

# Million Man March shows we need socialism!

850,000 to 2.2 million Black men marched in Washington on Monday, October 16.

This was the largest political march in the history of the United States. It was also the closest thing to a political strike in recent history.

So many Black people took off work that 30% of the work force was absent in some factories in Detroit. Many workplaces were unable to operate as usual. For every Black man in Washington, there were many Black men and women who took off work, but couldn't get to Washington, so they got together with family and friends instead.

The Million-Man March showed that Black people are determined to go forward; they are determined not to be pushed back again. It also showed that Black people have a tremendous amount of power and influence. The Million-Man march not only inspired Black people, it also inspired millions of working people of all ethnic groups, including whites, in the U.S. and throughout the world.

At a meeting of striking newspaper workers in Detroit following the Million-Man March, many newspaper workers were saying things like: "If Black men can organize a million-man march on Washington, then workers, Black and white, men and women, working together, ought to be able to organize a few million to march on Detroit, Michigan and Decatur, Illinois, and shutdown union-busting firms like the Detroit Newspaper Agency, Staley, Cat, Bridgestone-Firestone."

What can Black people do? How can they go forward? How can they keep from being pushed back?

Some are calling for Black people to register to vote. Others are calling for Black people to set up a special fund to help Black people set up their own businesses.

We think Black people should register to vote and vote for independent working class candidates and/or Black candidates who are really fighting for the interests of Black people against rich whites. We think it's a waste to vote for Republicans or Democrats, white or Black, who *claim* to be for Black

# Million-Man March . . .

people, but really just use the struggles of Black people to make names and comfortable lives for themselves.

We are also in favor of fighting for the big banks to set aside more funds for Black people to set up their own businesses.

But we don't think that either of these things is the fastest and surest way for Black people to progress.

First, it's necessary to realize that 95% of new, small businesses fail. Even older, more well-established businesses are failing. There has been an unprecedented number of giant mergers in the last few months; one enterprise is gobbling up another and enterprises are becoming bigger and bigger.

The fundamental problem facing Black people is that the vast majority of the resources of this society, in the U.S. and throughout the world, are in the hands of a smaller and smaller number of rich whites.

As long as the majority of the resources of the society remain in the hands of a small number of rich whites — the banks, basic industry, transportation, large-scale agriculture, stores, housing — the majority of Black people, in the U.S. and throughout the world are going to suffer.

This is why we think that the fastest and surest road for Black people is to fight for socialism — for overthrowing the power of the rich whites, for establishing a working class and popular government based on the workers and oppressed peoples in arms and their democratic organizations, for public or collective ownership of basic resources, and a planned economy, owned, controlled, planned, carried out, by working people themselves.

Black people need decent jobs, wages, healthcare, homes, schools, recreation facilities. They need massive resources in order to be able to use and develop their abilities to their fullest and build a society that is worthy of them.

We don't think that socialism will by itself overcome the oppression of Black people. It's going to take many years of struggle for Black people to overcome the impact of slavery and oppression; it's going to take many years of struggle to get whites to get rid of their racist attitudes and actions, not to mention the insensitivity and prejudices of whites, even when they aren't openly



racist.

But the fight for socialism, establishing socialism, will level the playing field. It will get the worst enemies of the Black people —

the rich white capitalists — out of the way. It will put giant resources at the disposal of the Black people that they will be able to use to wage their fight.

What can be done to fight for socialism today? We need an independent working class party or labor party. The working class is the class that is capable of overthrowing the power of the rich capitalists, taking over the banks and basic industry, and beginning to build a new society. But in order to do this it has to be organized separately and apart from the capitalists in an independent way. That's why it needs its own political party.

Black youth and workers should be in the front ranks of the struggle to build an independent working class party in the U.S. This isn't going to be easy. There are plenty of backward union officials and workers involved in this movement who can be very difficult to work with. But this is the surest and quickest road to the emancipation of the Black people.—New Life □

## The AFL-CIO convention ...

The AFL-CIO met in New York City October 23-25.

For the first time in many years, people who were not delegates were allowed to attend the convention, and even address the convention.

Staley workers, Caterpillar workers, Detroit newspaper workers, and Labor Party Advocates all sent delegations. Dan Lane, a locked-out Staley worker who has now been on a hunger strike for more than two months, addressed the convention and asked the AFL-CIO to support the Staley workers' efforts to boycott Pepsi until Pepsi stops using Staley products, and in this way put more pressure on Staley to sign a decent union contract.

These delegations were the most obvious signs of the agitation taking place within the labor movement.

It is precisely this agitation that has forced the majority of the AFL-CIO to oust the old leadership and replace it with Sweeney and Trumka.

Ousting the old Kirkland-Donahue types and replacing them with Sweeney, Trumka, and their supporters is a step in the correct direction.

But it would be foolish to totally rely on Sweeney and Trumka to lead the fight to make

the kinds of changes that need to be made in the labor movement.

The labor movement needs a new policy. For example:

1. Organize a national workstoppage now in solidarity with Dan Lane, Staley workers, Caterpillar workers, Detroit newspaper workers, and all fighting union-busting. Organize mass picketing to shut down scab operations, especially Staley, Cat, and the Detroit Newspaper Agency.
2. If these firms still refuse to sign decent union contracts, fight for public ownership and union control of these firms by law. Build the labor party movement and labor candidates to fight for this in the 1996 elections.
3. Cut union officials' wages to the level of the average worker's wage in the industry; increase benefits to locked-out and striking workers.

As Leon Trotsky, the Russian revolutionary once said, "The trade unions of our time can either serve as ... instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers and for obstructing the revolution, or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat."—M.G. □

# Should we use the term socialist?

More youth and workers are starting to learn about basic working class and socialist ideas — overthrowing the power of the capitalists; establishing a working class and popular government made up of the workers' democratically elected representatives and based on the workers and oppressed in arms; public or collective ownership of the basic resources in the society; a planned economy, owned, controlled, and democratically planned and carried out by working people themselves.

Some say they like these ideas, that this is the way to go, but it would be better not to use the words socialist or communist to describe what kind of society we want to build.

This is understandable. There are all sorts of people who have called themselves socialists or communists who have done terrible things to working people — the Nazis in Germany called their party the National Socialist Party; Stalin and his collaborators called themselves socialists and communists; they arrested, imprisoned, tortured and murdered thousands of youth, workers, and honest socialists and communists.

There is also the old USSR, Eastern Europe, China. Many people totally identify socialism and communism with these lands. They don't realize that the working class and popular revolutions that took place in these lands, and the societies that arose on the basis of them, were simply *steps* toward socialism in very difficult conditions, or very primitive and imperfect forms of socialism resulting from the difficult conditions. The road forward for these countries today is not to go *back* to capitalism, but to overthrow the privileged bureaucracies around the old Communist Parties that have been blocking progress toward socialism or higher forms of socialism (however you want to look at it) and eventually communism (which means, precisely, in Marxist terms, a classless society in which everyone has what he or she needs).

There are also some who call themselves socialists and communists today who are doing little or nothing in the interests of the working class. For example, in the Detroit newspaper workers' strike, some of those most identified as socialists or communists have been very contemptuous of the workers and their efforts to find a way to carry the

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**“... there has been an organized working class, socialist ... movement since 1848; ... there have always been working class, socialist ... tendencies that have remained true to the working class ...”**

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strike forward.

Naturally, no one wants what the working class and socialists are fighting for to be identified with Nazis, Stalin, the privileged bureaucracy in the old USSR, or arrogant middle class types with no respect for the working class. No one who cares about the working class wants to be identified with these anti-working class forces.

But this problem can't be resolved by fighting for working class, socialist, and communist policies without using these words.

Obviously, there are many situations in which socialists or communists speak or write in favor of getting rid of the rich, building a workers government, building a society in which working people will be comfortable, etc. They don't use the terms socialist or communist. They are trying to get some basic ideas across to a large number of people. The name isn't that important.

But it would be a mistake to make a *policy* out of this.

The truth is, as capitalists began to draw people into factories and production, a working class began to form. As a working class began to form, so did a working class movement. A very large section of this movement called itself socialist and/or communist, because it favored *social* or *common* ownership of the basic resources in society, instead of private, capitalist ownership.

Marx and Engels first summed up the basic principles of this movement in a scientific

way in 1848.

Since that time there have been all sorts of struggles, false starts, sidetracks, mistakes, victories, defeats. The Paris Commune in 1871, the very first revolutionary working class government. The Russian Revolution in 1917, the first revolutionary working class government that lasted any length of time. The East German workers uprising against the privileged “Communist” bureaucracy in 1953. Some of the struggles that we have waged haven't turned out as well as we expected them to — the situation in Russia — and we have been forced to fight for a new revolution. Tendencies and individuals have attached themselves to our movement who've betrayed the cause, Stalin and others.

But there has been an organized working class, socialist, and communist movement since 1848; since then there have always been working class, socialist, and communist tendencies that have remained true to the working class and the struggle for its emancipation; there have always been leaders who have remained true to this cause, who haven't betrayed it, who have even given up their lives for it — Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, and many others.

The imperialists, the capitalists, the privileged bureaucracy around the old Communist Party in the USSR, all the parasitic bloodsuckers who live off working people, want to hide this fact. This is why they say that socialism and communism are totally dead, and, at the same time, continue to attack socialism and communism and socialists and communists so viciously. They want workers to think that there is no consistent working class and revolutionary movement heading toward socialism and communism; that there are no consistent working class, revolutionary, socialist, communist leaders. That everything and everybody are corrupt and degenerate to one extent or another. That there is no alternative.

All the working class militants who are fighting for the interests of the working class against the bosses and the privileged bureaucracies and for the socialist and communist future and who openly call themselves socialist or communist, are proof that this is a lie. This movement cannot be destroyed. Sooner or later it will be victorious.—M. Guttschall □

# Will mass picketing destroy the Detroit

"What workers learned in the 1930s was that standing together in large numbers, they could beat back the union busters and win the necessary wage increases and improved conditions. Fifty years later that still applies.

"There is only one way to win a strike: Shut the operation down. If it is a factory or other business, it cannot operate. A strike means all work must stop. It means scabs must be prevented from taking over the workers' jobs. Today, a strike cannot be won with a handful of pickets. It requires mass action in the street, led by the striking union." — Harry DeBoer, leader of the 1934 Minneapolis Truckers Strike

In the Detroit newspaper workers' strike, there is a running debate whether the striking unions should organize and call for mass picketing to shut down the Sterling Heights printing plant.

The discussion is serious and, in many ways, the answer is not easy.

The workers and their unions are making their way on a path strewn with obstacles. They confront owners that refuse to negotiate; they confront "bought and paid for" local government officials. There are no guarantees that any tactic will save jobs and win a good contract.

Yet, on the question of should the unions organize mass picketing, all of labor history, including the Pittston strike of 1989-90, the GM strikes of last year, and the newspaper strikes, speak with one voice: Yes.

What arguments are raised against mass picketing?

First, mass picketing hasn't worked in recent newspaper strikes.

Second, that if mass picketing doesn't stop production completely it will demoralize the strikers. They will cross the picket lines and go back to work. "Mass picketing is a 'crash and burn' strategy."

What has happened in recent newspaper strikes?

There have been three big newspaper strikes recently: the New York Daily News (1990), the Pittsburgh Press (1992) and the San Francisco Chronicle (1994).

These strikes were not total victories. In New York City, the workers lost many jobs. In Pittsburgh, one of the two newspapers



closed and the workers there lost their jobs. In San Francisco, after the workers returned to work, the company fired strike activists in direct violation of the amnesty agreement that ended the strike.

In each strike, the workers tried to avoid a strike, but it was not possible. In each strike the workers saved their unions from destruction. The papers left in each town are union papers. When the newspapers closed, workers won better separation benefits because they had unions.

What little was won, the workers won through militant actions including mass picketing. In all three strikes, the workers stopped distribution of the papers.

The workers grew stronger the more they stopped or slowed down production and distribution. The more the workers impeded production, the more support they got from the community and other unions and workers.

## The Daily News strike of 1990

In New York, the workers avoided a strike for many months. The Daily News wanted to completely reorganize the work. The strike began October 24, 1990.

The company was able to print the paper, but it was not able to distribute it. The workers successfully stopped the paper from getting on the streets. They won the support of the news dealers who are key to distribution in New York City. They won support through their militant actions, including stopping de-

livery trucks, burning papers, and threatening distributors.

Falling circulation forced the three biggest advertisers, including Macy's Department Store, to pull their ads.

As the strike went on, and the workers successfully kept the paper off the streets, the support for the strike grew. The Hospital Workers Union, 1199, raised \$300,000 for the strikers. There were big rallies in every borough of New York. Pretty soon, every politician was giving speeches against the News.

After 127 days (March 1, 1991), the newspaper was sold and the striking workers went back to work.

## The Pittsburgh Press strike of 1992

The Pittsburgh Press Company printed and distributed two papers, similar to the Detroit News Agency. The Teamsters went on strike May, 1992, because the owners wanted to cut 450 out of 600 delivery jobs.

The striking Teamsters demonstrated so fiercely the first two days of the strike that the papers suspended publication.

No papers were published for 70 days. Then the company hired scab delivery people and tried to distribute the paper. The Teamsters and their supporters sat down in front of the trucks and over 40 people were arrested. The paper stayed shut down for the rest of the strike. No papers were published again until November, 1992, when the unions settled and went back to work. One of the papers

# newspaper workers' strike?

tion closed.

## The Chronicle strike of 1994

In the San Francisco strike, the companies again wanted union-busting concessions from the Teamsters. The strike only lasted 11 days. The union successfully slowed production and distribution. The unions and supporters surrounded the Chronicle building to stop the distribution of the papers. They sent pickets to the docks. The dock workers refused to unload raw paper for the presses, even after injunctions ordered them to.

The Detroit newspapers' production and distribution has to be stopped. If the papers are shut down, campaigns to convince advertisers to pull their ads and subscribers to cancel subscriptions can help. But, stopping the production or distribution is the key to the success of these campaigns.

Is mass picketing a "crash and burn" policy?

Look at the newspaper strikes.

Impeding production and distribution strengthened the resolve of the strikers and helped win support from other unions and other supporters. Impeding production and distribution by mass action was key to winning what was won in these strikes.

The "crash and burn" argument is based on superficial impressions. The most active strikers want mass picketing. Where is the evidence that striking workers will go back to work?

Tens of thousands of workers in the Detroit area have been active one way or another in this strike. They will support the unions in mass action. All that is necessary is for the striking unions to issue the call. Where is the evidence that supporters will not respond?

The unions in southeast Michigan have the power to shut down the newspaper. If 350,000 autoworkers (and there are lots of other union workers) can make cars 24 hours a day, seven days a week, they can shut down the newspapers, too.

## What can the unions do besides mass picketing?

In addition to mass picketing, the unions should:

1. Fight for a one-day work stoppage. Use that day to shut down all production and distribution of the newspapers.

The newspaper unions are fighting the rich owners of Gannett and Knight-Ridder. Ford, GM and Chrysler back these owners. The newspaper strike is a national strike.

The rich owners have replaced union workers at Staley, Caterpillar and Bridgestone-Firestone. They have gotten away with it for over 2 years at Staley and over a year at Cat and Bridgestone. They are beginning to think that they can do it anywhere they want. We need to stop them in Detroit.

2. Run striking workers or union leaders as independent candidates for public office in the 1996 elections.

The 1996 elections are approaching. All the polls indicate that the majority of Americans, especially working people, want new leaders, a new political party.

The strike has won the sympathy of millions. Strikers need to carry this support into political offices through the elections. They can confront the "bought and paid for" officials at the local, state and national level.

3. The unions should fight for public own-

ership of Gannett and Knight-Ridder if they do not give the workers a good contract and keep the newspapers open.

Public ownership stops the "heads I win, tails you lose" problem that newspaper workers saw in New York or Pittsburgh.

If the workers strike, they lose their jobs to replacements, and often the company shuts the paper down anyway. If they don't strike, they lose their jobs because of job cuts or closures.

If the rich owners will not sign a good union contract with the workers, then they will lose their company. It will be publicly owned under union control.

## Conclusion

The Detroit newspaper workers face a long and difficult road. It will not be easy to win this strike.

But the more workers fight for mass picketing and other measures aimed at winning the strike, the stronger labor will become. — Fred Russo □

## The New Directions conference

New Directions, the opposition movement in the UAW, held its annual conference in October. The two-day conference took up topics such as the AFL-CIO elections, the merger of the UAW, USWA, and IAM, as well as the direction that New Directions should take in the coming year.

Speakers who addressed the topic of the AFL-CIO election explained how the election went and gave their feelings on the outcome. Most people agreed that the election results were positive in that Sweeney and Trumka were much better informed and in touch with the problems facing the labor movement. Time will show to what extent they will provide the leadership needed to deal with them.

On the question of the "Big Metal" merger, the conference heard from a member of the IAM who explained how his union worked. Most discussion on the merger was on how the NDM should prepare for the coming years leading up to the merger. Ideas like reaching out to members in the USWA and IAM to work with NDM and making a fight

for democracy in the New Union. One important thing that was discussed was how elections in the new union would be held. All in attendance agreed it should be one member, one vote.

The conference also looked at what NDM needed to do in the coming year. People felt that NDM needed to work on getting more people involved in their fight inside the UAW. As well, the call was put out for working on building support for current struggles like Decatur (Cat and Staley) and in Detroit, the newspaper strike. Many felt that NDM had to prepare for the Big 3 contract talks and use the joint deadline to their advantage. Voices were raised supporting LPA and working on the upcoming convention.

NDM is an important step in taking back our unions. They need to work closely with other movements to push forward working class demands. Groups like LPA and the newspapers workers new Unity Victory Caucus. — Tim James □

# In support of the O.J. Simpson verdict ...

*When the jurors said that they found O.J. Simpson "not guilty," everyone in the U.S. who is familiar with the police and how unjust they can be, how they jump to the conclusion that this or that person is guilty, then manufacture the evidence that they need to prove their case, breathed a sigh of relief.*

*Everyone knows that O.J. Simpson beat Nicole Simpson; he should be punished for this. But the state didn't prove that he killed her, beyond a reasonable doubt. So the jury was absolutely correct to find O.J. Simpson "not guilty" of these charges. This was a victory for everyone concerned about truth and justice, including for women fighting male violence against them. The media has been trying to obscure this fact. This article takes up this media campaign, and what women can do to fight violence against them.—M.G.*

After making a national mockery of O.J. Simpson's trial, the media focused their attention on differences between African-Americans and whites regarding the verdict. They portrayed Blacks as celebrating his acquittal simply because he is Black. The media also made it appear that all white people feel O. J. Simpson is guilty and are shocked by the verdict. They suggested that whites have no comprehension of the problems of the police and the injustice system. At the same time, they've emphasized the protests of feminists, particularly white women, who feel threatened because they believe a spouse-abuser has gotten away with murder.

The media's approach has clearly been an attempt to divide Blacks and whites in the working class. Their attitude is wholly influenced by middle class, racist perceptions. There are many, many working class white people who recognize the racist treatment O. J. Simpson got from the police, and who did not simply assume he was guilty. The perception that all white people thought he was guilty came from the media's focus on middle class whites whose experiences with the police are very different from working class and poor white people. Also, the assumption that most African-Americans wanted O. J. to be acquitted just because he's Black is as insulting as the assumption that he was acquitted because most of the jurors were

Black women. The bourgeois media portrayed this attitude because to do otherwise would be to acknowledge the legitimacy of the African-American complaints about the injustice system.

Another divisive tactic of the media has been to once again imply a conflict between

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**"None of us benefits when Black men are falsely accused, framed by police or otherwise victimized by the injustice system."**

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the interests of white women and Black men. This is a lie. None of us benefits when Black men are falsely accused, framed by police or otherwise victimized by the injustice system. The myth that Black men pose a particular threat to white women has been used to justify oppressing African-Americans for centuries — both to justify lynching Black men and to obscure the abuse of Black women (and white women) by white men. This has not benefitted white women — it has further entrenched an anti-democratic, hierarchical system of superexploitation in which women are also exploited.

Of course violence against women — domestic and otherwise — is a threat to the lives and interests of all women. But that threat is not reduced by allowing police to fabricate evidence or to lie about accused abusers. In fact, allowing the injustice system to violate the rights of Black men also threatens women's interests because it increases the acceptance of this treatment for everyone — including working class women.

Women cannot rely on the injustice system to protect them from violence. Not only have police often been abusive themselves, the court system has traditionally further victimized women who've suffered abuse. Instead, we must fight for a society in which violence against women is made impossible or unlikely.

We can begin to do that building organiza-

tions which train women to defend themselves and by fighting for women's democratic rights — not only to be free from violence, but to earn an independent, living wage. A large part of this involves building the labor party movement, and demanding that the labor party support the most progressive demands for women's democratic rights. A larger labor movement which is progressive and confronts the bosses will find it benefits most from strong women who are fighting the bosses, not being forced to fend off attacks from people close to them.

In the hands of the rich, ruling class, the injustice system cannot systematically provide justice — for working class people in general, for women or for Black people specifically. The legal system is not intended to protect women's rights— Black or white—it was based on maintaining their status as men's property. And with vastly disproportionate numbers of Black men in prison in the country, clearly the injustice system isn't intended to protect them either. The basis of our current legal system is the protection of the interests of the rich — at the expense of all working people. The police and the courts have long been used by the ruling class to impose their will upon the working class. We saw that in the Haymarket Massacre 100 years ago and we see it now in the Detroit newspaper strike. On the picket lines, the police don't attack strikers when they stand strong together with many other workers. But when they manage to divide someone from the group, they attack without hesitation, ganging up on a worker regardless of whether it's a woman or a man. And the media cooperates with this; portraying the strikers as the instigators of violence, and exaggerating any divisions among the workers.

This is the same thing the media has done regarding the O. J. Simpson verdict. They have tried to divide us as much as possible, to keep us thinking we are each other's enemies. To maintain their power, the ruling class must keep us from seeing that they are our true enemy. They want to avoid us realizing that the only way we'll get justice for working people in this country will be to build our party and government — and to run this country in the interests of working people of all ethnic groups and genders.

—Kim Morgan □

# The global conflict

**Cuba**  
Demonstrations in solidarity with Cuba, against U.S. corporations and the U.S. government, and their attempts to crush the Cuban people, took place in Chicago, San Francisco, and New York on October 14 and October 21. Demonstrators called for ending the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba, lifting the ban on traveling to Cuba, and normalizing relations with Cuba.

**Quebec**  
Almost 50% of Quebec residents voted for Quebec to be an independent nation in a referendum on October 30. The French-speaking people of Quebec are discriminated against by the English-speaking rich of Canada, much like the Black or African-American people in the U.S. Many see establishing an independent nation as the best way to combat this discrimination. Over 80% of the population in Quebec speaks French. Partisans of independence say that the struggle is not over, that they are going to put the question on the ballot once again.

**Mexico**  
Nearly two years have passed since the Zapatistas and the indigenous peoples of Chiapas rose up against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which they said would make life even worse for the people of Mexico than it already is. This uprising has in turn inspired others. Peasants have seized land in various regions in Mexico and elected their own representatives. Workers organized a huge May Day demonstration in opposition to the top leadership of the unions, which some say was the largest working class demonstration in Mexican history. U.S. corporations and the U.S. government have intervened to try to "stabilize" the situation and insure their profits. They lent the Mexican government money; they placed a lien on all profits from Mexican oil in order to guarantee a return on their loan. They are also working together with the Mexican government to try to put down the Zapatista uprising through a combination of trying to buy-off the more moderate sector, and imprison and/or kill the more radical sector. U.S. workers need to support the struggles of Mexican workers and farmers against U.S. banks and corporations. We need to demand that U.S. banks, corporations, and the government write off all loans to Mexico and get their hands off Mexican oil, industries, land, and the Zapatistas! U.S. workers and farmers, in collaboration with workers and farmers in other countries, are


capable of producing more than enough to take care of themselves. They don't need to be loan sharks to try to take advantage of the problems of other peoples, and try to enrich themselves at the expense of others.

**Belarus**  
Trade unionists and partisans of a workers party in Belarus are continuing their struggle against Lukashenko and a whole series of repressive measures. Lukashenko is trying to take the country back to the days before the working class and popular uprising against the privileged totalitarian bureaucracy in and around the Communist Party. For more information, and to support this struggle, contact New Life.

**Bosnia**  
The Bosnian people and their army have made a lot of progress in getting their land back from the fascist chetniks linked to the Serbian government, but Clinton is trying to take it away from them. Clinton's plan calls for dividing Bosnia and giving half to the chetniks and the other half to a combination of Bosnians and Croats. It also calls for sending U.S. troops to Bosnia to enforce this rotten plan. After years of fighting and dying, the Bosnians aren't to get even one corner of their country that they can call their own. U.S. workers should oppose sending U.S. troops to Bosnia or anywhere else. U.S. corporations own and control the U.S. government and its troops. U.S. troops will serve U.S. corporations, no one else. U.S. corporations are already chomping at the bit, hoping to get the right to set up shop in Bosnia and start exploiting the Bosnian people. U.S. troops will do their bidding. U.S. workers who want to help the Bosnian people can do so by demanding that the U.S. government stop the arms embargo so that the Bosnian people can get guns and defend themselves.

**Islam**  
The U.S. government just convicted Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and nine others of

"sedition." The U.S. government may attempt to force them to spend the rest of their lives in jail. A large part of the evidence that the U.S. government offered was the speeches and writings of Sheik Omar Abdel, a blind religious leader, that the U.S. government says inspired others to commit terrorist acts. This conviction is a blow against Islamic peoples, which the U.S. government is trying to keep down, because they live in lands that are rich in oil and other natural resources. It is also a blow against working people of all ethnic groups and everyone who cares about truth. Islamic peoples will naturally retaliate. Any angry statement made by anyone could be said to be an inspiration for a terrorist act. What about free speech! U.S. workers must defend the right of Islamic peoples not only to speak freely, but also to get U.S. corporations and their puppets out of their lands.—M.G. □



Latest issue

International Correspondence

New Life is a socialist bulletin published in the interests of the labor party movement. New Life is a supporter of International Workers Unity, a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of New Life. These are expressed in editorials.  
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# Young workers, students, and socialism

Many aspects of life are getting more difficult for young workers and students. There was a brief economic upturn; for a short period it was a little easier to find jobs. Now the upturn is ending and it's becoming more difficult again.

Even when young people can find jobs, they often have to work in difficult conditions for long hours, low wages, and no healthcare or education benefits. Many times they don't make enough money to move out of their parents' houses, get their own places, their own cars, much less have money for school or extras. Many young people are depressed, even suicidal, addicted to cigarettes, alcohol, drugs; this weighs on all young people.

The situation facing students isn't much better. Tuition goes up; class sizes go up; the number of teachers who are interesting and interested in their students doesn't go up. Students are forced to study things that will allow them to find jobs; it's difficult to study what one wants to study.

There are many things that young workers and students can do and are doing about this situation. More are joining working class and popular struggles, like the Detroit newspaper workers' strike or the Million-Man March. They are learning about the labor party movement and the socialist movement.

Young workers and students can also start to fight for measures that can improve the conditions facing them. For example:

— Abolish laws against youth and labor, especially restrictions on the right to unionize, strike, picket, boycott.

— A 35-hour work week without cutting pay by law so that more can work.

— A \$10/hour minimum wage by law.

— Inexpensive health insurance funded by taxing the richest by law.

But, in the final analysis, the only way to make big changes in the situation facing young workers and students is socialism — a working class and popular government, public ownership of basic resources, a planned economy.

The fundamental problem facing young people is that the people who own and control the majority of the basic resources in this society don't care about young people. They just care about making profits.

As long as this continues, young workers and students are going to suffer. This is why they need to fight for socialism.

Naturally the rich say that socialism won't work, and point to the old Soviet Union. But the problems in the Soviet Union weren't caused by the steps toward socialism there. They were caused and are caused by poverty, lack of experience with democracy and isolation, which all existed before Russian workers tried to build socialism. It was the poverty, lack of experience with democracy and isolation that made it possible for a privileged dictatorial bureaucracy to arise in and around the ruling Communist Party. In the U.S. and other well-industrialized countries, there is a much more solid basis for building socialism, which will make it possible to avoid problems like the ones that arose in the old USSR.