

Enduring Freedom?

C.J. Webb

The film is set in the near future, March of 2006. It involves the still ongoing war on terrorism and the ramifications of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act of 2001 and other decisions made by the government in the past that will come back to haunt them in the future portrayed. The film focuses on the chaos that ensues when Martial Law is declared and a military commander is allowed to control a civil emergency, without consideration of the civil and constitutional rights.

A conservative majority controls all three branches of government. The President, a Republican, has been reelected in a landslide vote, based on his platform: the final elimination of the terrorist threat throughout the world. Since his election, the number of countries occupied by U.S. troops has actually doubled from 10 to 21, instead of declining as promised. His cabinet has changed somewhat. He has added more women, as promised during his campaign for reelection, in an attempt to gain the women's vote. The Legislature has become more partisan and divided than ever. Support of the war on terrorism has resulted in the election of many Republicans. The few Democrats were elected based on their promise to restore the social programs, which were decimated when the majority of the national budget went to defense. The Supreme Court has lost three members to death or retirement, and extremely conservative justices have replaced them.

As previously stated, social programs have been decimated. Social Security is non-existent as the funds were invested in the stock market, which crashed in the fall of 2005. Unemployment is at 20% nationally, with no means of paying unemployment insurance. Over 30,000 non-citizens are currently interned in camps located in the desert southwest of the United States and on former United States military installations throughout the world. These individuals cannot be deported as their countries of origin have refused to accept them or they have been implicated as having ties to terrorism.

A small grass roots organization of lesbian feminists, L.A.B.I.A. (Lesbians Against Boys Invading Anything) has begun a campaign of terrorist acts against the government in an attempt to bring attention to the demise of American society and the

poverty and despair that is gripping the country. All the while, the government's economic resources are being funneled into the colonial imperialist approach to fighting terrorism on a global scale. Since the USA PATRIOT Act has effectively inhibited LABIA'S ability to communicate their objectives and plans to each other via the telephone, fax or e-mail, the members are forced to meet in person, under the guise of "the lesbian potluck." At these potlucks, strategies are discussed and plans are made. Terrorist cells are comprised of members who are currently or have been romantically involved within the past 6 months. LABIA has selected as their target city the metropolitan area of Washington D.C., as it holds the political and military power base of the patriarchal society.

Their first terrorist act is purely symbolic, and serves as a warning of things to come, if their demands are not met. The demands are simple: (1) the US needs to immediately pull out of the foreign countries where they have placed their military members; (2) they must take the defense budget funds used to support the anti-terrorist campaign, and restore those social programs that have withered. The first terrorist act of LABIA occurs at a Republican fundraiser. Agents of LABIA infiltrate the affair disguised as caterers and waitresses. The entrée is tainted with a drug that induces unconsciousness, but wears off within 2 hours. The agents of LABIA place small radio controlled explosive charges, containing lavender paint, to the penises of all the male members. Just as the members regain consciousness, the charges are detonated, causing extreme pain and discoloration of the members' members. This act baffles the current administration and law enforcement, as they do not take the demands of LABIA seriously. The administration believes women are incapable of such acts of violence.

The next act, more violent and destructive, is aimed at the center of power, the Congress of the United States. Executed on International Women's Day, the female members of Congress are dispersed all over the globe, giving speeches on women's rights and history. The male members of congress are in the chamber of the House of Representatives, watching the NCAA basketball tournament selection on a big screen television. The affair is being sponsored by the manufacturers of Viagra and catered by Hooters. Numerous scantily clad women are serving food and drinks to the legislators and providing them with free samples of Viagra (a six week supply). Unbeknownst to the legislators, these waitresses are agents of LABIA. The samples of Viagra actually contain powerful estrogen hormone supplements.

Within days, congressional sessions are marked by bitter disagreements and many sessions must be cancelled because the male members are complaining of cramps, bloating, tender breasts, and lower back pain. The female members advise their male counterparts to take a Midol and "get over it." A right-wing senator from South Carolina brings a handgun into the Senate chamber and begins threatening his colleagues, stating he has PMS and has "had enough of their shit." The situation is resolved after hours of negotiations when the senator is finally given some chocolate and allowed to process his issues. Soon the legislature is at a standstill, as the effected men are still unable to process their differences in a rational manner, due to the hormone imbalance they are experiencing.

In an act of symbolic destruction, the Washington Monument is brought down in a massive explosion that shatters the windows of neighboring buildings, including the White House. As the monument had been closed for repairs, the attack was executed in the early hours of the morning to ensure minimal casualties with maximum effect. An accompanying LABIA press release states that the organization has access to nuclear weapons and is prepared to launch them against other strategic targets. The President calls a meeting with his National Security Council to address the subject, because the threats of LABIA are now recognized as real. He feels they constitute a national emergency and an attack on America. During the meeting, the argument based on elements in *ex parte Milligan* becomes quite heated. The Milligan majority opinion opposes Martial Law while the minority opinion supports it. The right wing members feel that Martial Law should be declared immediately under the provisions of Section 2 (c)(3) of the War Powers Resolution of 1973, and the Commander of the Military District of Washington (MDW) be placed in charge. The Attorney General and the Director of Homeland Security argue an opposing view to save face as neither of their agencies have been able to detect or stop this terrorist organization. The women members of the council use the Milligan majority decision to show that the situation does not warrant a declaration of Martial Law as there is no threat of foreign invasion or civil war, the courts are functional, and the criminal justice system is being administered according to the law, just not very effectively. These women are also arguing to save their lives, as they realize what will happen to them and other women if Martial Law is imposed.

In a tense, testosterone soaked session, the decision is made that the President will declare Martial Law and within 48 hours, solicit approval of his action from Congress. Within hours, the Commander of the MDW Major General Scrotum (played by Bruce Willis) has deployed the 3rd Infantry Division and elements of the 82nd Airborne Division into the metropolitan Washington DC area. A curfew has been put into effect, but it only applies to the target group, as determined by an FBI profile. The target group includes all lesbians, ages 16-40. Individuals found in violation of the curfew will be detained by military authorities and evacuated to a holding area located at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in accordance with the constitutional precedent set in the Hirabayashi and Korematsu cases. This rather broad target group initially results in the arrest and detainment of only “butch” looking women who drive trucks, ride motorcycles, or wear black leather, stereotypes held by the soldiers required to enforce the order. In response to the curfew and internment, LABIA detonates a small nuclear device, hidden in a brief case, in the Joint Chiefs of Staff chamber of the Pentagon. The charge is placed by a female aid to one of the Joint Chiefs and is detonated in the early hours of the morning, thus producing minimal casualties and maximum damage. This act makes an important statement: “You don’t see us, you can’t find us and we cannot be stopped!”

FBI agents Justice and Liberty (Denzel Washington and Annette Bening) are diligently working to discover how LABIA operates and to arrest the members of the terrorist cells involved. While Agent Liberty attempts to infiltrate LABIA, Agent Justice requests a meeting with MG Scrotum and the President. At the meeting, Agent Justice learns that the curfew has not proved effective, because the attacks have continued. The decision has been made to detain and intern all lesbians who fit the profile. The FBI has been tasked with developing lists of all known lesbians, based on their membership in known lesbian organizations including NOW, NARAL, ACLU, and the Human Rights Commission and their subscriptions to known lesbian magazines such as *The Advocate* and *Ms.* The military also plans to invade all known lesbian bars in the area.

Agent Justice argues that the established curfew and the use of a target group violates the Equal Protection Clauses of the 5th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution. The curfew should apply to all citizens; in any other form it is

discriminatory. He argues that the classification of the target group is vague and cannot be determined, as no one knows what all lesbians look like. He states that the internment of these women deprives them of many of their constitutional rights, including due process, writ of *habeas corpus* and the right to a speedy trial in accordance with the civil judicial process. He also argues that the terrorist acts have insulted many American men, but does not truly represent a threat or attack against the United States. He offers less drastic alternatives and begs the President to review his current foreign policy and focus on the domestic distress that is gripping the country. He informs the President and MG Scrotum that LABIA is gaining support throughout the country, especially among women, the unemployed and impoverished persons. MG Scrotum argues that under Martial Law, he is the law, and constitutional rights are forfeited. He states he will do everything within his power to seek out and destroy the enemy.

The film ends with a cross cutting of three different scenes. One scene shows *all* the women in the military zone being detained, evacuated and interned. Another shows the ensuing chaos as men are left to fend for themselves. Yet another shows the rioting that is taking place nationwide as a result of the actions of MG Scrotum and the decision made by the President. The final shot shows the President's wife and twin daughters being forcibly removed from the grounds of the White House during the annual Easter egg hunt, plus the panicked look on the face of the Commander in Chief as he realizes the consequences of his decision.

This screenplay has blockbuster potential. The cast and special effects required to depict the acts of terrorism alone warrant serious consideration, as well as the political relevance, in light of the recent passing of the USA PATRIOT Act and the events of September 11th. The screenplay also provides a history lesson and allows the viewer to consider the discriminatory acts committed against the Japanese during World War II. It additionally demonstrates the potential for disaster when unlimited power is placed in the hands of one individual, backed by the United States military and unleashed on the civilian population. In the end, even the man with the authority to stop the chaos becomes a victim of his own ill-conceived order. I strongly encourage you to purchase and produce this action packed political drama.