

REVOLUTIONIZING THE ART OF REBELLION:

1. Experiment with uppity, mischievous optimism.
2. Invoke insurrectionary levels of wildly interesting generosity.
3. Indulge in an insolent refusal to be chronically fearful.
4. Pursue a cheeky ambition to be as wide-awake as a dissident trickster messiah.
5. Bring reckless levels of creative intelligence to all expressions of love.



- Rob Breznsy

One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am – a reluctant enthusiast...a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, the lovely, mysterious, and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much; I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound men and women with their hearts in a safe deposit box, and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this; You will outlive the bastards.

--Edward Abbey

Selective Service for Woman: Feminism Pentagon Style

In September The House Armed Services Committee approved an amendment requiring women to register for the draft.

The panel voted to approve an amendment that would strike references in the law requiring a “male citizen” register for the Selective Service System and replace it simply with “citizen.”

In the past year alone, nearly 3 million women in the United States have been forced out of the workforce due to coronavirus-related issues. Across the country, women are being pushed into crushing poverty as homelessness and mass incarceration rise among women and children at alarming rates, and health care, voting and reproductive rights continue to be under assault.

What's the government's response? Passing expanded paid family leave? **No.** Continuing expanded unemployment benefits? **Absolutely not.** Unwilling to provide solutions to the very real issues that everyday people are facing, **Congress has instead found a way to suck more resources into the war machine: expanding the draft to include women.**

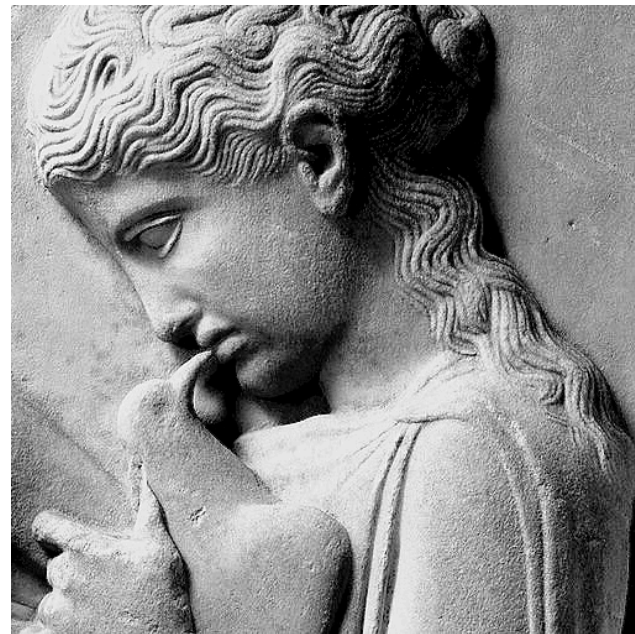
The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service is a task force created in response to a ruling by the courts in 2016 that the male-only U.S. military draft and draft registration was unconstitutional. This commission recently recommended that Congress expand “Selective Service” — the precursor to a general draft — to include women. Last March, despite 90 percent of public comments opposing expansion of the draft, the commission concluded its report with a recommendation to Congress to include women in the registration for the Selective Service. Too bad for them, because we know that our liberation will not be realized through war crimes.

As 18- to 25-year-olds, we are within the age range to have to register with Selective Service. As we face a global public health crisis, environmental disasters and increasing state violence, the recommendation for expanding the draft at this time should be seen as a declaration of war on all future generations.

Our generation is growing stronger. Young people are the emerging leaders of struggles for water in places like Detroit, and defenders of land and sovereignty of Indigenous nations. We have been on the streets in the battles for health care, voting rights and for a world that places life above profit. We have engaged in the Movement for Black Lives and last summer's uprisings for George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. We have organized and participated in what have become the largest demonstrations for Palestine that the U.S. has ever witnessed.

We are a generation that understands that no matter how hard the military tries to co-opt feminism and progressive ideals, war will never be a part of a framework for imagining equity because the first casualty of war is always human dignity. As draft-age people, the only military draft system reform we support is the complete abolition of compulsory military service.

We don't just want to abolish selective service; we want to abolish the poverty draft, and U.S. militarism altogether. The U.S. military regularly uses economic coercion to bolster its numbers. Recruiters prey on low-income Black and Indigenous youth and communities of color who are simply trying to survive. Recruiters tell them that joining the military is the only way to achieve financial security. But if the U.S. is actually concerned about equity, it doesn't look like selective service, and it certainly doesn't look like an economy that forces young marginalized people to join the military.



The commission sees the draft recommendation as a “low-cost insurance policy against an existential national security threat.” We have seen how in the past, concerns about “national security” have led to atrocious civil rights violations including Japanese internment, racialized McCarthyism against Black activists and surveillance of Muslim Americans. These “concerns” have never panned out.

Our lives have been marked by lies, surveillance and the realization that our government is constantly trying to manufacture our consent for war. We know very well that the military-industrial complex is a violent and bloodthirsty monster, and we want nothing to do with it. The draft has always faced loud and public resistance, and it certainly will now too. Young people who oppose militarism will not let our friends buy into war propaganda.

In a nation that has the world's largest military budget and more than 800 overseas military bases, we refuse to let our bodies be a source of endless cannon fodder and exploitation: One in four women in the U.S. military have reported experiencing sexual assault and more than half have experienced some form of harassment. Requiring women to register for the draft would endanger them in more than one way should they ever need to be selected.

Moreover, the military shouldn't be planning strategies that depend on having women like us available to kill, maim or morally wound. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan by leveraging concerns about women's rights under Taliban rule. Now, after 20 years of military occupation, thousands of Afghan women have been killed and displaced by war. The Taliban was not deterred and took Kabul, shortly after the U.S. pulled out. Women's rights will never be achieved through military occupation and bombing.

The words of civil rights activist Ella Baker echo in our vision for peace: “*You and I cannot be free in America or anywhere else where there is capitalism and imperialism, until we can get people to recognize that they themselves have to make the struggle and have to make the fight for freedom every day in the year, every year, until they win it.*”

Instead of expanding draft registration to women, Congress should abolish the Selective Service. The military doesn't need it. The people don't want it. Young people hate it, as evidenced by the low rate of compliance with the requirements to register and to report each change of address. Congress doesn't want to have to pass it. Now is the time to end the draft system — in all its forms — for everyone.

Danaka Katovich
of Codepink.org
truthout.org

Wild Rice Sues to Stop Oil Pipeline



The White Earth Band of Ojibwe exercise the Rights of “Manoomin” in an effort to halt the Line 3 pipeline.

In 2018, the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and the 1855 Treaty Authority, an organization that upholds treaty rights for Chippewa bands, enacted legal personhood for **Manoomin - wild rice**. Manoomin, which translates to “good berry” in Ojibwe, is a sacred food for Chippewa, Ojibwe and Anishinaabe people and has been a part of traditional teachings, stories and way of life since time immemorial.

The Rights of Manoomin was the first tribal law to pass and grant legal status for a plant or animal species. It declared that within White Earth and other ceded Chippewa territories, manoomin has “inherent rights to exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve, as well as inherent rights to restoration, recovery, and preservation.”

The Rights of Manoomin are modeled after the Rights of Nature, an international concept which argues nature should have the same rights as humans.

Several Indigenous communities have adopted similar proclamations such as the **Yurok** tribe which declared the rights of personhood for the Klamath River in 2019. In August, the White Earth Band of Ojibwe exercised the Rights of Manoomin in a legal effort to halt the construction of **Enbridge Energy's Line 3** oil pipeline. The lawsuit, which seeks to stop both pipeline-related water pumping and the ongoing arrests of demonstrators, is only the second rights of nature case ever filed in the U.S.

The complaint was filed in White Earth Nation Tribal Court, with Manoomin acting as the lead plaintiff along with several tribal members and water protectors. They say the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is failing to protect the state's fresh water by allowing Enbridge to pump up to 5 billion gallons of groundwater and surface water for construction amidst a devastating drought. Furthermore, Frank Bibeau, a lawyer for the White Earth tribe, claims the DNR has violated multiple treaty rights that allow tribal members to hunt, fish and gather wild rice, and the rights of Manoomin. “**This action is about upholding Manoomin's right to exist and flourish as established by tribal law, and about Minnesota's legal obligations pursuant to the treaties signed with the Chippewa,**” Bibeau said.

Jessica Douglas
High Country News
hcn.org