

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Malcolm X: Revolutionary leader of working class

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Haiti: U.S. gov't fails to provide needed aid

Working-class areas last to get attention



Reuters

Residents search for survivors in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, January 13, a day after earthquake hit.

BY EMILY PAUL AND DEBORAH LIATOS

MIAMI, January 19—Tens of thousands of people in Haiti are estimated dead, and millions have been affected by the January 12 earthquake. Many estimates expect deaths to go over 100,000. The toll is much worse because of the refusal of the U.S. and other imperialist governments to carry out immediate emergency relief efforts in working-class areas hardest hit by the disaster.

Many Haitians were pulled from collapsed buildings only because of the efforts of relatives, neighbors, and other working people who spent days digging through rubble.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton flew to Haiti January 16 but never set foot outside the airport. She held a news conference and met with Haitian officials, then flew right back to the United States four hours later, leaving gifts of

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Latest attack on Cuba falsifies history of fight against racism

BY BEN JOYCE AND PAUL MAILHOT

A declaration signed by a number of prominent African Americans claiming the Cuban government has fostered a “racial system” and perpetuated discrimination has opened a new assault on Cuba’s socialist revolution. Supporters of the Cuban Revolution in this

in that same issue with an opinion piece by Carlos Moore, a longtime opponent of the Cuban Revolution, who is credited with initiating the declaration.

The statement claims the Cuban government is carrying out “unwarranted and brutal harassment of black citizens in Cuba who are defending their civil rights.” It cites an October appeal by Brazilian professor Abdias Nascimento that calls for the release of Darsi Ferrer, another longtime opponent of the Cuban Revolution who has been incarcerated since last July.

Ferrer, an Afro-Cuban doctor, operated the so-called Center for Health and Human Rights, to put “an end to the boastful myth about the successes of the government in the field of health,” as he said in a 2006 letter to Marc Masferrer, a well-known right-wing opponent of the Cuban Revolution. Masferrer quotes Ferrer as saying, “I call on all Cubans to bury this regime.”

Carlos Moore is an Afro-Cuban writer who turned against the revolution. He left Cuba in 1963. His book *Castro, the Blacks, and Africa*, published in 1988 with a grant from the Ford Foundation, charges that the 1959 Cuban Revolution “was essentially a victory of the anti-

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country have begun responding to this attack, which is seen as part of the U.S. government’s five-decades-long campaign to overturn Cuba’s working-class revolution.

Titled “Acting On Our Conscience: A Declaration of African-American Support for the Civil Rights Struggle in Cuba,” the November 30 statement was signed by a group of 60 academics, artists, professionals, and others. Signers include actress Ruby Dee Davis, Prof. Cornel West, and Rev. Jeremiah Wright. An article reporting on the statement appeared on the front page of the December 2 *Miami Herald*. It was run together

DEFEND CUBAN REVOLUTION

Editorial —p. 9

Open the border to Haitian refugees

The response of Washington and other imperialist governments to the earthquake in Haiti is criminal.

The small handful of rescue teams that were sent focused their efforts on embassies, government offices, hotels, and wealthy neighborhoods, while thousands trapped in working-

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class areas and factories were left to die. Doctors sat at the airport for days, when every minute counted. A week after the earthquake tens of thousands had still not received needed food and water.

Many Haitian working people organized themselves to do what Washington and international “aid” groups would not; they used whatever they had at hand to dig out survivors from

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Renewal, book effort make use of openings

BY SETH GALINSKY

Responding to greater receptivity to communist literature due to the cumulative effect of the economic crisis and ongoing imperialist wars, supporters of the *Militant* have begun a winter/spring campaign to win long-term readers to the paper. At the center of the drive is promotion of the new Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes.

The first part of the drive is a four-week effort to get readers of the *Militant* to renew their subscriptions and purchase a copy of the new book. Volunteers are calling and visiting subscribers, even if their subscription is not close to expiring, to tell them about the book.

The effort will focus on predominantly Black working-class neighborhoods and will include street tables,

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Phoenix: 10,000 protest cop harassment of immigrants



Militant/Naomi Craine

“March for Human Rights” in Phoenix January 16 against anti-immigrant and anti-working-class policies of Maricopa County sheriff Joseph Arpaio. Protest of 10,000 was largest to date.

BY NAOMI CRAINE AND DEAN HAZLEWOOD

PHOENIX—Ten thousand people took to the streets here January 16 to protest the anti-immigrant policies of Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio. It was the third such action in the last year, and the largest to date.

The demonstrators marched several miles to the Tent City jail Arpaio set up in the desert for immigrants and other prisoners. The sheriff has made a name for himself for his frequent and arbitrary anti-immigrant sweeps, as well as what is widely considered

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Massachusetts: Unionists rally for contract at TJX

BY KEVIN DWIRE

BOSTON—Chanting “Si se puede!” (Yes, we can), more than 200 unionists rallied outside the A.J. Wright distribution center in Fall River, Massachusetts, January 15. The rally was part of a contract fight by members of UNITE HERE at all the facilities owned by The TJX Companies in New England.

TJX operates the T.J. Maxx, A.J. Wright, Marshalls, and HomeGoods stores, as well as other brand stores outside the United States.

A.J. Wright workers at the rally were joined by fellow UNITE HERE members from TJX facilities in Worcester and Woburn, Massachusetts, and Bloomfield, Connecticut. The contract expired December 31 at Worcester. The contract at Fall River expires January 31, and at Bloomfield, February 28.

Members of other unions—including the United Food and Commercial Workers, United Steelworkers, Carpenters Union, and the Bricklayers Local 3—came to the rally in solidarity.

UNITE HERE members are resisting company demands for mandatory overtime. “They’re telling us that if we don’t agree to this mandatory overtime, that we would lose our jobs,” Jose Arroyo, a union steward at A.J. Wright, told the Fall River *Herald News*. “They’re saying we can’t have a raise when we sit down and try to negotiate, telling us that they have no money to give us.”

Union members also said the company wants to also take away personal and vacation days.

According to the *Boston Globe*, “Overall sales for the five-week period ending January 2 were \$2.9 billion, up

21 percent compared to the same period last year.” TJX’s profits were \$347 million for the most recent three months.

Several A.J. Wright workers addressed the rally in English, Spanish, and Cambodian. Also speaking were representatives from UNITE HERE Local 313 at Worcester and Local 1999 in Woburn. Cynthia Rodrigues, president of the Greater Southeast Massachusetts Central Labor Council, pledged the council’s support for the contract fight.

Housekeepers who are fighting to get their jobs back at the Hyatt Regency hotels in Boston also attended the rally. According to some of the hotel workers, Hyatt last August fired 100 housekeepers with no warning and replaced them with a subcontractor at lower wages. Lucine Williams, who worked at Hyatt for more than 21 years, told the crowd, “They’ll tell you that it is the



Militant/Ted Leonard

Lucine Williams, one of the 100 housekeepers fired by Hyatt Regency hotels in Boston, addresses January 15 UNITE HERE contract rally for TJX workers in Fall River, Massachusetts.

economy, but they always say that. It’s just greed.”

“We’ve been fighting to get our jobs back and we will stand with you and fight with you,” Williams said.

This was the second rally held as

part of the fight against TJX. On December 4 more than 300 gathered at the T.J. Maxx facility in Worcester. The next rally will be February 18 at the HomeGoods distribution center in Bloomfield.

Scaffold collapse kills four workers in Toronto

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—Four construction workers were killed and another critically injured in Toronto December 24 when the scaffolding on which they were working collapsed, splitting in two. The workers were repairing balconies on the 13th floor of Kipling Avenue Apartment Towers.

Dilshod Mamurov clung to the scaffolding for a while and managed to survive. He has a shattered spine and fractured legs. He arrived from Uzbekistan on a visitor’s visa three months ago. Those killed were Vladimir Korostin, Aleksey Blumberg, Alexander Bon-

dorev, and Fayzullo Fazilov.

Two hundred construction workers and others held a memorial protest January 7 outside the apartment building where they died. Among the organizations present were the Ontario Federation of Labour, UNITE HERE, United Food and Commercial Workers, Canadian Auto Workers, Justice for Migrant Workers, and No One is Illegal.

Oksana Afanasenko, whose husband Aleksey Blumberg was killed, said in a prepared statement read to the gathering, “Lots of guys who work in construction work without documents, or as refugees. When this happens they’re afraid to tell the truth because they’re afraid of deportation. I know they are dead, but I hope their deaths will save many lives in the future.”

The workers were on a platform called a “swing stage.” Normally there are two pieces to a swing stage but this one had four. Some construction companies use a large swing stage to work on two adjoining balconies at the same time. Chris Heald, who works for Riviera Restoration, commented, “Sure it saves time, but is it safe? No.”

“I would never use a stage longer than 20 feet,” said Danny Luigi, a construc-

tion contractor. The one that collapsed was twice that length. “Even on a two-piece stage, I wouldn’t let more than two people go up,” he added. “It’s unbelievable that there were five on it.”

The workers were employed by Metron Construction of Toronto. Work had been halted on the building October 20. Five work orders to improve safety were issued at that time. The Ministry of Labour gave Metron the go-ahead to resume work December 17, issuing three more work orders asking the owners to ensure that it was safe to work on the swing stage.

Sid Ryan, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, has demanded a criminal investigation.

Michael Yorke, president of Carpenters’ Union Local 27, said he’s convinced the men wouldn’t have died had proper workplace protocols been observed. “We believe that this was a preventable accident. None of the workers were tied down with a lifeline.”

On December 23 a 25-year-old worker was electrocuted while installing a fan at the Holiday Inn on Bloor Street, also in Toronto. Fifteen construction workers were killed in Ontario in 2009.

THE MILITANT

Open the border for Haitian refugees

The social disaster unfolding in Haiti is magnified by decades of imperialist plunder of the country’s workforce and natural resources. The ‘Militant’ tells the truth about the U.S. role there and demands Washington open its borders for Haitian refugees. Don’t miss an issue!



Haitians sleeping in streets of Port-au-Prince following January 12 earthquake.

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N. Korea: Denuclearize, reunify the peninsula

BY BEN JOYCE

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) released a statement January 11 calling for the U.S. government to enter talks on establishing a peace treaty to formally put an end to the Korean War. Since Korean workers and peasants handed Washington its first military defeat, in 1953, the U.S. government has refused to sign a treaty, agreeing only to a cease-fire.

"The denuclearization of the peninsula is the goal of the policy consistently pursued by the Government of the Republic with a view to contributing to peace and security in Northeast Asia and the denuclearization of the world," the North Korean statement said.

However, it continued, "If confidence is to be built between the DPRK and the United States, it is essential to conclude a peace treaty for terminating the state of war, a root cause of the hostile relations, to begin with."

North Korea has long pursued an end to nuclear weapons on and around the peninsula. Washington maintains thousands of active nuclear warheads worldwide—some 5,400 according to 2007 estimates by the Federation of American Scientists—and has some 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea. It is under the threat of this force in the neighboring south by U.S. imperialism, as well as Washington's refusal to formally end the war, that the North Korean government has maintained its right to develop a nuclear weapon.

The 1950–53 Korean War claimed more than 3 million lives before workers and peasants in the north drove out the U.S. invaders. In the course of the war, U.S.-led forces dropped more than 428,000 bombs on the capital city of Pyongyang alone with a population of 400,000.

The Korean peninsula has been divided since the victors of the second imperialist world war carved it up. Upon occupation of South Korea on Sept. 8, 1945, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur declared, "The entire administrative power of the territory of Korea south of parallel 38 is under my jurisdiction. The population should unreservedly obey the orders issued over my signature. Those acting against the occupation or violating order and tranquility will be mercilessly and severely punished."

On January 1 a joint editorial was issued by *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Work-

er's Party of Korea; *Josoninmingun*, the newspaper of the Korean People's Army; and *Chongnyonjonwi*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League. It calls for an "end to the hostile relationship between the DPRK and the USA," and urges steps toward a denuclearized Korean peninsula. The editorial also calls for the reunification of the Korean peninsula and warns that those who oppose the reunification process "cannot break the desire and will of the fellow countrymen to achieve independent reunification."

Phoenix march defends immigrant rights

Continued from front page

degrading and harsh treatment of prisoners. Arpaio drew national attention and protests when he marched some two hundred immigrants through the streets of Phoenix in stripes and chains last February.

The protest, held on the Martin Luther King Day weekend, was billed as a "March for Human Rights." It was called by Puente Arizona and the National Day Laborers Organizing Network. Organizers sought to link the historic and ongoing working-class fight for Black rights with the struggle for the rights of immigrant workers.

As the march passed by their homes, Toni Jones and Freda Goodman, both of whom are African American, held printed signs reading, "We are human" and "Obama: ¿Donde está la reforma?" (Obama: Where is the reform?) "I love it when they do this. It brings the community together," said Jones. "I wish I'd known they were doing this today—I'd be handing out snacks." Commenting on Arpaio's attacks on undocumented immigrants, she said, "I think they should all have the right to work."

One of the central demands was that the Barack Obama administration end an agreement that allows Maricopa County cops to check the immigration status of people in their custody. The Department of Homeland Security has similar agreements, known as 287(g), with dozens of cop agencies throughout the country. Some grant police officers powers to enforce immigration law on the streets.

Last July the Department of Homeland Security made cosmetic changes to the controversial 287(g) program, while expanding it and other government anti-immigrant operations.

Immigration and Customs Enforce-



U.S. Army/Sgt. Christophe Paul

U.S. and South Korean troops conduct joint exercise last February by demilitarized zone, close to North Korean border. Washington has some 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea.

ment (ICE) carried out a record number of deportations last year. At the same time, the Homeland Security department responded to the growing protests against Arpaio's actions by formally revoking in October Maricopa County's authorization to carry out immigration arrests on the streets. But the arrests have continued.

"Nothing has changed," said Irene Chavez, an activist in the fight against the sheriff. "They're still doing sweeps" and jailing immigrants on the most minor of charges, she said. Arpaio says that since April 2007 cops in the county jails have checked the immigration status of 217,000 people, and handed more than 31,000 over to ICE.

The march was popular in the working-class neighborhood just north of the county jail. Groups of people waiting on corners joined in. Other residents stood in front of their homes waving in support.

While most of the marchers were from the Phoenix area, delegations came from Tucson, several cities in California, and as far away as Texas and Illinois. The crowd was overwhelmingly working class.

'We call for legalization'

"We're here to call for legalization," said Maribel Zubin. Her friend Edaena Valdez explained, "We can't get work and insurance because of the papers. We just want to work."

One of the signs they carried read,

"Stop shackling mothers in childbirth." They and others explained that this is one of the humiliations that prisoners in the county jail are subjected to.

Prominent participants in the march included singer Linda Ronstadt, former United Farm Workers leader Dolores Huerta, and musician Zach de la Rocha.

The sheriff has drawn criticism from many local politicians, several of whom addressed the crowd. County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox said what's happening is "a lack of respect for the Hispanic community that I've never seen in my lifetime. We have to say 'no' to Joe Arpaio."

Arpaio has launched investigations against many of his critics, including Wilcox, on charges such as corruption and conflict of interest.

Many high school and college students took part in the march. For Erik Stewart, who is about to enter Glendale Community College, this was his first march. "I think it's important that Arpaio be stopped because he's gone too far, he's very racist, and I think he needs to be put out of office," Stewart said. "My stepdad is illegal." Because of the police harassment "he can't work, and my mother has to support the whole family."

Toward the end of the march, police pepper-sprayed some demonstrators and arrested five, who now face charges that include aggravated assault on a police officer. Among those hit with the pepper spray were young children. Organizers quickly helped participants resume the march, without further incident.

Workers contribute 'bonuses' to help build communist movement

Below several workers explain why they turned in company "bonuses" to the Capital Fund, which helps finance long-term publishing projects of the communist movement. The company bribes were handed out in lieu of wage increases, while the bosses cut pay and benefits, and push "productivity" through speedup.

"Enclosed are blood money checks from myself and Steve Warshell," wrote Sarah Katz, a food production worker from Houston. "We received two different 'bonuses' from the bosses. First is a small 'gain sharing' bonus, given monthly for hitting targets in reported injuries, 'productivity,' and quality. The second is a \$100 bonus given to all workers with a letter titled, 'Special One-Time High Performance Award.' The letter said the company had high profits in 2009. According to a coworker, the last raise was several years ago, and was only eight cents per hour."

Jon Teitelbaum from Raleigh, North Carolina, sent in a check for \$800. "Enclosed is the 'bonus money,' the blood money I received at year end," he wrote. "Our wages at Hewlett Packard were cut by 5 percent this year. Several thousand workers—mostly new hires—had their wages cut by an average of 20 percent by downgrading their job description. Another several thousand were laid off."

—DOUG NELSON

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

NEW YORK

Manhattan

In Defense of Cuba's Socialist Revolution: An Answer to Claim that Cuban Revolution is 'Racist.' Speaker: Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 29, 8 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (use north elevators). Tel.: (212) 736-2540.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Quake in Haiti: Imperialist Exploitation Magnifies Social Disaster. Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League. Fri., Jan. 29, 7 p.m. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above Laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.



Militant/Naomi Craine

Toni Jones (left) and Freda Goodman support January 16 demonstration against anti-immigrant policies of county police department as it passes their homes.

Students face rising cost, massive debts for school

BY SETH GALINSKY

The cost of college tuition skyrocketed 439 percent from 1983 to 2007. In spite of the jump, for now more students than ever are enrolling—and going deeper into debt, with fewer job prospects.

According to the Pew Research Center there are about 3.4 million young adults at community colleges and 8 million at four-year colleges in the United States, an all-time high.

While enrollment at four-year institutions has stayed steady, in the last few years as the economic crisis deepened and unemployment climbed, millions of students opted for two-year community colleges, which are cheaper.

At the same time, university administrations are jacking up fees and cutting services.

“It feels like I’m being punished for having gone to school,” Sarah Kostecki told the *Wall Street Journal*. Kostecki graduated from privately owned DePaul University in 2008 with \$87,000 in debts. Her \$685-a-month payments are equal to more than a third of

her take-home pay. Tuition at DePaul is more than \$26,000 a year.

Publicly funded schools cost less, but are still pricey. At Arizona State University in-state residents pay \$6,800 a year in tuition and fees; non-residents pay \$19,600.

Millions of students receive government grants, but this doesn’t come close to covering all the costs.

Loan defaults shoot up

According to the Project on Student Debt, the average owed by graduating college seniors in 2008 was \$23,200, up from \$18,650 in 2004.

Due to rising fees, higher unemployment, and lower-paying jobs upon graduation, default rates for federally guaranteed student loans reached close to 7 percent in 2007, the latest year figures are available, up from 4.6 percent in 2005.

Students borrowed \$19 billion in private loans in the 2007–2008 school year, *six times* the amount they borrowed a decade before. The interest rates and default rates for private loans are also climbing.



Students protest at University of California at Los Angeles November 18 against proposed 32 percent raise in undergraduate fees approved by university board the following day.

While more students are sinking deeper into debt, schools are cutting back on teaching staff and equipment. A study by the Delta Cost Project points out that spending per student at community colleges dropped 5.9 percent from 2002 to 2006.

Only one in five students at two-year colleges graduate within three years. At four-year colleges the rate is only slightly better: two out of five get

their degrees within six years.

While the number of college students and graduates, especially from the working class, has grown tremendously over the last half century, holding a college diploma—unless it’s from the “elite” 10 percent of universities—is not a huge help in getting a job today.

A survey by the Project on Student Debt shows that unemployment for recent college graduates rose to 10.6 percent in the third quarter of 2009. Many of those who do get hired are forced to take lower-paying jobs, often unrelated to their field of study.

New openness to communist literature

Continued from front page

going door-to-door, and regular plant-gate sales at factories with a substantial Black workforce. Supporters of the paper will also sell in other working-class areas, on college campuses, and at demonstrations and other political events.

Ten copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* were sold at the Martin Luther King Day parade in Atlanta, four with introductory subscriptions.

“The president of a United Postal Workers local here bought the book,” writes Jacob Perasso, who was part of the Atlanta sales team. “He said the union is opposed to moving the main Atlanta post office to the north side of the city, making it harder for working people to get to. He bought the book

after seeing the photos of the struggles in the 1960s that Malcolm X sought to link up with—from the Cuban Revolution to the struggle against colonialism in Africa and the Caribbean.”

Packinghouse workers buy book

In the Twin Cities in Minnesota, three workers at the Dakota Premium beef slaughterhouse renewed their subscriptions to the *Militant* and bought the new book, reports Frank Forrestal. One, a worker originally from Burma, said he wanted to talk more about the *Militant* and Malcolm X. So far three Black workers on the kill floor have purchased the book.

Forrestal notes that communists on the job have been distributing the *Militant* supplement with the introduction to *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. This helped spark interest in the book.

In the book’s introduction, Barnes explains why the “revolutionary conquest of state power by a politically class-conscious and organized vanguard of the working class—millions strong—is necessary. About why that new state power provides working people the mightiest weapon possible to wage the ongoing battle to end Black oppression and every form of exploitation and human degradation.”

The book will be of particular interest to those seeking to understand how the working class fight for power is the answer to social catastrophes like the one in Haiti that is the product of imperialism. Two copies of the book were sold in Chicago at a meeting

to discuss the earthquake and its aftermath.

An 82-year-old retired school teacher and *Militant* subscriber in New York City said, “The paper is so interesting. It makes you look at the world differently. It opens your eyes.” She has been reading about the new book in the *Militant*, and bought it along with *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

A young auto mechanic in Miami, who had bought a subscription last year in Liberty City, visited the Socialist Workers Party hall after getting a phone call about renewing his subscription. “I liked the paper and wanted to know more about the ideas of the people who distribute it,” he said, mentioning that he had a Cuban American friend “who had different views.” After the discussion, he renewed his subscription and bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power can be purchased for just \$10, half the cover price, with any subscription or renewal to the *Militant* or together with *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution, The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning, or Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* (See ad for special offer on pages 6 and 7).

Readers who would like to help get the book into the hands of coworkers, friends, or relatives, and expand readership of the *Militant*, can contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Please send reports of your experiences on distributing this literature to themilitant@mac.com. Let us know what people are saying when they buy the book or renew their subscription. Send in pictures of literature tables in working-class and Black communities, at factory gates, and at demonstrations.

Paying for college ‘brand name’

Graduates from elite schools continue to garner higher-paying positions. An article in *Democracy Journal* by Kevin Carey, who works for Education Sector, a Washington, D.C., “think tank,” notes that today’s children of privilege are paying for “a prominent brand name, the primary value of which is to signal to the rest of the world that they’re rich and connected enough to pay the price.”

One indication of how education reinforces class divisions under capitalism is the amount of resources available at elite schools compared to public colleges.

At Ivy League Harvard, with a 97 percent graduation rate, the university spends \$51,870 per year on each student’s “education.” California State University in Los Angeles, where less than 32 percent graduate, spends under \$8,000 a year per student.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, in the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, notes that “The purpose of education in class society is not to educate.

“The purpose of education,” he explains, “is to give ‘the educated’ a stake in thinking they are going to be different—slightly better off, slightly more white collar—than other people who work all their lives.”

For lawyers and other “professionals,” Barnes adds, their diploma “becomes a justification for living off part of the fruits of the exploitation of workers, working farmers, and other toiling producers.”

The working class, however, is for reorganizing society “so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die,” Barnes writes. Without that, he says, “there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity.”



Militant/Bernie Senter

Militant supporter campaigns with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at Martin Luther King Jr. Day event in Miami.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Meat packers in Quebec beat back concessions

ST-HYACINTHE, Quebec—Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers voted by a 78 percent majority December 27 to end their strike against Olymel, one of the largest pork and poultry processing companies in Canada. The 480 meat packers had walked out October 9 after refusing Olymel's demands for concessions. The company wanted to impose a four-year wage freeze, but was forced to concede modest wage increases over a seven-year contract.

Workers say the company had also demanded the right to subcontract work, but withdrew this in the agreement that was voted on. Olymel will now have the right to start a weekend shift composed of workers with the least seniority, but all workers will be members of the union with the same wages and benefits. The company had initially proposed the weekend shift be composed of nonunion workers at lower pay.

Outside the meeting where the vote was taken, several unionists told the *Militant* that they had put up a good fight.

While on strike workers were very visible in the area. They organized a demonstration, enlarged picket lines, and before the cold weather set in, often wandered through town with their picket signs. One of the local pizza chains, Med Pizza, offered half-price pizzas for strikers and their families.

—Annette Kouri

Hotel workers in L.A. fight for new union contracts

LOS ANGELES—Hundreds of hotel workers rallied in front of the Regency Century Plaza here January 7 demanding new union contracts. "Don't underestimate our capacities," said Marguerita Ramos, a UNITE HERE Local 11 member and housekeeper, to the cheers of the crowd. Contracts covering 4,200 union hotel workers expired in 2009.

Richard Acosta, a cook at the LAX Hilton, said that 70 workers were suspended for a week without pay at that hotel for trying to organize a union. "Health benefits are the number one issue, with harassment and favoritism a close second. I'm here in solidarity with my union brothers and sisters in the fight for dignity," he said.

Benjamin Leonen, a cook at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, told rally participants, "I do the same work for the same company, but earn less money and have fewer rights because

there is not a union." The majority of Los Angeles hotel workers are not organized.

Other rally speakers included Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO; Maria Elena Durazo, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor; and Tom Walsh, president of UNITE HERE Local 11.

—Arlene Rubinstein

Canada packing workers fight company lockout

At the XL beef plant in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, some 200 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1400 are fighting a lockout.

XL Foods is the largest beef processor in Canada. The company laid the workers off in April. In September it transformed the layoff into a lockout when union members voted to reject concessions that included an increase in mandatory overtime and lower wages over a six-year contract.

Since then workers have been picketing the plant and asking people to boycott XL products. XL Foods told the media



Leigh Shelton

Hundreds of hotel workers rally in Los Angeles January 7 demanding union contracts. Agreements between 21 hotels and union, covering some 4,200 workers, expired last year.

that it is prepared to restart operations at Moose Jaw, but it would require a union contract "that will allow [the company] to be competitive in the marketplace."

On December 18, UFCW vice president Mark Lauritsen presented a check for \$86,000 to Local 1400 at the

picket line. The funds, which are to be distributed to the locked-out workers, were donated by UFCW union members from the United States and Canada attending a recent union conference.

—Annette Kouri

Cops near Boston detain 58 immigrant workers

BY TED LEONARD AND KEVIN DWIRE

BOSTON—Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and police officers from Foxboro, Massachusetts, detained 58 immigrant workers at a roadblock near Gillette Stadium on January 6.

They targeted a caravan of four passenger vans traveling from Providence, Rhode Island. The workers had been hired to shovel snow off the seats at Gillette Stadium where the New England Patriots football team would be playing the coming weekend.

Nine people were taken to Bristol County jail and the other 49 were taken to a nearby police station where they were fingerprinted, photographed, and released with orders to report back to ICE to determine their legal status.

Most were Guatemalan immigrants from Rhode Island. When they were released federal officials offered rides to the stadium for those who wanted to go to work.

ICE spokeswoman Paula Grenier said the operation targeted "fugitive aliens" who previously had been ordered deported.

Of the nine detained, Grenier said, five had been previously deported but had re-entered the United States illegally. She said their cases will be sent to the U.S. Attorney's Office for possible federal prosecution.

Each faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted of the felony of re-entering the country without permission after deportation.

Catarina Alonzo, 25, told the *Boston Globe* she came to the United States from Guatemala eight years ago and

sends money home to her family. She said she also worked cleaning trash at the stadium after games last year. "What are you going to do?" she said in Spanish. "I am poor. I went to work."

The *Providence Journal* reported that several of the workers went to the local office of Rhode Island senator Jack Reed to ask him "to support immigration reform."

Senator Reed responded with a statement that said, "The comprehensive reform I support is tough, but fair. It recognizes the reality that a group of hard-working people are here seeking a better life, paying taxes and making positive contributions to society [and] deserve a chance to become citizens. But in order to earn American citizenship, they must play by the rules, hold a steady job, pay fines and learn English."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 1, 1985

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Thousands of family farmers rallied on the steps of the state capitol here January 21 to demand aid for farmers caught in the worst agricultural crisis since the depression of the 1930s.

Schools were closed for the day in 34 rural districts across the state so students could join their families in the protest. At the request of rally organizers, small businesses in many farming communities shut down for the day as well.

Estimates of the crowd ranged up to 10,000. In addition to farm families, trade unionists joined the demonstration in a show of support for the beleaguered small farmers.

The massive turnout for the protest highlighted the depth of the farm crisis across the Midwest. In Minnesota alone, the state agriculture department estimates that 13,000 of 100,000 family farmers will be forced off their land in the next two years.



February 1, 1960

An armed uprising by the reactionary French "colons" or colonists in Algiers, which the French army officers are unwilling to put down, threatens to topple the "strong man" regime of De Gaulle in France just as a similar uprising 20 months ago toppled the Fourth French Republic.

Fascist-minded elements in France as well as Algeria were emboldened by the demonstration of armed force and defiance of the French government.

The chain of events immediately leading to the "mutiny" in Algiers began January 22 when De Gaulle removed Gen. Jacques Massu from the military and civil command of the Algiers area.

Massu, a candidate for the role of France's General Franco, is the darling of the "colons" and the fascists in France. Under his command the paratroopers became storm troops specializing in torturing and slaughtering Algerian freedom fighters.



February 2, 1935

FARGO, North Dakota—Three hundred deputized vigilantes swept down on the headquarters of General Drivers Local No. 173 on Sunday, tear gassed strikers, their wives and children, and arrested 94. They were charged with rioting and inciting to riot.

The strike of the coal, ice, and transfer drivers has been on since the middle of January. In spite of the sub zero weather the Fargo drivers, using the militant picketing technique developed by General Drivers Local 574 in Minneapolis, had the city of Fargo sewed up tight. The strike was called for union recognition and for the reinstatement of two men discharged for union activities.

Today the entire town of Fargo is in the hands of vigilante thugs, who have set as their goal the crushing of the local labor movement, for years a negligible force—until Miles Dunne, one of the leaders of Local 574, was loaned to the Fargo drivers as an organizer.

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Malcolm X: Revolutionary leader of the working class

Pathfinder Press has just published *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. The *Militant* will be running excerpts to help promote the book. We encourage our readers to buy and read it—and discuss the perspectives for a working-class revolution that Malcolm X was increasingly drawn to in the last year of his life.

Below is an excerpt from a March 28, 1987 speech by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, titled, “Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class,” from Part I of the book.

On Dec. 4, 1963, Malcolm X, one of the most prominent leaders of the Nation of Islam at the time, was suspended by the group’s leader Elijah Muhammad. The suspension was ostensibly for making an unauthorized remark about the assassination of President John Kennedy; in reality differences had been developing for some time between Malcolm and the leadership of the Nation.

In March 1964 Malcolm X announced that he was leaving the Nation of Islam and organizing a new movement.

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BY JACK BARNES

After March 1964 Malcolm began speaking and acting on his own, as a political leader. This is the Malcolm X whose speeches, interviews, and statements you’ve read in Pathfinder books. Whose thoughts and ideas many of you know to one degree or another. But this block of time—a grand total of fifty weeks, as it turned out, not even a full year—was precious for Malcolm. He had fifty weeks to organize, to go through new experiences, to reflect on those experiences and draw lessons, to collaborate with other revolutionists here and abroad, to discuss and work out his views, to improve and correct them, to face up to contradictions and begin resolving them. In short, to take the path that made Malcolm X who he was. To discover his worth.

Malcolm spent more than half that time abroad—nearly twenty-six weeks in Africa and the Middle East, and an additional two weeks plus in Britain and France. Those trips had a tremendous political impact on him.

So it was over the course of only twenty-two weeks in the United States that Malcolm began building two separate organizations—first the Muslim Mosque, Inc., and then, in June 1964, the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). It was during those weeks that he gave the big majority of speeches and interviews explaining his rapidly evolving revolutionary outlook to broader and broader audiences.

Many of the views Malcolm advocated and explained at the end of his life were quite different from those he had still held to one degree or another in March 1964. He had gone through not primarily an evolution, but over-

lapping *revolutions*, so to speak.

Malcolm X emerged on American soil as the most representative revolutionary leader with a mass hearing in the latter half of the twentieth century. He converged politically with other revolutionists the world over, including proletarian revolutionists, communists, here in the United States. He was going in the direction the world revolution was going, *against* colonialism and capitalism, and *with* those who were pushing revolutionary struggle forward. Many individuals, in many countries, who aspire to lead revolutions on their home turf are still catching up with Malcolm on many fronts.

Malcolm’s course during these final months is sometimes described as a new form of Pan-Africanism, and Malcolm himself used that term a few times. But “Pan-Africanism” captures neither the scope nor the revolutionary political character of Malcolm’s internationalism and anti-imperialism. Malcolm, of course, recognized the shared aspects of the oppression facing those of African origin—and of their resistance to that oppression. Because of the combined legacy of colonialism and chattel slavery, Blacks shared many such elements whether they lived and toiled in Africa itself, in the Caribbean and Latin America, in Europe, or what Malcolm, echoing Elijah Muhammad’s marvelous term, called “this wilderness of North

“In revolutionary working-class struggles, Black workers will occupy a vanguard place . . .”

America.”

“Many of us fool ourselves into thinking of Afro-Americans as those only who are here in the United States,” Malcolm said in one of his last talks, just five days before he was assassinated. “But the Afro-American is that large number of people in the Western Hemisphere, from the southernmost tip of South America to the northernmost tip of North America, all of whom have a common heritage and have a common origin when you go back to the history of these people. . . . [And when Africans] migrate to England, they pose a problem for the English. And when they migrate to France, they pose a problem for the French.”*

At the same time, Malcolm increasingly identified with, championed, and explained revolutionary struggles the world over—from the Chinese Revolution, to the Cuban Revolution, to battles for national liberation wherever they were being fought, and by people of whatever hue of skin color.

At this meeting tonight, however, I want to try to make the case that is perhaps the most important of all, not just for revolutionists in this country but those around the world. I want to make the case that *Malcolm X was a*

* “Not Just an American Problem, but a World Problem,” in *February 1965: The Final Speeches*, pp. 149–50.



Malcolm X speaks at July 1962 rally in New York City called by hospital workers union Local 1199 to back fight for union recognition.

revolutionary leader of the working class in the United States.

That may sound strange, for a number of reasons. It may sound strange because of the small degree of support Malcolm had among workers who were Caucasian, at least those he knew of. It may sound strange because of the weakened state of the labor movement and procapitalist positions of the union officialdom that I described earlier, views that were diametrically opposed to Malcolm’s. It may sound strange, if for no other reason than that Malcolm himself never directly addressed this question.

But the fact remains that the social and political transformations that will be wrought by a popular revolution in the United States—a revolution that will be led by the vanguard of the working class, or else go down to a bloody defeat—are decisive for the oppressed and exploited the world over. Among other things, the conquest of power by the working class and its allies—the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat—is the necessary step that can open the road for Blacks, and for all supporters of Black rights, to successfully fight to end racist oppression of every kind once and for all.

In the leadership of revolutionary working-class struggles in this country, workers who are Black will occupy a vanguard place and weight disproportionate to their numbers in the U.S. population. That’s what all modern history teaches us. That fact is testified to by the record of powerful social and political struggles in the United States: from battles during the closing years of the Civil War itself; to Radical Reconstruction and the efforts to prevent the imposition

of peonage among the freed slaves; to the struggles that built farmers movements and the industrial unions in the 1920s and 1930s; to the mass proletarian movement that toppled Jim Crow segregation, fueled the rise of greater political self-confidence and nationalist consciousness among Blacks in the

“More leaders like Malcolm X will come forward, including in the labor movement . . .”

1960s, and inspired what became the mass movement against the imperialist war in Vietnam.

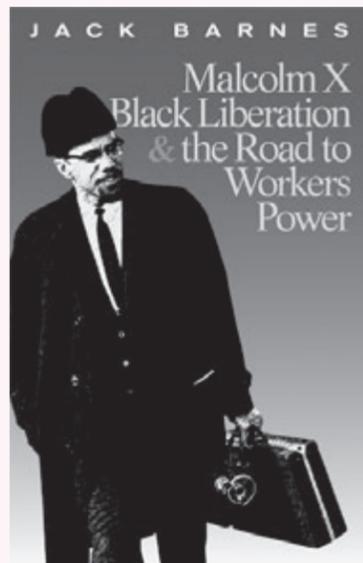
Malcolm X was a legitimate political heir to all these struggles.

But who are *Malcolm’s* heirs?

Following his assassination, some who looked to Malcolm were disappointed because the political organization he founded and led, the OAAU, died with him. Given the enemies they faced, none of the relatively few OAAU cadres Malcolm had brought over from the Nation of Islam were able to step forward to carry on the fight and shoulder the leadership to continue Malcolm’s revolutionary political course. That’s a fact.

But the heirs of Malcolm X *will* come forward—all over the world, including right here in the United States—as revolutionary struggles advance, as the exploited and oppressed organize to resist the devastating consequences of capitalist crises and imperialist domination and wars. More leaders like Malcolm *will* come forward, including in the labor movement. And they will need to know who Malcolm was, what Malcolm stood for, what he fought for and dedicated his life to.

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Cuban doctors in Haiti respond rapidly to crisis

BY SETH GALINSKY

Cuban doctors already stationed in Haiti when the January 12 earthquake struck were the first to begin treating the injured. The response of Cuba's revolutionary government, which rapidly boosted its medical personnel in Haiti in the wake of the disaster, stands in sharp contrast to the callous indifference of Washington, the governments of other wealthy nations, the United Nations, and various aid groups.

After the earthquake Cuban medical personnel reopened three hospitals in Port-au-Prince, set up field hospitals—including one in the courtyard of the Cuban volunteers' living quarters near the National Palace—and converted an eye clinic into a medical center to treat injuries.

Some 60 medical specialists in natural disasters arrived from Cuba the day after the earthquake to reinforce the effort under way by 344 Cuban medical volunteers. On January 16, 32 Haitian doctors who graduated from medical school in Cuba arrived to join the contingent. The Cuban government has also flown in 10 tons of medical supplies.

CNN reporter Steve Kastenbaum tried to find functioning hospitals in Port-au-Prince. In a January 17 broadcast he noted that La Paz Hospital, operated by the Cubans, is one of "the few places ordinary Haitians can turn to" to get urgent care. "It's amazing to see," Kastenbaum said, they're treating "six to seven hundred patients a day." The Cuban doctors keep three operating rooms running 24 hours a day, he noted.

The discipline, efficiency, and solidarity demonstrated by the Cubans inspired some Chilean and Spanish medical workers to ask to join the Cuban teams.

CNN medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta was present, on the other hand, when Belgian doctors and nurses abandoned 25 patients overnight in a mobile hospital, including three who had just undergone surgery, after hearing rumors of rioting in the area. The Belgians took their supplies with them. One Haitian nurse refused to leave. The Belgian medical personnel only returned the next day when the United Nations agreed to provide security.

A team of 267 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention arrived in Haiti January 15 but sat at

the airport for two days because they were waiting for military "escorts" to take them into the city.

Cuban medical aid to Haiti goes back to 1998, when Cuban volunteers arrived to treat victims of Hurricane George. Since then more than 3,000 Cuban volunteers have helped provide medical care under an agreement with the Haitian government.

The Cubans repaired broken medical equipment, opened up health centers, immunized more than 370,000 people, arranged for eye operations for more than 41,000 patients, and helped lower the infant mortality rate in many parts of the country.

Since 1999 Cuba has trained 544 Haitians as doctors at Cuban medical schools. According to the daily *Juventud Rebelde*, some 200 Haitian graduates of these schools are working with the Cuban volunteers in Haiti to treat quake victims.

Gonzalo Estévez Torres, a leader of the Cuban medical brigade in Port-au-Prince, told *Juventud Rebelde* that many Haitians are still in shock from the earthquake. The brigade will be working with the Haitian doctors graduated in Cuba to prepare people for the problems they will face in the weeks ahead.



Cuban doctor treats earthquake victims at Hospital Universitaire de la Paix in Port-au-Prince

Imperialists delay food, medicine to Haiti

Continued from front page
cigarettes and toothpaste for U.S. diplomats stationed on the island.

Clinton told reporters she urged Haitian officials to issue a decree granting the government power to impose curfews and other measures, "which in practice they would delegate to us."

The U.S. military took over the airport and seaports and put the arrival of troops and military equipment ahead of food and medical supplies. Doctors Without Borders reported that five planes carrying surgical equipment were turned away from the Port-au-Prince airport by U.S. military officials and forced to land in the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Three days after the earthquake the Obama administration granted Temporary Protected Status for undocumented Haitians in the United States. Those convicted of a felony or more than one misdemeanor are ineligible.

At the same time, Department of Homeland Security secretary Janet Na-

politano made clear that any Haitian trying to enter the United States without papers since the earthquake will be deported. "At this moment of tragedy in Haiti it is tempting for people suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake to seek refuge elsewhere," she said. "But attempting to leave Haiti now will only bring more hardship to the Haitian people and nation."

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher O'Neil told the *New York Times* that in addition to U.S. Coast Guard boats patrolling Haiti's coast, there are five cutters, an aircraft carrier, and other U.S. Navy ships poised to stop any Haitians heading to Florida.

Only 23 Haitians get U.S. visas

Federal authorities announced they have transferred 400 people awaiting deportation at the Krome Detention Center in Florida to make room for Haitians expected to be detained trying to enter the United States. Of the thousands of Haitians who have applied for U.S. visas to get medical treatment, 23 have received them, according to Homeland Security. The agency has allowed some orphans to enter the country.

"Any Haitian who needs medical attention or other care should be allowed to come to the U.S.," Hans Mardy, a leader of the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition in Miami, told the *Militant*.

The government of the Dominican Republic has also denied entry to most Haitians and sent extra troops to the border with Haiti.

Search-and-rescue teams from various countries had pulled a mere 71 people out of the rubble as of January 19, according to the *Miami Herald*. Many of these teams got to Haiti days after they could have done the most good. Those teams "have been intensely focused on buildings with international aid workers,

such as the crushed U.N. headquarters, and on large hotels with international clientele," said the *Washington Post*.

In Carrefour, the epicenter of the earthquake, 500 to 1,000 garment workers at the Palm Apparel company died. For five days no rescue team came to dig them out of the collapsed T-shirt factory. "American rescue teams were cautioned against going into neighborhoods southwest of downtown, including Carrefour, that were perceived as too dangerous," the *New York Times* reported.

The imperialists and local capitalists have used rumors of "violence" and "looting" to justify denying aid to working-class districts. U.S. defense secretary Robert Gates said food could not be dropped into areas where roads were blocked because "they could trigger riots," according to BBC News.

But the January 16 *Miami Herald* reported working people were organizing their own rescue efforts in a disciplined manner. "As encampments sprung up throughout the island, Haitians grew tired of waiting for international relief and took matters into their own hands—providing security, and rationing what little they have," it reported. "Twenty young men patrolled the rocky soccer field and surrounding community keeping vigil over the hundreds of homeless who had camped out night after frigid night in the Marie Therese neighborhood of Port-au-Prince."

The *New York Times* described one neighborhood where an aid truck arrived with no advance notice and was immediately surrounded by starving Haitians. Five youth moved into the crowd and "within five minutes the people had been arranged in three neat lines," to receive the food, the *Times* reported.

Cindy Jaquith in New York contributed to this article.

m X, Black Liberation, Workers Power



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by Mary-Alice Waters

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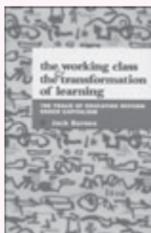


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Lessons on building a revolutionary workers party

Printed below are two excerpts from *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January*. In this handbook on how to build a Leninist party, James P. Cannon outlines the proletarian politics that guide a revolutionary communist party. It records a struggle against a petty-bourgeois opposition that erupted in the Socialist Workers Party following the outbreak of World War II in 1939-40. While the political conflict broke out over a debate on the nature of the Soviet Union and the obligation of revolutionists to defend the first workers state from imperialist attack, it soon revealed diverging class perspectives. Cannon describes here the perspective to build a proletarian party in the United States modeled on the Bolshevik Party that led the Russian Revolution. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Bob Chester

James P. Cannon speaking at April 1940 Socialist Workers Party convention. "The workers of America have power enough to topple over the structure of capitalism at home and to lift the whole world with them when they rise," he wrote.

proletarian composition conforming to its proletarian program. The Bolshevik party cannot be led by dilettantes whose real interests and real lives are in another and alien world. It requires an active professional leadership, composed of individuals democratically selected and democratically controlled, who devote their entire lives to the party, and who find in the party and in its multiform activities in a proletarian environment, complete personal satisfaction.

For the proletarian revolutionist the party is the concentrated expression of his life purpose, and he is bound to it for life and death. He preaches and practices party patriotism, because he knows that his socialist ideal cannot be realized without the party. In his eyes the crime of crimes is disloyalty or irresponsibility toward the party. The proletarian revolutionist is proud of his party. He defends it before the world on all occasions. The proletarian revolutionist is a disciplined man, since the party cannot exist as a combat organization without discipline. When he finds himself in the minority, he loyally submits to the decision of the party and carries out its decisions, while he awaits new events to verify the disputes or new opportunities to discuss them again. . . .

The petty-bourgeois intellectual, who wants to teach and guide the labor movement without participating in it, feels only loose ties to the party and is always full of "grievances" against it.

The moment his toes are stepped on, or he is rebuffed, he forgets all about the interests of the movement and remembers only that his feelings have been hurt; the revolution may be important, but the wounded vanity of a petty-bourgeois intellectual is more important.

* * *

I wrote before the last party convention: "Our convention must let the dead bury the dead and turn the face of the party to the workers who are the real source of power and inspiration and well-grounded optimism. We have said this before. More than once we have incorporated it in resolutions. But we have not made the turn in forthright fashion. That is why we are lagging behind. That is the main reason we are suffering a certain stagnation. That is why we are even flirting with the danger of a degeneration of the party along the lines of conservative passivity, introspection, and futility."

I wrote: "The proletariat of the United States is the source of unlimited power, it can lift the whole world on its shoulders—that is the unshakable premise of all our calculations and all our work . . . the workers of America have power enough to topple over the structure of capitalism at home and to lift the whole world with them when they rise!"

Those words—the theme of all my pre-convention articles last year—hold good today. In retrospect, they read more

prophetically than I knew at that time. I did not know how deep, how great, was the "danger of degeneration" implicit in the bad composition of the party in New York and its inadequate contact with the mass movement of the workers.

I said in that article: "Our program has withstood all the tests of theory and experience and stands unassailable." I must admit that I wrote these words on the assumption that I was stating a truism to which we all subscribed, and that the differences between us concerned only matters of orientation, emphasis, and application. I could not know that within a few months the ambitious plan of expansion adopted by the convention on my motion would be disrupted and crowded off the agenda by a factional civil war in the party.

I, along with other comrades, expected future trouble from the intellectual wing of our leadership. But we did not foresee that they would undertake to lead an insurrection against our fundamental program, our doctrine, our tradition, and our organizational methods. This demonstration compelled us to put aside—to postpone—the execution of our ambitious plans for external work until the hegemony of Marxism in the party had again been established by struggle. That struggle is now drawing to a close. The victory of Marxism, and thereby of the proletarian tendency, is already assured. On that basis the party convention can and will again decide to implement the proletarian orientation by measures no different in basic content than those adopted at the convention last July.

The convention will meet and conduct its work under the sign of the proletarian orientation. That is the way to meet the coming war. Preparation for war means, for us, not some esoteric special task. It means turning the face of the party to the workers, penetrating deeper into the trade unions. It means taking drastic measures to proletarianize the composition of the party membership. And, in the light of the experience of the faction struggle, the proletarian orientation means above all—and in order to make all possible—a firm decision to continue on all fronts the implacable war against any and all opposition to the doctrine and program of proletarian revolution.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

For us the party must be a combat organization which leads a determined struggle for power. The Bolshevik party which leads the struggle for power needs not only internal democracy. It also requires an imperious centralism and an iron discipline in action. It requires a

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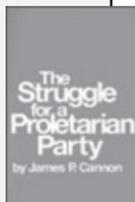
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Defend the Cuban Revolution!

The recent statement by a group of prominent African Americans condemning the Cuban Revolution's "racism" is an assault on the conquest of power by the working class in Cuba, and the effective wielding of that power for more than 50 years in the interests of working people. It is also an assault on the fight of workers in this country to replace the dictatorship of capital—and all of the exploitation and discrimination it perpetuates—through the working class taking power and establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat.

With the deepening world capitalist crisis, the pressure of the imperialist encirclement of Cuba is growing. Some former "friends" of Cuba are running for cover. The *Militant* has been a defender of the Cuban Revolution since its opening days, and joins with others who are beginning to counter this latest assault on workers power in Cuba.

The message of the declaration against Cuba is clear: Look at what 50 years of a socialist revolution gets you. A few may benefit, but blacks still face high unemployment, repression because of the color of their skin, more are in prison, and few are promoted to positions of responsibility. It is better to stick with a 'democratic' capitalism.

This assault is part and parcel of the 51-year-long campaign by Washington—through economic and political pressure, through lies and distortions, and through military action—to isolate and defeat the Cuban Revolution. But since the triumph of working people there in 1959, the revolution has been overwhelmingly supported by the workers and farmers of Cuba, including by those of African descent, who today make up the majority of the population.

The new book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* explains that the "revolutionary conquest of state power by a politically class-conscious and organized vanguard of the working class—millions strong—is necessary" and "provides working people the mightiest weapon possible to wage the ongoing battle to end Black oppression and

every form of exploitation and human degradation inherited from millennia of class-divided society."

This dictatorship of the proletariat is the instrument Cuban toilers have used to uproot the foundations of race discrimination and make tremendous gains since the opening days of the revolution. Among the first acts of Cuba's revolutionary government was to end the Jim Crow-style system of segregation, not simply by decree, but enforced by the mobilization of armed militias of workers and peasants. Programs like the elimination of illiteracy, extending health care to everyone, and giving peasants land disproportionately benefited the black population.

Despite these gains, some of the vestiges of the centuries-long legacy of chattel slavery and capitalist oppression remain. Blacks are still subject to some of the deep-rooted prejudices held over from class society. In the face of the world's worst economic crisis in living memory, these inequalities can become more pronounced. The Cuban government has stood out in its efforts to mobilize resources, both human and material, to minimize the impact of the world depression on the lives of working people, and at the same time extend international solidarity to workers abroad, as they are doing in Haiti today.

As Cuba's revolutionary leadership faces the historic challenges of maintaining the gains working people have achieved, now is the time to step up the defense of the only living, fighting dictatorship of the proletariat that exists.

Above all it is the example that Cuba provides for working people in the United States and other capitalist countries that the U.S. rulers fear, and the signers of the declaration against Cuba hope to curb. Cuba is the only living example working people have today that shows how the road to workers power is the way forward for combating racism and all other forms of oppression and exploitation bred by the capitalist system. And whatever remains to be done in this fight, the Cuban working class is armed, as nowhere else in the world, to advance this struggle.

Open the border to Haitians!

Continued from front page

the ruins, get people to hospitals and clinics, and find food to feed people.

Beefing up patrols of Haitian waters to prevent working people from leaving the island is more important to the U.S. rulers than getting medical care and food to those who need it.

The capitalist press and U.S. government officials blame the Haitian people for the social disaster unfolding after the earthquake. They point to the total collapse of the Haitian government and institutions and portray Haitian workers as looters.

U.S. and French imperialism, however, have been plundering the resources and people of Haiti for decades. U.S. troops occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934 and Washington backed the brutal Duvalier dictatorship from 1956 to 1986, until it was overthrown by a popular revolt. In the 1990s, Washington forced the Haitian government to end tariffs on

chicken and rice, driving thousands of workers and peasants out of work and off the land, while earning millions for U.S. capitalists.

In contrast, hundreds of Cuban volunteers in Haiti, alongside Haitians trained in Cuban medical schools, have dispensed immediate medical care to those injured in the earthquake. The solidarity and proletarian internationalism demonstrated by the Cuban-led brigades, who have treated thousands, exposes Washington's self-serving pretexts about the "difficulty" of getting aid to those who need it.

The Haitian people need food, water, shelter, and medical care. Immediately fly those who need urgent medical care to U.S. hospitals! Provide massive reconstruction aid to Haiti, no strings attached! Cancel Haiti's foreign debt! Open the door to Haitians who wish to come to the United States! Working people the world over should make these demands on Washington and other imperialist governments.

Attack on Cuba

Continued from front page

imperialist segment of the white Cuban middle class."

His latest book *Pichón* contains pictures of Moore with Malcolm X, the U.S. Black rights fighter Robert F. Williams, and even Fidel Castro. Moore suggests that Malcolm X was a backer of his views. But he doesn't cite a single statement by Malcolm, who was an outspoken supporter of the Cuban Revolution, to support that.

Two online petitions are being circulated that counter the claims of Moore and others who align themselves with the imperialist campaign against Cuba. These include "In Solidarity with the Real Anti-Racist Movement in Cuba," which can be found at www.petitiononline.com/racecuba/petition.html; and "Declaration of African American Activists, Intellectuals and Artists in Continued Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution," which can be found at www.petitiononline.com/withcuba/petition.html.

Record of Cuban Revolution

The real record of the Cuban Revolution is an example of how racism and all forms of exploitation and oppression can be confronted when the working class wields the instrument of state power.

Cuba's prerevolutionary history was marked by a legacy of imperialist domination. It was one of the last countries to abolish slavery, which existed on the island until 1886. The U.S.-backed government of Fulgencio Batista, until its downfall, maintained a system of Jim Crow-style racist segregation.

In January 1959 working people in Cuba toppled the Batista dictatorship and established a revolutionary government. Many blacks in Cuba—which is a country whose majority today is of African descent—were prominent leaders of the revolution and blacks overwhelmingly supported the overthrow of capitalism and the working class taking power.

The revolution immediately began combating racism by outlawing discrimination and segregation. Distinctions based on race were erased from the constitution. And more importantly, the revolutionary government saw to the swift implementation and enforcement of the law through workers' and peasants' militias.

The revolutionary Cuban government's record of combating racism is also exemplified in its internationalist mission to Angola, where 375,000 volunteer troops helped defeat the invading South African apartheid forces between 1975 and 1991. At a speech in Cuba in July 1991 Nelson Mandela described the victory over the South African army as "a turning point in the struggle to free the continent and our country from the scourge of apartheid!"

By eliminating the source of institutionalized racism—capitalism—the Cuban Revolution opened the door to unprecedented gains by blacks and their fuller integration into all aspects of society, even though many deep-rooted prejudices remained.

"We can't leave it to chance to correct historical injustices," said Fidel Castro at the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in 1986. "It has to be the work of the party; we have to straighten out what history has twisted."

The decision of the Communist Party of Cuba in 2007 to establish a commission to commemorate the Independent Party of Color in Cuba, a chapter of Cuban history in the fight against racism that was drowned in blood in 1912, is an example of how the revolutionary leadership continues to advance the discussion of how to confront the challenge of combating the legacy of racism today.

The recent attacks on Cuba for "racism" come in the context of a deepening world depression, which exacerbates inequalities and places major challenges before the leadership of the Cuban Revolution. The record of the revolution over 50 years has been, and continues to be, to address these challenges.

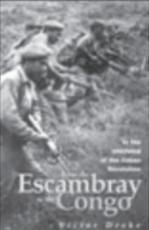
At a recent session of the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power, President Raúl Castro reaffirmed the government's commitment to eradicating the legacy of racism. "I personally believe it's a disgrace how insufficiently we have advanced in this," Castro said. "I will use all my influence to make sure these harmful prejudices keep giving ground until they are eliminated for good, and that women and blacks are promoted to leadership positions at all levels on account of their merits and professional training."

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