

## SIR, NO SIR

1st Lieutenant Ehren Wahtada of the U.S. Army is being court martialled for "failing to follow a direct order" and for "conduct unbecoming an officer." Simply put, Wahtada claims the war in Iraq is illegal and immoral. His claim is backed by two former United Nation's Human Rights Commissioners and a retired U.S. Army General.

Furthermore, Wahtada has cited Nuremberg principles, guidelines that developed after the trials of Nazi war criminals. Ordinary "good Germans" who claimed that they were "just following orders" were found guilty, punished, and in some cases, executed.

Wahtada's basis for legal grounds is the U.N. ban on Planning, initiating, or engaging in an illegal war of aggression. Iraq had no WMDs, was not involved with Al Qaeda, and the U.N. did not authorize the invasion. The simple, legal truth is that the U.S. war in Iraq is illegal.

The U.N. goes on to say that any person who commits a war crime is responsible. The fact that the person had a moral ability to resist makes him or her guilty. Also, the fact that the order to commit a war crime comes from above is no excuse. All of this is plenty of information to acquit Wahtada out of hand. However, just like stepping through the looking glass with Alice, everything is bass ackwards.

On January 18th, the presiding Judge ruled that the legality or illegality of the war is not on the table. Neither is the fact that Wahtada's activities have all taken place on his own time, out of uniform, and he has not asked anyone to join him. Nor is it admissible that Wahtada was volunteered for combat duty in Afghanistan.

His is an old fashioned railroad kangaroo court case. It's designed to crush dissent and free thought in the ranks. However, it's not working so well for the Army. The group, Iraqi Veteran's Against the War has over 1,000 members and is still growing.

Wahtada's own words sum up his situation best. "When I look my children in the eye in the future, or when I'm at the end of my life, I want to look back and know that at an important moment, when I had the opportunity to make the right decisions, I did so, even knowing there were negative consequences."

# State of Disunion

NUMBER OF MEDIA CORPORATIONS that controlled 50% of the Media in 1982: 50

NUMBER OF MEDIA CORPORATIONS that control 90% of the Media today: 8

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES at the Third National Conference For Media Reform: 3500

NUMBER OF UNMANNED US SPY PLANES that Iran has shot down over their territory: 2

YEAR THAT Gary Powers' U2 spy plane was shot down over the former USSR: 1960

NUMBER OF US MILITARY OFFICERS that have refused orders to deploy to Iraq: 1

NUMBER OF US SOLDIERS that deserted from 2003-2004: 5500

NUMBER OF US TROOPS killed during the month of December: 109

PERCENT OF THE NATION'S WEALTH controlled by the top 1% of Americans: 38

PERCENT OF THE NATION'S WEALTH controlled by the bottom 20% of Americans: <1

## 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



THREE YEAR

ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY 2007

VOL. 5 NO. 1



## FEAR AND LOATHING IN MEMPHIS

We were three deep, broke, and running from a world of trouble down in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, as we rolled into Memphis for the National Conference on Media Reform. Cash would be tight, especially since two of us had the long drive back to Colorado to budget for. Our monetary restrictions led us to living like bums.

Drinking beer the evening of Thursday, Jan. 11th, in a vacant lot in the rusting industrial belt of the city, we pondered our options for shelter for the night. We plotted and planned on finding a bridge to sleep under, but then noticed that the door of the abandoned factory right in front of us was ajar, and a hole had been cut into the fence... this looked promising. Armed with a two throwing knives, one buck knife, one .38 special snub-nose, Mag-lights, and head torches, we investigated long after dark and found it adequate. Living in the shadows, as so many of this nation's poor do, life is worth your sleeping bag and the wrinkled six dollars in your wallet, and hence our readiness for self defense. We squatted one room of the factory on the ground floor for the next three nights, barricading ourselves in with a pallet and two scraps of plywood.

Another traveling Red Pill writer and I registered for the conference and headed towards the Gibson Guitar Factory where [savetheinternet.org](http://savetheinternet.org) was hosting a pre-party. In route, we ran into Beale St., a neon-artery of music, drunkenness, and expensive beer. Henderson, a local poor African American, who showed us the cheap convenience store to buy some beer and drank one with us, said that Beale St. "Used to be about black musicians and black culture, and now it's just a bunch of rich white drunk people and \$6-a-beer dives." After our beer with Henderson at a bus stop behind the Fed-Ex Event Center, we were followed by Memphis PD for 6 blocks or so, for "Drinking with a Negro In Public," as far as we could guess, until we dipped into the the pre-party at the guitar

factory; keep in mind, this is the City where MLK was shot.

Matthew, a fresh faced red-bearded, anarchist from upstate New York, hitched a ride with us from New Orleans to Memphis and wasn't registered for the conference, so he had to lie his way into the party. "I left my registration bag in my room. I have a pin," he said, pointing to the free pin we snagged from the organizers freebie table earlier. "Okay," said the middle-aged liberal lady working the table. We ate three plates of the free chips and chile con queso and salsa, and got one thirty something radical to buy us all a round of the \$5 domestic beers. We finished the night at Westy's, a dark dive, 10 blocks from our squat, with \$3 PBR's

The next morning, we awoke early and left the abandoned factory, jobs probably out-sourced to Singapore, before dawn, and found a cheap all-night diner on Poplar Ave, for breakfast, and a Kinkos, to xerox Matthew a counterfeit pass to get into the conference.

Coffee at the Cook Convention Center Down Town Memphis was \$3-something a cup, so we snagged used cups out of the trash and got free refills, and for lunch we collected all the fruit bowls that had just cantaloupe or honeydew left in them and combined them and had three helpings of fruit salad for free. Another day, a sweet Atlanta girl gave us leftover pizza and bagles.

The highlight of the entire conference was the opening session with Bill Moyers, who rightly called the US a "plantation," and used the stump to announce his return to the air waves in April on PBS, with a weekly news hour to be called, "Bill Moyers Journal." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLK-rK3rfW8> & <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaK3ISVU68k>

With the exception of some brilliant documentaries screened during the conference, most the plenaries,

**"LOATHING" ON PAGE TWO**

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THREE YEARS

BE THE MEDIA!

VOLUME FIVE



### “LOATHING” FROM PAGE ONE

sessions, panels, and breakouts were stuffed with wealthy, white liberals and lacked the racial and economic diversity that earlier conferences had. Gone were the indymedia activists, zinesters, pirate-radio folks, underground newspapers, and so were the college activists by and large. Danny Schechter, the news dissector, summed up much of my criticism of the Conference in an article, “What Next For Media Reform” saying, “I felt that Media Reform as a concept has been narrowed in scope and focused on legislative lobbying by lawyers and professionals inside the beltway, narrowed to a series of buzzwords like, “net neutrality,” turned into a support group for two good, but potentially co-optable FCC Commissioners and “pragmatic” members of Congress, “big names” in showbiz and politics, but with only a handful of grass roots leaders. Here was Dennis Kucinich, for example, asking activists to tell him what to do about media, as if he had no ideas of his own.” <http://www.buzzflash.com/articles/contributors/721>

I would add that having the conference in hotels with \$100 rooms is off-putting to many low-income activists, even with the special student/activist price of \$75 for the conference. I showed in terms lack of diversity.

Friday night, we had two forties each, a pint of rot-gut-whiskey, and a few beers before heading out to a political theater action on Beile Street at 11pm.. Along the way, we met up with a 9/11 documentary maker who walked with us to the action and provided a few beers, which we drank while walking through downtown Memphis. The action consisted of giant Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Condoleezza paper mache masks, fake chains, white and black striped prison uniforms.. They were one person short, and I was suddenly putting on prison garb and Bush's giant head.

At first, we got a warm reception, getting our

picture taken with stumby bar patrons, meeting two Marines that thanked us and got their picture taken with us. But soon, someone was yelling, Condi was flipping the bird, and some young bundle of testosterone punched Condi, then me in the paper mache face. Like hockey, I ripped off my mask and rushed into the nearby bar in pursuit of our attacker and was met with a yellow wall of bouncer and then everything went crazy...I was being choked...Matthew was screaming, “He’s non-violent,” and my fellow Red Pill writer threw a bouncer...and then he got tackled by two bouncers...the attacker tried to come back out...a real bench clearer. A miraculously timed taxi airlifted us to safety. The scuffle even made it into the blogosphere at:

[http://www.rawstory.com/news/2007/Bush\\_chain\\_gang\\_attacked\\_in\\_Memphis\\_0117.html](http://www.rawstory.com/news/2007/Bush_chain_gang_attacked_in_Memphis_0117.html)

We drank beer while Geena Davis, the actress spoke, in the alley, behind an abandoned store front, under a concrete overhang, staying out of the drizzle. “Star power” was what the media reform movement was supposed to be against, but rather it had become using old paradigms to repackage and sell the new center left. We decided to skip Jane Fonda’s address for the same reason in favor of dashing west into a massive ice storm.

Reform or revolution was on my mind driving out of Memphis. Dr Martin Luther King Jr. was shot here in Memphis for calling for a social revolution, against extreme wealth and war, and today little of his ‘dream’ has been accomplished by working within the system. Media Reform had the ‘message of the day’ lock step that makes neo-cons so frustrating. A media revolution is what is needed, not liberal media reform. Or to quote Michael Faranti of Spearhead, “bomb, bomb, the truth shall come, take over television and radio stations.”

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### “VIETNAM” FROM PAGE SIX

Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken -- the role of those who make peaceful revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investment.

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a “thing-oriented” society to a “person-oriented” society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look

across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say: “This is not just.” It will look at our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America and say: “This is not just.” The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just. A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war: “This way of settling differences is not just.” This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into veins of people normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood.

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## IRAN SHOTS DOWN UNMANNED US SPY PLANE, AGAIN

Chinese news services reported, on Jan. 16th, that Iran had shot down an unmanned US spy plane near the border between Iran and Iraq. The reports quote Iranian Parliament member, Seyed Nezam Mola Hoveizeh, as saying that a US spy plane was shot down “during the last few days,” and that “the United States sent such spy drones to the region every now and then.”

News of the downed spy plane comes as the US has been increasing military pressure on Iran. It has also been reported that the USS John C. Stennis, a Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was going to arrive in the Persian Gulf in about a month. This battle group would join up with the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain. It would be the first time since the invasion of Iraq that the US has had two aircraft carrier battle groups in the Middle East.

US media has reported that US drone spy planes have been violating Iranian air space since 2004, and on April 9th of last year, the Hardline Iranian newspaper,

*Jumhuri Eslami*, reported that a “plane had taken off from Iraq and was filming border areas,” when it was shot down, and that “officials have obtained information from the plane system and recordings.”

It’s the Cold War all over again, but with no Gary Powers, and no media coverage. •



#### Every Friday • Noon

A Voice of Reason holds a lunch hour peace vigil to end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the intersection of 12th and North.

#### Every Monday • 5PM

Grand Junction’s peace group, A Voice of Reason meets to discuss and act on issues surrounding the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Call 245-3720 for more info and meeting place

#### 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, Spekulationz, Planet Earth, The Needle Cottage, Kleen Sting, Colorado Java, Himalayan Feeling, Contemporary Glass Works, Change Skateboards, Coffee Muggers, Triple Play Records.

Download the Red Pill at: <http://colorado.indymedia.org>.

Become our friend on [myspace.com](http://myspace.com) @ [http://www.myspace.com/gjam\\_theredpill](http://www.myspace.com/gjam_theredpill)



## BEYOND VIETNAM, I MEAN IRAQ

*Editor's note: the following is an excerpt from Martin Luther Kings speech "Beyond Vietnam."*

*The speech was given April 4th 1967 at the Riverside Church in New York City, exactly one year before he was murdered. MLK's anti-war and anti-poverty activism is not talked about as we remember him. With the exception of MSNBC, who applaudingly broadcasted the speech in its entirety, no mainstream media outlets mentioned this speech. A full transcript can be found at <http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~sw/mlk/brkslnc.htm>.*

Meanwhile we in the churches and synagogues have a continuing task while we urge our government to disengage itself from a disgraceful commitment. We must continue to raise our voices if our nation persists in its perverse ways in Vietnam. We must be prepared to match actions with words by seeking out every creative means of protest possible.

As we counsel young men concerning military service we must clarify for them our nation's role in Vietnam and challenge them with the alternative of conscientious objection. I am pleased to say that this is the path now being chosen by more than seventy students at my own alma mater, Morehouse College, and I recommend it to all who find the American course in Vietnam a dishonorable and unjust one. Moreover I would encourage all ministers of draft age to give up their ministerial exemptions and seek status as conscientious objectors. These are the times for real choices and not false ones. We are at the moment when our lives must be placed on the line if our nation is to survive its own folly. Every man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we must all protest.

There is something seductively tempting about stopping there and sending us all off on what in some circles has become a popular crusade against the war in Vietnam. I say we must enter the struggle, but I wish to go on now to say something even more disturbing. The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit, and if we ignore this sobering reality we will find ourselves organizing clergy- and laymen-concerned committees for the next generation. They will be concerned about Guatemala and Peru. They will be concerned about Thailand and Cambodia. They will be concerned about Mozambique and South Africa. We will be marching for these and a dozen other names and attending rallies without end unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy. Such thoughts take us beyond Vietnam, but not beyond our calling as sons of the living God.

In 1957 a sensitive American official overseas said that it seemed to him that our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution. During the past ten years we have seen emerge a pattern of suppression which now has justified the presence of U.S. military "advisors" in Venezuela. This need to maintain social stability for our investments accounts for the counter-revolutionary action of American forces in Guatemala. It tells why American helicopters are being used against guerrillas in Colombia and why American napalm and Green Beret forces have already been active against rebels in Peru. It is with such activity in mind that the words of the late John F. Kennedy come back to haunt us. Five years ago he said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

**"VIETNAM" ON PAGE SEVEN**

**Monday, February 8th • 5:30PM**

WeCan will be hosting Greg Shaffer, who will be able to present the facts about global warming. Based on "An Inconvenient Truth."  
*Saccomanno Lecture Hall in the MSC Science Building.*

**Saturday, March 24 • 10AM-6PM**

Denver ZineFest and Small Press Conference. Zine and small press expo, demo's, and conference.  
For more info go to:  
[www.denverzinefest.com](http://www.denverzinefest.com)

## MOPEDIN' IT IN GRAND JUNCTION

With the price of gas and car insurance, and the bus having a few downfalls, I had to figure something else out to get around town where and when I needed to. I had seen people riding them around town and I thought they may be fun. So I went down and I bought a little 49cc "scooter" last year when they went on sale for winter.

Since I bought mine in the winter, I learned to bundle up. I also learned to wear protective gear after my first little spill on the way to class earlier this fall, which resulted in a broken elbow and some gnarly road rash. They make coats with protection pad for just this reason and a helmet serves a dual purpose of protecting your noggin while keeping your head warm.

I love my scooter and I had no idea what a conversation starter the little thing was going to be. Gas attendants always smile when I come into pay for a full tank of gas, which usually costs me about two dollars. This works good for a college student. You can just smile at someone at the gas station who is filling up their tank and usually they will be actually excited to fill up your tank or give you some change which usually gets me about a half tank. Friends want to test drive it or join me for a quick spin. Guys are always surprised to see a girl unafraid to brave the cold and give me props for doing so. In fact, more

guys have flirted with in owning my moped in the past year then in all of my car-cruzin' high school days.

Besides looking like a bad ass chick, I feel like I am doing my part in fuel conservation. I hear so many people complaining about the price of gas, as if there are no ways around spending \$50 a week on gas. Even if you own a car, scooters/mopeds are a great way of getting around town and saving a little dough, and who can complain with that.

People always ask me questions so here are a few facts:

You ARE required to where eye protection, and that could be as little as a pair of clear or regular sunglasses.

You do NOT have to have insurance, but you are SUPPOSED to register it, which costs about five bucks. I never have, and I have been pulled over three times without this being even so much as mentioned, but you probably should if you don't have charm and good looks working on your side.

You're NOT supposed to ride three people on a moped, I was pulled over twice for this. Well, it is possible, but not legal. Although it was fun and the cops laughed about it, I wouldn't try it at home.

## BANDAR'S \$135 MILLION FUCK YOU TO HUMANITY



Around the state and the nation, much media coverage has been dedicated to Saudi Prince Bandar's Aspen house being placed on the market. The estate has an asking price of \$135 million and is the most expensive asking price for a residence ever in the United States. The stately manor sits on 95 acres and is 56,000 square feet with sixteen bathrooms and fifteen bedrooms. If you're thinking about it, the monthlies on it for a thirty year bank note would be in the \$700,000 range.

One thing that has not been mentioned in any of the media reports about Prince Bandar's house is how insane it is that one has so much while billions starve

around the world. The asking price of \$135 million would be enough dough to provide 17,876 American students with a year of public education. The Prince's house would be enough money to provide 115,384,620 meals for the homeless at an average of \$1.17 per meal, and enough for 20,769,231 nights of shelter for America's homeless. The value of Bandar's estate would be enough to provide treatment to 275,510 AIDS patients for one year in Africa.

When one person has enough wealth to buy a \$135 million Aspen home, how many people must inherently do without the necessities to live?

**Saturday, January 27 • 12PM-1PM**

A Voice of Reason will be holding a peace vigil on the corner of 12th and North in solidarity with the United For Peace and Justice protest in D.C on the same day.  
*Corner of 12th and North Ave*

**Monday, February 1st • 5:30PM**

WeCan will be hosting a screening of Al Gore's Film "An Inconvenient Truth." It is a must see.  
*Saccomanno Lecture Hall in the MSC Science Building.*

# PHOTO ESSAY

— THREE YEARS OF THE RED PILL —

*Nuclear waste at the Cheney Storage Cell, 18 miles south of Grand Junction. Published May of 2005.*



*The end of the Uranium Trail Peace Caravan, Cotter Corporation's Canon City Uranium Mill. August 2005.*



*Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, 16 months later.*

*4000 People March Down North Avenue in support of Immigration Reform. It is Grand Junction's largest political protest. April 10, 2006*



*Gay Pride Fest. Denver June 25, 2006.*



*Inside of the Pier 57 detention center during the Republican National Convention protests. New York City, August 31st 2004. These Red Pill photos were sold to CNN, and other mainstream media, and have been used in numerous independent media projects.*

*Grand Junction Police detained twelve people for protesting Wal-Mart, and arrest one. Grand Junction, December 3, 2005*



*Left-wing Presidential candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador demonstration in Queretaro, Mexico. March 2006.*

