

State of the Union: No School - National Student Mobilization - Stand Up and Drive Out the Bush Regime!

Unjust War. Torture. Abstinence-Only. No abortion. No Dissent. No Critical Thought. We are a generation told to accept the fact that the future of humanity is questionable as the levels of global warming reach a point of no return. How can “waiting-it-out” be an option?

On Nov.2nd, the anniversary of George W. Bush’s “re-election”, a powerful wave of protests took place around the country in 200 locations, including 50 college campuses and hundreds of high schools. The day marked a real beginning of an unprecedented movement determined to drive out the Bush regime. Students flooded to the frontlines of this movement, stepping out boldly in the face of repression and inspiring others to join us. High School students walked out in the face of suspensions, school lock-downs, truancy officers and threats of reprisal because they could not tolerate living in the type of future the Bush regime has in store for humanity. Students marched with military families, daring politicians, and religious leaders, and joined a movement that was given support by prominent voices like Cindy Sheehan, Gore Vidal, and Eve Ensler. There were many cases where students were attacked for organizing protests on Nov.2nd, like at Hampton University, where the academic world spoke out in anger against the possible expulsion of 7 students and mounted a defense campaign that reached throughout society, literally overnight. The inspiring determination and resistance that burst forward in the walkouts and the vicious repression that attempted to squash it acutely posed the two futures represented by the Bush Regime and the movement to drive it from power.

We are living in Niemoller times that are calling for extraordinary resistance. A

student movement began that breaks out of the confines of capitulation and accommodation with the atrocities committed by this regime and sets in motion a different dynamic in society that settles for nothing less than the removal of the Bush regime.

The most powerful and important tool in this remains the Call for the World Can’t Wait – Drive Out the Bush Regime. Each sentence of the Call is a profound reflection of reality and its message can move millions of people to resist on a level that meets the enormity of the challenge we face.

The State of the Union protests needs to be a leap beyond what was started on Nov.2nd and will require the dedication of thousands of people. If you are reading this, then you need to start organizing to change the course of history and demand “Bush: step down, and take your program with you.”

In normal times this would be impossible. But in historic moments like this, the impossible becomes possible and ordinary people are capable of extraordinary things, if there is a political force that can speak the truth and move millions on that basis. Or, the unthinkable can turn into the new normalcy with Bush’s hateful Christian fundamentalism becoming law; to be enforced in a militarized nation wrapped in barbwire.

This is real. How we meet this challenge depends on what you and millions more decide to do. State of the Union: No School - National Student Mobilization - Stand Up and Drive Out the Bush Regime!

“Will a generation of college students be trained to perfect the workings of this Regime’s death machine or will they act with the spirit of Mario Savo’s call to put their bodies upon the gears and wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus and make it STOP?” -Allen Lang, National WCW Student Organizer

“It seems that the levees have broken on the Bush agenda. So where is the flood?” -NYU Organizer

“I’ve found that when we refuse to compromise on what is actually at stake for the people of this country and the world and the survival of the planet itself - we are able to reach inside people and move them. The most powerful and important tool in all of this remains the Call for the World Can’t Wait - Drive Out the Bush Regime.” -Sunsara Taylor, Co-Initiator of WCW

Torture Professor Disrupted at UC-Berkeley

“Congress has no power to “tie the President’s hands in regard to torture as an interrogation technique.” “It’s the core of the Commander-in-Chief function. They can’t prevent the President from ordering torture.” -John Yoo quoted in The New Yorker magazine (“Outsourcing Torture” by Jane Mayer).

During the 1960’s UC-Berkeley gained the worldwide reputation as the epicenter of the radical student movement and inspired the political and moral outlook of a generation.

So what does it mean when John Yoo, former Bush administration official and a key figure in crafting legal justification for Bush to torture “enemy combatants”, takes up teaching Constitutional Law at UC Berkeley? In the run-up to Nov.2nd Berkeley Students and World Can’t Wait activists rightfully disrupted Yoo’s lecture in protest of his leading role in legally justifying the torture so starkly revealed in the pictures of detainees in Abu Girab and Guantanamo Bay. This bold action set different terms of debate that raged through campus and in Berkeley’s Daily Cal Newspaper, resulting in some protesters being temporarily banned from the campus known for “free speech”.

MAKE YOUR WINTER BREAK MATTER!

Your government is quickly heading towards fascism. As you celebrate the holidays, hating what’s going on is not enough. You are either resisting this or you’re complicit. Now is the time to act- if our generation does not stand up, who will? This winter break, do something that’s really going to matter with the time you’ll have away from your studies:

-Come to Washington D.C and be part of mobilizing tens of thousands of people to strip this regime of its legitimacy and demand “Bush: step down, and take your program with you.”

-Be part of leading the movement to force out what Nobel Laureate playwright Harold Pinter has called “the most dangerous force in history”.

We face a future of horrors under this regime. Be one of the dozens of students volunteering in D.C to mobilize for the historic protests surrounding the State of the Union Address. When Bush steps up to the mic he must be drowned out with an undeniable voice heard around the world demanding: STEP DOWN, STEP DOWN, BUSH MUST GO! DRIVE OUT THE BUSH REGIME!

The Future is at hand. What are you gonna do?

Thousands of High School Students Walk Out on Nov. 2

On November 2nd a new political movement busted through with the strength and political force to give the whole world notice that the Bush regime will be driven out! High school student walkouts brought tremendous determination, energy, and numbers to the rallies and embodied the defiant edge put forward in the Call. The walkouts’ reach and participation crossed traditional barriers, from inner-city schools with prison-like conditions, to wealthier suburbs, to small rural towns all taking part. These youth were not just motivated by what issue most affects them, but were standing with people around the world and determined to change the whole direction of society.

Those who faced the most repression and threats of reprisal were the ones who stepped out the boldest.

The movement that began with a handful of students at each school became a major question in high schools the week before Nov. 2. Loudspeakers announced: “Leaving school grounds before the end of the day is not permitted. Anyone that walks out of school on Nov. 2nd will be stopped and suspended”. Schools administrators in Oakland lined the schools with barbwire and greased the fences in preparation for the walkouts. An organizer in LA was brought into her principal’s office and had World Can’t Wait materials confiscated, and was later threatened with expulsion. Another student organizer in LA was put on house arrest and transferred to a different school. Students at Leahman High in the Bronx were suspended for wearing Resist or Die stickers. The mayor of Chicago called on students to miss school to attend victory celebrations after the White Sox won the

World Series, yet students at Roberto Clemente High in Chicago were attacked and prevented from going to a rally to change the course of history! But from the youth in Atlanta who were not deterred by an “intruder alert” that put the school on lockdown, to the students who broke through the security guards blocking doors in North Hampton, Mass., the youth made it clear: We refuse to be ruled in this way, this regime does not represent us and we will drive it out!

As the Call for this movement puts it: “If we speak the truth, they will try to silence us. If we act, they will try to stop us. But we speak for the majority, here and around the world...and we are NOT going to stop.” Since Nov. 2, there has been a battle against repression and punishment faced by high school stu-

Hampton University Tries to Expel 7 Students

Excerpts from a statement initiated by World Can’t Wait organizers demanding that Hampton University drop the charges against the 7 students:

“Students at Hampton University took part in the November 2nd launch of a movement to drive out the Bush regime. In the course of organizing, they were followed by campus police, targeted by video surveillance, and forced to turn over their ID’s for the simple act of distributing literature. That these students were targeted for the content of their activities is clearly demonstrated by the fact that other students routinely post unauthorized flyers (often with scantily clad women advertising parties) without any harassment.

On Nov. 18th, 3 student organizers were issued summons for a hearing over possible expulsion. Days later, 4 more students were issued summons and campus police shut down an interview being filmed by the local media, attempting to prevent their story from getting out.

Attacks on students at Hampton University, a historically black college with a mostly Republican administration, are an ugly harbinger of the “dissent-free” future the Bush regime is trying to lock into place.

Overnight, support for the Hampton students mushroomed, and over 1,000 people, including many academics such as Michael Eric

1,000 people, including many academics such as Michael Eric Dyson, Robin D.G. Kelly, and Katha Pollitt, signed the above statement. Hampton administration was flooded with protest phone calls and emails, and the word got out on the media and throughout academia. This was a real lesson that when you stand up for what’s right in the face of intimidation, it’s possible to galvanize support and fight the repression.

Dec. 2nd, when the hearing was held for the 7 protesters, students from Hampton, Howard, and Old Dominion Universities were outside protesting, and thousands across the country were poised for the outcome. In a partial victory, instead of expulsion, 5 students were given 20 hours community service.

John Robinson, one of the 7 students, said: “I just want people to know that this is not solely about us being exonerated. Even if they let us off the hook, conditions on campus will be even worse if all our political activity is still ‘unauthorized’... There is a lot of connection here--it is more severe and ridiculous at our campus, but repression is going on across the U.S.”

www.worldcantwait.org

Check out our website for the latest updates on mobilizing to drown out Bush’s State of the Union address, and dig into questions like: -Will the Democrats stop the war? Or is it up to us? -Alito: the masking of a conservative or the showboating of a Nazi? -Is it “too extreme” to compare Bush to Hitler? Are we really heading towards fascism?

Defend Dissent in Academia

“This summer, a colleague of mine, a president at one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country announced to a national conference of her colleagues that we, as a body need to recognize that “we are at war”. She was responding to a call from some quarters at the meeting for more civil discourse and compromise on campus. What drove her to take such a radical stand in a body not known for taking radical stands ? She had come to realize that there was no choice, that people of conscience in the Academy are under attack and there is no more room for compromise.”

-Alan Jones, Dean of Faculty, Pitzer College, in an article for wordcantwait.org, “What’s at Stake for Academia”

Right now, across the country, there are highly organized attempts that are gaining momentum aimed at purging campuses of critical thinking and dissent:

-straight out of Nazi Germany, a whole brown shirt movement of students that are connected all the way up to the White House, called the Students for Academic Freedom, who should really be called the Students for Academic Fascism, have started organizations on 182 campuses.

-liberal (let alone radical) professors are being monitored, reported on, denounced and physically threatened. Some have already been torn from their posts.

-whole departments, like Women’s Studies, Ethnic and Cultural Studies, and Peace Studies are being targeted as having no place in academic life.

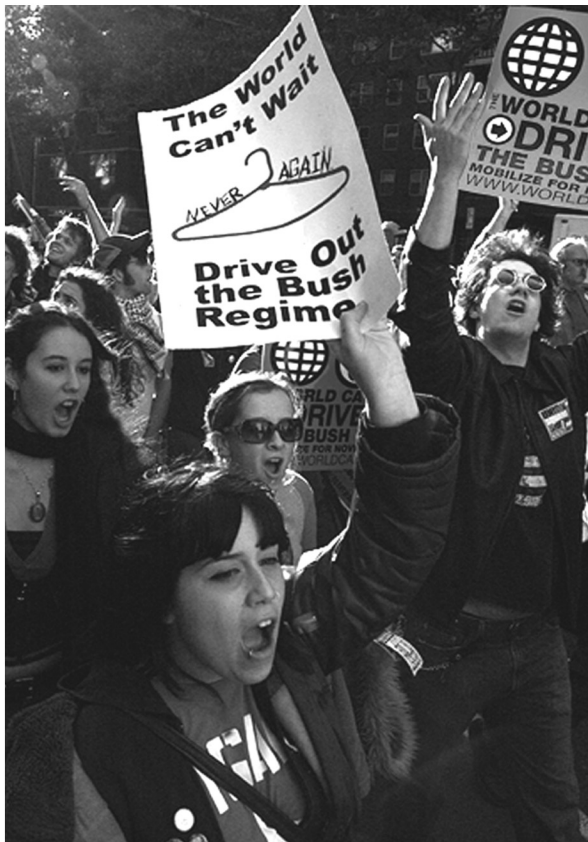
-evolution, a well-established scientific theory, is under attack, as Christian Fundamentalists demand that “Intelligent Design” (which has no scientific basis) be taught in biology class.

This is just a glimpse of the future that’s in store for campuses if we don’t turn them very quickly into centers of resistance. What will it mean if generations grow up in a climate where fascist and religious dogma are systematically pumped into people’s brains and where any rational questioning is completely squashed? This is exactly what the Bush Regime has in store for us- if we don’t drive them out.

dents who walked out. Their bold stand for what’s right has galvanized support, and their spirit needs to be spread to other sections of society that are still paralyzed by the fascist direction of society.

And no, the organizers calling for walkouts did not put students “at risk”; this regime is putting students’ lives at risk. Recruiting youth to be cannon fodder for their unending war, openly pushing for global warming, a future of botched back-alley abortions, promoting abstinence only when AIDS runs rampant here and around the world; this is putting students’ life at risk. They are ruthlessly working to seal the fate of a generation. On Nov. 1st thousands of students went to bed sizing up the possibility of being suspended with the stakes the world is facing. Not satisfied with simply studying history, they decided to take part in writing it.

“We are at a historic turning point where we will need to turn the country in a different direction if we are not going to be headed towards collapse and disaster...I see the November 2 action as something really important [that] might be a turning point in the development of a student movement and then a national movement to change the direction in which the country has been going. I don’t think the world can wait, I don’t think the nation can wait, I don’t think history can wait.” -Howard Zinn



Sarah Lawrence College Students in NYC

“That which you will not resist and mobilize to stop, you will learn - or be forced - to accept.”