UNITY expands to 28 pages!

Starting with this issue, UNITY will now be publishing 28 pages in both the English/Spanish and English/Chinese editions.

This expansion marks an important step forward in UNITY’s work. It reflects the growth and advances in our editorial and production areas, as well as increased financial support from our readers.

Expanding the newspaper will enable us to take up many new or underreported stories, and to deepen our coverage of topics of particular interest to our readers.

We welcome our readers’ comments and suggestions on the expanded UNITY.

Abolish the death penalty!

The execution of John Spenkelink has opened the floodgates for the execution of over 500 people — all poor and minority people — who are now sitting on death rows across the country, and represents an increase of state repression that must be opposed.

The death penalty has nothing to do with “justice” or a “high sense of moral value that one who takes a life must give his own,” as stated by the governor of Utah, nor is it a “deterrent to crime.”

What hypocrites! Racist police have license to kill Black youth like Melvin Black and Randolph Evans. U.S. imperialism sends its armies to slaughter whole peoples, as in the war of aggression against Viet Nam, but this is not considered murder. Dan White, an ex-San Francisco City Supervisor, is an admitted murderer, but he can be out on parole in five years.

The death penalty has nothing to do with “deterring crime.” Many people including workers and minorities are concerned about the rising crime rate, as they themselves are most often the victims of robberies, muggings and killings. As the capitalist crisis worsens, the bourgeoisie promotes harsher punishments to give the impression that they are dealing with crime and to shift the blame for the cause of crime to individuals. However, the junkie who kills in desperation for money to buy drugs; the man who kills in the course of robbing a store; even the many shootings that result after violent arguments between friends and family members — these crimes are all caused by the conditions of poverty and social frustration that permeate U.S. capitalist society. The death penalty and stiffer jail sentences will do nothing to change this situation.

Even the most heinous antisocial crimes, like the Indiana man who killed more than 30 young boys and buried them beneath his house, are caused by the degeneracy of monopoly capitalism. Such social decay is not to be found anywhere else in the world other than in the advanced industrial capitalist countries. Ironically, the capitalists hold up these crimes as the reason for the death penalty, but in reality these sick people are very seldom sentenced to death. Charles Manson is alive. The state of Georgia just recently released on parole a man who kidnapped and buried alive a young girl ten years ago.

As long as there is capitalism in the U.S., the death penalty will not be anything more than a weapon to help oppress and intimidate the poor, workers, oppressed nationalities, and all those who challenge capitalism’s rule.

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