Defend China, North Korea! U.S. Hands Off the World!

China, North Korea, Syria, Iran—this is the short list of countries overtly threatened in the last few weeks by the nuclear-armed mafias in Washington, while they continue their devastating occupation of Iraq. Although the U.S. can’t come up with any proof that Syria is responsible for the bomb that killed former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, it vows— Syria must be made to pay. Then there’s Iran, rumored to be developing a nuclear capacity to produce nuclear weapons. Unarmed up drones have been flying over Iran for a year, and threatening its safety at anxiety in “old Europe.” Bush vows that all options, including military, are possible. This saber rattling against Syria and Iran—neocolonial capitalist states—is part of redrawing the map of the Near East in Israe and U.S. interests.

U.S. imperialism picks its targets carefully, and throws its overwhelming military might against states that can’t defend themselves such as Iraq, North Korea, which claims to have developed limited nuclear capacity, has not been attacked. We defend the right of the North Korean deformed workers state to have nuclear weapons. China is foolishly trying to go. North Korea back to the six-nation talks which aim to disarm North Korea utterly opening a flank for U.S. imperialism against the Chinese deformed workers state itself. China’s heroic sacrifices stopped General MacArthur from grabbing the entire Korean peninsula and turning it into a neocolony of U.S. imperialism.

Illusions of the Beijing Stalinists, that there can be “peaceful coexistence with imperialism, can only undermine defense of China...

Pursuit of capitalist counterrevolution in China, whether through military pressure (as was used to economically bleed the Soviet Union in the arms race) or through economic penetration or both, is a prime goal of the U.S. bourgeoisie. Neocon Colin Warner Lewis Libby speaks for his protégé in the White House continued on page 8

AIDS in America: Racism, Poverty, Bigotry

We reprint below a slightly edited and altered version by comrades Ken Green of the Spartacist League forum in New York City for 17 February.

You can’t begin to talk about any aspect of AIDS in any country or area of the world without placing it in an international context. For over two decades, this disease has brought massive misery and death to broad sections of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Asia and Latin America. Over the last 22 years, over 65 million people have been infected worldwide. The desperate fight to obtain anti-retroviral drugs has become a vehicle for social struggle and has mobilized thousands of youth in South Africa. Nevertheless, at the end of 2003, only about 1 percent of the four million people who need anti-retroviral drugs in Southern Africa get them. No country on any continent has been untouched, and with the continuing spread of AIDS in Russia, China, South Asia and many other countries, much is still unknown, and there is no end in sight.

The possibility of bringing this source of so much misery and death under control, to extend the treatments that are currently available to all those who need it—this essential task is undermined every step of the way by the reactionary capitalist system. In its epoch of imperialism, capitalism is a hideous, profit-driven system, propped up by brutal racial and sexual oppression. This is an economic system where the one who own the means of production exploit the masses that produce all the wealth. The only country right to the untrammeled greed of the ruling class is the working class fighting in its own interests and the interests of the oppressed. It is our task to build an internationalist, vanguard working class party that will seize the means of production and make a revolution that will lay the basis for building a society based on human needs and not on private profit—a party like the Bolshevik Party that led the 1917 Russian Revolution.

It’s not that elements of the capitalist class are incapable of making decisions that provide benefits for more than themselves, but their actions must always be ultimately consistent with their self-preservation as an exploitation. So every step forward is paid for with persistent world poverty and bloody wars. The scientific problems of eliminating HIV are quite staggering. The HIV virus mutates and develops strains that are resistant to every anti-retro viral drug developed. New vaccines must be continuously coordinated and systematically researched and developed. The most rational and thoroughgoing weapon would be a vaccine, as has been used effectively against smallpox, polio, hepatitis B and other devastating viruses. But as late as 1994, the U.S. government was spending less than $100 million per year on development of a vaccine, and the funding is tightening this year.

Vaccines are long-term, high-risk, low-profit projects. So, much remains unknown about AIDS for reasons that have nothing to do with the complex biological facts of the virus. The advancement of medical science in general is thwarted by the chaos of capitalism and its drive for immediate profits. Compounding these obstacles are the prejudices and bigotry generated by an irrational, rotten capitalist economic system. For example, the oppression of women that underpins every class society means that women are increasingly bearing the brunt of the pandemic. For instance: an anti-HIV microbe, an ointment that a woman could apply to herself, with or without the knowledge of her sexual partner, has not been developed in a country that is the most advanced in science.

We have more information on the spread of AIDS, including a chart showing racial breakdown of new HIV infections in 2002 and accompanying graph.

The murder of Malcolm, and the disastrous consequences flowing from this murder for Malcolm's organization and black militancy in general, does not mean that the militant black movement can always be decapitated by a shot. True, there is an agonizing gap in black leadership today. On the one hand there are the respectable servants of the liberal establishment, men like James Farmer whose contemptible effort to blame the Chinese Communists for Malcolm's murder was no more than cynical betrayal. On the other hand the ranks of the militants are so impoverished as to be incapable of producing a man with the leadership qualities of Malcolm. This leadership, building on the experience of the civil rights movement, the struggle for freedom of black men and boys. Malcolm had none of the self-promotion, the creation of money, publicity, makeup, and the media. Malcolm had none of this creation of money, publicity, makeup, and the media. Malcolm had none of the literally false proclamations made against him or the history of being moved from parish to parish. Yet all these charges have become the common currency of Shanley's biography, and if guards usher a murderer into his cell, the killer will probably have the NAMBLA charge at the top of his mind. In fact, Paul Shanley did openly advocate recognizing homosexuality as a normal sexual variation (based partly on the pioneering work of Alfred Kinsey, and did have homosexual liaisons. He was a long-haired "street priest" in the 1960s, mentioned in the book Common Ground, who tried to help runaways and kids hooked on drugs. Shanley's "association" with NAMBLA is that he attended a conference of people fighting a Boston anti-gay witchhunt at the end of which some people, not including Shanley, founded a group that later became NAMBLA. NAMBLA's name is perennially dragged through the plentiful Boston mud, having been pounded for over 20 years by media smears and witchhunting prosecutions. We in the Spartacist League have repeatedly defended the tiny beleaguered group known as an elementary act of proletarian defense. We oppose criminalizing their advocacy of the evidently reasonable proposition that you help to free. Despite the Board of Inquiry, the code word for anti-sex crusaders, from the Christian right to the straitlaced morality fanatics, has been "protect the children" from so-called pedophiles. This campaign reflects anti-gay bigotry, increased pressures of repression for the capitalist state and a shoring up of reactionary "family values" like the domestic slavery of women and stultifying "absence" only for young people. Now former priest Paul Shanley has been cheered by the wolves of "recovered memory" prosecution. This is a very dangerous thing. No evidence was presented that any of Shanley's accusers were ever a member, or had ever advocated for the education of Malcolm's children.
In Memory of Gregg Best
1953-2004

These photos honor the memory of Gregg Best, an ardent socialist and longtime supporter of the Spartacist League, who died suddenly on December 16. An outspoken opponent of racism and bigotry of any kind, Gregg could be counted on to champion cases and causes in the interests of the working class. He brought many of these to his union, AFSCME Local 444 in Oakland, like the defense of class-war prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. He fought against company attacks on his union brothers and sisters. At a rally for fired union militant Charles DuBois, Gregg told the crowd: "Workplace violence" witchhunts are also being used as part of the so-called "war on terror" which in fact targets labor, blacks and immigrants—a bipartisan war backed by both Democrats and Republicans" (Workers Vanguard No. 810, 26 September 2003).

Gregg also fought for labor to oppose the invasion and occupation of Iraq and marched in antiwar demonstrations with Revolutionary Internationalist Contingents organized by the SL and Labor Black League for Social Defense. He took part in labor-centered mobilizations against the KKK and Nazis from Detroit and Washington, D.C. to Gary, Indiana. We continue to mourn the loss of this workers' leader. A fuller appreciation can be found in Workers Vanguard No. 839 (7 January).

Top: Gregg with union banner at 9 February 2002 rally protesting "war on terror" attacks against immigrants, blacks and labor. Above: Press conference for February 9 rally.


4 MARCH 2005
United States, populism has always represented a trap, not a blessing, for the working class socialist movement in the United States. Populist legislation props up the order it ostensibly opposes, by accepting its basic principles, by proferring delusions about how this order might be painlessly reformed.

You go on to ask, rhetorically, "And why do you think Greens and Nader go against the interests not only of the industrial working class, but against the hearts and minds, especially of working class people now mistakenly supporting the Greens?" We should certainly do; and we certainly should. I completely agree with the sentiment you express in the title of the article. We need to build a genuine opposition.

Irrationality and gross inefficiencies of capitalist production underscore need for worldwide planned, collectivized economy. Overfilling silos of grain in low (top), famine in Angola (above).
mean for us today? How about, as part of our transitional program, the demand to "turn prison towns into garden cities for former convicts, slum dwellers and workers."?"

Tom S.

Brooklyn, NY

Replies:

Tom S. claims that we did not back up our statements on the many positions of the Greens and Ralph Nader are revolutionary and anti-working-class. But, in the very next line of the article stated: "In Germany, the Social Democratic/Green government attacked the living standards of the workers' competitiveness, while Green foreign minister Joschka Fischer deployed German tanks in the first time since the Third Reich, to partic­ ulate in the wars against Serbia and Afghanistan."

The article went on to note that Nader pandaed to the racists in his attacks on immigrants and wallows in anti-Communist China-bashing.

Citing W.!'s criticism of the Greens' aversion to advanced technology, Tom S. asks, "Are you honestly trying to assert that there are no "ecological and resource limits" upon our use of industrial technol­ ogies?" His reference to the "insurmountable problem" technolo­ gy implicitly identifies humanity as a whole with the capitalist class, which in the current world system is the cause of development and utilization of industrial technology for its own interests. What ecological and resource limits? The future expansion of material production, and the concrete nature of such limit­ s, of course are located within the framework of the capitalist system. To look at the capitalists' unbound squandering of natural resources and degradation and de­ gration of the environment in the interests of profit, one could easily conclude—as most ecologists do—that advanced industrial technology is inher­ ently destructive of nature. This reflects a static, ahistorical view of both human society and scientific progress. Develop­ ing and using industrial technology to deal with pollution or the recycling of raw materials in limited supply is not neces­ sarily an insurmountable problem.

Science and technology are not the same thing. Science is based on a process of experiment and the gathering of empirical knowledge in the service of deepening our understanding of how nature works; technology is the applica­ tion and fulfillment of what science makes possible. No considera­ tions do not exist apart from class society. The organization of industrial production under capitalism necessarily leads to the degradation of the environ­ ment because capitalist firms are motivated by profit.

The basic goal of Marxist socialism is to liberate the creative powers of human­ ity, which has hitherto been confined to the capitalist system and earlier forms of class-divided society. Marxists regard the development of the productivity of human labor power as the prime mover of social evolution and the under­ lying historical process. We are in favor of a quali­ tative increase in the application of known science and the development of new technologies to increase the productive capacities of mankind, eliminati­

ing economic scarcity—while laying the basis for the disappearance of classes and for the withering away of the state. Such a qualitative development of the world's productive forces for the ben­ efit of all can hardly be envisaged under capitalism, whose every step forward is paid for with giant steps back in the form of world poverty, recurring economic cri­ ses and wars. It can only be achieved by the fusion of town and country and only such fusion will change the situation of the masses now being exploited and will enable them to be used for the production of life instead of for the production of death.

"Abolition of the antithesis between town and country is not merely possible, it has become a direct necessity of indus­ trial production itself: just as it has become a necessity of agricultural produc­tion and, besides, of public health. The present poisoning of the air and land can be put an end to only by the fusion of town and country and only such fusion will change the situation of the masses now being exploited and will enable the working masses to use the products of the production of life instead of for the production of death."

Yet Marx and Engels' "view of socialist society is fundamentally counterposed to the universe of small, decentralized com­ munities advocated by ecologists (and anarchists) point to the Stalinist USSR, which—we Marxists under­ stand—grew out of the isolation of the Russian Revolution in a single, economic­ ally backward country. Even given the tremendous bureaucratic distortions due to the parasitic Stalinist bureaucracy, the USSR was able to construct a planned industrial economy almost from the ground up. And the Soviets did it twice, first in overcoming the ravages of the 1917-19 Civil War and then, again, a second generation later, in recovering from the Nazi invaders' scorched-earth policies and loss of 27 million lives World War II. The precondition for this historic gain for working people was the 1917 Russian Revolution, which took the fac­ tors and other means of production out of the hands of the capitalist class.

The Russian Revolution demonstrated in practice the ability of the proletariat to seize the reins of state power and con­ struct a modern industrial society in which workers have access to medicine, science, education and culture. It is this question, workers revolution, that at bot­ tom separates us from the ecologists. As Marxists, we oppose the environmentalist move not because we are indif­ ferent to the degradation of the environ­ ment caused by the existing capitalist organization of industry. As Marx wrote in Capital Vol. 3 (1894): "Even a whole society, a nation, or even all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the globe. They are only its possessors, its usufruc­ turers. They do not own, nor can they own the soil and house... [good heads of the household], they must hand it over to the "productive" generations in an improved condition."

What we oppose is the ecologists' illusion that this question can be adequately addressed without the revolutionary over­ throw of capitalism.

Marxism and the Environment

John Bellamy Foster, one of the authors recommended by Tom S., goes to great pains in Marx's Ecology (2000) to discredit "our agenda". However, if one systematically, while simulta­ neously trying to airbrush out the revolu­ tionary predecessors of Marx and Engels' worldview, Foster quotes (and repeatedly refers to) Engels' projection in Anti-Dühring (1878):

"Abolition of the antithesis between town and country is not merely possible, it has become a direct necessity of indus­ trial production itself: just as it has become a necessity of agricultural produc­tion and, besides, of public health. The present poisoning of the air and land can be put an end to only by the fusion of town and country and only such fusion will change the situation of the masses now being exploited and will enable them to be used for the production of life instead of for the production of death."

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Marxism and the Environment

Friedrich Engels motivated need for materialist under­ standing of the environment in his 1878 work Anti-Dühring.

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What we oppose is the ecologists' illusion that this question can be adequately addressed without the revolutionary over­ throw of capitalism.

Marxism and the Environment

As Engels put it, "productive labor, instead of being a means of sub­ jungating men, will become a means of their emancipation, by offering each indi­ vidual the opportunity to develop all his faculties, physical and mental, in all activities and exercise of which he is in the habit, in which, therefore, productive labour will become a pleasure instead of being a burden."

The precondition is the revolutionary seizure of state power by the proletariat. Immediately preceding the above pas­ sage from Anti-Dühring, quoted by Foster, Engels states that "only the abolition of the capitalist character of the modern indus­ try and the creation of society in which the productive forces are organ­ ized on the basis of one single vast plan can allow industry to be distributed over the whole country in the way best suited to the needs of the whole.

In contrast, "eco-socialists" Sarkar dis­
Mumia Denied Day in Court, Again

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!
Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!

Last month, Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas judge Pamela Dembe canceled a scheduled court hearing for America’s longest-serving political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia had been prepared to present in court on February 11 evidence of his innocence that further undermines the foundations of the prosecution’s entire racist frame-up. Dembe squelched the hearing suggesting she lacked “jurisdiction of the Court to proceed in defendant’s third PCRA [Post Conviction Relief] petition.”

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man! Convicted in 1982 on frame-up charges, of killing police officer Daniel Faulkner on 9 December 1981, Jamal was sentenced to die explicitly for his political views and past membership in the Black Panther Party. For nearly four years, both federal and state courts have refused to even consider the sworn testimony of Arnold Beverly that he, not Jamal, shot and killed Faulkner.

Dembe’s cancelation is just the latest in a long series of legal machinations by the courts to bar additional mountains of evidence that further undercuts the foundations of the prose­

Amicus letters from Mumia’s attorneys to submit papers explaining why evidence of Mumia’s innocence should not be barred by rules allowing only evidence that is “newly discovered.” In papers submitted to the court, Robert Bryan, Jamal’s lead counsel, explained that the evidence was previously unknown, adding, “Had the prosecution not engaged in fraudulent conduct and a cover-up of its misdeeds, the new evidence would be unnecessary.”

The prosecution’s case against Mumia has long been exposed as a lie from top to bottom (see Partisan Defense Committee pamphlets, The Frame-Up of Mumia Abu-Jamal [July 1995], and Mumia Abu-Jamal Is an Innocent Man! [September 2003]). At the now canceled hearing, Mumia had hoped to bring forward two pieces of evidence that have come out since Dembe’s 2001 decision denying Mumia’s earlier PCRA petition. These two pieces of evidence further blow to bits key parts of the government frame-up: the coerced testimony of prostitute Cynthia White that she saw Mumia shoot Faulkner and that she now fully claims that Mumia confessed to the shooting.

In early 2002, a new witness, Yvette Williams, courageously came forward and testified in a sworn affidavit submitted in federal courts that White herself admitted the cops coerced her for hours. Momia: “I was in jail with Cynthia White in December of 1981 after Police Officer Daniel Faulkner was shot and killed. Cynthia White told me the police were making her lie and say she saw Mr. Jamal shooting Officer Faulkner when she really didn’t see who did it.” It has long been known that White had been coerced and was under police control when she gave her lying testimony, and other witnesses have testified that White was far from the scene.

Mumia also had hoped to bring out the testimony of Kenneth Pate, stepbrother of Priscilla Durham, the Jefferson Hospital Police security guard who joined in the cops’ manifest lie that Mumia “confessed.” In fact, the cop assigned to guard Jamal while he lay bleeding in the hospital reported at the time, “during this time the negro male made no comments.” The bogus “confession” was cooked up two months later at a round-table meeting called by the D.A.’s office to orchestrate the cops’ trial testimony. In an April 2003 declaration, Pate described how Durham told him that when Mumia was brought to the hospital he was “all bloody and the police were interfering with his treat­

ming, saying ‘let him die.’” Cops pressured her that, as a security guard, she “had to stick with them” as part of the “brotherhood” of police, and to say “she heard Mumia say that he killed the police officer, when they found Mumia in on a stretcher.” Durham told her brother, “All I heard him say was: ‘Get off me, get off me, they’re trying to kill me.’”

Still pending in the federal courts is Jamal’s appeal application for habeas corpus relief. While affirming Jamal’s frame-up conviction, in December 2001, federal district court judge William J. Young overturned Jamal’s death sentence on the grounds that the jury failed to consider mitigating circumstances reasons pre­

scribed by law why Jamal should not be executed as set forth by the Supreme Court in the 1986 case. Mumia appealed, seeking to overturn the con­

viction, while the prosecution appealed, seeking to reinstate the sentence of death. In an ominous development, last summer the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ordered Jamal’s counsel to file a brief to explain how Jamal’s case was not adversely affected by a pro-death penalty ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court which held that the Miller case could not be applied to convictions prior to 1988. Jamal’s attorneys pointed out that Mumia’s case should be immune from the ruling as his conviction didn’t become final until 1990. But the entire history of Jamal’s case shows that a fighter for black freedom like Jamal has no rights the capitalist courts are bound to recognize.

Mumia Now to Free Mumia!
On February 4, Mumia lost one of his most prominent supporters when re­

nowned actor and civil rights activist Ossee Davis died at the age of 87. Serving as co-chairman of the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, Davis joined others in reading from Mumia’s writings in a 1994 united-front speak-on

in which he advocated the need for mass protests centered on the social power of the multiracial working class. For years, and in spite of the evidence of his innocence, which has driven Jamal’s supporters from the streets are illusions in the capitalist courts, pro­

moted by reformist political activists, workers, World Party and Socialist Action. These illusions have been embod­

ied in the subordination of the call to free Mumia to the demand for a “new trial,” a conscious appeal to liberals who were agnostic on Mumia’s innocence and thus would not rally around a call to free him. Why mobilize in the unions and streets if the courts can be relied on to ultimately do the right thing?

The PDC, a legal and social defense organization affiliated with the Sparta­

acist League, has sought to bring Jamal’s case to unions in the U.S. and around the world. In one case, Mumia Abu-Jamal’s defense. As part of its annual Holiday

Evidence Explodes Frame-Up: Declarations and affidavits of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Arnold R. Beverly, Rachel Wolfenstein and others prove that death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man.

Published September 2001
$5.00 (32 pages)

Order from pay to:
Partisan Defense Committee
P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station
New York, NY 10013


Ossee Davis hosted February 1995 rally for Mumia sponsored by Partisan Defense Committee and Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Appeal for Class-War Prisoners, the PDC coordinated the raising of over $1,600 for Mumia’s legal defense from labor unions across the country. Based on the one significant integra­

tion in racist America—the workplace and the factory floor—the trade unions have the social power and the potential to become battalions in the struggle against capitalist exploitation and racial oppres­

sion, to shake the foundations of this decaying capitalist system and ultimately topple it. If undertaken with a mobiliza­

tion of the union movement at the fore­

front, the fight to free Mumia and to abol­

ish the racist death penalty would be a first, giant step in that direction and would strike a significant blow against the draconian new repressive measures being implemented by the Bush admin­

istration with bipartisan support. To that end, labor must break the chains which keep their trade union members shackled to the unions to the political par­

tries—centrally the Democratic—while the state agencies of the new class. No illu­

sions in the capitalist courts! Free Mumia now! Abolish the racist death penalty!
The commune of civil rights attorney Lynne Stewart and her co-defendants translator Mohamed Yousef and paralegal Ahmed Sattar is a triumph of fear over truth. The three legal workers were charged with complicity in the act of aiding and abetting terrorism in connection with their representation of the Blind Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman. When the former U.S. Attorney General Ashcroft announced the arrest of Stewart she died on the spot. The new death was tragic. The justice department had decided that things that I did as a lawyer are now to be outlawed, are now to be made into crimes, in order to determine lawyer's duty to defend people. What I basically did was, I issued a press release on behalf of my client. They said that this press release was materially aiding or abetting terrorism. Making it impossible for any first amendment right to be protected. And to me that is the real essence of this work, is that we be permitted to defend people in these cases as political people, not just as defendent 10872.

Recently black political prisoner Albert Woodfox of the Angola Three talked about the importance of lawyers in destroying isolation. "I think that this was a pretty strong shot across the bow as they say, you know if you dare put forth an honest attempt to uphold the standards of law in this country we will get you. You know we will destroy you. cause in most cases they are [the] only voice to the outside world!"

And now the state has precipitated sending shock waves through the state that blows away from the kind of cases that has been Stewart's staple for a generation. She has taken on cases involving members of the Black Panther Party, the Attica Brothers, Puerto Rican Independence fighters and since at least 1995 the Blind Sheikh. In order to put it in operation the democratically elected government of the state needs to send fear into those who are sworn to protect and provide a full and vigorous defense—lawyers. With the whole state. What may have happened has awoken many people. In this country who would have preferred to bludgeon Lynne Stewart, or professional translator Mohamed Yousef and professional translator. Mohamed Yousef in order to stage a vigorous appeal of this outrageous verdict. They will need our support, now more than ever. The work of many to undo John Ashcroft's revenge. From Death Row this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

1 February 2005

AIDS (continued from page 1)
yet been developed, and is still years away. The world, with AZT or nevirapine (which have been around for many years) to prevent mother-to-child transmission, is still not readily available. Why? Because in most of the world today, women continue to be the slave of the slave, economically dependent on their spouse, isolated in the home, with lives considered of lesser value.

The Vietnam, which is among the most advanced, industrialized capitalist countries, with some of the most technologically sophisticated medical research, has not been able to eliminate HIV infections. Every country has its peculiar characteristics shaped by the history of its class society. Effective control of HIV requires great medical resources, not to mention clean running water, which is among the most proletarianized. With the state's interference, the slave of the slave, economically dependent on the slave, is still years away. Around the world, even treatment programs tied to anti-abortion policies, and contraception, have been put on the back burner. In the much-lauded Ugandan anti-AIDS campaign against AIDS called “ABC” - “A” is for “abstinence,” “B” is for “be faithful,” and “C” is for “condoms.”

In this country, millions of adolescents and children get federally funded abortion-only sex-miseducation programs. These are not just repressive and totally useless for young people, but they are deadly. Young women, lured with lies, religious propaganda instead of the science-based contraceptive information they need to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and from getting pregnant. For example, federally funded programs have youth falsehood information, such as that tears and sweat can transmit HIV. Most dangerously, they have been put in workplaces and discouraged their use. Recently, Texas A&M University surveyed 29 high schools regarding Bush's much-vaulted abstinence-only education in his home state and found that these programs had no impact on teen behavior. These teens are left in ignorance when they do have sex, and they do have sex, as teenagers naturally do. It was reported in November that new federal guidelines for treating rape victims omit mentioning the option of the emergency contraceptive pill. Anti-science, anti-evolution, faith-based programs mean death as well. National Institutes of Health (NIH) officials warn HIV/AIDS researchers to eliminate certain “key words” from funding proposals—"abstinence," "sex education," "sex and sex," “needle exchange,” “abortion,” “condom effectiveness,” “gay,” “homosexual,” and “transgender”—to improve their chances of being funded.

Capitalist Rulers Wage War on Working People, Blacks

The late of specially oppressed sectors of society—black people, immigrants, and women—is in large part determined by the course of class and social struggle. Coming out of the struggles of the civil rights movement was a brief moment of the broadening out of public health care, most notably the passage of the Medicaid and Medicare programs, which are inferior to and largely dependent on Medicare. Today, massive cutbacks in Medicaid keep the pike every year. Some 55 percent of people living with AIDS rely on Medicaid. Because of this, the state has a huge profitable pharmaceutical industry whose commercial interests conflict with the lives of millions of people around the world. In fact, throughout the world, even treatment hold hostage funds for AIDS, and keeps a

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Workers Vanguard

Promoting potentially deadly ignorance about sex in young people funded programs push “abstinence before marriage” in schools, government pamphlets.

This will impact HIV-positive people, not to mention poor people in general. The deindustrialization of the major Northern cities continues. For several decades meant that the black population, which had migrated in waves to the north for jobs in the first half of the 20th century, was now left with little in the ’80s. Over a million manufacturing jobs were lost during this period and over 2.6 million more have been lost since Bush took office. The capitalist class—which must accumulate profit through the exploitation of working people’s labor—ultimately had little use for those at the bottom when they finished looting what they could from them. As the “last hired and first fired,” the black population supplied, in the words of Karl Marx, the “reserve army” of unemployed labor for the American capitalists. The color bias the fundamental dividing line in American society, a key prop

For obscure the irreconcilable divide between the working class and the capitalist class. White workers and immigrant workers are told that black people are their enemy, not the bosses who exploit them all. Up until the last few decades, although black workers had the most arduous industrial jobs, such as the coke ovens in steel, at least a layer a had jobs with the benefit of “seniority.” These benefits were won because decades of union struggle and many of these battles were integral actions, where black and white workers fought side by side on the picket lines. Such integrated class struggle is the only way forward today.

The mass actions of the civil rights movement broke down Jim Crow in the South, but, when the protests came up against the hard economic reality and dehumanized ghetto conditions in the Northern cities, the movement hit the limit of what could be achieved without overthrowing the entire capitalist system. The pro-capitalist leadership of the civil rights movement channeled the struggles into the dead end of the racist Democratic Party.

We seek to build a multiracial, working-class party that will replace the current pro-capitalist labor leadership. It is this that knows how to organize givebacks today. It will take a proletarian, international socialist revolution to completely transform the lives of black people and the struggle of the Civil War, to extend to all oppressed sectors the fruits of their labor. That means seizing the means of production and taking state power from the capitalist class.

The capitalist class has sought to exploit workers at an ever higher rate by union busting and by moving production to the non-socialized South and out of the country. Today in the U.S., a mere 8 percent of manufacturing is now non-socialized. Black workers still play a strategic role in the American economy and are disproportionately targetted by police repression. However, more and more, the black population has become an excess, surplus population for the white ruling class. As just as HIV was being developed, and is still years away. The world cannot easily be satisfied. Why? Because in most of the world today, women continue to be the slave of the slave, economically dependent on their spouse, isolated in the home, with lives considered of lesser value.

The Vietnam, which is among the most advanced, industrialized capitalist countries, has not been able to eliminate HIV infections. Every country has its peculiar characteristics shaped by the history of its class society. Effective control of HIV requires great medical resources, not to mention clean running water, which is among the most proletarianized. With the state's interference, the slave of the slave, economically dependent on the slave, is still years away. Around the world, even treatment programs tied to anti-abortion policies, and contraception, have been put on the back burner. In the much-lauded Ugandan anti-AIDS campaign against AIDS called “ABC” - “A” is for “abstinence,” “B” is for “be faithful,” and “C” is for “condoms.”

In this country, millions of adolescents and children get federally funded abortion-only sex-miseducation programs. These are not just repressive and totally useless for young people, but they are deadly. Young women, lured with lies, religious propaganda instead of the science-based contraceptive information they need to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and from getting pregnant. For example, federally funded programs have youth falsehood information, such as that tears and sweat can transmit HIV. Most dangerously, they have been put in workplaces and discouraged their use. Recently, Texas A&M University surveyed 29 high schools regarding Bush's much-vaulted abstinence-only education in his home state and found that these programs had no impact on teen behavior. These teens are left in ignorance when they do have sex, and they do have sex, as teenagers naturally do. It was reported in November that new federal guidelines for treating rape victims omit mentioning the option of the emergency contraceptive pill. Anti-science, anti-evolution, faith-based programs mean death as well. National Institutes of Health (NIH) officials warn HIV/AIDS researchers to eliminate certain “key words” from funding proposals—"abstinence," "sex education," "sex and sex," “needle exchange,” “abortion,” “condom

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This will impact HIV-positive people, not to mention poor people in general. The deindustrialization of the major Northern cities continues. For several decades meant that the black population, which had migrated in waves to the north for jobs in the first half of the 20th century, was now left with little in the ’80s. Over a million manufacturing jobs were lost during this period and over 2.6 million more have been lost since Bush took office. The capitalist class—which must accumulate profit through the exploitation of working people’s labor—ultimately had little use for those at the bottom when they finished looting what they could from them. As the “last hired and first fired,” the black population supplied, in the words of Karl Marx, the “reserve army” of unemployed labor for the American capitalists. The color bias the fundamental dividing line in American society, a key prop
through transgressions. In other words, HIV is borne by blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk, not the wrath of God. And the more polite, ‘bigger’ thing that is being done is the more ‘polite,’ bigoted way to put it, a disease caused by a so-called ‘lifestyle.’

AIDS and religious bigotry. As the first agent of AIDS on the black inner-city population, The reactionary, religious bourgeoisie, the monogamous family, enshrined with theological, moral and medical discipline, is at the origin of a disease caused by a so-called ‘lifestyle.’ The second agent of AIDS, more subtly, is the racial disci-pline, a socially constructed disease that is transmitted by sexual activity, is stigmatized and medically neglected by the chronicl[y] unemployed, sometimes already homeless, often illiterate, already with an adverse health history that is the result of a racist and sexist stratification system that keeps them from being able to access the highest level of care and treatment. The third agent of AIDS, and the most insidious, is the social stigma against deviant lifestyles, black and white, and the criminalization of people engaging in those lifestyles.

One of the first reactions to the epidemic of AIDS on the black inner-city population was the wave of religious communal activity that was quickly mobilized by religious leaders. In the atmosphere of fear and panic that was created by the epidemic, religious leaders did not have the luxury of challenging the established religious dogmas and denying the possibility of promiscuity and promiscuity as a way of life for many people. The faithful and orthodox religious leaders, as the local structure of power, had to adapt to the situation and find ways to mediate it. They had to find ways to soften the impact of the disease and to create a moral framework that would provide a way for people to deal with the situation.

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AIDS and the incarceration of Black America. We had an article in Workers Vanguard almost exactly ten years ago called “Lockdown: the HIV crisis” by NYM (March 1995). In that article we said that 1.5 million were behind bars. Currently, according to data released in early 2005, seven million people in the U.S. are in jail or on probation or parole, and that’s more than the population of the eight least populated states in the U.S. combined.

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AIDS... (continued page 9)

stereotypes of so-called amoral gay men. For example, it purports to give women advice on how to detect if your partner is secretly under "the mystic influence". Such talk, and the publicity around it, reflects the racist and anti-gay hysteria which portrays the predatory and sensational black men whose alleged uncontrollable sexuality leads them to prey on innocent women and their children.

Certainly, every variety of so-called "infidelity" in marriage is as old as marriage itself. Certainly, black gay and bisexual men face many reasons not to come out, and, on the other hand, nobody is going to oppose in personal relationships. This sensationalized racist stereotype only serves to divert attention from the massive incarceration of black men.

For research, health care and education from being available. There is absolutely for Bush Reaction that the trays sinister. predatory and deceitful population than the white.

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Witchhunt... (continued from page 2)

submission of all humanity to God. The worst thing, ultimately, about religion is that it preaches blind faith in false, mysti­
cal forces ruling our fate, creating human­
ity’s fight for freedom from oppression and for control over nature.

The care about those victimized by corrup­
tion, violent institutions and adults—whether priests or bullying state prosecutors. The sense and helpless­
ness felt by children coerced into submis­
sion by frightening authority figures like priests, especially when combined with en­forced guilt about sex, does scar them for life. Obviously the church has a lot to come and to look at. The millions in hush money it’s been dishing out (including to some of Shanley’s accusers). Forced out over the scandal with what we know that other members, including Cardinal Bernard Law, the Catholic ver­

tion of Harvard’s all-purpose bigot Larry Summers, who recently accused that women, Jews, Christians and white bas­

fully at the service of humanity. Microbes are living organisms. and despite the creationists’ babbling, they will continue to evolve, and we will have to continue to live with them. Access to quality health care should be a simple democratic right. It is a basic necessity like education, housing and a job. A planners socialist economy, under the rule of the working class, would have one purpose—to provide for all in the best way possible. This new, capitalist-ruling class kills. It kills masses of peo­

ple internationally through wars and starva­
tion, and all in the service of maintain­
ingen its ruthless profit-driven economic system. It killed over a million and a half people in Iraq and Columbia as a starvation block­
ade, and its neocolonial occupation force continues to kill thousands of people. Here in New York, it’s bringing down black youth in the streets and on the housetops. Of New York City to Hollywood, they and their own aspersions like Albert Spruill, and while they are struggling to make a living like Ousmane Zongo. It kills because this is a desperate ruling class which has become a bar to human progress for over a cen­

try now.

Union struggle in this country in the recent period has centered around fight­
ing for decent health care, as the belea­
muth “health care” industry attempts to shake more money out of the pockets of sick people. Union struggle on this issue for all is within the bounds of material pos­
sibility, but not under capitalism where

South African AIDS activists at 2,000­

strong march on Toronto Town to demand free anti-retroviral drugs, February 16.

The false and reactionary political uses of “recovered memory” prosecutions were thoroughly exposed a decade ago. In the wake of research and debunking “recovered memory” prosecu­
tions, we write: “Much of this persecu­tion aims to overturn the bourgeois state in its regulation of the population and to spread panic, as a diversion from the class struggle. We call this the ‘mystic force’ movement, mean, bigoted, racist society” (Women and Revolution, No. 45, Winter 1990). What was that discussion about today? It is in the interests of all in the workers movement to protest and oppose this new, deadly “recovered memory” witchhunt. Free Paul Shanley!®

WORKERS VANGUARD

OECD State University just released a survey that found that 16 percent of black Amer­
cicans think that government scientists cre­
at ed the disease, and slightly more than half say they believe a cure is being with­
hold from the poor.

For 40 years, the U.S. Public Health Service withheld treatment from black men with syphilis in Macon County, Alabama, who were told they were being treated for “bad blood” in the infamous Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male.” This so-called study continued until 1972. But it’s just too easy to guilt the “Father of Gynecology,” J. Marion Sims, portrays as an icon in every medical school, performed pyn­
egyological experiments on slave women between 1845 and 1852. He bought a slave woman for the purpose of experi­
mencing on her, and he used no anes­
thetics with the racist justification that black people feel pain less. But the special­

oppression of the black masses is not a conspiracy; in fact, conspiracy the­

ties tend to disann one from taking any action at all. Racism is necessary to the American capitalist economic system, which must be replaced by socialism.

For a Socialist Future to Combat Poverty, Ignorance and Disease!

I mentioned early on in this talk the counterrevolution in the Soviet Union was a historic defeat for the world work­
ing class. The planned economy, albeit
degenerated, was overthrown, after hav­

ing been undermined for generations by the Stalinist bureaucracy. However, the Bolshevist Revolution was the only succ­

cessful workers revolution, and the vision and program of the Bolsheviks shows that revo­

tion are models for anyone who wants to end this miserable capi­
	
talist system. You revolve around an interna­

tional, planned economy to deal with pov­

erity and disease, as well as all the myriad problems of this society. From the early time, the modern gains of science can be
existing technology. The total energy solar power plant is greater than what the study purporting to prove that. Given the significantly increase the efficiency of solar energy hardly the most intractable technical economy away from a reliance on fossil fuels. An international workers soviet would no doubt choose to invest considerable resources in developing renewable energy sources and in reorienting the world economy away from a reliance on fossil fuels. In contrast, investment decisions under capitalism, including those regarding research and development, are primarily determined by how individual capitalist companies feel they can make a profit. If burning fossil fuels results in pollution and the spread of disease, that is not a concern to the individual capitalist; those costs don’t appear on his profit and loss statement.

Moreover, the development of communism will be accompanied by a corollary downgrading of research and development hypotrophy. Evidence of this can already be seen under capitalism in the industrially advanced nations of the world—e.g., Japan, North America and Western Europe—where economic and technological advancement has been blocked, not through fiat, a substantial reduction in the birthrate. Under communism, both the division between the economic growth of the individuals on the family will virtually disappear. No longer will peasants or agricultural workers be compelled to have more children in order to ensure enough manpower to work the land. Human beings will have far greater mastery over both their natural and social environments.

Additionally, communist society will be characterized by a lowering of social values from those that exist today. The liberation of women from patriarchy, they will not be bound by the unhindered access to birth control and contraception. Communism will elevate the birthrate slightly, but it will climb to its highest possible level. By eliminating scarcity, poverty and want, communism will be able to use this surfeit of force for the prevalence of religion and superstition—and the attendant backwardness, which defines the role of women as the producers of the next generation of working masses to be exploited. The communist society will have a much smaller population shrinkage based on increasing material abundance and progressive social ideals will raise the birthrate. If there are enough resources to guarantee the well-being of all interests of the working people, would have sought to prevent the pollution of the Caspian Sea and the destruction of the Aral Sea, as it would resist the mounting pollution today of China’s rivers and lakes. But we approach such questions from the standpoint of strengthening, developing capitalist economy and technological progress. The capitalist counterrevolution which destroyed the Soviet Union in 1991-92 has certainly “improved” the environment, and some Green radicals may welcome the closing of Russia’s steel smelters and other factories, since they no longer poison the atmosphere. But the final report of the remaining gains of the 1917 Russian Revolution, above all the destruction of the Soviet planned economy, was a historic defeat for the proletariat that has brought with it an enormous rise in the death rate due to rampant malnutrition and disease.

The Reactionary Agenda of Post-Sovietism

Over the past couple of decades, accelerated in good part by “death of communism,” Russia’s economy, following capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union in 1991-92, has been a greatsut and political disaster. The mechanisms by which the virus breaks down the immune system are the same as those that attack any other virus. But that HIV causes AIDS is not a matter of scientific dispute. An article by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) describes the mechanisms by which the virus attacks the immune system. The mechanisms that underlie the AIDS virus are well understood; the mechanisms that cause AIDS are not well understood. The mechanisms that cause AIDS are not well understood.

The fact that the main victims of HIV/AIDS are justifiably suspicious of the government’s role in the rise in the death rate due to rampant malnutrition and disease.

The scientific godfather for this crusade is Peter Duesberg, a professor of molecular and cell biology at UC Berkeley, who claims that HIV is harmless and that AIDS is caused by “life-style” factors such as illicit drug use by gay men and others, as well as by AZT, a drug used to combat HIV. His book, Inventing the AIDS Virus, was published by Regency Publishing, a right-wing outfit that also publishes such reactionary, anti-gay bigots as Patrick Buchanan, G. Gordon Liddy, and Ann Coulter. Duesberg, as an Adviser to South African president Thabo Mbeki, whose ignorant diatribes against HIV/AIDS have been widely praised, has sought to deflect criticism over his government’s criminal refusal to allocate sufficient resources to combat the pandemic. Despite overwhelming evidence that AIDS do not require "expensive, toxic drugs." Obviously, anyone who believes this would see no need to demand the vast increase in funding that is needed across the board for health care. The supine response of the U.S. and South African governments, who refuse to make the necessary investments in the pharmaceutical giants, which demand exorbitant prices for life-saving medications, is to see the growing epidemic as a tool to combat the rising cost of medicines; today it does little to improve the quality of life for HIV-positive pregnant women and their children. The NIH has spent over $5 billion on the search for a causal relationship between African American women and high-risk HIV infection, and they produced only a single statistically significant result: the pregnancy outcome of HIV-infected pregnant women was delayed in HIV-infected pregnant women with a low viral load.

German foreign minister, Green Party Party, Joschka Fischer, deployed German troops for the first time since Third Reich participation in wars against Serbia and Afghanistan. Fischer visit German troops in Balkans.

Enlightenment Rationalism and the Origins of Marxism

In 1996, the origins of Marxism, edited by Joseph Seymour and published by the U.S. publishing house Palgrave, included also in the book “150 Years of the Communist Manifesto” and “Marxism and Religion.” In the PREFACE, the editors were unable to provide an adequate reference reaction, the struggle to reassert the validity of the program and purpose of revolutionary Marxism and the fight for our fight for new, October Revolutions.

Letter... (continued from page 57)

"...We have discussed the matter, and that, given the existing technology, the total energy indirectly consumed in manufacturing a solar power plant is greater than what the plant would produce during its lifetime. (There are a number of studies contradicting that some solar designs cause a few out of hand while simply ignoring the rest.) Yet even if Sarkar’s contention were justified, solar technology’s generalization to socialist society is invalid. It assumes that we can hardly expand the relatively low efficiency of solar cells or lower their production costs—handy, the most technical problem facing mankind.

A socialist system is, by its very nature, not limited to the technologies developed and utilized by the capitalist mode of production. Under a socialist system of international planning, an international workers society would no doubt choose to invest considerable resources in developing renewable energy sources and in reorienting the world economy away from a reliance on fossil fuels. In contrast, investment decisions under capitalism, including those regarding research and development, are primarily determined by how individual capitalist companies feel they can make a profit. If burning fossil fuels results in pollution and the spread of disease, that is not a concern to the individual capitalist; those costs don’t appear on his profit and loss statement.

Moreover, the development of communism will be accompanied by a corollary downgrading of research and development hypotrophy. Evidence of this can already be seen under capitalism in the industrially advanced nations of the world—e.g., Japan, North America and Western Europe—where economic and technological advancement has been blocked, not through fiat, a substantial reduction in the birthrate. Under communism, both the division between the economic growth of the individuals on the family will virtually disappear. No longer will peasants or agricultural workers be compelled to have more children in order to ensure enough manpower to work the land. Human beings will have far greater mastery over both their natural and social environments.

Additionally, communist society will be characterized by a lowering of social values from those that exist today. The liberation of women from patriarchy, they will not be bound by the unhindered access to birth control and contraception. Communism will elevate the birthrate slightly, but it will climb to its highest possible level. By eliminating scarcity, poverty and want, communism will be able to use this surfeit of force for the prevalence of religion and superstition—and the attendant backwardness, which defines the role of women as the producers of the next generation of working masses to be exploited. The communist society will have a much smaller population shrinkage based on increasing material abundance and progressive social ideals will raise the birthrate. If there are enough resources to guarantee the well-being of all interests of the working people, would have sought to prevent the pollution of the Caspian Sea and the destruction of the Aral Sea, as it would resist the mounting pollution today of China’s rivers and lakes. But we approach such questions from the standpoint of strengthening, developing capitalist economy and technological progress. The capitalist counterrevolution which destroyed the Soviet Union in 1991-92 has certainly “improved” the environment, and some Green radicals may welcome the closing of Russia’s steel smelters and other factories, since they no longer poison the atmosphere. But the final report of the remaining gains of the 1917 Russian Revolution, above all the destruction of the Soviet planned economy, was a historic defeat for the proletariat that has brought with it an enormous rise in the death rate due to rampant malnutrition and disease.

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11
13-Year-Old Devin Brown Gunned Down by LAPD

Black L.A. Seethes Over Racist Cop Terror

LOS ANGELES—The cop killing of black, 13-year-old Devin Brown on February 6 was the outrageous, predictable outcome of the “open season” for intensified racist cop terror given by the capitalistic rulers of Los Angeles. Brown’s killing is the latest in a string of police attacks on black people in L.A., with one atrocity quickly following another. Devin Brown was killed just three days after L.A. County District Attorney Steve Cooley announced that there would be no criminal charges filed against the cops that hospitalized another man with a metal nail on his head in South-Central L.A. in January.

In this context, two Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) cops on shift in South-Central L.A. radiated in to say they were pursuing a possible drunk driver in a Toyota shortly before 4 a.m. on February 6. The ensuing 3-minute “chase” came to an end after the pursued car ran into a curb. The 14-year-old in the passenger seat managed to get away. In the meantime, Devin Brown—a 10-year-old boy—was out of his car and shooting, as the Toyota moved back from the curb. A few seconds and 10 bullets later, Devin Brown was dead.

Devin was a talented 8th-grader at Audubon magnet school whose short life was annihilated by the racist cops with- out a moment’s hesitation. His family and the people who met him cherished the life of Devin Brown. “There was a sweetness about him...I saw an innocence and a sweetness,” one of his teachers said. Devin was close to his parents. When Devin’s father died suddenly of heart failure last year, Devin was devastated. As his police chief Bratton arrived in L.A. for a rally in L.A. by the Workers World Party, he said, “We’ll police our- selves!”

Devin’s mother is herself a member of UNITE HERE, and several members of her union were present at the protest. The multiracial proletariat of Los Angeles—from the heavily black and Latino workers on the docks and in transit, to the overwhelmingly immigrant janitors and hotel workers—is a powerful latent force in this city that has every interest in mobilizing against racist cop terror.

Exactly one year ago, there was a big and popular grocery workers strike, centered in Southern California. If won, that strike could have galvanized union struggle nationwide. Instead, it was mishandled into defeat and sold out by the pro-capitalist union tops. The recent labor battles in Southern California have shown there is will to fight on the part of the working class. Responsibility for the defeat of recent labor struggles must be laid at the door of the labor leaders, whose job is to inundate the workers with false, bourgeois consciousness and politically subordinate the unions to the bourgeois state via the capitalist Democratic Party. This is the main obstacle to a fighting, class-struggle labor movement. Instead of tapping into the outrage against police violence among workers and mobilizing labor unions against it, the L.A. County Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO) has been throwing union money and political support behind the re-election of Democratic L.A. mayor Villaraigosa, and running for mayor. If won, that would only go forward together.

A Latino from the Justice for Janitors union (SEIU 1877) spoke movingly at the February 26 protest. Devin Brown’s mother is herself a member of UNITE HERE, and several members of her union were present at the protest. The multiracial proletariat of Los Angeles—from the heavily black and Latino workers on the docks and in transit, to the overwhelmingly immigrant janitors and hotel workers—is a powerful latent force in this city that has every interest in mobilizing against racist cop terror.

But this is exactly the truth that is covered up, suppressed and distorted by all the preachers, liberal nationalist, trade-union bureaucrats and social-democratic reformists. The reformist “socialists” of Workers World Party’s International Action Center (IAC) ludicrously announced in a February Workers World article on Devin Brown: “IAC: Dissame LAPD”! While saying not a word about the perspective of mobilizing labor struggle against racist cop terror, the IAC proclaims that “it is absolutely irresponsible to allow the LAPD to arm its officers with guns. Allowing the LAPD to carry any weapons provides a dangerous risk to the general public and especially Black and Latino youth.” Meanwhile, the International Socialist Organization demands that “if city officials want to reduce gun violence, they should start with their police department.” Let’s be clear: the only force that can abolish racist cop terror is the revolutionary proletariat in power.

A February 26 protest at Leimert Park was called by a coalition including millionaire LA Sentinel publisher and head of the Brotherhood Crusade, Danny Bakewell, by the Nation of Islam (NOI) and by various black preachers. What all these types have in common is their use-fulness to L.A.’s rulers in diverting outrage over cop killings into religious, dead-end Democratic Party politics or poisonous anti-immigrant racism (the specialty of the Nation of Islam). Among the speakers was L.A. city councilman and former LAPD chief! Bernard Parks, now running for mayor. Parks praised the NOI and the preachers for their “constructive” work i.e., for chilling out the population and concealing the nature of the cops.

At Devin’s funeral, Tony Muhammad, the local leader of the black nationalist NOI, pronounced, “We’ll police our- selves!” This is reminiscent of when the NOI Security Agency was given contracts in the early 1990s to police the federally subsidized housing projects in cities from Baltimore to Los Angeles, acting as black front men to carry out the bourgeoisie’s racist “war on drugs/crime” against the mainly black residents. The NOI has a long history of letting the racist, capital- ist rulers off the hook by misdirecting black anger toward Koreans, Latinos, Jews and immigrants. We fight for multi-racial labor struggle to unite all of the oppressed against our common oppressors—the capitalist ruling class. The struggle for black, immigrant, and labor rights can only go forward together.

A Latino from the Justice for Janitors union (SEIU 1877) spoke movingly at the February 26 protest. Devin Brown’s mother is herself a member of UNITE HERE, and several members of her union were present at the protest. The multiracial proletariat of Los Angeles—from the heavily black and Latino workers on the docks and in transit, to the overwhelmingly immigrant janitors and hotel workers—is a powerful latent force in this city that has every interest in mobilizing against racist cop terror.

Exactly one year ago, there was a big and popular grocery workers strike, centered in Southern California. If won, that strike could have galvanized union struggle nationwide. Instead, it was mishandled into defeat and sold out by the pro-capitalist union tops. The recent labor battles in Southern California have shown there is will to fight on the part of the working class. Responsibility for the defeat of recent labor struggles must be laid at the door of the labor leaders, whose job is to inundate the workers with false, bourgeois consciousness and politically subordinate the unions to the bourgeois state via the capitalist Democratic Party. This is the main obstacle to a fighting, class-struggle labor movement. Instead of tapping into the outrage against police violence among workers and mobilizing labor unions against it, the L.A. County Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO) has been throwing union money and political support behind the re-election of Democratic L.A. mayor Jim Hahn, and running for mayor. If won, that would only go forward together.

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