

"5 YEARS" FROM FIRST PAGE

200 protesters "froze" in place on the east side of Union Station in Washington D.C., bewildering onlookers and police. They held still with schedules in hands and cell phones opened, in various ordinary poses until suddenly breaking the silence with a reverberating "end the war" chant, making a powerful statement about breaking silence and speaking out. There's a good video on YouTube of this protest at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_OpGLJHdG4&url=http://events.unitedforpeace.org/5yearstoomany/reports/4458

Other actions staged around Washington, D.C. included a sit-in at the American Petroleum Institute, and a protest in front of the IRS where more than a dozen people were arrested.

On Wednesday the 19th, an impressive number of people turned out for marches around the country. In San Francisco, 7,000 people participated in a nighttime march with speaking appearances by Cindy Sheehan and Cynthia McKinney. In Chicago, 4,000 people, including many youths and people from the local Arab and Muslim communities, rallied in the Federal Plaza. 10,000 people turned out for the Los Angeles march on Saturday the 15th, filling six-lane Hollywood Boulevard over a distance of seven blocks. Banners in Spanish as well as English led the procession, and schools from all over Southern California were represented by the many young people there.

The events took place the same weekend as the groundbreaking Winter Soldier gathering in Washington, D.C., where over 200 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan shared accounts of their experiences on the ground. ANSWER organizer and Iraq veteran Michael Prysner compelled audiences with his observations on the racism that was promoted throughout of the officers' chain of command and how it promoted dehumanization of the occupied Iraqis and justified abuse and brutality towards them. Watch Prysner's testimony on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4i5ZUfpxnV0&url=http://answer.pephost.org/site/News2?news_iv_ctrl=-1&abbr=ANS_&page=NewsArticle&id=8795

In a time when the media has gone silent on Iraq, patriots will force America to take notice. •

BE THE MEDIA!

State of Disunion

NUMBER OF FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT IRAQ BY BUSH and seven leading officials in the two years after 9/11:
935

TRUE COST ESTIMATE OF IRAQ WAR including vets' care, rising cost of oil, etc:
\$3,000,000,000,000

PRICE OF OIL BEFORE IRAQ WAR:
\$25 per barrel

PRICE OF OIL on March 17, 2008:
\$111.80 per barrel

NUMBER OF HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS against Capco in 2007:
11

NUMBER OF U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED in Iraq:
4,000

MINIMUM NUMBER OF U.S. SOLDIERS WOUNDED in action in Iraq:
29,320

DEADLIEST YEAR for U.S. troops in Iraq:
2007

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF IRAQI CIVILIANS dead as a result of the Iraq War:
1,200,000

NUMBER OF DOLLARS CAPCO WAS FINED FOR hazardous waste violations in 2007:
\$9,252

* 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).



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www.gjredpill.org

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

The Red Pill

FREE

FIVE YEARS

TOO LONG

MARCH 2008

VOL. 6 NO. 6

Iraq War Issue '08

How Many Iraq War Issues Must We Have?



Peace protest in San Francisco. March 19, 2008, Courtesy of indybay.org

5TH ANNUAL ACTIONS TARGET IRAQ WAR PROFITEERS IN CREATIVE PROTESTS

A diverse array of marches and creative demonstrations taking place all over the country marked the 5th anniversary of the Iraq War and Occupation from March 15-19. The protests focused on not only political targets like Congressional offices and the White House, but corporate ones like war profiteers' offices, as well as the IRS itself. Young people turned out heavily, having a dominant presence at the marches in Chicago on March 19th and Los Angeles on March 15th.

Over 1,000 different actions took place all over the country, with over 30 different actions in Washington D.C. alone. The American Petroleum Institute, CNN, and

various war profiteers all were targeted by people demonstrating their displeasure with five years of deceit and brutality. The Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) showed a sharp sense of humor at their gathering of college students, yelling "Five More Years!" and "What do we want? War profits! When do we want them? Now!" as they marched through D.C. and passed the facilities of companies like Lockheed Martin, Halliburton, and other defense contractors. SPAN also held a spontaneous mock war profiteers awards ceremony.

In a particularly creative protest, at least

"5 YEARS" ON LAST PAGE

www.gjredpill.org

Let's End This War

FIVE YEARS IS ENOUGH!

SPEAKERS: IRAQ VETERANS GARETT
RAPPEHHAGEN AND JEFF ENGLEHART
LOCAL MUSIC, LITERATURE TABLES,
AND A MARCH



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BY:

MSC A Voice of
Reason

Grand Junction
Underground
Action Alliance

GJ Students for a
Democratic Society

And

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LOCAL MUSIC:

Righteous Vibration

Fast Food Kings

Gangerus Cock

LINCOLN PARK • GRAND JUNCTION
MARCH 30TH • 2PM

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

Deadlines for Upcoming Special Issues:

Drug War Issue: April 11, Wealth and Poverty Issue:
May 4

Submissions Welcomed!

“GARETT” FROM PAGE SIX

was excited with his correspondences, and set up a ‘letters from Iraq’ page on their website. The letters received amazing feedback. Garrett was happy to be speaking out, to dissent, and he realized he wasn’t so isolated in the middle of Iraq. “I could be at war, in combat, then fifteen minutes later, be writing about it on the internet. It was an amazing sense of communication,” he said.

With the help of a couple fellow soldiers, Garrett set up a blog, www.ftssoldier.blogspot.com. There, they were able to get their voices heard. This allowed them to vent the raw emotion experienced during war. Because they were so critical of the U.S. government and military, they had to remain anonymous.

Needless to say, the military was able to use the IP address to trace the blog to Garrett. They threatened him and told him to stop writing. They told him he broke operational security (opsec in military speak) and faced possible charges of treason and conspiring against the government.

But Garrett kept writing about the war and about the attempted censorship of his dissent. He was pulled from his sniper duties and didn’t go on anymore reconnaissance missions. The last two to three months he was in Iraq, he was on guard duty and oversaw Iraqi laborers.

He arrived back in the States in June ‘05 and hit the ground running. Still pissed and wanting to stop the war, Garrett became involved in the antiwar movement. He attended the protest of the G8 summit in Scotland and a protest in Germany. He became a member of several veterans groups, such as the Veterans for Peace (VFP) and Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). Garrett was also featured in several documentaries relating to the war in Iraq, including, Operation: Dreamland and Fallujah: The Hidden Massacre. Garrett, with fellow soldier and friend, Jeff Englehart, were the first to confirm the use of white phosphorus—a flesh-eating chemical weapon—in Fallujah.

In August 2005, Garrett attended the VFP National Conference in Dallas. There, he met Cindy Sheehan, unknown to the public at the time. At the conference, they learned that Bush would be vacationing at his Crawford ranch for a month. Cindy announced that she wanted to go down there and ask him why he killed her son. She asked Garrett and Jeff to accompany her. Cindy, Garrett, and Jeff, with a group of people, rode the Impeachment Bus, visiting from San Francisco, down to Crawford. After setting up, Garrett left that evening, not thinking anything huge would happen

at what would soon be dubbed Camp Casey.

Sitting in the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport, Garrett was watching CNN. Cindy was being interviewed. “Holy shit, this is going somewhere,” he thought.

Garrett moved around a lot, he kept speaking out against the war. After a time, he felt the antiwar movement wasn’t having an effect, it wasn’t working. So he went to Washington, D.C. and contacted Bobby Muller, a Vietnam Vet and a huge figure in the antiwar movement in the ‘70s. Muller, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his campaign to ban the use of land mines. He also founded Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and is president of Alliance for Security. Garrett now works with Alliance for Security and continues the struggle to end the war and fight for veterans rights.

“Our country has to become responsible to the true cost of warfare. That means taking care of the veterans and taking care of the countries we are at war with. If the American people were aware that the true cost of war is so astronomical, they would realize war is not worth fighting.” •

THIS IS AMERICA

POETRY

This is the country where I was born-
where my family lives,

This and nothing but this-
nothing less and nothing more-

This is My Country.
-this is my home,

this is *irrefutably* My Country;

My Country.

and *My Country* does things. *My Country*
does things to other countries.

My Country does things to other countries
and I stand back

and I stand back-

and I stand back-

and do *nothing*.

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RED PILL LOCATIONS

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“CAPCO” FROM FOURTH PAGE

the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division found numerous hazardous waste violations including: open containers, improperly labeled hazardous waste, and a lack of a contingency plan. Capco was fined \$9,252 for a total of 11 hazardous waste violations.

In April of 2005, a chemical explosion at Capco sent three workers to the hospital and another 10 were injured. The explosion occurred while mixing potassium perchlorate and zirconium powder. The Grand Junction Fire Department estimated the damages at around \$3000-4000.

In 1984 and 1985, the Occupational

Safety and Health Administration removed Capco employees from their workplace “after an OSHA inspection in 1984 revealed high blood lead levels. Afterwards, they began working for the company off-site at their homes...OSHA inspected the homes of three employees in 1985...Compliance Officers found...workers were...handling adhesives without protective gloves, which could lead to dermatitis, liver damage, or cancer,” according to Charles N. Jeffress, then assistant secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, before the Senate, January 25, 2000.

The Red Pill tried numerous times to let Capco respond for this article, but Capco Vice-President John Younger declined to comment on this story. •

MISLEADING MEDIA: SILENCE ON IRAQ

Last time I checked, we were still at war in Iraq, and last time I checked things there weren't going much better than they were in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Ever since the much applauded troop surge that General Petraeus and President Bush pushed upon the U.S. military and Iraq, interest in the war by American civilians has dropped dramatically. It's as if the general public now believes everything that the White House says is true. Where is the cynicism and caution about the honesty of politicians and where did the interest in the well being of U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians go?

According to the Pew Research Center American civilians know less about the quagmire of Iraq than they ever have, whereas there are far fewer news stories about the violence and death in Iraq than at any other time during the war. As of March 2008 only 28% of adults in the country knew that approximately 4,000 American troops have died in Iraq. From August of 2007, all the way back to the start of the war, roughly 50% of adults could correctly identify the number of fallen soldiers in Iraq.

However, this isn't simply a story of apathetic Americans, it's also a story of the failure of the mainstream press to keep the public informed about the progress of the

war. According to the News Content Index conducted by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, news stories about Iraq have dropped from being 15% of daily news to barely 3%. The report also stated that, “as news coverage of the war has diminished, so too has public interest in news about Iraq.”

No matter what the White House and their friends in the Media say, Iraq has not gotten any better. Just because it's not in the paper or on the T.V. mean that progress towards quelling the violence has continued. The year of the surge, 2007, was the deadliest year of the war for the U.S. military, 901 members of the U.S. military died in Iraq in 2007. As recently as January the U.S. has had to dump over 40,000 pounds of ordinance into Iraq's tiny province of Diyala trying to quell the “insurgents”. Even more recently the Iraqi Defense Minister, Abdul Qadir, has asked the U.S. to continue occupying the country until at least 2018.

How many more civilians and soldiers must die before the American public wakes up? How can we be sliding into a recession and still be borrowing billions of dollars to finance a failed war of occupation? How much longer can we consider ourselves the city on the hill when we are responsible for allowing children to die by gunfire and car bombs every day in Iraq? •

“Don't bitch about the media. Be the fucking media”

—Jello Biafra of the Dead Kennedy's—

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.



IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID

Back when Bill Clinton first ran for president, his aides made up little signs reading, “It's the economy, stupid.” This was to be his central successful theme for his two terms. We all know how he actually ended up raping the economy, but the point is not lost; people vote with their wallets.

I bring this up because there seems to be a lull in anti-war activity recently. Part of it is preoccupation with the economy, with investment banks going bankrupt, home foreclosures on the rise, and a looming severe recession. People are genuinely worried about paying their bills, keeping their houses, and rising medical costs; the war has taken a back seat.

We need to find a way to gently, tactfully, but firmly tell them that when it comes to the war, “It's the economy, stupid.” This is a 12 billion dollar a day operation. Could

that money not be better spent on debt relief or social programs, rather than bombing the hell out of innocent men, women and children miles away, who after all had no weapons of mass destruction, and no connection to either 9/11 or Osama Bin Laden?

We'll be paying for this war for years to come. Nobel Prize laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz has recently written a book entitled “The Three Trillion Dollar War.” If the war stopped today, that is how much money it will cost in veterans benefits, debt, and interest. Each man, woman, and child owes \$38,000 to amortize this debt. Our children and grandchildren will be paying on this illegal war that was allowed to happen.

So, it is the economy, stupid. When you run across resistance to war protests or get an apartheid response, you might try whipping this phrase out. •

Friday, March 28TH, 7:30PM-11PM

Peace Jam—featuring anti-war music and comedy.
At the Thuder River Theatre in Carbondale.

Sunday, March 30th, 2008 • 2PM

Peace Rally and March
Music, Speakers, Food, Literature, and Fun!
Use your democracy or lose it!

Lincoln Park, Grand Junction

CAPCO: YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WAR PROFITEER!

The illegal and un-winnable wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to drag on into the future. We have to ask ourselves: 'Why?' Why are these wars still going on? Who is profiting from these endless wars? What benefits are we reaping from these wars? Here in Grand Junction our local war profiteer is Capco Inc., located at 1328 Winters Ave. Capco is Western Colorado's largest defense contractor. Over the years they have manufactured parts for landmines, bombs, guns, helicopters, humvee armor, and more. "Since bombs began falling on Baghdad more than two years ago, Capco Inc., a little-known Grand Junction-based defense contractor, has increased its payroll by more than a third," an 8/1/05 Denver Post article said. Additionally, Capco has recently finished a multimillion dollar remodel and construction project.



Capco also owns two company airplanes, tail numbers N649B and N9236T. Capco has received over \$200 million in 106 military contracts since 1999. In 2000, Capco received \$5.8 million worth of government contracts. Five war-filled years later, in 2005, Capco received \$39.4 million

in military contracts. The weapons business is booming and Capco is riding the wave to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Capco President Stephen K. Wood and his wife know who butters their bread and have given \$800 to the Republican National Committee during the 2006 election cycle according to federal elections data.

In April of 1997, Human Rights Watch published a report entitled "Exposing the Source: U.S. Companies and the Production of Anti-Personnel Mines," which found that components manufactured at Capco were used in the Gator CBU-89 & CBU-78, and Volcano M87 landmines. Capco Vice-President John Younger said in response to a Human Rights Watch letter, "Our company will continue to support the U.S. need for mines of these types as deemed necessary by our government."

In 2004, Capco was awarded a 7.2

million dollar contract to sell helicopter parts to the repressive Saudi Arabian military.

Capco is more than a threat to peace and human life. It is also a safety and environmental hazard to all of Grand Junction.

A January 2007 inspection of Capco by "CAPCO" ON PAGE SIX

LOCAL IRAQ WAR VETERAN TURNED NATIONAL PEACE ACTIVIST

Editors Note—This story was originally published by The Red Pill in Vol. 4 No. 3. On March 30, Garrett Rappenhagen and another local Anti-War Iraq Vet, Jeff Englehart, will be speaking at the big Peace Rally at Lincoln Park at 2pm. Both Jeff and Garrett testified at the recent winter soldier hearings in Washington D.C.

Garrett Rappenhagen was familiar with the military life. To avoid being drafted, his father voluntarily joined the army during the Vietnam War and became an engineer. Growing up in Manitou Springs, Colorado, Garrett dropped out of high school and moved to Grand Junction, where his brother was attending Mesa State College.

Garrett never saw the military in his future. He was aware of the injustices of this world and didn't really trust our government. However, growing disillusionment with the party lifestyle, working three jobs just to make ends meet, and an unplanned pregnancy all caused Garrett to realize he needed a drastic change in his life. There was no way he would be able to support his daughter and continue the same lifestyle.

August 2001, at 26, Garrett joined the Army. It was a chance to live out the eight-year-old boy dream of being G.I. Joe. Somewhat naively, Garrett didn't really think he would end up going to war. One month later, 9/11 occurred.

Garrett was eventually sent to Kosovo on a peacekeeping mission. While on leave, sitting in the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport in Texas, Garrett watched Bush II give the last minute ultimatum to Saddam Hussein. He watched the time run out. The TV received a standing ovation throughout the airport as the fireworks display over Baghdad commenced. Sitting in his fatigues, Garrett wondered, "who the fuck are these people?" They think those bombs are killing the 'terrorists.' Having just arrived from war-torn Kosovo, Garrett knew all too well that the majority of the casualties were innocent civilians.

Before going back to Kosovo, Garrett filled his bag with as many books as he could carry. His last three months in Kosovo were spent reading, beginning with Howard Zinn's, A People's History of the United

States. Garrett's studies redefined everything he thought America was, and about what we, as a country, were doing around the world.

After Kosovo, Garrett was informed that he would receive six months of training, then he would be off to Iraq. At this point, Garrett prepared what he called an AWOL bag—everything he needed to survive, just in case he decided he needed to leave. Every night, Garrett would lay in bed thinking either, he was leaving the next day, or he was going to stick it out. The next morning always seemed to bring more indecision.

"I went to war because I was a coward. I was afraid of getting punished," Garrett said. Continuing to go on missions was easier than dealing with the peer pressure or military reprimands.

Garrett was stationed in Ba'qubah, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. Ba'qubah, one of the larger cities in Iraq, is a hot spot. Garrett was part of a six man sniper team. Basically, the group would walk 3-4 kilometers and set up sniper hides. They would wait for hours/days and kill anyone attempting to set up ambushes alongside the road. They would also set up counter-mortar attacks and watch over the house raids. The team was very effective.

"I've killed my fair share of Iraqi people, innocent ones included." As time passed, Garrett grew more enraged, knowing what he was doing was wrong. But he didn't want to quit—he was dedicated to his friends, his fellow soldiers. He likened it to being on two teams. He was on the blue team, the Iraqis, the red team. "It's not like I didn't like the red team, but I was on the blue team. That's the way it was."

Garrett decided he needed to speak out. He used the internet as a tool to dissent. Garrett got in touch with the band, Bouncing Souls, whom he had met previously in Germany. He began writing them and telling them about his experiences at war. The band



"GARRETT" ON PAGE SEVEN

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 gjredpill@hotmail.com, or donate through Pay-Pal at our website www.gjredpill.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

Saturday, June 14th • 11AM-3PM
Western Colorado Pride Fest.

Hawthorn Park Grand Junction Colorado