A double standard

By Monica Moorehead

On April 1, the Louisiana State University (LSU) Tigers women’s basketball team won its first NCAA championship, after trouncing the University of Iowa Hawkeyes 102-85. What made this game significant was that it attracted the most viewers for any college women’s basketball game to date — 9.9 million. Also Caitlin Clark, Iowa’s guard, had been named AP’s player of the year. For those that want to speak up for what Reese has done, she received no criticism. Meanwhile the LSU team was criticized for the championship ring, not Clark.

Reese was giving Clark a dose of her own medicine, since Clark made a similar hand gesture toward a Louisville Cardinal player in a previous game. Reese received negative backlash on social media, where sports reporters accused her of being “a classless piece of s—,” and even referred to her as “a “f—ing idiot.”

Racism: the underlying factor

Reese responded to the insults at the victory podium: “All year, I was critiqued for who I was. I don’t fit the narrative; I don’t fit the box that y’all want me to be in. I’m too hood. I’m too ghetto. Y’all all led me to all year. But when other people do it [hand gesture], and y’all don’t say nothing.

“So this is for the girls that look like me. For those that want to speak up for what they believe in. It’s unapologetically you. And that’s why I did it tonight. It was bigger than me tonight. And Twitter is going to go into a rage every time.

“And I’m happy. I feel like I’ve helped grow women’s basketball this year. I’m very proud of the Tigers. Sexism also plays a role, since women players are described negatively if they ‘trash talk.’ This behavior is totally accepted for male players.

North Carolina State University Professor Joy Gaston Gayles, an expert on intercollegiate athletics, states: “Angel’s response is a good representation of resistance to anti-Blackness. She’s intentionally deciding to be herself, regardless of society’s refusal to recognize her humanity as a Black woman.”

Gaston Gayles continued: “to call any human a ‘classless piece of shit’ is never okay; but for a Black woman, it’s steeped in what Moya Bailey termed misogynoir: the unique and specific type of violence that happens to Black women at the intersection of racism, sexism and anti-Blackness.” (April 1)

Since she led LSU to winning the championship, Angel Reese has reached more than 3 million followers on Instagram and TikTok combined.
Es Israel una democracia? editorial

Durante las últimas 13 semanas, Israel se ha visto sacudido por manifestaciones masivas de cientos de miles de personas. Finalmente en el mes de octubre, el primer ministro Benjamin Netanyahu, un carnicero. Lo que provocó las protestas fue una propuesta de "palestino, amenazada con el piano de diáspora, que rechaza el poder judicial del gobierno y daría a los políticos israelíes, considera- dos el ala "moderada", más autoridad para elegir a los jueces. Netanyahu declaró que ese cambio era necesario para equilibrar el poder entre jueces y par- lamentarios. Al mismo tiempo, Netanyahu sigue enfrentándose a acusaciones de corrupción.

Las manifestaciones han sido tan impactantes que los cambios de la "reforma" se han suspendido, al menos por ahora. Por ahora, sólo un pequeño número de personas que se oponen a las reformas de Netanyahu han cuestionado las políticas de apartheid israelí.

Los críticos de Netanyahu dicen que los cambios proponen que se quiten una amenaza para la "democracia" de Israel, lo que suscita las siguientes preguntas: ¿Es Israel una democracia ahora y lo ha sido alguna vez desde su fundación? las respuestas son un rotundo ¡NO!!

El Estado de Israel es una formación ilegal fundada sobre la sangre, el sudor y las lágrimas del pueblo pale- tino, que fue el habitante original de la tierra durante miles de años. Los imperialistas británicos aprobaron la Declaración Balfour en 1917, declarando que Palestina se convertiría en un "hogar nacional para el pueblo judío". Una pequeña minoría del pueblo judío vivía entonces en confrontación con los palestinos, antes de que se pudiera codificar la declaración.

Como se escribió en un editorial de WW de diciembre de 2022: "La fundación oficial del Estado israelí en 1948 fue acompañada de masacre y el expulsión forzada, el gobierno de Netanyahu. ¡Palestina debería ondear con orgullo miles de banderas palestí- nas, prohibidas por el gobierno de Netanyahu. ¡Palestina es libre!"

En lugar de ondear la despreciable bandera israelí, deberían ondear orgulloso de miles de banderas palesti- nas, prohibidas por el gobierno de Netanyahu. ¡Palestina es libre!

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist- Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repugnant attacks on immigrants, the LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social program will solve this crisis.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are ginned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of advances that were won by hard-fought strugg- les by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and chal- lenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of cap- italist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1930, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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