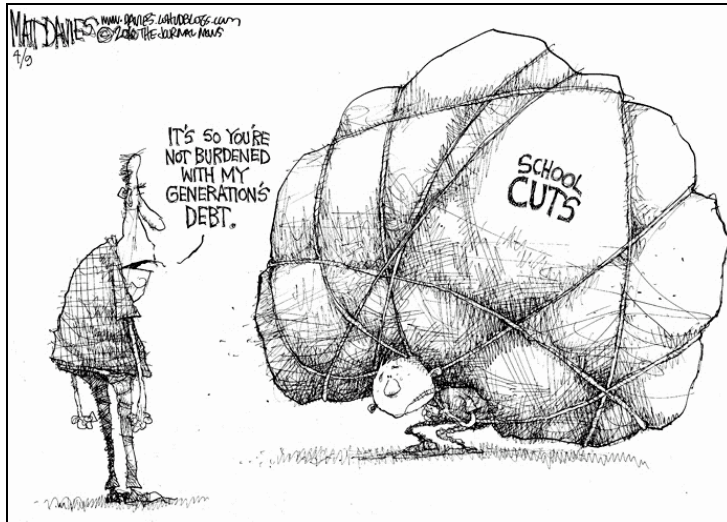


Fund Schools, NOT Wars



"School Cuts" by Matt Davies, The Journal News (4/9/10)

Rockland communities have been shaken by the serious proposed school budget cuts, layoffs, and program cuts, while still requiring tax hikes.

It is the first time BOCES has cut staff in 20 years!

How sad it is to watch people "squabble over crumbs," while so much local money pours into the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Why should our children suffer from school budget cuts? Where does our tax money go? **At least 44% of our tax revenues are gobbled up for military spending.**

The money that could be used here, at home, is fighting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq! These wars are the single biggest drain on the federal budget, \$994 billion since 2001.

The war cost to Rockland County taxpayers is \$2.2 billion so far (\$22,000 paid by each Rockland family). This money could have provided 25,735 elementary school teachers for one year! (Source: www.nationalpriorities.org)

Congress has appropriated an additional \$136.8 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for the 2010 fiscal year (The Rockland County share: \$308 million). **Clearly, there is more than enough money to cover the proposed school budget cuts, if the U.S. were to immediately withdraw all troops from these unpopular wars.**

As American and NATO troops prepare for a summer offensive in Kandahar, the U.S. Army survey has revealed that **94 percent of the Kandaharis in Afghanistan support negotiating with the Taliban** over military confrontation with the insurgent group and **85 percent regard the Taliban as "our Afghan brothers"**.

It is long past time to bring our troops home, and to rebuild our battered country.



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

Join our 391st Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY
For info: www.rocklandaction.org 5/15/10

Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice