

WHY OF COURSE THE PEOPLE DON'T WANT WAR

...But after all it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship...Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country...

Hermann Goering, Nuremberg Trials

WE HAVE SEEN THE DEPTH OF OUR ENEMIES HATRED in videos, where they laugh about the loss of innocent life. And the depth of their hatred is equalled by the madness of the DESTRUCTION they design. We have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities...

THOUSANDS OF DANGEROUS KILLERS, SCHOOLED IN THE METHODS OF MURDER, often supported by outlaw regimes, are now spread throughout the world like TICKING TIME BOMBS, SET TO GO OFF WITHOUT WARNING.

...time is not on our side. I will not wait on events while dangers gather. I will not stand by as PERIL DRAWS CLOSER AND CLOSER.

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TRAINED TERRORISTS are still at large. These enemies view the entire world as a battlefield, and we must pursue them wherever they are.

And all nations should know: AMERICA WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE OUR NATION'S SECURITY. GEORGE W. BUSH, STATE OF THE UNION, 2002



THROUGH

THE

WIRE



A MID-MICHIGAN NEWSLETTER
TO EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE
RESISTANCE TO MILITARY
RECRUITMENT AND WAR

Who We Are

—Through The Wire is a project of the Lansing based activist group Direct Action!

—We are for challenging military recruitment in our schools and communities.

—We support military personnel questioning why they are fighting.

—We support their resistance to U.S. military action when and where they can.

—We challenge a society where people are forced to join the military because they do not have other opportunities.

—We are for creating a society that empowers all people to realize their potential.

—We are for communication, education, and action.

—We work to create a new world without poverty, war, racism, sexism, transphobia, ableism and homophobia.

For information on how to get involved with Through The Wire or to start an Anti-Recruitment group at your school or workplace, contact:

Through The Wire
P.O. Box 4794
East Lansing, MI
48826



www.direct-action.net

da@direct-action.net

links

ANTI WAR

Families Against War: www.mfso.org

Support Network For Armed Forces Union (SNAFU):

www.join-snafu.org

Citizen Soldier: www.citizen-solidier.org/

Not In Our Name: <http://www.notinourname.net>

People Power Can End the War Collective:

www.couragetoresist.org

NEWS

Radical, anarchist news and perspectives

www.news.infoshop.org

Independent media www.indymedia.org

Michigan Independent Media www.michiganimc.org/

News from Palestine www.electronicintifada.net/new.shtml

Alternative news about and from Iraq www.electroniciraq.net/

Aljazeera www.aljazeera.com

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVISM

Direct Action! www.direct-action.net

Students for Economic Justice www.msusej.org

The Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice

www.glnawi.org

OTHER

AK Press: Anarchist Book Distributor www.akpress.org



Anti-Military Recruitment Resources

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors

www.objector.org

CAN

CAN is an independent, democratic, grassroots network of students opposing the occupation of Iraq and military recruiters in our schools, at campuses all over the country.

www.campusantiwar.net/

People Power Can End the War Collective

www.couragetoresist.org

News on the Growing Counter Military Recruiting Movement

www.counterrecruiter.net

Iraq Veterans Against the War

www.ivaw.net/

Other Links:

www.youthandthemilitary.org

www.warresisters.org/

www.militaryfreezezone.org



Get the Facts!

- The military spends almost \$2 billion a year for recruiting
- 2/3 of all recruits don't receive any military funding for college
- Only 15% of recruits graduate with a four year degree
- Vietnam veterans earn 11% to 19% less money than non veterans with comparable economic backgrounds
- Veterans will earn 85 cents less per hour than non-veterans
- On average veterans with 31 months of active duty received around 1.78 months of job training
- 12% of male veterans and 6% of female veterans actually used their training outside of the military.
- 1/3 of all homeless people are veterans
- 50% of frontline troops are people of color, 12% of officers are people of color- this compared to a general enlistment rate of 30%



A DAILY LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF DEATHS IN IRAQ

There have been 1,935 coalition deaths in the war in Iraq as of October 1st, 2005. At least 14,755 U.S. troops have been wounded in action, according to the Pentagon. The Pentagon does not report the number of non-hostile wounded. In return, coalition forces have killed at least 26,302 civilians. This number does not include the civilians who have died from non-combat injuries, lack of food, clean water and hospitals. This number is estimated at 100,000 civilians, many of them children.

Sources: CNN.com

- The president opposed a plan to give the national guard and reserve members access to the pentagon's health insurance system...despite the fact that one guardsman in five has no insurance to speak of
- More than 235,000 veterans currently wait 6 months or more for medical appointments
- The administration cut \$200 million from military education
- Over the next 10 years 24.7 billion will be cut from veteran medical care
- 90% of women recruits reported harassment...30% of them reported rape

Source: Veteran's Association

Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq War

by Courtney of Direct Action!

Hurricane Katrina has brought national attention to our federal government, whose lack of preparation and failure to respond cost thousands of people their lives, homes, families, and livelihoods. Right after the disaster, controversy started to bubble up around the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the poorly funded, mismanaged subagency of the Department of Homeland Security in charge of responding to emergencies like Katrina. Since then, as the country asks, "How could we let this happen?" and "What is being done to help?" the administration has been avoiding the truth: that prioritizing war-for-profit has cost us our most important domestic programs.



As a nation, we are nearly \$8 trillion in debt, and spending \$177 million more every day on the war in Iraq. The results have been drastic cuts in education, public health care, and other social programs.

Last year, the budget for the Southeastern Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project was cut from \$36 million to \$10 million, despite 2004 being one of the worst hurricane seasons the Atlantic has seen. In other words, the cost of ONE DAY of the Iraq war could have funded Louisiana's hurricane defenses for FOUR YEARS. Instead, that

money was spent killing innocent people, and Louisiana saw that fund cut by more than two thirds.

As though being left to fend for themselves against a category 5 hurricane isn't enough abuse, evacuees who sought shelter at the Astrodome faced another threat on September 7th: a "Job Fair" held by the US military. At

this job fair, evacuees who had just lost everything could sign up for the military to give up their lives, too.

As shameful as falsely promising young people college, a career, stability, and a chance to be a 'hero' is; making these same promises to evacuees who are at best shocked and at worst traumatized by Katrina is disgraceful by anyone's standards.

+++++ Alternatives to the Military (CONT.)

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Jobs

Michigan Department of Labor can help at www.michiganworks.org

Apprenticeships offer paid training and education that prepares you for well paying Union Jobs

Carpenters-www.carpenters.org

Electricians-www.ibew.org or www.njatc.org

Masonry-www.imiweb.org

Plumbers and Pipefitters-www.ua.org

on each of these websites, click on "apprenticeship" for more info

Job Corps is a no-cost education and vocational training program for people ages 16-24. Enroll to learn a trade, earn a high school diploma or GED and get help finding a good job. When you join the program, you will be paid a monthly allowance; the longer you stay with the program, the more your allowance will be. Job Corps 1-800-733-5627 or www.jobcorps.org

AmeriCorps is open to U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents aged 17 or older. Members serve full or part time over a 10- to 12-month period. After successfully completing a term of service, you are eligible to receive an education award to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education or training, or to repay qualified student loans. www.americorps.org/joining or call 1-800-942-2677

Idealist.org is a job and internship search engine, listing thousands of opportunities by location.



Alternatives to the Military



College-Financial Aid

- +Financing Your Education Without the Military go to:
www.objector.org or call: 1.888.236.2226
- + For information about Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an online registration form: www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- + U.S. News and World Report: Financial Aid: www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/dollars/dshome.htm
- + Federal Student Aid: <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>
- + National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators: www.studentaid.org/
- + National College Access: www.collegeaccess.org/NCAN/
- + The Student Guide is a comprehensive resource on student aid: http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html
- + A free and helpful website from Sallie Mae: <http://www.salliemae.com/>
- + Links to many different free scholarship search engines: http://www.college-scholarships.com/free_scholarship_searches.htm



JAILED WAR RESISTER SPEAKS OUT!

From Sgt. Kevin Benderman -September 4th, 2005

“I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage.”

These words come directly from the NCO [non-commissioned officer] creed, which I swore to uphold as a member of the US Army. When I filed for Conscientious Objector status, it was after careful consideration of my duty to my wife, my step-children, my country and the soldiers I served with. But before I could consider all of this, I had to consider myself. I had to ensure that my actions did not compromise what I believed in and what I stood for. I had served in Iraq, and I had seen the destruction war brings. After careful thought, I knew that I did not believe in war as an answer, and I would not participate in it any longer.

People told me that I abandoned soldiers. I did not. I chose to no longer fight in wars, because wars will never save lives, and they will never bring peace. I stand for soldiers that their lives and service be given the respect they deserve. People told me that I was a coward. They can believe that, but I know what it takes to stand on my principles against the tide, with the only certainty being that my wife stood with me. People told me that I was letting my country down. I disagree. I am standing to defend what our constitution was founded on - moral principles.

We are learning hard lessons this week. The devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina is teaching us something important. As a country, we cannot take care of others until we have taken care of ourselves. As a soldier, to continue to participate in war would have violated my own principles. I would have destroyed myself and others if I had not chosen to maintain MY integrity as my first consideration.

To continue on the destructive path of war would have made me unable to help anyone to grow in positive ways, because I was not growing in positive ways.

I believe that we, as a country, need to return to our constitution, the foundation of America. This country has compromised its integrity and lost its moral courage. We can't help others until we have fixed ourselves."

Kevin Benderman is currently serving his sentence at Ft. Lewis, WA. He has been declared a Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International. Story Compiled by Monica Benderman



Pittsburgh Organizers Attacked by Police

A report back from anti-recruitment efforts

On August 20th, the Pittsburgh Police attacked non-violent demonstrators with tasers, pepper spray, K-9 dogs and retractable batons.

100 people showed up in response to a call to shut down military recruitment in Pittsburgh on August 20th. For the second time in a month, Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) was able to successfully shut down the main recruitment station in Pittsburgh. This marked the sixth time in recent months that military recruitment in Pittsburgh was disrupted by anti-military recruitment activists. Prior to the start of the march, word was received that the station wouldn't be opening for the day because the protests.

People began to march towards the Oakland Recruiting Station make sure that there was no chance of the station reopening that day, and to focus attention on the demanding the recruitment station closure.

The march took over Forbes Avenue opposing traffic and met only limited police presence. When the protester's arrived, the march moved completely onto the sidewalk and blocked the doors to the center.

An overwhelming police presence started ordering people to disperse from the sidewalk, and a police dog was let loose in attempt to break up the protest. Cops began to hit and shove people, while the dog lunged forward and bit a 68-year-old woman who was walking away with her back to the dog. The first person arrested was hit and pepper sprayed, during which time a cop held a taser two inches from his face. After that, a woman in the crowd was grabbed, hit, pepper sprayed in the face while on the ground, and then tasered, all while three large cops stood around her. She is currently in the hospital and we are unsure of her condition. A male protester was also arrested, pepper-sprayed and tasered.

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Further outrages occurred as the police grabbed a 17 year-old girl off the sidewalk and slammed her to the ground. Her crime? She questioned police brutality in her community! Pepper spray also hit a group of children and the police knocked over a man in a wheelchair.

A total of six people were arrested, many other people were successfully un-arrested by activists who pulled them away. All of those arrested are facing multiple charges. A slew of charges have been made against these four people.

The most serious charge is "riot to prevent official action," a felony with a maximum punishment of 5-10 years in prison, if convicted.

Since the day of action, Pittsburgh activists have not stopped fighting against military recruitment! They continue to fight the legal charges against the people arrested and will not be intimidated by police brutality in their community!

To find out what is happening with the anti-military recruitment and the court hearings check out Pittsburgh Organizing Group's website:

<http://www.organizepittsburgh.org/>



Dollar Day for New Orleans (Katrina Klap)

by Mos Def
(Edited Version)

This is for the streets, the streets everywhere,
The streets affected by the storm called, America,

One dollar per every human being,
Feel that Katrina Clap, See that Katrina Clap,
Listen homie, It's dollar day in New Orleans,
It's where there water everywhere and people dead in the
street, And Mr. President he 'bout that cash,
He got a policy for handlin' the bruthas and trash,
And if you poor you black,
I laugh a laugh, they won't give when you ask,
You betta off on crack, dead or in jail, or with a gun in Iraq,
And it's as simple as that,
No opinion my man it's mathematical fact,
Listen, a million poor since 2004,
And they got illions and killions to waste on the War,
And make you question what the taxes is for,
Or the cost to reinforce the broke levee wall,
Tell the boss he shouldn't be the boss anymore.
Save these streets, One dollar per every human being,
Feel that Katrina Clap, See that Katrina Clap,
Save these streets,
Quit bein' cheap brutha, freedom ain't free,
Feel that Katrina Clap! Let's make them dollars stack!
And rebuild these streets,
Save these streets, Save the soul,
Feel that Katrina Clap! See that Katrina Clap!
Soul Survivor,
Don't talk about it, Be about it, Peace.

VOICES OF DISSENT



**“George Bush Does Not Care
About Black People”**

-Kanye West

In a nationally televised fundraiser for Victims of Hurricane Katrina, Hip Hop artist Kanye West criticized the governments handling of the disaster. Kanye pointed out that the people whose lives were most devastated by Katrina are the same people who have long suffered from racial and social inequalities at the hands of the U.S. government.

**For the complete video of Kanye's comments, go to:
<http://neworleans.indymedia.org/news/2005/09/4117.php>**



War. A possible Draft. Military programs and recruiters in our schools.

What You Can Do

Produced by the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, San Diego

There is a lot of concern right now about how war may affect our children, loved ones, friends and ourselves. The chances of a draft occurring anytime soon are actually very slim, but it's a good idea to learn ahead of time how it might work and who could be drafted. A more immediate problem is the increased militarism in our schools, media and culture that is conditioning us to accept war and paving the way for a draft in the future. Also, many young people who are joining the military right now are actually being "drafted" because they come from low-income families or communities where youths are not given enough options besides the military.

People should be worried about the impact of war and a possible draft on themselves and their loved ones, but they should also be concerned about the many others who might be taken or recruited by the military. And everyone should worry about the long-term consequences for our country when we let the Pentagon expand its presence and influence in elementary, middle and high schools. **That's where the seeds of war and militarism are planted, and that's where we can do something to stop it!**

What High School Students Can Do

*If you are a high school student who is 18 or older, request that your name not be included if student directory information is to be released to the military. This is your right under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) [PLEASE SEE BOX ON NEXT PAGE]

*Learn about your free speech rights at school. Exercise your right to put up posters and distribute literature with alternative views on war, JROTC and military recruiting

*Oppose the introduction of high school military training programs like JROTC.

*Create clubs to educate other students about peace and social justice issues.

*When the military is going to be present at your school, ask that community groups with alternative views be invited to give the other side.

*Learn how a draft would work and what the possible consequences are for registering or not registering for it.

*If you know someone who has changed her/his mind after enlisting in the military, have her/him contact one of the groups on the next page.

War. A possible Draft. Military programs and recruiters in our schools. What You Can Do

PAGE TWO

What parents can do

*Complain when schools allow the military to use school partnerships to propagandize and recruit students. If members of a military unit, base or ship want to support local education, ask that they donate their services out of uniform and just like any other business or group, without promoting their organization or its special interests.

*If you have sons or daughters in high school, request that their names not be included if student directory information is to be released to the military. This is your legal right under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Campaign to get your school district to require that all parents and students be given a form to use to make this request at the beginning of each school year.

*Contact a draft-counseling group to learn about draft registration and how conscription would work if it were activated in the future.

*Oppose militaristic programs in middle schools, like the Young Marines, Starbase Atlantis and the Cadet Corps.

What Everyone in the Community can do

*Campaign for your school district to allow military recruiters at school only when representatives will also be present from civilian employers, colleges. And universities.

*Oppose the introduction of military training programs like JROTC in local high school; propose the termination of existing JROTC units.

Military Recruiting and Schools List

A federal law passed in early 2002 says that schools must surrender lists of students' names, addresses and phone numbers to military recruiters who request them. But the law also allows students to choose not to be included when the lists is released. Schools must also notify students of this right to "opt out."

To take advantage of this right, students and parents should mail a letter to the school district headquarters, with a copy to the principal, stating that as provided under federal law, they are directing that no information about the student be released to the armed forces or its representatives. To be safe, send the letter via certified mail from the local Post Office station.

To ensure better privacy protection, school districts can make it a policy to require that all students complete a form at the beginning of each school year that indicates whether or not they want their names released to the military. If your district doesn't already do this, organize a campaign to get such a policy adopted.

*Help distribute counter-recruitment literature and information to high schools; contact groups that already do this or start one if none exists locally.

*Support campaigns in Congress to end draft registration.

*Oppose any further congressional efforts to force schools to drop all restrictions on military recruiter access to campuses and student lists.

For more information on these issues, including useful organizing resources, contact these groups.

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD)
P.O. Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92175
619-265-1369, 760-753-7518;
www.comdsd.org

AFSC Youth & Militarism Program
1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-241-7176; www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm

Center on Conscience and War/NISBCO
1830 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington,
DC 20009 202-483-2220; www.nisbc.org

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO)
630 20th St., #302, Oakland, CA 94612
510-465-1617; www.objector.org

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (YANO)
P.O. Box 230157, Encinitas, CA 92023
760-634-3604; www.projectyano.org

War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012
212-228-0450; www.warresisters.org



ILLUSTRATION: SOUTHERN EXPOSURE/CFP