The Supreme Court of the United States confirmed once again what an utterly reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions. The 6-3 ruling, issued June 29, stems from two cases—Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard University and Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina—which claim that whites and Asians are victims of “reverse discrimination.”

What this vote means is that “race-conscious admissions policies,” can no longer be used to assure that working-class students of color, especially if they are Black and Brown, will have access to colleges and universities, whose exorbitant tuition fees have put millions into a lifetime of debt. Military academies, tellingly, are exempt from this ban on affirmative action. The only exception in the ruling is when young people’s lives are being threatened by imperialist war.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the majority opinion, argued that affirmative action violates the 14th Amendment—which on paper outlaw discrimination based on race—stating that “Eliminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it.” (New York Times, June 30)

This amendment was originally added to the U.S. Constitution in 1868 as an attempt to win full equality for formerly enslaved people of African descent during the short-lived Reconstruction period in the South. It was never intended to reinforce the advantage that white college applicants have over Black and Brown potential students!

The two women of color on the Supreme Court, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson, wrote dissenting opinions. Sotomayor wrote: “Today, this Court stands in the way and rolls back decades of precedent and momentous progress. It holds that race can no longer be used in a limited way in college admissions to achieve such critical benefits. In so holding, the Court cements a superficial rule of colorblindness as a constitutional principle in an endemically segregated society where race has always mattered and continues to matter.”

Jackson wrote: “Even when the majority’s ad hoc statistical analysis is taken at face value, it hardly supports what the majority wishes to intimate: that Black students are being admitted based on UNC’s myopic focus on ‘race’ and race alone.” As the District Court observed, if these Black students “were largely defined in the admissions process by their race, one would expect to find that every single student ‘demonstrating academic excellence’ . . . would be admitted.” (New York Times, June 30)

Asian group denounces ruling

Committee of 100, a non-profit organization of prominent Chinese Americans, released a statement June 30 denouncing the SCOTUS ruling.

The Committee’s Interim President Continued on page 4

Police murder incites massive youth rebellion

By G. Dunkel

During a traffic stop by two motorcycle cops in the Paris suburb of Nanterre June 27, one of the cops shot and killed a young driver, Nahel M., born in France of North African descent. The cops’ story tried to justify the killing using the pretext that Nahel was using his car against them.

Cops are protected by a French anti-terrorism law rammed through Parliament in 2017 and renewed in 2021. The cops’ version was quickly picked up and repeated by most corporate media. But a video from a passerby quickly exposed the police lies, and the video went viral. The oppressed youth who inhabit the French suburbs, their parents and progressive supporters believed the video and rejected the “official story.”

The following revolt had many similarities to the Black Lives Matter uprising that followed the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the end of May 2020.

The regime showed its worry by its attempts to conciliate with the masses. The next day, President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne both condemned the police killing as unjustified, even abhorrent. The prosecutor on the case kept the killer cop locked up on charges of voluntary manslaughter.

Remember that this is the same government that pushed its cops to use tear gas and rubber-coated bullets against the Yellow Vests in 2018-19 and to arrest and beat unionists and others protesting the pension cuts all this year.

But the regime failed to stop the protests against the killer cops from becoming angry and massive. The anger among the youth in the suburbs over the daily racism they confront was too strong to be deflected by political maneuvers. (In France, most suburbs are working-class communities, often populated by descendants of migrants from former colonies.)

In Nanterre, Lyon, Marseilles, Toulouse, Paris—large French cities—youth set fires, burned and looted stores, barricaded major streets and fought with the cops. By Day 3, most French cities of any size had been the scene of conflict between cops and protestors.

The protesters, who were mainly under age 25—videos showed they included a large number of young women—used roman candles and firecrackers to throw at the cops. Police fired tear-gas grenades and rubber bullets. The spectacular light show looked like a military battle. The first night police deployed 10,000 armed officials, escalating to 45,000 after Night 3 of the revolt.

Cops brought out armored personnel carriers to sweep aside barricades and provide firing positions for sniper rifles by Day 3. The first four nights the cops had arrested nearly 4,000 people. Told to be more aggressive, on Day 5 the cops picked up over 2,000.

Condemnation of police violence

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The left also condemns the cops. That was true in France this week too.

After six months of intense struggle over the pension cuts, however, one of the units in the major union coalition, the CGT (General Confederation of Labour), which was a major force in that conflict, had a stronger approach: “Nahel is a new tragic victim of the police and a reactionary, right-wing institution it is by striking down the right to use affirmative action in college admissions.”

France’s parliamentary parties usually condemn violence of the oppressed. The
Behind high court’s assault on civil rights

“Equal justice under law.”

These words are inscribed above the main entrance to the Supreme Court Building. They are a deception and a lie! The rulings on June 29 and 30 should have shattered any lingering illusion that the Supreme Court of the United States exists to uphold justice or equality.

First, on June 29, SCOTUS voted 6-3 to erode what remains of college and university admissions. The court long ago banned “quotas” that mandated a certain number or percentage of new students be people of color. Now even the weaker “race-consciousness” admitted in 2020 by the Trump administration is banned.

Then one day later the court made it even harder for Black, Brown and all working-class youth to access higher education when it overturned President Joe Biden’s student loan debt forgiveness program. The plan, instituted last year, gave relief to millions of debt-burdened former students, writing off up to $20,000 in loan payments.

The ruling affects working-class people of all ages. The July 2 Detroit Free Press reports about 864,000 people of all ages applied for loan forgiveness in Michigan alone. They include a 53-year-old schoolteacher, Lisa Mitchell, and her daughter Brianna, a 30-year-old graduate student with $70,000 in student debt already accumulated.

Brianna Mitchell explains: “The costs of living right now are just astronomical, and I think that the relief of not having to pay for the last three years really allowed me to be able to invest in my life differently than before, especially being a Black woman. Black women, statistically, make less than their white and male counterparts.”

Black women have the highest debt for education. “On average, women graduate owing almost $22,000 in student debt, while that number for men is $18,880, according to the article. “Black women graduate with an average of $37,558 in debt.”

This disparity will increase as a result of both SCOTUS rulings. The ramifications are many. For example, if fewer Black women are able to graduate from medical school, then fewer Black women are providing health care to their communities, which can translate to an even higher rate of Black maternal mortality.

Not content with making racist rulings two days in a row, SCOTUS took the opportunity before its summer break to attack the LGBTQA+ community. The court ruled in favor of a bigoted evangelist, granting her legal right to refuse to design a wedding website for same-sex couples.

The case was based on a fictitious scenario. Colorado web designer Lorie Smith claimed “Stewart” (no last name given) contacted her in 2016 about constructing a website for his upcoming marriage to “Mike.”

However, when a reporter for The New Republic contacted Stewart, using the contact information provided to the court, Stewart knew nothing of the case. He does not identify as gay and, as a professional web designer, would have no reason to hire Smith.

Nevertheless the Supreme Court ruled that Colorado’s anti-discrimination law could not prevent Smith from refusing to build a website for a man who was married to a man. This ruling has potentially ominous consequences, as it implies that the First Amendment could now be used to justify refusal by any form of discrimination.

SCOTUS: pillar of white supremacy

Since SCOTUS’ creation by rich white men in 1789 until 1967, when Thurgood Marshall became the first Black justice, only white men served on the court. In 1981 the first woman was appointed.

John Marshall, the fourth chief justice named to the court, was an enslaver and a supporter of the heinous system of enslavement for his entire career. The fifth appointed chief justice, Roger Taney, authored the infamous Dred Scott decision, declaring “the special rights and immunities guaranteed to citizens do not apply” to African Americans.

On June 29 and 30 this unelected anti-democratic institution continued its tradition of upholding private property and white supremacy. Abolish the Supreme Court! ⬇

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 repression. It’s on migrants, missyqony, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness, imprisonment and lack of hope for the future.

No social problems can be solved under capitalism. No social problems can be solved under imperialism.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out the gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles. They seek to attack the LGBTQ Weisschool. They want to shatter any lingering illusion that the United States exists for social justice.

U.S. military trains in Hawai’i, target China...LINK

A new chapter in Palestine struggle...LINK

A blow back to U.S. sanctions...LINK

Make Juneteenth a paid holiday!...LINK

Capitalist and socialist approach to drug use...LINK

U.S. imperialists = #1 terrorists...LINK

 Tear down the walls

Southern racism trying to kill Rodney Reed...LINK

Microaggressions in the prisons...LINK

Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 65, No. 27 • July 6, 2023
Closing date: July 5, 2023

Co-editors: John Flounders, Maria Gavett, Deidre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: AlBeat, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Maryes

“Equal justice under law.”
In multiple demonstrations and solidarity actions throughout Moms for Liberty’s four-day convention in Philadelphia, thousands turned out to tell the hate group: “Philly is a trans city; Philly is a black city, and you’re not welcome here!”

Many participated in giveaways of the books that M4L has tried to ban in schools and public libraries. Others gathered outside libraries to show support for LGBTQ+ activities being held there. At the Central Library demonstration benefiting workers, the bigoted attacks against workers’ rainbow flags and other displays of Pride is one at 874 Commonwealth Ave., at the store in the Boston area were rarely are the police called on workers. The events, organized by ACT UP Philadelphia and the Coalition to Oppose Hate, were endorsed by over 50 organizations and attracted participants from as far away as North Carolina and Oklahoma.

A 2022 analysis by the UCLA School of Law found that 1.6 million people in the U.S., including 300,000 youth over the age of 13, identified as transgender. However, a major theme of the M4L convention, repeated by multiple speakers, was to deny transgender identity and argue that schools shouldn’t teach about the topic. Another pillar of M4L has been its push to ban books in order to limit classroom discussions about race and gender identity.

In Newton, Massachusetts

Starbucks baristas strike with Pride!

By Workers World Boston bureau

Just one week after voting to join Starbucks Workers Union — and with their election vote held up by a bogus challenge from the union-busting corporation to the National Labor Relations Board — baristas at Starbucks’ Newton Corner store hit the bricks June 29.

The map city LGBTQIA+ workers in Newton, Massachusetts, couldn’t wait to #StrikeWithPride, along with 150 other union Starbucks stores around the country. The store, located at 259 Centre St. in Newton Corner, hit the ground and arrested for waving a Pride flag over a stormtrooper uniforms confronted and kettled the crowd. Another individual was later brutally thrown to the ground and arrested for waving a Pride flag over a barricade set up outside the Marriott.

The events, organized by ACT UP Philadelphia and the Coalition to Oppose Hate, were endorsed by over 50 organizations and attracted participants from as far away as North Carolina and Oklahoma.

‘Foot soldiers’ for DeSantis

A 2022 analysis by the UCLA School of Law found that 1.6 million people in the U.S., including 300,000 youth over the age of 13, identified as transgender. However, a major theme of the M4L convention, repeated by multiple speakers, was to deny transgender identity and argue that schools shouldn’t teach about the topic. Another pillar of M4L has been its push to ban books in order to limit classroom discussions about race and gender identity.

In Newton, Massachusetts

Starbucks baristas strike with Pride!

By Workers World Boston bureau

Just one week after voting to join Starbucks Workers Union — and with their election vote held up by a bogus challenge from the union-busting corporation to the National Labor Relations Board — baristas at Starbucks’ Newton Corner store hit the bricks June 29.

The workers want a contract, now!” — echoing a June 29 SBWU statement, which contends, “The most important thing Starbucks could do for its trans partners would be to end this disastrous state of union busting throughout the United States.” (@StarbucksWorkersUnited, Twitter)

LGBTQIA+ baristas show the way

Julie Langevin, an organizer with SBWU and a former barista, reported at the strike line that the only store in the Boston area where workers have been largely unhindered in their displays of Pride is one at 874 Commonwealth Ave., at the Boston University campus. Last summer, the union baristas and shift supervisors there staged an historic 64-day strike and storefront occupation, precipitated when a bigoted store manager dropped the workers’ Pride flag in early June 2022. It is only this militant “law of the street” that can prevail against billionaire capitalists and the MAGA state legislators.

These forces of reaction are intent on pursuing their deadly divide-and-conquer terrorism against those who are leading the historic working-class upsurge at Starbucks, Amazon, Trader Joe’s, universities and schools and many other workplaces.

The next time, the courageous workers in Newton Corner or anywhere else put out the call, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Greater Boston Labor Council and every organization which claims to represent and be in solidarity with workers should be there in full force to shut the store down until a just union contract is won. No scabs! No contract, no coffee!

Readers can support these frontline workers by taking the “No Contract, No Coffee” pledge at tinyurl.com/48jnec37 and by donating to the Workers’ Fund at tinyurl.com/ij6dbyrh7.

In Philadelphia

Moms for fascism not welcome here

By Betsy Piette

Philadelphia

In multiple demonstrations and solidarity actions throughout Moms for Liberty’s four-day convention in Philadelphia, thousands turned out to tell the hate group: “Philly is a trans city; Philly is a black city, and you’re not welcome here!”

Many participated in giveaways of the books that M4L has tried to ban in schools and public libraries. Others gathered outside libraries to show support for LGBTQ+ activities being held there. At the Central Library demonstration benefiting workers, the bigoted attacks against workers’ rainbow flags and other displays of Pride is one at 874 Commonwealth Ave., at the store in the Boston area were rarely are the police called on workers. The events, organized by ACT UP Philadelphia and the Coalition to Oppose Hate, were endorsed by over 50 organizations and attracted participants from as far away as North Carolina and Oklahoma.

‘Foot soldiers’ for DeSantis

A 2022 analysis by the UCLA School of Law found that 1.6 million people in the U.S., including 300,000 youth over the age of 13, identified as transgender. However, a major theme of the M4L convention, repeated by multiple speakers, was to deny transgender identity and argue that schools shouldn’t teach about the topic. Another pillar of M4L has been its push to ban books in order to limit classroom discussions about race and gender identity.

In Newton, Massachusetts

Starbucks baristas strike with Pride!

By Workers World Boston bureau

Just one week after voting to join Starbucks Workers Union — and with their election vote held up by a bogus challenge from the union-busting corporation to the National Labor Relations Board — baristas at Starbucks’ Newton Corner store hit the bricks June 29.

The workers want a contract, now!” — echoing a June 29 SBWU statement, which contends, “The most important thing Starbucks could do for its trans partners would be to end this disastrous state of union busting throughout the United States.” (@StarbucksWorkersUnited, Twitter)

LGBTQIA+ baristas show the way

Julie Langevin, an organizer with SBWU and a former barista, reported at the strike line that the only store in the Boston area where workers have been largely unhindered in their displays of Pride is one at 874 Commonwealth Ave., at the Boston University campus. Last summer, the union baristas and shift supervisors there staged an historic 64-day strike and storefront occupation, precipitated when a bigoted store manager dropped the workers’ Pride flag in early June 2022. It is only this militant “law of the street” that can prevail against billionaire capitalists and the MAGA state legislators.

These forces of reaction are intent on pursuing their deadly divide-and-conquer terrorism against those who are leading the historic working-class upsurge at Starbucks, Amazon, Trader Joe’s, universities and schools and many other workplaces.

The next time, the courageous workers in Newton Corner or anywhere else put out the call, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Greater Boston Labor Council and every organization which claims to represent and be in solidarity with workers should be there in full force to shut the store down until a just union contract is won. No scabs! No contract, no coffee!

Readers can support these frontline workers by taking the “No Contract, No Coffee” pledge at tinyurl.com/48jnec37 and by donating to the Workers’ Fund at tinyurl.com/ij6dbyrh7.
La travesía de los migrantes fue una de las primeras en la década. El barco se desvió hacia Grecia y para que los llevaran del este de Libia a Afganistán, pagaron 6.000 dólares a contrabandistas como se hunde el Adrianna, consciente de que se encontrarían en Libia y la convirtieron en un Estado fallido en la muerte a lo largo de las fronteras de los países y en los mares cercanos.

La propaganda imperialista describe a Estados Unidos y a las potencias de la UE como “democracias”, supuestamente el parte del “Mundo Libre”, pero sus políticas fronterizas los exponen como lo que realmente son: países cuya diminuta clase dominante multinacionalita utiliza la fuerza en todo el mundo para explotar tierras y personas. Cuando los agravios huyen para sobrevivir, esta clase siemba la muerte a lo largo de las fronteras de estos países y en los mares cercanos.

SCOTUS attacks affirmative action again

And it will take a multinational mass response to come out in the streets and once again say no to racism, white supremacy and SCOTUS.

Despite ongoing repression

Petition drive to Stop Cop City

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Neither intense police surveillance and repression nor record-breaking heat prevented the Week of Action to Stop Cop City from holding a series of events daily from Saturday, June 24 to Saturday, July 1.

There were multiple protests and demonstrations, including at a Dekalb County Commission meeting, a midtown Atlanta Home Depot store and at Cadence bank locations. There were daily workshops, discussion groups, community meals and rallies — many held in Brownwood Park, a Southeast Atlanta park.

The police presence was notable despite the family-friendly atmosphere with a bounce house and children’s games ongoing. And dozens of police cars were stationed throughout the week around the park, where acres of trees have been cut down in preparation for the ill-fated Cop City.

Arrests occurred at the Home Depot and Cadence Bank demonstrations on petty and callous charges. Three people, including Lorraine Fontana, a 75-year-old respected activist, were arrested outside the Home Depot store in the public parking lot for holding signs which denounced Home Depot’s support of the Atlanta Police Foundation and Cadence Bank.

Video from the noise demo at Cadence Bank shows the protesters walking away from the bank site with police chasing after them, and then one person tackled and handcuffed. Cadence Bank is lending the construction funds for Cop City.

The rollout of the petition campaign to protest the city’s arrangement with APF and end the city’s arrangement with APF is well underway.

Canvassers took to the Atlanta Beltline, a popular walking and biking trail, July 1, to reach out to the scores of people found there on weekends. Already thousands of signatures have been secured, but the time to gather at least 70,000 valid signatures is shortened by the city clerk’s repeated delays in approving the petition language.

STOP COP CITY PETITIONERS, JULY 1, 2023.