

From the Burkha to the Thong: Everything Must, *and Can*, Change — WE NEED TOTAL REVOLUTION!

a talk by **Sunsara Taylor**

From Hawaii, to California, Chicago and NYC, hundreds have attended Sunsara Taylor's national campus speaking tour. For one woman, it was the words "*and can*" in the title—which convey not only the need, but also the *possibility*, of change—that made her come.

People came for different reasons. Then something extraordinary happened. They listened to searing exposure of the conditions of women worldwide, an examination of how all this is woven into and reinforced by the system of global imperialism, a vivid picture of how this will be ended through revolution, and a challenge to get into the movement for revolution, starting now! Then, the audiences dived in: discussing, questioning, debating.

Taylor's talk has been very controversial exactly because it goes against deeply held beliefs. She challenges the view that women are "free to choose" the thong. One group of women came to argue in favor of the veil as a "personal choice." Some attacked Taylor saying, "who are you to tell Muslim women what to think." I'm a communist, that's who I am, she said, and then went on to dissect the ultimately disastrous consequences of cultural relativism, religion and identity politics.

One student wrote afterwards, "Now I'm thinking, 'What if every thought I have about myself as a woman has been drilled into me and not developed on my own?'"

Another woman who marched in Harlem on International Women's Day said, "It's only been a little over a week since Sunsara Taylor's talk, and I can't help walking down the street imagining how everything in society could be different."

For information on the tour, go online to <http://sunsara.blogspot.com/>



Photo: Li Onesto/Revolution

“ It is a system of capitalism-imperialism...a system in which U.S. imperialism is the most monstrous, most oppressive superpower...a system driven by a relentless chase after profit, which brings horror upon horror, a nightmare seemingly without end, for the vast majority of humanity: poverty and squalor...torture and rape...the wholesale domination and degradation of women everywhere...wars, invasions and occupations... assassinations and massacres...planes, missiles, tanks and troops of the USA bombarding people in faraway lands while they sleep in their homes or go about their daily lives, blasting their little children to pieces, cutting down men and women in the prime of life, or in old age, kicking down their doors and dragging them away in the middle of the night...while here in the USA itself the police harass, brutalize and murder youth in the streets of the inner cities—over and over again—and then they spit out their maddening insults, insisting that this is “justified,” as if these youth are not human beings, have no right to live, deserve no respect and no future. ”

Above quote is from "The Revolution We Need... The Leadership We Have"

“From Buffalo Soldier to Revolutionary Communist”

Carl Dix served time in Leavenworth Prison for refusing orders to go to Vietnam. On his "From Buffalo Soldier to Revolutionary Communist" tour, he has challenged students at historically Black campuses: Don't follow the shameful legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers (Black cavalry units formed to suppress Native Americans after the Civil War). "If you follow in the footsteps of the Buffalo Soldiers, you will be called on to do just like they did: commit horrible acts against people who have done nothing to you." Instead, Carl said: "What people need to be about is making revolution to sweep all that away, not fighting to help keep this system in effect."

Carl Dix has brought this message to the historically Black campuses: Atlanta University, Texas Southern University in Houston, and Howard University in D.C. where tough questions were raised, including whether youth caught up in gangs can get into something more meaningful. "The youth didn't create the situation they're caught up in," Carl Dix said. "The capitalist system and its chase after profits did. We in the RCP take that truth out to the youth and everybody else, and on that basis we challenge them to get out of that situation and get with the revolution."

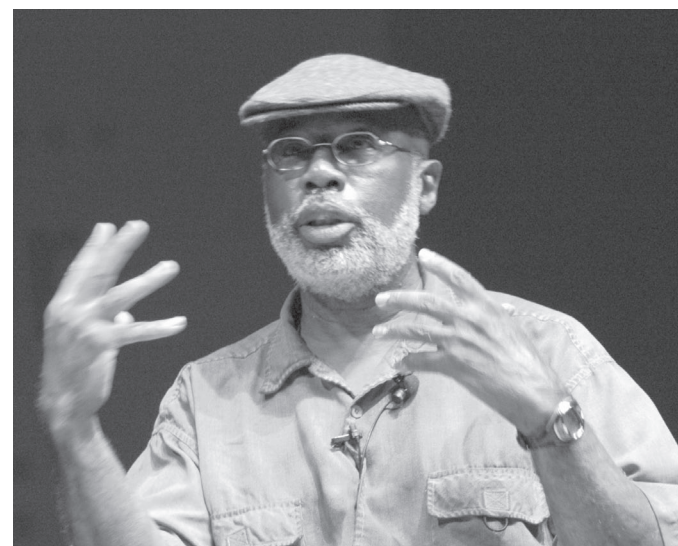


Photo: Li Onesto/Revolution

“ It is up to us: to wake up...to shake off the ways they put on us, the ways they have us thinking so they can keep us down and trapped in the same old rat-race...to rise up, as conscious Emancipators of Humanity. The days when this system can just keep on doing what it does to people, here and all over the world...when people are not inspired and organized to stand up against these outrages and to build up the strength to put an end to this madness...those days must be GONE. And they CAN be. ”



January 1, 2009, police beat Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old Black man, handcuffed him, and forced him face down on the platform of a rapid transit station in Oakland, California. Then one cop shot Oscar Grant in the back, killing him. This cold-blooded murder was caught on cell phone videos and seen by millions. People in Oakland immediately took to the streets in righteous protest. The case has become a flashpoint of struggle in supposedly “post-racial” America, and protests have continued. Revolutionaries have been uniting with the efforts of people from a broad spectrum of political beliefs to say THIS MUST STOP, and bringing revolution and communism to the people.