

“ASSHOLE” FROM PAGE ONE

though our team sucked, and sucked badly. In fact, in my senior year, they won only one game. Nevertheless, they commandeered the retaining wall that overlooked our Quad area.

They would stand on the wall at lunchtime, hurling food and insults at passersbys at will. One time, a friend of mine, who was very tired, deigned to sit on the wall to rest. Renzi literally crimped my friend's nose between his fingers, led him away, and kicked him squarely in the ass once they cleared sacrosanct jock territory.

The term date rape had not yet been coined, but Renzi and his minions were infamous for this behavior. I knew of two girls who suffered at his hands. The authorities were less than useless when these incidents were reported. I always wished that girls would band together and form a sort of pussy embargo, but it never happened.

Flash forward to the late nineties. Renzi has a successful career as an insurance salesman and has fathered 12 (!) kids. He is preparing for a run at the 1st Arizona Congressional District seat. Though his first run is unsuccessful, he is elected for the first of three terms in the 2002 cycle. Renzi takes a seat on the House Intelligence Committee and in just a couple of years, he has finagled himself a job as co-chairman of the Arizona Committee to elect John McCain to the presidency.

Just when you think all is unfair with the world, Renzi is hit with a 35 count, 26 page criminal indictment on February 22, 2008. Charges include: conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, and extortion. Among other things, Renzi is charged with bullying people into buying property at inflated prices and laundering the profits. He stands accused of taking people's money for insurance policies and issuing fake certificates. It is believed that Renzi used 1.1 million dollars of ill-gotten booty to finance his political career.

The House Minority Leader has called for Renzi to resign his seat, but so far, Renzi has only stated he will not run for re-election. The McCain camp has been less sanguine about things, with McCain's initial comment being that “My heart goes out to his family.” Though not asked to resign his post on McCain's re-election committee, Renzi finally did step down.

As for me, I knew Renzi was no damn good since I was 16. I am less surprised that he got caught, than I am that it took so long to nail him. He went from being a simple bully to a complex bully. He is the type of sociopathic cream that rises to the top of the dung heap we call Congress. •

BE THE MEDIA!

State of Disunion

NUMBER OF
DISPOSABLE
DIAPERS
used in the
US each year:
27,400,000,000

NUMBER OF TONS
of diapers thrown into
landfills each year in
the US:
3,400,000

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF DOLLARS
the US deficit gains
daily:
1,700,000,000

NUMBER OF
DOLLARS
District 51 spent per
pupil in 2007:
6,275

NUMBER OF
DOLLARS
for Bush's proposed
budget for the next fiscal
year:
3,100,000,000,000

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF DOLLARS
spent per pupil in
Colorado in 2003:
7,412

NUMBER OF RED
PILL WRITERS
who went to school with
Congressman Renzi:
1

AVERAGE NUMBER
OF DOLLARS
spent per pupil nation
wide in 2003:
8,287

NUMBER OF
COPIERS TRP
needs to stay in print:
1

NUMBER OF
AMERICANS
in prisons or jails per
capita:
1 in 100

* Sources for the State of Disunion can be found at
www.gjredpill.org

CALL TO ACTION

The Red Pill is looking for volunteers: graphic designers, writers, poets, cartoonists, artists, and photographers are needed. Get your work published now. Help distribute The Red Pill in your community, church, and school: contact us at gjredpill@hotmail.com. You can also do your part to keep us in print by donating time, paper, film, copies, and of course money (it doesn't print itself).



The Red Pill is collectively produced by Grand Junction Alternative Media, with the aim of publishing stories and ideas that the mainstream media won't cover. It is distributed free, collects no advertising, and is completely staffed by volunteers. All materials are copyleft, no rights are reserved. **PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE AT WILL!**

GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

The Red Pill



CONGRESSMEN

ASSHOLES

MARCH 2008

VOL. 6 NO. 5

IRAQ VETERANS WINTER SOLDIER: IT'S OUR TURN TO TELL OUR STORIES

In 1971, a courageous group of veterans exposed the criminal nature of the Vietnam War in a public investigation called Winter Soldier. The name was inspired by the patriot Thomas Paine, who wrote: “These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

For the first time since the U.S. invasion, hundreds of veterans will be gathering in Washington to speak out and tell their stories. Local (Colorado) veterans will be joining the effort by showing a live feed of the Winter Soldier event and joining a nationwide network of veterans and active duty service members committed to speaking out about a reality that, until now, has remained hidden.

From March 13-16 at the National Labor College just outside of Washington

D.C., veterans from across the country will be standing up to share their experiences at Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan. Their stories will show the human consequences of failed policy.

“We've heard from the politicians, we've heard from the generals, we've heard from the media—now it's our turn,” said Kelly Dougherty, executive director of IVAW and a former sergeant in the Colorado Army National Guard, who served in Iraq as a military police officer. “It's not going to be easy to hear what we have to say. It's not going to be easy for us to tell it. But we believe that the only way this war is going to end is if the American people truly understand what we have done in their name.” •

To find or organize a screening of Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan in your area, visit www.IVAW.org

THAT'S CONGRESSMAN ASSHOLE TO YOU

I went to high school in the seventies, in a tiny, podunk Arizona-Mexico border town that served as a bedroom community to the Army's Fort Huachuca. Fort Huachuca was the home of the U.S. Army's Intelligence school, which has since become infamous for training our interrogators at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. It was commanded by one General Renzi, who also fathered a son named Rick, who was a bane to most of the students at sleepy Buena High School.

Rick Renzi was co-captain of our football team, in a football jock friendly setting. The football players had clout, even



“ASSHOLE” ON LAST PAGE

9/11 TRUTH AT THE MESA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Around 500 delegates to the Mesa County Democratic Convention were exposed to 9/11 Truth Saturday, March 1, as local volunteers handed out DVDs and information cards to people filing into Central High School Auditorium. The purpose of this outreach was informing delegates about a proposed resolution to the County Democrats' platform calling for a new, independent 9/11 investigation.

At the end of the day's business, a presentation to about 60-70 delegates who stayed to listen to resolutions went over some facts about the discrepancies and unanswered questions surrounding the collapse of WTC Building 7 and the apparent gross security failure at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. A delegate who supported the controversial resolution said he didn't think it had a chance of passing, but it did with a 39-19 vote, earning the necessary 2/3 of votes cast. It was the only successful resolution of three that were proposed. With this move, the Mesa County Democratic Party joined other Democratic gatherings, especially in the Denver area, which have called for new 9/11 investigations during the 2008 platform process, hopefully in sufficient

numbers to force the issue to be considered at the state and national levels of the party.

This was a great victory for 9/11 Truth awareness, and it showed the good that can come from getting involved in the political process and promoting issues that aren't receiving attention from the mainstream.

9/11 TRUTH NOW

To learn more and get in touch with the 9/11 Truth movement, visit www.911truthgroups.org/GrandJunction.

EVERY MONDAY • 5:30PM

A Voice of Reason, the local peace group meets to organize local actions to end the war in Iraq.

For more info call 245-3720

Saturday, March 15th • 5:30PM

The Longest March 2 hits GJ, there will be a potluck and speaking event featuring numerous speakers from various Native American nations.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley
1022 Grand Ave.

For more info call 245-3720

CLOTH DIAPERS

People just don't realize how easy cloth diapers really are. They save so much money and are truly better for your baby, and the environment.

I started my son in plastic diapers until his umbilical cord fell off. I was so happy it fell off the day it did because he was starting to get his first (and last) diaper rash. I bathed him then let him lay around most of the day with no diaper, to air out. I didn't want to use diaper rash cream, and I didn't have to. It was cleared up by that evening and I started him in cloth.

My husband was totally against cloth diapers (at first), but after I did the math and showed him that it was going to cost up to

\$3000 to diaper one child until he is two, he decided to give it a try. He has even told me how easy it is; when his fist thoughts were of how much harder it was going to be.

My husband was also worried about was how we would change his diaper when we weren't at the house, where we had a basket to throw the dirties until evening when I threw them in the washer to soak overnight. So, I would bring a zip lock

back (preferably freezer gallon size) in the diaper bag to store the dirties until I got home. I have since bought a little bag that does the same thing, it's just cuter. Wow.

We both like using cloth diapers because it is sooooo much less wasteful (who wants to fill up a whole land fill with dirty diapers?), it saves a ton of money, our son does not get diaper rashes, and research shows that cloth diapered babies are easier to potty train (yeah!).

Initially we invested \$185 in 75 cloth diapers, seven outside wraps (made of a

plastic-like material), and seven snappies (a safe alternative to the diaper pin). We started him in the second size up (13" x 13.5") to save money - they grow so fast and a little big is better than a little too small. Of course, I did have to buy the next size up (16" x 16"), along with four outer wraps and snappies. I got all this from www.greenmountaindiapers.com. I use the brand Bummi Super Whisper Wraps, and the cloth insides are called Cloth-eez Prefolds.

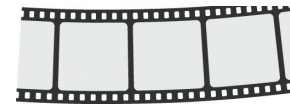
Here are the care steps that I follow, but if you order from this website, they give you an awesome handout with lots of folding suggestions and tons of other washing and care instructions:

1. Get a basket (or whatever). No lid needed if you are breast feeding; breast-fed babies' diapers don't smell.
2. Fill the washer up with water and add half the amount of dye and perfume-free soap needed for a normal load.
3. Put all the diapers and wraps in together and let them soak overnight.

Then start the washer in the morning.

4. Line dry your diapers; they will last longer and the sun naturally bleaches them (less chemicals). Dryers are also fine.
5. If your baby is prone to diaper rashes, add half a cup of vinegar to the rinse cycle.
6. NEVER USE ANY FABRIC SOFTENER. It makes the diapers less absorbent.
7. Try not to use diaper creams, oils, or other products on your baby's bum; it makes the diapers less absorbent.

Happy Diapering!•



Film Screening
The Business of Being Born
MSC Saccomanno Lecture Hall
March 18th 7pm



RED PILL LOCATIONS

You can pick up your copy of The Red Pill at the following locations: Planet 9, Heart of the Dragon, Third World Imports, Planet Earth, Moe Ping's Kool Things, The Hot Tomato, Kleen Sting, Colorado Java, Himalayan Feeling, Contemporary Glass Works, Change Skateboards, Coffee Muggers, Triple Play Records, Pretty Things, Dream Child Entertainment.

Download the Red Pill at: <http://www.gjredpill.org>

Become our friend on myspace.com @ <http://www.myspace.com/gjamtheredpill>

FUN LIBERATION FRONT COMMUNIQUE NO. 3 SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE!

For some time we've stayed hidden, taking cover in the shadows of work and boredom. But our love for fun has come like the first flower of spring, shining light on all those who can still smile. We struck through the monotony of lives never lived, bringing excitement and curiosity to a world so the same. And we screamed "From the lowest in the furniture to the highest in the produce! From children's clothing to the office supplies, WE SHALL HAVE FUN!!"

To the beats of the music we danced, and let our pains slip away. The Fun Liberation Front is nothing. We are merely people who wish to bring the fun of life back into the public eye.

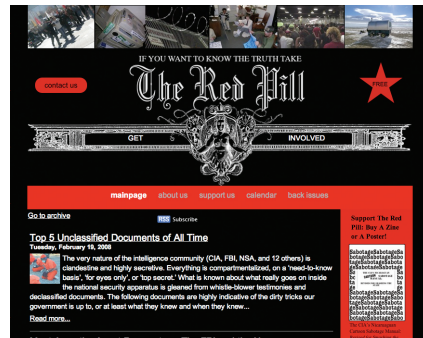


Whether free dance parties at Wal-Mart, pillow fights on Main St., or flashlight tag in parks at night, we bring freedom in the form of fun and enjoyment. Freedom from the responsibility to care about every moment of every day and the burdens we take when we put ourselves to work. Anyone and everyone can be a part of the Fun Liberation Front. Just organize a party for everyone in the most public of places and invite everyone you know. See you in the sandbox!

the FLuFFers

THE RED PILL GETS KICKASS NEW WEBSITE

The Red Pill's new website offers much more than just fancy images. At <http://www.gjredpill.org>, you can find downloadable PDFs of all the back issues, blogs of our most recent and timely stories, an activist calendar, and a 'store' where you can buy numerous zines and posters. The proceeds go to keeping us going as The Red Pill continues to grow. Some titles offered are, The CIA's Nicaraguan Cartoon Sabotage Manual: *Revised for Smashing the State*, and Mamaphiles #3: *Coming Home*. You can also find ways to donate to keep us in print. Check out the new website today!



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS

In February 11, 2008, the Longest Walk 2 stepped off from Alcatraz. They will be walking over 4,000 miles to Washington D.C. to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Longest Walk of 1978. The Indian spiritual walk is split up into a northern route and a southern route. The northern route will be making its way into Colorado on Saturday, March 14th, and will be in Grand Junction on March 15th, via Highway 50.

From their website: "The Longest Walk is an Indian spiritual walk, a historical walk; and it is a walk for educational awareness to the American and the world communities about the concerns of American Indian people. This route will carry the message of Renewing the Spirit by Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors. This walk is to commemorate the Longest Walk in 1978—those who walked then and those who walk now. We are walking to bring awareness of the struggle to protect sacred sites."

The Red Pill has had the pleasure of contacting Mano Cockrum, the Colorado Organizer for the northern route, and was able to ask a few questions.

The Red Pill: Why do you think it's important to work with and support organizations such as those putting on the longest walk?

Mano Cockrum: It is more important than ever to the health & sustainability of our communities and in turn the world community to take part in undertakings like the Longest Walk by supporting or participating. When we reach out to each other and create these networks of support on the spiritual message and indigenous issues the walk highlights, we are effectively acting out the vision the walk carries with it: that All Life is Sacred and to Protect Mother Earth. We show that we can cooperate in reaching these goals in concrete ways such as creating awareness, protecting sacred sites and cleaning up our Mother and leaving prayers instead where the walkers tread.

TRP: What does this kind of organizing mean to you?

MC: This kind of organizing is for me, necessary to staying connected with a strong indigenous and social justice network in which efforts of partnerships can bring

us all closer to our similar goals of social change and justice on the community level, creating the kind of future we wish to pass on to emerging generations. Organizing always has its motives and drives; in this case the purpose is not merely to survive, but to do it with dignity and respect for each other and the world we are fortunate to live in.

TRP: Do you have any advice for those interested in getting involved but are unsure how?

MC: Just email your interest to Longestwalk1978@gmail.com to plug in, and get familiar with what's happening at www.longestwalk.org. Let us know how you might be able to help—there are so many ways from joining the walkers, hosting them, collecting donations of goods or gas cards, holding awareness and fundraiser events in your community, spreading the word, or even buying a T-shirt online!

TRP: Do you have anything else you would like to add?

MC: I truly do see this effort as not only a preservation and survival issue for Native Americans, but truly for all people sharing this earth. The message is clear: what do we want our grandchildren to inherit, and how can we make that happen?

The Longest Walk is open to participants of all walks of life. There are many ways to get involved, from walking with them, to donations of money or supplies.

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley will be hosting a potluck dinner for the walkers beginning at 5:30pm. Following the potluck will be a speaking event by numerous members of various Native American nations, including Western Shoshone, Paiute, California Nations, Osage, and Choctaw, among others. There will also be singing by the Miwok singers and other groups.

Everyone is encouraged to attend, bring a dish and stay to hear stories, the walkers' experiences and why they think this walk is important.

For general information and updates check out www.longestwalk.org. To get involved here in Colorado, contact Mano Cockrum at lmanoart@gmail.com

April 21-27, 2008

National TV Turn-off week. Turn off the tube and tune in to the world around you.

www.tvturnoff.org

Aug. 25-28th and Sep. 1-4th, 2008

Protests at DNC in Denver and RNC in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Check out www.recreate68.org and www.mcwelcomingcommittee.org for info.

Friday, March 21st, 2008

Sign Making Potluck to prepare for the March 30th Peace Rally and March

For more info call 245-3720

Sunday, March 30th, 2008 • 2PM

Peace Rally and March
Music, Speakers, Food, Literature, and Fun!

Lincoln Park, Grand Junction

A WORM'S EYE PERSPECTIVE

BY TYLER THACKABERRY

My dad once told me of the pains of a government maintenance job. The work is repetitive, bland, and it sucks the creativity right out of you. This to me seems a lot like public school. By a show of hands, how many of you learned and later remembered a single thing from a "Bill Nye the Science Guy" video? That's what I thought. The problems with schools are the funding, the mindlessness, and the lack of a thirst for education.

Initially, I didn't think the funding affected the knowledge, but I was dead wrong.

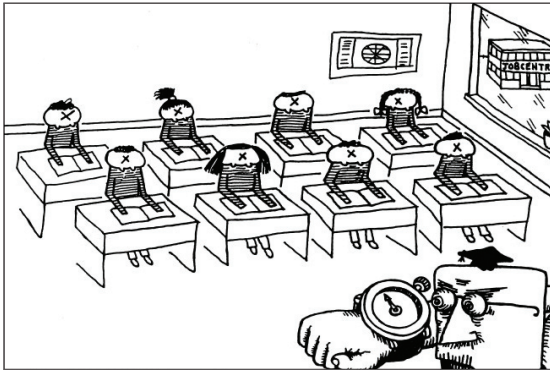
Take Central High School for example. It is the lowest funded school in the district and the district is the lowest funded in the state, and the state is the forty-eighth lowest funded in the nation. This translates to Central High School is the lowest of the

low. Strangely, the school has been recently renovated. Tile floors don't help learning, so why do the administrators insist on spending their small amount of money on visual aspects more than the aspects of learning? Apparently school is about looking good instead of learning. Maybe this is the reason test scores are so damn high. The first time I ever visited Central High School, I observed a large unkempt "lady" waddle along with a half gallon of McCormick vodka. Obviously the students care as much about education as the teachers.

Then there is the work you do in school. Instead of having you do projects with worthwhile applications, teachers fire a barrage of mindless, repetitive worksheets on things you already know. How is it I can score a thirty-eight out of forty on a vocabulary test, but still have to spend half-an-hour of time I could use elsewhere on manual labor spelling worksheets. I know trigonometry. How many times have I used a tangent in the real world, or applied the Pythagorean Theorem in normal

life? The only math high schoolers use today is grams to ounces. So I ask you, why do teachers waste your time making you do repetitive tasks to "learn" things you never need?

Us kids today have no desire for education. I remember waking up early to get to school in second grade because it was math day. So why do I feel as if a little part of me dies when I trudge down the math hall today? The mindlessness sucks the desire to learn right out of you. It turns learning from fun into manual labor. In our modern schools, the grade you receive



has nothing to do with your intelligence, but with your ability to listen and take good notes. The teens of today that do have good grades are dearly misconstrued in the purpose of life.

I would like to tell you a little story. Little Johnny is a perfect student. He wakes up

early and is always on time for school. He finishes elementary school and is enticed with this "here kitty kitty" voice of success. This continues for quite some time. Then the day finally arrives when little Johnny graduates high school. He calls his father and asks what he should do next. His father replies, in a wise tone, "Well, go to college." So years pass and money is spent, when our protagonist, Johnny is done with college. He then calls his father and asks what to do next. His father responds, "Well son, get a job." This cycle continues until our man Johnny is left with a mortgage, a three bedroom house, and a platoon of children he barely knows. Johnny dies a miserable man. The problem with society today is that we are expected to waste time at a school, to learn things we never use, to get into college, to spend all of our money, to get a job we hate, to buy things we don't need, to marry a woman we despise, to have kids we never see—only to start the cycle all over.

AMERICA THE POOR

As Americans, we tend to think of ourselves as the most prosperous of nations, yet at the same time, people speak about the crushing size of the national debt. The CIA's website has a resource called The World Factbook, a compilation of facts about every country in the world. One section of the Factbook is a listing of countries' current account balances.

China tops the list with 363 billion dollars in the bank, Japan, Germany,

Saudi Arabia and Russia round out the top five. Most countries are in debt. Out of 163 nations, only 63 of them are in the black. At the very bottom of the list is the United States, which is a whopping 747.1 billion dollars in debt. Looking at these numbers, it could be argued that, instead of being the richest nation in the world, we are the poorest.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2187rank.html>



RED PILL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We need volunteers. We need your events. We need writers. And most importantly we need cash for a new copy machine. You can get a hold of us at giredpill@hotmail.com, or donate through Pay-Pal at our website www.giredpill.org. We couldn't do all this without you. Thanks.

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2008 • 5PM
Drinking Liberally Get together

Kannah Creek Brewing
12th and Walnut, Grand Junction, CO

Deadlines for Upcoming Special Issues
Iraq War Issue #3: March 17, Drug War Issue: April 11,
Wealth and Poverty Issue: May 4

Submissions Welcomed!