

## GI SPECIAL 7D2:



## Obamaville's

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 29, 2009  
Subject: Obamaville's

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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### Obamaville's

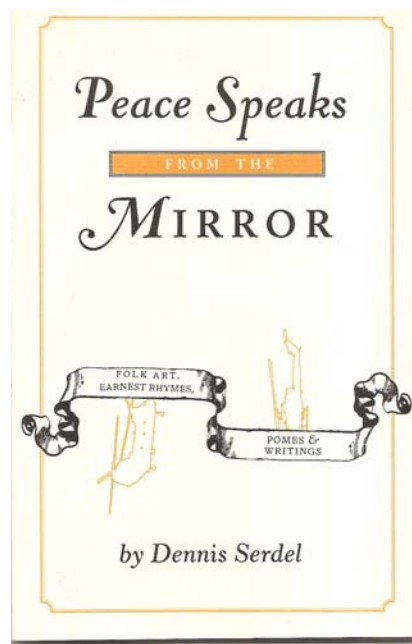
**Soldiers are fighting for the Obamaville's in Phoenix, Seattle, Portland, Nashville, Fresno, St. Petersburg and other towns on the outskirts in tents after their homes were foreclosed, no running water, electricity, plumbing, like you humping**

the desert, back home where the shacks are built  
of old wood, scrap metal, cardboard  
like the Iraqis live when their home  
is blown up to bricks and dust  
into an Obamaville while we have empty houses  
that people can Not live in and you,  
our brave Soldiers will be coming home  
to homelessness and Billionaires, Millionaires  
who have robbed Americans but they  
already have money but they want power  
like Hitler's, Mussolini's, Pinochet's, Franco's  
Stalin's so high in the sky that they  
think they are gods and as long as they have  
Blackwaters and American Soldiers to prop  
them up, this will be how it will be  
cities bombed by AIG's, furniture  
and personal belongings kicked out  
of their homes  
by the Bank Of America because  
the bailed out Banks, Insurance and Mortgage  
Companies have taken over the Treasury  
and the Federal Reserve but Congress  
can Not stop them as they gang rape  
the American Dream  
like a giant dark Enron whose Shareholders  
are the Taxpayers brought on  
by decades of De-regulations that  
allowed these Bail-looter to cook the books  
with weasel language to make money  
out of air because the Democrats  
tired of running for office with just  
Union money and Special interests  
deleted the rest of FDR's regulations  
and took the Bailouters big money  
to compete on election day  
and they won but with strings  
so Obama says hey, how many Billions do  
you need because a Revolution just  
took place as the Bail-looters just say hey,  
do you want a world money meltdown,  
pension money gone, more Workers  
with lost jobs, GM and Companies  
going down as Congress and Obama  
fight over Mexican Workers, Bailout bonuses  
but say No, because their deal  
with the Bail-Looter's Mafia

comes with a gun pointed at their heads  
as the government folds it's hand  
and says you Win as another Obamaville  
family pitches their tent  
while the Rich Bankers Bail Out Rich Bankers  
using the Taxpayer Credit Card  
forming Megamonsters with Trillions  
of paper money by secret weasel language  
that Americans can Not understand  
created that way on purpose  
to keep the people Slaves  
that aids the Bailouters  
as Obama blows up houses  
in Afghanistan and Pakistan  
producing more Obamavilles  
and enemies  
along the way.

**MORE:**

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Michigan 48872

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Or payment can be made by well hidden American dollars in a Registered Mailing.

Let me know.

Dennis Serdel

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Bad Moon Rising**

April 2, 2009 Associated Press

BAGHDAD -- At least 25 percent of the Awakening Council paramilitaries who staged an uprising last weekend in Baghdad after their leader was arrested escaped with their weapons, Iraqi security officers said yesterday.

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### **That Says It All**

March 31, 2009 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Britain turned over coalition command of the oil-rich south to the United States on Tuesday in the first step toward withdrawing virtually all British troops by July.

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**“Mililitants Rejoining The Fight In  
Areas That Are Largely Quiet  
Now”**

**“Insurgent Groups Activating  
Networks Of Sleeper Cells,**

# **Striking Government And Civilian Targets”**

**“A New Weapon Has Appeared:  
Russian-Made RKG-3 Grenades Can  
Penetrate The American Military’s  
Latest Heavily Armored Vehicle”**

**“Farther East, In Diyala Province, The  
Situation Is Worse. Attacks Are Now  
Increasing”**

April 1, 2009 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — As the American military prepares to withdraw from Iraqi cities, Iraqi and American security officials say that militants are rejoining the fight in areas that are largely quiet now, regrouping as a smaller but still lethal insurgency.

There is much debate as to whether any new insurgency, at a time of relative calm in most of Iraq, could ever produce the same levels of violence as existed at the height of the fighting here.

A recent series of attacks, however, like bubbles that indicate fish beneath still water, suggest the potential danger, all the more perilous now because the American troops that helped to pacify Iraq are leaving.

Assassination attempts on members of the Awakening, some of them former insurgents who switched sides for pay, are rising, as are fears that some are joining Islamic extremists or other insurgent groups.

A new weapon has appeared in Iraq: Russian-made RKG-3 grenades, which weigh just five pounds and, attached to parachutes, can be lobbed by a teenager but can penetrate the American military’s latest heavily armored vehicle, the MRAP.

The grenades cost as little as \$10, according to American military officials, who would not say how often they have killed soldiers.

Military officers, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the news media, say they have reduced the number of jihadi militants to under 2,000, from about 3,800.

Other officials, Iraqi and American, are more worried.

They observe jihadi and other insurgent groups activating networks of sleeper cells, who are already striking government and civilian targets.

Among the most powerful now is Nashqabandi, which is believed to have ties to a former Hussein deputy, Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri.

In interviews with 14 leaders of the Awakening movement, all said they believed that the jihadi presence in their areas had increased, as American troops began to close combat outposts or hand them over to the Iraqi Army, a first step toward withdrawing entirely.

**The Awakening leaders reported signs of trouble: assassination attempts, homemade bombs placed near their homes or under their cars, leaflets urging them not to work with the Iraqi government.**

**“We notice when there is a bomb buried on a back road where there has not been one before,” said Sheik Awad al-Harbousi, whose Awakening group works in Taji, north of Baghdad, much of it empty country traversed by rugged dirt roads.**

One of his fighters was killed three weeks ago and two were wounded.

In Dhuluiya, in eastern Salahuddin Province, deep in the Tigris River Valley, Mullah Nadhim al-Jubori, a onetime insurgent linked to Islamic extremists who became an Awakening leader, worries that the situation is fraying.

He ticked off seven troubling events over the last month, including the abduction of four of his men. Two were executed and two were released after paying a ransom.

“The ransom was picked up in Baghdad,” he said. “That tells me there is good coordination and organization.”

A few of his followers have changed sides. During the last four months, 12 Awakening members were arrested as double agents, accused of killing Awakening leaders, Mr. Nadhim said.

Farther east, in Diyala Province, the situation is worse.

The insurgency has never been fully eradicated there, according to the American and Iraqi military. The province’s geography favors those who know its dry high hills, empty patches of desert and thick groves of date palms.

While the province is far more secure than in 2006 and 2007, when the provincial capital, Baquba, was known locally as “the city of death,” attacks are now increasing.

Ali Al-Tamimi, the chief of the Provincial Council’s security committee, predicted an increase in violence both in Baghdad and in Baquba because the security commanders have not acted on warnings about the growing activities of armed groups within an hour of Baghdad.

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## HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers secure the area in front of two cars damaged from a roadside bomb in Bab al Sheik street, Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008. The roadside bomb targeted a government convoy, injured six people, police and hospital officials said. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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## Resistance Action

03/30/09 Reuters & 31 Mar 2009 Reuters & April 1 (Reuters) & Apr 2 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

A bomb attached to the car of an intelligence officer in the interior ministry killed him and another passenger and wounded eight passers-by on Sunday in Adhamiya district, northern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents in a car shot dead Abdullah Al-Sebaawi, a local leader of the Iraqi Islamic [collaborator] Party, on Sunday in the city of **Mosul**, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

An official who looks after mosques was killed by a bomb planted under his car in northern Baghdad's Adhamiya district, police said.

A sticky bomb attached to a car wounded three police officers in the city of Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

Four police officers were killed, and 40 others wounded when a bomber drove an explosives-laden truck into the compound of a police station in **Mosul**, north of Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb wounded one policeman in **Mosul**, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In Baghdad, two insurgents firing from a car killed an Iraqi army officer in the Mansour district Thursday afternoon, police said.

Militants also hurled a grenade at an American patrol Thursday on Palestine Street in east Baghdad, wounding two civilians, police said. There were no reports of U.S. casualties.

In the northern city of **Mosul**, a roadside bomb exploded near a small restaurant frequented by police, wounding four of them and a civilian, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded four Iraqi soldiers when it struck their vehicle in northern **Mosul**, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded five policemen and a civilian near a police checkpoint in central **Mosul**, police said.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **'Midlothian's Son' Killed By Piece Of Shit Recruiter' Lies**



Sgt. Christopher Abeyta

March 18, 2009 BY LAUREN FITZPATRICK Staff writer, Southtown Star

Barbara Abeyta remembers the day her son, her only child, Christopher, still a student at Bremen High School, told her he was joining the Illinois National Guard.



**He sat in 2002 in her home in Midlothian, a little condo just off 147th Street, with the recruiter and laid out his plan to enlist.**

**He wouldn't have to go to war, she was told.**

**He wouldn't even have to leave the state unless he wanted to.**

**"I remember the day they were at my kitchen table, and I told them, 'This is my only son, he isn't going to go to war, right?' and they said, 'Oh no, ma'am, he won't leave the state unless he wants to,' which they lied (about) or I was naive, OK?" she said through tears Tuesday, the day the Guard publicly released the news that her son had been killed Sunday in Afghanistan along with three other American troops.**

Sgt. Abeyta had survived a year in Iraq and was on his second deployment in eastern Afghanistan, in the region that borders Pakistan, when the vehicle he was riding in hit an improvised explosive device set by the Taliban. He had been providing security for the coalition sent to rebuild the war-ravaged nation's infrastructure — its damaged roads, hospitals and schools.

He was serving in a region where violence flared up recently as the Taliban retaliated against a recent surge of international troops.

"It's funny, I didn't worry as much as the time he was in Iraq because I figured, he's coming home. He's coming home again. You still dread that's going to happen in the back of your mind, but he's coming home, you think."

Because he made it home once before, she said.

Before Abeyta left for Afghanistan via Fort Bragg, N.C., in August, he told reporters, "My mom is taking it pretty hard. I'm a mama's boy, so I know she's hurting as much as me."

Barbara Abeyta said she cried at learning he was going back.

"I decided he's a man, it's his life. I raised him right, so if this is what he wanted, I would have to live with it."

While deployed, he wrote entries in his ever-present journal, stories on two blogs and letters to his family. His mother held tightly Tuesday to one from November, which she read aloud on her back patio, demanding that his grandmother, Elvira Abeyta, and local veterans gathered around her know the man she raised.

"I know you don't enjoy the path I have chosen for myself but trust me it's so very rewarding," she read. "You know I know it bothers you that I am here. ... but what kind of person would I be, Ma, if I didn't try to make this better.

"OK?" she said at the end. "That's my son."

The Abeyta home in Midlothian has become a display case for Chris' photos and commendations. Pictures of him brandishing guns, and showing off a monkey he

bought overseas that climbed on his head. His medals sit in a frame on the dining room table, next to scrapbooks from his childhood and military service.

Which are almost the same time periods since he enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 2002 while still a Bremen High School student, a little bit fired up from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. A 2002 yearbook photo shows him and some fellow sophomores holding up a giant flag sign made in honor of those killed on 9-11.

“We signed up for the same reason every 18-year-old kid after Sept. 11, 2001, signed up. I had the urge to do something with my life. They offered free tuition,” said Jon Mireles, 25, his best friend since they were both students at grade school in Robbins.

Abeyta grew up in the south suburbs, in Markham and Midlothian, and graduated from Bremen in 2003, where he was a very well-liked wrestler.

Bremen High School athletic director Jim Matlon said Abeyta was a three-sport athlete in school, excelling in track, football and wrestling.

But he also had him in his accounting class for two years. Matlon remembered Abeyta being an excellent student as well as polite and respectful of others.

“Chris came back to school periodically to address my senior-level economics classes to give them first-hand view of foreign countries. He was excited about serving his country. That was one thing he prided himself on. He enjoyed the service and was committed.

“He was always a top-notch student. He was so task- and goal-oriented. That’s why he was such a good person for the service. When you gave him a challenge, he was always a task-master and detail oriented,” Matlon said.

Abeyta was a self-described writer, who had kept a journal since he was 11. He read a lot, and listened to music. He cheered up his friends with a goofy sense of humor.

“I get really annoyed with people who think they are better than anyone else or are too big of yuppie to hang out on the South Side,” is the first message greeting anyone visiting Abeyta on his MySpace page.

Abeyta enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in May 2002, while still at Bremen, partly as a reaction to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, partly to join his best friend, Jon Mireles, who had already signed up. Abeyta stayed in after Mireles’ term ended.

“I said, ‘Chris, I think this is something you would like,’ “ Mireles said. “He turned out to like it a lot more than I did.”

Between tours, Abeyta graduated in 2007 from Harold Washington College in Chicago with an associate degree. He had been working as a criminal background investigator. But he had told his mother only recently he finally found his calling. He meant to stay in the military and become a paramedic. The medic training he received to be promoted to sergeant just felt right, and made him want to continue down that path, he told her.

Abeyta died during a particularly violent weekend in Afghanistan, which, according to wire reports, left nine international soldiers and three Afghan civilians dead. His vehicle

carried two other Guardsmen from his 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Woodstock. Also killed were Spc. Robert M. Weinger, 24, of Round Lake Beach, Ill., and Spc. Norman L. Cain III, 22, of Mount Morris, Ill.

Abeyta and Weinger were taken from Kot, the tiny town in the eastern region where they were attacked, to Jalalabad, where they later died. Cain and a fourth man riding with them, Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy L. Bowles, 24, of Tucson, Ariz., died on the spot.

**Eight members of the 33rd IBCT the Illinois National Guard have lost their lives since Feb. 24 in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sgt. Simone Robinson, 21, of University Park, died March 1 in Afghanistan.**

**Eleven have been killed since the 33rd deployed in October. The Guard as a whole has lost 27 members during the ongoing two wars.**

Abeyta's funeral arrangements are pending, according to a Guard spokeswoman. Pending the return of his body to his hometown, Mireles said. He is to be buried with full military honors at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Cmdr. Paul Klimczak of the American Legion post 691 and Reuben Pesina of the Legion and VFW Post 2580, both Midlothian veterans themselves, intend to send him off properly.

Monday morning, Klimczak handed Paul Abeyta the gold star flag that would silently herald Christopher's death in combat.

"He's Midlothian's son," Klimczak said of the town's first battle casualty since the Vietnam War, of the soldier so many in the town knew as the recipient of their care packages.

Abeyta was keenly aware of the dangers of Afghanistan, of which he wrote a few times in his blogs.

He understood that a soldier was three times more likely to be killed in Afghanistan than Iraq.

And one of his entries last fall gave him what he wrote was an "eerie feeling."

"I can't really talk too much about my work here," he wrote in November. "The Army usually frowns on blogging and I'm not one to make waves as it is.

"But I will say one thing that made the hairs stand up on my neck. I saw on a mission out how the name of our FOB came to be. Finley and Shields were two guys that lived here before me and they past as others have and will.

"I don't know specifics but I was told that (a) Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device hit their truck. As we drove by I seen where the pavement was burnt and even melted because it was so hot.--It's just an errie (eerie) feeling....."

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# Roadside Bomb Kills Romanian Soldier, Wounds Another In Spina Ghabarga

March 31 (Xinhua)

A Romanian soldier was killed and another injured as a mine went off outside Zabul provincial capital Qalat in south Afghanistan on Tuesday, provincial police chief Abdul Rahman Sargang said.

“The incident took place at 11 a.m. local time when the soldiers were checking a bridge in Spina Ghabarga area outside Qalat on Zabul-Kabul highway, killing one soldier and wounding another,” Sargang told Xinhua.

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## ***Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!*** **Occupation Commands’ Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



A foreign occupation soldier from Canadian Recce Platoon 3rd battalion of the Royal Canadian regiment battle group publicly humiliates an Afghan citizen by putting his hands on his body to search him in the Arghandab district in Kandahar province,

southern Afghanistan, March 30, 2009. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini (AFGHANISTAN POLITICS MILITARY)

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan troops to the Canada and the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Generals from the USA and Canada. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

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## **Resistance Attacks Government Building In Kandahar**

4.1.09 KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)

Three Taliban bombers disguised in army uniforms stormed a government office in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday after a fourth detonated a car bomb, officials said. At least 17 people — including the four assailants — died.

The coordinated assault in Kandahar underscored a new tactic by Afghan militants to launch multidirectional attacks against government offices. It mirrored a February attack in Kabul, where militants assaulted three government buildings simultaneously, killing 20.

Wednesday's attack on Kandahar's provincial council office killed seven civilians and six police officers, President Hamid Karzai's office said. Ahmad Wali Karzai, the head of the council and President Karzai's brother, said the attack came during a meeting of tribal leaders. He said 17 people were wounded.

Among those killed were the province's education director and its deputy health director, Ahmad Wali Karzai said.

**The president's brother also said he left the council office about five minutes before the attack and was not harmed.**

The attack began just before noon, when a bomber in a vehicle full of explosives blew himself up at the gates of the council office, opening the way for three other attackers in Afghan army uniforms to storm the building, said Ahmad Wali Karzai.

**Karzai told The Associated Press that he was the target of the attack; he did not say how he knew he was the target.**

After the car bomb explosion, three militants wearing explosive vests and carrying AK-47 assault rifles entered the compound, said Zemer Bashary, the Interior Ministry's spokesman. Police killed two of the attackers and the third one blew himself up, Bashary said. A fourth bomber died in the car bomb, bringing the overall death toll to at least 14.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the assault and said the target was the provincial compound.

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## Resistance Action



The damaged vehicle of mayor Sahki Mirullah after an explosion in Khost, Afghanistan, , March 31, 2009. The roadside bomb killed the mayor of the provincial capital and seriously wounded his driver, said Tahir Khan Sabari, the deputy provincial governor. (AP Photo/Nishanuddin Khan)

KHOST, Afghanistan, March 31 (Xinhua)

**Mayor of Khost city, capital of Khost province in eastern Afghanistan, was killed Tuesday afternoon while his car hit roadside mines in the suburb of the city, officials said.**

Abdul Najib Mangal, the director of Health Department in Khost, told Xinhua that it occurred at around 5:15 p.m. local time (1245 GMT) when the car of Mayor Sahi Amirullah was struck by mines planted in advanced outside Khost city.

“Mr. Amirullah was killed in the blast and six others also got injured including two nephews of the Mayor,” Mangal said.

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Mar. 30 2009 The Associated Press &

**DUND, Afghanistan -- A bomber wearing a police uniform blew himself up inside a police headquarters in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing eight.**

Three police and five civilians died in the attack in Dund district, about 15 kilometres south of Kandahar city. Six people were wounded.

**Canadian soldiers and Afghan police stood guard at the blast site and ordered journalists not to take photos, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene. The Canadian soldiers refused to let Afghan police approach the blast site, the reporter said.**

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## Closing Another Deal



**Afghan President Hamid Karzai puts away an envelope containing 100 \$100 bills he received at the start of a U.N.-backed conference on Afghanistan in The Hague March 31, 2009. Later, Karzai assured those attending that the opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan are the world’s finest, and told reporters he expected many more customers would contact him while attending the conference. He promised that his brother, one of Afghanistan’s most successful dealers in raw and refined opiates, would continue in charge of quality assurance programs. He**

thanked U.S. soldiers who have given their lives for providing his family business with protection. "Freedom isn't free," he said. Photo: REUTERS/Jerry Lampen

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## No French Reinforcements Coming

Apr 1, 2009 (Reuters)

French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Wednesday ruled out sending more troops to Afghanistan, days before a NATO summit in France is due to discuss the alliance's Afghan strategy.

"We will send no other reinforcements," Sarkozy told Europe 1 radio in an interview, confirming previous remarks by Defense Minister Herve Morin.

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## TROOP NEWS

**Note: New Phone Number**  
**The GI Rights Hotline: 1-877-447-4487**  
Website: ([www.girightshotline.org](http://www.girightshotline.org))

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS





**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”  
-- Camille Desmoulins**

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”  
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

**We stand in a moment of time between the eternal past and the eternal future, content that, for us, all that was before and all that will be cannot exist for us, and yet we exist because all that was before us gave us our moment in time, and we will share the responsibility for all that will exist in the eternal future.  
-- Abraham Lincoln**

**The Crisis Made Easy:  
“The Mortgage Back Securities Created  
By These Firms Have Filled Our**

# Financial Institutions With Financial Crap; The Second Reason For My ‘Stool’ Analogy”



October 15, 2008 By Michael Rebibo, [michaelrebibo.blogspot.com](http://michaelrebibo.blogspot.com)

Many people ask me how the financial sector got so messed up. Here is the best analogy I can give you:

Imagine a world where stools are a critical component to the economy.

Stupendous Stool Store, Inc (SSS) is one of the five largest stool companies in the world.

For years, SSS sold four legged stools with various degrees of quality to retail stores worldwide.

SSS sells its stools in bundles of 10, improving efficiency and lowering costs.

They bundle together both high and low quality stools to give the retailer a nice mix to sell to consumers.

For many years, this was a very profitable business.

One day, the SEC (Stool Exchange Commission) relaxed the capital requirement laws for companies like SSS.

Before, they could only borrow 10 times their equity for the inventory needed to make the stools. Now they could borrow 40 times their equity to purchase and make stools for repackaging.

SSS set up more lines of credit to purchase more raw materials to make more stools.

In order to carry this new debt load, SSS needed to make lower cost stools.

One highly paid executive at SSS decided that they could lower prices of the stools, by including a few three legged stools in their bundles.



They modeled the use of the new stool by sending “Stool Samples” to various bars and pubs around the world. They quickly determined that the three legged stool is just as good as a four legged stool, but costs less to make and takes up less room.

Buyers of the stools did not seem to mind at all.

SSS then sent the Stool Samples to their independent external rating agency, Dumb and Dumber, Inc.

After speaking with the executives at SSS and reviewing their “Stool Samples”, those at Dumb and Dumber, Inc. concluded that the new stool bundles should receive the same AAA rating as before.

Now SSS could sell both three and four legged stools in bundles for the same price as they sold a bundle of higher quality four legged stools.

The executives and sales people at SSS pocketed the additional profits and were happy.

**Then one of the highly paid commission sales persons at SSS came up with an even better idea.**

**How about adding some 2 legged stools to the package?**

These stools would only be effective for sober customers with good balance.

Since they are only going to put a few of these stools in each bundle, along with three and four legged stools, they were able to lower their costs yet again.



They went to Dumb and Dumber, Inc. with their “Stool Samples” and explained that since 20% of the customers who buy stools were sober, the two legged stools really had no effect on the quality of the stool package.

Those at Dumb and Dumber, Inc. agreed and rated the stools packages AAA yet again. SSS could sell its stool package at the same price as before, but with much lower costs and pocket a handsome profit.

In order to keep production going, SSS always maxed out its leverage so that it had plenty of Stool Bundles available for the market.

Eventually however, the stools reached a saturation point in the market and sales began to decline.

At the same time, people were getting hurt falling off the three and two legged stools.

Some companies began to return their stool bundles and others simply stopped buying.

It was at this point that Dumb and Dumber decided to lower the rating of the Stool Packages from AAA to BBB.

Now no one wanted to buy any stools from SSS. SSS was still holding forty times its equity in lower rated stool packages in its inventory.

These Packages were now “marked to market” by SSS’s auditor, an arbitrary process used to kick you when you are down.

**When they are marked down just 4%, the entire equity of SSS is wiped out.**

It is about this time that the banks that lent money to SSS began calling in their loans. They wanted their money back.

At the same time, giant hedge funds began shorting the SSS stock, hammering its value even further.

**Eventually SSS had to either declare bankruptcy, be forced into a shotgun marriage with a stronger company, be taken over by the government or, as an interim step, be converted to a bank to be taken over later.**

**Imagine now that there are two legged stools hidden in dark pubs around the globe.**

**They are owned by various institutions who no longer want them and the stools cannot be valued.**

**As you can see, the world would be in quite a pickle if we relied on stools as a major source of financial security.**

I used the stool in this analogy for two reasons.

First, for many years, banking decisions were made by analyzing the 4 "C's" of lending. Think of these 4 "C's" as the 4 legs of a stool. They are Character, Cash Flow, Credit and Collateral.

In residential lending, character was eliminated some time ago when loans were securitized and borrowers and their ultimate lenders never met.

That left a three legged stool that functioned pretty well through the 1990s.

However, in the first few years of the new millennium, new products were coming out that eliminated one of the remaining legs of the stool. No income verification loans, no down payment loans, and loans to people who exhibited poor credit decisions were created.

Soon the three legged stools became two or even one legged stools. They were then packaged and sold and somehow obtained AAA ratings.

Loose lending guidelines combined with leverage and poor regulation has been the recipe for an unprecedented financial meltdown in this country. The mortgage back securities created by these firms have filled our financial institutions with financial crap; the second reason for my "stool" analogy.

**Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## White House Replaces 'War on Terror' With Symbol: Acquires Cryptic Icon From Funk Rocker Prince



The White House today announced today that it would no longer use the phrase “war on terror” and would instead replace it with a cryptic symbol once used by the funk rocker known as Prince.

The new symbol made its first appearance today at a White House press conference in which spokesman Robert Gibbs answered a question about the war on terror by holding up a picture of the newly acquired icon.

Mr. Gibbs said that the White House had decided to replace the phrase with the symbol after determining that its first-choice euphemism, “overseas contingency operations,” was too much of a mouthful.

“In the years that Prince used the symbol, it was totally confusing and no one knew what it meant,” he said. “It should work perfectly for us.”

To acquire the rights to the symbol, however, the White House had to outbid an unlikely suitor, the insurance giant AIG.

The embattled company, which recently stripped its corporate headquarters of its logo in the hopes of throwing protesters off its scent, had intended to replace it with the mysterious icon coveted by the White House.

It was hoping to rebrand itself as “The Insurance Giant Formerly Known as AIG,” a company spokesman said.

**AIG Chairman Edward Liddy was philosophical about being outbid by the White House for Prince’s symbol: “All of our efforts were a total and abject failure, but on the plus side, that means we’re entitled to a bonus.”**

**POLITICIANS CAN’T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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**“French Workers Besieged Bosses, Including Luxury And Retail Tycoon François-Henri Pinault, As Anger At Proposed Layoffs Generated More Forceful Protests”**

**“Mr. Pinault Squeezed All The Cash He Could From Conforama And Now He Wants To Throw Us Away”**



## “On Tuesday Employees Occupied The Management Offices And Wouldn’t Allow Four Executives To Leave”



Nicolas Polutnik, an executive at Caterpillar’s plant in Grenoble, was held in his office by protesting employees. Associated Press

APRIL 1, 2009 By LEILA ABBOUD and MAX COLCHESTER, Wall St. Journal

PARIS -- French workers besieged bosses, including luxury and retail tycoon François-Henri Pinault, as anger at proposed layoffs generated more forceful protests.

Mr. Pinault, the son of François Pinault, is chief executive officer of PPR SA, which controls exclusive brands such as Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent.

**Employees surrounded his car as he left a meeting in Paris early Tuesday evening and refused to let him leave for nearly an hour. Eventually riot police dispersed the protesters.**

**Separately, workers facing layoffs at a Caterpillar Inc. factory in the French Alps detained four of their bosses Tuesday in a bid to secure better severance packages.**

The incidents followed several others in France in recent weeks, and show how social unrest is mounting as the economic downturn deepens.

In France, companies can't lay off workers as easily as in the U.S. When a firm wants to cut workers, it must negotiate what is known as a "social plan" with local unions, often including a lump-sum payment, training and help in finding new jobs.

Trying to negotiate better severance packages, workers at a 3M Co. factory south of Paris held their boss captive last week, as did employees at Sony Corp.'s France unit earlier in March. Top managers at bank Société Générale SA awarded themselves stock-option packages two weeks ago, but then renounced them due to public anger.

France isn't suffering more than other big economies. But the country's tradition of egalitarianism triggers strong reactions when people think they are being mistreated, or when better-off people appear to flaunt their wealth at a time of general hardship.

Mr. Pinault, 46, has long been a symbol of France's monied elite. He attended one of France's top business schools and in 2005 inherited control of his father's fashion and retail empire.

The employees who surrounded him Tuesday work for two retailers in the PPR group: Fnac, which sells books and music, and Conforama, which sells furniture. Mr. Pinault announced a restructuring plan for these in February that could lead to 1,200 job losses in France.

Protesters blocked a car Mr. Pinault was riding in as it was trying to leave the company's head office, said Boucherit Aziz, a Conforama union representative.

"Mr. Pinault squeezed all the cash he could from Conforama and now he wants to throw us away," said Mr. Aziz, who participated in the protest.

Through the window of his car, Mr. Pinault told workers that the company was doing its best to avoid abrupt layoffs, according to Mr. Aziz. Police didn't arrest any of the protesters, he said.

The problems at Caterpillar followed a recently announced plan to lay off about 730 people from its factory near Grenoble, which employs about 2,700. The company had been negotiating with the unions for several weeks, but workers went on strike on Monday to protest what they saw as poor terms.

On Tuesday employees occupied the management offices and wouldn't allow four executives to leave, according to union representative Bernard Patrick.

It wasn't clear when the executives would be allowed to leave.

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## **“Capitalism Isn't Working”**

# **Thousand In London March Against Bankers And Politicians At G20 Meeting; “People Will Stop Robbing Banks When Banks Stop Robbing People”**



4.1.09: Four mass marches converge on the Bank of England Photograph: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images. [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

APRIL 2, 2009 By NEIL SHAH and JENNIFER MARTINEZ, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

LONDON -- Thousands of protesters crowded the heart of London's financial district and stormed a branch of state-controlled Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC on Wednesday, amid demonstrations that began peacefully but grew more violent as the day progressed.

As President Barack Obama and other world leaders arrived in London for a meeting of the Group of 20 nations, protesters from various groups staged actions to voice their dissatisfaction with the governments and bankers at the center of the crisis.

About 4,000 people converged on the Bank of England in London's financial center, known as the City, around noon, according to estimates by the London Metropolitan Police. The protesters, gathered for a carnival-like event dubbed "Financial Fools Day,"

carried signs with slogans such as “Make Love Not Leverage” and wrote graffiti on the walls of the Bank of England, including “People will stop robbing banks when banks stop robbing people.”



4.1.09: Protesters march near London Bridge: Photograph: Chris Ison/PA  
[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

Protesters also attacked a retail branch of RBS near the Bank of England. They broke windows and entered the building, prompting a heavier response from police in riot gear.

London police had been preparing for trouble at the G-20 meetings, amid growing signs of social unrest throughout Europe.

At one point, police pulled over a van converted to look like an armored vehicle, a spokesman said. Officers arrested 11 people in the van for being in possession of police uniforms. Later, 21 were arrested for a variety of offenses, including possession of drugs, threatening behavior and breach of the peace. Several hundred protesters were still outside the Bank of England late Wednesday evening.

One man collapsed amid the protests and was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to police.

Some 5,000 officers were dispatched to handle the protests in London, a Metropolitan Police spokesman said.

Protesters at the Bank of England included a mix of anticapitalists, anarchists and environmentalists organized by a coalition of groups calling itself “G-20 Meltdown.” Most railed against recklessness and greed, but others championed separate causes, such as climate change.

"I really hope it gets across to G-20 leaders that we mean business," said Amelia Parker, a 20-year-old from London, who was wearing a sign around her neck that read "Slave to Greed."

"We're good people and want to try to get change."

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## **Greece:**

# **"A Nationwide General Strike Over Public-Sector Pay And Job Losses Brought Much Of The Country To A Standstill"**

## **"If The Unjust Policies, The Antisocial Policies Don't Change, They Will Be Overturned"**

APRIL 3, 2009 By ALKMAN GRANITSAS, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

ATHENS -- Thousands of protesters marched through the capital on Thursday as a nationwide general strike over public-sector pay and job losses brought much of the country to a standstill.

The strike, timed to coincide with the Group of 20 meeting in London, closed public services across the country, including schools.

More than 100 flights were canceled and ferry services to the Greek islands were suspended. A strike by journalists led to a nationwide news blackout: there was no Greek radio, television or Internet news Thursday and no newspapers were scheduled for publication Friday.

Most private businesses were open, though banks, a frequent target of violent demonstrators, and several small retailers in downtown Athens were closed.

Discontent has been rising in Greece as the world economic slowdown reaches its shores.

Industries such as tourism and shipping depend on demand from overseas, but the slowdown in world trade has reduced the need to transport products from grain to coal. Tourism, which generates a fifth of Greek jobs, is suffering as recession-hit Americans and North Europeans tighten their purse strings.



Though Thursday's protesters were largely peaceful, a small group of protesters stopped to hurl eggs at the labor ministry. "If the unjust policies, the antisocial policies don't change, they will be overturned," Yannis Panagopoulos, president of the private-sector umbrella union GSEE, told a rally of roughly 10,000 protesters.

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## **RECEIVED**

### **"ANY SOLDIER THAT HAVE THE SAME THOUGHTS AS THIS REPORT IS A FRAUD"**

From: H, Kristopher G SGT MIL USA FORSCOM  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 18, 2009  
Subject: A GOOD FRIEND (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

IN THIS REPORT YOU HAVE PUT A REALY GOOD FRIED OF MINES NAME. HE NEVER COMPLAINED ABOUT GOING. IT WAS HIS 2ND TIME TO IRAQ AND HE LOVED GOING WE WERE IN THE SAME UNIT 2 TIMES. I KNEW HIM VERRY WELL. HE NEVER CRIED ABOUT GOING. ANY SOLDIER THAT HAVE THE SAME THOUGHTS AS THIS REPORT IS A FRAUD AND SHOULD NOT BE WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM. THIS REPORT IS AN INSULT.

V/R  
SGT H, KRISTOPHER  
6-1 CAV  
SQDN MASTER DRIVER

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