

J.G. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

Left Wing

BRAGG BRIEFS

VOL. 4 no 8, 7

DECEMBER 71

DONATIONS

THIS IS YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY (AR 210-10).
ANYONE WHO TRIES TO TAKE IT FROM YOU IS COMMITTING A CRIME.

DARE TO UNITE



ORGANIZE

RACISM IN THE MILITARY



GI's and civilians pass Fayetteville's Slave Market in march of solidarity with the McClellan 138. The Slave Market is a (racist) civil war monument of this community.

Fort Bragg GI Union Marches Against Racism

Scores of chanting GIs and their supporters marched through downtown Fayetteville, December 11th, in a spirited anti-racism demonstration.

In solidarity with the 138 Black GIs and WACs arrested at Ft. McClellan last month, the GIs tried to bring home the issue of racism in the military to Ft. Bragg. They carried banners and placards reading: "Free the McClellan 138," "Racism: Tool of the Brass," and "GIs Unite Against War, Racism, Sexism," among other slogans.

The demonstration was called on short notice by the newly-formed GI Union to focus immediate attention on the McClellan GIs still held in the Bragg stockade. The demands of the demonstration were:

(1) Immediate release of those of the 138 still in prison. Drop all charges against the McClellan GIs and WACs.

(2) Immediate investigation and action over racist practices at Ft. Bragg. End to housing discrimination in Fayetteville.

(3) End to the army's unconstitutional practice of pre-trial confinement, which puts countless GIs into stockades long before courts martial are held or even proper charges are filed.

The anti-racism march began at Rowan St. Park and wound its way up Hay St. to the Slave Market, symbol of only a more blatant form of racist oppression. The chanting, singing GIs startled the heavy crowd of downtown Christmas shoppers, some of whom joined the march.

Two Army "Intelligence" agents tried intimidation tactics by copying down license numbers of cars at the Rowan St. Park site. An unnamed GI guerrilla photographer returned the intimidation by photographing the agents at work.

A brief rally was held after the march at the Haymarket Square coffee-house, where several speakers put out why GIs must organize against racism in the military.

138 Blacks Busted in McClellan Protest

Fort McClellan, Alabama became the scene of a lawless, brutal and racist attack by the army against some of its increasingly rebellious men and women in mid-November.

138 Black GIs and WACs were caught in a massive military police round-up and arrested after a peaceful meeting in which the Black men and women were to present their long standing grievances concerning racism at the post. Many were beaten and otherwise abused during the arrests and subsequent confinement. Nearly 50 of the soldiers were sent under guard by helicopter to stockades at Forts Bragg, Benning and Campbell.

As Bragg Briefs goes to press, 13 of the GIs are still confined in army stockades, 3 of them at the Bragg Stockade. Most of those arrested were held without charges and under improper confinement orders.

The army was unable to keep news of the McClellan bust from getting out. Efforts of the arrested people's lawyers and publicity has forced the army to drop charges or discharge all but 13.

The following account of the events was put together by Bragg Briefs from statements by some of those arrested, eye witnesses and a legal petition to the Military Court of Appeals prepared by one of the lawyers:

Tension had been high at McClellan for some time, as the command had ignored or encouraged racist practices at the base.

Two days before the mass arrests, 6 Black WACs and 2 Black GIs had been deliberately struck and run down by a MP captain driving a civilian vehicle according to numerous witnesses at the scene. Several MPs witnessed the incident but refused to apprehend the MP captain who fled. The MPs would call only one ambulance even though several of the victims were seriously injured. No charges have yet been brought against the captain.

The next day, tension had understandably reached a new high. Col. McKean, post commander, announced a meeting to be held Monday afternoon (the day of the arrests) in the football field at which Black and minority groups at the post could supposedly present their grievances to the brass.

The GIs and WACs were also told that they would have the next two days off and they took the colonel at his word and refused to go to classes.

When it came time for the meeting GIs and WACs marched in large numbers to the football field, but the command never showed up. Within minutes it became open season on all Blacks at McClellan. MPs and NCO trainees were given orders by Col. McKean to arrest all Blacks on sight, according to witnesses.

Col. McKean personally directed the round-up, witnesses say, and stood by while at least two GIs were beaten by MPs.

One GI was walking to the hospital when he saw five MP vehicles coming toward him. Col. McKean soon jumped from one of the cars and directed the MPs to "get that nigger!" They did this and then proceeded to beat the prisoner with fists and clubs and throw him into a truck, according to the GIs' statement.

cont. on #2

ARTICLE 138

GI'S SECRET WEAPON

Article 138 of the UCMJ is the strongest complaint procedure for use by GI's against the brass because it is a statutory right which the brass must follow. No Army or post regulation may deny your right to file an Article 138. It must be remembered, though, that the UCMJ was written to serve the disciplinary needs of the brass and not the rights of GI's. No statutory regulations can guarantee the rights of GI's until GI's themselves write them regulations.

HOW TO FILE AN ARTICLE 138

- 1) Ask your own commanding officer for redress of grievance (correction of wrong done to you). If he refuses;
- 2) Write down your complaint, using the simple form that follows as an outline guide.
- 3) Hand it to any superior officer except your commanding officer. This could even be someone like a chaplain or JAG officer. He or she must forward it to an officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the officer against whom you are complaining.
- 4) Mail to give copies of your complaint to:
 - The Base Commander
 - The Staff Judge Advocate - JAG
 - The Secretary of the branch of the service you are in.
 - Your Congressmen and Senators (or others you think are good)
- 5) Keep a copy yourself (in case the brass "loses" their copy).
- 6) Let the brass know that you are writing to your Congressmen and Senators.

WHEN YOU CAN USE ARTICLE 138

"Any member of the armed forces who believes himself wronged by his commanding officer, and who upon due application to the commanding officer is refused redress, may complain to any superior commissioned officer; who will forward the complaint to the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the officer against whom it is made. The officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction shall examine the complaint and take proper measures for redressing the wrong complained of; and he shall, as soon as possible, send to the Secretary of the particular branch of the service, a true statement of the complaint with the proceedings had thereon."

-- Article 138 UCMJ
Here are a few of the many instances in which an Article 138 can be filed:

- 1) not getting a pass when you are entitled to it.
- 2) racial or religious discrimination.
- 3) being beaten or harrassed.
- 4) illegal imposition of duties.
- 5) illegal seizure of property.

chapter 10

lifers
tool
of oppression

The Chapter 10 discharge is becoming the final and permanent army shaft for large numbers of young men in these days of massive manpower cut-backs.

AR 635-200 states that a chapter 10 may be submitted by an individual to be discharged in lieu of a court martial that may lead to a Bad Conduct Discharge. The chapter is only slightly better than the possible BOD, as the chapter 10 results in an UD 95% of the time with no VA bennies, and no ticket home as well as considerable stigma.



McClellan Bust Cont.

PAGE TWO

A group of other GIs, including SP5 Leon Prince and SP4 Willie Swofford, were pursued by a helicopter and finally trapped by MPs. Swofford was also beaten and taunted with racial slurs.

There are other similar illegal and terrorist acts committed against people that night reported in a large quantity of signed statements given to attorneys. Within an hour nearly 150 Black people were unlawfully and without proper cause, arrested, taken to confinement and denied their rights to counsel and communication with the outside.

Later, a WAC, Willie Mae Coleman and a GI wearing a cast on his leg were beaten and arrested by MPs as they attempted to take cigarettes and food to the prisoners.

Ironically, the first of the prisoners arrived at the Bragg stockade on the same day that Black Congressman Charles Rangel of Harlem had conducted a hearing at Fort Bragg in which Black, Chicano and Puerto Rican GIs brought forth complaints about racism at this post. Little did Rep. Rangel or the 50 or so GIs at the hearing know that Bragg would soon be a party to the illegal and ruthless imprisonment of 26 McClellan GIs.

The 26 at the Bragg stockade were placed in isolation and officers there attempted to prevent an attorney for the men to speak with them.

"The 13 who face prosecution are charged solely because the Fort McClellan command must now try to justify what it can no longer conceal, says the petition filed with the Military Court of Appeals by the GI's lawyers. Willie Swofford, one of those held at the Bragg stockade, was actually offered a "deal" by an officer who came up to see him from McClellan. He would be released on condition that he accepted an Art. 15, cleared post at McClellan within 24 hours and promised to never speak to newspeople, lawyers or the public about the arrests and beatings, according to the petition.

The charges against the prisoners, the petition states, "...are wholly unfounded and are brought as a politically motivated effort simply to convict somebody (it doesn't matter who) of something (it doesn't matter what). The Fort McClellan command wants to convince the public that "troublemakers" and "agitators" made it necessary for them to deploy white troops to make a mass round-up of Black personnel on a U.S. army installation. The 13 are simply the unlucky ones--the scapegoats--whose liberty is to be sacrificed to justify the racist grotesqueries of November 15."

SP5 Allen Turner, PFC Daniel Duenas and PVT Cornelius Lott have now been in the Bragg stockade for almost 30 days and are facing a variety of charges like disobedience, disrespect, breach of the peace, unlawful assembly and resisting arrest. The men would appreciate letters showing support from the outside.

Bragg Briefs and the GI Union strongly believe it is the responsibility of we GIs, white as well as black, to support the McClellan 138 and vigorously attack the racist policies and behavior of the brass and the Third Army. Charges of racial conflict between whites and blacks were used by the brass to justify their attacks, when really white EM should have supported their black GI brothers against the racism of McClellan.

Never a day goes by at Fort Bragg when racist behavior and attitudes does not help prevent GIs and WACs of all races and colors from uniting to oppose the oppression of their real enemies, the brass. We believe that the Third Army's and the McClellan command's tactics of illegal mass arrests and kidnapping to other posts will someday be used against enlisted men and women right here at Bragg unless the responsible brass are punished.

TO: Lt. Gen. John J. Hay
CG, XVIII ABC & Ft Bragg
Ft Bragg, N.C. 28307

FROM: Your Name
Unit
Ft Bragg N.C. 28307

RE; FILING OF COMPLAINT AGAINST
COL. VAN HOUT
12th Support Brigade,
Commanding

It is my understanding that Col. Van Hout, Commander, 12th Support Brigade, has recently issued a directive establishing a daily quota for uniform violations. I believe this to be both unlawful and unwise; to be an open invitation to harassment and discriminatory enforcement; to be an action in excess of Col. Van Hout's authority; and to be a destroyer of morale, a denial of due process, and a classic demonstration of command ineptitude.

As a member of a unit within the 12th Support Brigade and a potential victim of this unlawful and unwise policy that Col. Van Hout's directive has established, I have sought redress from Col. Van Hout under provisions of AR 27-14. Having received no reply from Col. Van Hout for 5 days, I hereby formally complain against him under provisions of Article 138, UCMJ.

Date _____ (Signature) _____

It would be advisable to take chapter 10 if a BCD court martial verdict were likely. However, most men these days are pressured or tricked by the army (often JAG) into taking a chapter 10 as a quick way of leaving the army, as a discharge can be processed in a matter of days.

Sadly, many young men are forced to go AWOL by serious legit family or personal problems, and then are pressured into taking a swift chap. 10 discharge when they return.

In its uncaring frenzy, the army is just showing its true colors, CD.

Join the G.I. Union
and fight for your rights!!

RESIST

GI UNION = POWER

GIs at Fort Bragg are building a union.

In late October, Viet Nam Veterans Against the War, GIs United, and a group of Black soldiers along with others, came together to form the GI UNICN.

Since then the GI Union has been growing each week, and now meets Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM at the Haymarket Square Coffeehouse (corner of Hay st. and Bragg rd.).

We of the GI Union feel strongly that a union in the military can work. For the present we see our job as that of showing the soldiers, WACs, airmen and WAFs at Fort Bragg and Pope AFB that unity is the only way for people in the military to change the conditions of their lives. When we are large enough the brass will be forced to meet our demands.

The GI Union's December 10 march and rally against racism in the military in downtown Fayetteville is an example of our efforts for unity. We know that racism works well for the brass in keeping us divided, and we also know that as long as we are divided they can control us.

During the next few meetings we will be revising and refining our Union Demands and planning our Spring Offensive.

Come down to Haymarket Square and rap with us. We learn from every new GI who joins us.

You've been griping about the army or air force for a long time. Why not join with us as we try and do something? Join the GI Union!

UNION DEMANDS AND GOALS

WE DEMAND:

1. The right to refuse illegal orders---as in the use of American GIs to protect American economic interests against people in their own countries, who are fighting for their national independence, and against American economic domination of their homelands.
2. Election of officers by the vote of enlisted men and women.
3. An end to the military caste system, exhibited in the mandatory saluting and sir-ing of officers. An end to special privileges for officers and higher ranking NCOs.
4. The end of troops being sent into Black, Latin, and other national minority communities, to put down their struggle for self-determination. An end to racist oppression. We furthermore support the liberation struggles being waged by the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Northern Ireland, and the French Canadians of Quebec.
5. No troops to be used as scabs or against workers on strike.
6. No troops to be used against anti-war demonstrators.
7. Court-martial juries made up of men and women of equal rank or less than that of the defendant.
8. The right to free political association, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly, on or off military property, as guaranteed by the constitution of the U.S.
9. Federal minimum wages plus off-post housing and food allowances for all who want it.
10. The right to collective bargaining.
11. The end to officially sanctioned sexist oppression of women and gay people in the military community.
12. The right to resign honorably from the military.



LOCAL DEMANDS

WE DEMAND:

1. A 40 hour work week with extra time off to make up for overtime, guard duty, field duty, CQ, and all other extra details.
2. That everyone have the right to live off post with quarters allowance. Most Ft. Bragg barracks are unfit for people to live in.
3. An end to unnecessary and expensive field exercises. They serve no purpose but to keep GIs busy and give the brass games to play. The money that's saved could be used to equalize the jump pay for officers and enlisted men.
4. An end to needless inspections and ridiculous appearance standards. Daily barracks inspections, wall-locker inspections, and the weekly in-ranks uniform inspections must end.
5. An end to racism in the daily workings of the military at Bragg and Pope. Lifers who show racist behavior should be removed. Discrimination must be ended in such things as making promotions, disciplinary actions, and picking work details. Cultural and racial differences must be respected.
6. That the Ft. Bragg authorities use their power to fight against racial discrimination in the surrounding community, especially in housing.
7. An end to pre-trial confinement at the post stockade. Often Bragg GIs spend up to 3 months in the stockade before they even come to trial. Even if their found innocent, they have still been punished.
8. That the army and air force end their policies of helping the local rip-off businessmen collect debts from GIs.
9. An end to depersonalized medical and dental care, especially for dependents. Many GIs and WACs should be taken out of useless jobs and retrained as health workers.
10. 24-hour child care centers for dependents. Abortion on demand.
11. An end to CID harassment of WACs at Bragg.
12. An end to useless parades and ceremonies.
13. That VCLAR money be spent to provide GIs with free laundry and haircut service instead of wasting the VCLAR money on things the army should pay for anyway, like maintenance costs.
14. An end to the ridiculous no-fatigues-off-post order.
15. The right to distribute BRAGG BRIEFS on post.





WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB: RADIO FREE WRIGHT-PATTERSON IS ON THE AIR

The brothers and sisters in Dayton report that a suit is being filed in 6th District Federal Court concerning the Air Force Museum demonstration at Wright-Patt that was reported last month. The suit is asking for damages from the Air Force, to be paid to those who were illegally arrested, detained, and/or roughed up when they attempted to picket Nixon's dedication of the new museum. The suit also asks that the court enjoin the Air Force from ever repeating the mass-detention tactics it employed on September 3rd at Wright-Patt.

The other news from Dayton is the birth of Radio Free Wright-Patterson, a radio talk show run by Dayton Veterans Against the War, THE STAR-SPANGLED BUMMER, and GIs United at Wright-Patt. Their report: "Our Saturday radio show is now on for two hours. We have named it Radio Free Wright-Patterson and it is really making Wright-Patt and its rulers uptight. As far as I know this is a new one on the military and they don't know quite how to cope with it. Ohio Bell told WYSO (91.5FM), the Antioch College station we broadcast from, that someone at the base was messing with the telephone circuitry at the base, making it difficult if not impossible for GIs to call in to the show. We have really been pushing the call-in to us and we guess Uncle is really scared of what the GIs are going to say. The show is pretty well restricted to military and military-related topics, but then that doesn't leave out too much of Amerika today. We had interviews with a C.O. from W-P who talked about what it was like for him and the problems he was having in getting out, interviews with patients at the local VA center, discussions of military injustice, the military-industrial complex, etc. There's much more planned for the future and there just doesn't seem to be enough time. Maybe we'll add another day a week."

"All you ignorant, narrow-minded, uptight old farts better learn damn soon that respect and wisdom are not things you pin on your collar."
-Lt. (jg) James Meyer, USS Coral Sea, in his letter of resignation, October, 1971.



Berkeley City Action Regarding The USS Coral Sea

1. The City of Berkeley supports the men of the USS Coral Sea in their petition to Congress and in their other nonviolent efforts to have the ship stay home-from the war.
2. The City of Berkeley encourages people to support the men of the Coral Sea by participating in the November 6 anti-war march in San Francisco and in the November 8 rally at the Alameda Naval Air Station.
3. The People of the City are encouraged to aid in the welfare and legal protection of these men.

Passed by the Berkeley City Council 11/2/71

STOCKADE REBELLION AT FORT GORDON

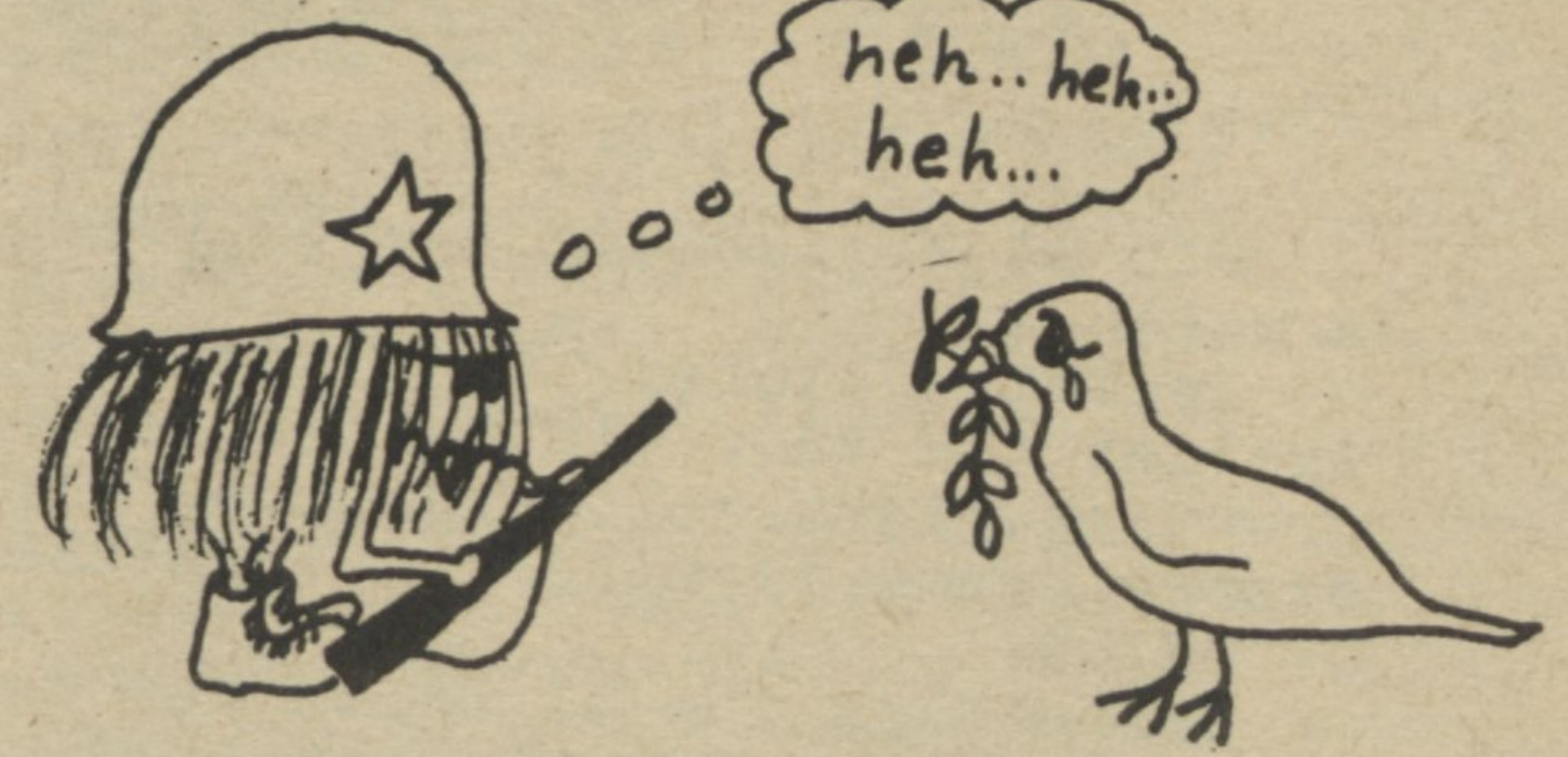
Fort Gordon, Ga. At least 100 soldiers rebelled in the Fort Gordon stockade on Tuesday night, Oct. 26. Eleven soldiers, including two prison guards were hospitalized and a two story prison barracks, valued at \$30,000 was burned to the ground.

The soldiers were acting in a solidarity protest against the denial of an emergency leave to a prisoner whose wife had just suffered a miscarriage. Pvt. Jesse Simmons of Memphis has not even been tried yet, but is being held in pre-trial confinement while awaiting court martial for alleged assault.

When word spread that Pvt. Simmons was denied emergency leave to see his stricken wife, the prisoners gathered in the stockade yard and refused to disperse. The rebellion lasted for about 5 hours; the MP's and stockade guards resorted to tear gas and fired off at least one shotgun in their attempts to put down the rebellion.

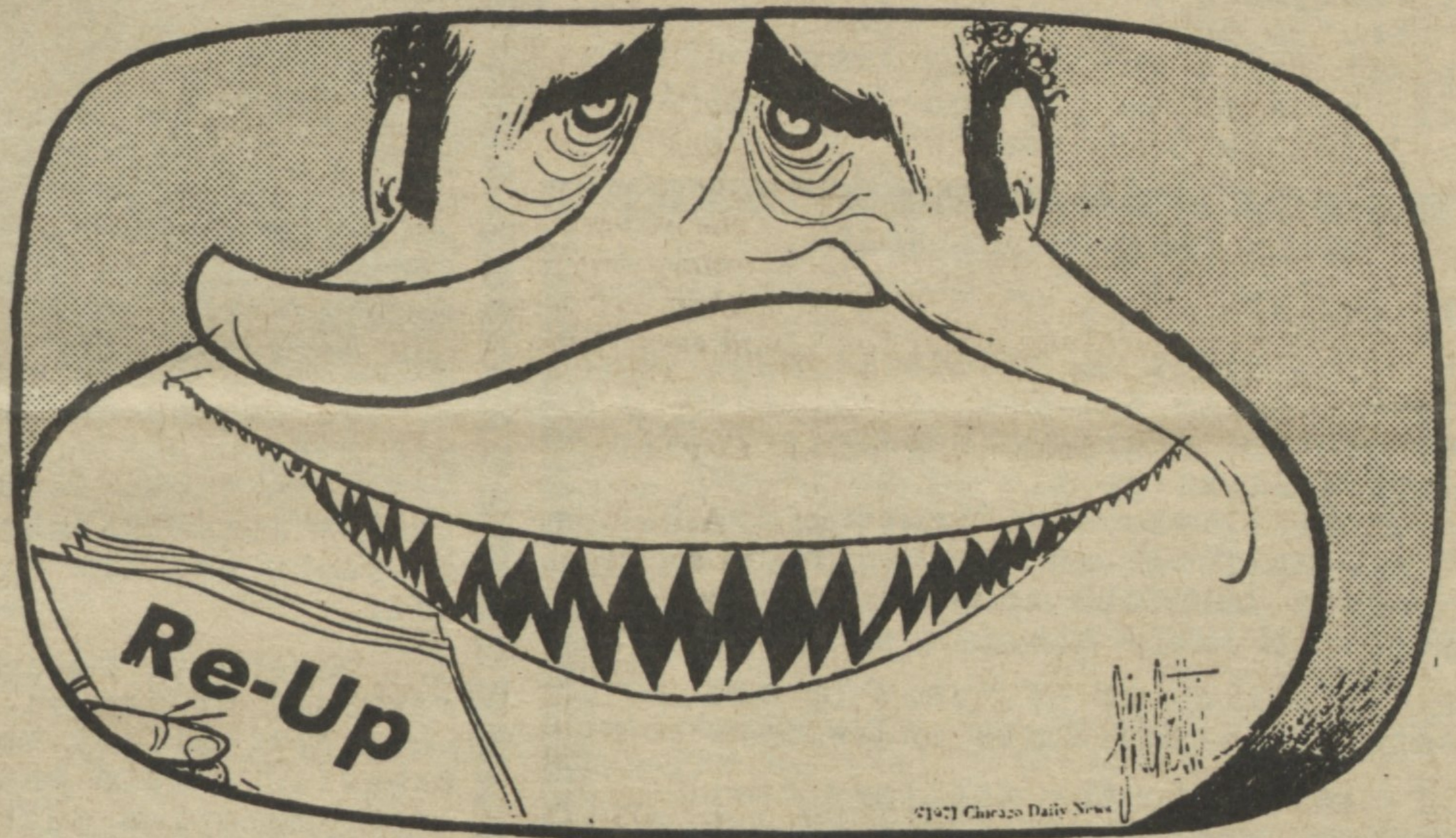
Soldiers attending classes at an Army school nearby were rushed away from the area. This was done to keep them from finding out anything about the riot, and because of the brass' fear that if the soldiers did learn of the reasons for it, then the soldiers would move to support the rebelling prisoners.

Despite attempts by the authorities to minimize it, the tension at the fort is greater than it has been in many months. It is not yet clear as to what actions, if any, will be taken against those involved.



FUSS AND FEATHERS AT FORT KNOX

FTA reports that General George S. Patton III, head of the armored school and armored commands at Fort Knox, has taken up a new pastime: dove-hunting. Symbolic considerations aside, Patton seems to be taking up the hunt in the same way his predecessor at Knox did. That general penned up a large number of deer on a small acreage and bagged several deer each week. Patton has arranged that no other hunters from Fort Knox be allowed in dove-hunting areas when he and his party are there. One would-be dove-hunter, a sergeant, was informed that the area he wished to stake out was not available for hunting. Considering that he had accidentally told Patton about the area, and that he knew Patton was going there that weekend, he found the off-limits a bit odd. Nonetheless, there may be good effects-- at least it is fairly certain that Patton will be off the base for the weekend.



"Hi. there . . ."

GI Coffeehouse Burned

Another GI coffeehouse has gone under, this time the Covered Wagon coffeehouse in Mountain Home, Idaho, Nov. 21. "Unidentified" (you know what that means) arsonists firebombed the place a day after vandals had entered it and spray painted the walls with "this is a warning."

Such coffeehouses which work very closely with the antiwar GI movement seem to inspire the animosity of Amerika's cowboys. Columbia, SC, officials closed down the UFO as a "public nuisance" almost two years ago. Several persons who tried to put together a coffeehouse in Muldraugh, Kentucky, near Fort Knox, found themselves frequenting the jailhouse as well as facing threats from local vigilantes. A coffeehouse near Fort Dix, NJ, was bombed at least five times. Etc.

The Covered Wagon was established in June of this year, and in its short existence met with considerable opposition from Mountain Home Air Force Base brass and Idaho authorities. At one time, the governor even declared a state of emergency because of violence in and around the Covered Wagon.

The Mountain Home brass is currently court-martialing two airmen who work with the Covered Wagon because they distributed leaflets and an underground paper, *Helping Hand*, on base.

After the firebombing, Mountain Home AFB's commander was reported to have said, "It was good it happened because they [his men] got experience putting out a fire."

But the bombers may have defeated themselves. According to Jim Schaffer, an active-duty airman, "We've gotten a lot of sympathy from active-duty GIs over this."

WELCOME TO —
THIS IS YOUR LIFER

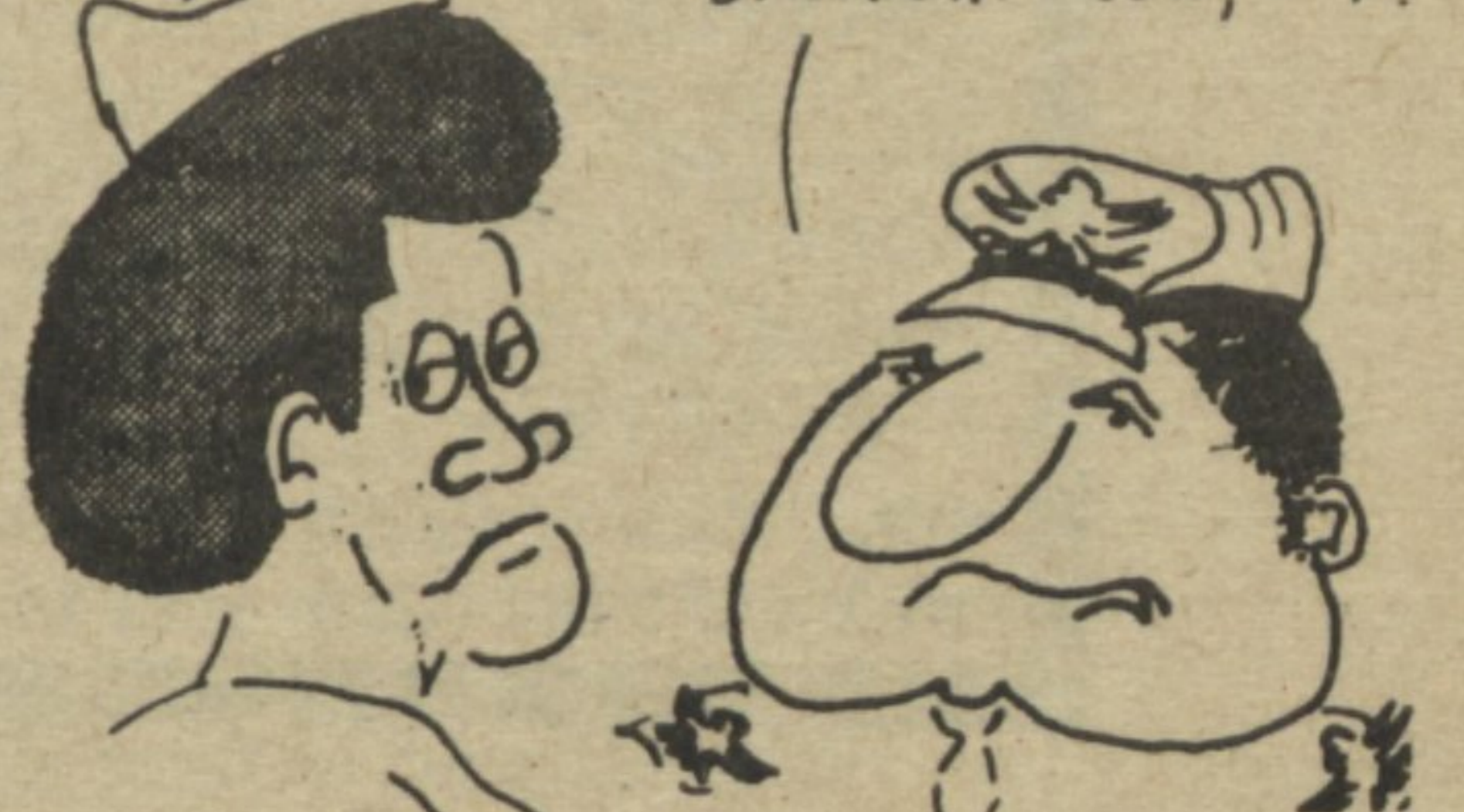
"WE'VE HEARD A LOT OF TALK FROM YOU BLACK AIRMEN ABOUT RACISM IN THE AIR FORCE"



"ACCORDING TO AIR FORCE REGS, EVERY AIRMAN, REGARDLESS OF COLOR, IS TO BE TREATED EQUALLY."



"YOU GOT THAT STRAIGHT NOW, BOY?"



TYRRELLS BOYCOTT BLUES

(tune: Alice's Restaurant)

You can get ripped off for sure, }^{2x}
at Tyrrells Jewelry Store.
Don't go in it's a sure fire burn,
taking all the money that you earn.
You can get ripped off for sure,
at Tyrrells Jewelry Store.

Hey there buddy, where you from, }^{2x}
well I'm from there too.
Hey now buddy, come over here,
don't you love your mother dear?
Hey there buddy, where you from,
well I'm from there too.

Look at this expensive ring,)
It'll make your girlfriend sing. }^{2x}
Buy it for your girlfriend, o
or your wife,
you'll be making payments,
for the rest of your life.
Look at this expensive ring,
It'll make your girlfriend sing.

We ain't worried if you ain't)
got cash, }^{2x}
we know your credit's good.)
If you don't pay up your dough,
your gonna get in trouble with
your CO
We ain't worried if you ain't
got cash,
we know your credit's good.

Started this boycott at Ft. Hood, }^{2x}
now it's nation-wide.
People getting together,
just as sure as you please,
gonna rid the country of
PIGS like these.
Started this boycott at Ft. Hood
now it's nation-wide.

REPEAT FIRST VERSE

GI'S and Asian Women

"The stereotype of an Asian woman is that of a porcelain doll - a cold fragile object if not of love then of hate. As an object of love (typified in the media by Suzie Wong or the Geisha girl) her sole function is to fulfill every whim of men. If she chooses to rebel against this role, she is typecast as the Dragon Lady/Dowager Empress - the manipulator, castrator, and destroyer of men. Her third alternative is not to exist at all, to withdraw from society and create around herself an hermetically-sealed box - and even then she is not left alone, but is written off as inscrutable."

- Asian Women's Coalition, New York City

The Army has found stereotypes of Asian women quite useful - especially since most GIs experience long, forced separations from women. One Asian American recalls his experiences in boot-camp:

"In Marine Corps boot-camp, the military goes through a psychological and physical break-down trip on the men so they [the Military] can instill their values. And a heavy part of that trip is the mentioning of women in certain sexual contexts.

"We had these classes we had to go to, taught by the drill instructors, and every instructor would tell a joke before he began class. It would always be a dirty joke, usually having to do with prostitutes they had seen in Japan or in other parts of Asia while they were stationed overseas. The attitude of the Asian women being a doll, a useful toy, or something to play with usually came out in these jokes, and how they were not quite as human as white women. For instance, a real common example was how Asian women's vaginas weren't like a white woman's, but rather they were slanted, like their eyes. Some guys really believed this shit, too. Like when you get overseas afterward, you kind of trip on the jokes you heard and look for things you remember from the jokes."

The Military knows that the GIs aren't able to seek sexual satisfaction during basic training and a large part of their combat time, so they use this knowledge to keep the men down. They continually remind them of their desire by talking about women all the time, yet they keep the gratification of this desire from their reach.

According to psychologist Wilhelm Reich, in his book *Mass Psychology of Fascism*, "The goal of sexual suppression is that of producing an individual who is adjusted to the authoritarian order and who will submit to it in spite of all the misery and degradation." He goes on to say, "... the suppression of the gratification of primitive material needs (food, shelter, clothing) has a result different from that of the suppression of the gratification of the sexual needs. The former incites rebellion. The latter, however - by repressing the sexual needs and by becoming anchored as moralistic defense - paralyzes the rebellion against either kind of suppression."

Second, the Military gains from using the symbol of Asian women just as it gains from using the words "gooks," "slants" or "Communists." The image of a people with slanted eyes and slanted vaginas enhances the feeling that Asians are other than human, and therefore much easier to kill. More than a few Vietnam veterans tell of incidents of GIs who spend time in combat; then during their Rest and Recuperation periods, suddenly and with no apparent provocation, will kill a Vietnamese civilian out of a paranoid concept of "gooks."

The view that Asian women are less than human helps perpetrate another MYTH - that of the white woman "back home" being placed on a pedestal. THAT is not to say that the white woman's position is to be envied. Her position ON that pedestal is also an oppressive situation.)

An example of the "white woman on a pedestal" can be seen in the words of another Asian-American GI's experiences with the Military when he tried to marry a Vietnamese woman:

I wanted to get married when I was in Vietnam, but they (the Military) WOULDN'T let me. I didn't push it because of the feedback I got from the beginning. YOU see, you have to go through the chain-of-command to get married,

even in Vietnam because I was in the rear at the time. That's when I met this Vietnamese girl. First I went to my Section Chief, and he said, 'Man, you don't want to marry one of these "gooks" over here. They're not civilized, and if you take her back home with you, people won't be able to handle her because she's not civilized.' And so I said, 'Well, that's my problem.'

"So then I went to the Gunnery Sergeant, and he lectured me for like all day, and he told me to come back again. And I came back and he lectured me again and told me to come back again. Then I got to the First Sergeant and he did the same thing. Finally, I got to the Commanding Officer and he ran down all the bureaucratic stuff that I'd have to go through before I could even get the consent to get married. You have to go through this waiting time, and they make you wait until after you're rotation time, like if you have five months before you're moved out, then they'll give you a waiting period of six months so they can get you out of there.

"Man, they'd say stuff like, 'She's not an American so she wouldn't be able to handle it in the States' and 'you wouldn't be able to trust her once you got back in the states.' They say, 'Okay, you think you want to marry her now, but that's because there are no round-eyed chicks around.' They said that to me, you know, I'm an Asian too, but they said that to me. They'd always talk about round-eyed women - Caucasian women. They'd say, 'And once you get back, you'll see all those blondes and stuff, and you'll look at your wife and she'll be this old farmer chick - this gook - and you'll want to get rid of her. You'll be embarrassed when you get back because she's Vietnamese.'"

To most non-Asians in the United States, there is little if any difference between Asian Americans and Asian in America. Asian Americans are either lumped with Asians, and therefore considered "foreigners" or they are invisible. The GI who wanted to marry the Vietnamese girl experienced both. On one hand, the Military, completely insensitive to the fact that he too was an Asian, talked about the "round-eyed" woman waiting back home. This same brother upon entering basic training, was called a gook and was made to stand in front of his platoon as an example of "what the enemy (the Vietnamese) looked like."

Asian American women are susceptible to the stereotypes that GIs have of women in Asia. An example of this is shown in the following story of still another Asian-American in basic training.

"Before everybody crashed, the drill instructor comes through and checks to see that all footlockers are locked, and that you have your wallet. So you stand up on top of your locker at attention in your drawers and teeshirt and he comes around and he yells at everybody and he'll punch a few people; and he always picks somebody and he'll take their wallet and he'll look at their pictures. I had some pictures of these Asian girls I went to high school with. He made some derogatory comments like, 'This looks like this whore I knew back over there (Japan).' Then he took three or four pictures out of my wallet and he kept them. I couldn't do nothing about it, I don't know what he did with them. I didn't see them after that. That's when he saw the picture of my sister.

"After lights were out and everyone was supposed to be sleeping, he would come into our barracks and act like he was my friend. After harassing me all day, suddenly he's my friend. Then he started rapping about when he was in Japan and how he had this prostitute for quite a while. He said her last name was the same as mine. Then he said, 'What's your sister's name?' He knew I had an older sister and he had seen the picture of her, and I guess he flashed back on his experiences. Then he started harassing me by saying my sister looked like his prostitute. He'd say, 'Yeah, that's her. That's the prostitute I had.'"

We must fight the mentality that keeps Suzy Wong, Madame Butterfly and gooksim alive. The mentality that turns human beings into racist, murdering soldiers also keeps Asian Americans from being able to live and feel like human beings here at home.

- Gidra and LNS

Withdraw Nixon!

Contrary to what the Nixon administration would have the American public believe, the war in Indochina is not "winding down". It is true that the Nixon administration is effecting a substantial troop withdrawal as announced on November 13 1971. This is called the "end" of US ground combat operations.

While the Nixon announcement spoke of "winding down" the war on one hand, two other points were made indicating increased involvement. One, US troops will continue to scourge Indochina until the liberation forces of South Vietnam (and of Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam) agree to a theatre-wide cease-fire and a "negotiated settlement" or until the US supported regimes in Saigon, Phnom Penh, and Vientiane are able to retain power on their own without support from Washington. (Five years? - Ten years?) Second, air attacks and saturation bombing, which are already at an unprecedented level, will increase if any stepped-up infiltration is seen from North Vietnam into Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam.

It is clear that Nixon now hopes to convince the American public that American involvement in Indochina is ending by a marked troop withdrawal. What is actually happening here is the Johnson "ground war" being replaced by the Nixon "air war".

Nixon's "air war" will prove to be one of the greatest mass murders and destructive episodes in history. In World War II American bomb tonnage was approximately 2 million. During the period 1966 thru August of this year, American bomb tonnage in Indochina has been over 5.7 million.

At this point, much of the land in Indochina has been devastated by American bombs. One fourth to one third of the Laotian population have become refugees as a result of American bombing. There are over one half million refugees in the city of Phnom Penh as a result of American bombing in Cambodia.

Currently, there are an average of one thousand B52 strikes per month in Indochina. One thousand B52's carry the explosive tonnage of one and one third Hiroshimas. And, as the Nixon administration has indicated, the bombing will be increasing.



'WITHDRAWAL'

The primary mission of the "air war" will be to stop infiltration. What this means is that there will be no fixed tactical targets for American bombs; this means the continued indiscriminate bombing of civilians and civilian villages in Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam and a possible resumption of bombing over North Vietnam. 90% of bombing missions now flown over South Vietnam are targeted for civilian areas where the NLF is believed to have support. These tactics are used in a belief that bombs will persuade the people in the South Vietnamese countryside to support the Saigon government.

The cost of all this in Indochina is countless civilian deaths, refugees and ruination of villages and farmland. The Nixon administration would like us to believe that the best way to protect the people of Indochina from Communism is to drop bombs on them.

Among the costs for the US in the "air war" are continued casualties among the American troops remaining in South Vietnam to protect the Saigon regime, and an annual cost of 3.5 billion dollars to run the "air war" alone.

Nixon has no plan for ending the war. If he won't end the war the people of the United States must end it.

FIRST VOLAR NOW THIS; OR If At First You Don't Succeed.....?

More and more of the killing of the Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian people is done from the air. Push button Mylais. The G.I.'s who remain on the ground hate the war and the Army that holds them captive. They realize they are held as hostages by Nixon, Thieu and the men who pull the strings.

At home the commanders have a strategy to win their army back. They plan to "get tough" and "sterilize" the army by early discharges, railroading and repression of those who are speaking out against the continuing crimes in Indochina and the oppression of G.I.'s, WAC's, black, brown and working people at home.

The new draft bill and the economic recession are a boost for the Army's plans. They think it will be easier to build a "sterile" army with young draftees, and men and women forced into the military by the lack of jobs outside and the usually false hopes of job training in the "new army".

According to the Pentagon's plans once they have gotten rid of the Nam Vets, dissidents and other undesirable, and come down hard on the new troopers, everything will fall into line. They are afraid that when the time comes for the next imperialist intervention (S.E. Asia?, Cuba?, Chile? Africa?, Fort McClellan?) they won't be ready.

There is little or no appeal to blind patriotism; G.I.'s have seen through that game. The Volar hustle is seen as a fraud. The brass thinks discipline is the answer to getting their Army back. What this means to G.I.'s is extra duty, field exercises, more uniform, haircut and barracks hassles, stiff penalties for bullshit offenses and harsh penalties for exercising our rights as citizens.

The new approach will be "cut their balls off" repression, and appeal to the "he-man" myth which attaches some bullshit sexual power and virility to being an efficient part of the killing machine. Besides dehumanizing the G.I. it adds to the oppression of women, gay people and children. It is a poison at the heart of the killing machine, along with racism and class distinctions.

What's Brewing at Long Binh ?

Long Binh, Viet Nam-- The Constitution says that a man should be tried by a jury of his peers. Recently, a young Black soldier in Viet Nam was walking down a street at Long Binh without a hat. A sergeant-major saw him and called out, "Hey, soldier," and then ran up behind him. A scuffle ensued and the soldier ended up being charged with disobeying an order.

At the court-martial the soldier's lawyer moved that the jury panel be made up of ordinary soldiers rather than the officers and senior NCOs that usually make up such juries. For some unexplainable reason the commander of Long Binh decided to give the soldier a break or maybe just try an experiment and allowed the motion.

Five enlisted men were picked at random from the post by a computer to be the jury panel--- 2 buck sergeants, 2 Sp5s and a Sp4.

For once real justice was done in the army. The soldier was acquitted very quickly.

The GI Union demands that GIs be tried by a jury of their peers just like the Constitution says.

Nov. 6. Eighty GI's held a night meeting on Plantation compound in Long Binh, Vietnam. Representatives from nearly every unit of the post showed up to discuss ways of making their demands heard and future actions to end the war.



Watch out Brass! GI's at Long Binh protest.

A typed notice passed at the meeting demanded an end to the war, securing the release of POW's, and the legalization of marijuana. Upset about the many GI's who are becoming hooked on skag because of the unavailability of marijuana, the Long Binh GI's are establishing "head" unity in an effort to end the war and help their brothers who are strung out on skag.

One spokesman at the meeting said, "You cut off the body and the head can't go anywhere. If we all sit on the runways at Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa, and stop the jets from coming in with more people, who will do our jobs? They'll have to send us home. For instance, there are only two water truck drivers on Plantation who don't smoke. If we want to call a work stoppage, we will be able to do it. That's the purpose of this meeting, for people to get to know each other, to get together so we can use the power we have."

Already, one motor pool on Plantation was completely immobilized when the GIs emptied the air out of all the tires on every vehicle.

GI WIVES DEMAND BETTER HEALTH CARE

A group of GI wives from Fort Bragg and Fayetteville have been meeting to get to know one another and to combat the isolation of living in an army town. Among their activities have been discussions of women's problems and crafts projects. As they have gotten to know each other it became obvious that they had many problems in common. One of the most serious problems was inadequate health care at Womack Army Hospital and the various clinics.

The women then tried to find out if other people were as concerned as they were about the kind of health care the army dishes out. Going door to door in their communities they discovered that almost no one is satisfied with the quality of health care. Many people gave specific examples of the kind of treatment they have received from the military health machine.

The picture that emerges of medical care at Fort Bragg is one of crowded, short staffed clinics where people wait long hours. Once you do get to see a doctor or nurse about your problem it is too often the same story. Everything is such a rush that you are lucky if you get the proper care. Commented one woman, "They just don't have time for people". The run em' in - run em' out style of clinics makes patients feel like props in a game of beat the clock. Doctors who have to worry about seeing fifty more patients are unlikely to have the time to really listen to peoples' problems in the way that they deserve.

It is significant that among the clinics receiving the most complaints

were the Emergency ward, Obstetrics - Gynecology, and Pediatrics. These are the areas which see the maternal and child health problems, and where the crowded, impersonal military medical system shows its priorities.

After they realized how large the problem was they decided to present a list of complaints the hospital brass. In a meeting with a staff officer at the hospital, the women presented the written complaints and discussed the problems of patients at Womack. While the meeting was cordial the women felt that they were being pacified.

The women feel strongly that their quarrel is not with the doctors, nurses, or medics who are the health workers at Bragg, but with the Army brass and system which has such a low priority for people's medical needs. They realize that the health workers are caught in the squeeze of staff shortages and overcrowding.

The women hope that doctors, nurses and medics will begin to speak up and acknowledge their responsibility to work for better health care.

One woman summed it up, "People working together is the only way to make a change, or keep things from getting even worse. They just squeeze you 'un - you have to scream."

Women interested in meeting with the wives group for talk, refreshments and crafts are welcome to attend their get-togethers which are held on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM. For further information call 868-1203.

BRAGG FRAG'S

Major Stu Freyer, a doctor and a member of the Concerned Officers Movement, was processing out of the army last month on a Conscientious Objector discharge when he detained by 3 sergeants on the street and turned over to the MPs. They filed charges against Stu (who has shoulder length hair) for impersonating an officer. The MPs finally verified his identity and released him.

If you are awakened some night and ordered to piss in a cup, it's just part of Fort Bragg's new surprise urinalysis (for drugs) program.

We think its only fair that Bragg also have surprise blood tests for lifers to test for alcohol.

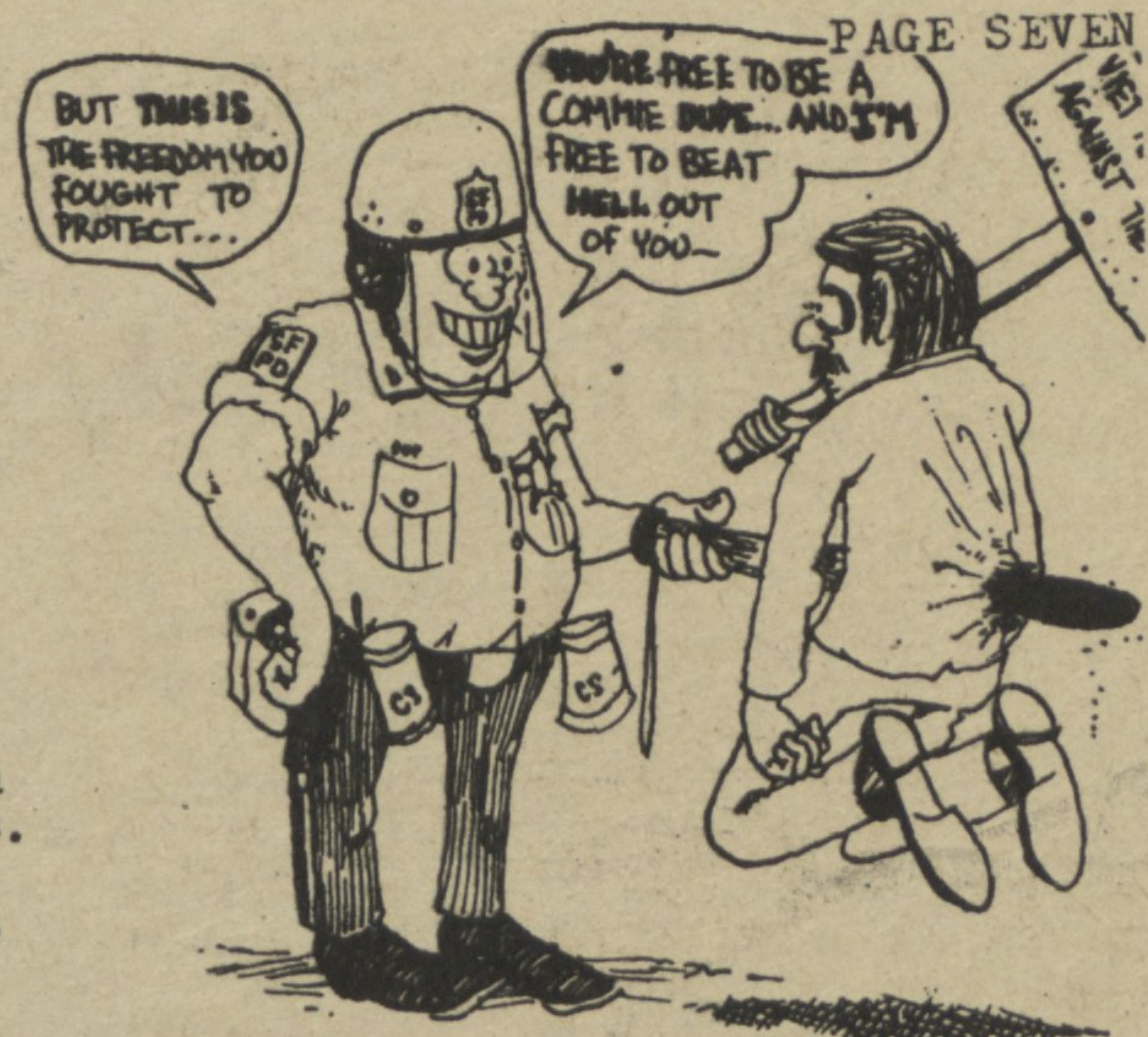
In an attempt to solve some basic problems of communication between the brass and LM, we (ed. - two GIs just returned from Viet Nam) decided to see if we could talk to Gen. Hay via his open door policy. We called and told them one of the things we wanted to discuss was distributing BRAGG BRIEFS on post. The very next day, JAG called our unit and told us to see him ASAP.

We were told that the paper wasn't allowed (and probably never would be) on post. We then decided to go to post HQ and see about seeing the General.

We were harassed about our haircuts (in good ol' Volar?) and threatened by having the MPs sicced on us. This happened a few weeks and they still have the evil eye on us.

We haven't given up the thought that those people can communicate. In the mean time, ORGANIZE.

Men of the 612th Quartermaster Company are really thrilled with their new, Volar-financed "tactical vehicle parking lot." Just what they always wanted.



notes from the slums

Looks like we're in for a "long hot winter in the most god-forsaken part of Fort Bragg, the 12th Support Brigade, affectionately known as "the slums." For all you new troopers not familiar with the layout, 12th Support is literally on "the other side of the tracks" (Bragg Boulevard), way off from the main post. 12th Support can boast of more muggings and robberies per capita than any other section of Fort Bragg.

Heat (and the lack of it) is a Big Problem in many of the dilapidated shacks they call barracks over in the slums. Rarely a night passes when the heat doesn't conk out somewhere in 12th Support... Troopers freeze their asses off, or get shifted around laying mattresses on the floor of the barracks next door... The heat stays out until it goes up and down the Chain of Command, maybe a day or two... (In one company, a complaint to the I.G. did get quick action, however.) When the heat finally goes back on, often the thermostat won't work, so the barracks get hot as hell, 90 degrees or more. Troopers are forced to open the windows, making the heater work doubly hard. Result: it conks out again... Why doesn't the Brass just face up to it and tear down these barracks? ... Maybe because they don't have to live in them...

Well troopers, yet another barracks went up in flames Saturday night, Dec. 4th. Is anyone counting? ... In some units special guard details were ordered late Saturday night, after the burning. GIs were woken up as late as 2 A.M. and immediately placed on guard duty. Other off-post were phoned and told to report for duty... VOLAR in action!

We don't know if the barracks burnings are the result of the righteous wrath of angry GIs, fed-up with the lousy de-humanizing lives they are forced to lead. Perhaps it is merely a case of old fire-trap buildings with faulty heaters going up in flames accidentally. In either case, we do know that the only sane response from the Army would be to build safe and livable barracks, and end the racist mind-crippling existence that GIs face daily at Fort Bragg...

Haymarket Square Coffeehouse

RADICAL

BOOKSTORE

and craft center

POSTERS

BUTTONS

LOCAL CRAFTS

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

a place to rap

a place to jam

a place to

oRganiZe
ourselves

CORNER BRAGG BLVD
& HAY ST



BRAGG BRIEFS needs: stories, cartoons, photos, graphics, tips, info, ideas, money and most of all, people. We are all amateurs at this, and we invite you to learn with us.

GI UNION MEETINGS:
Tuesday nite, 7:30
Haymarket Square



I WANT OUT

bragg briefs
box 437
spring lake, n.c.
28390

JC Peele MD
Kingston Clime
Kingston NC 28501



Please send bread!