

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Malcolm X: 'It's youth who are joining fight vs. oppression'

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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100 U.S. and British warplanes launch massive air assault on Iraq

Socialists campaign against U.S. war moves

BY ALICE KINCAID

CRAIG, Colorado—Jason Alessio, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the Third District in this state, launched his campaign at the annual Labor Day gathering in the nearby coal-mining and ranching town of Oak Creek.

Supporters of Alessio, a union coal miner, set up a campaign table at the event and introduced the socialist candidate to many of the hundreds of working people who attended from towns throughout the area.

"My campaign presents a fighting, working-class alternative to the twin parties of big business: the Democrats and Republicans. Two crucial and related questions facing working people are the imperialist war drive and the deepening depression conditions in the world," Alessio said after introducing himself to Paul Cruz, a retired miner and railroad worker from Craig.

Alessio explained his opposition to Washington's preparations for launching an invasion of Iraq. He outlined his campaign's program to unite working people in a fight for jobs, entitlements, and other social gains that are under attack.

Cruz replied, "Reagan tried to take away railroad retirement and then Clinton—from 'my' party, the Democratic Party—got in and tried the same thing," referring to former

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Militant/Top: Deborah Liatos; Bottom: Frank Powell
Top: Olympia Newton, Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state in California, campaigns at August 25 United Farm Workers rally in Sacramento. Bottom: Jason Alessio, right, socialist candidate for Congress in Colorado, speaks with rancher at Oak Creek Labor Day event. Center: Chicago hotel workers rally August 23 for wage hike and lower medical costs. Candidates are taking socialist message to fighting workers and farmers everywhere.

White House leads campaign for imperialist war in Mideast

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

On September 5 some 100 U.S. and British warplanes attacked air defenses in the west of Iraq, striking as close as 50 miles from the Jordanian border.

In the little-publicized action, nine U.S. F-15 Strike Eagles and three British Tornados took off from airfields in Kuwait, backed up by dozens of planes performing such tasks as fighter cover, midair refueling, and reconnaissance.

The aircraft dropped their precision-guided bombs on an Iraqi command and control facility and military airfield—the major such installation in the western region of the country.

U.S. and British planes carried out another bombing assault, this time southeast of Baghdad, on September 9. The "past few weeks have seen a resurgence of [hostile] activity in the no-fly zones," reported one major British daily.

U.S. military officials are organizing a simultaneous buildup of heavy military equipment in the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

In contrast to the United States, where the scale of the September 5 raid went virtually unreported, prominent papers in the United Kingdom described the attack in some detail. Its military purpose "could

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Protests greet U.S. bombing exercises over Vieques

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

As U.S. naval forces began another round of war exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, despite the overwhelming opposition of the Puerto Rican population, residents of Vieques and their supporters have stepped up their protests, braving arrests by military police and tear-gas assaults by U.S. Navy security officers.

The ship-to-shore and air-to-ground maneuvers, scheduled to last 23 days, began September 3. That same night, several protesters entered the Navy-occupied land on Vieques. The next morning, five supporters of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) were arrested there and detained at the U.S. military's Camp Garcia. The following day, three Vieques residents were held and interrogated by FBI agents. The protests have continued virtually daily, despite the arrests.

In New York, on the first day of the bombing of Vieques, dozens of people held a boisterous picket in Times Square, near the U.S. Navy recruiting center. "Vieques sí, Marina [Navy] no," they chanted.

Since World War II, when the U.S. government used Puerto Rico—its colony in the Caribbean—to establish a Navy bombing range on the small island of Vieques, to the east of the main island, fishermen and other Vieques residents have protested the in-

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New York City, Saturday, September 28

Communists and the World Struggle against Imperialism Today

Speakers

Jack Barnes

National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Jason Alessio

UMWA miner, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Colorado

Arrin Hawkins

Socialist workers candidate for lieutenant governor in New York State

Mary-Alice Waters

Editor of *New International*

Martin Koppel

Editor of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*

Ma'mud Shirvani

Farsi editor, Pathfinder Press

Olympia Newton

Young Socialists National Leadership Council, Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state in California

- ❖ Iraq and the Arabian peninsula: Washington's drive to redivide the region and dominate oil
- ❖ A new world depression is unfolding
- ❖ Deepening contradictions in U.S. labor: opportunities and dangers
- ❖ Campaigning for communism and responding to political openings

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Hotel workers in Chicago mobilize, win pay hike

BY CHESSIE MOLANO

CHICAGO—Hotel workers here, who have been mobilizing in a fight for a contract, voted 892 to 153 to approve a four-year agreement on September 5. Non-tipped workers won wage hikes of \$3.27 an hour, as well as a reduction in health insurance costs from \$85 per month to \$30 over the four years. The workers also won—for the

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Pathfinder opens new distribution center in Atlanta

BY BRIAN TAYLOR
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

ATLANTA—"We are on target to begin shipping books out tomorrow!" declared Holly Harkness to dozens of people gathered here September 1 to celebrate the opening of the Pathfinder distribution center in Atlanta.

Those present at the celebration barbecue had just completed two days of volunteer labor. Participants in this Red Weekend hailed from Charlotte, North Carolina; Houston; Miami; New York; and Tampa, Florida; as well as Atlanta.

By the afternoon of Labor Day, the volunteers had completed setting up the distribution center for Pathfinder Press, previously located in New York. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally launch the new facility, close to 30 orders of Pathfinder books were prepared for shipping.

"We've now turned a corner," said Harkness, "toward increasing sales of Pathfinder books many-fold over the coming months and years."

Harkness, organizer of the Atlanta-based steering committee that will centralize the work of the new distribution center, headed up the three-day effort. The other members of the committee are Bob Braxton and Maceo Dixon, also supporters of the SWP in Atlanta, and party leader Paul Mailhot.

The August 31–September 2 effort followed a Red Weekend in New York one week earlier, in which 130 volunteers from across the country packed the books, shelving, and other material into more than 1,200 boxes and readied them for their southern journey. There they also accomplished other tasks in the ongoing transformation of the facilities in New York where revolutionary books and pamphlets, along with the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, are published (see "Expanding communist propaganda and political education of working people" in September 16 issue of the *Militant*).

A public meeting on the evening of August 31 helped the Atlanta volunteers place their collective effort in the broader context

of the sharpening international class struggle, and the steps by socialist workers and youth to take advantage of the political opportunities they face today. The distribution center, located near the city's international airport, made an appropriate venue.

On behalf of the Atlanta hosts, SWP National Committee member James Harris welcomed the 90 participants and introduced SWP leader Norton Sandler, who chaired the event.

Turning point

"The double Red Weekend that we are in the midst of here tonight is a real turning point for the party as we have transformed ourselves and the entire movement over the last four years," said Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters in the feature presentation.

"We are creating the printshop and publishing house that we need today—one that is sustainable with the forces and resources we have, without having to give up a single one" of the books in Pathfinder's ambitious publishing program," she said. "In fact, quite the opposite. We have transformed the books into much more attractive, readable, and usable tools, and expanded significantly our capacity to produce new literature."

Waters illustrated her point by referring to three books whose blown-up covers were displayed at the front of the meeting. They were the new French-language edition of *The History of American Trotskyism, 1928–38: Report of a Participant*, by James P. Cannon, just printed with a new preface after the first edition sold out within three months; the upcoming, first-ever Spanish-language edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*; and *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba*, by Cuban author Tomás Díez Acosta, scheduled for publication in October.

Key to this successful effort, Waters said,



Militant/above: Linda Joyce; inset: Dave Wulp
Pathfinder supporters participate in Red Weekend of volunteer labor to set up revolutionary publishing house's distribution center in Atlanta September 1. Inset, Holly Harkness, organizer of distribution center's steering committee, discusses tasks with other supporters.

is the supporters of the communist movement, "a disciplined organization that is marching in lockstep with the party" and helping to "qualitatively transform the leverage and outreach" of the revolutionary party today.

These supporters are now taking responsibility for a campaign to increase the sales of Pathfinder books, she noted. With such an effort, they will help to "begin to reverse what is probably the single biggest discrepancy between the potential of our movement and what we have actually realized"—the level of sales and distribution of Pathfinder books. She stated that sales of these revolutionary titles can be rapidly multiplied by at least four or five times.

"What we are entering into now in the world is a period that will last for years," Waters said, "an extended period of capitalist economic crisis and of depression conditions that are intertwined with accelerating wars by imperialism. The preparation for war against Iraq is the sharpest"—but not the only—"assault on the horizon," she said, emphasizing that the imperialists themselves can't predict the broader scope and outcome of this offensive.

At the same time, Waters explained, "the giant speculative bubble that ended the upward part of the cycle of the long waves of capitalist development has burst." The weakening of the giant debt structure that was built up through the 1990s, she said, "threatens to bring down the entire house of cards for the imperialists. The capitalist equilibrium established by the imperialist victors in World War II is now, at an accelerating pace, becoming destabilized."

How this crisis, unfolding over years, will be resolved depends on the class struggle, Waters said, and on "the capacity of communist forces to play a leadership role in those struggles that are coming."

The other members of the panel at the meeting took up different aspects of the book publication and distribution program,

and the efforts by socialist workers to capitalize on political openings that have been around for several years.

A transit point, not a warehouse

"This distribution center is a transit point, not a warehouse," said Sandler. "Books will come here from Pathfinder's printshop in New York to be shipped rapidly to all parts of the world to reach working people and youth involved in struggles."

The work done by supporters of the communist movement in Atlanta over the last 18 months played a big role in the city's selection as the site of the new distribution center, he said. At the same time as they have made solid contributions to Pathfinder's Reprint Project, which began as an effort to digitize all Pathfinder titles and has expanded as the supporters have taken on increasing responsibilities, they have made advances in selling Pathfinder books and pamphlets to commercial bookstores and libraries.

"Volunteers in the Reprint Project have risen to the challenge of producing new books, not just reprints," said panelist Jim Altenberg, a member of the project's San Francisco-based steering committee. "We are now producing books in languages other than English—and not just in Spanish and French, but in Icelandic, which has a different alphabet. I look forward to Farsi."

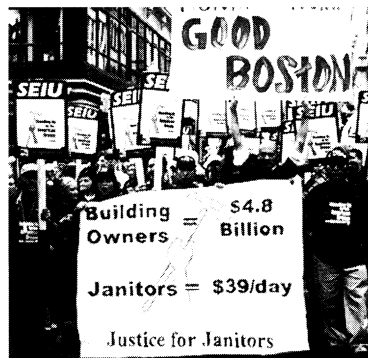
Altenberg elaborated on the plans to increase sales of revolutionary books through major outlets. The steering committee has launched a campaign to place Pathfinder books and pamphlets in dozens of bookstores and libraries across the country, he said. Volunteers have set a goal of 200 promotional visits by October 15, the publication date of *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba*, sales of which will be at the center of this stepped-up work. Supporters will also promote the new Spanish-language edition of *Malcolm X Talks to*

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THE MILITANT

Justice for janitors in Boston

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NY rulers use bonds to reap profits while they slash wages, services

BY JACK WILLEY

When New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg presented a \$41.4 billion budget plan earlier this year he proposed slashing funds to the Administration for Children's Services by nearly 18 percent and services for workers who are homeless by 17 percent. Programs for the elderly were to meet a similar fate.

The mayor is seeking to eliminate \$225 million in pension and health benefits owed to city workers and plans to scale back the building of new schools by 20 percent. And his administration has raised taxes on cigarettes, which now cost \$7.50 a pack.

Demonstrating his heartfelt concern for working people who have been pushed out of their homes, the billionaire resident of Gracie Mansion opened up an old prison with lead paint on the walls for a rapidly rising number of homeless families to sleep in.

Bloomberg has cast his plans to slash social entitlements in terms of the need for "fiscal responsibility." He claims he has no choice but to make cuts that hit working people the hardest in order to make up for a "budget deficit."

In response to these attacks, a series of labor struggles have taken place in recent months. More than 5,000 transit workers rallied April 24 to defend their health-care benefits, and workers struck the bus lines in Queens for two months this past summer around the same issue.

School teachers organized a number of protests for pay increases after having been without a contract since November 2000.

Many involved in these struggles do not buy City Hall's argument that working people must be the ones to put their heads on the chopping block. They know what Bloomberg is not saying: some people won't be "sharing the pain" or "making the sacrifices."

Municipal bonds

The wealthy rulers work hard to cover up the class realities of their system of exploitation, including how city governments operate to serve the interests of the billionaire minority. Municipal bonds are one of the

main vehicles they use to expand the wealth of the ruling rich at the expense of working people.

New York City, like many cities in the United States, is always in debt. It does not raise enough funds through taxes to cover its expenses. That shortfall is made up by issuing bonds—a source of easy profits for the parasitic ruling families.

Issuing a bond is similar to taking out a loan. For example, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey issued \$934 million in bonds in 1997 to finance the construction of a new terminal at JFK International Airport. It sold coupons to the financial houses Lehman Brothers and Citicorp, which are middlemen that turn around and sell the bonds to the capitalist families. The Port Authority agreed to pay an average of 6.2 percent interest a year on a variety of bonds.

Written on each bond are the words, "Full faith and credit," meaning the government body that issues them guarantees they will be paid. And the guarantee is that bondholders will always be at the head of the line when it comes to the city budget. They are never on the list of those who must "share the pain," as Bloomberg prescribed for working people. When a city builds up a deficit, it's the wages and benefits of city employees, as well as city services and public education that working people rely on, that take a back seat. This dirty little secret is never explained in the daily barrage of articles by the big-business press on the "budget crisis."

State comptroller Carl McCall, now the Democratic Party candidate for governor, said that since 1998 in New York City, "stop-gap measures have substituted for the hard-choice changes that must be made if capital programs are to succeed," signaling deeper cuts in social services and other programs.

Municipal bonds, together with U.S. Treasury bills, are the prerogative of the very rich. They are not sold directly to the public, but through registered broker dealers. Each coupon sells for tens of thousands of dollars, putting them well out of the reach of working people and many in the middle class. Billionaire ex-presidential candidate



Thousands of city transit workers rallied in Manhattan in April to oppose threats to their health-care benefits. Capitalist rulers target working people's wages and social entitlements while prioritizing payment of billions of dollars in bonds to rich investors.

Ross Perot, for instance, is one of the biggest individual holders of municipal bonds in the United States.

Rising cost of debt service

New York City owes \$42 billion to bondholders, which would translate into some \$5,000 "owed" by each city resident. This figure has more than doubled during the "boom years" of the 1990s. A large portion of the city budget goes toward paying off these obligations. In 2002 the city will spend one out of every five tax dollars to pay debt service—principal and interest—straight into the coffers of these billionaire coupon clippers.

In the state budget, debt service costs are the fastest-growing categories of spending. Some \$4.4 billion dollars was turned over to bondholders in the last fiscal year, a 47 percent increase from 1997. New York's \$1.948 in debt per person is more than double the national average and ranks fourth highest among the states in tax-supported debt per person.

Just how much do the city and state governments combined pay each year in debt service to the superwealthy minority? Some \$8 billion, not counting "independent" public agencies whose debt and interest payments far exceed both the city and state.

To top it off, municipal bonds are tax free. The wealthy holders of state and local debt do not have to pay any federal, state, or local taxes on the interest they rake in.

Because New York City is constrained by

the state constitution to issuing only general obligation bonds with a cap on how much debt the city can incur, the rulers have set up a host of different corporations to sell bonds. These include the Municipal Water Authority, the Health and Hospitals Corporation, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, the Transitional Finance Authority, and the Tobacco Settlement Asset Securitization Corporation.

The city issued tobacco bonds in 1999, and is considering doing so again. It is selling coupons backed by promised funds from a national lawsuit settlement with tobacco companies, which are to pay the money over a 25-year period.

The cash up front does not come free. Because of the extra risk involved, the city is paying a premium to those who buy the tobacco bonds. Interest rates for these bonds generally run 40 basis points (1 basis point equals 0.01 percent) higher than debt backed by income tax revenues and 30 basis points higher than general obligation debt paid out from general revenues.

Another agency, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, owns and operates the region's three major airports, New York/New Jersey bridge and tunnel crossings, port districts, and the PATH commuter rail system.

To pay for bonds issued on a \$9 billion five-year capital program, the Port Authority jacked up fares and tolls in 2001. Tolls at bridges and tunnels went from \$4 to \$6 and fares on the PATH train rose from \$1 to a \$1.50.

Port Authority Chief Operating Officer Ernesto Butcher claimed, "The new toll and fare structure is a well-reasoned plan that will address traffic congestion by providing travelers with an incentive to change their commuting habits to off-peak hours, and by encouraging the use of mass transit."

In fact, the increases are another form of taxation of working people and the middle class.

The Port Authority runs a \$4.5 billion annual budget. Of that, \$500 million a year is handed over to bondholders for payments on interest and principal.

The rulers don't leave to chance who will oversee these massive financial operations. For example, the chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Peter Kalikow, is president of H.J. Kalikow & Co., one of New York City's largest real estate firms. He is also the governor of the Real Estate Board of New York and former owner and publisher of the *New York Post*. Although the MTA does not post its profits, it collects fares from more than 2.3 billion subway, bus, and commuter rail riders each year; and tolls on the bridges and tunnels from 300 million drivers a year.

In addition to New York State's \$38 billion debt, the total debt at the end of 2000 for public corporations such as the MTA and the Port Authority stood at \$65.8 billion. Added together, the serviceable debt from the New York City government, state government, and state-backed agencies comes to more than \$145 billion—a virtually endless trough for the capitalist class.

That is why city workers are right when they reject the "budget deficit" argument used by big-business politicians to justify their austerity demands. For the labor movement, the needs of working people—not the employers and wealthy coupon-clippers—must come first.

Jack Willey is the Socialist Workers candidate for New York State comptroller.

Protests greet Navy exercises on Vieques

Continued from front page

fringement of the U.S. military on their land. Many in Puerto Rico have opposed Washington's use of Vieques over the years as a training ground for invasions or assaults on other countries, from Grenada and Nicaragua to Yugoslavia and now Iraq. In addition, the repeated bombings, as well as the storage of hazardous materials, have had a devastating effect on the residents' livelihoods and health.

The protests erupted anew in 1999, when a U.S. warplane dropped an "errant" bomb that killed a local resident, David Sanes. Since then, thousands have taken to the streets of Puerto Rico and several U.S. cities with large Puerto Rican populations to demand the Navy's withdrawal. Numerous protesters have entered the Navy-occupied territory in acts of mass civil disobedience that have enjoyed wide popularity in Puerto Rico. Up to 1,500 protesters have been arrested for "trespassing" and other charges.

In face of these sustained demonstrations, then-president William Clinton signed an agreement with the colonial governor at the time, Pedro Rosselló, saying that the U.S. Navy would withdraw by May 2003 if Vieques residents voted for such action in a referendum. While U.S. authorities canceled the scheduled November 2001 referendum, a big majority voted for immediate withdrawal of the Navy in a nonbinding referendum organized in July by the Puerto Rican administration of Sila Calderón. Since George Bush took office his administration has verbally said it will abide by the Clinton-Rosselló accord, but the continued military maneuvers have created skepticism among many opponents of the Navy's presence.

The current maneuvers involve 10 surface ships, 2 attack submarines and 80



Opponent of the U.S. Navy in Vieques, Puerto Rico, holds one of the smaller U.S. bombs used by the Pentagon in its war exercises on the island.

planes in the USS *Harry S. Truman* Battle Group. The round of exercises—the first since April and the third since September 11 of last year—was launched as the White House cranked up its preparations for an invasion of Iraq.

By the third day of their three-week duration, the exercises were getting into full swing, as a squadron of F-14 and F-18 jets dropped bombs on the 900-acre bombing range at the island's eastern tip, and the destroyer USS *Briscoe* and the guided missile destroyer USS *Mitscher* fired five-inch shells and other munitions, along with flare tracers, in ship-to-shore training. The Navy claims more than two-thirds of the island's

51 square miles.

Over the past year, U.S. courts have been handing down stiffer sentences and fines against opponents of the Naval exercises since Washington accelerated its preparations for war abroad and attacks on workers' rights in the United States. Robert Rabin, a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, was given a six-month sentence; he is due to be released in October, reported Ismael Guadalupe, another leader of the committee. Six-month sentences against anti-Navy protesters have increasingly become the norm. Guadalupe said in a telephone interview from Vieques.

Socialist campaigning helps kick off 10-week subscription drive

BY JACK WILLEY

In the opening weekend of the fall subscription and book campaign, supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* started out strong in cities around the country and internationally. The drive, running from September 7 to November 17, is a combined effort to sell 1,100 new and renewed subscriptions to the *Militant* and 500 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as 725 copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* and *New International* magazine. The Socialist Workers election campaigns, presenting an alternative to the twin parties of the ruling rich and their drive toward war and economic depression, are giving a boost to the drive.

In the run-up to the campaign, Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters in California racked up some impressive results in sales to farm workers. Bernie Senter from San Francisco reported that at the United Farm Workers (UFW) convention held on the August 31-September 1 weekend, participants picked up nine subscriptions to the *Militant* and 10 to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Nan Bailey and Deborah Liatos, the socialist candidates for state governor and U.S. Congress respectively, attended the convention and set up a campaign table. Farm workers from Watsonville, Oxnard, and the San Joaquin Valley, as well as high school students and others, bought the paper and magazine. A longshore worker from Los Angeles who was interested in learning more about the Cuban Revolution and communist leader Ernesto Che Guevara bought \$30 in Pathfinder books. He had purchased previous issues of the *Militant* on the docks. Another participant took advantage of the \$25 special offer for the *Militant* and *Capitalism's World Disorder*.

The total sales for the 11-day UFW march from Merced to Sacramento, the August 25 Sacramento rally supporting the farm workers' struggles to organize, and the UFW convention totaled 35 subscriptions to the social-

ist press and some \$850 in Pathfinder books.

On September 9 socialist workers in Alabama kicked off their campaign at a march in Anniston to protest the U.S. Army's planned start-up of a chemical weapons incinerator at the local army depot. Residents have fought the project for years.

Susan LaMont, socialist candidate for U.S. Senate, lent her solidarity and explained her opposition to imperialism and its mounting war drive against Iraq, receiving a good response from the largely youthful protesters. LaMont and her supporters sold a subscription and 17 copies of the *Militant* as well as a copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

Lisa Potash from Chicago reported that one worker bought a *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription at a picnic involving meatpacking workers embroiled in a fight for benefits following the closing of their plant.

"We also sold a *Militant* subscription renewal and a new subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial* along with a copy of *Nueva Internacional* at a Militant Labor Forum," she noted.

Socialist candidates in Chicago carried out soapbox street campaigning in a working-class neighborhood, netting one new subscriber to the *Militant* and four to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and signing up those interested in the campaign.

At a sale at the entrance to a Perdue meat processing plant in the Charlotte area, one worker asked, "So this magazine will explain how we can fight for the working class?" When he was told yes, he pulled out his money and said, "I'll try it out."

Socialist campaigners for Lisa Rottach, who is running for governor of Nebraska, found a similar hunger for political ideas as they campaigned leading up to Labor Day weekend. Meatpackers at Nebraska Beef in Omaha were greeted by campaign supporters at a table near the plant that featured poster-size copies of the front page of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.



Militant/Darryl Sheppard

Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C., campaigning at the University of the District of Columbia. Socialist candidates are getting a good hearing among workers and young people, helping to boost subscription effort.

A former co-worker of Rottach's from ConAgra's Northern States Beef plant told campaigners, "You guys are nonstop!" He had run into them on street tables before, and this time decided to buy a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. Several others bought copies of the paper.

The *Militant* office has been sent other examples of the interest among working people and youth in the socialist press and books that explain the underpinnings of the world crisis facing capitalism today. We look forward to receiving more. All contributions to this column should be sent to the *Militant* no later than Sunday evening in order to make it into the following issue.

Protesters in Washington's Yakima Valley oppose cop assault and frame-up of worker

BY DENNIS BRYSON

YAKIMA, Washington—In an angry protest against police violence, dozens of people marched in front of the police headquarters here September 3, chanting in English and Spanish, "Stop Police Brutality" and "Drop the Charges." They were demanding that the cops who beat and arrested Ricardo Jiménez be prosecuted and that the charges against him be dropped.

The Jiménez family was hosting a baptism party for their two-year-old son on August 31 when the gathering was attacked by police. Lucil Jiménez, wife of Ricardo, reported there were 40 guests at her home,

including 15 children.

"One cop showed up and told us to turn down the music and lights. We did," she said. "An hour later more police came and wanted to speak to my husband. They wanted him to come outside off our property to speak to them. My husband refused. More police came and one rushed into the house and knocked Ricardo to the floor. The cop handcuffed him and then began beating him."

"More police came into the house and one hit an 11-year-old girl with a baton, and they pepper sprayed everyone in sight, including the children."

The police claim Jiménez's guests attacked them. One cop told the *Yakima Herald-Republic*, "A crowd of 30 to 50 people began hitting officers and tugging at their firearms." The newspaper also noted that according to court papers, the cops reported they hit Ricardo Jiménez "several times."

Lucil Jiménez replied, "The police are lying about being attacked. Almost half of the guests at my house were under 12 years old. We don't know why they beat my husband."

Another witness to the assault was Demencio Abundiz, cousin of 26-year-old Ricardo. "The police got angry at my cousin because he refused to go outside the house and told the police they could not come inside," he said. "The police would not tell him what they wanted. Ricardo refused and they attacked him. We videotaped the attack. They even pointed a gun at me and told me to turn off the camera. The cops think they can do whatever they want." Describing the huge police presence, Abundiz said, "I stopped counting at 17 patrol cars, including riot police and dogs."

According to other witnesses, children were roughed up and pepper sprayed by the cops. Lucil Jiménez said, "We took two children to the hospital. One was five and the other 11. The five year old was bleeding from the nose from the pepper spray and the hospital refused to treat her because we had no insurance."

Among the pickets were representatives of the Washington Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees, United Farm Workers (UFW), Western Council of Industrial Workers, and Socialist Workers Party.

UFW organizer Ana Guzmán said in an interview, "I am here to support my community and all those who are treated like this. I'm opposed to police brutality and came to demand justice for Ricardo."

Rogelio Montes, an organizer for the Western Council of Industrial Workers and an organizer of the protest, said, "I was a guest at the celebration and I saw what happened. We organized this protest in less than 24 hours. It is a good start. We are out here to get justice. We will do another picket this Friday."

Jiménez, who is being held on \$25,000 bail, was arraigned September 5. He was charged with two counts of assaulting a police officer, forgery, resisting arrest, and giving a false statement to police. If convicted of all charges Jiménez could face more than 16 years in prison and pay up to \$36,000 in fines. Members of the Jiménez family and their supporters are raising funds to cover the bail.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Drive Goals September 7–November 17

Country	Militant Goal	PM Goal	Book Goal
Australia	28	6	12
Canada			
Montreal	15	10	20
Toronto	30	5	25
Vancouver	30	5	20
Canada total	75	20	65
Iceland	9	1	25
New Zealand			
Auckland	20	1	5
Christchurch	12	1	4
N.Z. total	32	2	9
Sweden			
Gothenburg	15	3	10
Stockholm	12	3	5
Sweden Total	27	6	15
United Kingdom			
Dundee	10		8
London	45	15	20
UK total	55	15	28
United States			
Atlanta	35	15	25
Birmingham	22	10	12
Boston	28	20	25
Brooklyn	50	25	40
Brownsville	8	2	6
Charlotte	20	8	20
Chicago	45	30	25
Cleveland	28	7	15
Des Moines	25	12	12
Detroit	43	12	25
Houston	35	15	30
Los Angeles	45	30	25
Miami	30	10	25
NE Pennsylvania	30	7	15
Newark	55	35	25
NY Garment Dist.	65	35	60
Omaha	15	23	12
Philadelphia	25	10	15
Pittsburgh	40	4	15
San Francisco	30	20	20
Seattle	40	12	30
Tampa	25	8	12
Tucson	5	1	5
Twin Cities	55	30	25
Upper Manhattan	50	35	30
Washington	30	12	25
Western Colorado	20	10	12
U.S. total	899	438	586
Int'l totals	1125	488	740
Goal/Should be	1100	500	725
IN THE UNIONS			
	Militant Goal	PM Goal	Book Goal
New Zealand			
NDU	2		1
MWU	3		1
Total	5		2
United States			
UMWA	25	4	13
UNITE	50	40	60
UFCW	50	65	60
Total	125	109	133

From Pathfinder

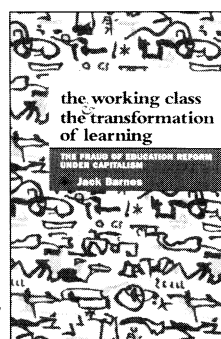
The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

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. That is the historic truth." **\$3.00**

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Socialists campaign against imperialist war

Continued from front page
presidents Ronald Reagan and William Clinton.

The Third Congressional District encompasses most of western Colorado, including all of Colorado's working coal mines and much of its sheep ranches. Alessio, 25, is an underground miner at the Deserado mine in Rangely, Colorado. He is a member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1984. Alessio is also a member of the Young Socialists.

'No foreclosures'

This year's drought has forced ranchers in this state to sell more than half of their herds at rock-bottom prices because they cannot afford to buy hay to feed the cattle. At the Labor Day event, rancher Susan Rossi told Alessio, "The hay program doesn't meet the needs of local ranchers, with the price of hay up to \$185 a ton plus costs for trucking." He explained to her, "Our campaign calls on the federal government to provide immediate, massive relief funds for all working farmers and ranchers affected by the drought. We join in the fight to demand an end to farm and ranch foreclosures."

Rossi's husband was president of a UMWA local at a surface mine during a fight in the 1980s when the company, Energy Fuel, decided to close the mine and open up the non-union, underground Twenty Mile mine. "We organized a real fight, setting up picket lines at the mine and getting the word out in coalfields throughout the country," she said.

During the Labor Day action, many young people came up to the campaign table and signed up to find out more about the activities of Young Socialists for Alessio. They were attracted to the socialists' opposition to Washington's war drive and interested in the perspective of making a revolution to bring about a workers and farmers government.

By the end of the day campaigners had



Don Mackle, center, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Michigan, won a good hearing from workers at the Detroit Labor Day festival.

distributed dozens of campaign statements and sold 12 copies of the *Militant*, a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and several Pathfinder books.

When campaign director Jeff Powers went to Denver to submit a notarized affidavit at the secretary of state's office to certify Alessio as an official write-in candidate, he was interviewed by the Pueblo *Chieftain* and the Associated Press. Coverage on Alessio's campaign appeared in the *Chieftain* and on radio stations throughout the region.

"Our campaign is getting quite a response from my co-workers," Alessio reported. "A surface miner I worked with came up to me and asked, 'Is it true you are running for Congress?'" He had heard it announced on a Utah radio station. He shook my hand and said, 'That's great!' He called over another co-worker and told him I was running.

"Another co-worker asked about my campaign. I told him this campaign is not about me—it's about workers and farmers standing up and defending our rights. He said he was glad I was running."

Campaigners also took the socialist alternative to the big Colowyo surface mine, where they gave out a lot of flyers and sold two copies of the *Militant*. Alessio was joined by two supporters with a prominent sign reading, "Alessio for Congress—Socialist Workers Party—No to Washington's Imperialist War Drive." Just about every car stopped and miners in several cars spoke to the candidate at length. One miner, at first thinking Alessio was a Democrat or Republican, said neither party represented working people. When he realized Alessio was running on the Socialist Workers ticket he said, "Oh, you are the type of candidate I vote for!"

Another team went to the Trapper Mine, a union surface mine, and received a similar response. One miner stopped and said, "Yeah, I heard he threw his hat in the ring this morning on the radio. I wish him good luck."

Over the weekend, Alessio and his supporters went to the town of Meeker and set up a campaign table at a bluegrass band concert in the park, speaking with many ranchers and miners. A *Rio Blanco Herald* reporter approached Alessio to ask for an interview.

Socialists also campaigned door to door, went to a sheepdog contest, and set up a table at a store in Craig to meet working people. At the store, one rancher, who said he lost most of his crop and has received no government aid, volunteered to give Alessio a tour of the drought-stricken ranch land around Craig and help write an article for the *Militant*, to which he decided to subscribe.



BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Socialist Workers campaigners around the country hit the streets on Labor Day weekend. In several cities they went to the local Labor Day rallies to present their communist perspective to other workers. They met several workers interested in the campaign.

Because of the pro-war, patriotic theme of the rallies organized by the AFL-CIO officialdom, the socialist campaigners did not march in the parades, but they plunged into political discussions and received a wide hearing from unionists they spoke with.

In New York, the Central Labor Council officials had organized a rally ceremony that, in the name of commemorating "our union brothers and sisters who died" on September 11, gave union cover to the U.S. employers' drive toward a war of plunder in the Mideast. Nonetheless, socialist campaigners set up a table next to the crowd and engaged in nonstop discussions. "Not only did we not encounter any hostile response from workers there, we sold out all 15 copies of the *Militant* we had brought with us, and we passed out a lot of campaign leaflets," reported Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 14th District.

In northeastern Pennsylvania, Betsy Farley, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 11th District, launched her campaign by joining the picket lines of striking teachers in Hazleton, and meeting garment workers at the entrance to the Hollander Home Fashions plant in Frackville. At the Labor Day parade they received a warm response from numerous workers. A retired garment worker, part of a group of retired unionists, said she was glad to hear someone speaking up against Washington's war campaign. A young janitor said he was registered to vote Socialist Workers but it was the first time he had met an SWP candidate. He invited Bill Shriver, a young socialist campaigner, to come back and discuss the campaign the next weekend.

At the Philadelphia Labor Day rally, a team of campaigners introduced Hilda Cuzco, the socialist candidate for lieutenant governor in Pennsylvania, to workers in different union contingents, including members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), Laborers International Union, and teachers union.

Many of the longshore workers, organized in the ILA or Laborers, were particularly interested in the Socialist Workers championing of the West Coast longshore workers battle for a contract and their opposition to the U.S. government using "national security" as a pretext to intervene on the side of the shipping bosses. A young Laborer and an ILA member in particular expressed interest and signed up to be contacted about the Young Socialists for Lane and Cuzco. Anthony Lane, a union coal miner in Pittsburgh, is the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of the state.

In New York, a team of supporters of socialist congressional candidate William Estrada soapboxed in Washington Heights. "We took turns getting up on the milk crate," said Seth Dellinger, one of those campaigning with Young Socialists for Koppel and Hawkins, the SWP gubernatorial ticket. "Afterward, some of us went to the campaign headquarters and took part in a class on one of the pamphlets we've been campaigning with, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, by Jack Barnes. We were joined by a young electrician who just met our campaign."

New contributors to Pathfinder Fund are key

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The \$105,000 Pathfinder Fund campaign is off and running. Across the United States and other countries, supporters of Pathfinder's efforts to publish books and pamphlets on revolutionary working-class politics are soliciting contributions from fellow workers, farmers, young people, and others.

From the very beginning, the campaigners are working to raise and collect funds on a steady, weekly basis, which means collecting \$9,450 a week internationally for each of the 11 weeks of the drive. To ensure this, contributors are being urged to make regular payments on their pledges.

Pathfinder partisans in Philadelphia organized a successful fund-raising meeting September 7. They hosted a forum on the class struggle in South America today and prospects for building the communist movement in the United States. The featured speakers were *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel and Young Socialists leader Romina Green, both of whom went to Paraguay and Argentina in July to meet working people and youth looking for a communist perspective.

Local fund director Bob Stanton reports, "Their political talks made clear the impact of the books from Pathfinder and the revolutionary continuity they represent for fighters around the world today. During the collection, seven new pledges were made, bringing the total pledged from the area up to \$4,140." This meant an increase in Philadelphia's goal from \$3,500.

Expanding first-time contributors

Stanton points out that "several of the pledges are from first-time contributors who appreciate Pathfinder books and want to help in getting them out to more people. One worker from the area near the bookstore took a pledge envelope with him to consider what his pledge should be, promising to return it later this week."

Pathfinder Fund campaigners in some cities are considering taking on a goal for how many first-time contributors they can win through the course of the drive. Their objective is to expand the campaign well beyond longtime supporters of Pathfinder books to include others who know they depend on these revolutionary political tools. They

are also sending fund appeal letters to potential contributors.

Steve Clark, editorial director of Pathfinder, will speak on "Imperialism's Course Toward Depression and War" at meetings both in New York's Garment District fund meeting, on September 13, and in Newark, New Jersey, on September 20. Clark is editor of the new, expanded edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, which, along with the first-ever Spanish-language edition, *Malcolm X habla a la juventud*, is being released this fall. The meetings help fund campaigners bolster their efforts to solicit new contributions and to gather payments on pledges.

In New York, Pathfinder supporters have also been stepping up their work to promote and sell revolutionary titles to bookstores, libraries, and other outlets.

Gale Shangold, who directs the book sales effort in New York, said, "New York City supporters know we are in one of the best book markets in the world, whose potential we've never tapped. We have taken a goal of making 25 visits to book buyers by October 15. We've already made six visits. We plan to send out a promotional flyer on Pathfinder's new book, *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Díez Acosta, by e-mail and fax to 200 buyers as a way to get appointments and orders."

"Another project we will be tackling is to send a press release to periodicals in the area, including newspapers with readerships in the Black and Latino communities," Shangold said. This new book will come off the presses on the eve of the 40th anniversary of when Washington pushed the world to the precipice of nuclear war by threatening to bomb and invade revolutionary Cuba if it did not remove nuclear missiles supplied by the Soviet Union. Díez describes in the book how "Cuba defended, with dignity and courage, its self-determination and sovereignty," staying the hand of the imperialist warmakers.

October 1962 and other Pathfinder titles will be featured at the Pathfinder booth at the "New York is Book Country" street fair September 29, where several hundred thousand people will browse the book stalls set up along Fifth Avenue. It will be a golden opportunity to gain new readers of Pathfinder books and literature.

\$105,000 Pathfinder Fund			
	Goal	Paid	%
Charlotte	3,000	1,100	37%
San Francisco	8,500	1,350	16%
Western Colorado	2,600	375	14%
Pittsburgh	4,200	400	10%
Newark	3,600	323	9%
NY Garment District	5,000	430	9%
Boston	2,700	200	7%
Des Moines	1,200	75	6%
Miami	2,100	120	6%
Birmingham	3,100	100	3%
Upper Manhattan	3,600	110	3%
Philadelphia	3,500	100	3%
Houston	4,500	115	3%
Northeast PA	1,200	15	1%
Atlanta	4,250	50	1%
Omaha	900	10	1%
Tampa	2,000	20	1%
Detroit	3,000	20	1%
Chicago	5,500	25	0%
Los Angeles	9,500	10	0%
Brooklyn	3,200	0	0%
Cleveland	1,500	0	0%
Seattle	7,500	0	0%
Twin Cities	5,000	0	0%
Washington DC	3,000	0	0%
Other		574	
U.S. Total	94,150	5,522	6%
Sweden	1,400	100	7%
New Zealand	1,200	40	3%
Australia	1,300	0	0%
Canada	4,500	0	0%
Iceland	150	0	0%
United Kingdom	1,200	0	0%
France			
International total	103,900	6,236	6%
Int'l goal/should be	105,000	9,450	9%

'It's young people who are joining fight'

Pathfinder to release new, expanded edition of 'Malcolm X Talks to You'

This fall Pathfinder Press will issue a new, expanded edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, as well as the first-ever Spanish-language edition, *Malcolm X habla a la juventud*. Printed below are excerpts from two pieces that appear in the book. The first is from an interview Malcolm gave to the *Young Socialist* magazine on Jan. 18, 1965, at the request of the Young Socialist Alliance leadership.

The second piece, which has been newly added to the 2002 edition, is an article titled "Two Interviews," by Jack Barnes, written to mark the one-year anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. In it Barnes, one of the two young socialists who conducted the interview, describes his meeting with Malcolm X a few days later at which Malcolm reviewed and approved the final text. The interview appear in the March-April 1965 issue of the *Young Socialist*.

The anniversary article by Barnes originally appeared in the Feb. 21, 1966, issue of the *Militant*. Barnes is currently national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

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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

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 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

anyone who wants to teach our people non-violence until someone at the same time is teaching our enemy to be nonviolent. I believe we should protect ourselves by any means necessary when we are attacked by racists....

Young Socialist: How much influence does revolutionary Africa have on the thinking of Black people in this country?

Malcolm X: All the influence in the world. You can't separate the militancy that's displayed on the African continent from the militancy that's displayed right here among American Blacks. The positive image that is developing of Africans is also developing in the minds of Black Americans, and consequently they develop a more positive image of themselves. Then they take more positive steps—actions.

So you can't separate the African revolution from the mood of the Black man in America. Neither could the colonization of Africa be separated from the menial position that the Black man in this country was satisfied to stay in for so long. Since Africa has gotten its independence through revolution, you'll notice the stepped-up cry against discrimination that has appeared in the Black community.

Young Socialist: How do you view the role of the U.S. in the Congo?

Malcolm X: As criminal. Probably there is no better example of criminal activity against an oppressed people than the role the U.S. has been playing in the Congo, through her ties with Tshombe and the mercenaries.¹ You can't overlook the fact that Tshombe gets his money from the U.S. The money he uses to hire these mercenaries—these paid killers imported from South Africa—comes from the United States. The pilots that fly these planes have been trained by the U.S. The bombs themselves that are blowing apart the bodies of women and children come from the U.S. So I can only view the role of the United States in the Congo as a criminal role. And I think the seeds she is sowing in the Congo she will have to harvest. The chickens that she has turned loose over there have got to come home to roost.

Young Socialist: What about the U.S. role in South Vietnam?

Malcolm X: The same thing. It shows the real ignorance of those who control the American power structure. If France, with all types of heavy arms, as deeply entrenched as she was in what then was called Indochina, couldn't stay there, I don't see how anybody in their right mind can think the U.S. can get in there—it's impossible. So it shows her ignorance, her blindness, her lack of foresight and hindsight; and her complete defeat in South Vietnam is only a matter of time....

Young Socialist: What is your opinion of the Democratic Party?

Malcolm X: The Democratic Party is

responsible for the racism that exists in this country, along with the Republican Party. The leading racists in this country are Democrats. Goldwater isn't the leading racist—he's a racist but not the leading racist.² The racists who have influence in Washington, D.C., are Democrats. If you check, whenever any kind of legislation is suggested to mitigate the injustices that Negroes suffer in this country, you will find that the people who line up against it are members of Lyndon B. Johnson's party. The Dixiecrats are Democrats. The Dixiecrats are only a subdivision of the Democratic Party, and the same man over the Democrats is over the Dixiecrats....³

Young Socialist: What part in the world revolution are youth playing, and what lessons may this have for American youth?

Malcolm X: If you've studied the captives being caught by the American soldiers in South Vietnam, you'll find that these guerrillas are

young people. Some of them are just children and some haven't yet reached their teens. Most are teenagers. It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. In the Congo, the refugees point out that many of the Congolese revolutionaries are children. In fact, when they shoot captive revolutionaries, they shoot all the way down to seven years old—that's been reported in the press. Because the revolutionaries are children, young people. In these countries the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist. And here in this country, it has been my own observation that when you get into a conversation on racism and discrimination and segregation, you will find young people are more incensed over it—they feel more filled with an urge to eliminate it.

I think young people here can find a powerful example in the young *simbas* [lions] in the Congo and the young fighters in South Vietnam.

Another point: as the dark-skinned nations of this earth become independent, as they develop and become stronger, that means that time is on the side of the American Negro. At this point the American Negro is still hospitable and friendly and forgiving. But if he is continually tricked and deceived and so on, and if there is still no solution to his problems, he will become completely disillusioned, disenchanted, and disassociate himself from the interest of America and its society. Many have done that already.

Young Socialist: What is your opinion of the worldwide struggle now going on between capitalism and socialism?

Malcolm X: It is impossible for capitalism to survive, primarily because the system of capitalism needs some blood to suck.

¹The prime minister of the newly independent government of the Congo was Patrice Lumumba, who had led the liberation struggle there. Washington and Brussels moved swiftly to prepare the overthrow of the Lumumba government. In face of attacks by Belgian troops, units of mercenaries, and the forces of the imperialist-backed secessionist regime of Moise Tshombe in southern Katanga province, Lumumba took the fatal step of requesting military help from the United Nations. In September 1960 Congolese army officer Joseph Mobutu, at the instigation of Washington and Brussels, deposed Lumumba. He was later arrested and, as UN forces looked on, handed over to Tshombe's forces, who murdered him in January 1961. In 1964 Tshombe was installed as prime minister of the central government in the Congo.

²In the 1964 presidential election, the Republican candidate Barry Goldwater was defeated by the Democratic candidate Lyndon B. Johnson.

³The Dixiecrats were the openly segregationist wing of the Democratic Party dominant at the time in most of the U.S. South.



Youth fight back against cop assault during civil rights battle in Birmingham, Alabama, in May 1963.



Militant/Eli Finer

Protest at the United Nations in New York against U.S.-Belgian intervention in Congo, Dec. 4, 1964. Third from left is Clifton DeBerry, Socialist Workers presidential candidate, at whose initiative this and similar actions were called nationwide.

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,

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

against oppression'

g People' this fall

Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now it's more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody's blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the helpless. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It's only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely.

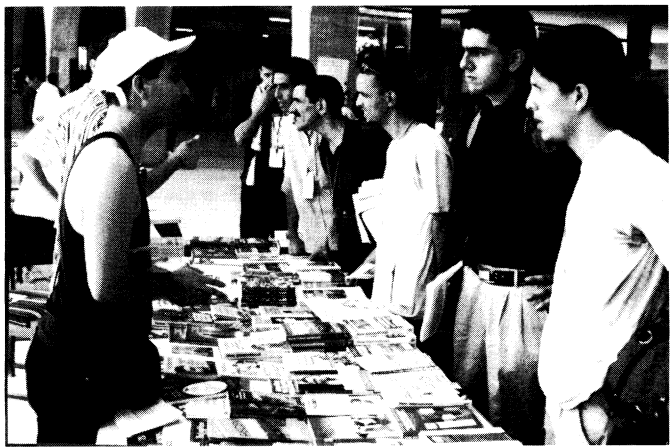


BY JACK BARNES

Robert Penn Warren interviewed a man named Malcolm X in June, 1964, and I helped to interview a man with the same name in January 1965. I phrase it that way because, after reading Warren's account, I almost wondered if we had interviewed the same man. Of course, the difference was really in the interviewers, in their attitudes and assumptions.

Warren⁴ was born and raised in the South and, as a young man, believed in segregation. He has spent much of his life in the North as a writer and teacher, and is now against segregation. Stirred by the Negro upsurge, he wanted to find out more about what Negroes think. So he set out to interview many of them for his book, *Who Speaks for the Negro?* (Random House, 1965).

His approach is that of a liberal. One of



Young Socialists sell Pathfinder literature at World Festival of Youth and Students held in Algiers, Algeria, in August 2001. Works by Malcolm X were big sellers there. Thirty-six years earlier Malcolm had offered to help put Young Socialist Alliance leaders in touch with his contacts planning to attend a summer 1965 World Youth Festival in Algeria. The event was called off after a coup in June of that year overthrew the popular revolutionary government there.

his favorite questions of the people he interviewed was did they think that it would have been a good idea to have compensated the Confederate slaveholders for the slaves emancipated; he seemed to hit it off best with those who said it would have been a good idea. He evidently was smart enough to omit this question with Malcolm, or at least he doesn't mention it.

Warren goes to the Hotel Theresa in Harlem for his interview with Malcolm. "I am admitted by a strong-looking young Negro man, dressed impeccably...; he is silent but watchful, smooth-faced, impassive, of ominous dignity." (Not being a poet, as is Warren, I find it hard to conceive a dignity that is "ominous.") Malcolm shakes Warren's hand, "with the slightest hint of a smile." Warren looks him over:

"The most striking thing, at first, about that face is a sort of stoniness, a rigidity, as though beyond all feeling. When the lips move to speak you experience a faint hint of surprise. When—as I discover later—he scores a point and the face suddenly breaks into his characteristic wide, leering, merciless smile, with the powerful even teeth gleaming beyond the very pale pink lips, the effect is, to say the least, startling. But beyond the horn-rimmed glasses always the eyes are watching, pale brown or hazel, some tint of yellow. You cannot well imagine them closed in sleep."

"After the handshake, he turns to his aide.... I am, for the moment, dismissed, and wander across the room, inspecting

it." "...as he stands there across the expanse of bare, ill-swept floor, conferring with the ominous attendant...I am watching him, and he knows I am watching him, but he gives no sign." Malcolm's failure to give a sign that he knows Warren is watching him is clearly as sinister as the "attendant" has now become.

"Finally" Malcolm beckons Warren into the tiny room used as his office. "Malcolm X tells me that he has only a few minutes, that he has found that you waste a lot of time with reporters and then you don't get much space." And so the interview begins.

It seemed somewhat different when Barry Sheppard and I interviewed Malcolm in the same office on January 18, 1965, a month before his assassination. Our interview was taped for the *Young Socialist*.

The thing that struck me first was how tired Malcolm looked. (In the *Autobiography*, Alex Haley describes the 18-hour schedule he followed.) At one point toward the end of the interview, a yawn can be heard on the tape, followed by the apology, "Excuse my tired mind." We were a little uncomfortable at first, feeling that Malcolm might need rest more urgently than we needed an interview and, because this was the first time we had met, there was some over-politeness on both sides. Malcolm sent out for coffee for the three of us, making his familiar joke about his preference for light coffee, and after that the atmosphere warmed up.

After the formal interview, we offered to type it up and bring it back, edited to fit our space requirements, for his final check and corrections. I also asked him if he would like the Young Socialist Alliance to organize a national speaking tour of campuses for him later in the year. He expressed interest in this, but did not commit himself, saying he would discuss it the next time we got together.

Let us return to poor Warren. He tries to catch Malcolm in a contradiction, but Malcolm deftly avoids the trap, and

makes his own point. Warren's reaction: "I discovered that that pale, dull yellowish face that had seemed so veiled, so stony, as though beyond all feeling, had flashed into its merciless, leering life—the sudden wolfish grin, the pale pink lips drawn hard back to show the strong teeth, the unveiled glitter of the eyes beyond the lenses, giving the sense that the lenses were only part of a clever disguise, that the eyes needed no help, that they suddenly see everything."

Malcolm had ruined his eyes reading by poor light at night while he was in prison, and says in the *Autobiography* that he had astigmatism. Never mind the facts—Warren senses "that the lenses were only part of a clever disguise" (an elaborate scheme for fooling liberals somehow). Warren didn't really need to look into Malcolm's eyes—he came to the interview convinced that Malcolm was racist, demagogic and opportunist ("He may end at the barricades, or in Congress. Or he might even end on the board of a bank"), and that is what he

⁴ Robert Penn Warren (1905–1989) was an American novelist, poet, and literary critic. He is the only writer to have won the Pulitzer Prize both for fiction and for poetry.

⁵ The ninth World Youth Festival had been set for July 28–August 7, 1965, in Algiers, and the Young Socialist Alliance had asked Barnes to lead its delegation. Organizers of the festival postponed the event and began looking for another site following the June 1965 coup that overthrew the popular revolutionary government of Ahmed Ben Bella, which had offered to host the international youth gathering.



Bohemia

Malcolm X and Fidel Castro meeting at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem during Castro's trip to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, September 1960.

went away with.

Malcolm knew the white liberal type very well, and he must have had to grin ("leer") when he saw how closely Warren was conforming to the type. And when Warren asks Malcolm "if he believes in political assassination" (!), it is not hard to see why Malcolm might "turn the hard, impassive face and veiled eyes" upon Warren and say, "I wouldn't know anything about that."

I returned to Malcolm's office less than a week after our interview, bearing the edited transcript Barry had made from the tape. (If we had known this would be the last thing we would get from him, we of course would not have shortened the transcript, even slightly.) Malcolm was talking to a young man in his inner office. While I waited, for about ten minutes, one of Malcolm's co-workers, the only other person in the outer office, dozed at a reception desk.

A small stack of *Militants* lay on the desk with a couple of dimes on top.

As Malcolm read the transcript, he began to smile. When he came to the question about capitalism and the statement, "It's only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely," he said, "This is the farthest I've ever gone. They will go wild over this." I asked if he wanted to tone it down and, without hesitation, he answered no.

He said he felt the editing had sharpened up what he had originally said; that he had been tired when he gave the interview. He made very few changes and I said that would be the final copy, just as he had left it. He said, "Make any additional changes you want—it's fine. This is the kind of editing it's a pleasure to read." The *Young Socialist* made no changes. The interview appeared as Malcolm had read and approved.

Malcolm then began to talk about young revolutionaries he had met and been im-

pressed by in Africa and Europe. He said he had a long list of them—he called them "contacts"—and would give me a copy so we could send them the issue of the *Young Socialist* that contained his interview. He also spoke about *The Militant*, and how often he had seen it abroad.

I told him I might be going to Algeria for the World Youth Festival (then scheduled for the summer of 1965) and might be able to meet some of his contacts there.⁵ He said, "Great, that would be a good experience; they have a hard time believing that revolutionaries exist in the United States." We arranged that he would give me the list after the *Young Socialist* came off the press.

I reminded him about our proposal for a national campus tour. This time he responded very favorably; he must have thought about it further and may have discussed it with some of his co-workers. He said he had learned from much experience of speaking on campus that youth were in general the only whites that seemed to be open-minded. He said he was sure that the government would try to buy off the white students who were radical, that this was their main problem. He said they should "get in a closet"—away from the professors and the job offers from government and business—and think out their ideas more thoroughly and basically. They could travel the road before them in one of two ways, he said, "—as missionaries or as revolutionaries."

He asked a lot of questions about the Young Socialist Alliance—how many locals, where, what campuses? He wanted to know how long the tour would last; he said he could not make it until after his return from another trip abroad that he was committed to make, but that would be the best time. I said I was sure that on most cam-

Continued on Page 8

New, expanded edition

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

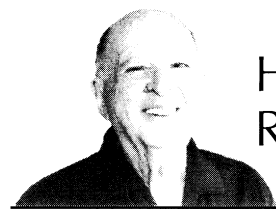
"All over the world, it is young people who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. They are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the conditions that exist." —Malcolm X, January 1965

This new expanded edition includes four talks given to young people in Ghana, the United Kingdom, and the United States in 1964 and 1965; a 1965 interview with the *Young Socialist* magazine; and an enlarged display of photographs. In the last year of his life Malcolm X spoke out more and more directly about the capitalist roots of racism, exploitation, and imperialist oppression. The collection concludes with two memorial tributes by a young socialist leader to this great revolutionary, whose example and words continue to speak the truth for generation after generation of youth. This new English-language edition is being released together with the first-ever Spanish-language edition, *Malcolm X habla a la juventud*.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 8; write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com.



Give it a try—We had to simmer down to write this.... With US Airways filing for bankruptcy, workers were slated to vote on an



Harry Ring

agreement to slash wages and fire employees. Meanwhile, it was disclosed that top company dogs pocketed \$6 million in bonuses. Union spokesperson Joseph Tibert conceded that this didn't look good

while workers were getting slammed. But, he squeaked, "If the entire upper management were to quit...the company could not operate."

'America, the Beautiful'—Florida: Men standing in toilets is part of the standard tableau along death row during sticky, hot summers, prisoner advocates say. The men do this to escape temperatures of 100 degrees in their cells, which are not air-conditioned, according to a federal class-action lawsuit.

Capitalist education—"French schoolchildren can be sent to prison for up to six months under a new law for insulting their teachers....

Approved as part of an attempt to curb juvenile offenses and unruly behavior...the measure could apply to children as young as 13.

"Under the legislation approved by the National Assembly, the State Prosecution Service can begin proceedings against children who 'attack the dignity or respect due' to their teachers—or police and fire officers, gendarmes and railway guards." The maximum penalty is six months and a \$7,000 fine.—*The Times*, London.

All at once?—"Judges want names of corrupt politicians"—News headline.

A puzzle—A study found that the

CEOs at 23 major corporations who are now under federal scrutiny enjoy 70 percent greater compensation than their counterparts in other comparable similar companies. The riddle seems to be: Do they steal more because they have more, or vice versa?

Quiet understatement—Since July 22 James Ujaama of Denver has been held in a federal prison in Virginia as a material witness who is "suspected" of having aided the Taliban before September 11. He's being held under a name he allegedly used in Pakistan. It took lawyers, reporters, and his mother a period to locate him. Access is severely limited.

A reporter for Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* was denied access three times, with a warning the third time to stay off jail property. A civil liberties lawyer observed: "What seventh-graders are learning in civics classes is not exactly what is in practice in our country right now."

Crème de ??—"Popular sun creams, moisturizers and shampoos are being blamed for 'an alarming epidemic' of painful skin complaints, including rashes, swelling, and itching. Five times as many people are reporting allergic skin reactions.... European Union scientists have identified a chemical found [in major products] as the culprit."—*The Times*, London.

Retail workers in Canada strike against 'merit pay'

BY ROSEMARY RAY

TORONTO—Members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union picketed the Hudson's Bay department store at Sherway Gardens Mall here as dozens of strikers, in their majority women, circled the mall, handing out leaflets to shoppers asking them not to shop at the store.

Some 800 retail workers set up picket lines August 29 at five Hudson's Bay department stores in Toronto, Windsor, Kitchener, Brampton, and Kingston. The strikers are fighting a company proposal to replace their current wage agreement with a "merit pay system."

Hudson's Bay has more than 500 stores across Canada with 70,000 employees. Of the five stores where workers are on strike four remained open for business except the store in Windsor where union pickets had forced it to close.

"I don't believe in the merit system," said Dominique Stanley, who has worked at the Bay for 14 years and is a sales specialist in the Liz Claiborne designer clothes section. She explained that the merit system would create favoritism in the workplace with supervisors deciding which workers would get wage increases.

"They want us to sell more and be more customer-driven but I prefer to spend time with the customer and help them in their

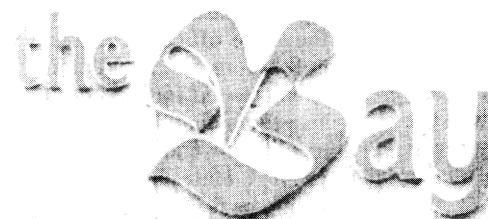
selection, rather than pressuring them to buy things that they don't want," she added.

Stanley told the *Militant* how Hudson's Bay bosses attempt to bribe strikers with "friendly chats" to cross the picket line. They were being offered up to \$300 and 5 percent wage increases. She said that out of the total workforce of 200 at the store in Toronto about 50 workers had returned to their jobs.

Bob Kolida, senior vice president of human resources at Hudson's Bay, said linking an employee's pay to the success of the store is "a competitive requirement in the retail sector." In early August the company issued an earnings warning on its second-quarter profits.

Overall sales have dropped by 2 percent compared with the second-quarter of 2001. The company's share price plunged by 45 percent in the days following the earnings warning. Industry analysts say the Bay's profit margins have been "squeezed" by competition from department store giant Wal-Mart.

On the same day as the Bay issued the earnings warning, former employees of Simpsons, a retail chain that Hudson's Bay bought in 1979, launched a class-action lawsuit claiming that the company illegally siphoned off \$75 million from their pension fund.



Striking retail workers on picket line at Hudson's Bay department store in Toronto

Malcolm X

Continued from Page 7

pushes we would be able to get broader sponsorship than the YSA for his speeches, and he said he didn't care how broad or how narrow the sponsorship would be.

He asked me if I read French and then gave me a magazine from Paris with a story about his talk there in November, 1964.⁶ He said he thought it was a communist magazine, and that "things are very different in Europe and Africa. There are communists and socialists all over, and no one makes a big deal out of it. They can't imagine how narrow-minded this country is."

Malcolm also spoke at some length about imperialism, along what Marxists might call Luxemburgian lines—how the West is in a real bind because the colonial revolution is cutting off places where imperialism can expand.

I felt completely at ease with Malcolm throughout this discussion, which lasted quite a while at his initiative. He grew quite excited at the thought of his African youth contacts getting the Young Socialist interview and at the possibility of my meeting them. I had no sense of "taking" his valuable time—he was giving it voluntarily, and not out of mere politeness.

It is inconceivable that he would be like that with a liberal. There would be no common points of departure, no common projects of any kind, for him to discuss with a liberal who felt, as Warren did, that he was accomplishing his mission when he got Malcolm to "admit" that he didn't "see in the American system the possibility of self-regeneration."

⁶ The question-and-answer period from that November 1964 talk appears under the title "At a meeting in Paris," in *By Any Means Necessary* (New York: Pathfinder, 1970, 1992). The meeting was sponsored by the organization Présence Africaine, and the transcript was run in 1965 in the English-language edition of the magazine of the same name.

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Drive to war on Iraq

Continued from front page
have been to improve control over Iraqi airspace ahead of military action," commented the London-based *Financial Times*. "That would make it easier to insert troops such as special forces without being detected. Search-and-rescue missions for coalition troops could also more easily be mounted from Jordan"—an indication of collaboration by the Jordanian regime with the imperialist war preparations.

The London *Daily Telegraph* reported that the raid "appeared to be a prelude to the type of special forces operations that would have to begin weeks before a possible American-led war."

At the same time, the Pentagon has continued to shift heavy armor, ammunition and other equipment to the region, and between the Gulf states of Qatar and Kuwait. "We have done a lot with pre-positioned stocks in the Gulf, making sure that they are in the right spot to support whatever the president wants to do," said U.S. army secretary Thomas White.

Having exhausted the capacity of its own fleet to carry war materiel to the region, the U.S. Navy has reportedly booked a series of giant commercial transporters to carry tanks, artillery, ammunition, and backup vehicles.

Construction at Qatar base

While U.S. forces use Saudi Arabia to patrol the imperialist-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq, the Saudi stance is that Washington and London cannot use their airfields and territory as a staging ground for a mas-

sive new assault on Iraq. So U.S. forces have begun a forced march to expand their facilities in Qatar. A "concerted U.S. construction program" has focused on the 12,500-foot runway and hangars at the Al-Udeid base, the British *Independent* reported.

U.S.-led attacks from the south would draw on the dozens of U.S. and British aircraft stationed in Kuwait. "A northern attack into Iraq would be likely to come through Turkey," the *Independent* stated, while "Bahrain would be an ideal base for air and naval operations."

These moves continue despite the stated opposition, to one degree or another, by the governments of these countries to the war preparations. In face of its overwhelming military and political influence, Washington expects them to "come on board," reported the *Independent*.

Washington has adopted a similar stance toward its imperialist rivals in Europe. U.S. president George Bush warned them on September 4 that "their credibility is at stake." Vice President Richard Cheney said in a September 8 television appearance, "We are in a place now that some...of our European friends, for example, have difficulty adjusting to."

"They also really don't have the capacity to do anything about the threat," he said, rubbing salt into their realization of their military inferiority with respect to Washington. "They could participate in an international coalition, but left to their own devices, they can't deal with Saddam Hussein."

British prime minister Anthony Blair is so far the only enthusiastic public backer of

Protesters demand arrest of killer cops in Downey, California



Militant/Elizabeth Lariscy

Some 150 people in Downey, California, marched August 31 to protest killing of Gonzalo Martinez, a worker gunned down in February by cops as he tried to surrender. His Argentine-born mother, Norma, holding banner, participated in march.

the war drive. Blair declared September 6 that London would be at Washington's side "when the shooting starts."

Muting its previous statements of opposition, the French government has called for a plan involving UN Security Council backing for the use of military force. The proposal hinges on aggressive UN inspections of alleged weapons sites in Iraq—a proce-

dures designed to provide a justification for an escalating assault.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush was "pleased" with the French statement, Reuters reported. The official "hinted at the possibility of so-called coercive inspections in which foreign troops would be prepared to shoot their way into suspected weapons sites if denied access by Iraq."

On September 12 Bush took his campaign to the UN General Assembly, arguing for a military assault against Iraq on the basis of Baghdad's alleged possession of "weapons of mass destruction."

Bipartisan support for drive to war

Confident of bipartisan support, the White House is pushing for a motion of approval in Congress. While Bush administration officials have made clear they don't need the body's endorsement to launch a war on Iraq, Bush "apparently feels it wise to win a renewal of the authorization Congress granted to remove Saddam during [Democratic president William] Clinton's second term," *Wall Street Journal* columnist George Melloan wrote September 10.

Democratic leaders have made it clear they support the administration's preparations for war, while quibbling over tactics. "I'm more concerned about getting this done right than getting it done quickly," said Thomas Daschle, leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate.

Robert Graham, the chairman of the Senate's Intelligence Committee, told the *New York Times* September 9 that the Bush

Continued on Page 11

One year later: how communists responded to Washington's war drive and September 11

On Sept. 11, 2001, when the U.S. employers and their government accelerated their drive to war abroad and assault on workers' rights at home, using as a pretext the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that day, the Socialist Workers Party released a statement by Martin Koppel, at that time the socialist candidate for mayor of New York, and currently the party's candidate for governor of New York State. The statement was published on the front page of the *Militant* in its September 24 issue.

Socialist workers in New York and around the country, as well as in other countries from Australia to Sweden, immediately hit the streets with this statement, campaigning to present a communist perspective among fellow workers, farmers, and youth.

One year later, as the imperialist rulers continue to press their two-front war against working people at home and abroad, this statement remains an accurate presentation of the events that have unfolded and of the response to them by communist workers and youth.



Waving the banner that "America is under attack," that it has sustained "a second Pearl Harbor" in the wake of today's assault on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. government will seek to advance its "right" to launch military assaults on other countries, as it has done over the past few years against the peoples of Yugoslavia, Iraq, Sudan, and Afghanistan. The U.S. rulers will become even more brazen in their backing for the Israeli regime's escalating war drive against the Palestinians.

Calls by capitalist politicians and apologists for stiffer measures to prevent future such "intelligence failures" are being played up nonstop by the big-business dailies, news agencies, and TV and radio networks. Anti-Arab and anti-Islamic bigotry is being cranked up to bolster this onslaught.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on workers, farmers, and all defenders of democratic rights to speak out against the U.S. rulers' demagogic efforts, in the name of preempting "terrorism," to rationalize restrictions on political rights. We must oppose the campaign by the U.S. government—Democrats and Republicans alike—to curb the constitutionally guaranteed space for political organization and activity and to legitimize the use of the U.S. armed forces at home and abroad.

During its final months in office, following several years of preparations, the Clinton administration established for the first time

in U.S. history a North American command—that is, the command structure for deployment of U.S. armed forces at home, aimed first and foremost at working people in this country. The White House appointed a commander-in-chief of this new homeland command, euphemistically called the Joint Forces Command. As part of its preparations, the U.S. government has over the past two years carried out simulated "antiterrorist" military operations—together with city, state, and federal police forces—in New Jersey, northern California, and elsewhere.

The Bush administration is now deploying these forces in their first domestic military operations. On September 11 the U.S. government placed U.S. armed forces worldwide on hair-trigger war alert. It called out an army regiment of light infantry onto the streets of Washington, D.C.; mobilized the New York National Guard; and deployed heavily armed FBI "counter-terrorism squads" and other special federal police units in Los Angeles, along the borders with Mexico and Canada, and elsewhere across the country.

In coming days, as the administration acts on Bush's vow "to hunt down and punish those responsible," the labor movement and all democratic-minded organizations and individuals must be on the alert to protest government frame-up trials and oppose its trampling on the presumption of innocence; the right to due process; Fourth Amendment protections against arbitrary search, seizure, and wiretaps; and freedom of association without spying and harassment by government informers and agents provocateurs. The last four years of the Clinton administration, and the opening months of the Bush White House, have been marked by stepped-up bipartisan efforts to strengthen the federal death penalty, erode the rights of the accused and convicted, and increase the room for commando-style operations by the U.S. Border Patrol and other Immigration and Naturalization Service cops, the FBI, and other federal assault agencies.

Whoever may have carried out the September 11 operations, the destruction of the two World Trade Center towers, and the air attack on the Pentagon—with the resulting deaths and injuries of thousands of men, women, and children—these actions have nothing to do with the fight against capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression. Revolutionists and other class-conscious workers, farmers, and youth the world over reject the use of such methods.

The U.S. government and its allies for more than a century have carried out sys-

tematic terror to defend their class privilege and interests at home and abroad—from the atomic incineration of hundreds of thousands at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the 10-year-long slaughter in Indochina, to the war against the Iraqi people in 1990–91, to the burning to death of 80 people at Waco on its home soil, to other examples too numerous to list. In recent weeks, the White House and Congress have stood behind Tel Aviv as it escalated its campaign of both random killings and outright murders in its historically failing effort to quell the struggle by the dispossessed Palestinian people for the return of their homeland.

Half a century ago the revolutionary workers movement and other opponents of colonial outrages, racism, and anti-Semitism in all its forms warned that by waging a war of terror to drive the Palestinians from their farms, towns, and cities, the founders of the Israeli state and their imperialist backers in North America and Europe were pitting the Jewish people against those fighting for national liberation in the Middle East and worldwide; they were creating a death trap for the Jews, which Israel remains to this day. By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live here.

The U.S. rulers know that as they press their assault on the living and working conditions of workers and farmers in the United States, they will meet growing resistance, as working people organize to defend their livelihoods and their rights. That's why Washington is systematically strengthening its hand against the battles it knows are coming.

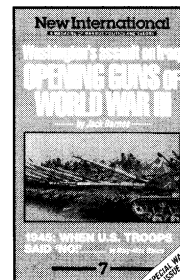
The Socialist Workers Party calls on workers and farmers in the United States and worldwide to speak out in defense of the struggle of the Palestinian people, the people of Western Sahara, the Puerto Rican people, the rights of the people of Cuba, and others the world over fighting for their national rights and against all the ways in which the world capitalist order presses humanity toward fascism and war. We must oppose U.S. military intervention anywhere in the world. We must oppose efforts by Washington to escalate an assault on the political rights of working people and the organizations of our class and its oppressed and exploited allies.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

by Jack Barnes

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Swedish rulers target rights, social wage

BY DANIEL AHL
AND CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—In the run-up to the September 15 elections for parliament and county and city seats, the parties of big business, and many in the workers movement, have targeted the rights of immigrants and promised to go after access to sick-leave payments if they are elected. The proposals to attack workers' rights and the social wage have been touted as progressive measures to "help" working people pull themselves up from joblessness. They come at a time of growing economic insecurity—the stock market has plummeted 64 percent in the last two years—and as Washington prepares for war against Iraq.

"So far, the politics of immigration are the hottest question yet in the election campaigns," reported the conservative daily *Svenska Dagbladet*.

The anti-immigrant debate was kicked off by a speech from Lars Leijonborg, leader of the liberal People's Party. Leijonborg called for language tests for immigrants to qualify for Swedish citizenship, deportation of immigrant workers who are unemployed more than three months, and instituting a five-year period that furthers the second-class status of noncitizens.

His proposal was trumpeted as a measure that benefits foreign-born workers—opening the borders for "workforce immigration"—in contrast to Prime Minister Göran Persson, from the Social Democratic Workers' Party, who said in August that there is no need for government-organized "workforce immigration" for the next 10 years.

The debate among ruling-class hirelings revolves around how to restrict the rights of noncitizens to reinforce a layer of superexploited workers, and weaken solidarity between native- and foreign-born working people.

The rulers in Sweden face a similar challenge to that of their imperialist rivals in Europe. While the U.S. economic boom in the 1990s was built in part on an influx of millions of workers from Latin America and other regions of the semicolonial world, the Swedish rulers confront an aging workforce and a rising number of retirees.

Svenska Dagbladet ran a series on immigration, filled mostly with right-wing columnists such as Count Jan Wachtmeister. He scapegoated immigrants for crime and unemployment and criticized what he called



Militant Birgitta Isacsson

While the capitalist parties in Sweden step up their attacks on workers' rights and their social wage, campaigners for the Communist League candidates are presenting a program to oppose imperialism and its war drive and defend working people in face of the coming depression. Above, Daniel Ahl, Communist League candidate for parliament, campaigns at Sodertorn University, south of Stockholm.

the "political class" that "has not stood up for its own people." Count Wachtmeister, a multimillionaire and a member of one of Sweden's oldest noble families, led a right-wing Bonapartist party called New Democracy, which won 6.7 percent of the national vote in the 1991 parliamentary elections. New Democracy was a pillar of support for the Conservative Party-led government of Carl Bildt at that time.

The incipient fascist Sweden Democrats and National Democrats both center on scapegoating immigrants for capitalism's failure to guarantee health care, education, and care of the elderly for "the Swedes." They have held public meetings, like one in Stockholm on August 24, under the banner of "blue-and-yellow questions" (the colors of the Swedish flag). Police sealed off a downtown square to protect the ultrarightists and attacked counterdemonstrators outside the meeting, arresting 60 people.

Under the guise of fighting international terrorism, Stockholm has taken steps to restrict workers rights. Foreign Minister Anna Lindh led the charge in the European Union (EU) to label the Kurdistan Workers Party—one of the groups fighting for self-determi-

nation of the Kurdish people—as a "terrorist organization." In late 2001, the Swedish government deported without trial two Egyptian citizens on secret charges of "terrorism," acknowledging that they may face execution in Egypt.

Stockholm has gone along with Washington's detention of Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali, a 23-year old Swedish citizen who was captured by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and is now being held in the U.S. Navy base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Under U.S. authority, Ghezali could face the death penalty.

In their election platform, the Social Democrats promise that with another four years in power they will put an additional 4,000 cops on the streets.

Stockholm has some 900 troops stationed abroad, 780 of whom are taking part in the NATO-led force occupying Kosova since the U.S.-led war against Yugoslavia in 1999. Some 35 elite troops are also taking part in the imperialist occupation of Afghanistan. In the past, Stockholm had only deployed field hospitals to promote their imperialist interests.

Social wage targeted

During their eight years at the head of the national government, the Social Democrats have built on the attacks on the social wage carried out by the Conservative Party-led government of Carl Bildt in 1991–94. Between 1992 and 2000, the number of health-care sites available to people in hospitals was cut from 58,000 to 32,000. The average time of hospital care dropped from 8.5 to 6.2 days.

According to *Dagens Arbete*, the paper of the industrial unions, the number of workers on sick leave and working while ill has increased since the "first day sick leave without payment" was reintroduced by the Bildt government in 1993. The measure, which denies compensation for the first day of a worker's sick leave, was designed to press more people to work sick rather than lose a day's wage.

Hated by working people, it had been abolished by a Social Democratic administration in 1987, under pressure from the labor movement. Its reintroduction, the union paper states, "was primarily about the wish

of the employers to discipline the workforce." According to the August 9 Social Democratic daily *Aftonbladet*, the overall average of sick leave for working-class women has increased from 40 days a year in 1990 to almost 50 in 2001.

In a report presented by Social Insurance Minister Ingela Thalén, the Social Democrats propose to cut the total number of missed days from work by half by 2008. Among the proposals by Thalén is that after 60 days, workers on sick leave would have to see a different doctor who would control their leave permit. The minister told *Göteborgs-Posten* that "we must try in very many ways to break up sick leaves that last as long as 60 days."

The Left Party, a formerly pro-Moscow Stalinist party, has stated that it wishes to join a coalition government with the Social Democrats, although Prime Minister Göran Persson says such a coalition is out of the question. In a statement on its health-care policy, the Left Party repeats the promise of Social Democracy that "Our goal is to cut by half the number of the unhealthy on the labor market by 2008." Both parties call for abolishing the denial of pay for the first day of sick leave "in the long run."

Role of Swedish imperialism

Among the questions largely absent in all of the election campaigns except the Communist League—which runs candidates for parliament as well as in the county and city elections in Stockholm and Gothenburg—is the role of Swedish imperialism in the world. Stockholm's foreign policy has been largely overshadowed by the anti-immigrant rhetoric dominating the pre-election public debate.

Sweden is a small imperialist country that developed a closer relationship with Washington in the 1990s to get more elbow room in the interimperialist competition in Europe. For example, Swedish steel companies export \$250 million worth of steel to the United States each year. When Washington imposed its aggressive steel tariffs in March Swedish steel exports were granted exemptions for all but \$40 million of their exported steel.

Stockholm aggressively promotes its interests inside the European Union. Persson joined with French president Jacques Chirac to block a proposal in the EU from Britain and Spain that suggested cutting aid to so-called "transit countries" for "illegal" immigration. Persson dropped his diplomatic niceties, calling the proposal "stupid." Such a measure would have reduced potential trade and investment by Stockholm in the Baltic states and by Paris in North Africa.

The Swedish rulers are keeping themselves at arm's length from open support for U.S. war moves against Iraq. In a radio interview, Persson was asked, "What position will the Swedish government take if Washington goes to war with Iraq?" "We will see," he replied. Implying that Stockholm will back a war, however, Foreign Minister Anna Lind has stated that an assault on Iraq should first have the approval of the United Nations.

LETTERS

Canada's 'antiterror' law

The antiterrorism law, Bill C-36, passed last year by the Canadian parliament is being used against working people. Recently the *Ottawa Citizen* reported that Liban Hussein, a Canadian citizen and immigrant from Somalia, was arrested in the fall of 2001 when his name appeared on Canada's list of terrorists and terrorist supporters, a few hours after his name appeared on the U.S. terrorist list. Hussein was jailed and his assets frozen. In June of this year he was suddenly released when the authorities admitted there was no evidence whatsoever linking him with terrorism. According to his lawyer, Hussein lost his business, his income, and his prospects for supporting his family and a number of other relatives.

Any individual can now be put on the terrorist list on the recommendation of the solicitor-general. No hearing is required and no evidence need be produced. Anyone having any dealings with such a person or that person's property will also be investigated and may also find themselves on the terrorist list.

The Canadian Liberties Association is publicizing Hussein's case.
Bea Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario

Thousands march against ban on Basque pro-independence party



Thousands of supporters of the pro-independence Basque political party Batasuna, banned by a Spanish judge August 26, march September 8 in San Sebastián in support of Basque political prisoners. The march also opposed Madrid's measures against Batasuna. Government officials accuse the nationalist party, which has substantial support among the Basque population, of being linked to the outlawed group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom.) Many oppose the ban as an attack on the fight for Basque national rights.

CALENDAR

ILLINOIS

Chicago

All Out for Palestine. National march and rally to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian people. Sun., Sept. 29, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Federal Plaza.* Sponsored by Al-Awda, Palestine Right to Return Coalition. For more information: <http://rally.al-awda.info>

NEW YORK

Manhattan

80th Anniversary Celebration of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party. Dinner and dance. Exhibit of 21 portraits of Pedro Albizu Campos by Puerto Rican artists. Sat., Sept. 14, 5 p.m. to midnight. *Julia de Burgos Cultural Center, 1680 Lexington (at 106 St.)* For more information: (917) 597-2488 or (917) 834-5341. \$15 entry.

Oppose U.S. war drive in Mideast

The big-business media portrays the image of a debate taking place among Democratic and Republican politicians over whether or not the U.S. government will launch a war on Iraq. But Washington's war machine is already in motion today.

The September 5 air strikes on Iraq by up to 100 U.S. and British warplanes—reported abroad but covered up by the U.S. capitalist press—underscore the massive scope of the war moves under way. Another example is the continuing large-scale transfer of heavy armor to the Arab-Persian Gulf. The U.S. rulers are carrying out these moves toward war while they beat the propaganda drums for launching a full-scale assault on Iraq.

No fundamental divisions exist over this question within the U.S. ruling class or its political servants, the Democrats and Republicans. The “debate” is simply over tactics of how to most effectively conduct the war and convince working people to accept it. When the invasion starts, all capitalist politicians will fall in line behind “our commander-in-chief.”

One of the liberal criticisms of the Bush administration is the argument that it is pushing for a preemptive war. But all imperialist wars have been “preemptive,” not defensive. For the past century Washington and other major powers have gone to war because they were driven by the expansionist nature of imperialism and its need to conquer more markets and boost profit rates.

Washington's goal is not simply to replace the Iraqi government. They are moving toward a bloody assault on the people of Iraq—a massive bombing and ground invasion followed by a military occupation of this nation of 23 million.

What's more, the war preparations are not about Iraq, much less about September 11—the initial pretext the U.S. rulers used to accelerate their war drive. While the first targets have been Afghanistan and now Iraq, what is shaping up is a series of imperialist wars. The U.S. preparations to invade Iraq, a country with the world's second-largest oil reserves, are one major step toward gaining greater control over the Mideast and its oil resources.

There is no reason to think the existing borders in the Mideast—imposed a century ago by the British and French

colonial powers—will remain unchanged. The logic of Washington's war drive is another redivision to bring a major portion of the world's oil and gas resources under its direct control, including those of Saudi Arabia. Liberal politicians and commentators, in fact, have been among those pushing most aggressively for targeting Saudi Arabia.

As shown by the U.S. rulers' failure to whip up a patriotic fervor around the September 11 ceremonies and their America First themes, Washington is only in the initial stage of its military preparations. The cranking up of war fever has not yet begun. Pacifist sentiments are still widespread among the U.S. population. The idea that this sentiment will “stop the war before it starts” is a pacifist illusion.

The imperialist rulers are being driven increasingly toward wars of conquest where the equilibrium of the world capitalist system, established after World War II, has come unstuck, as seen by the bursting of the giant speculative bubble and the onset of a world depression.

This weakening of their system is what pushes the billionaire rulers to war abroad and to an assault on working people at home—on our wages, working conditions, and social entitlements. In anticipation of wider working-class resistance to this offensive, they are seeking to constrict workers' rights, using secret detentions and deportations, giving more leeway to FBI spying, and increasing the deployment of troops on U.S. soil.

One year ago, when the U.S. rulers used the September 11 attacks to escalate their war drive and assault on workers' rights, socialist workers and young socialists took to the streets to oppose imperialism and its wars. They explained their views in a statement by the Socialist Workers mayoral candidate in New York, Martin Koppel, that holds up well today (see page 9). They held a public meeting in New York on “Communists and the fight against imperialism today.”

On September 28, socialists will host another public meeting (see front-page ad) to celebrate the anniversary of this proud communist record and to discuss how to build a revolutionary movement of millions that can take power out of the hands of the warmakers and bring about a government of workers and farmers, joining in the worldwide fight for the liberation of humanity and socialism.

Pathfinder distribution

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Young People and the French-language edition of *The History of American Trotskyism*.

Campaigning for socialism

Panelist Lawrence Mikesch, the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor of Florida, described efforts by campaign volunteers to reach out to working people and young fighters and draw new supporters into activity.

Other socialist candidates in Florida are Rachele Fruit, who is running for governor, and Karl Butts, the candidate for commissioner of agriculture.

Among other activities, the socialist candidates have addressed a rally of striking garment workers in Oakland Park, Florida; participated in protests by carpenters in Miami fired for seeking union recognition; campaigned in the streets of downtown Miami; taken part in two candidates' forums that resulted in press coverage; and set up weekly morning literature tables outside the International Longshoremen's Association union hall.

In the course of these activities, a youth from Miami asked to campaign with the Young Socialists for Fruit, Mikesch, and Butts and drove up to Atlanta for the Red Weekend. He was one of about 10 young people present over the weekend who are campaigning with young socialists for Socialist Workers candidates in their local areas.

Olympia Newton spoke on behalf of the leadership of the Young Socialists. A resident of Los Angeles, she is the Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state in California.

Not only in the United States are socialist youth campaigning for working-class candidates, she said; in Sweden, for example, YS leader Daniel Ahl is running as the Communist League candidate for the national parliament. She herself has joined other Los Angeles campaigners in soapboxing in working-class districts, outlining to passersby the main programmatic demands of the Socialist Workers campaign.

Books unpacked, organized, ready to go

Volunteers had accomplished a great deal the first day of the Atlanta Red Weekend, said Harkness in her presentation to the meeting. One of the first big challenges, successfully met, was to unload and assemble shelving weighing a total of almost 36,000 pounds. The next day's unpacking and storage of the books had depended on the successful completion of that task, she said.

The construction of a swing-out door to the loading dock from the “pick and pack” department—where books will be boxed ready for shipping—along with a paint job and a thorough cleaning helped to transform the warehouse into a professional-standard distribution center.

Early next morning, the books arrived from New York. That day, the remaining shelves were erected, and the books were organized and stacked onto them. Through their collective efforts, volunteers had transformed what was once a showroom for a major hotel in the area into a launching pad for Pathfinder books.

While this work was under way, several Reprint Project volunteers in the city worked to finish proofreading and formatting the Spanish-language edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. By September 2 their work was also done.

“It was impressive to see the collective work of 80 people here this weekend and how quickly everything was finished,” volunteer Linda Joyce, who had also taken part in the New York Red Weekend, told the *Militant*. “We didn't slap anything together just to get it done either. The distribution center is now a place where we can be proud to work.”

Hotel workers win wage hike

Continued from front page

first time—four paid sick days over the life of the contract and a paid 15-minute break each work day.

The contract covers more than 7,000 members of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) locals 1 and 450 at 23 downtown and four suburban hotels.

Wanda Gilbert, a housekeeper for 16 years at Quality Inn, was one of those who voted for the contract. Although the workers did not strike, Gilbert said she believed they made gains because of their high level of organization as the union prepared to strike if necessary. The owners knew the workers were serious.

Gilbert and a younger co-worker, Chris Jefferson, were part of a committee of 500 workers who organized within each hotel. “It was a battle,” she said. The “warriors” on the committee, like Jefferson, worked hard to win over every worker to be part of the fight.

A high point of the campaign for a better contract was an August 23 march downtown along Chicago's “Magnificent Mile” on Michigan Avenue that drew thousands of hotel workers.

On August 12 more than 4,000 HERE members had turned out for meetings, in which 98 percent voted to authorize a strike if a contract was not finalized by midnight on August 31.

Engineering, maintenance, truck driving, laundry, and electrical workers unions pledged to honor the hotel workers' picket lines if a strike was called. The Teamsters provided a warehouse for the HERE food bank, “Hungry for Justice.”

Other unions, as well as immigrant rights groups and churches offered support. The union made plans to reach out to workers to convince them not to cross picket lines.

When the negotiations stalemated, Dennis Gannon, head of the Chicago Federation of Labor, called on Illinois governor George Ryan to intervene in the labor dispute. Ryan went to the HERE headquarters where preparations were being made to announce a strike starting at midnight. Ryan asked the union officials to consider the negative impact a strike would have on what he called the state's “fragile” economy. He then moved the negotiations to his office and got the union negotiating committee to continue talks past the strike deadline. He urged a settlement before the opening in a few days of the International Manufacturing Technology Show, which was expected to draw 120,000 visitors and \$221 million in revenues.

HERE officials, as well as many workers on the bargaining committee, applauded Ryan's intervention. But there was also sentiment among some hotel workers in opposition to what they considered a short-circuiting of the opportunity to bring their power to bear in a strike and come closer to wage parity with hotel workers in other major cities.

Housekeeping workers in Chicago, for example, have been paid \$8.83 an hour compared to more than \$18 an hour in New York City, where workers' medical insurance is fully paid by the hotel owners.

Francine Johnson, a housekeeper at a Holiday Inn, expressed the letdown many workers felt: “We set a deadline of Saturday, August 31. The union had taken the stand that if we didn't have a contract by then we were going to strike. I was disappointed when we kept working past that deadline. We were so prepared to strike, so ready. If we had gone out, we could have won more than we got.”

Javier, who works in the kitchen at Holiday Inn, added, “We wanted to show them what we could do by going on strike.”

Another worker at the Drake put it this way: “When I went in to work Sunday, [September 1] I had an attitude. We shouldn't have been working past that strike deadline.”

Chessie Molano is a member of UNITE and the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor of Illinois.

U.S. rulers accelerate war drive

Continued from Page 9

administration needs to develop a broader-based and more “aggressive war plan. Victory is going to be won on the offensive.” The Democrat listed “Syria and Iran as countries that should be the first targets of any aggressive effort against state sponsors of terrorist activity,” the *Times* reported.

Administration officials have primarily based their propaganda, not on accusations of some Iraqi involvement in the September 11 attacks, but on Baghdad's alleged development of missile systems and biological, chemical, and nuclear warheads.

On September 8 several members of Bush's “war cabinet,” as the *Washington Post* put it, appeared on television shows to reiterate their case for “regime change,” that is, the overthrow of Iraq's government and the installation of a compliant pro-U.S. regime enforced by imperialist bayonets.

On NBC's “Meet the Press,” Cheney declared that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein has refused “to comply with the United Nations Security resolutions” and has “aggressively sought to acquire chemical, biological and nuclear weapons” in the 11 years since the U.S.-led Gulf War.

“We've underestimated the extent of his [nuclear weapons] program,” he said. Baghdad, he stated, is “actively and aggressively seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.”

Later, however, Cheney said the supposed evidence for this claim would remain “classified.”

Three days earlier, Bush told a public meeting in Kentucky that “we cannot let the world's worst leaders blackmail America, threaten America, or hurt America with the world's worst weapons.... My job is to not only chase down those who have hit, but to anticipate. We're a battleground.”

The U.S. rulers promoted commemorations of September 11 to boost their war preparations. In bipartisan ceremonies across the country, liberal and conservative politicians issued an orgy of patriotic speeches on defending an “America under attack,” while the government used warnings about security to demonstratively deploy military planes in the urban skies, National Guard troops on city streets, and an aggressive police presence everywhere.

Going along with this America First theme, the AFL-CIO officialdom did its part by organizing Labor Day celebrations in many cities as patriotic, pro-government rallies.

At the event in New York, held in Battery Park, near the site of the former World Trade Center, the speakers—both capitalist politicians and union officials—addressed the theme of “honoring labor's contribution” to the local response to the destruction of the twin towers. Rally organizers and speakers directed participants to applaud as U.S. military jets flew low overhead.

Canada farmers demand drought relief

BY ANNETTE KOURI

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Livestock farmers in the Canadian prairie provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are demanding government aid as they confront the effects of a severe drought that has caused the price of feed to skyrocket.

Many prairie farmers in these two provinces have been forced to sell their livestock or have no harvest in the face of another summer with less rain than in many deserts. This has provoked an outpouring of solidarity by other farmers and working people.

Faced with a lack of feed, ranchers have been rushing their animals to the market in record numbers, driving already low prices down even further. Beef producers are receiving the same price for a cow and calf as they would normally receive for a single cow. A purebred cow that would have sold for Can\$1,800 at auction last year now sells for Can\$600 (Can\$1 = US 63 cents). Alberta alone is short 650,000 metric tons of hay, and the shortage will put between 400,000 and 600,000 cattle at risk of being sold or slaughtered prematurely.

A cow eats approximately one ton of hay per season. The price of hay before the drought was about Can\$50 a metric ton, but prices have skyrocketed in these drought areas with some desperate ranchers paying as much as twice that amount.

Some Alberta farmers are resorting to mixing sawdust into cattle feed to make it go farther.

For the last few years smaller beef and pork producers across Canada, struggling to get a decent price for their livestock, have often been forced to sell below the cost of raising the animal. A pork producer in the lower mainland of British Columbia, where the drought is less severe, told this reporter that he receives \$10 less per hog than what it costs him to produce it.

The Canadian Wheat Board has estimated that this year's crop could be down one-third or more, the smallest yield in 28 years. Barley production is off 44 percent and canola 57 percent. By some estimates the value of the crop loss in western Canada in the three grains may be as much as Can\$2.6 billion.

Bruce Sept, who grows wheat and peas on some 13,000 acres, told the *Sun* that his crops will only yield about one-ninth the normal production.

Sept stated, "We are working very hard to make a living at farming. The family farm is going to be a thing of the past unless we look at all the possibilities of how to make

them work."

Dave Nelson, who has a family farm in the drought-stricken area, has been forced to sell one-third of his 150-cow herd. Nelson explained to the *Sun* that the numbers don't work. He is nearly \$200,000 in debt from buying the little feed he can, and the \$7,000 he spent on bait for grasshoppers failed to stop the pests. His crop and farm insurance combined will pay him less than \$15,000.

In the last five years, 11 percent of farmers in Canada, most of them family farmers, have been forced off the land, according to the National Farmers Union.

Prices for fertilizer, transportation, and farm machinery have skyrocketed over the past two decades while prices the farmers receive for their produce have dropped or remained stagnant. "Farming is a struggle to get all your expenses so you're not too much in debt," said Ross Tory. "Fertilizer is expensive, feed is expensive, and farmers are getting less and have to do more with what they have." Referring to the aid coming from other farmers, he said that he was glad to see the help but felt that it didn't compensate for the inadequate government aid.

"If normal everyday folks can chip in and help, why can't the government do its share? It's what the government is supposed to do," Tory said.

Some payments will come in from the Canadian federal government in October but farm organizations say it's too little too late.

In contrast, farmers in the eastern provinces mobilized to send loads of hay to the feed-strapped areas on the prairies in an operation dubbed Hay West.

It began with a small group of farmers from Ontario but within days farmers in Quebec and the Maritime provinces also stepped forward with their hay. The federal government initially agreed to contribute \$2.2 million to fumigate, load, and ship 187 more rail cars of hay from the East. Then under pressure from farmers, and with tons of donated hay waiting for shipment, Ot-

Plan for U.S. troops in Argentina sparks protests

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Planned month-long military exercises on Argentine soil involving the armed forces of Washington and Buenos Aires have stirred up controversy and protest in Argentina—where working people have waged frequent struggles against an ongoing economic de-

astating epidemics. Other testimony from former Japanese soldiers described how part of these biological experiments included infecting food with cholera. The Chinese government estimates that 270,000 civilians died of diseases introduced by the Japanese occupiers, and that some 3,000 people died after being injected with live viruses ranging from anthrax to bubonic plague.

Yoshio Shinosuka, 77, who was assigned to Unit 731's headquarters in Harbin, China, testified that Chinese subjects were injected with the plague and then split open for autopsy immediately after or even moments before dying an agonizing death.

Washington collaborated with Tokyo in covering up these operations. In fact, the U.S. rulers made a secret deal to exempt the germ warfare crimes from scrutiny of the Tokyo trials, which were held after the end of World War II. In return, Washington received the results of the experiments.

Members of Unit 731 have never been prosecuted. Some have become figures in Japanese society. The Japanese government still maintains, in the face of a mountain of evidence, that it has no knowledge of what the unit did.

Workers win right to UNITE election at laundry in Rockmart, Georgia



Workers belonging to the organizing committee of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) at Angelica Textiles industrial laundry in Rockmart, Georgia, celebrate in labor court August 28. They had just won a ruling that the company must allow them and their co-workers to vote on union representation. The decision registered the workers' determination to organize a union to fight for health-care and other benefits, as well as respect and dignity on the job and an end to abuse by the bosses. The vote is scheduled for September 26 and 27. Workers at an Angelica laundry in Chattanooga, Tennessee, are also fighting to organize a union.

—PEDRO JIMÉNEZ

tawa agreed to pay for 190 more rail cars in early September. The two large railway companies, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, claim that they have contributed \$400,000 in transportation costs but refuse to do any more.

The hay shipments, which are being distributed by lottery, will help only a few farmers for short periods.

Annette Kouri is a meat packer in the Vancouver, British Columbia, area.

neuers in the northern province of Salta—a center of protests against wage cuts, layoffs, and other government and employer attacks. Dubbed "Cabañas 2001," the operation was sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command.

Expanding U.S. military presence

Mindful of the expanding U.S. military presence in Latin America, organized under the guise of combating terrorism and the "war on drugs," opposition deputies in the Argentine parliament denounced the 2001 exercises as components of a U.S. "strategy of aggression aimed at intervening in the internal affairs of Colombia and other Andean nations."

One sticking point between the two governments in the preparation of the exercises is Washington's demand that Buenos Aires extend a special immunity to the imperialist troops for the duration of the maneuvers. The immunity would guarantee that U.S. forces would not be brought before the newly formed International Criminal Court.

Having forced through a one-year exemption from the European imperialist powers that sponsored the court's creation, Washington is pressing a number of governments in Europe to sign bilateral agreements accepting its position.

In its pressure campaign, Washington has also targeted the government of Colombia—the recipient of massive U.S. military aid—causing a debate among the country's politicians.

So far, only the regimes in Israel, Romania, and East Timor have signed such deals.

In a September 4 statement, Argentine foreign minister Carlos Ruckauf rejected Washington's demand for immunity and said that his government would offer U.S. forces the same guarantees as in previous exercises.

Chinese demand compensation for Japanese germ warfare in WWII

BY MAGGIE TROWE

A Tokyo district court admitted August 27 that the Japanese rulers conducted germ warfare against Chinese prisoners of war and civilians during World War II, but rejected demands from the plaintiffs for compensation and an official apology by the government.

The court denied the lawsuit's request for damages of \$84,000 to each elderly victim. This decision continues the adamant refusal of the Japanese courts to grant legal claims brought on behalf of other victims of Japanese imperialist assaults of the 1930s and '40s.

"It is absurd that the ruling confirmed Japan's biological warfare, but the Japanese government doesn't have to take any responsibility," stated Wang Xuan, 50, whose search into her family's past led her to get involved. Chinese plaintiffs and Japanese supporters staged a rally in Tokyo immediately after the court rejected the plaintiffs' compensation claims.

At the trial several members of Japan's infamous Unit 731 testified that they deliberately infected fleas with bubonic plague that were then air-dropped over the Chinese provinces of Zhejiang and Hunan from 1940 to 1942, causing dev-