

## LESSER OF TWO

—POETRY—

BY DEE ALLEN

What type of world would you like to live in?  
What would you like to see more of?  
What would progress look like to you?  
How would you stand for change?  
Questions arise,  
Warranting the same answer each time.  
The answer compels you to move on.  
Both feet treading a well-worn path  
Along with the rest of the masses.  
Your journey stops  
At rows of machines & monitoring screens.

Your volition stops.  
Re-focused & oriented as your key for  
change.

Who will make your hopes real?  
Who will save you future peril?  
Touch the screen & the answer will come.  
Poised to choose  
The lesser of two.

Two options. Two Parties.  
Two leaders. Two liars. Two evils.  
Two possible fates.

Your volition  
Is re-focused  
Towards a false choice.

Whoever you chose,  
Whoever gets victory  
In the great contest of egos,  
Evil remains  
And under the victor's will,  
The people united  
Are always defeated.

**BE THE MEDIA!**

## State of Disunion

NUMBER OF  
ARRESTS  
at the DNC in Boston  
in 2004:  
7

NUMBER OF U.S.  
AIRSTRIKES  
carried out in Somalia in  
the last two years:  
8

NUMBER OF  
people being charged  
with terrorism for  
organizing RNC  
protests:  
8

NUMBER OF  
COMPLAINTS  
filed against the GJPD  
on use of excessive  
force:  
4

NUMBER OF  
ARRESTS at the DNC  
in Denver in 2008:  
152

NUMBER OF  
ARRESTS  
at the RNC in St. Paul  
in 2008:  
800+

NUMBER OF WEEKS  
Somali pirates have  
been in a standoff with  
U.S. naval forces after  
hijacking a Ukrainian  
ship laden with Russian  
tanks and other weapons:  
5

NUMBER OF HOURS  
it took the GJPD to clear  
themselves of any wrong  
doing:  
24

\* Sources for the State of Disunion can be found at  
[www.gjredpill.org](http://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](mailto: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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IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

GRAND JUNCTION,  
COLORADO

## The Red Pill



DIRECT

DEMOCRACY

NOVEMBER 2008

VOL. 6 NO. 11

## PALIN PROTESTERS PALE IN COMPARISON WITH POLICE VIOLENCE AND HARRASSMENT

On Monday, October 20th, a group of Junction activists stepped off the curb at 12th St. and North Ave. in an effort to halt Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin's motorcade. The Grand Junction Police, having never encountered civil disobedience of this type, responded with excessive force to move protesters out of the roadway. The group, who does not identify with any organization, carried a banner that read "Make Democracy Direct" accompanied by a circle A and circle E.

Protesters were shoved, dragged, and trampled by police resulting in minor scrapes and bruises for the demonstrators. Pain compliance techniques were used. After the scuffle, a police officer said "Have a nice evening."

The protesters, none of whom had ever experienced this level of police brutality, dusted themselves off and proceeded to march down the middle of 12th St. toward the Palin speaking event. They chanted "Shut it down, no fascist in our town," and "War is Murder." Many others joined them in the street. They entered Stoker Stadium (the planned—yet unneeded—overflow seating for the Palin

event) and marched in a circle around the field to give the Palin fans (who were lined up inside the stadium) a good dose of dissent.

Protesters then proceeded to attempt to enter Suplezio Field to confront Palin once again. Mesa County Sheriffs, Grand Junction Police, and Secret Service at the entrance denied them access and said they would be arrested if they tried to enter.

That evening, despite ample time to arrest or detain those involved, no arrests were made. The police announced Monday evening in a press release that they were launching an investigation into the incident. Eight demonstrators have been issued summons, charging them with 'Obstructing Government Operations,' and

'Obstructing A Highway,' each at which carries a maximum \$750 fine and 6 months in jail. "The GJPD is clearly just folding to political pressure to make some arrests for this event," stated Jay Sanstedt. "They saw no reason to make arrests at the time of the event, and now they see it as a criminal act and are pressing charges."

Three of the protesters being charged in Monday's act of civil disobedience have

**"PROTEST" ON PAGE THREE**



## THE HORN OF AFRICA, THE FORGOTTEN FRONT IN THE WAR ON TERROR

Most Americans know next to nothing about Africa in general, let alone a specialized region such as the Horn of Africa. We follow Iraq in the news, pay passing attention to Afghanistan, worry about war with Iran, but rarely if ever think about ongoing hostilities with operation enduring freedom in the Horn of Africa today.

The Horn of Africa is the easternmost portion of Africa that juts into the Red and Arab seas. It includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia. In various parts, the horn contains large deposits of oil and fresh water. It is of the utmost geostrategic importance; Port Sudan is less than 200 miles from Mecca and Djibouti is only 35



US Forces along with French Legionnaires conduct combat operations in the Horn of Africa.

miles from the Arabia Peninsula at Yemen.

It's a complex region; Eritrea is on our country's list of countries that harbor terrorists, yet it is part of the coalition of the willing. Somalia is a failed state, with fearsome pirates and notoriously blood thirsty war lords, but Ethiopia prefers it that way. (Ethiopia fears what a cohesive, focused and radicalized Somalia would do to the region.) Sudan has huge reserves of oil and water, but most of the people in that war-torn country see no benefit from it. Ethiopia is 60 percent Christian, 40 percent Muslim, and is afraid to

offend its Muslim minority with anti-terrorist

"HORN" ON PAGE SIX

## CONFLUENCE BOOKS COMMUNITY CENTER AND RADICAL BOOKSTORE

One of the advantages of horizontalist, leaderless resistance is that if the head gets chopped off, it sprouts a new one somewhere else from its strong roots. Such is the case with the Confluence Collective in Grand Junction.

Founded nearly three years ago in a now defunct collectivist house, the collective has risen strongly, with its new incarnation as a bookstore in the new White Hall Village collection of businesses, at 600 White Avenue. We will be sharing space with The Heart of the Dragon, a clothing boutique, a candle making shop, and Peruvian imports. More shops are on the way as people find out about the opportunity being presented.

Confluence books will specialize in hard to find progressive, radical, alternative and sustainable books, DVDs, media and accessories. If we don't already

have what you're looking for, we will be able to quickly order it for you out of our stock of large and eclectic catalogs.

The Confluence Collective is stoked about this exciting development. We're looking forward to seeing our old friends, as well as making new ones. Come over to our grand opening, November 7-9, for our blend of rabble rousing and mirth.



### EVERY MONDAY • 7PM

Solidarity Not Charity Meets to work on creative solutions to the problems that face our community and country.

For more info 245-3720

### EVERY THURSDAY • 7PM

SOLIDARITY FEED meets to coordinate donations and the cooking to feed homeless people in a DIY fashion.

For more info 245-3720

## A CASE FOR CANNABIS

Many people have been umming and erring about this topic. Now, let me make the point for legalization of marijuana.

The main concern raised, is that the amounts of THC in marijuana have increased recently. I beg to differ. In England they have a name for this THC increased drug. Smack. Yes it seems to be more dangerous, or so the government claims, because of the increased THC. However even in the much more potent Smack there is still nowhere near enough THC to kill someone.

A danger that has been mentioned is that marijuana is dangerous because it can be cut with other stuff to "bulk it up". Many studies have shown this to be the case and linked the development of unfortunate side effects. However, this just makes

because they haven't taken a look at the statistics. Yes the majority of cocaine users may have started smoking marijuana. However, take a look at the pot users who HAVEN'T gone on to harder drugs. (About 97% if I remember correctly).

In fact, if the US legalized it then it would mean that users would be less likely to go onto harder drugs as the shady dealer would not be there trying to push the harder, more expensive drugs onto the user. Legalizing it would also reduce gang crime.

By under cutting the cost of growing marijuana, the government would undercut the street gangs much more dodgy products, meaning they would lose considerable funding,

thereby removing firearms from the streets (applicable in UK mainly) and possibly reducing gangs overall (case point look at the alcohol prohibition laws in the states)

Next look at the benefits of

medical marijuana

the possibility to alleviate the suffering of millions worldwide.

It would be cruel to deny them it.

Yes people, the effects are largely

unknown, however, there is little

evidence either way to suggest harm or benefit. Some tests show paranoia, others improved driving skills (crazy but true).

Finally, more people die from Aspirin per year than marijuana... ever. (I would give an exact amount but it's impossible to divide by zero...) Also all those that say people are craving their next "high" it is no different to caffeine and by the way. CANNABIS IS NOT ADDICTIVE. FACT.

legalization seem much more sensible. If there are licensed vendors who are subject to the same rigorous checks by trading standards as any other retailer, the danger to the user would be a lot lower, due to the purer and higher quality of the pot they would be smoking.

The creation of state sanctioned vendors would mean that the government would be able to tax pot sales, earning them billions of dollars per year. If it was legalized then the government would save 8 billion in police costs. Something like 6 billion in prison costs and would have more revenue in coming from the tax on the pot vendors.

The argument that marijuana usage increases the chance of users going on to harder drugs is fundamentally flawed

### 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, 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/gjam\\_theredpill](http://www.myspace.com/gjam_theredpill)



## "HORN" FROM PAGE TWO

laws. Eritrea is a curious mix of Afro-Marxism, Maoism, and Baathism. Most of the residents of the Horn pledge their allegiance to individual tribes within the states.

There has certainly been a lot of military and terrorist activity in the Horn of Africa. The most infamous is probably the "Blackhawk Down" incident in Mogadishu, Somalia, where 18 Marines were killed, but there is more—1998 saw the bombing of the US Embassy in Kenya with over 250 dead and wounded. In 2000, Somali pirates attacked the U.S.S. Cole with a suicide boat, killing 17 sailors.

The pirates of lawlessness in Somalia are absolutely fierce. On March 18, 2006, they attacked the U.S.S. St. George (a cruiser) and the U.S.S. Gonzales (a destroyer) in a turf battle. On June 3, 2007, the U.S.S. Carter Hall received an S.O.S. from a freighter that was being attacked by Somali pirates. The pirates held off the Carter Hall and got away clean with the freighter's safe. Most recently, Somali pirates hijacked an Ukrainian Vessel loaded with Russian tanks and other weapons. The pirates have been in a five-week-long standoff with US and Russian Naval Forces.

Perhaps most shocking of all who only follow mainstream media, was the failed attack at Ras Kambonh, Somalia, in which five Marines were wounded and 15 were captured and taken hostage. The London Guardian reports that they were traded and released in exchange for Somali warlord Sheikh Sharif Sheik Ahmed. This omission of reporting by American media borders on criminal neglect. We are in deep in the Horn of Africa, and most Americans don't know a thing about it.

Combined Joint Task Force/Horn of

Africa (CJTF/HOTA) has a major naval and Marine presence in the main port of Djibouti. Get out an almanac and trace a line from the port of Djibouti and the Port of Basra, Iraq. Notice that this line goes directly through Saudi Arabia and its major oil fields? Think "Pincer" and you see the geostrategic importance of the horn.

Since the beginning of 2007 the United States has launched at least eight different airstrikes against Islamists in Somalia.

Of course, no discussion of the Horn of Africa would be complete without mentioning Sudan, the largest country in Africa. Sudan is in full-on civil war and is host to terminal basket case Darfur. As previously mentioned, Darfur holds vast oil reserves, but the Chinese beat the Brits and the Yanks to it. As long as the US covets oil in Darfur, it will foment civil war there. As long as there is civil war there, Sudanese will suffer. We can and must speak up louder about Darfur.

There is nuance to the horn. Kenya, for example, makes a great host country. If you are a terrorist, relocating to the horn of Africa, you'll of course smuggle in through Djibouti or Somalia, but you'll want to end up in Kenya. Kenya has lax immigration laws, phones and ATMs that work and relatively poor government intelligence. The country has lost track of what its people are doing. One of the things that people in Kenya have been doing is joining the terrorist group Al Ittihad As Islamaya, the largest such group in the horn.

So expect things to intensify in the Horn of Africa. When you hear the words "Operation Enduring Freedom," make a quick mental note to remember that it's not just Afghanistan. Our troops are already in Africa, and all signs point to further deterioration. •

that I'm being reckless or careless with my son. And for the reasons above, I disagree. Sure if I hadn't had my son at the protests, I would've participated in more risky actions, I would've been blocin' up with all my friends new and old. However, becoming a parent means that you have other responsibilities and more important things to look after, but that doesn't mean I won't participate—that I won't fight for something more than we have so that our children will have more—so that in the future, they can take to the streets and fight for what's right. •

## PROTESTING WITH KIDS

Ever since it was revealed that the Democratic National Convention was going to be held in Denver, I was excited and planning to go. When I found out fifteen months ago that I was pregnant, it didn't change my plans to go to the DNC.

My son is seven months old and the DNC was his first national protest. I felt it important that he come with me, though he is not old enough to remember the experience. I feel parents have just as much a right to be at protests and let their voices be heard. I understand there are some parents who would choose not bring their kids to a potentially volatile situation, but it's not like I was on the front lines throwing molotovs at the cops while he snoozed in his sling.

I made the choice that I would only

participate in permitted and safe marches. Granted, if the cops chose to be assholes at those events, I would've been making alternative plans, but for the most part, as long as the march was permitted, they obliged us. Personally, I don't believe in the idea that we have to have a permit to exercise our first amendment rights to freely assemble, but the cops supposedly had a zero tolerance policy on unpermitted marches and I was not going to take the risk of getting arrested or assaulted by the cops. Much of our time was spent in the park

hangin' out with Food Not Bombs or listening to kick ass poets, musicians and speakers.

I'm definitely not the only one to bring their kids to protests, but I wish more parents would. I think it is important for our

"KIDS" ON PAGE SIX



Author featured in the Rocky Mountain Post during the DNC.

## "PROTEST FROM PAGE ONE

experienced harassment and intimidation from the GJPD in the days since the event, including visits to their homes and workplaces. Three patrol cars followed Sanstedt on Tuesday as he skateboarded seven blocks from his home to a friend's residence downtown. Another four patrol cars parked outside his home for more than an hour. On Wednesday, the GJPD made multiple visits to the workplaces of both Mallory Rice and Jacob Richards, unnecessarily endangering their employment. "Having the police harass me at work puts my job at risk," stated Rice, a Youth Mentor for at-risk children.

On Tuesday, prior to being charged, all three demonstrators filed formal complaints with the GJPD for excessive use of force. Both Richards and Rice have visible scrapes and bruises from the assault they suffered at the hands of the GJPD. While filing their complaints, they voluntarily made their identities and contact information known to the police for use in the criminal investigation. "We told the police to just give us a call if they needed us, not to come harass us at our homes and places of employment," explained Jacob Richards. "They were putting out a call

for tips that would lead to our identities on Crimestoppers, while we were sitting in their lobby all day waiting to speak with them."

KREX TV reported Wednesday evening that the department had reviewed the complaints and cleared the officers of any wrong doing. The police are likely to be issuing more summons in the future. CNN reported Acting Chief, Troy Smith of the GJPD, as saying, "the protesters were members of a group called 'red pill.'" The Red Pill is actually a publication which is a part of the alternative media group, Grand Junction Alternative Media and was not associated with Monday's action.

Another demonstrator, Richard Crespin, filed a formal complaint because his camera was destroyed by a man waiting in line to enter the Palin event. The officers who witnessed this act of property destruction refused to question the man or press charges, though Crespin asked them repeatedly to do so. •

Video can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xrflmr98C-Q>

## Support the RNC 8

Support activists charged with terrorism for organizing protests against the St. Paul Republican National Convention.

<http://rnc8.org>

## Saturdays • 5:00PM

Solidarity Not Charity feeds anyone and everyone who needs it at Whitman Park

The Feed meets on Thursdays at  
Confluence Books

## Saturdays • 11:30AM

Get involved with The Red Pill,  
we have weekly meetings.

Confluence Books  
600 White Ave. Suite 302. Grand Junction, CO

## Wednesday, November 5th, 2008 • 5PM

Drinking Liberally Get together and celebrate your  
Victory

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



# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

## —PHOTO ESSAY—



One of Denver's finest eavesdrops on protesters below.



Monday, August 25th Prisoner's Rights Day. Protesters kneel in front officers in front of the Denver Federal Courthouse.



Thursday, August 28th Immigrants Rights Day. Thousands march to support immigrants.



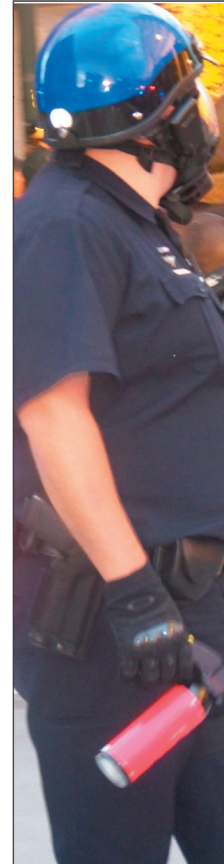
Nike Town and other corporate giants had their own police protection.



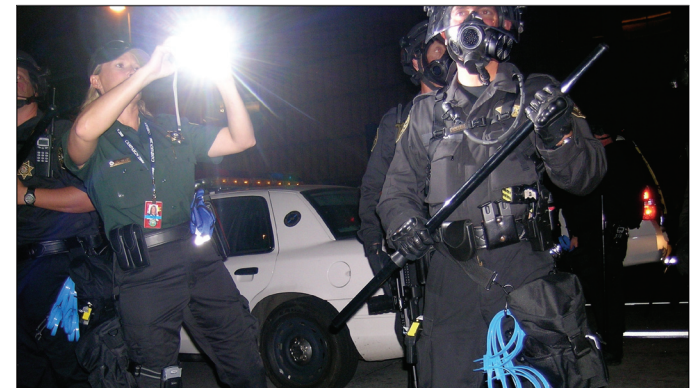
Denver Police raid the convergence center hours before the Iraq Veterans Against the War march. The bulldozer is scooping up sign making materials



IVAW leads 10,000 people to the gates of the DNC, in an unpermitted march to demand an immediate withdraw of forces from Iraq.



This officer doesn't even fit in the frame.



Monday, August 25th police arrested dozens, deployed chemical weapons and discharged pepper-ball guns, and trapped hundreds more including Red Pill photographers, for hours against a building.