

IN DEBT? JOIN THE ARMY

The U.S. Army achieved its recruiting goal last year, after falling short about 6,500 recruits in 2018. The head of Army Recruiting Command Maj. Gen. Frank Muth attributed the success to America's crippling student debt crisis.

While the Department of Defense's 2019 budget is \$686 billion, that number is less than half of the collective student debt in America, which surpassed \$1.5 trillion this year. **"One of the national crises right now is student loans, so \$31,000 is the average,"** Muth told reporters. **"You can get out after four years, 100 percent paid for state college anywhere in the United States."**

Though people have long used the Army as a means out of poverty and to earn an education, the Department of Defense has historically used patriotism or a sense of duty to urge people to enlist, but after a revamp in the recruiting process this year, Muth said that wars abroad were **"not really part of the discussion"** when speaking to potential soldiers. The Army's new recruiting strategy relies, in part, on social media messaging, like this tweet from Army recruiters in Chicago:

"#PleaseAWomanIn5Words (or man). I'll pay your student loans! #ArmyTeamChicago"

Many have condemned the new strategy, including Georgia Parke, a communications director for Bernie Sanders. **"But if we cancel student debt who will fight the endless wars?"** she tweeted in response to the news. America's longest-running war is in Afghanistan, which has been underway since 2001, with about 14,000 service members currently deployed there, according to the Department of Defense.

Thomas Gokey, an organizer with the Debt Collective, an organization of activists working toward debt cancellation, also believes that the Army's use of offering help with student debt in exchange for enlisting is harmful.

"Debt is a form of social control, You can force people to do all kinds of things if you put them in debt first, including waging unjust wars, killing and hurting other people, and risking [their] own life and limbs."

Gokey also points out that colleges often benefit immensely from the GI Bill financially, giving them incentive to support recruitment on campus.

Asked if he thinks the military's recruitment strategy is ethical, Gokey said, **"Since when has the U.S. Army cared about ethics?"**

Leila Ettachfni
vice.com

GLENN GREENWALD CHARGED WITH CYBER-CRIMES

Brazilian federal prosecutors have charged the American journalist Glenn Greenwald for cyber-crimes, alleging he "helped, encouraged and guided" a group of hackers who obtained cellphone messages between leading figures in Brazil's mammoth Car Wash anti-corruption investigation.

The leaks, subsequently published in several stories on the investigative site the Intercept Brazil, which Greenwald co-founded, appeared to show collusion between then judge Sérgio Moro and prosecutors and exacerbated questions of political bias of the investigations. Moro was subsequently named justice minister by the far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro.

Allies of Greenwald condemned the charges against him as an attack on the press, noting that in December, Brazil's federal police said *"it is not possible to identify moral or material participation by journalist"*.

Manuela d'Ávila, a leftist politician, tweeted: *"The federal police after a long investigation declared that Glenn did not commit any crime and that he acted with great caution. We are facing a strong attack on press freedom!"*

According to the prosecutors, while Greenwald wasn't under investigation himself, evidence was taken from

one of the accused hackers' computers that show dialogues with the American journalist.

In one, Greenwald said he "couldn't give any advice" to accused hacker Luiz Henrique Molição.

The charges would have to be accepted by a judge before Greenwald would stand trial.

Supporters also noted that the same prosecutor, Wellington Oliveira, also charged the president of the Brazil's bar association Felipe Santa Cruz with slander after described Moro as a "gang boss" to the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper.

The charges were rejected by a judge in the capital Brasília last week. Allies of Bolsonaro celebrated the charges.

Bolsonaro's congressman son, Eduardo, tweeted: "Glenn Greenwald always said that he loved Brazil and wanted to get to know the country in depth. Who knows, maybe he'll even get to know prison..."

Greenwald, who lives in Rio de Janeiro, won a Pulitzer prize for leading the Guardian's reporting on **National Security Agency (NSA)** spying revealed by Edward Snowden.

Sam Cowie
theguardian.com

PREEMPTING ANGER

- Engage in preemptive meditation: think about what situations trigger your anger, and decide ahead of time how to deal with them.
- Check anger as soon as you feel its symptoms. Don't wait, or it will get out of control.
- Associate with serene people, as much as possible; avoid irritable or angry ones. Moods are infective.
- Play a musical instrument, or purposefully engage in whatever activity relaxes your mind. A relaxed mind does not get angry.
- Seek environments with pleasing, not irritating, colors. Manipulating external circumstances actually has an effect on our moods.
- Don't engage in discussions when you are tired, you will be more prone to irritation, which can then escalate into anger.
- Don't start discussions when you are thirsty or hungry, for the same reason.
- Deploy self-deprecating humor, our main weapon against the unpredictability of the Universe, and the predictable nastiness of some of our fellow human beings.
- Practice cognitive distancing – what Seneca calls 'delaying' your response – by going for a walk, or retire to the bathroom, anything that will allow you a breather from a tense situation.
- Change your body to change your mind: deliberately slow down your steps, lower the tone of your voice, impose on your body the demeanor of a calm person.
- Above all, be charitable toward others as a path to good living. Seneca's advice on anger has stood the test of time, and we would all do well to heed it.

- Massimo Pigliucci

Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York



How a Chilean Dog Ended Up As A Face of the NYC Subway Protests

A black Chilean dog wearing a red bandana made his mark during the New York City subway

protests beginning in November 2019. The protests were ignited by videos documenting police assaults on black and brown youth in the subways. For example, in one, an officer punches a 15-year-old unarmed African American teenager in the face. Stickers bearing the dog's image jumping a turnstile appeared on subway walls and trains. They also surfaced in social media illustrations announcing his arrival in New York City.

Who is this dog – and how did he end up in New York City protests? His name is **Negro Matapacos**. The dog attained celebrity status for uniting with the protesters during the 2011 uprising in Chile for education reform, facing the police alongside the students.

I have studied animals' consciousness, as well as connections between violence against nonwhite people and violence against other species. I see Negro Matapacos' legacy as providing a dramatic contrast to the use of dogs to suppress dissent. In my view, as someone who takes animal agency seriously, he joined the front lines voluntarily to defend the protesters against the police.



Negro Matapacos first became famous for protecting students from police brutality in Santiago, Chile in 2011. He lived most of his life on Santiago's streets. In 2009, a resident of the university district, Maria Campos, invited Negro Matapacos into her home. He thrived under her care, but was determined to remain independent. Though he slept at Campos' house, she honored his choice to move freely about Santiago.

Negro Matapacos began spending time on the university campuses in Campos' neighborhood. Along with a population of free-roaming dogs, he developed friendships with the students. In 2011, the students organized marches demanding free, quality public education. Riot police used tear gas and water cannons against them. Campos reported that on protest mornings, Matapacos waited desperately to be let out. She said a prayer, traced a cross on his forehead and kissed him on the snout before opening the door. He then raced in the direction of the demonstrations.

Negro Matapacos – a name the dog received as he attained notoriety – literally translates to *"Black Cop Killer."* In Latin America, it is not uncommon to use an animal's color as their name. "Matapacos" has a specific local meaning, referencing the infamous brutality of the Chilean police. Negro Matapacos never killed anyone, but snarled, lunged and barked when the police threatened and assaulted the protesters.

Negro Matapacos died of natural causes in 2017, surrounded by caregivers. However, he continues to represent indignation against oppression. In October 2019, massive protests erupted in Chile, sparked by a 4% subway fare increase. The demonstrators want socioeconomic equality and free education and health care. They oppose the right-wing



president, Sebastián Piñera. Negro Matapacos' image has appeared throughout the protests, gracing banners, posters, decals, murals and papier mâché and metal sculptures.

The Chilean demonstrators' hashtag, #EvasiónMassiva, references subway fare evasion. Stickers appearing in New York City depict a smiling Negro Matapacos jumping a turnstile atop the word "evade." In addition to New York City, Negro Matapacos' image is featured in a mural in Malinalco, Mexico. At Shibuya Station in Tokyo, a red bandana much like the one Negro Matapacos wore adorns Hachiko's statue. Hachiko is a famous dog who awaited his guardian's return from work long after his death. These far-flung images of Negro Matapacos reflect the universality of his social justice message.

In a documentary about him, sociologist Jaime Rodriguez observed that the Chilean demonstrations beginning in 2011 responded to the absence of a social safety net. Chile's free-roaming dogs epitomize exposure to harm: *"There is nothing more precarious than a dog in the street,"* Rodriguez said. One student protester speculated to director Víctor Ramirez about why dogs like Negro Matapacos joined the students. He speaks to the shared vulnerability of free-roaming



dogs and students to institutional violence. Another protester references Matapacos' yearning for recognition, which he got from the students: *"We are marching for the things we need, and the dogs unite themselves to our cause. They unite themselves with us because they need our love and affection."*

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