

For Immediate Release

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Friends of William Blake Distribute 7,500 Copies of Counter-Recruitment Guide for Free in New York Metro Area

New York, April 10, 2006—With the war in Iraq having entered its third year and military recruiters becoming more and more persistent in their tactics, the Friends of William Blake, a loosely-knit collective of New York artists, writers and activists, have collaborated on a 64-page book entitled *The New Yorkers' Guide to Military Recruitment in the Five Boroughs*. Beginning this week, 7,500 copies will be distributed free to students and others in danger of being recruited, their families, and concerned citizens in the New York metropolitan area.

The Guide blends the factual with the anecdotal—profiles of former soldiers sit beside myth-debunking nuggets about military recruitment; the text is interwoven with quotes, artwork, and a Harper's-style index of statistics, and at the heart of the book is an opt-out form in both English and Spanish, which students can tear out, fill in, and hand over to their school administrators, to prevent their contact information from being given to recruiters.

SECTIONS INCLUDE:

Military Recruitment: What You Need to Know

Quick facts on signing bonuses, the money for college myth, the job training myth, racism/sexism/homophobia in the military, military benefits, war, and active-duty service.

Still Considering Enlistment?

Questions to ask yourself or someone else considering enlistment.

Facing a Recruiter

The truth about recruiters, the Delayed Entry Program (DEP), and the enlistment contract.

Military in the Schools

JROTC/ROTC, No Child Left Behind Act, opt-out forms and information on ASVAB testing.

Action Resources

Maps & listings of recruitment centers, JROTC/ROTC programs, war profiteers, recruitment statistics and crisis areas by borough. Legal resources for recruits/enlistees, students, parents and concerned citizens, as well as a go-to list of local and national organizations.

A Soldier's Story

Three profiles of ex-soldiers.

How to create this booklet in your own community.

And, of course, the work of some of NYC's (and our sister states') finest artists.

The guide is one of the first voices in the growing opposition to the onslaught of military recruitment in New York City.

For more information, visit: www.counterrecruitmentguide.org