

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization in the United States. We believe that the economy and society should be run democratically to meet the needs of the many, not the few.



A better world is possible. Join us!

How to Get Involved:

- 1. Become a DSA member at dsausa.org/join
- 2. Come out to our actions and meetings
- 3. Follow us for updates at quadcitiesdsa.org

Disclaimer: The views in this publication are not necessarily representative of QCDSA's democratically-decided positions (except where noted), but represent the diversity of thought of our membership.

The Quad-City Worker



Eclipse Capitalism artwork by Roger Peet

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Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America

Elegy for Josh L

Daniel F.

Systems are grinding down this city
And unrest is rising
A small group fights against passivity
And is organizing

At the heart of this group was a friend
with colorful charm
They fought against hate and oppression
And shut down harm

Their sense of humor was very fast
and often sidesplitting
They planned events that were a blast
and always welcoming

Josh's convictions were pure and unstained
Their morals were righteous
We lost a friend but a spirit was gained
They live in each of us



Safe

by Nobody

A safe is a box with a lock in the wall
A safe cannot move and cannot breathe
A safe is tight and secure, but cold and dull
A safe will not fight, and cannot die
A safe will watch as you bleed out on the floor
A safe is no friend but a slave to a master
A safe will not save you



Peaceful

by Nobody

A giant that refuses to pillage and loot
A beast that refuses to bite
A shooter that refuses to shoot
These are kind that choose peace. That push for love.
A giant that can't stand and can't loot
A beast with no teeth, that can't bite
Kind with no gun, who can't shoot
These kind are harmless, these kind can only hope for love to find them.

In the 70s Nixon declared drug abuse the biggest threat to American safety—in his words, “public enemy number one.” However the “War on Drugs” intentionally failed to investigate the systemic conditions and psychological factors that contributed to drug-related deaths. It was, as intended, abysmally ineffective. Eventually, Nixon’s domestic policy advisor admitted, “By getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

Later, in the 80s, when drug overdose deaths were at their lowest in recorded US history, the Reagans stoked baseless fears, reigniting the War on Drugs. Nancy championed the “Just Say No” campaign as senior officials in her husband’s administration orchestrated the Iran-Contra Affair. Ironically, this initiative reallocated arms smuggling profits to a far-right group linked to trafficking drugs into the U.S. As before, the War on Drugs gave pretext for targeting political adversaries and militarizing police in marginalized communities. This contributed to rising mass incarceration, bloodshed, racial tensions, and divisions.

In the years following 9/11, concerns over safety were once again exploited for political gain. Thus the War on Terror began. The right readily sowed the seeds of hypernationalism and anti-Muslim sentiment. This led to increases in racial profiling and hate crimes against those vaguely perceived as having ties with the religion. The Patriot Act passed with bipartisan support, clearing the way for unchecked authoritarianism. Conditions of fear and propaganda primed Americans to accept, without question, the false assertion that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and this fear necessitated military deployment that resulted in countless deaths and triggered instability throughout the Middle East.

Today the right uses many of the same talking points. Donald Trump was elected in large part because he was able to manipulate voters by amplifying anti-trans, anti-science, and anti-immigrant rhetoric; exciting their feelings of panic. In spite of overwhelming evidence that immigrants are far less likely to engage in violence or criminal activity, an analysis of election results reported by the Wall Street Journal revealed, “Immigration was the second most important issue for voters, increasing to 20% from 3% in 2020.” Americans chose the fearmongers and the consequences have been devastating. Our rights are being stripped away, ICE kidnaps people off the street, and our president has declared war on us—The Enemy Within.

The people must grapple with the power and proliferation of U.S. propaganda. As American voices continually spout manipulative talking points for control of its citizens, socialists have a responsibility to fight back. We keep us safe. Our best antidote to lies, anger, fear, and hate is to spread knowledge, build community, class solidarity, and ultimately create a better, safer world.

Yet it is virtually impossible to comply with traffic regulations perfectly. For example, in Illinois, the law requires that a driver signal their turn at least 100 feet beforehand. In many places, there are odd bits of roadway where the span is fewer than 50 feet between beginning of the “road” and the intersection where a turn may be taken. A particular gas station exit is less than 50 feet from the stoplight, so it is impossible to comply with the 100-foot rule and signal that far before the turn. But that’s plenty of probable cause for a stop, after which point the officer effectively has control of the vehicle if they want it. So, it’s no wonder some officers have been seen to watch that intersection.

Another thought experiment: consider pulling up to a four-way stop. You pull to a stop first, behind the white line. The vehicle to your left pulls up a beat after you do. Because you believe you are next, you begin to pull into the intersection. The other car does too, so you stop short. Now, you’ve stopped over the white line, violating 625 ILCS 5/11-904. Probable cause.

That is when the police even have to come up with probable cause for what they want to do. That’s not required for “dog sniff searches”. This is because, the Supreme Court has reasoned, the air around your vehicle is not a private area, so a dog sniffing around your vehicle is not an unreasonable intrusion. Imagine driving down the highway and complying with traffic laws perfectly. A police officer pulls up and passes by you, and you don’t take your eyes off the road for a moment. They’re not going to catch you slipping. You’re low on gas, though, so you pull off the exit to refuel. You go in the gas station for a fountain soda, and when you return, there’s an officer walking around your vehicle with a dog. Do you feel free to get in your vehicle and leave? If you tried, would you be charged with obstruction or worse? In what sense are you “free to leave”? When it is impossible to avoid a police officer who wants to find a reason to search you, how are any of us free?



Safety vs. Fear

by Rachel M

Threats to safety can make even unfounded fears seem rational. The far right frequently emotionally manipulates Americans to support their cause by crafting narratives that people are essentially bad, bad people seek to cause harm, and the world is inherently a dangerous place. It is time to recognize these talking points for what they are—a decades-long strategy of propaganda and control.

Safety of a Home

by Nobody

Home is not a place, but a state of mind

Our bodies run in two modes: High and Low

When we run Hot and High we are ready for the dangers of life, we are alert, away, our blood pumps to our extremities, and our senses are heightened. This is when we are at our peak performance, this is when we remember that we are animals, and whether predator or prey we are ready to run, to fight, to kill—

When that blood runs, whether yours or theirs, and the world stands still. You find yourself a place to lay and bed to lie, our body slows, and our limbs are chilled. Whether you won the day with meat in your belly, or you are licking fresh wounds from the hunt gone wrong, our bodies seek to rejuvenate. We find a place, either alone, dark, and solitary, or a place surrounded by ones we trust, people we can show our bellies to. and we rest—

There is no longer a hunt, there is no longer prey. But there are still predators... from the news cycle to arrogant bosses to dealing with the daily descent into facism. We feel that pressure, we feel like PREY, and our body puts on ALL the ALARMS, AND IT TELLS US WE NEED TO RUN, TO FIGHT TO KILL—

But... if... you... can... breathe...

If you can find yourself somewhere safe, and alone, or surrounded by those you can show your belly to and you can rest—

You can relax, and rejuvenate. Your blood will flow to your cuts, your scrapes, and to your belly to send food and nutrients through your body. You will heal, you will feel better, and you will feel stronger, and you will be ready for the next battle. Ready to fight for a better world.



Creatures Struggle

by Nobody

A creature alone is destined to have no home
A creature with home, is destined to have love
A creature with love, is destined to have ones to keep them safe

The government has always been shut down to the working class.

by Ryan S

Editor note: This article was submitted on October 31st, before the conclusion of the shutdown.

Is the government shutdown that we have been experiencing a complete failure of both the Republicans and Democrats, or is it an inevitable conclusion of two capitalist powers vying for power? The government will open again, one party will bend the knee, and then the next crisis will happen; this we know. But what we also know is that this is the nature of capitalist governments.

The Republicans' main objective for decades has been the destruction of all social welfare programs. These hard-won concessions from the capitalist powers were won by the working class. Of course, the capitalist class also wants to be an American aristocracy, hence the rise of the No Kings movement.

Republicans, like an evil Pokémon, have evolved from Reagan/Bush war hawks to MAGA and now to their final form as Tech Bro Christofascists, while Democrats continue to appease them in a desperate bid to maintain the capitalist status quo.

While in power, Democrats chose not to further the cause for universal healthcare and failed to stop the return to power of the fascist MAGA movement. The Democrats were left desperately trying to preserve the stop-gap of subsidizing insurance, a situation that could have been avoided if the Democrats had succeeded in enshrining true universal access to healthcare. Instead they sat on their hands, they failed to truly help the working class, and, aided by a blatantly political and corrupt Supreme Court, they failed to prosecute the obvious crimes of the former Trump admin in a manner that would prevent their return to power. A failing that feels more jarring as Brazil successfully condemns their former dictator, Jair Bolsonaro, to prison.

So, what can we do?

What is different about this moment is that millions of people across the country are becoming sympathetic to socialist ideas; they are pissed and are seeking an alternative from the current system.

Disgust with both parties is now at a fever pitch on both sides, but the Democratic Party refuses to change, and the Republican Party has made fascism its rallying cry, both refusing to give up their exploitative capitalist nature.

With the No Kings' protests happening across the country, we have a historically unique role that we absolutely must not overlook right now as socialists and progressives!

The contradictions of the capitalist system are on full display; the nation's leaders gut the country for profit, they gleefully take away the most basic rights, they kidnap people from their homes, and continue to destroy the environment. We must stand up and say, enough!

To quote Lenin, "Unity must be won, and only the workers, the class-conscious workers themselves can win it – by stubborn and persistent effort."

When we organize together, we come together. When we start sharing ideas, we can begin to change things and demand real change! Join the DSA, get involved, talk to your neighbors, and remember, We can't go backwards to what was; we must fight for a better world for all, not for a few!



Police do not make us safe

by Harlow Sinclair

The dominant narrative is that police make our communities safer than anything else could. The biggest lie the devil ever told, they say, was convincing the masses he didn't exist. The greatest farce is the idea that the police are the only thing standing between you and chaos. We accept policing on our streets on the theory it keeps us safer than nothing. The reality is, police can and do make us less safe.

They can stop a vehicle at the side of a high-speed interstate simply for having expired tags. The risk of harm at the side of the highway is so great, and the traffic code reflects this in the higher fines for work zones and school zones, where people are at higher risk of being struck by vehicles at unsafe speeds. Yet a police officer has the authority to stop a vehicle on the side of the highway, make a person exit their vehicle, and stand there in the narrow band beside the 70-mile-per-hour missiles and stand on one foot. All this because the sticker had the wrong two digits on the license plate. The officer can use race, geography, strict traffic code compliance, gender, or whatever else they want to use to make the call on whether the sticker warrants further investigation. The power to stop anyone anywhere at any time is such a huge grant of authority to the police, and we are taught never to question it.