

WW COMMENTARY

SCOTUS attacks affirmative action again

By Monica Moorehead

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



Protest in front of the Supreme Court, Oct. 31, 2022.

Amendment — which on paper outlaws 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” such 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

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France 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 Élisabeth Borne both condemned the police



Graffiti reads: ‘Nahel is the kid brother of all Nanterre. No justice, no peace!’

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 three, most French cities of any size had been the scene of conflict between cops and protesters.

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 1,000.

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 confederation, 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 system which permits police violence ...

“Once again a drama was needed to make this reality visible to everyone. This explosion of anger cannot surprise us. It is also fed by the growing poverty of a large segment of the population. ... Daily the lack of these means cries out.” (cgteduc-versailles.fr, July 2023)

Some labor militants, recalling the struggle against the pension reform, plan to call for a general strike at the end of July against racism and police violence. (New York Times, July 1) □

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Minnie Bruce Pratt, a longtime WW managing editor, on July 2. An obituary will appear in a future issue. Minnie Bruce Pratt ipresente!

— John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead and Betsey Piette
WW managing editors



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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! Three 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 eradicate what remains of affirmative action in 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-conscious admissions policies” are 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 51-year-old schoolteacher, Lisa Mitchell, and her daughter Briana, a 30-year-old graduate student with \$70,000 in student debt already accumulated.

Briana Mitchell explains: “The costs of living right now are just so 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 a June 9 Politico article. But “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 recess to attack the LGBTQIA2S+ community. The court ruled in favor of a bigoted evangelical, granting her the 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 exercising her so-called “free speech right” to practice discrimination if the opportunity did present itself. This ruling has potentially ominous consequences, as it implies that the First Amendment could now be used to legitimize 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! □

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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 gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — 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 capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, 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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Philly is a trans city

‘Moms for fascism not welcome here’

By **Betsey 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 demonstrators held up enlarged covers of books M4L has sought to ban. Mobile billboards exposing M4L circled the Marriott throughout the convention.

The multiple-days protest kicked off with a press conference in LOVE Park on June 29, organized by the National Parents Union which has denounced M4L. Keri Rodrigues, from Boston, called on the gathering to “stand up and fight back. NPU has been around for years. We cannot allow our movement, based on deep love for our children, to be hijacked by this hate movement. Look what the U.S. Supreme Court did today with overturning affirmative action.”

Several speakers addressed M4L tactics of going after school boards’ COVID-19 policies, promoting bullying against LGBTQ+ youth and banning books that teach the history of racism in the U.S., so “their children don’t feel bad learning about the evils of white supremacy.”

As M4L held its opening reception at the Museum of

the American Revolution at 3rd and Chestnut Streets later that day, hundreds of boisterous demonstrators were there to heckle participants with chants of “Shame” and “No Moms for Fascism in Philly!” Queer anthems including Beyoncé’s “Break My Soul” were blasted from a sound truck.

The protesters taunted M4L delegates as they disembarked from chartered buses to enter the museum, protected by their own private security and a wall of Philadelphia police, who had set up barricades to keep protesters away. Philadelphia is a host to thousands

of conventions every year, but rarely are the police called on to protect participants. The city needs to explain who will foot the bill for these cops, sent to protect a hate group.

For weeks, workers at the museum tried to have the event canceled, citing concern for their own security as many of them are gender-nonbinary. Seven groups of historians wrote to MAR administrators denouncing them for hosting M4L’s welcome reception and urging them to cancel, with one threatening to cancel their own upcoming event at MAR.

When the M4L convention opened at the Marriott Downtown Philadelphia on June 30, protests began at 9:00 a.m., when it started, and continued through the closing on July 2. There were day-long dance parties, with activists jeering M4L delegates whenever they appeared. From young children to gray-haired activists of every race and religion, people gathered outside the Marriott to demonstrate their opposition to the fascists inside.

Five protesters were arrested on July 2 after blocking

12th Street traffic. After the arrests, Philadelphia cops in 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.

GOP candidates for president who addressed the gathering included former President Donald Trump, Florida Gov. Ron “Don’t say gay” DeSantis and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Founded in Florida in 2021, Moms for Liberty was characterized as “foot soldiers” for DeSantis, when he last ran for governor.

A member of the far-right group Oath Keepers also addressed the convention.

Described as an “extremist, anti-government” group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, some M4L chapters have been linked to groups like the Proud Boys. An Indiana chapter recently used a quote attributed to Adolph Hitler in its newsletter, until a backlash forced it to remove the reference.

Many protest participants voiced awareness that if opposition is not built now to groups like Moms for Liberty, it will be too late once the fascists gain more strength. But these weekend-long demonstrations offer a positive example of the kind of unified mass movement needed to push back the ultraright. □



Activist Sam Rise leads chants against Moms for Liberty, Philadelphia, June 29, 2023.

In Newton, Massachusetts

Starbucks baristas strike with Pride!

By **Workers World Boston bureau**

Just one week after voting to join Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) — 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 majority LGBTQIA+ workers in Newton, Massachusetts, couldn’t wait to #StrikeWithPride, along with 150 other union Starbucks stores around the country. SBWU called Strike with Pride “a week-long Unfair Labor Practice strike, demanding that Starbucks negotiate a fair contract with union stores and stop their illegal union-busting campaign,” to last from June 23 to July 1. (workers.org/2023/06/71889/)

While Starbucks opened the store with managers and a handful of scabs from nonunion stores, striking baristas and their supporters put up a spirited fight at the front and back entrances, encouraging many supportive customers to turn back. Teamsters Local 25 sent representatives straight from negotiations with UPS in Washington, D.C., to bolster the lines.

Cannabis workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers, brought alternative coffee to help customers honor the line. Boston School Bus Drivers brought sound and music, and DSA Labor Group, Young Communist League and Workers World Party branches turned out with strike signs. One regular customer ordered lunch delivered to the strikers on the line.

Workers’ rights are trans and queer rights!

The immediate cause of the nationwide strikes at the end of June were numerous reports by Starbucks workers that management was tearing down and prohibiting workers’ rainbow flags and other displays honoring LGBTQIA+ Pride month. As the month progressed, workers discovered that the bigoted attacks cut even deeper, as Starbucks refused to confirm that

it will maintain its touted coverage of gender-affirming, health care-related travel expenses meant to counteract the outlawing of such care by states like Tennessee, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

At Newton Corner, workers wore shirts declaring “Be Gay and Organize” and plastered the store entrances with rainbow and trans flags and signs proclaiming “Workers’ Rights Are Trans & Queer Rights!” They blasted Pride-themed music and chanted: “What do we want? A contract, now!” — echoing a June 29 SBWU statement, which concludes: “The most important thing Starbucks could do for its trans partners would be to end its consistent streak 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 ripped down the workers’ Pride flag in early June 2022.

It is only this militant “law of the street” that can prevail against billionaire Starbucks founder Howard Schultz, along with the capitalist-sponsored bigots in the

U.S. Supreme Court, the do-nothing Democrats in the federal government and the MAGA state legislators.

These forces of reaction are intent on pursuing their deadly divide-and-conquer terrorism aimed at 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/48jcnc37 and by donating to the Starbucks Workers’ Fund at tinyurl.com/9j68yvh7. □



Baristas and supporters on strike at 259 Centre St., Newton Corner, Mass., June 29, 2023.



Protesta en Atenas tras la muerte de cientos de migrantes en un naufragio, 15 de junio de 2023.

Tras el barco de la muerte

¿Qué está pasando?, se pregunta el migrante afgano, ¿qué hace la patrullera griega? En medio de su pregunta, algunos de los otros 180 migrantes que se encontraban en la cubierta del Adrianna se mueven para mirar, el Adrianna da la vuelta y él es arrojado al mar.

Rema para mantenerse a flote, arrastrado por la ropa y los zapatos, mirando cómo se hunde el Adrianna, consciente de que sus tres hijos y su madre están encerrados en el fondo del barco. No puede hacer nada para salvarlos, apenas puede nadar para salvar lo que le queda de vida. Los que estaban en la cubierta del Adrianna y los que estaban abajo habían pagado 6.000 dólares a contrabandistas para que los llevaran del este de Libia a Sicilia, una travesía habitual en la última década. El barco se desvió hacia Grecia y se perdió. Algunos afirman que el barco griego intentó remolcar la embarcación con los migrantes y provocó su hundimiento. La marina griega lo niega.

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

Los funcionarios y los medios de comunicación culpan de todo a los “traficantes”, los que introducen clandestinamente migrantes en barcos sobrecargados, cobrando precios hinchados por la imposibilidad de que los migrantes de Egipto, Siria, Afganistán, Pakistán, países de los que procedían los pasajeros del Adrianna, viajen por los cauces normales y legales. Sea quien sea el culpable del vuelco del barco, la Marina griega informó de que había sacado del agua con vida a 104 migrantes y 78 cuerpos de personas que se habían ahogado, con centenares desconocidos bajo cubierta, entre ellos niños. Detrás del crimen inmediato están los burócratas y los políticos miembros de la UE, que primero crearon la crisis que obligó a la gente a abandonar sus países de origen y luego construyeron un muro para mantenerlos fuera de Europa. Detrás de los políticos y los burócratas está el sistema capitalista-imperialista, cuyo afán de lucro empuja a cientos de

millones de seres humanos del nivel de pobreza al nivel de inanición y cuyas guerras convierten sociedades habitables en un infierno, como en Irak y Afganistán. Desde 2014, se calcula que 21.000 migrantes han muerto intentando viajar de África y Asia a Europa. Washington también es responsable, con su Pentágono, su CIA y su Departamento de Estado sembrando el caos en Libia, Afganistán, Siria e Irak. Antes de 2011, Libia era un país norteafricano relativamente rico y estable que atraía a millones de migrantes africanos y les encontraba trabajo. En 2011 había unos 2,5 millones de migrantes en Libia. (migrationpolicy.org) Ese año, Estados Unidos dirigió los bombardeos de la OTAN que destruyeron Libia y la convirtieron en un Estado fallido empobrecido y caótico, donde los traficantes envían a personas desesperadas a Italia. Las sanciones de Estados Unidos a Afganistán -tras 20 años de ocupación- han dejado a gran parte de la población sin más opción que emigrar o morir. Y ni siquiera hablemos de los crímenes de la

guerra e intervención de Estados Unidos contra Siria. En la frontera de Estados Unidos con México, entre 1998 y 2020 se contabilizaron unas 8.000 personas que murieron al cruzar, y eso sin contar a los que desaparecieron en los ríos fronterizos y en el vasto desierto de Sonora o se ahogaron en el océano Atlántico. Las intervenciones estadounidenses en Centroamérica y el dominio imperialista de las economías locales, además de los bloqueos contra Cuba y Venezuela, han obligado a millones de personas a emigrar para sobrevivir. La propaganda imperialista describe a Estados Unidos y a las potencias de la UE como “democracias”, supuestamente parte del “Mundo Libre”, pero sus políticas fronterizas los exponen como lo que realmente son: países cuya diminuta clase dominante multimillonaria utiliza la fuerza en todo el mundo para explotar tierras y personas. Cuando los agraviados huyen para sobrevivir, esta clase siembra la muerte a lo largo de las fronteras de estos países y en los mares cercanos. □

SCOTUS attacks affirmative action again

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and Executive Director Cindy Tsai stated: “Today’s decision strikes down established legal precedent that permitted higher education institutions to consider race as one of many factors in a holistic and individualized admissions process while prohibiting quotas, admissions caps, and minimums. “Committee of 100 is disappointed by the Court’s decision to abolish race-conscious admissions policies. For centuries, college admissions policies discriminated against women and minorities. Race-conscious admissions policies started to correct that inequity and gave students of all backgrounds access to higher education. “We believe an admissions process that considers each student holistically, including life experiences, accomplishments, and racial background, creates the richest educational experience for all and contributes to a stronger and more diverse and inclusive country. Looking forward,

we encourage all communities to come together and work towards solutions that ensure the next generation of college students have enriching academic experiences with diverse student bodies.” **Affirmative action – a form of reparations** Part of the Workers World article published on Nov. 14, 2022, entitled “With new legal attacks, affirmative action must be defended,” states: “Affirmative action is not about charity, nor is it a moral question. First, it is a recognition that racism and national oppression, which victimize people of color, permeates every aspect of the capitalist system in the areas of jobs, education, health care, housing and more. Second, quotas are one necessary remedy to provide for those who have been historically locked out of opportunities due to white supremacy, but in a limited way. “White supremacy is rooted in the legacy of the brutal theft of Indigenous lands, the enslavement of African peoples and oppression of Latinx people — who, along with many Indigenous nations

such as the Puebloan nations, lost a large part of Mexico, now known as the U.S. Southwest, in a bloody, genocidal war with the U.S. in 1848. “The massive Civil Rights struggles in the South and righteous rebellions of Black people against poverty and unemployment in the Northern urban areas, and especially on the West Coast in 1965 in the Los Angeles Watts section, forced the U.S. government to give more than just lip service to the idea of affirmative action. “It was the Nixon administration in 1969 that established the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, in consultation with Philadelphia contractors, that was authorized to establish numerical ranges for hiring African Americans. For instance, contractors were to hire 5% to 9% Black ironworkers, with additional increases each year after 1970 — until Nixon quickly backtracked on this policy.” (workers.org/2022/11/67666/) SCOTUS, just like any capitalist institution, serves the interests of the billionaire ruling class which thrives on weakening the

working-class movement with divide and conquer tactics based on nationality, gender, gender identity and more. Consider the fact that SCOTUS just issued a ruling striking down President Joe Biden’s student loan debt relief in the amount of \$400 billion, a victory for Wall Street. Any progressive rulings from SCOTUS, no matter under a Republican or Democratic administration, emanate from the strength and pressure of mass struggles, including rebellions from workers and oppressed peoples in the streets. For example, affirmative action was legally challenged in 1978 by the racist Allan Bakke, who claimed reverse discrimination when he was denied access to medical school. Affirmative action was upheld by SCOTUS, thanks to 35,000 mainly Black college students who took to the streets in Washington, D.C., to say “No to Bakke!” 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
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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 bouncy house and children’s games ongoing. And dozens of police cars were stationed throughout the week at Weelaunee Forest 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 fallacious 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 Cop City. Video from the noise demo at Cadence Bank shows the protesters walking away from the bank site with police chasing after them, then one person tackled and handcuffed. Cadence Bank is lending the construction funds for Cop City. The rollout of the petition campaign to allow Atlantans to vote in the November election to cancel the lease for Cop City 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,



Stop Cop City petitioners, July 1, 2023.

PHOTO: TIM FRANZEN

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 was shortened by the city clerk’s repeated delays in approving the petition language. □