

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Malcolm X: U.S. colleges
skillfully used to miseducate
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 74/NO. 40 OCTOBER 25, 2010

Residential foreclosures mount as economy sinks

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Although major banks have announced a temporary freeze on some residential foreclosures, the White House is standing firmly against any program to guarantee working people a roof over their heads even as unemployment shows no sign of abatement.

More than 30,000 people lined up at the downtown convention center in

Los Angeles September 30–October 4 in hopes of preventing foreclosure on their houses. Some camped overnight for a chance to meet with counselors and bank representatives in an attempt to modify their mortgages.

“I’ve talked to a lot of people who have the same story as me,” said Huy Nguyen as he waited to register for the event. “I applied three times for a

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Militant/Naomi Craine

More than 30,000 people lined up over five days at Los Angeles Convention Center to meet with bank representatives in hopes of adjusting their mortgages and keeping their houses.

U.S. gov’t announces record deportations over last year

BY DOUG NELSON

U.S. officials recently issued two announcements calling attention to the government’s unremitting assault against immigrant workers in the United States.

First, according to the Barack Obama administration, the official number of deportations over the last year reached record numbers for the second year in a row.

Second, the Department of Homeland Security’s Secure Communities measure, previously pitched as a voluntary program for local governments, is actually mandatory. Under this program, everyone who is fingerprinted by local cops also gets run through an immigration status check.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported nearly 393,000 immigrants during fiscal year 2010, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary Janet Napolitano announced October 6. Some 389,000 were deported the previous year, according to the most recent news reports.

These figures don’t include the number of immigrants deported

through agreeing to “voluntary departure” In 2009 that number was about 580,000. Most of these “voluntary” departures are Mexican immigrants captured by U.S. border agents, according to DHS.

The White House has boasted a higher deportation rate of so-called criminal aliens than the previous administration of George W. Bush. According to ICE, some 196,000 of

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GM to begin cutting wages by half at auto plant in Michigan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In its drive against members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union, General Motors is slashing wages at its factory in Orion Township, Michigan.

The agreement, which was approved by UAW officials October 3, calls for paying 60 percent of the plant’s 1,550 workers their current wage of about \$28 an hour and the rest of UAW

‘Working class needs to take political power’

Socialist candidate speaks to N.Y. students



Militant/Ruth Robinett

Dan Fein (left), Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York governor, speaks with students at Borough of Manhattan Community College October 8.

BY DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—As Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York I recently had the pleasure, together with Ruth Robinett, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, to discuss politics with students at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. The exchange between us, and among the students themselves, reflected an interest among youth in a revolutionary working-class perspective to confront the deepening crisis of capitalism.

We spoke at two writing classes October 8 on the invitation of professor John Bredin, who saw this as an opportunity to “give students a chance to hear a viewpoint they probably never heard before.” In his introduction to the 25 students at the first class, Bredin said, “The Socialist Workers Party candidates deserve a broader audience at BMCC. Other instructors who heard I was having socialists speak in my class were envious.”

The school enrolls some 32,000

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‘Workers Power’ campaign reaches the halfway point

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Socialist campaigners worldwide are at the halfway point in their campaign to sell 1,800 copies of the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes, while signing up 2,100 new and long-term readers for the *Mili-*

tant. So far, 860 books and 987 subscriptions have been sold.

In Miami, Bernie Senter reports socialists sold four subscriptions and a *Workers Power* book on two campuses and signed up a member of the International Longshoremen’s Asso-

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members—some with many years at the plant, as well as new hires—\$14 an hour.

Eleven hundred workers are currently laid off at the Orion plant. As workers are called back, some will come back at their full wages, while others doing the same kind of work will be paid half the wages. Union members didn’t get a chance to vote

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Sweden: Revolutionary books presented at fair

BY DAG TIRSÉN
GOTHENBURG, Sweden—The Swedish translation of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? A Necessary Debate*, by Mary-Alice Waters, arrived hot off the press just in time for this year’s book fair here. Some 97,000 people attended the September 23–26 fair, one of the main annual cultural events in Sweden.

It took place against the background of the Swedish elections in which Conservative Frederik Reinfeldt won a second term as prime minister, defeating the Social Democratic-led coalition. The rightist Sweden Democrats, which made anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim demagoguery the center of their campaign, won 5.7 percent of the vote and 20 seats, entering parliament for the first time.

Visitors at the Pathfinder booth wanted to talk about the election, including the rise of right-wing forces and how to combat them. Several of the discussions led to purchases of the new Swedish-language edition of the book.

One young woman, who got the book along with a subscription to the *Militant*, said, “I was angry when I heard the election result. I decided, I need to get involved, since it’s obvious the politicians can’t deal with this.”

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? explains how revolutionary struggles are forced upon workers by the employing class’ crisis-driven assault on their living and work conditions, and how solidarity and a fighting vanguard of working people will grow in that struggle.

The book’s cover photo is from one of the large protests in 2006 for legalization of undocumented workers, leading up to the 2 million strong mobilization on May Day around the United States that year. Twenty-six copies in Swedish and two in Spanish were sold.

Eleven copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes, were sold. The book is available in English, French, and Spanish. It details the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in the broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. Twelve subscriptions to the *Militant* were also sold.



Militant/Dag Tirsén
Catharina Tirsén (left) welcomes visitor to Pathfinder booth at Gothenburg book fair with Swedish translation of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*

N.Y. meat packers send solidarity to Cuban 5

BY CINDY JAQUITH
NEW YORK—Twenty-two workers, most of them from a meatpacking plant here, recently signed a letter of solidarity to the Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, and René González.

The five have been imprisoned in U.S. jails since 1998, when they were arrested while monitoring the activities of right-wing Cuban exiles in South Florida who have carried out violent attacks on Cuba. Charged with failure to register as foreign agents, “conspiracy to commit espionage,” and in Hernández’s case, “conspiracy to commit murder,” they were convicted in a trial riddled with violations of their rights.

“We demand your release,” the work-

ers’ letter said. “We work as butchers and packers, maintenance and warehouse and truck drivers, and come originally from China, the U.S. and other countries of the Americas.” The letter was written in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

One of the signers, a meat packer named Hugo, said he first read about the case of the Cuban Five in the Spanish-language daily here, *El Diario*. The next week, he saw another story on the case in *El Militante*, the Spanish-language edition of the *Militant*.

“I said to myself, ‘This is not right what the government is doing, keeping them in jail for no reason.’ It’s like how the bosses keep making more and more

money off us, but we keep getting lower and lower wages and benefits.”

Cuban Five prisoner Hernández, now serving two life terms plus 15 years, wrote back to the meat packers: “On behalf of the five, I would like to extend our appreciation to all the workers and union members at meatpacking plants in New York, whose support is a source of inspiration in our struggle for justice.”

Fernando González also responded. “We are very encouraged by the strength of the support we receive from workers in this country in spite of the difficult conditions you face and the complexity of your own struggles. As you said in your letter, our struggle is one.”

Actors, artists, musicians back freedom for Cuban 5

BY CINDY JAQUITH
More artists have added their names to the letter to President Barack Obama encouraging him to issue an executive clemency order on behalf of the Cuban Five. The letter is being circulated by Actors and Artists United for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, chaired by actors Danny Glover and Edward Asner.

In asking Obama to free the five, the letter states, “We are dismayed that the Cuban Five, who have committed no crime against the United States nor

posed any threat to this country’s national security, have now been imprisoned for 12 years. The Five monitored the activities of violent groups of Cuban exiles in Miami, activities that had already resulted in the deaths of thousands of Cuban nationals.”

Among new signers are film stars Sean Penn and Mike Farrell; Colombian singer-songwriter Juanes as well as Pete Seeger and Bonnie Raitt; theologian Frei Betto; filmmaker Oliver Stone; and cinematographer Haskell Wexler.



Fight against police brutality

The ‘Militant’ reports the truth about how cops act as judge, jury, and executioner.

The ‘Militant’ carries regular coverage of fights against police brutality worldwide, as well as the struggles against police frame-ups, like the case of Troy Davis, and against the death penalty. Don’t miss a single issue.



Rally to demand justice for Fong Lee, gunned down by Minneapolis cop in July 2006.

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Universal child benefits to be scrapped in UK

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Under the banner of being “tough but fair,” George Osborne, chancellor of the exchequer in the United Kingdom government, announced the elimination of universal child benefits. Families in which one parent earns more than £44,000 per year will no longer be eligible to receive the payment, which amounts to £2,500 for a family with three children (£1=US\$1.59). The government seeks to win working-class support for this anti-working class measure, portraying it as directed at wealthy parents who don’t need the payments.

The move is the opening salvo against a range of universal benefits, as the government prepares to cut £83 billion in its Comprehensive Spending Review, to be announced in Parliament October 20.

In an editorial backing the action, the *London Times* wrote, “The State provides universal entitlements in many fields. . . . There are good arguments for all of them. But, when there is no money left, the argument for paying benefits to the well off has weakened to the point of collapse.”

Other universal benefits said to be under threat include TV licenses, bus passes for the elderly, subsidies to students, and sickness benefits, as the government aims to cut the welfare budget by more than £20 billion.

Osborne also announced a cap on the amount of benefits a family can receive, arguing the government must end the so-called “lifestyle choice” of living on benefits.

In a nationalistic “your country needs you” speech, Prime Minister David Cameron sought to deflect criticism of Osborne’s announcement. “I’ve seen the courage of our soldiers, the spirit of our entrepreneurs, the patience of our teachers, the dedication of our doctors, the compassion of our care workers, the wisdom of our elderly, the love of our parents, the hopes of our children. So come on: let’s pull together. Let’s come together. Let’s work, together, in the national interest,” said the Conservative Party leader. That means that those with the “broadest shoulders” should take their share of the pain.

The move to cut child benefits won the well-publicized backing of Martin

Narey, head of the children’s charity Barnado’s. Narey, who also headed the End Child Poverty campaign, called for the government to go further and scrap child benefits altogether, with some financial compensation for families earning £30,000 or less.

The Liberal Democrats, junior partner in the coalition government, also expressed support. The government could not make draconian cuts “and still be relaxed about the idea that multimillionaires are receiving universal benefits,” the party said.

Appeal to working people

Such views strengthen the government’s claim that, at a time of austerity, they are looking out for the interests of the hard-working majority. Many workers, burdened by debt and anxious about the future, buy into the government’s false argument to justify the slashing of welfare payments—that government debt is like workers’ personal debt: pay it off now or face greater misery down the road.

Pressure to reduce the deficit comes above all from the rulers’ drive to make the working class pay for the economic and financial crisis. Replacing universal by means-tested benefits, scapegoating the “work shy,” and nationalistic appeals that “we’re all in this together” are the ideological gloss aimed at making the cuts palatable. The drive to reduce the deficit and the assault on universal benefits have nothing to do with protecting workers’ interests.

The Labour Party leadership has argued the government is going too far, too fast. However, its own policies have greased the skids for these measures. When in government, then Labour chancellor of the exchequer Alistair Darling said that he would take measures to halve the deficit within four years.

In his first speech as the new leader of the Labour Party, Edward Miliband stated that Darling’s projection remained “the starting point” and indicated that he would be prepared to work with the government on “welfare reform.”

“There will be cuts and there would have been if we had been in government,” Miliband said. “I won’t oppose every cut the coalition proposes. There

Cuban Five case taken up at LASA conference



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

TORONTO—Elizabeth Palmeiro, right, wife of Ramón Labañino—one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by the U.S. government—speaking on panel on “The Cuba-U.S. Bilateral Conflict” organized by the Cuba Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) here October 9. Labañino is serving a 30-year sentence in U.S. federal prison. Among those on the panel, from left, were Ileana Sorolla Fernández of the University of Havana and Philip Brenner of American University. The session, held late on the final day of LASA’s conference, attracted some 70 people.

Palmeiro described the unjust arrests, imprisonment, trial, and sentences the Cuban Five have been subjected to for more than 12 years. She urged those present to help with the fight to free them, a goal that will be reached only through “a political battle and international solidarity.” The audience gave Palmeiro a standing ovation.

—BEVERLY BERNARDO

will be some things the coalition does that we won’t like as a party but we will have to support.”

The government has run into opposition to its child benefit announcements from within Conservative Party ranks, and from Conservative Party-backing newspapers, such as the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Telegraph*. What makes those in the government parties and their ruling-class backers nervous is the scale of the cuts being projected today.

Nervousness about scale of cuts

If middle-class families react bitterly to the cut in child benefits, how will workers respond to cuts in their living standards that the Comprehensive Spending Review will signal? Millions of workers in the United Kingdom receive benefits that amount to a social wage, as a result of decades-long labor movement fights to establish social rights for all. The government’s own estimate is the cuts will lead to as many as 1.3 million people losing their jobs.

The nervousness in ruling class circles is increased by declining prospects for the British economy. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research recently reported that growth in the three months to the end of September was just 0.5 percent, in contrast with the 1.2 percent in the previous quarter. The Institute said that the recovery from

the depths of the recession had been particularly slow. “Thirty months have passed since the onset of recession, yet the economy still remains more than 4 percent below its pre-recession peak.”

In the background are the economic and financial problems of the United States, of a number of countries in Europe, and of international currency conflicts—all of which impact the United Kingdom. Likewise, governments around the world are looking at the way the UK government’s deficit reduction is handled and how it plays out.

In concert with the stance of the Labour Party leadership, opposition to the austerity measures from the officialdom of the trade unions has been muted—consistent with its course over recent years to the grinding erosion of workers’ living standards and job conditions. The Scottish Trades Union Congress has called a nationwide demonstration in Edinburgh for October 23 under the slogan “There is a better way,” and some local protests are planned. The British TUC is holding a lobby of Parliament on October 19 and is projecting a national demonstration in March 2011.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

AUSTRALIA

Sydney
Abortion Rights Under Attack! Defend a Woman’s Right to Choose! Speaker: Joanne Kuniansky, participant in Sydney and Cairns actions to defend couple prosecuted under abortion laws. Sat., Oct. 23, 6 p.m. *Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie.* Tel.: (02) 9718-9698.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
Why the Working Class Needs a Revolutionary Party. A program to benefit SWP party-building fund. Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 23. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *5482 Mission St.* Tel.: 415-584-2135.

IOWA

Des Moines
The Fight for Workers Rights and Self-Defense Against Racist Violence. Movie showing: *Deacons for Defense.* Speaker: Ellen Brickley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat. Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas Ave.,* Tel.: 515-255-1707.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis
U.S. Out of Afghanistan and Pakistan! Speaker: Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party. Fri. Oct. 22, 8 p.m. *1311 1/2 E. Lake St., 2nd fl.,* Tel.: 612-729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan
Oppose Raids and Spying by FBI, Police: Defend Workers and Constitutional Rights. Speaker: Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 22, 8 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5. *306 W. 37th St. 10th fl.,* Tel.: 212-736-2540.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland
ILWU Justice for Oscar Grant Rally. Stop Police Brutality! Jail Killer Cops! Defend Jobs and Education! Stop War and Repression! Sat., Oct. 23, 12 noon. *Oakland City Hall near 14th and Broadway. For more information contact Farless Dailey, ILWU Local 10 Secretary Treasurer.* Tel.: 415-776-8100

Stockholm, Sweden

Special Militant Labor Forum

Strengthening Communist Forces and Advancing Our Propaganda in Europe

Saturday, October 23, 3:00 p.m.

Speakers: *Anita Östling, Communist League in Sweden; Mary-Alice Waters, Socialist Workers Party; Representative, Communist League in United Kingdom*

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Capitalism’s World Disorder

Working-class politics at the millennium
by Jack Barnes

The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products not of something wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Yet the future can be changed by the united struggle of workers and farmers increasingly conscious of their capacity to wage revolutionary struggles for state power and to transform the world.

Also available in Spanish and French

PathfinderPress.com



Volunteers sell Pathfinder books to libraries, stores

BY NICK CASTLE
LOS ANGELES—Volunteers have successfully begun the fall effort to place Pathfinder Press titles in bookstores, libraries, and other institutions across the United States and Canada. The 18-week campaign, with a goal of 105 Pathfinder orders, ends December 15.

The librarian in one of the largest French-language Montreal high schools ordered five books, adding to the half-dozen Pathfinder titles she ordered last year. In leafing through the French-language edition of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, she said she would buy it since there were lots of photos and the print was large, making it easier for students to use.

The librarian noticed the biographical facts in the French-language *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, seeing it as a source on Guevara’s life. She added that booklet and *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, written by Guevara, to the order.

As of October 4, 34 orders have been placed. Los Angeles is leading the way with seven. A day of visits in Long Beach included two independent bookstores, a state college library and bookstore, a major distributor of Arabic books, and a local mosque.

San Francisco–area volunteers report that a professor who focuses on African American history and culture liked the *Workers Power* book and said to mention his name to the selector at the main university library as recommending the book for that collection.

Pathfinder salespeople visited a public library in Greensboro, North Carolina, that orders books in several languages. Several weeks later the library ordered four books, including two copies in French of *Thomas Sankara Speaks* and *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*.

Pathfinder sales volunteers in a number of cities, including New York, took advantage of the October 11 Columbus Day holiday to step up their work.



Militant/Maceo Dixon

Volunteers help staff Pathfinder booth at recent Association for the Study of African American Life and History convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Eighteen people bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes. In addition 16 *Militant* subscriptions and 27 other Pathfinder books were purchased.

One team visited for the first time a bookstore in Brooklyn that carries titles in French, Haitian Creole, and English. Inside the beautiful second-floor store was a bookcase already displaying Pathfinder titles, including the *Workers Power* book in French.

The buyer was especially interested

in the *Nouvelle Internationale* (*New International* magazine) issues on the economic crisis, as well as *Their Trotsky and Ours* in French.

A mailing of the 2010 Pathfinder brochure reminded a Brooklyn librarian to place an order he had been planning, including two copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

A brochure of Pathfinder titles translated into Farsi, the official language of Iran, is now available to aid sales volunteers.

Candace Wagner in New York contributed to this article.

‘Workers Power’ campaign at halfway mark

Continued from front page
ciation (ILA) for a copy of the book and an introductory subscription; two other ILA members renewed their subscriptions.

“We’re living in a world of dysfunction. This book offers so much guid-

ance,” said Tyronne Brunson, when socialists visited his home to pick up a renewal to the *Militant*. He bought two more copies of *Workers Power* for others, including one for his brother in prison. His own copy was highlighted and underlined.

In San Francisco, teams visit the hall of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 every week. The hall is where workers receive job assignments for ports in San Francisco and Oakland. Last week three unionists bought *Workers Power*. One woman dock worker remarked that she liked what Malcolm X said on the importance of women’s rights because of the discrimination she faces on the job and her discussions with male coworkers about fighting for equality.

At the largest book fair in the Pacific Northwest, Wordstock Book and Literary Festival in Portland, Oregon, supporters of the *Militant* and Pathfinder sold 17 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, along with 15 subscriptions to the *Militant*. Some \$330 in Pathfinder books were sold there.

Participants at the 95th annual Association for the Study of African American Life and History convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, bought 18 copies of *Workers Power* and 16 *Militant* subscriptions. “Workshops reflected the present concerns of the world economic crisis today, its social consequences, and the deep-going depression conditions,” reports Maceo Dixon.

With four weeks left, there is plenty of time for volunteers in every city to

map out plans to complete the campaign in full and on time. We invite readers to join in the effort by showing the *Militant* and the book to friends and coworkers and by contacting distributors listed on page 8.

Party-building fund boosted by meetings around country

BY LAURA GARZA

Efforts to raise \$98,000 for the SWP party-building fund are stepping up with a series of events being held in cities across the country. The drive is a week behind schedule.

In Washington, D.C., 18 workers and youth participated in a program October 9 featuring Róger Calero, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in New York’s 15th District.

Calero noted the deepening social and economic crisis confronting working people. “Workers are more open to revolutionary proposals today as we mobilize against the assaults on our living standards,” he said.

Luis, a campaign supporter in Washington, originally from Ecuador, said, “Now is the time for socialists to campaign hard to present this working-class alternative to working people. That way we can find those who want to be part of the fight against the capitalist system.”

Washington is at \$7,300 total pledged and raised its quota to \$8,000.

In Minneapolis, a dozen people attended a lively discussion October 9 with Rebecca Williamson, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Iowa’s 3rd District. The discussion focused on how to win people to see the need to make a break with the capitalist parties and build a revolutionary movement.

Lyndsey Waletzke and Jeff Grothe drove up from Austin, Minnesota. They have been reading the *Militant* for four years and recently established contact with other supporters of the paper. Waletzke said she looks forward

to helping sell the *Militant* in Austin.

One participant raised his pledge \$100 and renewed his subscription to the *Militant* for two years. A total of \$430 in new pledges were made to the fund.

In Des Moines, Iowa, supporters of the fund have raised their goal to \$3,000. “In building the fund we have gotten five contributions as we participated in the fall campaign to sell the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* along with subscriptions to the *Militant*,” Helen Meyers reported.

Party-building fund Sept. 11–Nov. 9

City	Quota	Paid	%
Des Moines*	\$3,000	\$1,475	49%
Twin Cities*	\$7,500	\$2,880	38%
Washington*	\$8,000	\$2,670	33%
New York	\$20,000	\$5,726	29%
Seattle	\$8,600	\$2,150	25%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$1,675	21%
San Francisco	\$13,500	\$2,650	20%
Miami	\$3,000	\$570	19%
Boston	\$3,600	\$625	17%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$1,710	17%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$394	5%
Houston	\$3,000	\$150	5%
Philadelphia	\$3,600	\$0	0%
TOTAL	\$99,600	\$22,675	23%
Should be	\$98,000	\$36,750	38%
* Raised quota			

campaign to sell ‘Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power’ & ‘Militant’ Sept. 11–Nov. 9 (week 4)						
Country	‘Workers Power’ books			‘Militant’ subscriptions		
	quota	sold	%	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES						
Boston*	50	36	72%	70	37	53%
Miami	50	35	70%	65	39	60%
Atlanta	120	70	58%	150	84	56%
Philadelphia	65	36	55%	75	42	56%
New York	375	194	52%	325	183	56%
Chicago	130	66	51%	130	62	48%
Des Moines	110	55	50%	125	55	44%
Washington	145	64	44%	125	72	58%
Seattle	130	57	44%	140	51	36%
Twin Cities	100	38	38%	135	48	36%
Los Angeles	135	41	30%	120	62	52%
San Francisco	130	29	22%	155	52	34%
Houston	50	11	22%	50	19	38%
Total U.S.	1590	732	46%	1665	806	48%
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	90	47	52%	90	49	54%
Edinburgh	25	12	48%	35	17	49%
Total U.K.	115	59	51%	125	66	53%
Canada	62	39	63%	70	41	59%
New Zealand	25	11	44%	60	29	48%
Australia	25	8	32%	55	28	51%
Sweden	18	11	61%	22	17	77%
Total	1835	860	48%	1997	987	47%
Should be	1800	900	50%	2100	1050	50%
* Raised both quotas						

ON THE PICKET LINE

Sodexo workers strike over harassment, wages

"I may be a lunch lady, but that doesn't mean I have to take whatever Sodexo dishes out," said Rubynell Barbee, a cashier at Morehouse College in Atlanta. "I am striking for every single person in this country who keeps working harder but getting poorer."

Groundskeepers, cafeteria workers, and school and hospital employees in four states held brief walkouts in early October against Sodexo, the food-services and facility maintenance corporation, to protest low wages, lack of affordable health care, and company threats and harassment against union activists. They are organized by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Janitors and groundskeepers employed by Sodexo in the Highland Park School District in New Jersey are trying to join the union, the SEIU reported. They charge their company with forbidding them to speak to representatives of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration or the union.

—Cindy Jaquith

Unionists in Iowa fight company lockout

Members of Local 48G of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, AFL-CIO-CLC, were locked out of the Roquette America plant in Keokuk, Iowa. The unionists voted to reject the company's latest offer and are maintaining an informational picket line 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Their contract expired September 28. The same day Roquette locked out the workers arriving for the second shift. The company wants to start new employees at \$4 below the current starting wage. Workers say the company changes workers' hours at will and forces overtime. On October 3 Roquette brought in a busload of 60 scabs, calling them "professional contingency workers."

Union members in Meredosia, Illinois, have sent financial aid, and unions from Cedar Rapids and the Quad Cities have offered people to relieve those on the informational picket lines.

Roquette manufactures a variety of corn starches, starch derivatives, and corn syrup at its Keokuk plant.

—Ellen Brickley

Airport workers in New Zealand defend union

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Twelve workers from Pacific Flight Catering held a one-day strike October 3 after becoming angry at company attempts to undermine the union. On the picket line, Kevin Mehana told the *Militant*, "They are prepared to bribe workers to leave the union but they won't give us the collective bargaining we want."

The ground stewards have been fighting for a contract since 2008. They say many drivers receive NZ\$3 an hour less than airport drivers employed by other companies (NZ\$1 = US 73 cents).

The company has begun offering incentives to workers to leave the union. Union delegate Va'a Ngkau reported one worker left the union after he was offered a pay raise that included a NZ\$2,700 lump sum payment and a severance agreement.

Days before the strike, the company offered Ngkau NZ\$1,000 to call off the strike. His response was to tell the bosses to present the offer to the union, saying, "I can't be bought off."

—Annalucia Vermunt



Militant/Annalucia Vermunt

Workers picket Pacific Flight Catering in Auckland, New Zealand, October 3 to protest company attempts to undermine union. Workers have been fighting for contract since 2008.

U.S. gov't: Record deportations again this year

Continued from front page

those deported over the last year were supposedly in this category, a 70 percent increase from fiscal year 2008. The overwhelming majority of these were convicted of nonviolent offenses, which include such minor violations as traffic tickets, nonpayment of alimony, and open container laws. About half of 1 percent were found guilty of murder.

The Secure Communities program was initiated in 14 jurisdictions toward the end of 2008. Today it has expanded to more than 660 jurisdictions in 33 states, and is on track to cover all cop agencies in the country by 2013, according to ICE.

Secure Communities had been billed as an optional cooperation program between the DHS and local cop agencies. Several municipal governments, so-called sanctuary cities, voted not to participate in the program: Arlington,

Virginia; the District of Colombia; San Francisco; and Santa Clara, California. But it was never clear exactly what opting out meant.

Napolitano and ICE head John Morton recently confirmed that sharing information with immigration authorities is really not voluntary, since local police agencies regularly share biometrics with the FBI, which in turn shares them with ICE. A top immigration official, on condition of anonymity, told the *Washington Post* that local authorities have no say in whether to comply with any ICE demand to detain someone in police custody. Opting out, he explained, only means that local cop agencies would not be informed of the reasons behind these detention orders.

Meanwhile, the government has continued to step up its checks of workers' immigration status at workplaces throughout the country. According to an October 6 ICE news release, immigra-

tion authorities have checked records at more than 3,200 workplaces since January 2009. Thousands of immigrants were fired from their jobs as a result.

The militarization of the border continues to increase. The number of miles under "effective control" at the Mexico border more than tripled between 2005 and 2009. The number of border guards has nearly doubled in the last five years.

As a result of a net decline in the rate of immigration and stepped-up deportations, the estimated number of immigrants without documents in the country declined from around 12 million in 2007 to 11 million in 2009. With less people trying to cross into the United States, immigration arrests at the border have declined. Nevertheless, deaths at the border remain as high as ever. Last year 417 immigrants died trying to enter the United States from Mexico, up from 390 in 2008.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 25, 1985

When four U.S. jet fighters forced an Egyptian airliner to land at a U.S. base on the island of Sicily in Italy October 11, they were carrying out an act of U.S. government piracy against Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

U.S. officials in contact with the combat planes could have ordered the civilian airliner shot down if its crew had resisted.

The plane carried 17 Egyptians, two officials of the PLO, and four Palestinians accused of hijacking the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and killing passenger Leon Klinghoffer. The four were being flown out of Egypt after being turned over to the PLO by the Egyptian government. The hijacking was denounced from the start by the PLO as harmful to the Palestinian cause.



October 24, 1960

Oct. 19—A desperate attempt, inspired by the State Department, to overthrow the Cuban government by force and violence, ended in defeat last week as counter-revolutionary invaders, rounded up by armed peasants, were sentenced in court for their criminal acts.

The revolutionary regime answered the stepped-up drive of the State Department for a blood bath in Cuba by nationalizing industry, transportation, commerce and banking "down to the nails in their shoes," as [Fidel] Castro had warned. In addition, all housing was taken over. New far-reaching reforms were announced, including acknowledgment of "the right of every family to a decent living."

Castro declared that the Cuban revolution had reached a major turning point.



October 26, 1935

Thirteen leaders of the Bolshevik-Leninist group of France have been expelled from the French Socialist Party. The Socialist and Stalinist bureaucracies are seeking to disembarass themselves of a revolutionary left wing.

In response to this reactionary offensive an organized bloc under the name Revolutionary Left is taking form in the Socialist Party of France.

The expulsion of the Bolshevik-Leninists, long expected and forecast in these columns, was openly stated by the National Disputes Committee of the S.P. to be based upon the fact that the "program of the Bolshevik-Leninist Group cannot for a single instant be admitted since it would lead the party into an impossible situation." Impossible, because it would lead the party to the conquest of power by the proletariat!

Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs



The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle. First in a four-volume series.

The other books are: *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

Also available in Spanish, Swedish, Farsi.

PathfinderPress.com

D.C. Democratic primary reflects workers' discontent

BY PAUL PEDERSON

WASHINGTON—Incumbent mayor Adrian Fenty lost the Democratic Party Primary here. In this majority Black city—where the working class has already been hit hard by growing joblessness and other grinding economic burdens—the mayor had come to symbolize an austerity drive directed against working people by the city government.

With his growing unpopularity, Fenty became less useful to the local capitalists and lost backing within the Democratic Party machine. As a result, D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray, who helped carry out the anti-working class policies of the Fenty administration, won the Democratic nomination.

Like the Bloomberg administration in New York City, Fenty's administration was held up by President Barack Obama as an example of how public schools should be run. In both places city officials sought to capitalize on dissatisfaction with the quality of public education to deal blows to the teachers' unions and accelerate the replacement of public schools with privately operated charter schools. Fenty appointed Michelle Rhee as schools chancellor to oversee the firing of more than 400 teachers without regard to seniority. This prompted protests by students and teachers.

Presumptive mayor Gray was quick to dump the unpopular Rhee. The two recently reached a "mutual decision" that she should step down, reported the *Washington Post*. Rhee announced her impending resignation October 13, while other top leaders of the school administration are to remain.

The Fenty administration oversaw an increase in fares for public transportation, expanded traffic cameras to issue tickets for minor infractions, and stepped up enforcement of parking rules. As part of what was promoted as a "green" campaign to clean up local rivers the Fenty government instituted a charge for each disposable shopping bag used in the District.

The editorial writers at the *Washington Post* were surprised that a mayor with such a long record of "successes," in their eyes, was denied a second term: "Fenty, the youngest mayor in the four decades of home rule, drew national accolades for his efforts to reform schools; oversaw a dramatic decline in the homicide rate; and led a successful drive to build neighborhood amenities such as recreational centers, dog parks and athletic fields," the paper said.

But for thousands of working people,

these became symbols of contempt for working people.

"I'm really happy that Fenty lost," Linda Hindress, an airport worker who lives in northwest Washington, D.C., told the *Militant*. "They talk about the dog parks and bike lanes, but I don't see these things in my neighborhood. Look at Wards 6, 7, and 8; people need jobs." The official unemployment rate is 25 percent in the overwhelmingly Black working-class Ward 8.

"The city government, led by Fenty and Gray, who is now favored to be Fenty's successor, has overseen the capitalists' assault on working people," said Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. "The socialist campaign has received a good response from workers because we tell the truth about what the capitalists have in store for us and present a revolutionary class-struggle perspective to fight it."

With government officials now declaring that there is a \$175 million shortfall in the city budget, Democratic Party officials have already started talking about the next round of attacks on social services and jobs in the District.

Socialist speaks at immigrant rights rally



Militant/Carole Lesnick

SAN FRANCISCO—Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers candidate for California governor, speaks to rally of some 50 people here outside the offices of Attorney General Edmund Brown October 5, protesting the federal anti-immigrant Secure Communities program (see article on front page).

"If elected I would refuse to implement the program," Sherman said. "My campaign calls for the immediate legalization of all immigrants now, which is necessary to unify the working class. . . . We need to build a political party of labor, based on the trade unions, independent of the Democrats and Republicans, the parties of the bosses. Such a labor party would fight for the interests of all working people."

—CAROLE LESNICK

N.Y. socialist candidates speak to students

Continued from front page

students, the majority of whom are Black or Latino. In recent years, socialists have gotten a good response campaigning on campus, owing to its largely working-class composition.

I began my presentation by elaborating on the SWP campaign platform outlined in a leaflet handed out to the students. "The most important thing to understand is that the source of the unfolding economic and social crisis is the capitalist system and we live under the dictatorship of capital. In order to begin solving the many social problems reproduced by this rotten system, working people need to break with the ruling parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and fight for a labor party. We need to make a revolution to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and replace it with rule by working people."

Most students in the class work as well as go to school. In the discussion period, many spoke about the low minimum wage and abusive bosses.

"What do you think of NAFTA and the loss of American jobs?" asked Candace Morris.

"NAFTA is a trade pact designed to increase the profits of the bosses and deepen imperialist exploitation of Latin America," I explained. "At the same time the slogan 'Save American jobs' is a trap for workers, and can only serve to strengthen the hand of U.S. capitalists, a common enemy of our class on both sides of the border. There are no 'American jobs,' as capitalists always exploit our class wherever they can make a profit. What we need is international working-class solidarity."

"If an unemployed worker collects unemployment until they find work why would anyone look for a job?" asked Tiana Cortes, referring to a demand on the campaign flyer.

"I'm unemployed, but I'm dying to

work," responded Lakisha Daves. "I like school, but out there they want low wages and long hours. I need time to find a good job."

"I agree with your ideas, but how do we go about implementing them?" Sonya Alexander asked. "How do you get it started?"

'Road to workers power'

I pointed to the history of working-class and revolutionary struggle in the United States including the Civil War, which was the second American Revolution, up to today. I encouraged students to read a new book that deals with this question: *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP.

"Experience in the U.S. class struggle and knowledge of our class history has given me unshakable confidence in the capacities of working people, the inevitability of revolutionary struggle, and the real possibility of a third American Revolution, this time against the capitalist system," I said. Robinett and I invited students to campaign with us and participate together in political activities.

Shaeida Eckly asked me what I thought about President Barack Obama. Responding positively to my explanation about the capitalist class interests he serves, she said, "There was all this hype when Obama was elected, but I have seen no change at all."

In the afternoon class Robinett explained the worldwide capitalist economic depression is only just beginning. "The capitalists and their political parties are making the working class pay for the crisis of their system," she said. Pointing to the U.S.-led wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Robinett noted that more wars and economic depression is the future capitalism has in store for us.

Brian Lora was the first to raise his hand. "I agree with everything she said. I'm an anarchist and don't believe in

government." Later in the discussion he said, "I'm not going to vote."

"The capitalists are only interested in their profits," said Corane Scott. "It's been that way for a long time. We are the majority, but we don't control things. We need to find unity. When we do—watch out! I notice all your candidates are workers. I like that. We don't need millionaire lawyers."

Giselle Abreu joined the discussion. "Obama is not making any changes. I work for \$7.25 per hour and the metro card is going up to \$2.50 per ride. Obama is destroying this city and this country."

"It's not easy for Obama to make radical changes. The Republicans block him," said Jahmall in disagreement with what Abreu and I had said.

Raymond Paulino said cops are one of the biggest problems in the Bronx and gave some examples. Robinett agreed and added that cops terrorize working-class neighborhoods because their role in the capitalist system is to protect the property of the rich.

In the middle of the class Bredin assigned students to take five minutes to write about their reactions to the campaign.

"Everyone is talking about unity," wrote Solmarie Huertas. "How can there be unity when people are scared? I agree that we do need unity, but as Dan Fein said, 'We need the unity of the working class to go against the capitalists, the bosses,' etc. How can this happen without the working class stepping up? Are we scared? Not aware? Or do we not know what to do? How about we get together and figure it out. That will work."

At the end of the class, Bredin invited the SWP candidates and the students to be on his cable TV show Public Voice Salon. Thirty-six out of 48 students from both classes signed to be on the Socialist Workers campaign mailing list.

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

THE FRAUD OF EDUCATION REFORM UNDER CAPITALISM

by Jack Barnes

"Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity."

\$3

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‘American colleges skillfully used to miseducate’

Part 1 of January 1965 interview with Malcolm X for ‘Young Socialist’

Below we continue our installments from the recently published book Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. From the book this week we reprint the first part of an interview with Malcolm X in January 1965 that originally appeared in the Young Socialist magazine. The interview was conducted by Barnes, then national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance, and Barry Sheppard, a staff writer for the Militant. The rest of the interview will be printed in two more issues.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What image of you has been projected by the press?

MALCOLM X: Well, the press has purposely and skillfully projected me in the image of a racist, a race supremacist, and an extremist.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What’s wrong with this image? What do you really stand for?

MALCOLM X: First, I’m not a racist. I’m against every form of racism and segregation, every form of discrimination. I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless of their color.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: Why did you break with the Black Muslims?

MALCOLM X: I didn’t break, there was a split. The split came about primarily because they put me out, and they put me out because of my uncompromising approach to problems I thought should be solved and the movement could solve.

I felt the movement was dragging its feet in many areas. It didn’t involve itself in the civil or civic or political struggles our people were confronted by. All it did was stress the importance of moral reformation—don’t drink, don’t smoke, don’t permit fornication and adultery. When I found that the hierarchy itself wasn’t practicing what it preached, it was clear that this part of its program was bankrupt.

So the only way it could function and be meaningful in the community was to take part in the political and economic facets of the Negro struggle. And the organization wouldn’t do that because the stand it would have to take would have

been too militant, uncompromising, and activist, and the hierarchy had gotten conservative. It was motivated mainly by protecting its own self-interests.

I might also point out that although the Black Muslim movement professed to be a religious group, the religion they had adopted—Islam—didn’t recognize them. So religiously it was in a vacuum. And it didn’t take part in politics, so it was not a political group. When you have an organization that’s neither political nor religious and doesn’t take part in the civil rights struggle, what can it call itself? It’s in a vacuum. So all of these factors led to my splitting from the organization.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What are the aims of your new organization?

MALCOLM X: There are two organizations. There’s the Muslim Mosque, Inc., which is religious. Its aim is to create an atmosphere and facilities in which people who are interested in Islam can get a better understanding of Islam. The aim of the other organization, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, is to use whatever means necessary to bring about a society in which the twenty-two million Afro-Americans are recognized and respected as human beings.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?

MALCOLM X: I used to define Black nationalism as the idea that the Black man should control the economy of his community, the politics of his community, and so forth.

But when I was in Africa in May, in Ghana, I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador, who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country*). When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me very frankly: Well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does



Corbis/Bettmann

Malcolm X at Harlem bookstore following March 12, 1964, press conference there announcing he had left Nation of Islam. In January 1965 *Young Socialist* interview, Malcolm said Nation “put me out because of my uncompromising approach to problems I thought should be solved.”

that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.

So I had to do a lot of thinking and reappraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven’t been using the expression for several months. But I still would be hard pressed to give a specific definition of the overall philosophy which I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: Is it true, as is often said, that you favor violence?

MALCOLM X: I don’t favor violence. If we could bring about recognition and respect of our people by peaceful means, well and good. Everybody would like to reach his objectives peacefully. But I’m also a realist. The only people in this country who are asked to be nonviolent are Black people. I’ve never heard anybody go to the Ku Klux Klan and teach them nonviolence, or to the [John] Birch Society and other right-wing elements. Nonviolence is only preached to Black Americans, and I don’t go along with anyone who wants to teach our people nonviolence until someone at the same time is teaching our enemy to be non-violent. I believe we should protect ourselves by any means necessary when we are attacked by racists.

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What do you think is responsible for race prejudice in the U.S.?

MALCOLM X: Ignorance and greed. And a skillfully designed program of miseducation that goes right along with the American system of exploitation and oppression.

If the entire American population were properly educated—by properly educated, I mean given a true picture of the history and contributions of the Black man—I think many whites would

be less racist in their feelings. They would have more respect for the Black man as a human being. Knowing what the Black man’s contributions to science and civilization have been in the past, the white man’s feelings of superiority would be at least partially negated. Also, the feeling of inferiority that the Black man has would be replaced by a balanced knowledge of himself. He’d feel more like a human being. He’d function more like a human being, in a society of human beings.

So it takes education to eliminate it. And just because you have colleges and universities doesn’t mean you have education. The colleges and universities in the American educational system are skillfully used to miseducate.

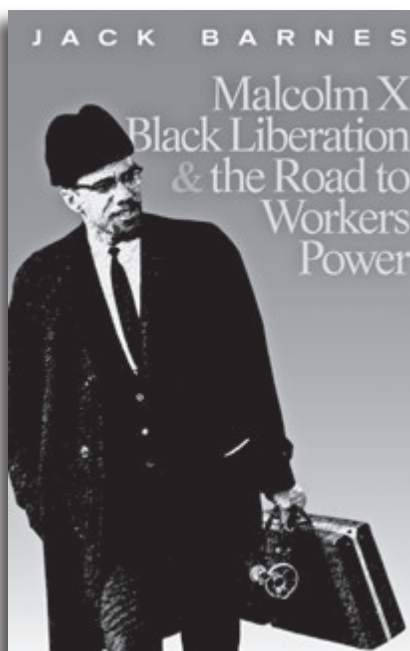
YOUNG SOCIALIST: What were the highlights of your trip to Africa?

MALCOLM X: I visited Egypt, Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanganyika and Zanzibar (now Tanzania), Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, and Algeria. During that trip I had audiences with President Nasser of Egypt, President Nyerere of Tanzania, President Jomo Kenyatta (who was then prime minister) of Kenya, Prime Minister Milton Obote of Uganda, President Azikiwe of Nigeria, President Nkrumah of Ghana, and President Sékou Touré of Guinea. I think the highlights were the audiences I had with those persons because it gave me a chance to sample their thinking. I was impressed by their analysis of the problem, and many of the suggestions they gave went a long way toward broadening my own outlook.

Special offer

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes



“This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States—from the Civil War and Radical Reconstruction to today—and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution. . . .”

Available for only \$15
Or \$10 with a subscription to the
Militant from one of the distributors
listed on page 8. (Include \$3 for
shipping if ordering from the *Militant*.)

PathfinderPress.com

* In 1962 Algeria won its independence from France following an eight-year war of liberation. At the time Malcolm is describing, a popular revolutionary government in Algeria led by Ahmed Ben Bella was organizing urban and rural working people to make increasing encroachments against capitalist social relations. That workers and peasants government was overthrown in a coup led by Houari Boumedienne in June 1965.

Housing and the capitalist system

The housing crisis confronting workers today is inextricably linked with the crisis of the capitalist system—nothing short of a revolutionary overturn of that system can open the door for working people to decent shelter over a lifetime.

The housing crisis, marked by residential foreclosures, soaring rents, and growing homelessness, has its roots in the late 1960s, when the average rate of profit made by the tiny minority that owns the banks, factories, mines, and mills began to decline. Facing sharp international competition for markets and unable to boost their profits by expanding industrial capacity and increasing production, the capitalists turned to trading in debt, including extending credit to low-paid workers in the form of credit cards, student loans, auto “financing,” subprime mortgages, and home equity loans.

The Democrats and Republicans, together with the Federal Reserve Bank, obligingly pushed through the measures needed to allow the rulers to blow up huge bubbles of debt, especially in the housing market.

The capitalists pushed more and more workers into buying houses. To the bankers it no longer mattered if the loans could be repaid. They were no longer “holding” that debt; they were slicing it up and repackaging it as a “financial product” to be sold to a new investor. And most capitalists could be certain *their* government would insure them against any losses.

The rulers had another motivation for creating more “homeowners” in the working class. As the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes points out, “Owning a house ties workers down with onerous mortgage payments and endless expenditures of time and

money. . . . It subverts our habits of class solidarity by elevating relations and problems we share in common with ‘fellow owners,’ ‘fellow property-holding taxpayers,’ over those with fellow workers.”

In his booklet *The Housing Question* Frederick Engels wrote about how the bosses use home ownership to put a brake on workers engaging in struggle: “Give them their own houses, chain them once again to the soil, and break their power of resistance” during “a big strike or a general industrial crisis.”

As much as the dream of home ownership is a scam to shackle the working class and make profits for the capitalists, so is President Barack Obama’s Home Affordable Modification Program, which supposedly helps people avoid foreclosure. Most of those qualifying for a mortgage payment reduction get strung along by the banks for a few more months or a year, and still lose their homes.

Obama recently lectured working people that they should stop asking for government relief and adopt “a traditional, more common sense way of thinking about housing, which is, if you want a house, you got to save for a while.”

What’s common sense for the working class is that no human being should be forced to live on the streets or in shabby, cramped quarters. Housing—attractive, clean, and roomy—is a human right.

What’s needed is a halt to house and farm foreclosures, along with a massive federal public works program to create millions of jobs building quality housing, schools, hospitals, and roads. More than that, there needs to be a fight for a revolutionary working-class government that would nationalize the land and housing stock to provide housing for all.

N.Y. cops kill mentally disturbed man

BY ANGEL LARISCY

NEW YORK—“Suicide by cop” is how a New York City police official described the killing of Emmanuel Paulino, in Manhattan’s Inwood neighborhood.

Paulino, 24, was on antidepressant medication and upset about his inability to find a job, according to friends and family. In the early morning hours of October 3 he allegedly called 911 and said, “I want you to call the cops because I’m ready to kill. . . . I’m ready to kill some cops right now.”

When six cops arrived, Paulino was fighting with his girlfriend on a street corner. As the police approached, he said, “Stay out of my business,” according to witnesses. Police say he wielded a four-inch knife and lunged at them after being hit with Taser darts.

Two cops opened fire, shooting him nine times, several times in the chest.

“He was walking in circles, not lunging,” Elisa-

beth Rodriguez told the *Daily News*. Family and friends told various media that despite their pleas the police made no effort to calm him down.

Paulino’s cousin, Alex Candalerio, said, “No one even gave the kid a chance.” He also said that no Taser was used on Paulino, despite police statements.

The city’s media was quick to defend the police action. A *New York Post* headline read, “Cops kill madman.”

A *Daily News* editorial justified the shooting and criticized New York City councilman Ydanis Rodriguez for standing with Paulino’s mother and asking for an investigation of the shooting. The editorial concluded, “Paulino was deranged. And that’s why he’s dead. He gave the cops no choice.”

“Suicide by cop.” There is no such thing; only the callous killing of a mentally disturbed young man.

GM to cut wages at Michigan plant

Continued from front page

on the agreement, reported the *Detroit Free Press*.

With labor costs drastically reduced, GM will move ahead on production of its Chevrolet subcompact “small car” as well as the 2012 Buick Verano compact sedan at Orion. Up to now its subcompact models have been produced at its plant in South Korea.

Pointing to the bankruptcies of GM and Chrysler last year, UAW assistant director Garry Bernath said the union had to make “very difficult decisions” to prevent the company from eliminating jobs. “During this crisis,” he told the *New York Times*, “the UAW developed a new understanding of the realities in the 21st-century global auto industry.”

This latest concession comes prior to contract talks with the Big Three—GM, Ford, and Chrysler—which are set to open next year. Both the

union and the company insist the Orion contract will not set a precedent.

GM first succeeded in getting the union to accept a two-tier wage structure in 2007 when hourly pay for new hires was cut to \$14 an hour.

As GM filed for bankruptcy in 2009, the union accepted further cuts, including the suspension of cost-of-living increases, bonuses, and some holiday pay, along with a strike ban over the next six years. In 2007 GM got out of paying health-care costs for half a million retirees by transferring responsibility to a trust fund run by the union. These concessions further weaken the union, creating new divisions within the workforce

The contract at the Orion Township plant comes a week after union workers at a GM stamping plant in Indianapolis defeated a proposed contract that would have cut unskilled workers’ wages almost in half.

Foreclosures

Continued from front page

loan modification in the last year and was rejected three times. They won’t give a reason.” Twenty percent of all foreclosures in August were in California, a state with 12.4 percent unemployment.

Nationwide, 95,000 people lost their houses to foreclosure in August, a 25 percent jump from a year ago and the highest monthly repossession rate on record, reports RealtyTrac.

Only 33,000 families qualified in August for temporary mortgage reduction under President Barack Obama’s Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), which guarantees that monthly mortgage payments cannot exceed 31 percent of the borrower’s income. But at the same time, 53,000 were dropped from HAMP because they couldn’t keep up even with a reduced mortgage.

Of \$45.6 billion in money allocated by the Troubled Asset Relief Program for housing assistance in 2008, only \$500 million has been spent.

Qualifying for a HAMP mortgage reduction will get even harder starting November 1, when the program will no longer include unemployment benefits in its calculation of potential borrowers’ income.

Many of those foreclosed have been forced to move in with family or friends, increasing the number of multifamily households by 11.6 percent in the last two years, according to the Census Bureau.

Rowena Suckow, a 48-year-old school bus driver, told a more and more familiar story to a national radio program. After losing her house back to the bank, she and her son moved in with her mother, who lives in a trailer in Florida. Suckow joins two sisters and a brother who also now live with relatives.

There is also an increase in people renting apartments because they have lost their houses. The increased demand has allowed landlords to jack up the rents by 0.6 percent, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. “We are getting more rent every time we either renew the lease or a new resident comes in,” gushed Jeffrey Friedman, chief executive of Associated Estates Realty Corp.

Citing questions about the validity of some of its eviction documents, Bank of America put a hold on foreclosures in all 50 states October 8. JPMorgan Chase, the GMAC Mortgage unit of Ally Bank, and PNC Financial Services froze foreclosures in 23 states. Some liberal Democrats and union officials called for a national moratorium on foreclosures.

The *Wall Street Journal*, however, warned that such a move would just delay the bottoming out of the mortgage crisis and drive house and apartment prices down further, affecting the entire economy. The White House agreed with the *Journal*. President Barack Obama’s adviser, David Axelrod, said, “There are in fact valid foreclosures that probably should go forward.”

Asked at a September 28 speech in New Mexico what the government was doing to protect veterans from foreclosure, Obama replied, “There’s no government program where we can just make sure that whoever is losing their home that we can just pick up the tab.” The president called for “a traditional, more common sense way of thinking about housing which is, if you want a house, you got to save for a while.”

A study published in the October *American Sociological Review* found that lenders deliberately steered Blacks into subprime loans where their mortgage rate would eventually soar far beyond their ability to pay. Blacks having a similar credit rating to whites and putting down the same deposit were more often offered subprime loans, even if they qualified for better terms. From 1993 to 2000 the number of subprime loans going to African Americans or Latinos rose from 2 percent to 18 percent.

Naomi Craine from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

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