

Quaker House Newsletter

Front-Line Peace Witness Since 1969

Winter 2004

Fayetteville, NC www.quakerhouse.org

Chuck Fager, Director

Dear Friends,

Check out these numbers!

We now have 2003 totals for the GI Rights Hotline, and they are eye-popping.. The bar graph on page 3 gives a visual overview: At Quaker House our Hotline calls have all but doubled in two years, from **3128 in 2001 to 6187 in 2003.**

For the GI Rights Hotline as a whole, the rate of increase is a bit less dramatic, up “only” sixty-seven per cent from **17267 in 2001 to 28822 in 2003.**

The reasons for this upsurge are clear enough: war and more war. On the next page, our phone counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, talk about what this has meant on their end of the busy phones.

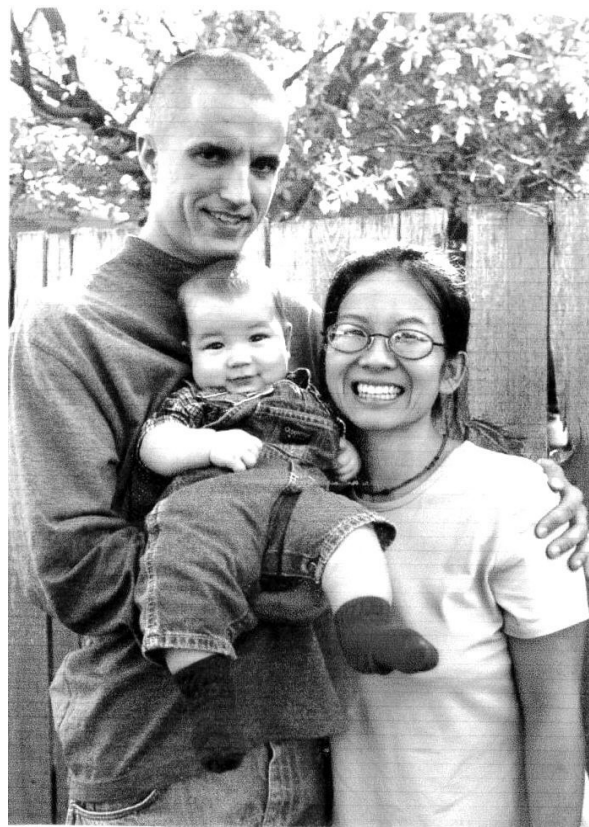
One phrase being heard a lot lately in Hotline calls is “Stop-Loss.” Stop-loss orders are just that: orders from the Pentagon which prevent groups of servicepeople from leaving the military or the reserves when their enlistments expire, or they are eligible to retire.. Some critics have called Stop-Loss a kind of disguised draft, preventing soldiers from leaving the military rather than forcing them to join. By whatever name, these orders are causing a lot of hardship for servicemembers and their families. **(More on page 2)**

Stephen Funk Is Free!



Stephen Eagle Funk, Marine war resister/CO, was released from the brig at Camp Lejeune NC on February 4. He served six months for going AWOL, appearing at peace protests, and speaking vocally against the Iraq war. He also came out as gay while AWOL. Quaker House mobilized Friends and others to write and visit him in prison. Besides regular visitors, he received over a thousand letters and cards, and he expressed deep gratitude for the support. He is shown above, center, with Chuck Fager and Rubye Braye, one of his Friendly visitors, just after his release. Stephen has now returned to California, and we wish him the best!

Resister/Deserter Seeks Refuge in Canada



Toronto, February 7— The *Globe & Mail*, a major Canadian newspaper, reported today that Jeremy Hinzman, an army private from Ft. Bragg, has arrived there and applied for refugee status. Jeremy's attorney is asserting that the invasion of Iraq violated international law, and that Jeremy will be persecuted for his beliefs in nonviolence if he returns to the US.

Jeremy and his family were regular attenders at Fayetteville Friends Meeting, and Quaker House assisted him in preparing a CO claim, which he filed in 2002. Despite his claim, he was sent to Afghanistan later in 2002, and his unit was deployed to Iraq in January 2004, a few days after he left for Canada.

Canadian legal experts say Jeremy's chances of being granted refugee status are slim. What will happen then is impossible to predict. In the US, Jeremy would face charges of desertion, a serious felony.

The full *Globe & Mail* article is online at:
<http://www.globeandmail.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040207/DESERTER07/Focus/?pageRequested>

GI Counseling: 2003 Set (Another) Record

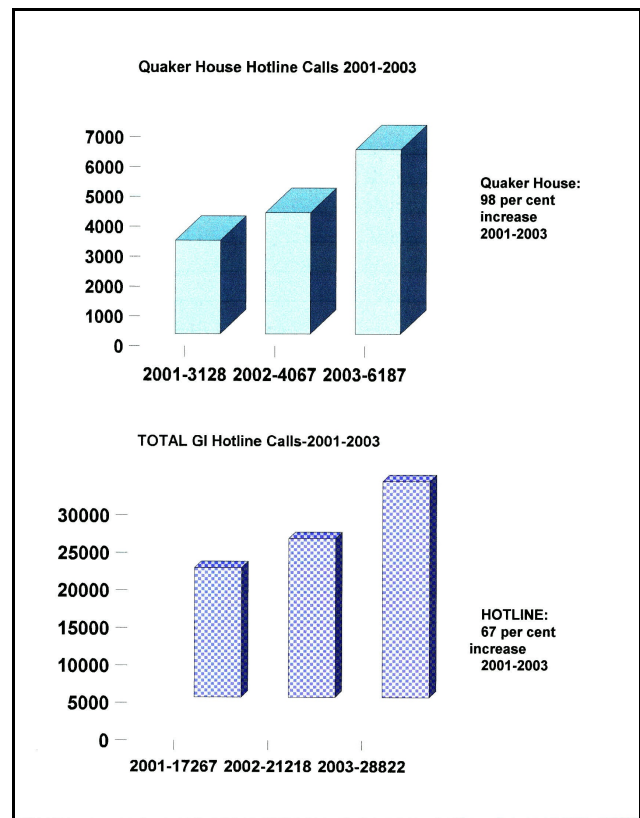
Not every call to the Hotline turns into an actual counseling "case." In 2003, our counselors Lenore Yarger and Steve Woolford handled 1350 actual cases. Of these, 256, the highest number, were inquiries about CO status, followed by medical discharges (245), Entry Level Status discharges (183), hardship, getting out of the Delayed Enlistment Program [DEP] (151). They also worked with 38 cases from the National Guard and Reserve (up from 12 in 2002) and 42 GIs who were AWOL (absent without leave).

Here are some highlights from their annual counselors' report:

- The peak number of calls in 2003 came in March (211), corresponding with the US invasion of Iraq. In subsequent months the number of calls declined, hitting the low for the year in June (107). Calls rose again in the fall, corresponding with the ongoing occupation in Iraq, lengthening deployments, rising casualties, reservist mobilizations, and expanded stop loss policies in the Army.
- Calls during 2003 were consistently higher per month than calls in 2002, with the exception of three months: June, July, and October.
- Each month, the four discharges most often inquired about were consistently conscientious objection, medical, hardship, and entry level separation.
- Calls from soldiers who were AWOL or thinking of going AWOL increased by approximately 25 percent per month from 2002.
- Calls per month from members of the National Guard or reserves tripled from what they were in 2002, reflecting the increase in reservist mobilizations due to the war and occupation in Iraq, and Afghanistan.
- DEP calls were higher this year than 2002 (151 in 2003, 123 in 2002). Compare this to 2001, when we received only 35 to 40 DEP calls the entire year.
- At least eight of the conscientious objectors that we counseled this year were successful in getting out! The highlight of these was perhaps the airman who called us two days before Christmas to say his application had been approved and he was out. Since not every soldier who contacts us for information about conscientious objection continues to work with us through an application process, there may be even more COs who have been discharged with our assistance than we have records for.
- Eric Ginsberg was a great help taking calls and emails for the hotline this year. Lenore traveled

twice to Asheville as well as to Chapel Hill and Louisa, VA,

where she held trainings for volunteer counselors. As a result, we have added a volunteer (Paul Mitchell) to our team, bringing the total number of live hotline hours to 45 per week. Another volunteer has almost completed her training and will be joining us soon.



Here is Your War: From the *Fayetteville Observer*, January 14, 2004, front page.

Army was an escape

Staff Sgt. Ricky Crockett, who was killed Monday in Baghdad, wanted to leave the farm. Crockett, a staff sergeant stationed at Fort Bragg, died Monday when a homemade bomb exploded near his vehicle as he patrolled Baghdad, the Department of Defense said. He was 37. Crockett was a light-wheel vehicle mechanic with the 51st Signal Battalion of the 35th Signal Brigade of the 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg spokeswoman Jackie Thomas said. He lived on Moriston Road in Fayetteville with his wife, Maxine, and 14-year-old daughter, Marvise. Maxine Crockett said her husband "would go out of his way to do anything for anybody."

Ricky Crockett never missed a day of school. He was a mechanical whiz with a great smile and a playful spirit, Samantha Crockett said. "He was real smart ... about the smartest one" in a family of five boys and two girls, she said.

Maxine Crockett said her husband enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, upholstering furniture and working on cars.

He had decided to stay in the Army and retire in August 2006 after 22 years, said Maxine Crockett, also an Army veteran.

Letters to Quaker House

An Email, February 8; Subject line: "Help"

hi my name is bill and i recently got out of the army i served 4 years at ft bragg and was deployed to iraq for 7 month i went to talk to the reseve people as a part of getting out and he told me if i join the national gaurd i would get a rear detachment job since north carolina national guard was call up to go to iraq well when i went to my first drill weekend they told me there was i good chance i would be going back over there and 2 weeks later i was told to get ready because i was being mobilized i cant go back there that was the hole reason i signed up so i wouldnt get call by the inactive reserve because the recruiter said that would be a greater chance then the ncng i am supose to report tomorrow the 9th and will do so but i need a way out i wont go back i had a lot of breathing problems when i was over there earlyer and i was with the special forces and no one took me serouisly i talked to my mom and she said i had asthma when i was little is that enough to get me out of it please help me i dont want to get a dishonarble but if thats what it takes then i'll do it if you have any questions you can call me on my cell at XXX-XXX-XXXX or at my home at XXX-XXX-XXXX

From a Friend in the Northeast, early 2004:

H———, a [Caribbean] refugee who came to this country at the age of 12, and became my part-time foster son, is in the Marines, stationed now in Okinawa, but expecting to be sent to Iraq after his tour in Okinawa ends in March.

H——— has survived a lot: his mother fled [her Caribbean country] after she was arrested and tortured after the 1991 coup d'etat. She was held in Guantanamo until April of 1993, and in 1994, H———, his brother, aunt, uncle and grandparents were granted refugee status and joined her here. Unfortunately, his mother refused treatment for her torture survivor experience and the considerable ongoing trauma of her Guantanamo detention, and most of the results of her troubles were inflicted on H———, along with some other family troubles. He lived with me and my other two foster sons, whom I met in Guantanamo, when he could not live with his mother.

He has shown extraordinary discipline in the face of all this, and got through high school, stayed out of trouble, and kept trying to help his family, who were having problems with drinking, sleazy friends, etc. Marine recruiters had been courting him since high school, and when his family troubles became intolerable, he enlisted, because he felt there was no other way to go on with his education . . .

Another friend helped him during basic training, and he was able to get a noncombatant job in supply. Even I have to admit he has gotten a lot from the Marines, and is doing pretty well. He gets up at 4:30 AM, does his day's work, then goes to college at night until 10:00 PM. His goal is to have his associates degree by the time he's out. He does homework all weekend and avoids going out to get drunk. I suggested he get all the information he can about continuing his education while he's in the service, because they will not be handing him a road map with his discharge papers.

He knows this already: he often has difficulty getting permission to see his career officer.

I write to him (it takes several weeks) and he calls me, and is loving and mostly positive. But my son and his brother tell me he is feeling angry and disillusioned and is aware of how bogus the Iraq war is. H——— pushes himself very hard and then if he goes too far, just completely loses his temper, which happens rarely, but is major. [They] and I are all afraid this may happen, and what I am writing to ask you is for numbers of hotlines and counseling for Marines who need to blow up safely and in a way that will get them help and counseling.

I've written H———'s story at what I hope is not too great length for you, because I love him, I am awestruck at what he has accomplished and been willing to do (my other two sons, equally traumatized in their own ways, have not been able to have H———'s vision for a future). Also, I think every story of a young man who feels that his social and economic constraints are such that he must literally risk his life to get an education should be witnessed.

Do you know any helpful phone numbers? Do you know how open I can be in my letters in advising him to use them instead of blowing up at an officer? I do write him as a Quaker, but I avoid political comments, as I don't know if they read mail.

In Peace and Friendship,

**Come To Fayetteville
Saturday, March 20
Anniversary of the Iraq Invasion.
Join the biggest peace rally here since
Vietnam. More Information at:
<http://www.ncpeacehub.org/>**

Struggling With Love, War & Quakerism

On January 23, Quaker House was proud to host author Kristin Henderson, whose memoir *Driving By Moonlight* (Seal Press) was published last fall. Henderson is a Quaker married to a Marine Corps chaplain. In the book she grapples with mixed feelings about Quaker pacifism after 9/11, as well as other deeply felt personal and religious issues.

Shortly after the attacks on the Pentagon and Twin Towers, with her husband headed for combat duty in Afghanistan (he's been to Iraq since), Henderson took her struggles on the road, driving cross-country in an old Corvette with her dog Rosie. The book tells a classic "Quest" story, in which she goes in search of that most elusive of goals today, peace of mind.

Military spouses, Friends, and our local paper all found this vividly-written, intense, often hilarious book both enriching and hard to put down.



Kristin Henderson & Rosie at Quaker House. More about her book at: www.kristinhenderson.com

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Return Service Requested

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Quaker Chuckles

Standing Aside

A plain Quaker minister was walking through the British countryside, hastening to a meeting where he felt a concern to preach. Just as he approached a narrow, one lane footbridge over a brook, he noticed a fashionably dressed young fop coming the other way. At the sight of the plain Quaker, the dandy speeded his pace and stepped onto the bridge, announcing grandly, “I do not step aside for fools.”

The Friend moved quickly onto the grass and answered, “Ah, but I do.”

Mincing No Words

Another Friend, swore so often and so vigorously that his meeting sent a committee to deal with him about it, and when that didn’t work, moved to disown him.

After they had done so, however, he was heard to remark to the Clerk, “Thee may turn me out of meeting, but I’ll be damned if thee can keep me from using the plain language.”

The Heat Is ON – Sometimes A Bit Too Much.

There’s good news and bad news on the heating front: on the evening of January 30, 2004, a new Quaker House furnace cranked up and warmed our hearts as well as our toes, after nearly three months without central heat.

That’s the good news. The Bad News: the night before, old, neglected wiring in the attic ignited a fire, which was thankfully put out without significant damage. These two incidents have brought into focus a long list of needs for major maintenance on Quaker House, which was built in 1917. These repairs will cost tens of thousands of dollars and dare not be further delayed if we are to continue our work here safely.

We’re still developing a plan and calculating the costs, and will be making an appeal for help in meeting these expenses soon. In the meantime, thank you for your continued generosity. That’s what keeps us going.

Have you considered including Quaker House in your estate planning?
