



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

827 West Newport, Chicago, Illinois, 60657; (312) 935-2129

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Sgt. Abel Kavanaugh, ex-POW Commits Suicide

(The following press statement was issued by the National Lawyers Guild of Colorado, VVAW/WSO and the Rocky Mountain Military Project. They expect to meet with the Kavanaugh family and will keep us posted on further developments.)

Denver, Colorado - - The National Lawyers Guild of Colorado, Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization and the Rocky Mountain Military Project join in condemning President Nixon as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Colonel Guy as a representative of the military establishment, for their responsibility for the conditions which led to the suicide of Sgt. Abel Kavanaugh.

Sgt. Kavanaugh was sent as a Marine in 1968 to an undeclared war in Southeast Asia and was captured by the North Vietnamese a few months later. As a result of his experiences during his five years as a POW, he faced the difficult question of American involvement in Southeast Asia, concluding that it was illegal and without moral justification. Despite extreme pressures, he determined to be forthright with his convictions.

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Upon his return to the United States last winter, he was faced with a systematic campaign to discredit the actions and views of anti-war POWs. He found that as a result of his exercise of conscience and constitutional rights, he had been indicted with specific charges by the military and was confronted by a pervasive atmosphere of scorn and hatred. Anxieties about harrassment and prejudice were only exacerbated by the prospect of his scheduled return to Camp Pendleton, California, without protection, and the announcement of charges filed against two additional POWs. The pressures here at home far exceeded even those that he had endured during his five years as a POW, to the extent that he saw no alternative but to take his own life.

At a time when high government officials are being called upon in the Watergate hearings, to admit their failure to act upon conscience rather than orders, the American public cannot be expected to accept such abusive treatment of enlisted men who have exercised this moral duty. Moreover, President Nixon has used his veto power to betray the American people by violating his campaign promises of "peace with honor" and the swift return of POWs. Through continuation of the bombing of Cambodia, the President is only ensuring that the plight of the POW as well as the people of Southeast Asia will continue to plague this country's conscience.

The National Lawyers Guild, Vietnam Veterans Against the War /Winter Soldier Organization and Rocky Mountain Military Project have pledged their full legal and political support to the nine remaining POWs who face the same charges as were levelled against Sgt. Kavanaugh.

We believe these people have committed no crimes and should be granted unconditional amnesty, and call upon all citizens to join us in speaking out against the atrocities and inconsistencies of this country's government and military. The isolation and persecution of these and all others who have been outspoken cannot be allowed to continue.

Gainesville Up-Date -- Demonstration Set for July 31-August 4

By now, every chapter should have received a mailing concerning the demonstration date-change, the rationale for this change, as well as a news release concerning the June 20-22 pre-trial hearings. If local actions are already being planned for the July 21st date, it is perfectly acceptable that these actions may be conducted as planned. It is only the national action in Gainesville that must be postponed for legal reasons.

All chapters should remember that this demonstration is being planned by the National Steering Committee and not the Gainesville Conspiracy Defense Committee. This means that if you have in-put, questions, information requests, etc. regarding the action, you should contact the NSC representatives in Gainesville rather than the defense committee. The people in Gainesville who are working on the demonstration have recently obtained an office, and out of this office the groundwork for the action is being planned. The address of your con-

tact for the demonstration in Gainesville is:

VVAW/WSO
c/o Brian Adams
307 S. E. 2nd St.
Gainesville, Florida
(904) 372-3175

The people now working in Gainesville on the demonstration are: Brian Adams, (national office), Walter Klim (Milwaukee), Bill Shunas (Chicago), and John Musgrave (Great Plains). If anyone else is interested in going to Gainesville to help coordinate and organize, you should contact Brian Adams before going. Do not go down there without checking with the Gainesville organizers beforehand.

The National Office has leaflets which may be used to mobilize for this demonstration available upon request. We only have 7,000 copies, so use your judgment in ordering and remember your brothers in all of the other chapters. The leaflet is four pages and is printed on newsprint. (It looks like one full plate for the newspaper). Send your orders to the national office and we'll get the hand-outs off to you immediately.

* * * Free the Gainesville 8 -- Demonstrate July 31-August 4 * * *

REGIONAL NEWS

From Wisconsin VVAW/WSO

The Wisconsin-Minnesota region is planning a car convoy to bring their members to Gainesville for the demonstration being held in support of the Gainesville 8 conspiracy trial. The convoy will be leaving from Kilborne Park (aka Reservoir Park) on July 28 at 7 AM. The route will be the same as that of the convoy last year to the Republican convention. First night rest stop will be 14 miles north of Lexington, KY in the rest area there. The second night rest-stop will be in the first rest area south of Atlanta, GA. Both rest-stops are on Interstate 75 South (I-75S). Any chapter or region who wishes to join in this convoy should call the Milwaukee office (414) 562-9371. Final arrangements are being made -- so call the ASAP.

The Milwaukee chapter is once again having a Labor Day Parade; their third annual. The parade will be held on September 4, starting at 2 PM. The meeting place is at 10th and Wisconsin. The Milwaukee chapter is letting everyone know in advance so that those interested in helping or joining in can plan to do so. In the past these parades have been really successful, with VVAW/WSO and other movement groups turning the parades into real people parades. For more information write to VVAW/WSO, 2439 N. Fratney, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Or you can call (414) 562-9371. The theme of this year's parade is 'Peace and Solidarity'.

From Houston Texas VVAW/WSO

The Houston chapter of VVAW/WSO is opening VVAW/WSO Post #1 this month. This post will be a combination bar and veterans center. The post will offer a collection of left and veteran literature and will be the center for the chapters program activity: Amnesty, VA, Gainesville defense and Internal Education. The chapter is just awaiting their license and will be moving in to their new quarters soon. The new address is: VVAW/WSO, 2912 Wentworth, Houston, Texas 77005

From Philadelphia PA VVAW/WSO

The Philadelphia chapter of VVAW/WSO is moving their offices to 2440 Kensington Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19125. The new phone number is (215) GA3-3161. The new office is in a working class community with a large concentration of veterans. The chapter hopes that this move will encourage some of those vets to join the organization. The group is beginning to work with local community groups much more than they have in the past. These groups and the VVAW/WSO chapter will mount a demonstration in support of Gainesville 8 prior to the demonstrations to be held in Gainesville on July 31st to August 4th.

From Dayton OH VVAW/WSO

The Dayton Chapter of VVAW/WSO is beginning a military project. This project will serve as a draft and military counseling center for the Dayton area as well as offer services for discharge up-grading, amnesty counseling, legal aid for GIs, and house the NOSCAM office. The chapter is well into planning for the center, working now on listing services and contacting doctors, lawyers, etc. If any chapter is interested in finding out more about this project contact by mail: VVAW/WSO, PO Box 1625, Dayton, Ohio 45401.

From St. Louis VVAW/WSO

The St. Louis Chapter of VVAW/WSO is planning a demonstration in support of the Gainesville 8, to be held on June 20th and 21st. They will conduct a vigil from 9 AM on Friday the 20th and this will last until noon on Saturday at which time they will hold a rally. This demonstration is being held to build for the Gainesville demonstration. Just prior to the vigil, the chapter members will leaflet the workers of the City and Federal Buildings to explain the charges of the Gainesville 8 and the connections between this trial and the Watergate events.

Work on the coffeehouse has temporarily been halted while the chapter attempts to raise the money needed to complete their work and purchase supplies. They hope to open on September 1st. The coffee house will serve as the meeting place and program center of the chapter. This center will also be the place from which US Army records searches will be conducted. The chapter has for sale VVAW T-shirts and VVAW bumper stickers. The address is: VVAW/WSO, 1023 Allen Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

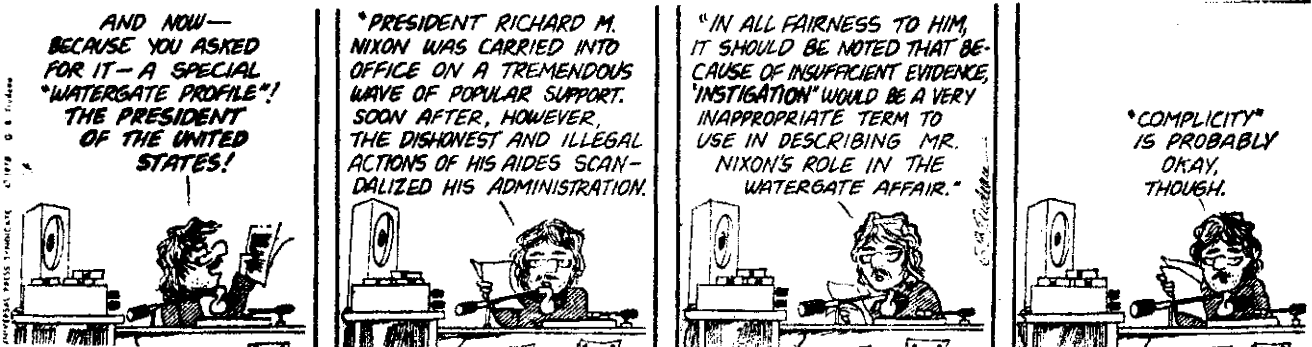


News from Attica -- Trial Moved to Buffalo

A very minimal victory has been won by the 60 Attica brothers who will be tried on charges relating to the Attica prison uprising. New York State Appellate Court Judge Goldman has moved the trial from Warsaw (a small suburban town) to Buffalo, New York. This concession on the part of the judge still does not meet the requirement that defendants be tried by a jury of their peers. Most of the 60 defendants come from New York City, and that is where the trial should be held if justice was to be honestly pursued. However, Buffalo is indeed an improvement over Warsaw.

As it stands now, the state plans to conduct at least 37 trials coming out of 37 indictments and including 60 men. No prison guards, state troopers, or other officials will be included among the defendants, yet it was these state officials who launched the rebellion which resulted in the murder of 43 prisoners and guards by law enforcement personnel on September 13, 1971. The dates for these trials have not yet been set.

The Attica Defense Committee is in desperate need of help. Any support which chapters can offer (such as educational work, demonstrations, etc.) would be greatly appreciated by the Attica brothers. For further information regarding this important trial, chapters should contact the National Office of the Attica Defense Committee at 1370 Main St., Buffalo, New York 14209.



(On April 30th, four prison officials attacked and beat a prisoner in the Florida State Prison in Starke, Florida. The following letter was received by this office.)

Greetings, VVAW/WSO

I raise my voice on behalf of 14 soldiers who have been made scapegoats because of a resistance move lodged against police brutality and oppression. Whereas, on April 30th, four prison officials unmercifully attacked a black inmate and the people rose in defense of their fallen soldier.

The papers have carried and continue to carry the bigoted reports of the Prison Director, Louie L. Wainwright who absurdly claims black inmates are terrorizing white inmates. He had one of his lackey inmates file a grossly fabricated civil complaint which received an unusual amount of publicity. Louie immediately pronounced on the lies saying they were true and begging for more of the taxpayers (money) so he can, no doubt, stick in his pockets after building a few more cages of inferior quality to pack human beings in.

The 14 brothers go to court on July 10, 1973. You as the people should give them physical support in protest of Ameriklan justice.

Last, but highly important, a friend of the people, Ms. Judith Peterson 115 S. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601, has vowed her legal services for the brothers. Justice, unfortunately, is extremely expensive for prisoners. Will you please forward donations to this brave woman?

For Liberty,

The prisoner also asks that all people write to the following address and demand that publicized interviews with prisoners who were involved in the April 30th incident be printed.

Miami Herald
1 Herald Plaza
Miami, FL

St. Petersburg Times
PO Box 7121
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Senator Lawton Chiles
Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510

He asks that the Senator be written letters to demand an investigation of the incident. We hope that every chapter will be able to write letters to support our brothers in prison.



Winter Soldier Subscriptions

Winter Soldier is now taking subscriptions. If every chapter could get at least 5 subscriptions a month it would help us continue to get out the paper. In each newspaper is a subscription blank. If you could get 5 people to fill them in and send them to this office we could raise \$4,500 which would pay for the paper for the next 6 or 7 months. Another way to get subscriptions would be to go to all the local libraries and ask them to subscribe. The subscription rates for libraries and institutions is \$15.00. Several of these per chapter would mean that the paper could be printed for the next year with no problem. Sooo, if you would like to continue having our national paper printed...

Fundraising Hints

In recent weeks, this office has received letters in which suggestions on raising money was requested. The following are a few suggestions from the rarely heard from Finance Ministry of the National Collective.

1. Most chapters see fundraising as a nasty chore that needs doing but that is very frustrating (especially dealing with liberals). However, it is important that members see that fundraising is vital to the life of the organization. This may seem incredible, but 50% of your energies should go into fundraising. The more money you have, the more materials and outreach you get.
2. Someone in your chapter should immediately begin researching foundations and proposal writing. There is a lot of money out there that foundations control, and all it takes is the willingness to do some research and writing and the willingness to be slimy. If your chapter has a program there is probably a foundation out there that will fund it if they are approached right. There is a good book out that will help anyone interested in foundation money. It's The Bread Game and can be ordered from: Glide Publications, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 for \$1.95.
3. Finally, people should get out and sell Winter Soldiers. Do not rely on liberal mailing lists to keep you going. Eventually those people will drop away.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Chapter List Update Ready to be Published !!

The next newsletter will contain an updated chapter list. Since the last list was published in April, many chapters have moved their offices and there have been new chapters formed. If your address has changed and you haven't notified this office, please do so as this will facilitate intra-organizational communications. Regional offices should be able to send most recent chapter update lists of their regions with no problem.

Pictures and Cartoons Needed !!

We need pictures of VVAW/WSO demonstrations and cartoons dealing with any current issue for the Winter Soldier newspaper. We are beginning to run out of pictures of these events and would like copies of photos of your demonstrations for use in the paper. If you have photos or cartoons send them to us and your chapter just may have its picture in the next paper.

AMEX-Magazines Available

AMEX-Canada publishes a bi-monthly magazine from Toronto, Ontario that deals mainly with the views of exiles living in Canada. The magazine also has articles on the issues of Canada and the United States that are current and informative. This office has approximately 200 copies of the May-June issue that are available to the chapters on request. If you would like some of these drop us a line and we will send them to you.

Clippings on Watergate and Gainesville Needed !!

We are compiling stacks of newspaper clippings that pertain to the events of the Watergate proceedings and their connections to VVAW/WSO and of Gainesville in particular. If one of your local newspapers has any articles that deal with this, we would like copies of them.

