

# Campus Action

ISSUE 4/MARCH  
www.campusantiwar.net

Newsletter of the Campus Antiwar Network



Students at Seattle Central Community College cheer after protests force recruiters to leave campus

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# Military Recruiters Out of Our Schools!

"Counter-recruitment" has become a national issue, and it's working. Between these efforts, and widespread anger about the war, recruitment is down. According to a March 6 Reuters report, "The regular Army is 6 percent behind its year-to-date recruiting target, the Reserve is 10 percent behind, and the Guard is 26 percent short." The military newspaper *Stars and Stripes* reports that African-American recruitment is down 41 percent since 2000.

Counter-recruitment efforts have taken off from New York to Seattle and the military has clearly become concerned. At William Patterson University in New Jersey, an activist was arrested for simply handing out counter-recruitment leaflets. Twice last semester, CCNY student protesters drove military recruiters off campus.

Bush claims that his occupation of Iraq represents "democracy is on the march" in the Middle East. Will that include the right to protest? Certainly not for the 100,000 Iraqis killed by the U.S. since the March 2003 invasion, or the more than 1500 dead American soldiers. Blood and oil don't mix and they don't create democracy.

Here in the U.S., high school and college student activists all over the country can take up the fight for peace and democracy and organize to kick recruiters out of their schools. Like the lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro 45 years ago that challenged segregation in dozens of communities across the nation, you can get started opposing the recruiters at your school with just a few friends. Getting the military out of our schools and replacing them with real educational opportunities is our generation's fight. No one will do it for us. We owe it to ourselves, the Iraqis, and the American soldiers dying for a lie. Hadas Their & Katrina Yeaw

**UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS CHICAGO**

Since the beginning of the semester, Univ of Illinois Chicago Campus Antiwar has been actively involved in initiating a campaign to get military recruiters off our campus, joining forces with other left student groups to form the UIC Coalition Against War Recruiting. Our main goals are to raise awareness about imperialist U.S. wars and occupations while initiating action against the recruitment of students to fight in them. We also seek to provide information to potential recruits about the many non-military alternatives to obtaining college funding and job skills training.

Last week, we were able to get the ROTC to leave their table in frustration, after tabling next to them with signs and informational flyers for about an hour and a half. The following day, Air Force recruiters held a Q & A session on the west side's medical campus to discuss "career opportunities" for medical students. We showed up with about 20 people and split our forces to have a visible presence outside of the building as well as inside the meeting. Coalition members asked the recruiters pointed questions about the discriminatory policies of the military, forced drug use among military personnel and depleted uranium risks faced by soldiers in combat.

For our efforts, we got the front page and feature editorial of The Flame, the student paper. While the front-page article was a fairly accurate portrayal of our stance and action, the feature editorial was a gross mischaracterization. It's author claimed of us, "We need attention and the only way we can have it is to disrupt the steady lives of people attempting to recruit others to protect our nation." In response, we have requested a meeting with the editorial board to clear up this misunderstanding and started a campaign of letters to the editor.

Since these actions took place the ROTC has not bothered to show up at their scheduled weekly table, so we have taken it over and continue to have a large, visible presence despite their absence.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY**

This semester at UC Berkeley our counter recruitment campaign has gotten off to an amazing start.

We've held public events which attracted new organizers and media coverage, but we're preparing for more direct actions in the coming months.

We spent the winter reaching out to progressive groups on campus to try to incorporate their interests, needs, and resources into the CR campaign. Our first public event was February 3rd to build the campaign and BSTW. Diana from Iraq Veterans Against the War and Professor As'ad AbuKhalil spoke about the occupations and the Iraqi elections, and one of our members made a pitch for demilitarizing the campus and our next meeting.

The week after that speech, the BTSW meeting was the biggest since the post-"Mission Accomplished" and elections slump, with about 40 people, including members of the Oscar Wilde house (the LGBT-themed co-op) and the Native American Recruitment and Retention center. We are planning a demonstration for "Cal Day" on April 16th, where all the campus groups table to attract incoming freshmen. The military recruiters always have a huge presence and ROTC runs around campus and rappels down the side one of the main buildings (because that's just one of the fun things...

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**CORNELL UNIVERSITY****2**

The counter-recruitment fight has spread to yet another campus: Cornell University. On February 28th, Lambda Law, a LGBT law student group, hosted a forum on the Solomon Amendment. 100 people--including a large turnout from the campus anti-war group, Cornell for Peace and Justice (CPJ), attended the forum. The administration refused to take real action. The crowd was very frustrated and this helped CPJ convince a large number to come out for a direct action. March 3rd, CPJ organized an action confronting military recruiters at a Career Fair about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that is in direct violation to Cornell's Non-Discrimination policy. We printed scripts for people to use and went into the career fair to bait the recruiters into discriminating against us. When asked directly if the military would allow us to be openly gay in the service, the recruiters had no choice but to state their disgusting policy. All those participating in the action then filled out the Campus Discrimination Report form. On the form's "desired outcome" space sixty people wrote, "remove recruiters!" This flooded the office with sixty complaints in one day, whereas they usually receive six a month. The action also surrounded the military recruiter's table with people talking about homosexuality effectively blocking real recruitment. The strength of this action lay in the collaboration of anti-war activists, LGBT rights activists and socialists. We plan to continue the pressure on the recruiters until they give up or Cornell gives in!

Bekah W., Cornell for Peace and Justice

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

Up until now, NYU's anti-militarization work centered around the solidarity campaign for Pablo Paredes, the war resister profiled in this issue of the CAN newsletter. We petitioned in support of him at all our tablings, and when the Judge Advocate General's Corps (the legal arm of the military -- in other words, the people prosecuting war resisters like Pablo) came to recruit at our law school, we staged a small protest outside, with signs and petitions letting people know what JAG really contributes to the war effort.

The centerpiece of this solidarity campaign was an event featuring Victor Paredes, titled When Soldiers Say No to War, and it was a huge success. About 70 people came to hear Victor, who spoke very powerfully about Pablo's decision not to board his ship. We also got a lot of media attention, including community newspapers, documentary filmmakers, and the largest Spanish-language paper in New York City; and we were able to raise almost \$200 for Citizens for Pablo. The event was introduced by two CAN students who outlined the case against the occupation and the role of soldiers and students in stopping the Vietnam War. During the wide-ranging discussion, one person who had recently moved here from North Carolina said that antiwar military families he knew in that state had been inspired by the student protests before the war began, including the ones here at NYU!

At that event, a ton of people signed up to get involved with CAN, and four of them came to our next meeting. Everyone wanted to be doing counter-recruitment in a more sustained way. Since NYU, as an expensive private school, doesn't ordinarily have military recruiters here, we decided to "adopt" a local high school with recruiters, and do counter-recruitment work there, in conjunction with other groups already working with high school students. Meanwhile, we're continuing to build our presence on campus, planning to publicize the CAN contingent for March 19 and follow up with a "street theater" on campus right afterwards.

- Sam Pipp and Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, NYU CAN reps.

# Defend CCNY

# Activists!

## CITY COLLEGE COUNTER-RECRUITERS CHARGED WITH FELONY ASSAULT, BRUTALIZED BY CAMPUS SECURITY

"He just stood on the guy," remembers Mark Turner, a staff member at CCNY, recalling the manner in which Mr. Bergreen was subdued by a private security guard, Mr. Robertson. "His foot was on his back, after he had tackled him. Private security are not supposed to touch us."

Ms. Thier was arrested simply for taking pictures. Several witnesses recall that the guards were pulling on her hair. Juan Alduey remembers that the guards pushed Ms. Thier when she tried to give a statement to students who began filming the event. "I'm being arrested for exercising my right to free speech" Mr. Alduey recalled.

Three students involved in a peaceful protest yesterday were arrested after security guards assaulted them. About 20 students went to the City College job fair to protest the presence of military recruiters.

Tiffany Paul, a student at City College, explained, "With 50% unemployment for Black men in Harlem, and education budgets being slashed on the federal and state level, the military budget for recruitment is being doubled. Why should we sign a contract to go kill for oil in order to get an education?"

Robert Rosario, a City College student from the Bronx, added, "The military almost got me because I didn't see other ways to get a decent job and an education. I'm glad I found out before I joined that very few people who enroll in the military actually get the money and job training they are promised."

Twice earlier this semester, students peacefully protested military recruiters at City College and as a result, the recruiters had to pack up and leave. This time, campus security was ready for the students who had announced their intention to protest. With almost as many security guards as protesters, the security guards began brutalizing and arresting the students after they had left the job fair.

According to Steve Theberge, the War Resisters League's Youth and Counter Militarism National Organizer, "These three students are part of a huge national trend - in high schools and colleges across the country young people are protesting the presence of the military on their campuses. Arresting them for simply pointing out the inaccuracies, mis-truths and outright lies that are spread by recruiters is shocking, and says a great deal about how much the voices and opinions of our nation's youth are valued in this time of war."

This national trend included protests at Seattle Community College and Southern Connecticut State University which forced military recruiters to leave the campus. Just yesterday, March 9th, student demonstrators forced recruiters to leave San Francisco State University. Counter-recruitment activity and doubts about the war seem to be having an impact.

According to a March 6, 2005, Reuters report, "The regular Army is 6 percent behind its year-to-date recruiting target, the Reserve is 10 percent behind, and the Guard is 26 percent short."

Hadas Thier, one of the City College students arrested yesterday, said, "Student activism is having an effect and so they decided to illegally crack down on us. We have the right to freedom of expression, even if that means less people join the military. I mean, there's not a draft, right?"

## UPDATE ON CCNY STUDENTS

Thursday, March 10, 2005, The 3 City College students arrested, and brutalized, yesterday for peacefully protesting the presence of military recruiters at City College's "career fair" were arraigned and released today and charged with misdemeanor counts of assaulting an officer, resisting arrest, and disturbing the peace, among other things. The students will be discussing strategies for a response over the next few days and very much appreciate all the support they have been receiving. They can be contacted at hadasthier@earthlink.net. Military recruitment numbers are down and protests are up - we are having an impact! Keep up the good work!

PETITION FOR CCNY: [cityfreespeech@earthlink.net](mailto:cityfreespeech@earthlink.net)

## MILITARY RESISTER

## SPEAKS OUT Interview w/ Pablo Paredes

*Why did you enter the military?*

Why do you think most people who are in the military?

The poverty draft is what a lot of people lovingly call it. When the richest country in the world has such socio-economic issues, the recruiters always target that. In my high school, the recruiters had more access to students than colleges did. And that is ridiculous. It's kind of your destiny when you're broke and trying to make ends meet that you join the military.

We've met a lot of people who say that military recruiters should be allowed to stay on campuses so that students have the option of joining the military. What do you have to say to those people? There's a range of things I'd like to say to those people. There's a college in San Francisco that was able to keep the recruiters off campus because they're not an equal opportunity organization. On another level, they're going to lie to you, so they shouldn't have so much access. I don't know why federal funding should have anything to do with getting your personal information.

*What made you decide not to ship out to the Gulf?*

I grew up in the Bronx and I went to a school that wasn't the worst and wasn't the best. I had to work while I went to high school and college—not just work, but work two and three jobs. Politics takes the back burner to trying to get by. So I joined the military coming out of that. To me the military was a nine to five. I had a choice of getting a third job and loans or checking out what the military recruiter on campus was saying. I learned pretty quickly that it wasn't about electronics. What I'm working with is a thirty year old system—it's nothing you can get a job with. 80% of people sign up for the GI bill. Only 20% ever get to take advantage of the GI Bill. I got orders to go to Japan. It was very interesting to me. I got to see a whole other culture—a whole other society. It always raised the issue of politics of US foreign policy. I was very ignorant—every time it came up I wanted to crawl in a hole because I didn't know what they were talking about. I just kind of started reading a lot. I really quickly started to feel at odds with what I was doing. As a Latino I wanted to look at what the US has to do with my own heritage in Ecuador and Puerto Rico. I found out about so many massacres and so many CIA funded operations. I felt like a fool. 9-11 became an excuse;... **PAGE 5**

# SFSU STUDENTS KICK RECRUITERS OFF CAMPUS!



Student protest surrounds recruiters at SFSU

## CONTINUED FROM BACK COVER:

The Army Corps almost immediately abandoned their tabling commenting to some activists that they were also against the war. One recruiter said "this war is stupid". Then, protesters lined up to take turns speaking on the bullhorn. We held a peaceful anti-war teach in until they decided to pack it up at 2pm—one hour before the job fair was supposed to end and without any new recruits. As they left we sang "Sha na-na-na hey hey hey good Bye" It was fantastic!

The press was all over this with leading stories on CBS, Fox, ABC, NBC, Telemundo, the World Journal (a Chinese language paper) ... the list went on. According to these reports the SFSU Administration will be sanctioning groups who sponsored this event, as well as suspending individual students who helped with the action. Today when activists entered the second day of the Job fair and began passing out pamphlets with facts about the military, eight police officers muscled them out the door, twisted their arms, and detained them and took down their information.

We are organizing a campaign to force the administration at SFSU to stop these outrageous attacks on political activists—please keep your eyes peeled for our email/fax campaign. We stand in solidarity with the CAN activists from the City College of New York (CCNY) who were arrested, assaulted by cops, and charged with felony-assault for protesting recruiters on the same day that we did.

## Demand NO Sanctions against protestors!

Robert A. Corrigan, SFSU President  
Phone: (415) 338-1381, Fax: (415) 338-6210  
Email: corrigan@sfsu.edu

Penny Saffold, SFSU Vice President/Dean of Students  
Phone: (415) 338-2032, Fax: (415) 338-0900 | for more  
Email: psaffold@sfsu.edu

Cc: emails to cansfsu@hotmail.com

For more information contact: wcaudy@stars.sfsu.edu

## BERKELEY REPORT CONTINUED:

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you get to do by joining the military, obviously!). To pressure the campus administration to take a public stand and to draw in students, we are planning to distribute literature, and do something creative with music, signs, guerrilla theater, and/or a lunch-counter-type demonstration where everyone lines up, tries to join the military, says "I'm gay", is then rejected by the recruiters, rips up their application and joins the picket line. We've had a lot of success circulating a simple petition in classes demanding that the military be kicked off campus, and we have a pledge to gauge campus support for the campaign. Recently, we organized a protest against Marine Corps recruiters at career fair on Wednesday, February 23rd. We found out they were coming a couple days before, so we sent out the call for an emergency meeting and demonstration. About 20 of us gathered at 11am, and we planned to picket outside the entrance to the fair, but the career fairs officials wouldn't allow any signs, flyers, or posters inside (a rule entirely without precedent). Instead, we began picketing and chanting outside with signs like "US out of Iraq, Military Recruiters Off Campus!" Around 11:20, BSTW students went inside the fair to confront the recruiters with questions about the war and the military's practices. We prevented them from engaging any

students by crowding their table, taking their brochures, and monopolizing their time. The recruiters dodged most of the questions with empty rhetoric about just wanting to defend their country and not having any control over the military's policies. Meanwhile, a few BSTW members spoke with the Director of the Career Fair about legal issues: the military recruiters' discriminatory policies make their presence a direct violation of the University's anti-discrimination codes. The Director informed us that a 1984 ruling by the UC Regents made military recruiters the only employers exempt from this code; a decision that makes the non-discrimination code completely untenable. He told us we would have to talk to the Regents to legally bar the recruiters (making this a UC-wide issue). When we then started chanting, we were told we could be arrested if we didn't leave. So, we marched out of the building chanting, and picketed outside. This protest, though small in numbers, was an important step for the campaign. We got favorable coverage from local media. It also gave us more confidence in our arguments.

There is a forum next week where the new Chancellor is going to talk about his "commitment to diversity," and we're going to team up with an Affirmative Action group to stack the mike with questions about recruiters, and the reality of the UC commitment to diversity. That said, we've run into problems in the coalition-building part of this campaign. Despite our outreach, there has been less willingness to commit resources to the CR campaign. We're continuing to show our solidarity by going to other meetings and events, but our outreach to Queer groups has been particularly difficult. Some students who came to the first meeting didn't come back because they felt there was a lack of attention to Queer issues—though they didn't speak about those issues—and the Queer Resource Center didn't protest with us Wednesday because the Chancellor offered them a meeting if they didn't.

We don't want to turn anyone into tokens, but we also can't speak for their agenda, what tactics have worked for them, what actions they're willing to take, etc. So, the plan as of now is to keep reaching out, and arguing with people to get involved. We're going to keep stepping up the activism and the pressure. We won't let the recruiters on campus without some presence or picket, and we'll be counting on other CAN chapters to share their successes and strategies as well. **In solidarity, Josh Fattal and Anna Schlotz I** **Campus Reps I Berkeley Stop the War Coalition**



Jorge Torres and Darrin Hoop  
MANY ACCOUNTS of the January 20 protest describe it as a spontaneous action. While some parts of the confrontation that sent the military recruiters packing weren't planned, the walkout at SCCC was well organized and planned out in advance.

The group that organized the protest, Students Against War (SAW), got its start in mid-November.

Over the next month, SAW was built up through weekly tabling, posterage and in-class announcements.

On two different occasions during this period, a handful of SAW members set up tables to counter the military recruiters. We were able to force them to leave before their scheduled time on both occasions.

## How SCCC students built the struggle

The second time, the Air National Guard called security to complain about us harassing him. When security called Student Leadership (SL), a crowd of some 15 students started to form around us. Several non-SAW

students defended us, saying students were trying to study and we shouldn't be bothered by the military trying to recruit us.

SL backed down, and the recruiter left shortly afterward.

In mid-December, students began talking about a walkout on Bush's Inauguration Day. It wasn't until January 4 that SAW voted to organize both a teach-in on January 19 and a walkout the next day.

We discussed at this meeting whether SAW--which had 10 active members at this time--could successfully pull off both events.

There were two main arguments that led to a unanimous 10-0 vote to do both. The first was that, given our prior experiences kicking the recruiters off campus, we knew that there was a high level of anger toward Bush and military recruiters at SCCC. The second was to divide up organizational responsibilities so that every SAW member was actively building for the events.

We then all agreed that a small action of 30 to 50 people would be better than no action at all--and an important step toward breaking through the pessimism brought on by Bush's reelection.

The January 19 teach-in was a success, with 50 people attending. Speakers took up a range of issues, from the occupations of Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq, to the attacks on civil liberties at home, to the questions facing the antiwar movement. Also on the 19<sup>th</sup>, SAW members discussed and voted to peacefully confront recruiters the next day. The walkout began at 12:30 p.m. with 50 students. We marched through the SCCC building. By the end of the march, there were some 300 students filling the hallway around the recruiters' table.

The hapless recruiters tried to act as if the crowd wasn't bothering them and continued to pass out their literature. Students ripped it up in their faces and threw it up in the air like confetti. Others tore off their tablecloth and pounded on the table. After 15 minutes, the recruiters were escorted off campus. The crowd followed behind, chanting "Don't come back!" and "You should be ashamed!" Outside, more than 1,000 students were rallying from more than 10 different area high schools and colleges. This was the result of a month's worth of planning by many groups to coordinate these citywide walkouts. At the rally, we held an impromptu meeting to exchange phone numbers and e-mails to coordinate future actions. After 45 minutes, we marched downtown and met up with another 1,000 people who had gathered at a Not In Our Name protest.

A few days later, the SCCC administration threatened to suspend our student group status for the rest of the quarter if we didn't apologize to the recruiters. The SCCC president attended a SAW meeting to personally request our apology. But we voted to make no apologies. Instead, SAW, with the help of other groups, planned to hold a press conference for two days later.

Once the school administration got word of this, they promised to rescind the threats if we promised to not go public. We made plans to hold a press conference anyway, and the administration backed down completely.

We feel that the lesson of our experience is that even a small group of students can organize to get recruiters off campus.

It's important to stand up to any attempt by school administrators to intimidate us--and to build solidarity with community groups, professors and other students. We have to be confident and open about our opposition to the war that has led to the deaths of more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians and more than 1,400 U.S. troops.

**PABLO PAREDES**... it became a mandate. I started to have more conflict about my enlistment, but I didn't really have anything to do with the war. They could have shipped me to something to do with the war so I applied to be a security guard. It's better than actually taking marines over there. They told me I would have had to further my enlistment by another year. At this point I had about a year and eight months left, but the Navy has a program where you can get out a year early if you get into college. When I dropped out of the training program I pretty much said that my president was guilty of war crimes and I didn't want to be part of these war crimes. They kind of lashed out at me and told me I'd ship out to the Persian Gulf in two weeks--that's pretty unusual. I was supposed to take 3000 marines to Iraq, drop them off, and they'd get killed. It is a very safe job. So it was not about cowardice. There was nothing really to worry about. Actually, there would have been a lot of incentive to go. I would have gotten an early out. I would have gotten an honorable discharge and it was a tax free zone. I decided to follow my conscience and not make money from other people's blood. I wasn't going to do it quietly.

*Do you have any advice for activists working with veterans and military families?*

There's still limits on what I can do. There's vague wording that can get me in trouble. If I say anything that encourages people in the military to do what I'm going I can get accused of mutiny so it's really great that there's campus groups and activists working with that. One thing you can do it get information for prospective recruits. Also, if you know about a resistor, it's because he wanted to make noise so help him make noise. As corny as it sounds, write to your senators... **PAGE 7**

# Defend free speech!

## UW-Madison arrests activist for protesting recruiters

On February 16th, anti-war activist Blake Trimbell was arrested in Memorial Union for exercising her right to freedom of speech. Blake and approximately 24 other activists were protesting the presence of Navy Recruiters at a Multi-cultural job fair. The Union Building Manager told us about two Union rules, both of which turned out to be fictional, which indicated that she had the authority to kick us out. Blake was arrested when she asked to see a copy of the rules. She was not being any more disruptive than the rest of us. Blake was singled out and was made into an example of anyone who questions the university's authority. Stop the War is calling for a rally in Blake's defense when she appears in court for her arraignment. As activists, we must band together to protest the university's attempts to silence dissenting voices. Let the people responsible for Blake's arrest know that suppression of free speech won't be tolerated.

**Tell UW to defend free speech:** Mark Guthier, Wisconsin Union Director [mcguthier@wisc.edu](mailto:mcguthier@wisc.edu) #608-262-2263 John Wiley, UW-Madison Chancellor [jdwiley@bascom.wisc.edu](mailto:jdwiley@bascom.wisc.edu) #608-262-9946

**See: [www.campusantiwar.net](http://www.campusantiwar.net) for more info**

### Victory for free speech at Kennedy High

**"Thanks to everyone who offered us support and solidarity"**

On Wednesday, February 23, the Kennedy High School chapter of Youth Against War and Racism distributed counter-military-recruitment information from a table during lunch periods and held a teach-in after school. These events were successes despite the attempts to ban our actions by the Kennedy administration and the Bloomington Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The Superintendent ultimately acquiesced to our demands to be allowed the same rights as other student organizations and the military recruiters because they were flooded by phone calls from people involved in the anti-war movement from around the country, and because they saw that our student group was organized and not about the back down.

We were informed Tuesday afternoon that despite prior approval and precedent, we would not be allowed to have a table at lunch when the military recruiters were present. The local American Legion had contacted the school Superintendent and threatened to withdraw their significant funding from the school if we were permitted to table.

We organized an emergency meeting that evening on hearing the news, and plotted our next moves. Fourteen active members showed up and decided that we would table in violation of the administration's decree. If they demanded we take down our table we would refuse, regardless of the consequences. This would show them that we wouldn't back down easily, and would create a scene that would reflect badly on the administration.

We drafted a flier and petition to hand out to students asking them to support our free speech rights. We sent an appeal to anti-war groups across America asking them to call the Superintendent and Principal to demand they allow us our free speech rights. Finally, we sent a press release announcing a press conference at 2:30 on Wednesday. We intended to show the administration that if they were going to violate the constitution so flagrantly, they would do it over our resistance, and they would do it publicly.

Several students met with the Principal of Kennedy the next day. The Principal informed us that the decision to bar us from tabling was that of the Superintendent and that any student attempting to set up a table would be summarily suspended for three days. We would be allowed to speak with the Superintendent, but not until 11 A.M., conveniently timed to coincide with the lunch periods we planned to table at. When the first lunch period began, three students began to assemble the tables we had brought from home, hang signs from the Tables sell buttons hand-out informational leaflets, and play

guitar. Even in the short time short time before the administrators arrived to shutdown the table, we elicited a very positive response from students.

The Principal and vice-Principal demanded that we remove our table, which we refused to do. Once the administrators themselves began taking our materials, we decided that they would not allow us to table successfully, and accepted their offer of meeting with the Superintendent. They informed us that the assistant Superintendent had canceled our teach-in that was planned for that afternoon.

This meeting produced the startling revelation that the only reason we were unable to table, was that the fliers we planned to distribute did not have contact information on them. This seems incongruous with the Principal's insistence that we could not table under any circumstances. This miraculous change of heart could be due only to the fact that both the Principal and Superintendent had been swamped with phone calls and a press conference was scheduled for 2:30 that afternoon at the school. The resolutions reached at this meeting were that Youth Against War and Racism would be allowed to table in the future provided the fliers contained contact information, and the teach-in scheduled for later in the day would be allowed to happen (the assistant Superintendent denied ever making any statement to the contrary).

Unfortunately, by the time we returned to school, the lunch periods were almost over. Several months previously we had also erected a table during lunch periods when recruiters were present, and been immensely successful. We had received 120 signatures to our petition to ban recruiters from Kennedy, and distributed hundreds of leaflets. The recruiters, on the other hand, were largely ignored by the students and spent the day looking lonely and bored.

This had obviously left an impression on them, because Wednesday, in stark contrast to the six to ten recruiters usually present from sundry branches of the military, only one recruiter from the Navy even showed up. We were disappointed to miss such an opportunity, but we had scored a decisive victory over the recruiters and the administration, and won assurances that we would be allowed to table when the military recruiters return.

It remains to be seen if the administration will honor it's promised, but for now we have come out on top. This successful resolution could only have been possible with the support of others in the anti-war movement who called to protest the administration's disregard for our First Amendment rights. With the press, all the solidarity phone calls, and the anti-war groups showing up at our school door, our Principal inadvertently revealed: "Its been overwhelming."

Matt Johnson, Senior at Kennedy, Organizer for Youth Against War and Racism [www.yawr.org](http://www.yawr.org) - [against.war@gmail.com](mailto:against.war@gmail.com)

# SCSU Antiwar Kicks Military Recruiters Off Campus!

VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE  
[www.campusantiwar.net](http://www.campusantiwar.net)

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In less than 90 minutes, students at Southern CT. State Univ. successfully chased the recruiters from the Army National Guard from the student center on Wed. Feb. 23, 2005. There were about twenty students that took part in making sure that the recruiters had no chance in signing anyone up for an unjust war that has devastated soldiers by the thousands in this country while destroying the people of Iraq by the hundreds of thousands.

The Army National Guard was scheduled to be on campus from 11am to 4pm on the 23rd via an "invitation from career services at Southern" according to a spokesperson in the student center office. The SCSU Antiwar Coalition decided to arrive early (pre-emptively) and set up our message of antiwar at around 10:30 am at their reserved table.

We made certain to have a ton of literature and information, such as, numerous CAN pamphlets like "The Growing Soldiers Discontent" and "Occupation is Not Liberation", as well as the Pablo Paredes Petition, and plenty of Traveling Soldier issues. Also the recent Socialist Worker issue was extremely effective due to the fact that three of the most outspoken resisters are front and center: Paredes, Kevin Benderman, and recently freed Camilo Mejia.

We stressed the need for people to get involved in building the strongest possible antiwar coalition at Southern and why it is such an urgent campaign for us to get the recruiters off this campus that has already seen 127 of our fellow students go off to fight in Afghanistan or Iraq. Passing students were very receptive in hearing the argument as to why the recruiters are here in the first place at a working class commuter school, why they have to lie to get students to sign up, and why they should leave and not come back. As for the action itself, the Army set up around 11:15 am, next to us (after one of the vendors selling clothes gave up a table for them) and we immediately made their attempt to engage students impossible. First, about four of us blocked their table and handed out counter-recruitment info while the students behind our table grilled the two recruiters with questions about why they were here, why do they openly discriminate against our gay, lesbian, and transgender brothers and sisters, and how quickly will those who sign up go off to war somewhere in the world that is based on lies. Needless to say they were not thrilled by any of this and like a couple of third graders "told on us" to the student center representative within twenty minutes. By this time we had at least 8-10 students facing the Army holding signs ranging from "Get off our campus" to "Money for School, not for War" and Recruiters out, Troops Home!

Thus, the Antiwar Coalition has a meeting with career

services to discuss why they would ever invite the Army on campus and do they plan on it in the future. Ultimately, we agreed to not to stand directly in front of the table, but it was at that time we started to get more confident and aggressive in our outreach and by 12:30 pm the Army needed reinforcements.

By 12:45pm they decided to pack it up and call it a day after not getting one person to even make an appointment, let alone sign up for "duty".

The three recruiters left while we began chants of "Money for school, not for war...money for healthcare, not for war" which then erupted into cheers when they were completely off of OUR campus.

It was actually shocking to almost all of us that they left so early, we really did not anticipate them giving in so quickly but when they saw that they were wasting their time they took off. We were extremely excited but were quick to say that this is just the first round; they will

come back (just like they have at all the other schools in this country) and with more experienced, aggressive, and most likely intimidating recruiters that will do everything in their power to sign up the next round of students for war.

That is why we wrapped up by explaining how crucial it is for those who took part to spread the word to everyone they know on campus and throughout the New Haven community that in the next round we will have to be even more organized, more aggressive, and more intimidating on our own by having increased forces taking part at Southern that demands loud and clear: WE KICKED YOU OFF ONCE, NOW STAY OUT!

This initial victory was so inspiring and displayed to people that struggle is possible and necessary especially at a time when we in the antiwar movement are inundated with the myths that we cannot do anything, the country is so right-wing, and nobody will listen, let alone get involved.

We saw the beginning of the re-emergence of the fightback in New Haven yesterday at SCSU, let the spirit of Seattle (and countless others) continue to spread!!!

The SCSU AntiWar Coalition

## PABLO PAREDES...

*Is there anything else you'd like to say?*

This war is illegal by standards of international war. So, going back to the Nuremburg trials—people have said that people have to disobey an order that's illegal and the angle I want to throw out about that is that even if we're wrong that this is an illegal war, we should have the right to be wrong. If people were punished for following illegal orders because they should have known, that means the power is in the soldier's and the sailor's hand. Then, you have to accept his decision. Interview by Stephanie Schwartz

## WHAT'S GOING ON ON AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Organizing against military recruiters? Right-wing attacks on campus? Trying to build an antiwar group? Send reports or questions to: [can\\_resources@yahoo.com](mailto:can_resources@yahoo.com)

## Join the Campus Antiwar Network

If you would like to start a CAN chapter, or affiliate your campus antiwar group with CAN, visit our website: [www.campusantiwar.net](http://www.campusantiwar.net) Or send an email to [info@campusantiwar.net](mailto:info@campusantiwar.net)

# Campus Action

Newsletter of the Campus Antiwar Network | [www.campusantiwar.net](http://www.campusantiwar.net)



## SFSU Students Kick Military Recruiters Off Campus!

### Students Against the War-SFSU

On March 9th, Students Against War (SAW) at San Francisco State University—a chapter of the Campus Antiwar Network (CAN)—cooperated with other campus student groups to organize a protest against the presence of military recruiters on SFSU's campus.

At 11am, over 200 students rallied outside the student center expressing their outrage at the presence of military recruiters in the nearby job fair. People spoke out against the war in Iraq, the budget cuts, the bigoted anti-gay, racist and sexist policies of the military, and the fact that while money for college is increasingly hard to find the Military is getting more funding for recruitment.

SAW members proceeded to lead the crowd into the student center where military recruiters-- The Army Corps of Engineers and the Air Force-- were tabling at a job fair. Over 100 people poured in holding signs and chanting "US Military Out of Our Schools" Surrounding the tables we proceeded to chant them down for about 90 minutes before we sat down around their tables. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## Defend Free Speech! Campus Security Assaults CCNY Activists Students Arrested for Protesting Recruiters

Three undergraduate students at the City College of New York (CCNY) were arrested Wednesday in the course of a peaceful protest against military recruiters. Hadas Thier, Nick Bergreen, and Justino Rodriguez, along with approximately a dozen other protesters attended a job fair organized by the college, and stood up in front of a National Guard recruitment table chanting anti-war slogans. Private security and campus peace officers immediately surrounded the protesters, pushed them into an empty hallway outside of the job fair, closed the hall door and assaulted two protesters and arrested a third who was taking pictures. The two students who were assaulted are now being charged with felony assault, and the third with obstruction of a government administrator.

### MILITARY RESPONDING TO COUNTER-RECRUITER'S SUCCESS

"Counter-recruitment" has become a national issue (USATODAY "Counter-recruiters shadowing the military" 3/7/5), and it's working. Between these efforts, and general disagreement about the war, recruitment is down - according to a 3/6/5 Reuters report, "The regular Army is 6 percent behind its year-to-date recruiting target, the Reserve is 10 percent behind, and the Guard is 26 percent short."

After similar counter-recruitment efforts have taken off from New York to Seattle, the military has clearly become concerned. At William Patterson University in New Jersey an activist was arrested for simply handing out counter-recruitment leaflets. Twice last semester, CCNY student protesters drove military recruiters off the campus with peaceful protests. This time campus security was ready. "We didn't even get through one round of chanting," according to Tiffany Paul, a junior at CCNY and a member of the Campus Anti-War Network, who was one of the protesters. "We were completely peaceful, it was the officers who were violent."

### UNNECESSARY BRUTALITY

When Mr. Rodriguez was being arrested, his head was slammed into the wall. He called out "look what they're doing to me!" According to Ms. Paul, to silence him one of the guards pulled Mr. Rodriguez's hood over his head and slammed his head into the wall again.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

**SIGN THE PETITION IN SUPPORT OF CCNY COUNTER-RECRUITERS**  
[cityfreespeech@earthlink.net](mailto:cityfreespeech@earthlink.net)

[www.campusantiwar.net](http://www.campusantiwar.net)