

For more information on Direct Aid Iraq, a non-profit committed to helping Iraqis medically and building relationships based on peace with Iraqis, visit directaidiraq.org or to buy David's book, visit battlefieldwithouthorders.org. All proceeds go to Direct Aid Iraq to provide medical aid to Iraqi families. •

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

thus an antichristian symbol, and has also been branded a Communist symbol. It has even been banned, such as at the Iowa high school that suspended students and Vietnam War opponents John and Mary Beth Tinker in 1967 for wearing armbands with the peace symbol on them.

Despite this, the peace symbol remains an icon to this day. Its simplicity makes it easy to remember, draw and use. Having stood the test of time and been used worldwide by so many different causes, it has a uniting and encouraging power matched by few non-religious symbols in the world, if any. It is sure that the peace symbol will retain its significance for as long as people love and struggle for peace and justice. •

State of Disunion

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

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

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

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

NUMBER OF COPIERS TRP needs to stay in print: 1

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

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

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

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

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!**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

The Red Pill

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

FREE

JESUS WAS

HOMELESS

MAY 2008

VOL. 6 NO. 9

LIFE IN GJ GETS HARDER FOR HOMELESS

In the past couple of weeks dozens of homeless people were evicted by the Grand Junction Police Department from squatter camps along the Colorado River. P.J Rix, the Community Liaison Officer, of the GJPD said that the eviction are a part of the cities annual spring clean up. "We're targeting camps in areas owned or controlled by the City, and we are alleviating areas of brush where they hide." Rix said. According to Rix, these annual raids of homeless camps along the Colorado River have been carried out since around 1999. When asked were all the evicted homeless people were supposed to go, Rix replied lamely that "it is against city ordinance to camp on city property."

There is an anti-panhandling campaign going on in Grand Junction, maybe you've seen the signs "Giving Change Won't Make a Change." But now both homeless shelters in town charge their guests \$3 a night. For years that had been the policy of the Rescue Mission downtown, but just this summer the Community Homeless Shelter on North Avenue decided to start charging as well. As long as shelters charge guests to stay the night, the homeless need to be able to 'fly a sign' and we should give accordingly, because giving change does make a change. •



BE THE MEDIA!

DAVID SMITH-FERRI: AN ACTIVIST-POET

David Smith-Ferri is an activist-poet who works closely with Direct Aid Iraq, a grassroots organization aimed at providing urgent medical care for Iraqis. David was in Grand Junction last month, at the UU Church for an opportunity to share his poetry with the community.

David has spent time in Iraq pre-occupation, and Jordan during the occupation. He was focused on learning the conditions in Iraq as related to foreign policy on his first trip. David shared his experience with TRP about the day he landed in 1999: The US bombed a small village called Najaf the day before they landed, where 14 civilians were killed and 18 were hospitalized. He said it was a remote place, and you could see the crater from the US bomb. There were about 150 Iraqi men and boys who immediately tried to talk to the approaching Americans. The tried to tell him what happened, show them where family members and friends had

died, and they kept bringing bomb parts to show David and his group, and the pile kept growing. A spokesperson from the group of men and boys came forward and asked why David's government was bombing his village and said that this is a coward's war. The Iraqis ask the question, "Why is your government bombing us?" genuinely looking for an un-understandable answer.

David loves opportunities to share his poetry with others or give it as gifts. The words reveal Iraqi peoples' courage, resilience, and struggles. He defines Iraqis on their own terms, on a case by case basis.

David's trip to Jordan revealed that the American vision of an Iraqi is indeed twisted. Currently, one in seven people in Jordan is a displaced Iraqi (where one in four Iraqis are displaced). The Iraqis in Jordan do not have the status of "refugee." Most possess a temporary visa, which provides a shadowy existence; the holder is denied

"DAVID" FROM PAGE ONE

COLORADO WANT TO LIMIT YOUR SPEECH: SEE YOU IN THE COURTS

The State of Colorado is at it again, this time to limit free speech. Senate Bill 192 would limit 'targeted picketing' in residential areas and limits signage to no more than one sign per person no larger than 2feet x 3feet. The bill defines a home as a compelling state interest, and claims targeted picketing is not sending a message to the general public, but instead aims to harass and intrude on privacy. Making both "Targeting Picketing" and hold more than one sign or having a sign greater than 6sq feet in a "residential area" a misdemeanor with fines of up to \$5000 and/or a year in jail.

Also, this bill 'permits' (encourages more so) for local government to make more restrictive measures on targeted picketing and signage in residential areas.

Targeted picketing can and does send a message to the general public, limiting signage is a ridiculous attempt at limiting free speech, and the Colorado General Assembly, currently dominated by the Democrats, passed

this incredibly unconstitutional bill.

The bill was originally aimed at pro-life activist who often protest at the homes of abortion doctors. And since most pro-lifers are conservatives, the Dems were fine with taking away more of our right to free speech. As soon as the government starts limiting some speech, all speech is threatened.

If signed into law the bill would come into effect on August 6th, just in time for the Democrats use it to suppress protests at the DNC in Denver later that month.

This bill has now passed both the Colorado House of Representatives and the Senate, and is sitting on Governor Ritter's desk right now, waiting to be signed into law.

Call the Ritter and tell him to 'veto' this anti-democratic bill at (303) 866-2471

And if that fails we'll see you in the streets, on August 7th, in front of some war-profiteer's home, to break this unconstitutional law, and let the courts sort it out.

FRUITA LIFE

BY DAVEY



Davey is a 22-year-old artist, based out of Fruita, Colorado. His artistic influences include Jhonen Vasquez, H.R. Giger, Sheperd Fairey, and John John Jesse, just to name a few. When Davey is not working on his art he can be found skateboarding around town or reading a book in his favorite book store. Long ago Davey chose a life free of drugs and alcohol so he could focus on his two passions art and skateboarding. Davey can be reached at gaz@gvii.net, more of his art can be found at deviantart.com under the username jhonentat. We can all look forward to seeing more of Davey's art in the pages of The Red Pill in the months to come.

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

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 mspace.com @ <http://www.myspace.com/gjamtheredpill>

BOB SCHAFFER: WAR PROFITEER FOR SENATE

With so much of the national political focus taken up by Obama v. Clinton, no one has really had time to take notice of Bob Schaffer. Who's Bob Schaffer? You Say.

Well, like all politicians he's rich. Like most politicians he's white and male. And like many politicians he's making money off of the War in Iraq, (it should be noted that Iraqis call the war the American War).

During his three terms in the house of representatives Schaffer full heartedly voted for the war in Iraq and voted for subsequent funding bills. He even went so far as to tell The Denver Post, "A lack of support from U.N. won't be an obstacle" to U.S. Military Action." [DP, Oct. 13, 2002].

Then in December of 2003 Schaffer left congress to work for Aspect Energy where he was able to flex his political connections as the Vice-President in charge of International Oil Development. In November of 2006, Schaffer led an Aspect Energy delegation to Iraq. The Rocky Mountain News confirmed this when they called Schaffer about his possible candidacy for senate. "Schaffer was contacted via e-mail during a business trip to Iraq." [Rocky Mountain News, November 27, 2006].



Surprise, Surprise less than a year later Aspect Energy in November of 2007 announced on their website that they had been awarded a license for 269 square kilometers of northern Iraq's oil fields and cut the deals directly with the Kurdistan Regional Government. [www.aspectenergy.com].

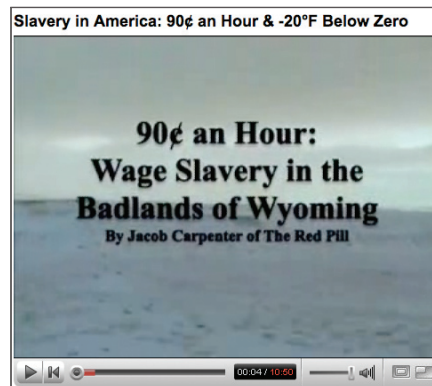
Schaffer had to make Personal Financial Disclosures while he was in office in 2003 and when he declared his candidacy for Senate. According to Schaffer's Personal Financial Disclosures he pocketed \$209,853 for working for Aspect Energy in 2003 and made \$246,666 in 2006. Schaffer as a private citizen did not have to file Personal Financial Disclosures during the interceding years. But we can safely assume that he made roughly the same as he did in 2003 or 2006.

What it really comes down to is that Schaffer while in Congress voted for the War in Iraq, voted to fund the war. Then out of office he makes \$1,000,000 or so working for a Big Oil Corporation that is profiting from Iraqi oil, from contracts Schaffer helped secure. Schaffer is a war profiteer and a player within 'Big Oil,' and as such should be run out of the state rather than elected to senate.

RED PILL DOCUMENTARY EXPOSES SLAVERY IN THE SHEEP COUNTRY OF NORTHERN COLORADO AND SOUTHERN WYOMING

This winter a Red Pill reporter/videographer went to Wyoming and found legal immigrant H2A Visa workers being taken advantage of and severely underpaid (TRP Vol. 6 No. 3). This video shows Colorado sheep-ranchers exploiting their South American and Nepali 'employees,' including interviews with shepherders past and present. Check out the video and keep an eye on our website for future updates: <http://www.gjredpill.org>.

<http://www.gjredpill.org/gjredpill/movies/movies.html>.



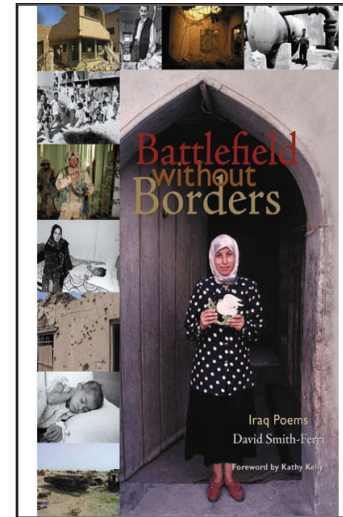
April 21-27, 2008

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.



"DAVID" ON LAST PAGE

the right to work, making exploitation in the underground economy the norm. Iraqis in Jordan are subject to police round-ups, and because so many people have come to Jordan, resources are dwindling.

Baghdad has been a rich cultural center for centuries. The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 changed Iraqi lives forever. The city is now overrun by armed groups of all sorts, not simply Sunni and Shi'ite, the factions go deeper than that. Armed factions can even be divided down to the neighborhood level, and for their own political advantage. The Sunni and the Shi'ite people don't necessarily hate each other, it's the factions and the extremist groups that believe in such hatred. The Iraqi people don't want the violence, they feel like 'this is Iraqi, and we all live together.' David shared that one man in Jordan said, "How can this be Baghdad?"

When David was asked about US troop withdrawal, he replied "There will be bloodshed even if we leave."



David and his poetry are able to open our minds to the Iraqi people like never before. His poetry is written in such a way that one can feel the pain of the people. It's truly the vision we should have of Iraqis, not the distorted vision we get from the mainstream media.

David wrote the following poem on his first day in Amman:

First Day in Amman
Amman
December, 2006
Ahmed Speaks

I want to show you something.
My left ear does not work thanks to a car bomb,
and my right eye
thanks to a metal fragment lodged in its cornea.
Day and night, an echo of that explosion
rings in my ear--
not an ocean crashing or a river
carrying its musical load of rock and stone,
not two-year-old Abdullah calling from
infested Baghdad,
but the voice of a bomb in my ear,
and in my eye, one of its ten thousand teeth.

But that is not what I want to show you.
That is only the surface, moving downriver,
only a reflection of Baghdad today.
I want to show unchanging depths,
past, present, future bundled in the
immutable
body of the river.

For that, you must look at my hand
and take it
and come with us to dinner
and eat *shawarma*.
Laugh with us. Talk with us.
Think with us, *habibi*,
about how to extract the worm
eating the heart of my country.

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 SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

The internationally-known peace symbol, that powerful and beautiful sign of love, brotherhood and protest, turned 50 this April. That's right, the peace symbol has a distinguishable origin and an anniversary, and this is its 50th. You may not know the story of how the peace symbol came to be, so here it is.

The peace symbol was originally used by members of the "Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)," a British anti-nuclear weapons group. Members of CND were the first people to use the peace symbol in a demonstration, as they staged a 50-mile march of thousands of people to a weapons factory in Aldermaston, England, in April 1958.

Some of the signs they used displayed the curious symbol whose meaning was not immediately apparent for some. One man at the event expressed to the symbol's creator, Gerald Holtom, his doubt that such a symbol could possibly catch on.

To say the least, the peace symbol certainly has caught on. Though originally it was focused as a symbol representing the anti-nuclear weapon movement, it has come to be a truly universal symbol of the broader concept of peace, and has been carried by people speaking out for tolerance, love, and resistance to oppression.

The symbol's creator, Gerald Holtom, was an artist and textile designer driven to create a symbol for the nuclear disarmament movement that would express his own despair about the issue. The elements of his design were

uniquely inspired, and included the semaphore code symbols for the letters "N" and "D," for "Nuclear Disarmament." Semaphore is a system of distance communication in which a person holding a flag in each hand moves their arms to different positions to represent each letter.

Holtom also made sketches of himself in the pose of the peasant in the Goya painting *The Third of May 1808*, who has arms outstretched while facing a firing squad. The simple design he ultimately came up with was circumscribed with a circle to represent the earth, and the peace symbol was born.

There are different accounts of how the peace symbol came to America, but however that happened, once it got here it spread rapidly. During the 1960s, the symbol was everywhere, becoming one with the spirit of the times. It was used at home by the anti-Vietnam War movement, and overseas by American soldiers who carried it painted on their helmets and on medallions while they were deployed in Vietnam.

Besides having been used widely in America, the peace symbol has been a truly international phenomenon. It has been used by resisters to Communist rule in Eastern Europe during the Soviet era, in Greece by people opposing tyranny there, and in South Africa by the opponents of apartheid.

The peace symbol has of course had its detractors over the years. It has been interpreted as an upside-down cross and



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

POLICE ACQUITTED IN SEAN BELL CASE; NEW YORK PROTESTS IN STREETS



The three New York City police officers being charged with the wrongful shooting of Sean Bell and two of his friends in November 2006 have been acquitted on all counts. This has led to widespread public outcry, particularly in NYC where the shooting occurred. Protests in the city this week shut down traffic access at four important bridges and two tunnels, but the sentiment of the protesters was echoed in the voices of the delayed drivers: there was no reason for Sean Bell to die that night.

On the night in question, the plainclothes officers were investigating prostitution at the club where Sean, a young black father of two, was having his bachelor party the night before his wedding. The officers overheard a drunken confrontation and claim they heard someone say "get my gun." (A gun was never found at the scene.) Sean and his friends got in their car as the cops ran up with pistols drawn, never clearly identifying themselves as police. Sean and his friends didn't know who these armed men were, so they tried to drive away. This was suspicious enough for the police to open fire, pumping 50 rounds into the car before finally letting up. Sean was hit four times in the neck and torso, his friend Trent Benefield was hit three times, and Joseph Guzman was hit 19 times. Fortunately Benefield and Guzman survived. The officers' gunfire was so errant that they almost hit a Port Authority policeman and a civilian through the AirTrain station window nearby.

The three officers faced serious charges. Detective Michael Oliver fired 31 rounds from his handgun, pausing to reload at least once despite the lack of return fire. He faced charges of first and

second degree manslaughter, two counts of first degree assault on Guzman and Benefield, and two counts of reckless endangerment, one for firing a bullet that passed through an occupied residence.

Detective Gescard Isnora faced first and second degree manslaughter charges, first and second degree assault, and two counts of reckless endangerment. Detective Marc Cooper faced only two counts of reckless endangerment. Judge Arthur Cooperman heard the case when the defense waived its right to a trial by jury. All officers were found not guilty on all counts.

The protests around Manhattan and Queens were led by Rev. Al Sharpton and the family and friends of Sean Bell and the other victims. It has been described as "controlled fury" and the largest gathering was outside NYPD headquarters in Manhattan. 216 people were arrested for disorderly conduct, including Sharpton, Bell's fiancée Nicole Poultré Bell, Guzman, and Benefield. They are calling for a reexamination of racial profiling in law enforcement, and for more stringent regulations to prevent murder by the police from going unpunished. There is a House Judiciary Committee Forum Monday, May 12th to discuss police accountability and the public's confidence in the justice system when it comes to cases like this. And although the criminal trial is over, the legal battles have just begun. Up next, a civil lawsuit is being filed by the family and Sharpton, and Judge Arthur Cooperman has now ordered the evidence handed over to federal investigators in preparation for possible civil rights violations charges to be filed. For all the latest news, visit justiceforsean.net.

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!

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.