

Heyman's Brown Shirts Rampage

COPS OFF CAMPUS!
DROP ALL CHARGES! DEFEND STUDENT PROTEST!

Education at Berkeley is increasingly meted out by the billy club, the jackboot, the chokehold and the frame-up. The administration and cops were not satisfied with the flailing of nightsticks, the twisting of arms to breaking point and the grinding of faces into the pavement, the chokeholding and mass arrests with which they smashed the "shantytown." That was just for openers. They are once again hurling the frame-up charge of "assault on a police officer," which can get you sent away for a long time. They have banned 19 protesters from campus. They've gotten 1000 "John Doe" restraining orders to use against anyone they want to ban. They have taken to swooping down on activists as they pass out leaflets or walk through campus, arresting them on "outstanding warrants." This repression targets all those who want to protest the crimes of this government, its apartheid partners and contra assassins.

What's the next step for the UC administration and its sadistic cops? To patrol Sproul Plaza with South Africa-style "hippo" personnel carriers? To shoot a protester dead, in order to "protect health and safety"? Assistant Reichschancellor John Cummins admitted they're going all-out to crush campus protest with his declaration that "we don't want to get into another prolonged period of demonstrations...." The violent and dangerous men who run this campus in the service of the capitalist ruling class would be willing to carry out a Jackson State/Kent State-type massacre here if they deemed it necessary for this war on student protest. They are obedient servants of their masters in the White House, the world's biggest terrorists.

Remember what the country's top cop, Attorney General Edwin Meese, said in 1980 about the young man blown away by a deputy sheriff's shotgun during the 1969 "People's Park" protest: "James Rector deserved to die." It was Meese who directed bloody repression of antiwar protests and murder of Black Panthers under the governorship of one Ronald Reagan. These are the creatures with whom Berkeley students have begun to tangle.

The nightstick smashing into your spine is as likely to be property of the Berkeley Police Department as of the UCPD, as the city's armed thugs join forces with their brown-shirted brothers on campus. No matter how "progressive" the city administration, nothing gets in the way of the cops' fulfilling their function as the armed fist of capitalist class rule. Look at any picket line of striking workers and you'll see which side the cops are on. And remember it was a liberal Democratic governor who sent the National Guard against the Hormel strike.

We demand: COPS OFF CAMPUS! DROP ALL THE CHARGES! RESCIND THE SUSPENSION OF GUILLERMO BERMUDEZ! RESCIND THE BANNING ORDERS!

This social order--capitalism--rests on organized violence. Why is the ruling class giving students a stiff dose of this violence here and now? So that next month or next year, when the U.S. invades Central America, protest activists will have been purged from campus. We've been stressing the point about the obsessive administration/cop/D.A. vendetta against Guillermo Bermudez: the ruling class is hell-bent on regimenting the youth for imperialist war.

If you want to change the world, you've got to understand it. Why are the rulers of this country busting unions, carrying out open racist state terrorism like the bombing of the black MOVE commune, and cracking students' heads? Why are they gearing up for an invasion of Nicaragua? Why did they attack Libya, only days after invading Soviet waters in the Black Sea? What are the material, class interests that drive this government?

It is literally impossible to understand the world today without understanding that this government is the instrument of the capitalist class. That capitalism is a sick, decaying system. And that the actions of this capitalist government are guided by the drive towards war against the Soviet Union. This drive is the dominant fact of politics today. It unites the Democratic and Republican parties, two heads on the imperialist beast: the Democrats rallied 'round Reagan's assault on Libya; they have only tactical differences over how to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution (and they're getting ready to vote for Reagan's contra aid).

Reagan and the Democrats don't just "happen" to hate Russia. They must seek to destroy the USSR, for the same reason we Trotskyists stand for the unconditional military defense of the USSR: because the Russian Revolution, which established the Soviet Union's planned economy, was capitalism's biggest defeat and the biggest victory for the world working class. Despite the Stalinist bureaucratic degeneration of the Soviet workers state, the collectivized economy makes the USSR an economic and military powerhouse standing in the way of total U.S. world domination. Until student activists confront and reject the anti-Soviet, anti-communist and anti-working-class prejudices instilled by this country's rulers, they will be chained to fatal illusions in "reforming" or "pressuring" the American ruling class.

Capitalism (imperialism) cannot be reformed. The U.S. capitalist ruling class cannot be persuaded or pressured into cleaning up the world, be it through "divestment," "disarmament" or any other liberal panacea. What's needed is a revolution, a socialist revolution to replace this rotting, irrational capitalist system with socialism.

The question is one of power: to change society you need social power. Students don't have that power. But in South Africa, the six-million-strong black proletariat has the power to bury apartheid slavery. In the U.S. the working class--first and foremost the black workers, concentrated in key industries and facing the American nightmare of racist capitalism--has the social power and material, class interest to eliminate racial oppression, poverty and imperialist war. The key, from the U.S. to South Africa, is building a revolutionary leadership, a party like the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Trotsky that led the October 1917 Russian Revolution.

Mobilizing the power of the working class under the program of world socialist revolution is the urgent and unpostponable task. Students can play an important role in this work. To do so they must find their way to the Marxist program and party of the proletarian class struggle. Building the revolutionary workers party is the only road to doing away with the violence inherent in this sick social order--from the violence of police repression here in Berkeley to the racist bombing of Philadelphia MOVE to contra and death-squad murder in Central America, apartheid terror in South Africa, and the growing threat of thermonuclear annihilation unleashed by capitalism's insane drive for war.

SPARTACUS YOUTH LEAGUE
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