged a military coupe. The coupe killed the former president William Tolbert (who had succeeded William V.S. Tubman) and many of his supporters. Samuel K. Doe would command a dictatorship where he suppressed many of his political rivals and removed a large number of people from the Soviet embassy since they were communist. Samuel K. Doe was a corrupt and murderous leader who was supported by the Reagan administration. This was hypocritical of the administration since Reagan promoted democracy and freedom of people while supporting an authoritarian ruler. Between 1981 and 1985, the United States government gave a total of \$402 million to Liberia. The military ties were also increasing as United States military forces began occupying areas of Liberia in attempts to contain communism in the region. While this was occurring, Liberia's economy was crumbling as well as political stability. In 1984, Doe invaded the University and captured a number of student leaders. They were part of a political group called the Student Unification Party (SUP) The SUP students challenged Doe's harsh tactics and were executed. The justification of the executions was that Doe said they were a threat to the country because they were communist. Doe also controlled the newspapers by shutting them down as well as squelching political opposition through harsh tactics.

Ronald Reagan also used Liberia as a point to try and stop Qaddafi in Libya. Muammar Qaddafi took control of Libya by means of a lighting fast military coupe. He took American military bases out of Libya and organized violent acts throughout mid 1980's. Ronald Reagan called him the most dangerous man in the world and began a crusade to take Qaddafi out of power. Muammar Qaddafi continued to be public enemy number for Reagan and he used Liberia to help him check his power.

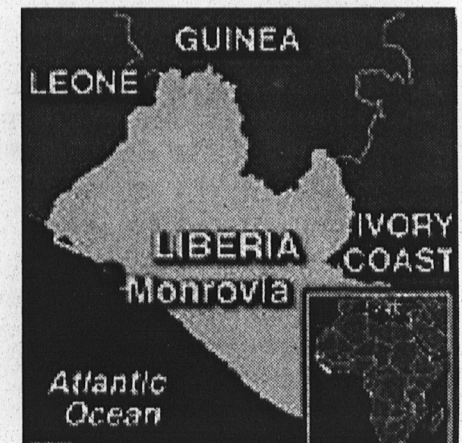
Ronald Reagan appointed William J. Casey to direct the CIA to get


Qaddafi out of power. It was decided that Liberia would be one of twelve nations to act as informant satellites for the United States. This meant that the administration had to overlook the corruption and brutality of Samuel K. Doe's regime. He rigged an election that kept him in power. Certain Congressmen wanted to stop aid to Liberia, but the White House was too strong. The CIA installed technological facilities in Liberia to watch Libyan movements in the area. One CIA official said that Monrovia (the capital of Liberia) was an important piece in destabilizing the Libyans. At the end of the Cold War, Liberia was no longer need as a strategic piece for the United States and thus was basically abandoned. The country was in political and economic turmoil. The inexperienced leader Samuel K. Doe no longer had the backing of the United States and was left with a country in upheaval. A scramble for power ensued and Doe was captured and killed. In 1990, a civil war started and claimed the lives of thousands of people.

The Result of US policy and the First Abandonment

After seven years of civil war, Charles Taylor seized power and claimed to free Liberia from its former authoritarian rule. In 1997, Taylor won an election that was encouraged by the United States and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS.) The United States stood from a far and did little to monitor the election. The election is thought to have been rigged and Charles Taylor acted much like Samuel K. Doe. He controlled the media, did little to develop Liberia, intimidated political opposition, and committed acts of terror against his people. Several groups emerged during the late 1990's wanted to challenge Taylor's power all claiming liberation for Liberian people. One of the major groups was the Liberia United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURDS.) They have attacked many innocent people in their attempts to capture the capital of Monrovia and seize power. In 2002, they mounted huge military offenses on the cities of Gbarnga,

continued on page 15





THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE HAVE BEEN RESISTING THE ISRAELI ZIONIST OCCUPATION SINCE 1948, WHEN THE ISRAELI STATE WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE HELP OF WEST. JEWISH PEOPLE IN EUROPE SUFFERED FROM THE WORST ANTI-SEMITISM IN JEWISH HISTORY. THEY WERE ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY DEPRIVED OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. MILLIONS WERE MURDERED AND COUNTLESS OTHER MILLIONS WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES. TODAY IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE TO SEE THE ISRAELI'S DEPRIVE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE OF THEIR ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS. THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WANT WHAT THE JEWISH PEOPLE WANTED IN EUROPE, DIGNITY, RESPECT AND FREEDOM. THEY ARE NOW FIGHTING FOR THIS NOBLE CAUSE. MANY ISRAELI'S HAVE REALIZED THE CRIMES THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED BUT YET THERE ARE STILL MANY WHO DO NOT WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, MASADA REPRESENTS THE STRUGGLE OF THE JEWS AGAINST FOREIGN OPPRESSION, TODAY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE THEIR OWN MASADA, IT IS THE INTIFADA.

Stop the lying
 Stop the whining
 Retrieve your innocence
 Something you have lost
 Since you started adolescence
 But unfortunately you've missed out on many lessons
 Pushed and pulled different ways
 Wasting your life wasting days
 For what material gain?
 They have become your idols that have bought you needless pain
 But you continue to grab them as a crutch
 And you continue to wear that hollow smile
 Meanwhile you don't respect your self
 you feel sick
 you feel disgusted
 you feel vile

No one can help you but you
 Before any one can love you
 You have to love your self
 But give your self reasons to love your self
 don't love out of blindness
 But out of kindness
 for what you bring to the world
 So stop asking
 Asking The questions that aren't worth asking
 Because the true answers lie with in you
 Lye with in one
 Lye with in creation
 Lye with in peace
 Lye with in love
 Lye with in God

By Omar Hammad

"I CAN'T"

I can't see me anymore,
 I can't see the eyes that sparkle with desire,
 That water with frustration,
 The eyes that registers light,
 I can't hear me anymore,
 I can't hear the music playing from my heart,
 Can't hear the laughter of careless children,
 The ears that fill with the everlasting sound of happiness,
 I can't smell me anymore,
 I can't smell the wonders of rising bread,
 Can't smell the scent of him,
 The nose that fills with the overflow of love,
 I can't taste me anymore,
 I can't taste the waters trickling from my eyes,
 Can't taste the beauty of the raindrops falling from the
 sky,
 The mouth that fills with the waters of mystery,
 I can't feel me anymore,
 I can't feel the heat seccrating from my hands,
 The softness of my cheeks,
 The coolness of your breath,
 The hands that hold the meaning of life.

By Shareen Kandil

Interview with New Brighton's Up and Coming Artist : Halloween Darkness

College Voice: When your album dropping?

Halloween: Check it out, it's coming out Summer 2004. The title is "Everyday is Halloween". I'm working on it now, i'm in the studio right now.

Where You From?

I'm from New Brighton, Staten Island, been living there all my life.

How long you been rapping for?

I've been rappin since 12, been in battle groups like Buddy Hall and Ruthless Bastards.

How was it growing up?

It's rough in the hood, violence and all that. I been in the struggle all my life, trying to stay straight with the music. Music keeps me motivated and out of the penitentiary.

Who have been your influences musically?

Tragedy Khadafi, Kool G Rap, the whole Jucie Crew and Force Md's

What made you want to rap?

I just felt the vibe, everytime i saw Rakim on Video Music Box it made want to rap and battle. I'm able to express my anger through words and music.

What your first album called and when is the new one dropping?

My first Mixtape is called Trick or Treat Volume 1. Check out my new album, it's coming out Summer 2004. The title is "Everyday is Halloween". I'm working on it now, i'm in the studio right now. I already got a mixtape out.

Who is producing your new album and what label is it coming out on?

I got a production deal with Shizzag Production, shout out to them, it's coming out on an independent label called "Money Grillaz Entertainment". It's hosted by Daytona and mixed down by DJ Duop.

What your opinion on th eHip Hop industry today?

It's all good, but they gotta to give the Underground they props, the freestyling and the real hip hop people need to come up. Alot of MC's ain't getting recognition, the industry don't want to hear other MC's, they shouldn't pinpoint, everything should be official. Alot of people are in the game for the money it ain't about the love of hip hop no more. You got to get in the grind to make it in the game.

How about performance wise, when is Halloween gonna bless us on the stage?

I'm performing in different spots now, I'm on the August 9 Entertainment roster, much respect to them. I'm gonna be touring in colleges throughout the states. My cousin Ray Daniels is a promoter at clubs, he got me opening up for up and coming artists. CSI's radio station WSIA been playing my songs, DJ Universal shout out to him.

What other projects you working on for the future?

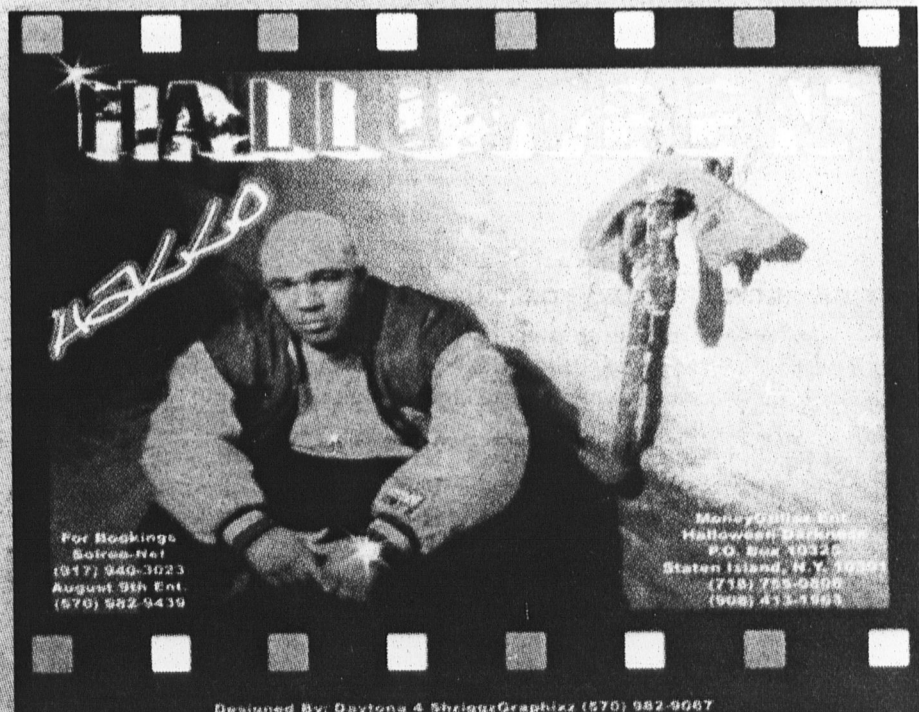
I got a DVD coming soon, it's like Street Wars, how it is in the street, footage from New Brighton, cyphers, freestyle battles and all of that. Don't miss it, look out for that one, the streets been missing that hardcore underground sound, i'm gonna put Staten Island back on the map, My cousins were the pioneers of hip hop on Staten Island with their group the Force Md's. I'm bringing that legend back, i'm reppin the Force Md's.

What message do you want to give other artist out there that are trying to make it in the game?

I just want to say stay focus, we gotta bring it back to the golden age of hoody's and olde english. A&R's aren't looking at the right place. There is alot of talent on Staten Island especially New Brighton and Stapelton.

Check Out Halloween Darkness new album coming out this summer. This brother is raw, spitting that real freestyle off the dome, not that fake pre-written freestyle. Support Underground Artist like Halloween Darkness.

For Contact Info: BG 1917-815-8211 or Real at 1718-556-0030. Manufacturer of the CD, All Media Solutions at 1212-694-5906.



Hands Off North Korea! US Troops Out Of Korea! End the Embargo!

Drunk With Iraqi Blood The American Capitalist Empire Threatens the World

The American Empire, now openly claimed by its theorists, is hell bent on continuing its limitless war on the peoples of the world. The Afghani people and the Iraqi people have been the first targets of the New World Order of the American Empire. The preoccupation of the Empire with the Middle East and its adjacent regions is clearly about controlling the oil supplies of that region vital for their control of the global capitalist economy. On its hit list of countries to be attacked North Korea and Iran are on the top. The American Empire under Bush 2 is concerned not only about strategic resources such as oil but equally on subduing dissent to its rule.

North Korea or DPRK (Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea), to use its official name, is an example of the importance which the Empire attaches to quashing dissent. The DPRK represents no vital source of raw materials or target of huge foreign investment. Instead the DPRK represents an openly and colorfully vitriolic rejection of the Capitalist Empire.

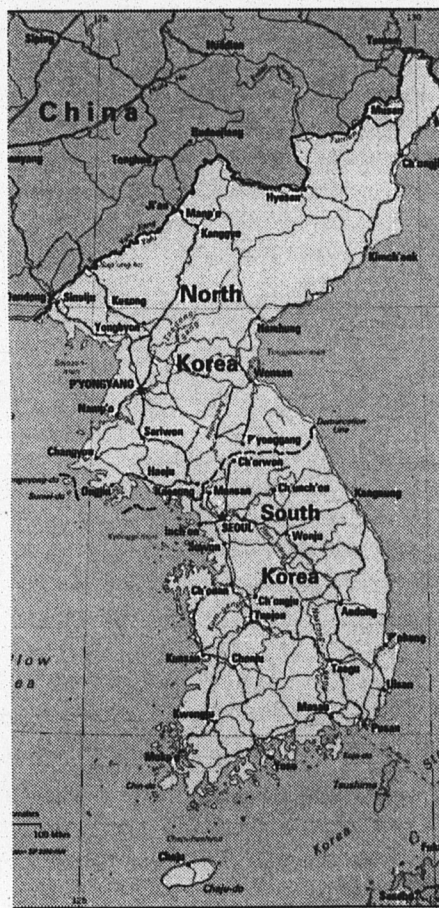
The DPRK was born out of the anti-colonial struggle of the Korean people against Japanese imperialism and then US imperialism. The hard fought struggle for national liberation that gave rise to the DPRK is deeply rooted in the consciousness of its people and leadership. The DPRK is extremely hostile to any notion of being subjugated to any foreign powers. After suffering millions of lives lost under the boot of Japanese and then US imperialism and remaining to this day with 40,000 fully armed US troops massed on its southern border the DPRK acts naturally like a country under siege. The Republic of Korea or South Korea, its capitalist neighbor to the south was created with the help of massive US military intervention during what was called the Korean War in the 1950s, effectively dividing the Korean peninsula in half, with all the corresponding turmoil of families being torn apart, refugees etc.

From the perspective of the DPRK, the US has been and continues to be an active enemy of the Korean people's struggle to free themselves from colonialism and imperialism. The so called nuclear crisis that the capitalist media has been crowing about in regard to DPRK developing nuclear weapons is a crisis that has been created by US imperialism by pushing North Korea up against the wall economically, politically and militarily.

The Bush gang announced its intentions to destroy the DPRK by dubbing it as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran. The DPRK

has seen how the Empire has dealt with Iraq; fabricating stories about hidden weapons to destroy and occupy the country. Naturally this has only heightened the sense of siege that the DPRK was already in with the US build up on its border. For a relatively poor country under economic embargo by the US obtaining nuclear weapons was the only choice left to it to deter an imminent US assault.

While claiming to want to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction the US Empire has through its actions prompted one of the greatest rushes towards the acquisition of nuclear weapons by many states around the world. The choice before countries who do not



want to be vassals of the American Empire is get nukes or lose your sovereignty. The problem for Iraq was not that it had nuclear weapons but that it did not have them. Iran too has quickly absorbed this lesson and is said to be close to developing nukes. Of course instead of a more peaceful or stable world the endless war launched by the Empire under Bush 2 has made the world a much more dangerous place.

As in the case of Iraq the Empire has been churning out massive propaganda to paint the DPRK as a terrible place for its people as well as being a threat to its neighbors. This is the usual prelude to an all out military assault to "liberate" the country in question as Iraq has been "liberated". The obvious question of who wants to be liberated by being bombed and killed and occupied by a foreign invader is naturally not

touched upon by the Empires media whores

The strategy of the US rulers in attacking a country is to 1) destabilize it 2) demonize its leadership and 3) bomb and occupy it. The DPRK has been the target of destabilization since its birth as a sovereign, decolonized nation. The economic hardships that the DPRK has been suffering with famine wreaking havoc on its rural areas are a product first and foremost of the economic embargo and political marginalization that the US has imposed on the country since it's founding. How well would any small country do facing military aggression and being starved economically by much more powerful states? Of course the Empire's pundits purposely edit out this context of the DPRKs economic woes. This allows the Empire to claim that it is the absence of capitalism (US capitalists in particular of course) in the DPRK that is the root cause of its suffering. In the simplistic propaganda of the Empire "capitalism equals freedom". (The billions of subjects of global capitalism literally starving in places like Africa, South Asia and Latin America would differ if they could but of course the capitalist media speaks for the billionaires and not the billions of poor.) In fact by all indications the DPRK has done remarkably well in developing a highly industrialized and modern society under conditions of permanent aggression by imperialism.

The DPRK like other Stalinist states is a one-party state. Pluralism is not a feature of its political system. This is without a doubt a negative feature of the DPRK system but once again one that has been nurtured through the continuous threat of military assault by the US that it has faced since its inception. How pluralistic is the US military? In a combat situation a centralized command structure is employed in almost all cases. The DPRK has a combat mentality because it is in fact under attack and has been for the last 50 years by the US and not because of any mental problems on the part of its leaders as the racist capitalist media likes to imply.

After the passing of its leader Kim Il Sung, an anti colonial fighter, who led the formation of the DPRK, his son Kim Jong Il took the reigns of power. There was quite a bit of movement by the new regime of Kim Jong Il towards compromising with US and Japanese imperialism and forward movement by the governments of both the North and South towards reunification. The return of Japanese citizens abducted in the 70s to Japan, the treaty with

the US to allow inspections of its facilities in exchange for help in developing nuclear energy to fuel its economy, and even the movement towards setting up of capitalist economic zones following the example of China. Considering that the Japanese and then the Americans have been the arch foes of the DPRK these were remarkable steps for the regime of Kim Jong Il to take. The movement towards reunification had gathered great momentum on both sides of the divided peninsula and was a source of great happiness and optimism for Korean people everywhere.

The launching of the global war by the Empire, the so called war on terror, better called the war of terror, pushed the DPRK back into a corner. The US imperialists put pressure on its client regime in South Korea to halt talks on reunification. The DPRK saw the writing on the wall. The American Empire is in a rabid mood, thirsting for blood and not seeking compromise. Immediately the DPRK kicked the US inspectors out of their country and put the development of a nuclear weapons program back into high drive. It has warned the Empire in its usual straightforward language that any military or further economic aggression would be met with a massive retaliation by the DPRK.

The Empire which depends on soldiers recruited on an economic draft i.e. soldiers that have joined to avoid unemployment, rather than a firmly ideologically motivated force, knows that any encounter that leads to massive American casualties would be a disaster creating potentially huge social convulsions domestically ala Vietnam. The close to 100,000 Americans that are in South Korea as soldiers, their families, businessman and tourists at any given time will be targeted by a DPRK response. In addition American bases in Japan as well as Tokyo itself will be targeted by a DPRK response.

Progressive forces that oppose the Empire's endless war must not be thrown off by its hypocritical smokescreen about human rights in the DPRK. The best way to ensure peace and security for Northern Asia and freedom and prosperity for the people of the DPRK and the Korean people in general is to call for US Troops Out of Korea and to call to End The Embargo On North Korea. The Korean people will determine their own destiny. The enemy of the American working class is right here at home in the board rooms of corporate America and the halls of their political pimps. Let us clean our house let the others take care of theirs.

Support the Right of Gay Marriage

Equal Rights For All!

BRIAN LARA

The recent decision by a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to effectively legalize marriage between gay people can only be viewed as an important step forward in winning equal rights and protections for gay and lesbian people in the US. The New England organization Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders successfully litigated the case on behalf of seven same-sex couples in Massachusetts. However this landmark decision was quickly attacked by the reactionary Bush Administration and the Christian Right who see it, incredibly, as immoral. Imagine Bush and his ilk talking about morality – the butcher of Iraqis and of hundreds of Texans he ordered executed while governor talking about morals?! In Massachusetts crazed lawmakers have convened a constitutional convention to attempt to amend the constitution to ban same sex marriage. Several so-called compromise proposals were offered that would explicitly outlaw same sex marriage but allow civil unions for gays. Gay rights advocates have rightly denounced this attempt at compromise as a step backwards and the proposals were voted down by close margins. Sen. Dianne Wilkerson used her experience as a black woman growing up in segregated Arkansas where her mother was prevented by the public hospital from delivering her children to argue against the proposal. "I know the pain of being less than equal and I cannot and will not impose that status on anyone else," Wilkerson said, fighting back tears. "I was but one generation removed from an existence in slavery. I could not in

good conscience ever vote to send anyone to that place from which my family fled." On the opposing side lawmakers like Rep. Marie Parente blamed Mother Nature for their opposition to gay marriage claiming Mother Nature made man and a woman thereby presumably negating the possibility of her supporting equal rights for gays.

However the court decision that was passed is powerful because it cannot be appealed and no constitutional amendment can even if passed can go into effect for two years. As a result many gay and lesbian couples are eagerly awaiting May 17th when the new marriage law goes into effect to get married. In a related development, in San Francisco, the mayor, obviously taking strength from the court decision, has authorized gay marriages to be granted by City Hall going against California law which currently prohibits same sex marriage. As many as 38 states currently have laws that prohibit same sex marriage on their books. Five of these states had public referendums to enact their laws while the other 33 were enacted by their state legislatures. National advocacy groups like the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are waging the fight for marriage rights for gays in other states. A case being litigated by Lambda is expected to end up in the New Jersey Supreme Court soon.

This impressive step forward comes at a time when the movement for gay rights has been winning some victories. On June 26, 2003 a Supreme Court decision striking down the country's last remaining sodomy laws in Texas was an important victory. The Episcopal Church voted to appoint an openly gay bishop, a historic

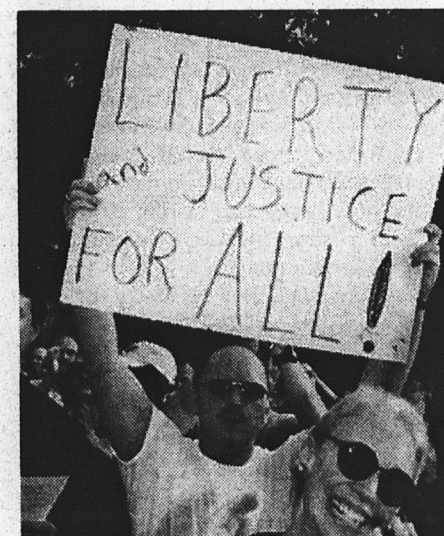
first in the church raising a storm of controversy worldwide. But the picture of the movement for gay rights for equal rights for all is far from rosy. Institutional discrimination and widespread harassment still persists in the US.

For the capitalist rulers of the United States, morality is obviously not the real issue. The issue is one of keeping the majority of people, the working class, divided, immobilized and poisoned by bigotry. The issue of gay rights connects with sexual rights and the rights of women very closely. The hypocritical rulers who commit all sorts of acts behind closed doors attempt to legislate what sort of sex people should be having – gay, straight, anal, oral, etc. Women in particular are the victims of this national hypocrisy because on the one hand we live in a society that uses sex to sell everything and where sex itself is sold. It is capitalist society with its extreme inequalities that is truly immoral. It is the immorality of poverty that capitalism produces that pushes many women into become sex workers. Instead of reaching out to these women and supporting them, they are ostracized, beaten and locked up in jails and psychiatric institutions.

Gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people are truly in the back of the bus as far as winning legal equality is concerned. While women and African Americans won significant legal equality in the 1960s and 1970s, the road to equality for the gay community has been much longer.

Legal equality while ultimately insufficient as an answer to inequality is a very important reform. Democracy is only a

glaring hypocrisy without legal equality for all. However legal equality as we can see in the status of African Americans and women today is not sufficient to win full, actual equality. Actual equality cannot be won while class distinctions of capitalism exist. When money is the true currency of access to goods and services in society those with a lot of it can get whatever they want despite the laws, they can even buy the lawyers, judges and politicians as we can see today. Likewise those with no money or little money find it impossible to get access to goods and services that they need. In essence those without money become the slaves of those with money. This is the reality of legal equality in capitalist America. The fight for gay liberation is bound up with the struggle of the whole working class - black, white, gay, straight, male, female, and so forth to win control of their labor from the capitalists and abolish classes. It is important that we remember the old labor saying that "An Injury To One Is An Injury To All" and unite as progressives to back the fight of our GLBT brothers and sisters.



America's Policy of Abandonment continued

continued from page 11

Tubmanburg, and Klay. These offenses have killed thousands as well as destroying the towns they once lived in. The LURDS have committed acts of rape and pillaging forcing people to flee into nearby countries. Liberian refugees have been problematic for surrounding countries and International Organizations trying to assist them. All while the United States has chose to turn their back on the horrific and catastrophic situation because Liberia is of no interest to them anymore. The United States has done little to help alleviate the visceral occurrences in Liberia.

The Expulsion of Charles Taylor and Aid from non-American sources

The question of America's involvement in Liberia in the 21st century has been a hot topic of discussion for the past few months. However, there have been little assistance from the United States in terms of military peace keeping and direct aid. On August 11th of 2003, President Taylor was forced out by ECOWAS. This notion was supported by the United States stating that the removal of Taylor would be the first step in the stabilization of Liberia. Again, this voice of assistance is from a

distance. The United States has had an active role in destabilizing Liberia than directly helping Liberia. On July 31, 2003, ECOWAS had a forum in which they called for the expulsion of Charles Taylor and drafted a plan to help stabilize Liberia. They stated that ECOWAS is committed to supporting a full peace process in Liberia with political dialogue as well as providing an armed peace keeping unit that would be assisted by the UN. It was made official on October 1, 2003 that the United States would end mission Liberia and have a backseat role to the country from now on. Perhaps now

ECOWAS and the UN will create a solid future for Liberia. It would certainly help Liberia if their big brother could even put half the effort into the rebuilding of Liberia that it did in exploiting it. But abandonment has proven to be the 21st century American policy towards Liberia. On the other hand, help might be on its way in the form of the UN, ECOWAS, and a change in the administration in the United States. Hopefully the little brother of the United States can climb out of the depths of despair to one day vindicate itself as a sovereign nation of peace and prosperity.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES SOUND OFF AGAINST WAR

A U.S. soldier in Iraq wonders: 'How many more must die?'

By TIM PREDMORE

"Shock and Awe" were the words used to describe the awesome display of power the world was to view upon the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was to be an up-close, dramatic display of military strength and advanced technology within the arsenal of the United States and the United Kingdom's military.

But as a soldier preparing for the invasion of Iraq, the words "shock and awe" rang deeper within my psyche. These two great superpowers were about to break the very rules they demand of others. Without the consent of the United Nations, and ignoring the pleas of their own citizens, the United States and Britain invaded Iraq. "Shock and Awe"? Yes, the words correctly described the emotional impact I felt as we prepared to participate in what I believed not to be an act of justice but of hypocrisy.

From the moment the first shot was fired in this so-called war of liberation and freedom, hypocrisy reigned. Following the broadcasting of recorded images of captured and dead U.S. soldiers over Arab television, American and British leaders vowed revenge while verbally assaulting the networks for displaying such vivid images. Yet within hours of the deaths of Saddam's two sons, the American government released horrific photos of the two dead brothers for the entire world to view. Again, a "do as we say and not as we do" scenario. As soldiers serving in Iraq, we have been told that our purpose here is to help the people of Iraq by providing them the necessary assistance militarily as well as in humanitarian efforts. Then tell me where the humanity was in the recent Stars and Stripes account of two young children brought to a U.S. military camp by their mother, in search of medical care? The two children had been, unbeknown to them, playing with explosive ordinance they had found and as a result were severely burned. The account tells how the two children, following an hour-long wait, were denied care by two U.S. military doctors. The soldier described the incident as one of many "atrocities" he has witnessed on the part of the U.S. military.

So then, what is our purpose here? Was this invasion due to weapons of mass destruction as we so often heard? If so, where are they? Did we invade to dispose of a leader and his regime on the account of close association with Osama bin Laden? If so, where is the proof? Or is it that our incursion is a result of our own economic advantage? Iraq's oil can be refined at the lowest cost of any in the world. Coincidence?

This looks like a modern-day crusade not to free an oppressed people or to rid the world of a demonic dictator relentless in his pursuit of conquest and domination but a crusade to control another nation's natural resource. At least for us here, oil seems to be the reason for our presence.

There is only one truth, and it is that Americans are dying. There are an estimated 10- to 14-attacks on our servicemen and women daily in Iraq. As the body count continues to grow, it would appear that there is no immediate end in sight.

I once believed that I served for a cause: "to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States." Now, I no longer believe; I have lost my conviction, my determination. I can no longer justify my service for what I believe to be half-truths and bold lies. My time is done as well as that of many others with whom I serve. We have all faced death here without reason or justification.

How many more must die? How many more tears must be shed before America awakens and demands the return of the men and women whose job it is to protect them rather than their leader's interest?

Tim Predmore is on active duty with the 101st Airborne Division near Mosul, Iraq. A 1985 Richwoods High School graduate and native Peorian, he has been in Iraq since March and in the military for about five years.



Director, Author and Activist Michael Moore has posted on his website a section of letters he has received by soldiers, veterans, family and friends about the war, many of the letters are anonymous to protect the identity of the soldiers who mostly are currently serving in Iraq, we've reprinted the ones by soldiers who did post their names, to read more letters go to www.michaelmoore.com

Hello and good afternoon. I am Josh Bates, a US Marine down in San Antonio, TX. I and some other Marines just wanted to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family and be safe. Hope all is well and thank you for giving us the chance to have our voice heard.

Too many of us are not allowed or are just unable to speak out because they are overseas fighting for their lives. I'm sure that there were plenty of Marines and other servicemen and women who opposed your views before they left and are now realizing the truth... that you were right. We are fighting an endless and needless war and not just overseas anymore. Everyday an all too small group of people like you and myself are fighting for our very own freedoms guaranteed to us by the Bill of Rights. You, however, have made such a difference in people's lives, like my own for instance. Before I ever knew of your work I was one of those "Closed-Minded Southerners" (I'm originally from South Carolina) who was an extremely right-winged-"let's get those bastards" kind of person. I supported the war and I supported Bush but it wasn't until a friend of mine showed me your work. I borrowed every DVD he had of yours and watched them all in a three day stretch.

I was shocked.

I couldn't believe that I had been so easily fooled. What a country we live in to where the leader of the strongest nation in the world can lie to his people to get his war and even when the people realize that he lied, he still he sits in his throne in the White House, smoking away on his cigars, laughing it up with family and friends, and complaining about how his poor knees hurt while Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines by just the wave of his hand are sent off to die.

We really love your work, Mr. Moore, and enjoy knowing the fact that you have given us the chance to show that even us Marines can think for ourselves sometimes. I, for instance, have just announced to my fellow Aiken County citizens back home that I have started the Aiken County Bill of Rights Committee and though its only in its first week of existence I have 7 members. You see, your work is a constant inspiration and reminder to us that we need to stay strong and stay involved and that just one person can make a difference.

I apologize for keeping you, however, I just needed to get that to you.

Again, thank you Mr. Moore and have a great holiday season.

Sincerely,
LCpl Bates, Joshua B

Dear Michael Moore:

I was a Republican for most of my life until a man named George W. Bush ran for office. I did not vote for him but still believed in the Republican cause; even to the extent of working for the telefundraising department of the RNC.

But recently a close young friend to my family experienced something that changed my mind about the way I view policy at the current White House.

My young friend served during Operation War Against Terror in Afghanistan. He was 19 years old when deployed and served almost 2 years in that region of the world until he lost the use of his legs (they were broken at the femur). When he came back home, though still injured and going to therapy, he started school and a job at a major retail chain. He refused to feel any self pity at his situation. Then he fell in love with a beautiful girl who is Muslim. When a group of his coworkers found out that he was planning to convert and marry this girl, they took him to the back of the store, overturned his wheelchair, and proceeded to beat him (even to the point of breaking his almost healed legs, again). They even called him a terrorist. He said that probably hurt more than anything else. Are these patriotic Americans?

It is very easy for the "president" to say that Muslims, in general, aren't responsible for the terrorist acts that we witness presently. The fact remains that the 2 wars our country has fought in 2 YEARS are against are Muslim countries. The "president" says that they're for human right abuses. Do we forget in Saudi Arabia, our friend, the female military personnel have to conform to the dress code, and even so, the population still won't take them seriously as soldiers. In Israel, the Jewish populace insists that Muslims remain in certain sections, only able to leave during certain times and only if you have papers and abide to the curfew set. In this scenario, all you have to do is change the West Bank to Warsaw, but people will say that it's not the same thing. IT IS! Even one general, a few months ago made a reference to a holy war, but in a Christian context. And have you heard anything about the SPY LEAK the White House promised to look into? Well, I haven't either!

I am not the only person tired of war and hypocrisy? I'm just sorry it took so long. The government treats its own citizens worse than it's so-called friends. Let's stop Uncle Tomming the world and leave it the hell alone. I honestly don't care who's killing who, but we should just stay out of it for our own well-being and for the sake of our unexpendable military personnel who if sent to war, should have a good plan, top-notch training, and at least one side arm whether or not they are reservists or regular military.

If you decide to print this, you may print my name. It's about time we should stop feeling afraid of our own country.

Yours Truly,
Dawn M. Hodose

Fallen soldier's mother says her son 'died for absolutely nothing'



JOHN TREDREA

Generous, compassionate, warm, piercingly intelligent and insightful, frank and open about his feelings, and fun loving.

That is how Army 1st Lt. Seth Dvorin, 24, who was killed in Iskandariyah, Iraq on Feb. 3, is remembered by his grieving family. But their tumultuous emotional mix is replete with stinging anger and frustration, as well as overwhelming sorrow.

"My son died for absolutely nothing," Lt. Dvorin's mother, Sue Niederer, declared with quiet, forceful bluntness in her Hopewell Township home on Lake Baldwin Drive Friday. Ms. Niederer blames President George W. Bush personally for her son's death.

"Seth died for President Bush's personal vendetta," she said. "Bush put us where we should never have been. We're not even in a declared war."

Ms. Niederer says the growing national controversy over the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq proves that "we have a very big problem in this country. If the intelligence on which this war was based is as inefficient as it now appears to have been, there is something is seriously wrong here."

Ms. Niederer and other members of Lt. Dvorin's family also are upset that he may have been trying to diffuse an unexploded bomb when he was killed. He had no training in defusing bombs, they said.

"We're getting mixed stories from the Army, to say the least," Ms. Niederer said sardonically. "You won't get anything from them. They'll just tell you it's all under investigation. One officer I spoke to told me Seth was handling the bomb, attempting to deactivate it, when it went off, killing him. It took off a piece of his skull. Another officer told me that there is no way, absolutely no way, he was touching the bomb."

Ms. Niederer's admiration of her son was profound. "It's a great loss," she said. "What can I tell you? He was a great guy. Friendly. Warm. Kind-hearted. Very intelligent — that boy was smart as a whip. He was fun loving. He loved life and he enjoyed it. He liked to be with people and do things for them. He loved skiing and snowboarding, they were really big with him. And he loved his Mustang. I'll tell you the kind of son he was to me: He was the kind to tell you he loved you, then cry after he said it."

Lt. Dvorin was married less than six months. He and his wife, Kelly Harris Dvorin, were married at Fort Drum, his stateside base near Watertown, N.Y. Ms. Dvorin lives in Watertown.

"Their wedding was Aug. 26, five days before he shipped out to Iraq,"

Ms. Niederer said. "Kelly is a widow at age 25."

Both Ms. Niederer and her 27-year-old daughter Rebekah Dvorin used the same phrase in describing Lt. Dvorin. "He put himself before other people."

"How he died certainly proves that," his mother said. "He died a hero — he saved his men's lives — but he died in vain."

She said that, as she understands what happened from the confusing, sometimes contradictory, stories she has heard from the Army, her son was in the lead truck of a convoy that had been sent out to look for

my life. You could talk to him about anything. He was always there for me. I believe he died in vain, to settle President Bush's vendetta. I love and truly miss him."

Greg Niederer, Lt. Dvorin's stepfather, choked hard on his tears and only was able to say, "Seth was one of the best you could ask for. I watched him grow up. It's such a shame, to see what's happened to such a nice young man."

"It is indeed," agreed Lt. Dvorin's stepgrandmother, Florence Sapir. "War used to be an honorable thing. This one is as far from that as you can get. Seth died in vain. So did the

that Seth was still too wet behind the ears for that. He begged them not to send Seth. But they told him he was needed over there, and he went."

Ms. Niederer said that, since learning of her son's death, she asked U.S. Congressman Rush Holt, D-N.J., how many wives, husbands and children of U.S. congressmen and senators actually are in a war zone in Iraq.

"You know what he told me? None. Somebody tell me how fair that is," she said.

She put her head in her hands. "He was my son," she said. "I want his helmet. Why didn't he have a better helmet? I want his helmet."

AT HOPEWELL VALLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, where Sue Niederer is a substitute teacher, students and teachers sent Lt. Dvorin messages of support and care packages this year.

"One day in early December, Ms. Niederer was covering my classes as a substitute teacher while I attended a workshop. Several of my students asked her why she looked so down and depressed," said teacher Alan Sattler on Tuesday. "Sue proceeded to tell them that her son was in Iraq and that his Army unit had been attacked twice since he had been there."

"The students volunteered to write letters to his unit. One student in particular, Eren Akyar, brought in a large American flag that he had hanging from his ceiling. Eren asked me if the class or classes could sign it and send it over to Seth. I said 'no problem' and I left the flag and some markers out so the remainder of my classes could sign it if they wished."

"It turned out that many of the students felt connected to Seth and his unit and wrote some really wonderful messages. The general sentiment from my classes was that 'we really appreciate what you're doing over there.'"

"When Eren and his classmates presented Sue with the flag she was really touched and gave several of the students a big hug."

"Apparently Seth and his unit really appreciated the flag and he hung it in his tent. Sue brought in a picture of Seth and his unit wearing Santa hats in appreciation for the flag."

"As it turns out, we were just getting ready to have the classes send another batch of letters when he was killed. Sue came to school that day and said she would give the kids another name for them to write to. The letters really boosted their morale, so we will try to write as soon as we can."

Mr. Sattler said other teachers have sent care packages (Linda Townner and Ellen Davila). Some have sent letters with a message similar to that of the students — "We appreciate what you're doing, be safe, and come home soon."



From left: Seth Dvorin's sister, Rebekah Dvorin; his mother, Sue Niederer; his stepfather, Greg Niederer; his stepgrandmother, Florence Sapir; and his grandfather, Jack Sapir. Photo John Tredrea

undetonated bombs and to disable any it found.

"There was a suspicious object lying in the middle of the road and they stopped the convoy," Ms. Niederer said. "Seth and the driver got out to see what it was. When Seth realized it was probably a bomb, he sent the driver back to the truck and waved everyone away. Then the bomb, which obviously was a booby trap, was remotely detonated, killing him."

Ms. Niederer is outraged that her son was put in the position of dealing with the bomb in the first place.

"His training was in air defense artillery," she said. "He had no training in defusing bombs. Why wasn't an expert handling this? What's particularly amazing to me is that this was a mission to defuse bombs and there apparently was no expert in that area in the lead vehicle. Since there wasn't, why weren't they rerouted around that bomb? I want answers. I'm not going to just be quiet. If I speak up, maybe someone else's son won't die for nothing the way my son did. If I don't speak up, then he will really died completely in vain."

Weeping profusely, Rebekah Dvorin said, "My brother? He was the best friend I ever could ask for. I'll treasure his memory the rest of

more than 500 other soldiers who died over there. They died for nothing."

Seth Dvorin was a 1998 graduate of South Brunswick High School. He received a bachelor's degree in criminology from Rutgers University (Livingston College) in 2002 and enlisted in the Army right after graduating from college. He graduated from Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Ga., and received his commission on Jan. 17, 2003. He also graduated from Airborne and Air Defense Artillery Schools, and was stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., as part of the 10th Mountain Division, Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

Sue Niederer said her son talked about going into the Army right after high school, but his family told him he had to go to college first. She said her son dreamed of a career in the FBI or CIA and was persuaded by an Army recruiter that he would have a better chance of reaching that goal if he were a military veteran.

"He also was promised that he would never go to combat," she said. "If he was in a war area, they told him, he would not be up front. My reaction to his going to Iraq was negative, to say the least. Seth's superior officer at Watertown also was against it. He told his superiors

Supporting Sons of Bitches Then and Now

How US foreign policy is mirroring political schemes of the Cold War

by sustaining dictators around the world and its affects on American culture

NILES FRENCH

The day that the stars and stripes were draped over the head of the immense statue of Saddam Hussein will live in infamy because of its irony. News media all around the world stated that the toppling of the Hussein regime marked the end of persecution for the Iraqi people as well as eliminating potential terrorist threats. It also indicated that the American war machine was successful in liberating Iraq with minimal damage. The end of a long tyrannical rule was over in only twenty-two days since the first air strike commenced on March 19th of 2003. The destruction of the Saddam statue in central Baghdad is ironic because of the misconceptions and symbolism it created. First, it made a long history of relations between the United States and Iraq into a short skirmish that ended with the evil Iraqi government crumbling. Second, the image of the falling the Saddam statue implicates that the war is over. In reality people are still dying everyday and the American death tolls continue to climb. Third, it has erased the fact in many people's minds that the United States supported Saddam in the past. Perhaps this notion is the most ironic. The United States had defeated the dictator that it once supported for its own needs. The red, white, and blue that stand for liberty once helped a dictator that is painted as the ultimate antagonist of this notion. It is almost as if the United States placed a stone on the statue each time it backed the Saddam regime. Soon the statue would eclipse all of Iraq with all its oppression and injustice. Now that Iraq was no longer strategically relevant to the United States, the time to obliterate the regime came in the form of destroying the statue. The image of the Saddam statue covered by the American flag is disturbing since the US has helped maintain the dictatorship that it ultimately destroyed and condemned for the all the atrocities. The fall of the Saddam statue also shows that pre-emption can occur with little scrutiny as well as being justified. The United States can exercise military and political actions for their own benefits even if it is contradictory. Welcome to American foreign policy.

The notion of "supporting a son of a bitch" first arose out of relations between the United States and third world authoritarian nations during the Cold War. This simply meant that the United States' administrations (during the Cold War) knew that they were backing oppressive and murderous leaders for the spread (as well as maintaining) of American influence. One US foreign policy official once said that "he (a third world dictator-Joseph Mobutu of Zaire) is a son of

bitch; but he is our son of a bitch." This was the mentality during the Cold War in dealing with repressive leaders around the world. In the opening stages of the 21st century, one can see that this same type of mindset is flourishing through the Bush administration. The settings are the same, but the players and objectives are somewhat different. There is also more of an overt attempt to try and cover the hypocritical actions of the administrations. This is done by filling the minds of the American people with ideas that they are unsafe and thus need to let their government do whatever it thinks it should do. This is also done with power rhetoric and a pre-school security warning systems of crayon



Ronald Reagan White House Middle East Special Envoy Donald Rumsfeld shakes hands with Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussien during his visit on December 19-20, 1983

colors that indicates the danger level the US is in. The tools that are used like this by the Bush administrations are hardly analyzed or questioned. The American people are simply told and rarely question the motives or facts they are provided with. In the rare event that the government is challenged with an intelligent conversation, the person is looked at as unpatriotic. This leads to false information, the dehumanization of people, and long term problems (poverty, undeveloped countries, and political instability) that could greatly affect the future of the world. Some of the other detrimental actions of the Bush administration are supporting dictators while denouncing others. This draws a similar parallel with previous American administrations and their dealings with authoritarian regimes.

The Rules of the Game played by American Foreign Policy during the Cold War

The United States has had a long history in playing the game of Choose Your Dictator. This favorite pastime for American foreign policy makers was widely used during the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Both super powers often used smaller countries as strategic pawns for their advantage in achieving influence and power. They funneled large amounts of money into a country in return for using the country's military bases and land for intelligence operations. It is hypocritical to go against one dangerous regime while supporting others. However, this notion is absent from American foreign policy. Countries were also used for natural resources to be used by the Soviet Union or United States. The leaders of these countries were often corrupt and used the money they received for their own selfish reasons. In most cases; this left the country undeveloped, dependent, poor, and politically unstable. The

United States were masterful in contradicting themselves about their own beliefs as well as showing that foreign policy is a self serving arrangement. The United States suppressed democratic factions in many countries because they did not agree with the circumstances their country was involved in. The US turned a blind eye to the corruption of dictators and undemocratic nature of authoritarian regimes as long as the country went along with the arrangement. Hence, the game of achieving power was dictated by the US through attempts in monopolizing any area that could be dominated.

Similarities in Supporting Dictators in the Cold War and in the 21st century within the Middle East

The decision to remove Saddam Hussein by the Bush administrations has to be looked at more carefully. The interests are the most important concept in looking at why the Bush administration invaded Iraq. You might be a neo-Marxist that believes the United States went into Iraq to seize the large oil supply there and thus help the US gain an upper hand in

controlling the flow of oil out of the Middle East. This would also help reinforce the US as the economic powerhouse with the emergence of the European Union and China as relevant competitors. You also might be a person who is skeptical of the government and believe that Bush did this to support his cronies at Halliburton with lucrative business contracts. Both of these points of view are very valid and have important evidence to support them. The main idea is that before the invasion, the United States did not have the billion dollar contracts for Halliburton or the complete control of Iraq's oil fields. Therefore the United States had an interest in invading Iraq. The removal of the dictator was not for the threat that Saddam posed or the weapons of invisible destruction that he is supposed to possess. That is why Iraq was invaded because there was an interest there with a dictator that would not go along with it. There are potential interests in all authoritarian countries. Sometimes they are supported or eradicated. In the case of Iraq, the regime was destroyed.

At one time, Iraq was supported by the United States during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988.) Here is one way that a person could see how the United States has similarly supporting dictators in the Cold War and the 21st century. The first resemblance that can be observed is the large amount of money put into the countries of the dictators that it was trying to support. This is called resource spending. Resource spending is the amount of money and non-military manpower put into the country. This ensures that the country is getting some amount of benefit from the relationship with the United States. In a dictatorship, the dictator or ruling party uses the resources given to them for their own selfish and oppressive reasons. They often become very rich after they leave the country in an impoverished stated. The United States can also use the resources for programs that are designed to suppress political parties (can be political organization or guerillas) that challenge the arrangements between the two countries. The political parties can be within the country or on the outside. In 1980, the United States sold Iraq five Boeing jets as well as making a promise that the US would export \$400 million of goods to Iraq. In 1980, the Carter administration funded radio broadcasts into Iran (broadcasted from Egypt) that spoke of overthrowing the Soviet Union and crippling communist parties in the area. The broadcasts cost between \$20, 000 and \$30, 000 a month. The Khomeini government started executing people in 1981 that were associated with communism or socialists ideas. Both the Reagan

and Carter administrations overlooked these actions and saw it as an opportunity to keep influence in the area despite the undemocratic act of executing someone for their political thought. There was an attempt by the CIA to also make Iran believe that there was a strong possibility to invade Iran. This was also designed to also make the USSR appear to be the enemy when both the US and USSR were simply world powers fighting for power. The USSR and US used the Iran-Iraq War to try to get their influence throughout the Middle East.

The act of resource spending is currently being played out by the Bush administration as well. The United States is currently supporting the president of Uzbekistan who is an inhumane tyrant who is suppressing his people. Uzbekistan is important to the United States because its proximity to Afghanistan and has been used as a military starting point for offensive campaigns into Afghanistan. Islam Karimov has also been known to kill people indiscriminately with no process of a legal system. In 2002, the US gave Uzbekistan \$500,000,000. This aid is prolonging the terror of the Karmiov. It is in a sense empowering him to continue his terror and help him suppress the small liberation movement within the country that has legitimate gripes.

The United States has also supported the militaries of authoritarian regimes in the 21st century as well as the Cold War. This is called military expenditures. The United States uses military expenditures in three ways. It is where the US deploys its own troops in the area, trains the troops of other countries, or gives weapons directly to the military of the country. The Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) was formed in 1977 and designed to present a US military force in the Gulf regent. The RDF monitored Soviet activity in the area and exaggerated claims that the Soviets were going to attack Iraq after invading Iran from the north. Since the USSR had invaded Afghanistan, it made Iraq and Iran pay attention to the sentiment that the US thought of. Along with gaining access to Saudi Arabia's military bases, the US was secretly dealing weapons to the Iraqis and Iranians during the war regardless of their claim to be neutral. By 1987, the US had an aircraft carrier, and close to twenty other ships in the Gulf Region. This was designed to keep out as many Soviet ships as they could as well as show the power of the US to the neighboring countries.

The Bush administration has pushed for the increase of troops into or around every Middle Eastern country. Military expenditures of the US are far greater than any other country in the world and have steadily increased over the last fifty years. Of the \$500,000,000 given to Uzbekistan, \$79,000,000 of it has gone to police services, intelligence gathering, and military training for the country.

It is no secret that the Middle East

is filled with oil. The United States has had a long history with the Middle East in oil relations and it remains to be an undeniable factor in politics. In 1980, the Carter Doctrine stated that the US would use military force if there was an opposing military force in the Middle East. George W. Bush has mirrored this notion by saying that the US should and will have military supremacy in the Middle East. However, George W. Bush has done more to cover up the true motives of the United States by saying that a large military force is needed in the Middle East to monitor terrorism



Saddam Statue Brought Down

and keep the peace. In reality, one of the major reasons for George W. Bush wanting a large military force is to control the flow of oil throughout the Middle East. A person might ask how can a large military presence be effective without acting?

A military force can just be a threat and indirectly force governments to make concessions they might not normally make if the military force was not there. A lot of these concessions are made in the form of who gets oil contracts. Harold Brown of the Carter administration once said that the "protection of the oil flow from the Middle East" and "it is in our vital interest." The Reagan administration claimed that a large military force in the Middle East would "protect the flow of oil." They also said "that any significant disruption of the oil supply would cause oil prices for all to skyrocket." Therefore, Reagan was looked at as a statesman looking out for the best interest of his country and the fate of the world. In actuality oil prices were never affected. The political analyst Stephen Shalom once wrote that "despite the horrendous human costs of the Iran-Iraq war, oil prices had actually fallen 50 percent" during the conflict. He also added that (by 1987) "two-thirds of the all the oil produced in the Gulf was carried by pipeline." According to congressional studies, Shalom said that oil production would be minimally affected if the Gulf shutdown the shipping of oil by boats.

Americans seem to depend on oil heavily because of inefficient gas guzzlers and the fear of converting to alternate means of energy. The oil industry is also a hundred billion dollar industry and the US has a large hand in it. It seems that the world has forgotten that oil is an important commodity, but

nevertheless a commodity. In other words, the importance of oil is inflated to keep business and consumer America happy. Oil is a good that is traded and transported like any other good. It should be treated as that. But the heavy contractual arrangements made by oppressive Middle Eastern regimes and fat American businessmen seem to overshadow the reality. In the 21st century George W. Bush has placed an immense emphasis on oil, much as leaders in the Cold War did as well.

The last comparison drawn from supporting the dictator by the

United States in the 21st century and the Cold War is the notion of the enemy. In both cases, an entity must be presented that is threatening to the majority of the world. During the Cold War, it was the communist Soviets. In the 21st century it has been Islamic terrorists (Even though Saddam Hussein is not religious at all and has never advocated an Islamic state, he has actually oppressed religion in Iraq.) The notion of the enemy is heavily inflated to support the claims of the United States. This is not to say that there are not terrorists that claim to be Islamic or Soviets that wished to destroy the United States. However, it is the claims that the US is fighting the good fight while its enemies are one monolithic group that universally represent evil. In both cases there is a conscience effort of dehumanizing the enemy. It must be made that the enemy is not capable of changing without military force or complete reformation. These claims are hollow because it buries the real interests that are at hand. This notion of dehumanizing the enemy is hypocritical because of the US supporting regimes that are equally as bad. During the Cold War, the United States made it seem that communism would destroy the whole world. McCarthyism destroyed peoples' lives in America and the Soviets were painted as red warriors that wanted to bleed America of all its freedom. In 1981, the US Secretary of State Alexander Haig told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States needed to be concerned with Soviet imperialism in the Middle East. This was the attitude that the United States took with the Middle East during the Cold War.

George W. Bush has continued the sad saga of creating the enemy in the wake of the 21st century. His

misinformation, ignorant comments, and targeting of Muslims has been damaging for American culture (as well as the world.) Just because Osama bin Laden is a so called Muslim does not mean all Muslims are terrorists and anti-American.

The Confusion and Misinformation of American Foreign Policy

America has always been great at advertising that it is the greatest democracy in the world. In the 21st century, the idea has been fabricated that democracy has a price and can be destroyed by foreign powers. This notion arose after the human tragedy of September 11th. The two culprits that have been tagged by the US are Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. There is very strong evidence that Osama bin Laden had committed the atrocities of September 11th. However, there is no evidence that Saddam Hussein has been linked to any terrorist acts against the United States or is linked to Osama. The proposed ridiculous logic of the Bush administration is that that if the US can get Saddam, they can get Osama. The US never objected to Saddam terrorizing his own people because it served an interest. But now there is a window of opportunity which would favor the US and they jump all over it. It is also ironic that Osama bin Laden was promoted and given money by the America's own CIA to help thwart Soviet influence in Afghanistan (yet another ridiculous waste of resource during the Cold War.)

The point is that democracy does not have a price and can not be destroyed by foreign washed up dictators that are mad at the US that their support ran out. Democracy is built on elections, a well informed public with access to education, and a scrupulous government. The undoing of these factors is what would destroy democracy. If these factors for a good democracy are not in place, a government should work to achieve them. Instead the Bush administration chooses to practice "pre-emption patriotism." Pre-emption says that the United States can attack a country that it thinks is a threat. Then this gives the US a heightened sense of patriotism where the country decides to go to war and everyone flies little cute old glories. This is all in name of keeping America safe. Conversely, people are being made out to be the enemy for reasons based on inflation and assumptions. I call this "defensive dehumanization." So the next time you see the fallen statue of Saddam, think to yourself if you feel safe. Is your country not spawning another hateful person that can strike at the US because of a dumb president? Hundreds of American dead and thousands of Iraqis dead- was this invasion of bullshit liberation worth it? Well I certainly do not feel any safer or better that Saddam is out of power. Until American foreign policy stops being a self serving enterprise, the paradoxical fires will always burn for America.

March 1, 1954

Why Puerto Ricans Attacked the U.S. House Of Representatives

Written by The Vieques Support Campaign

March 1st of this year will mark the 50th anniversary of the attack on the U.S. House of Representatives. A woman and three men traveled to Washington, DC to participate in an event that would stun the principal oppressors of the world. The act of defiance and valor by Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Andres Figueroa Cordero and Irving Flores drew world attention to the brutal nature of U.S. domination in Puerto Rico, which began with the 1898 military invasion.

Mainstream historians and government officials continue to describe the four Nationalists as "maniacs" and "terrorists" for their act of fifty years ago, thus demonizing the general struggle for Puerto Rican liberation. But little is ever said in history books about the admiration and respect the four patriots received from people throughout the world, also yearning for their own liberation.

PERSECUTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

Struggles for national liberation were intensifying by the end of World War II; at this time, the U.S. began labeling its attempts at worldwide domination and subjugation, "an anti-Communist crusade."

Under the guise of "saving the world from Communism," the U.S. intervened in China, Albania, Greece, Uruguay, Palestine, and the Philippines. It also waged war in Korea and orchestrated the overthrow of progressive, democratically-elected governments in Iran and Guatemala.

During the 1940's and 1950's, following a pattern in U.S. history, military intervention abroad was accompanied by repression at home. Under the pretext of safeguarding the U.S. against Communism and terror, laws were enacted that violated fundamental human rights. Senator Joseph McCarthy and other extremists focused on destroying progressive movements for social change within the United States.

Many U.S. citizens were convicted under the Smith Act (1940), which prohibited any speech or publication that was seen as teaching the desirability of or advocating the overthrow of the U.S. Government. At the same time, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) as well as the Senate Internal Security Committee and the Government Operations Subcommittee dominated by Senator Joseph McCarthy, hunted for "Communists."

Because of the outright colonial presence of the U.S. in Puerto Rico, Washington openly sought to crush the independence movement with tactics that were even more

repressive. New laws made it "legal" for the colonial police to gun down without warning anyone advocating Puerto Rico's independence.

Persecution by the colonial government usually meant being "blacklisted". Deprived to unemployment, many of the blacklisted activists and their families were forced to leave their homeland and were amongst the ten of thousands annually compelled to migrate to the urban centers of the U.S. in search of livelihood.

To further humiliate the people's national sentiment, the U.S. pressured the United Nations in 1952 to declare that the case of Puerto Rico was an internal matter of the United States, and therefore, according to the arguments of Washington officials, no government in the world can ever accuse the U.S. of the crime of colonialism. Washington used this argument back then as it does today to blatantly cover-up historical evidence and the existence of a movement striving to remove the U.S. presence by any means.

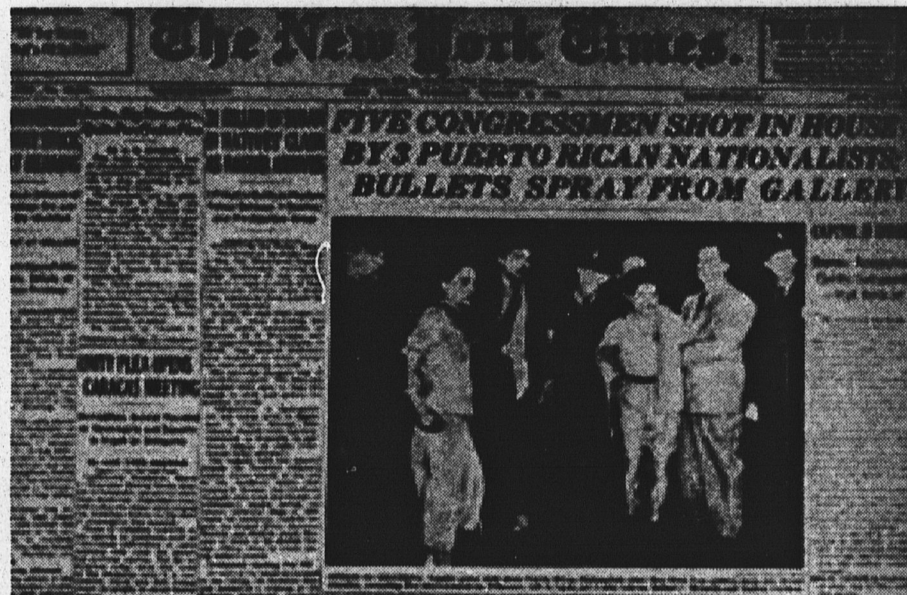
Although the Nationalist Party and its principal leader, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, endured severe repression, they maintained their ideals of national dignity. Being aware of U.S. government secret plans to destroy the independence movement by murdering and imprisoning the most outspoken participants, the Nationalist leadership called for armed actions to draw world attention to the plight of the Puerto Rican masses.

On October 31, 1950, the Nationalist movement staged an uprising in the city of Jayuya and waged armed battles with colonial authorities throughout the country. Another act of the Nationalist political offensive was on November 1, 1950, a failed attempt to assassinate President Harry Truman when Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola approached the Blair House in Washington, DC and confronted the Secret Service and police in a gun battle. Torresola was killed and Collazo was severely wounded in the exchange of bullets.

Puerto Rican patriots viewed the measures they took as acts of self-defense, especially given that the U.S. government had virtually legalized the murder of Nationalist Party members. The right of self-defense and the right of self-determination for the Puerto Rican people were synonymous with Nationalist Party doctrine.

PUERTO RICANS THAT WENT TO CONGRESS

By the morning of March 1, 1954, Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Andres Figueroa Cordero and Irving Flores had their minds set on presenting a criticism of action to members of the U.S. Congress.



The four Nationalists drew little attention to themselves as they calmly walked up to the gallery, an area then reserved for public observation of congressional proceedings in the Capitol Building.

After they had positioned themselves in the gallery overlooking the chamber where Congress conducts its business, the Nationalists displayed a Puerto Rican flag and immediately began aiming their weapons.

Lolita Lebron then shouted the solemn words of the historical struggle for independence "QUE VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE!" What followed within seconds were sounds of gunfire and panic throughout the hall.

As bullets flew everywhere, the racist men of privilege and power, the colonizers of Puerto Rico and oppressors of the world, found themselves running towards the exit doors in fear for their lives. In the end, about thirty rounds of ammunition had been fired and five U.S. Congressmen laid wounded, as other officials throughout the city were in complete disbelief.

The social arrogance of Washington's elite had prevented them from ever imagining that the victimized Puerto Rican people would dare carry out such a bold act within the walls of the kingdom's castle.

The four Nationalists were immediately apprehended, charged and sentenced to life imprisonment. As the Puerto Rican people mounted their struggle for the right of self-determination, in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. during the upsurge of the 1960's and 1970's, the immediate release of Puerto Rican political prisoners became a central demand.

International pressure ensued, thanks to the diplomatic work of the Cuban government and the solidarity expressed by the revolution of that country towards the Puerto Rican struggle. In the year 1979 Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Andres Figueroa Cordero, Irving Flores, as well as Oscar Collazo, were granted amnesty and released from prison

by President Jimmy Carter.

What occurred in the chambers of the U.S. House of Representatives on March 1st opened a door for the world to see how barbaric U.S. imperialism is, still resorting to the oldest form of foreign subjugation. As a result of the heroic act by the freedom fighters, the Puerto Rican independence struggle gained international recognition.

PUERTO RICO WILL BE FREE!

The real criminals were not the four freedom fighters nor any Puerto Rican Nationalists who took up arms to defy the rule of colonialism; the real criminals are the invaders who came to Puerto Rico to exploit, plunder and rape.

Human suffering and despair are the consequences when the U.S. lays claim to its interests in any part of the world. Whether it is Puerto Rico, Palestine or Iraq, the conquest and pillage of one's homeland by a foreign invader has historically justified the right of a people to use force as a means for liberation.

The relationship between the U.S. and Puerto Rico has been preserved for the last 106 years with none other than the violence of U.S. colonial policy. Puerto Rican history under U.S. domination is marked by massacres, forced sterilizations, bombing campaigns, deadly experiments and other catastrophes.

Strictly enforced federal laws state that all matters concerning the social and economic life of Puerto Rico is ultimately decided by the U.S. Congress, not by the pretentiously arranged puppet government in San Juan. The plight of the Puerto Rican people is undoubtedly rooted in the denial of their right to independence and self-determination.

Puerto Rico is one of the most densely industrialized regions of the world. Because of the absence of self-determination, giant U.S. corporations are free to extract \$26 billion annually from Puerto Rico. In a country of 4 million people, the per capita is one of the highest in the world. Yet, the poverty rate in

continued on next page

Puerto Rico is greater than in the poorest U.S. state of Mississippi.

The colonizers of Puerto Rico also oppress people of other countries and pose the threat of reducing them to outright colonies as well. Puerto Ricans share a common foe with the world's people and are not alone.

The U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq and the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation of Palestine are reminiscent of all the brutality the U.S. has inflicted in order to secure the colonization of Puerto Rico.

The firmness and commitment demonstrated by Lolita, Rafael,

Andres and Irvin, to fulfill the quest of making their homeland an independent republic, shall be remembered and kept in the fighting traditions of the Puerto Rican masses for many generations to come.

And since Boricuas have

accustomed themselves to resist colonial oppression after more than 500 years of development as a nation, Puerto Rico is surely destined to be free of the invader and will contribute to the general struggle for the emancipation of humanity.

U.S. Overthrows Democratically Elected Government in Haiti

continued from back page

Who are the Leaders of the Coup and did/does America support them?

Many leaders of the coup or opposition are convicted murderers. They lead a paramilitary death squad called FRAPH, which has killed many Haitian people. One of the people who led the coup this year is Louis Jodel Chamblain. He was convicted and sentenced to hard labor for life for the April 23, 1994 massacre in the region of Raboteau. He was also involved in the assassination of Haitian Justice Minister Guy Malary. According to an October 28, 1993 CIA Intelligence Memorandum obtained by the Center for Constitutional Rights "FRAPH members Jodel Chamblain, Emmanuel Constant, and Gabriel Douzable met with an unidentified military officer on the morning of 14 October to discuss plans to kill Malary." Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, was founder of FRAPH.

This shows that the United States government knows who these people are and know their history of murder but support them anyway. An October 1994 article by journalist Allan Nairn in the Nation magazine quoted Emanuel Constant as saying that a US military officer named Col. Patrick Collins contacted him. Col. Patrick Collins served as defense attaché at the United States Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Constant says Collins pressed him to set up a group to "balance the Aristide movement" and do "intelligence" work against it. He admitted that he was working for the CIA operatives in Haiti. He is now residing freely in the United States. He lives in Queens, New York.

Another leader of the opposition isn't even a Haitian citizen but an American citizen. He is a sweatshop owner by the name of Andy Apaid. He is angry with the Aristide government for raising the minimum wage and for trying to raise it again. Apaid operates sweatshops in Haiti and does not want the minimum wage raised so he can make more profit.

Intentional Economic Strangulation

Aristide returned to Haiti in 1994 and won the elections again in 2000. After experiencing the first coup and American involvement he betrayed the

hopes of the Haitian people of having real change and a better quality of life. The United States did everything it can to economically destabilize Haiti so people will rise up against Aristide.

Jeffrey Sachs writes in the Financial Times, March 1, 2004 that "Mr. Aristide's foes in Haiti benefited from tight links with the incoming Bush team, which told Mr. Aristide it would freeze all aid unless he agreed with the opposition over new elections for the contested Senate seats, among other demands. The wrangling led to the freezing of \$500 million in emergency humanitarian aid from the US, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund."

Kevin Skerret, a trade union researcher active in Ottawa's Nowar-paix also writes that "In effect, this embargo has starved the Aristide government of promised, crucial, life-saving funds, and transformed development finance and humanitarian aid into a vicious political weapon - not very different from the sanctions that destroyed the social infrastructure of Iraq in the 1990's. A similar humanitarian catastrophe has been brewing in Haiti, with few in the "civilized West" (or North) either noticing, or really caring much.

The United States has been preparing for a humanitarian crisis and a mass exodus, knowing what an embargo and economic strangulation can result in, because they have been doing it in Cuba for over 40 years. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced its preparations for up to 50,000 fleeing Haitians to Guantanamo Bay.

Aristide Re-elected in 2000, Kidnapped by United States forces in 2004

Aristide got reelected in 2000 and wasn't welcomed by the United States, especially after years of trying to control Haitian politics and spending American tax money to fund the opposition giving them weaponry. Aristide claims he was kidnapped by American forces and forced to leave his country. Amy Goodman from the Democracy Now show, broadcast Live from New York, every morning on 99.5 FM, has interviewed President Aristide from the Central African Republic where he was taken to

by the United States government.

Amy Goodman asked him "We would like to know why you left Haiti?" He responded that "I didn't leave Haiti because I wanted to leave Haiti. They forced me to leave Haiti. It was a kidnapping, which they call coup d'etat or forced resignation for me. It wasn't a resignation. It was a kidnapping and under the cover of coup d'etat."

Amy Goodman asked, "who forced you out of the country?", Aristide replied "I saw U.S. officials with Ambassador Foley. At the U.S. embassy in Haiti I saw Americans soldiers. I saw former soldiers who are linked to drug dealers like Guy Philippe and to killers already convicted, Chamblain. They all did the kidnapping using Haitians puppets like Guy Philippe, and Chamblain, already convicted, and basically this night, I didn't see Haitians, I saw Americans.

Amy Goodman: President Aristide, did you resign the Presidency?

Aristide: No, I did not resign. I exchanged words through conversations, we exchanged notes. I gave a written note before I went to the press at the time. And instead of taking me where they said they were taking me in front of the Haitian press, the foreign press, to talk to the people, to explain what is going on, to call for peace. They used that note as a letter of resignation, and I say they are lying."

The United States government does not want to spread democracy throughout the world. The United States wants to safeguard its capitalist interest worldwide. Aristide made a big mistake, he accepted what first Clinton proposed to him, which was to give up his popular policies of economic equality and justice. He dissolved the Army, which was good but failed to build a new army to defend his government. This is the difference between Aristide, Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez. Castro and Chavez have armed their supporters to protect their rights, Aristide did not. Aristide could have easily defeated the opposition if he would have built an army loyal to Haitian independence. He unfortunately gave up on making any real change mainly because of pressure and threats from the United States.

The Bush administration



The United States has no right to intervene in a democratically elected government, all troops should leave now

carrying out a war in Iraq supposedly to bring "democracy" to Iraq just participated in an overthrow of a democratically elected government in neighboring Haiti. Why? Because they don't like the president and his policies. The United States has also been trying to overthrow the democratically elected government of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. They did the same with Chavez but he was restored to power in 72 hours because his supporters rallied in the streets armed to defend their self-determination. In Haiti the people with the guns are the ones that America supports and supplies. The United States has been arming them with M-16's and M-60's. The United States is giving the Dominican Republic government shipments of M-16's and M-60's and then the Dominican Republic is giving the weapons to the opposition.

We need to defend Haitian and other nations self-determination. It is not America's business to overthrow governments, especially democratically elected governments. No matter how much you disagree with President Aristide the Haitian people democratically elected him twice. The CIA and the United States government are playing a filthy game that will eventually blow up in its face. The United States is provoking and starting wars with the Caribbean and Latin America. The United States gives lip service to the principle of "democracy" in order to justify its actions, however time and again the United States has proven that it is against democracy and has exposed its hypocrisy in Haiti. All troops should get out of Haiti because they don't care about the Haitian people, these are the same troops from the governments that have caused all of these problems in Haiti. Haiti needs to be economically and militarily independent to define their own future.

BUSH STILL LIES, WORKERS STILL DIE:

NOT ONE MORE DIME, NOT ONE MORE SOLDIERS FOR THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

ROY ROLLIN

With the lies that they used to justify their war in Iraq unraveling quicker than a roll of toilet paper, many of the leading lights of the Bush regime are now pretending to wonder where the "WMDs" are. In the wake of Iraq Survey Group head David Kay's "discovery" that there hadn't been any "WMD's" in Iraq since 1991, the administration wants to quickly scapegoat those who supposedly provided them the "faulty" intelligence that there were and sweep the whole mess under the rug as quickly as possible. That way they can continue to pillage and plunder Iraq for all it's worth and get on with the real business of getting Bush re-elected. However, as former Bush insider Paul O'Neill's revelations make clear, invading Iraq was a top item on the administration's agenda from day one and neither "WMDs" nor shoddy spying about them had anything to do with the rush to war in the first place. Combined with previous revelations concerning Vice President Dick Cheney and assorted oil industry executives' divvying up Iraqi booty long before "9/11," the latest leaks once again prove that the real purposes of the war were always oil and empire.

By focusing attention on the alleged shortcomings on the various spy agencies, the Bush regime seeks to shift the debate away from this conclusion, instead portraying themselves as victims of incompetent employees of the various "intelligence" agencies. Thus they can also argue for strengthening the institutions of the "intelligence community" to better spy on the left and labor

movements at home and conspire against alleged "enemies" abroad. This is the same racket they tried with their "investigation" of the events leading up to, and including, "9/11;" shift the debate away from their own involvement by scapegoating subordinates. For the intelligence they got about Iraq was exactly what they asked for in the first place in order to better sell their war with. Not surprisingly, a good deal of it came from the crooks and quislings who made up the "Iraqi opposition" and had a vested interest in getting the US to invade Iraq. Outside of the Democrats, who went along with their war drive from day one, and the mainstream media, who daily presented their lies as truths, few were fooled by it, as the massive turn-outs at anti-war demonstrations throughout the world boldly showed. And while the supposedly "liberal" NY Times still speaks of the Iraqi "threat" with a straight face, even a rabid right-winger like TV's Bill O'Reilly apologized to his audience for peddling the "WMD" hoax and voiced his "growing skepticism" about the Bush regime.

The bottom line is that the whole "Iraq crisis" was a media-manufactured scam to cover up the real rationale for the ruling rich's rush to war. It was also a convenient "weapon of mass distraction" for an administration associated with a corporate crime wave and a faltering economy to boot. Only now that they find themselves caught in a quagmire in Iraq, at the same time as the job market shows no signs of reviving, the thieves are falling out amongst themselves...just as they did in the late '60s when the Vietnam war went sour on them. Hence, the sudden rash of revelations about Iraq in the pages of same pliant press that parroted every one of Bush's lies and took all of his tall tales as good coin. Hence the sudden campaign of criticisms by the same Democratic party politicians who went along with Bush at every step of the way, be it support for the suppression of civil liberties, ie, the PATRIOT Act and "Homeland Security," the racist round-up and detention of Arab-Americans and both the Afghan and Iraq adventures. Now a few alleged "anti-war" candidates wring their hands in despair and say that those who fail

to learn from the mistakes of the past will repeat them in the present. The truth is, however, that for America's ruling rich, these are not "mistakes." And that is precisely why they continue to occur over and over again, only in different parts of the world each time. For the government, they only become "mistakes" when they lose, like they did in Vietnam, or when it looks like they may lose as in Iraq.

Of course, when it comes to whipping up war fever, lying like rugs is nothing new to the politicians or the press...or to the ruling rich that own all of them. From "Remember the Maine" to "Remember Pearl Harbor," from the sinking of the Lusitania to the Gulf of Tonkin to "9/11," Americans have been stampeded into supporting rich man's wars that few workers would have wanted to have gotten involved in otherwise. After all, how many working people, who are the ones who will have to pay for the wars, not to mention, fight and die in them, would be willing to do so, if they were told that they were fighting to help make the same bosses who exploit and oppress them here even richer by allowing them to do the same thing to working people, just like themselves, in other countries. If the American people knew that Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rice were willing to go to war so that they could get their hands on Iraq's oil, then how many of them, many who can't even afford a car, are going to be willingly give away large portions of their paychecks, let alone their lives, for it. They know that if any of them tried to stage an armed robbery on a gas station, which is what this whole Iraq business comes down to, albeit on a global scale, they'd either be dead or in jail. Only after the fact, when the cat is out of the bag and the oil is in it, can Deputy Defense Secretary and "neo-con" king-pin Paul Wolfowitz boldly proclaim that, since Iraq "swims on a sea of oil economically we just had no choice." (Try using that one when you can't afford something you see in a store and see how far it gets you!)

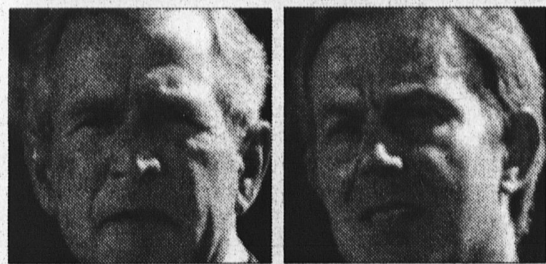
Nor is Bush about to offer any apologies for his dirty doings. All but admitting that "WMDs" never existed in the first place, Bush claimed that Iraq's "ha(ving) the ability to make a weapon" justified war and boasted how he make(s) decisions...with war on (his) mind." The self-styled "war president," who has never seen a day of combat in his life, no doubt has "war on (his) mind," but he certainly doesn't have the victims of his wars, be they Afghan, Iraqi or even American, on it. He's yet to attend a single funeral of any of

the over 500 American servicemen killed in Iraq due to "the decisions (he made) in the Oval Office." And while Bush claims to "see (the) dangers that exist," he apparently doesn't see the "dangers that exist" for American workers since his policies have led to the loss of more jobs than those of any president since the "Great Depression." While Bush and his billionaire buddies may see tax cuts and juicy contracts in Iraq as "the world the way it is," unemployment along with lack of housing, healthcare and other basic necessities are how more and more Americans are seeing it under his administration.

Bush also added that war was made necessary because Saddam Hussein was a "madman." What he didn't mention was that if the Iraqis ever "had the ability to make a weapon" it was because of the support they had gotten from the US in the 1980s when both Ronald Reagan and George Bush, Sr. saw Saddam Hussein as an important ally rather than a "madman," and turned a blind eye to the crimes they now accuse of him of. Indeed, if being a madman" in possession of "WMDs" was a criteria for being on the receiving end of "regime change," Bush would clearly be out of a job by now, since most of the world regards him as such. Indeed, we would have been "liberated" by a Franco-German-Russian "coalition" backed by most of the UN. As for "us(ing) weapons...manufactur(ing) weapons (and) terrorist connections," what nation in the world, outside of the UK, can match the US record of armed interventions into the affairs of other countries, arming dictators and death squads and training terrorists from Cuban counter-revolutionaries to contras in Nicaragua to Islamic reactionaries in Afghanistan...like Osama bin Laden and the Taliban!

So while Bush may now claim that he "want(s) the American people to know that (he), too, want(s) to know the facts," the real "facts" are that the "neo-cons" from the "Project for a New American Century," who constitute the Bush braintrust, planned their war long before "9/11" gave them an excuse to carry it out and the servility shown by the Democrats made it all the easier to get away with it. Yet in spite of the bombshell dropped by O'Neill, the Democrats still refuse to pick up the ball and run with it, instead preferring to focus on the same intelligence angle, i.e., diversion, that Bush is. After all to claim that Bush lied the US into a war would besmirch the "integrity" of the presidency and bring the whole system, which they support as

WANTED



BUSH & BLAIR FOR WAR CRIMES \$\$\$ REWARD: PEACE \$\$\$

much as the GOP does, into disrepute. They behaved the same way when it came to "Iranscam" and "Contragate" years ago, pushing the CIA's crack connection under the rug along with the Reagan regime's complicity in all of it. Besides they aren't about to look a gift horse in the mouth and give Iraq back to the Iraqis either, especially with all that oil to be had, any more than any of the ruling rich they represent are about to give back anything they got from Bush's tax cuts.

Just as the war was based on lies, so too is the ongoing occupation. Few Iraqis were ever fooled into believing that they were being "liberated" by the same bunch who had been bombing and starving them for the previous twelve years. Those who were have had their illusions cruelly shattered by the reality of the occupation as the the rapid rise of resistance has shown. Indeed, the CIA has already identified 15 different armed insurgent groups with 50,000 members and knows damn well that they all aren't Saddam "loyalists" or "foreign" infiltrators regardless of what they may report to the press and the public. More than anything else, it has been the Iraqi resistance that has upset the whole apple cart of imperialist occupation, turning the Iraqi desert into quicksand for Bush. More than anything...other than the unsatiable appetite of the American corporations who must have gotten spoiled by the free hand they have at home when it comes to exploitation and oppression. Having privatized, i.e., stolen, anything and everything that wasn't nailed down (and rewritten the laws to legalize it all), the imperialist occupiers have made it all but impossible to find any base of support in Iraq...outside of carpet-baggers like Chalabi who hadn't set foot in the country since the late 1950s.

The US would now like nothing better than to turn over the formal "authority" to its hand-picked puppets, minus such trimmings of "democracy" as direct elections, and then be "invited" by them to stay on as "guests." That way Bush can claim "mission accomplished" in time for the elections. However, even the majority Shi'ites, long repressed by Saddam Hussein's Sunni centered regime, and thus less receptive to the resistance, are unwilling to go along with this scenario, staging mass marches for direct elections. Indeed, no Iraqi government that is accountable to an electorate is going to give its approval to the US robbing it blind. So the UN has been brought out of mothballs and called in to twist the arms of the Shi'ite clerics into complying with Bush and Bremer's schemes. Meanwhile overtures to imperialist opponents in "old" Europe continue behind the scenes. In exchange for either supplying

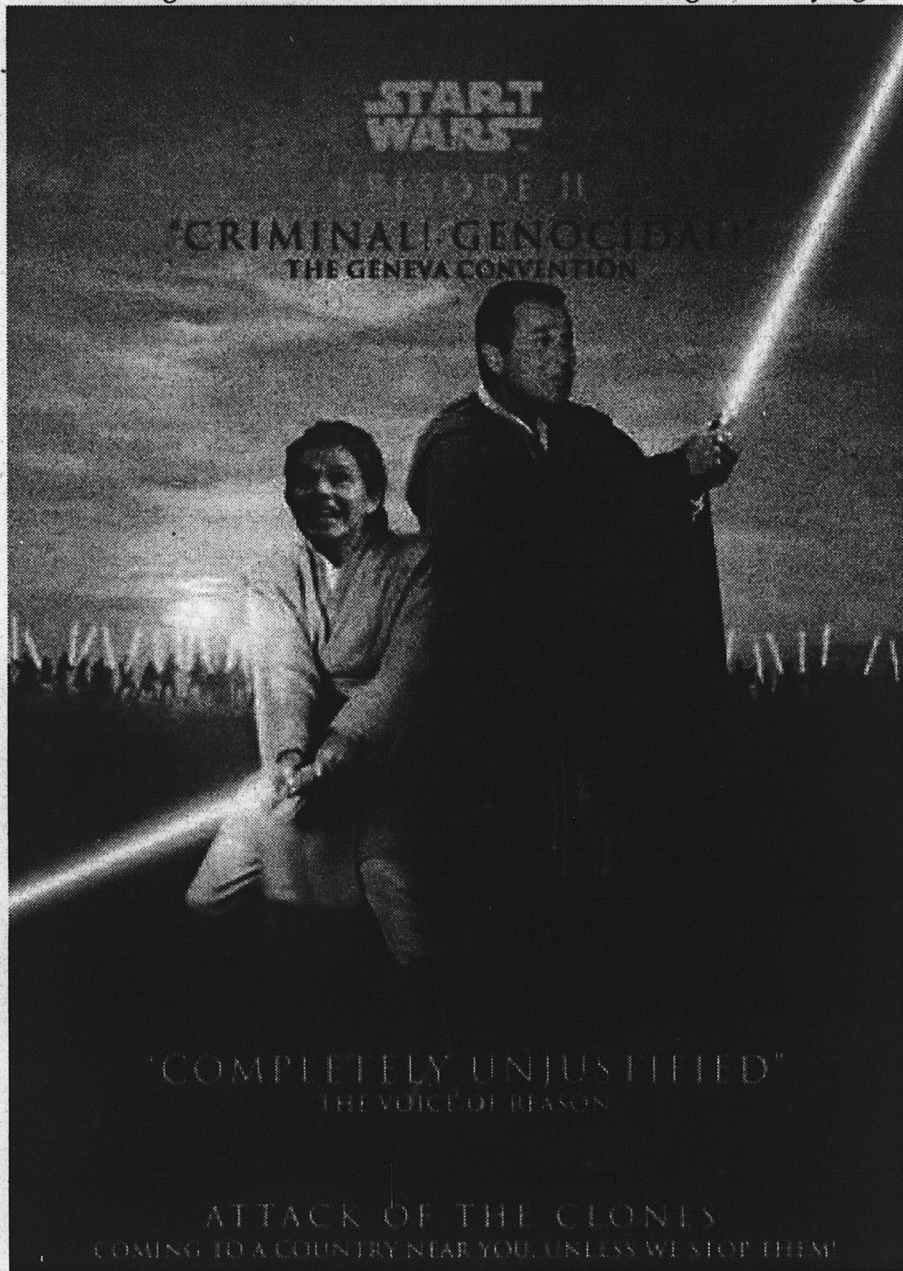
cannon fodder for the occupation army or footing part of the bill, perhaps Berlin and Paris might pick up a contract or two.

At the same time American soldiers continue to die for a lie and Iraqi civilians continue to languish under an occupation that has brought little besides repression, unemployment and mass misery on top of the carnage caused by the bombing and the devastation and dislocation wrought by 12 years of starvation sanctions. Many now long for the days of Saddam Hussein's regime, which at least provided security, electricity, water and gasoline. Seventy percent of Iraqi workers remain without jobs, electricity still hasn't been fully restored, sewage and sanitation facilities have yet to be repaired and in a country which was the world's second largest source of oil,

Shi'ite clergy, just as in Afghanistan they backed the medieval-minded mullahs' anti-women agenda against the Soviet-backed revolution. One thing that hasn't changed is the picking of American taxpayers' pockets to pay for all of this and the corresponding lining of the pockets of American corporations like Halliburton and Bechtel. Meanwhile the administration, yet again with the support of the Democrats, continues to cut spending on social services at home in order to pay the cost of their wars abroad. Bush's \$2.4 trillion budget, approved by Congress with minimum opposition, grants massive increases in spending on the military and "homeland security" alongside of cutbacks for at least 65 social programs. At the same time the Pentagon is trying to

of the Democrats, who, whatever noises they now may be making about the administration's "fucking up" of the occupation, went along with it from the get-go. As the partner party of US imperialism they stand as opposed to ending the occupation as the Republicans do, since expanding the empire is as much a part of their program as it is of Bush's. Thus John Kerry, the current front-runner, aspires to "work to expand participation and share responsibility with other countries in the military operations in Iraq" and "increase the size of the U.S. Army in order to meet the needs of a new century and the new global war on terror." In other words, supporting the global war of terror that "meets the needs" of the same "new (American) century" that the Bush gang started, only in a more cost-efficient fashion.

Instead of relying on the criminals to investigate (and exonerate) themselves, workers should be demanding that their organizations conduct an inquiry of their own into just what was behind the war as well as what's behind the occupation...and just who got and is still getting rich from both of them. Those in power, who are guilty of lying to the American people and squandering the lives of American soldiers (and Iraqi civilians) as well as the wealth created by the workers of both countries, should be held accountable to them, not to each other. Those in office, who have violated their own laws, should be made to pay the price. Those who suffered from them, American or Iraqi, should be generously compensated at the expense of the criminals. Above all else, the US and its allies should get out of Iraq ASAP. That means leaving it to the Iraqi people and not for some other form of colonialism under the benign aegis of the same UN, which gave its seal of approval to the first Gulf war, the sanctions and now does the same to the occupation. There is a fight for freedom to be fought; only it's right here in the US and the enemy is not the people of Iraq but the same bankers, bosses and their politician pals of both bosses' parties who regularly rob and rip off working people here. That fight can be best carried out by continuing to build the mass movement against war and occupation that exploded into the streets over the last two years and begin to build one against imperialism and capitalism rather than be sidetracked into the dead-end of a Democratic party that is no less pro-war and pro-occupation than Bush is because they are just as pro-imperialist and pro-capitalist as well.



people now have to wait on long lines for imported gasoline! In addition to the 10,000 killed by the bombing and invasion, up to 50,000 Iraqis have been rounded up (i.e., disappeared) by the occupiers in "midnight raids" and held in horrific conditions, often in the same prisons Saddam Hussein's regime used. Iraqi trade unionists are harrassed with anti-labor legislation leftover from the previous regime while the occupation authorities are willing to allow the institution of Islamic "sharia" law over Iraqi women in order to curry favor with the

delay a separate spending request for Iraq until after the election.

Like his buddy Blair did with the Hutton "inquiry," Bush hopes that a handpicked whitewash committee can sweep all of this under the rug, also until after the elections. To make sure of this, he picked Laurence Silberman, a long-time GOP insider who not only helped engineer Ronald Reagan's 1980 "October Surprise" but was instrumental in getting "Contragate" criminals Oliver North and John Poindexter pardoned, to head it up. Bush can certainly count on the complicity

United States Government Sponsors Coup in Haiti and Overthrows the Democratically Elected Government of Jean Bertrand Aristide

AYMAN EL-SAYED

Once again the United States government has exposed itself in what it really means when it says that they want to "spread democracy" all over the world. Democracy to the United States government and many other governments as well like France means American control or in the case of France, French control. In Haiti, the CIA has overthrown a democratically elected government. No matter what you feel about the government of Haiti and the presidency of Jean Bertrand Aristide, he was still democratically elected in an internationally supervised election. This is the second time he has been elected as president of Haiti by a large majority and this is the second time the United States and French governments have helped in destabilizing Haiti.

Brief History of Haiti:

Before gaining Independence in a revolutionary struggle in January 1, 1804, Haiti was a slave colony to France. France highly valued this colony because it brought to it extreme wealth. Half a million African slaves worked the fields for France to produce sugar, rum, cotton, and tobacco.

The Haitian decided that they have been abused for too long and wanted their independence. They rose up against the French slave and landowners and demanded equality and to be able to run the country. Immediately Napoleon sent in his famous and strong army but was defeated because the Haitians were willing to die for independence.

The United States, at this time had many slaves and cotton was a very profitable product. The United States government was scared that the Haitian slave revolution will inspire other slave colonies as well as Black slaves in America to demand freedom and equality. President George Washington as well as Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, both slave owners, supported France to destroy the Haitian revolution.

Haiti won its independence on January 1, 1804 to become the first black republic in the world. The United States refused to recognize the government and independence of Haiti. This independence inspired many other countries, slaves and oppressed communities to fight for freedom because Haiti gave the example that it is possible for a small country to defeat a large and strong army like Napoleon's.

The consequence of this independence was isolation. Haiti was unable to find other nations to do business with because at this time not too many nations were independent. Instead of France paying money or reparations for slavery and getting rich off of Haiti, Haiti paid France large sums of money to safeguard their independence. Haiti spent the 19th century paying off France instead of building the nation. This pay-off however kept France from invading and trying to take away Haitian independence. It was a big mistake to pay compensation to the land and slave owners but Jean-Pierre Boyer and the leadership in Haiti decided this was the way to keep out the French.



Haiti first democratically elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide

From the Monroe Doctrine to the Cold War

Latin America and the Caribbean became strategic places for the United States. During the cold war the United States used the excuse of the Soviet threat to invade and control different nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. If a country disagreed with American policy or wanted to control their own resources instead of having American corporation control them, it was looked at automatically as a communist, Soviet Union supporter, even if the government was democratically elected.

The United States was involved in the overthrow of many democratically elected governments that got in the way of corporate profit. Arbenz in Guatemala was overthrown by the United States after redistributing land to the poor peasants. The United Fruit Company that was making

billions of dollars in Guatemala as well as other Latin American countries lobbied the United States government to overthrow Arbenz, and they did.

On September 11, 1973 the United States government overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende and put the brutal dictator Augusta Pinochet in power to terrorize the country. All of this because Salvador Allende nationalized the copper industry and this challenged American companies who think all the resources of the world belong to them.

In Iran, in 1953 the C.I.A. overthrew the democratically elected government of Mohammad Moassadegh because he dared to nationalize Iranian oil. Apparently, Moassadegh did not know that the oil in the Middle East belonged to America.

According to BBC News Online world affairs correspondent, Paul Reynolds, the United States government wanting control of the Caribbean began way before the cold war, he reports that "It really began with the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 when President Monroe warned the European powers, especially Spain, which had just lost its colonies, to stay out of the Western hemisphere. It has continued with invasions or interventions in Cuba, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada, Panama and Haiti itself."

United States Supports Dictator in Haiti

In 1957, the United States supported and helped the regime of Haiti's most feared and hated president, Francois Duvalier. He is also known as Papa Doc because he was a doctor. His troops stole, tortured, raped and murdered Haitian citizens. After his death his 19-year-old son, Baby Doc took over the dictatorship but had to flee the country after an uprising in 1986 ended the 30-year Duvalier dictatorship. He left the country on a U.S. Government jet, with large sums of money he stole from this poor nation.

From Priest to President Who is Jean-Bertrand Aristide?

Jean Bertrand Aristide was a Salesian priest who preached a radical message in the poor slums of Port-au-Prince, the capitol of Haiti. He was speaking out in the 1980's when Jean-Claude Duvalier, Baby-doc, was still dictator before he had to flee. Aristide was speaking out

against the dictatorship and the abuses they committed when everyone was afraid to and the media had been suppressed by the government. In 1988 the Salesians expelled him for his political involvement. In 1986 the dictator fled with the help of the United States. Since 1986 the army that was leftover from the dictatorship was involved in 7 coups. The country was very unstable.

In 1990, four years after the dictator Baby Doc fled, Aristide won the elections with his Lavalas party. This was Haiti's first free election in its 200-year history. He abolished the army that terrorized the Haitian people for decades.

However nine months into the presidency, the same army he abolished that was involved in 7 coups between 1986 and 1990 carried out another coup. Aristide fled the country under the "protection" of the United States.

United States reaction to Aristide election victory

Many politicians in the United States government were very angry that Aristide won the elections, especially his policies of raising the minimum wage and speaking of changing the country and helping the poor people. He was looked at as a radical. The United States government prefers dictators that it can control instead of democratically elected governments who have to answer to the people who voted for them. After being pressured by many black organizations in America, Bill Clinton accepted to help put Aristide back in power but Aristide had to give up his talk about helping the people of Haiti and accept the economic policies of the United States.

Many democrats make it look like Bill Clinton is a good guy and wanted to put Aristide back in power but it was Republicans such as Newt Gingrich and Jesse Helms who prevented him from doing so. Even though it is true that the Republicans were totally opposed to Aristide from day one, Bill Clinton pretended that he wanted to restore democracy in Haiti because at the same time the C.I.A. and the Defense Intelligence Agency were funding the leaders of the coup.

President Clinton was calling the leaders of the coup, murderers, rapists and criminals but they were on the payroll of the Defense Intelligence Agency.