



Workers of the World, Unite!

The MICHIGAN

socialist

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50¢ (\$1 Solidarity)

Put 1 million workers in Washington

**... on the streets
and in power!**

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The *Michigan Socialist* is the voice of the Socialist Party of Michigan (SPMI), affiliate of the Socialist Party USA. Party address: P.O. Box 3285, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-3285; e-mail: editor@mi-socialists.org; WWW: <http://news.mi-socialists.org>.

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Socialist Party USA: Outline of Principles

THE SOCIALIST PARTY strives to establish a radical democracy that places people's lives under their own control: where working people own and control the means of production and distribution, through democratically-controlled committees and assemblies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. We believe socialism and democracy are one and indivisible.

The Socialist Party fights for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. We support union and electoral actions — independent of the capitalist-controlled two-party system — to present socialist alternatives. We strive for democratic revolutions — radical and fundamental changes in the structure and nature of economic, political and social relations — to abolish the power now exercised by the few who control the economy and the government.

The Socialist Party is a democratic, multi-tendency organization, with structure and practices visible and accessible to all members.

letter to the editor Venezuela: Workers shouldn't hold back

Dear Editor,

I thought that the article on the Venezuelan situation ("Revolution or counter-revolution?" *Michigan Socialist*, Vol. 2, No. 4, July-August 2004) was extremely good and informative.

I would, however, stress and clarify a couple of things that I feel are major and vital.

The working class, the poor, and the peasantry in Venezuela are under no obligation at all to hold back from taking power because of what Chávez or the Constituent Assembly say, or even how the recall referendum goes. They need to chart a completely independent course and move ahead with the revolutionary process.

This does not mean that Chávez is an enemy or that the Bolivarian movement might not evolve into a really revolutionary force, but nothing should be delayed while all of that plays out. Indeed, as you have said, there has been way too much delay already.

For all their apparent honesty and idealism, Chávez and the mainstream Bolivarians still constitute a capitalist government, albeit with deep going populist and quasi-revolutionary momentum. People can evolve, but the masses can not and should not bank on that or wait for it.

It would be wonderful if everything could play out neatly in a constitutional, legalistic manner with all the ducks in a row on

the road to real working class revolution.

It would certainly make it more difficult for the imperialists and native capitalists to carry out and justify their murderous intent. But they will always find a way.

The oppressed and exploited masses are going to have a bitter fight on their hands, and so illusions must be dispelled and they must prepare and move to take state and economic power.

The real missing ingredient here, of course, is the same one that is missing in the rest of the world — the absence of a revolutionary socialist party or parties that have the political savvy to tell the masses the truth and organize the seizure of power and the creation of a workers' republic, leading the way toward real socialism.

Jim Griffin
Detroit, MI

The author replies: Thank you for your comments. While I agree that the working people of Venezuela should not depend on Chávez or any single leader of the Bolivarian movement, I also think it is important to continue to put pressure on them to move the Revolution forward. Through that kind of systematic campaign, it would be possible to build a movement that can establish a workers' republic, and would hasten the time when the workers of Venezuela no longer have to "hold back."

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Send check or money order to P.O. Box 3285, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49009-3285.
Or go online to <http://www.mi-socialists.org/join.html> and sign up.

I, the undersigned, desiring to bring about by democratic means a new society based upon democratic socialism, hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Party USA, and subscribe to its principles.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (optional): (____) _____

E-Mail (optional): _____

Interests (optional): _____

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The MICHIGAN SOCIALIST



Million Worker March

**Sunday, October 17, 2004
Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.**

All out to D.C. for the Million Worker March!

By MARTIN SCHREADER

Editor, the *Michigan Socialist*

ON OCTOBER 17, 2004, working people from across the United States will be gathering on the Mall in Washington, D.C., for what could be one of the most important moments in American labor history: the Million Worker March.

Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, representing dockworkers in the San Francisco, Calif., area, initiated the March. Since then, organizations and individuals across the country have signed on, pledging to "actively organize and mobilize" for the event.

Labor union endorsers include the National Education Association, Transport Workers Union Local 100 (representing New York City transit workers), the American Postal Workers Union and the United Steel Workers of America, as well as hundreds of union locals and regional Labor Councils from Massachusetts to California.

Well known public figures like radio personality Casey Kasem, actor Danny Glover and comedian Dick Gregory have endorsed. Musical groups like Propagandhi, Chumbawumba and the Dropkick Murphys have also signed on to the March.

All of this labor support for the March

has come about in spite of an edict from the headquarters of the AFL-CIO, the main labor union federation in the U.S., demanding their affiliates not endorse and instead devote their time and resources to campaign for Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry.

All of the community and individual support for the March has developed in spite of a total media blackout about the event.

Without question, the March is shaping up to be one of the largest workers' demonstrations in U.S. history — far surpassing the AFL-CIO-sponsored "Solidarity Days" of the 1980s. But there is more to it.

THE MILLION WORKER March is not like any other labor marches that have happened in this country.

This is not simply a demonstration for better wages or benefits, or for some single issue. The demands of the March go much farther, pushing themselves out of the economic arena and touching virtually all aspects of society.

Several overtly political (and radical-political) slogans, including repeal of the USA-PATRIOT Act, "aggressive enforcement of all civil rights" and amnesty for undocumented workers are to be found among the demands of the March.

Demands

of the Million Worker March

★ Universal single-payer health care from cradle to grave that ends the stranglehold of greedy insurance companies and secures health care as a right of all people in America.

★ A national living wage that lifts people permanently out of poverty.

★ Protection and enhancement of Social Security immune to privatization.

★ Guaranteed pensions that sustain a decent life for all working people.

★ The cancellation of all corporate "free" trade agreements, including NAFTA, MAI and FTAA.

★ An end to privatization, contracting out, deregulation and the pitting of workers against each other across national boundaries in a mad race to the bottom.

★ For workers' right to organize and for a repeal of Taft Hartley and all anti-labor legislation.

★ Funding public education in a crash program to restore our decaying and abandoned schools with state of the art school facilities in every community.

★ Funding a vast army of teachers to end functional illiteracy in America and unleash the talent and potential of our abandoned children and adults.

★ Launching a national training program in skills and capacities that will enlist our people in rebuilding our country and putting an end to both the criminalization of poverty and the prison-industrial complex.

★ Rebuilding our decaying inner cities with clean, modern and affordable housing and eliminating homelessness in America with guaranteed housing and jobs for all.

★ Progressive taxation that increases taxation on corporations and the rich while providing relief for the working class and poor.

★ An end to the poisoning of the atmosphere, soil, water and food supply with a national emergency pro-

gram to restore the environment, end global warming and preserve our endangered eco-system.

★ Creating efficient, modern and free mass transit in every city and town.

★ Repeal of the PATRIOT Act, Anti-Terrorism Act and all such repressive legislation.

★ Slash the military budget and recover the trillions of dollars stolen from our labor to enrich the corporations that profit from war.

★ Open the books on the secret budgets of the Pentagon and the intelligence agencies in the service of corporations and banks and the pursuit of imperial war on the poor everywhere.

★ Extend democracy to our economic structure so that all decisions affecting the lives of our citizens are made by working people who produce all value through their labor.

★ An aggressive enforcement of all civil rights and a national education campaign and mobilization against all racist and discriminatory acts in the work place and in our communities.

★ Amnesty for all undocumented workers.

★ Increase in federal funding for the arts in public schools.

★ For a democratic media that allow labor and all voices to be heard and oppose monopolization and union busting of media workers.

The economic demands of the March range from calls for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley “slave labor” legislation, funding for a national job training program and progressive taxation to a demand for the government to “open the books” of the Pentagon and national intelligence agencies, guaranteed housing and jobs for all, and slashing the military budget.

By far, though, the most compelling — and most interesting — demands are the calls for “extend[ing] democracy to our economic structure” and “for a democratic media.”

For these demands to be raised by a mainstream labor union in the United States is unprecedented — even for a union like the ILWU, with its militant history.

This is because of what it would mean, and what it would take, to implement these demands.

How can working people in the U.S. succeed in “extend[ing] democracy to our economic structure so that all decisions ... are made by working people?”

Capitalism in the economic arena is a totalitarian dictatorship.

Private ownership of the means of production (factories, mines, transport terminals, mills, etc. — also known as “private property”) gives the individual capitalist, or cartel of capitalists, sole power and authority over what and how much is produced by whom.

As long as private ownership of the means of production exists, democracy on the workplace floor is virtually impossible. The only way that democracy can be ex-

tended to the economic arena would be to place these elements of the economy into public, common ownership under democratic control.

That is, the only way to bring democracy to the economy is to establish workers’ control of production — *the cornerstone of democratic socialism*.

The same is true of the demand for “a democratic media that allow labor and all voices to be heard.”

In the 21st century, the media — television, radio and print, as well as the Internet — are privately owned and controlled in the same way as other elements of the economy.

Indeed, the capitalists who own the media see their product (i.e., information) as just another commodity.

In order to have a “democratic media,” it would be necessary to place it into the public trust, making it common property democratically controlled by media workers. Again, this is the cornerstone of democratic socialism.

IF THOSE WHO ARE organizing the Million Worker March were to ever achieve their demands, the situation would immediately bring them into conflict with the capitalist state.

The state, as the enforcer of capitalist “order,” actively defends the interests of that ruling class against the actions and interests of working people. It acts as a tool to suppress the desires and actions of working people to attain their basic interests.

In order to achieve even half of the demands of the March, it is necessary to go beyond the economic arena, and to begin to organize on the political field.

Concretely, that means building a class-conscious political movement: *a political party of working people*.

Over the years, there have been several attempts to build such a party. Each time, these attempts have failed. Why?

Often times, those who sought to organize these parties were doing so in order to steer working-class discontent back into “official” channels, like the Democratic Party.

At other times, these initial moves to organize were spiked by the conscious disruption and attacks of the “official” union leaderships. Whether it was the Greenback-Labor Party of the 1890s, the Farmer-Labor

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Socialist Party of Michigan endorses the Million Worker March

The following is the statement adopted at the August 2004 meeting of the Socialist Party of Michigan endorsing the Million Worker March.



As a political party of the working class, the Socialist Party of Michigan advocates the transitional demands embodied by the Million Worker March Organizing Committee that represent the interests of working people. Believing the Million Worker March is an expression of workers’ self-organization and emancipation, the Socialist Party of Michigan hereby endorses the Sunday, October 17, 2004 march in Washington, D.C.

—world/analysis—
After the August 15 referendum...

Next steps in the Bolivarian Revolution

By **MARTIN SCHREADER**

Editor, the *Michigan Socialist*

THEY STOOD IN line for hours in the hot mid-summer sun.

They came from the barrios, small villages and industrial centers.

They were the “forgotten” — landless peasants, the unemployed, poor workers.

They were patient. They were disciplined. And they came together to raise one slogan: “¡Chávez no se va!”

On August 15, millions of Venezuelans turned out to vote on whether to recall the country’s president, Hugo Chávez.

Over 94 percent of the country’s eligible voters went to the polls in what was the first recall vote against a national head of state in world history.

Chávez, twice elected president with large majorities, has for the last five years been the scourge of the imperialist Great Power states in Europe and North America, and their business agents in Venezuela.

His Movement for the Fifth Republic (MVR) has been at the head of an ongoing democratic revolution that has successfully fought off everything from domestic sabotage and attempted coups to threats of outside intervention.

This democratic revolution, called the Bolivarian Revolution (named for Simón Bolívar, the left-nationalist revolutionary of the 18th century), has sought to take advantage of the country’s vast natural resources to improve the position of the country’s poor.

Since the beginning of the Revolution, and especially since the passage of the Constitution that established the Fifth Republic in 1999, the capitalist opposition has tried both legal and extralegal means to stop

¡No volverán!
Hundreds of thousands of supporters of the Bolivarian Revolution and President Hugo Chávez after the failure of the August 15 recall referendum.



the Bolivarians.

Two attempted coups in 2002 and a management-led “strike” failed miserably, both collapsing within hours of starting.

Provocations including attempted assassinations and threats of civil war have become a regular part of the political life of the country.

It is in this context that the opposition organized the recall referendum (ironically enough, based on a provision they explicitly rejected when it was proposed to the National Constituent Assembly by Chávez in 1999).

People started lining up to vote at 4 a.m., in order to avoid delays. However, because

so many people came out to vote, and because many voting machines in poor, working class areas had been sabotaged, the time was extended for another seven hours.

International observers from the Carter Center and Organization of American States, both there at the request of the opposition (and their benefactor, the White House), declared the result legitimate and “unprecedented.”

Nevertheless, the opposition automatically rejected the results of the referendum, charging “fraud” without presenting evidence. Meanwhile, more provocations took place in the waning hours of the vote, meant to cast a shadow over the outcome.

After the preliminary results were announced, hundreds of thousands of supporters of the Bolivarian Revolution rallied in front of the presidential palace, Miraflores.

Chávez spoke to supporters and made a symbolic gesture to the opposition to meet; as all expected, the leaders of the opposition declined.

THE VICTORY OF Chávez represents yet another damaging blow to the attempts to re-establish a neocolonial state in Venezuela.

Just as in the case of the April and December 2002 coups, the defeat of this attempt by the capitalist opposition to overthrow the democratic revolution has severely weakened and staggered them.

In spite of the bluster coming from the stately homes in the wealthy Altamira district of the country’s capital, Caracas, the opposition is weaker than it has ever been.

It is clear that the only recourse they have left themselves is armed conflict and civil war — with or without the aid of their American patrons.

In the meantime, the tactics of the Great Power states, especially the United States, has begun to shift from a posture of imminent assault to protracted siege.

The financial and political rulers in New York and Washington know that their agents in Venezuela do not have the means to carry out a stable “transition” (read: dictatorship) without American help.

And, at the moment, the U.S. is too mired down in Iraq and Afghanistan to commit to another military occupation where they are likely to face masses of armed and organized militia, under the leadership of significant sections of a military trained by the Americans themselves.



Hopeful: Millions of poor and working-class Venezuelans look to Chávez as the embodiment of the democratic Bolivarian Revolution. His reforms have brought hope to the barrios and workers’ neighborhoods, as well as a newly-found sense of what they can achieve.

Washington is urging the opposition to be patient, continue to organize and wait for when the alignment of forces is in their favor (which could be as soon as the Pentagon is able to finish refitting some of those divisions coming back from Germany and South Korea).

Thus, what exists in Venezuela today is perhaps the best opportunity to advance the Bolivarian Revolution.

The question is: *Will Chávez and the MVR take advantage of the situation, or will they again waste an opportunity in deference to the “diplomacy” of the Great Power states?*

The answer to that question is what will determine the course of the Bolivarian Republic ... or, more to the point, if there even is to be a Bolivarian Republic.

Without question, the masses of the poor and working people (with the notable exception of the labor aristocracy, which has traditionally benefited alongside the capitalists) are ready to advance the Revolution to its next logical phase — the extension of the democratic revolution into the economy, and the beginning of the social revolution.

The establishment of the Bolivarian Circles in 2000 has now led to the formation of Bolivarian Houses, which bring together Circles in various neighborhoods to carry out political education and community improvements.

As well, these Houses have been responsible for the development of workers’ and

people’s militias, under the name of *Comandos Maisanta*, for the defense of the Revolution and Constitution.

At many of these meetings, rousing discussions about the course of the Revolution have often led to calls for the administration of major industrial enterprises to be turned over to the workers.

This cannot be overstated: the poor and working people of Venezuela are demanding democratic workers’ control of production, the cornerstone of democratic socialism.

How Chávez and the MVR respond is yet to be seen.

IT IS IMPORTANT to begin to talk concretely about what can be done over the next period to both advance the Bolivarian Revolution and neutralize the opposition (and, by extension, the Great Power states).

Certainly, the last five years of the Revolution has created a basic infrastructure that can be utilized to make these advances.

The network of Bolivarian Circles and Houses, and the *Comandos Maisanta*, compose what can only be described as a proto-state, which could quite easily and peacefully take over the functioning of the Republic (that is, if the opposition is willing to let go of their privileges and power — *unlikely!*).

All that would appear to be necessary is

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national **Defend the right to vote!**

AFTER THE 2000 theft of the presidential election, many American citizens began to realize that, under capitalism, democratic rights are not eternal, and will be violated if it suits the needs of the ruling class.

This year, that lesson is once again coming into sharp focus, as talk about “postponing” the election increases, and evidence of possible Republican-sponsored attacks on Black and working-class voters mounts.

Below is the text of a call issued by the Detroit Socialist Party and Socialist Party of Michigan on this issue. The purpose of this call was to help bring together organizations and indi-

viduals interested in defending the right to vote.

Throughout the month of August, members of the DSP and SPMI have been contacting as many groups and people as we can, in the hope that a sufficient number will come together around this issue.

This voter defense project is one of several being done by grassroots and radical-left currents.

Election Protection, a collaboration of the AFL-CIO, NAACP, People for the American Way and a number of other groups, is organizing poll watchers to make sure that there are no disruptions.

The radical-liberal Citizens for Legitimate Government organization has also been organizing around what to do if the Republicans try to steal this election.

We encourage all readers of the Michigan Socialist to get involved in the efforts to preserve and defend the right to vote. ★

On the Internet...

Election Protection —
www.electionprotection2004.org
Citizens for Legitimate Government —
www.legitgov.org

EMERGENCY! Your right to vote is under attack!

The Bush regime and Republican activists are planning to intimidate working class and minority Americans at polling places in the 2004 elections!

The Bush/Cheney campaign has set aside at least \$750,000 to hire professional thugs from Vance International and Securitas (formerly the Pinkertons), better known for breaking strikes and busting unions.

Evidence suggests that they are seeking to rouse their ultra-rightwing base to go to polling places in working class neighborhoods, particularly in minority areas, in order to intimidate and threaten people to keep them from voting.

Democratic Party rallies have already been disrupted and broken up by rightwing fanatics in Iowa and South Carolina. Everyone should remember that police were used to harass voters in working class and minority areas in the 2000 and 2002 elections.

When you add all this up along with the PATRIOT and Homeland Security acts, the basis for a police state has been laid.

One indication of the way the GOP is thinking was clearly expressed by Michigan State Representative John Pappageorge (R-Troy): “If we do not **suppress the Detroit vote**, we’re going to have a tough time in this election cycle.” (*Detroit Free Press*, July 16, 2004; emphasis ours.)

They are also floating the idea of postponing or canceling the election altogether

under the guise of hyped hysteria about a supposed “terrorist attack.” Never in American history has an election been canceled — not during the Civil War, not during the War of 1812 (when Washington was burned to the ground!), never!

In this context, the message is clear: the Bush/neocon clique is prepared to keep power by any means necessary!

What must be done? We call on all who want to defend democratic rights to come together to make sure that everyone can vote without fear of intimidation, and make sure everyone’s vote is counted. It will take a mass mobilization in the streets and at the polling places to do this.

Regardless of whom you plan to vote for you have stake in defending this right. The broadest possible united front coalition must be created nationally, especially within the targeted communities.

First, everyone should pass on this call to anyone they can. Everyone needs to be an organizer. We need to have as many people involved in defending the right to vote as possible.

Second, we need to start meeting together on a local, statewide and national level, in order to develop a coordinated and unified response to threats to our right to vote.

Third, contact as many organizations — unions, community groups, block clubs, student organizations, etc. — and individuals as possible, so that everyone can be fully in-

formed and prepared for what might happen.

Fourth, begin to pull together information that can be used to educate and inform voters of their rights, so that threats and attempts at intimidation can be successfully defeated.

Fifth, prepare to mobilize people to meet at the polls on Election Day in order to counter the actions of the GOP’s paid thugs and preserve the right to vote.

Sixth, if they actually do move to cancel or postpone the election, it should be met with continual mass protests in the streets that would effectively shut down the country until democracy is restored. Finally, we must be prepared to rely on ourselves and our own actions to defend democracy. As the 2000 “election” showed, we cannot rely on others to preserve our rights.

If you or your organization would be interested in joining in the fight to defend the right to vote, please contact us as soon as possible. There are only about three months until the election, and we will need every moment of that time if we are to succeed.

This is a time of great threat to American working people ... from homegrown rightwing political terrorists! We must not let them get away with any of it!

Spread the word — communicate among yourselves! Unite, organize, mobilize and fight back!

Now is the time!

First as tragedy ...second as farce

The political significance of the Kerry-Edwards ticket

By MARTIN SCHREADER

Editor, the *Michigan Socialist*

IT WAS A LOT of fanfare, a little secrecy and probably the most anti-climactic moment of the 2004 election season so far.

On July 6, Democratic Presidential nominee, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, chose his colleague, N. Carolina Senator John Edwards, to be their candidate for Vice President.

Edwards, who had been Kerry's competitor for the Democratic nomination only a few months before, was chosen by his counterpart because, in the eyes of those to whom the Democrats appeal, he is meant to represent "hope and optimism."

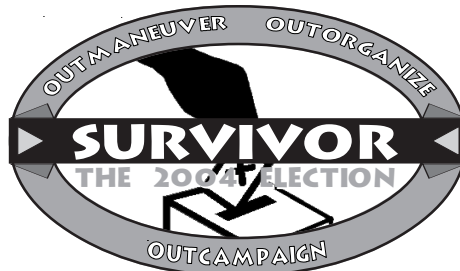
The announcement, initially made by e-mail and later followed by a joint appearance in Pittsburgh, Penna., touted Edwards as the "son of a mill worker" with a history of "standing up for American values and ordinary people."

The point of this exercise, of course, was to reinforce the mistaken belief that the candidates of the Democratic Party and the party itself represent working people and their "values."

Edwards' chief angle, talking about the "two Americas," is meant to show that Democrats are "concerned" about "those who are struggling to make it from day to day."

This message was reinforced throughout the Democratic National Convention, which made Edwards' slogan, "hope is on the way," a key part of its public rhetoric.

However, the selection of Edwards begs the question: "Hope" for whom?



tempt to offset the inevitable criticisms from the Republican Party that the Democrats were fielding a "Massachusetts liberal" (sic!) that did not understand "average Americans."

Leaving aside the torturous irony contained in such a statement, the Republicans' charge that the Democratic national ticket is "out of touch" with "average Americans" has some merit — but not for the reasons they state.

The Kerry-Edwards ticket is one of the wealthiest seen in recent American politi-

cal history. Kerry, son a lifelong diplomat and husband of Teresa Heinz Kerry (heir to the Heinz ketchup fortune), is worth billions of dollars and is, in fact, wealthier than George W. Bush and Dick Cheney combined.

Edwards, before entering the Senate in 1998, had been a well-known malpractice and personal injury attorney.

That is, he was a legal predator, exploiting for personal gain the suffering and misery of poor and working people who were sacrificed on the altar of profit.

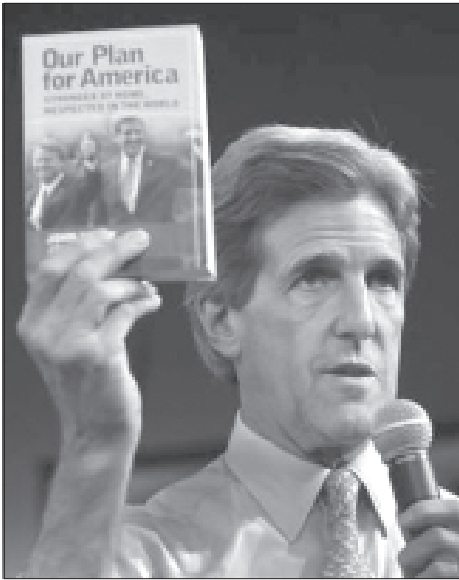
In the process, he became a multimillionaire off the fees he charged his cash-strapped and disabled clients.

As members of the Senate, both Kerry and Edwards represented the conservative, neoliberal wing of the Democratic Party.

As supporters of the rightwing Democratic Leadership Council, Kerry and Edwards cemented their commitment to re-



Two of a kind: John Kerry (right) and John Edwards campaign together in Ohio.



Master plan: Kerry promotes the platform of the Kerry-Edwards ticket, *Our Plan for America*.

moving the curbs placed on capitalist exploitation won through mass struggle.

But it goes further than that. The Kerry-Edwards ticket represents, in many respects, the broad consensus that has been reached among members of the capitalist class over the last period.

Both Kerry and Edwards have been staunch supporters of the so-called “war on terror,” including voting for the anti-democratic USA-PATRIOT Act and related legislation that strips people of their basic Constitutional rights. In fact, Edwards helped to draft parts of the PATRIOT Act.

Both of them voted for the Congressional joint resolution that gave the Bush regime a blank check for the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Even after it has been definitively shown that all the reasons provided by the White House and its propagandists for invading Iraq were false, both Kerry and Edwards have defended their votes and said they would “do it again” if necessary.

Kerry and Edwards are both longtime supporters of tax cuts, incentives and breaks for the wealthy.

Their differences with the Republicans on this issue are over the form this corporate welfare should take, not whether the capitalists should receive it.

EVIDENCE OF this consensus can also be

seen in the recently released platform for the Kerry-Edwards campaign, *Our Plan for America*.

In the overview published on their campaign website, the Kerry-Edwards campaign responds to the Bush regime’s unilateralism, encapsulated in the slogan, “Coalition of the Willing,” by counterposing their alternative, the “Coalition of the Able.”

Are they serious? Yes.

This exchange of words is seen as a major difference by those supporting Kerry-Edwards, because this formula for more imperialist aggression is couched in phrases about “multilateralism” and cultivating “allies.”

Behind all the rhetoric about a “new era of alliances,” and the petty quibbling about the advantages of “able” over “willing,” is an enduring commitment to seeing that the wishes of the Anglo-American imperialist cartel are fulfilled.

One genuine difference that can be found between the two competing capitalist campaigns is over the question of the military. But it is not the kind that most people would immediately think about.

The Kerry-Edwards campaign has put forward on many occasions their support for the expansion of the Armed Forces, including the addition of 40,000 soldiers to the active duty military roster and the creation of mandatory “national service” programs.

In other words, the Democratic Party — inexplicably, the home for a large propor-

tion of those who have opposed the militarism of the Bush regime — is advocating, though its national ticket, expanding the material basis for maintaining the recent wave of militarism started by the Bush regime.

OF COURSE, this is not the only area where we find Kerry-Edwards walking in lockstep with the Bush regime.

On education, Kerry-Edwards both advocate strengthening the provisions of the so-called “No Child Left Behind” legislation developed by the Bush regime.

In *Our Plan for America*, they are explicit about this: “[W]e also believe that No Child Left Behind is only the beginning. That is why we have offered a plan to finish the job of education reform.” (p. 92)

No Child Left Behind was meant by the Bush regime as a way to legalize the privatization of the education system in America. So, you don’t have to be a rocket scientist or a longtime politician to know what “finish[ing] the job” means.

A large part of the campaign rhetoric of Kerry-Edwards is about health care.

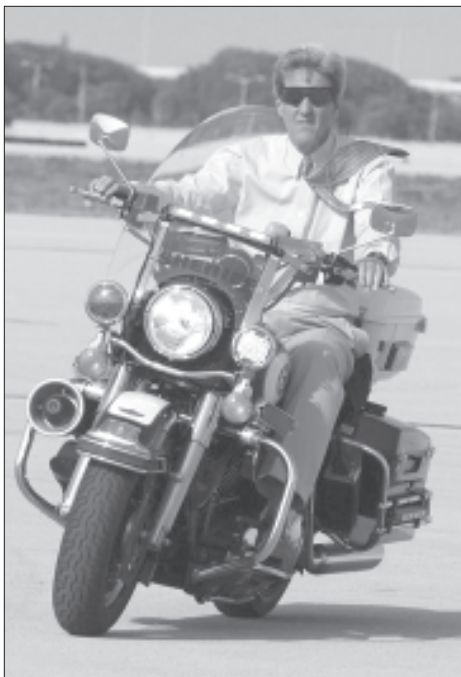
In speech after speech, they have shed buckets of crocodile tears for the tens of millions of working people in the U.S. who have been denied the right to medical treatment.

And what are they proposing?

Far from anything remotely resembling



Foreign powers: Kerry (second from right) meets with his foreign policy advisers (from left to right): Doug Ross, Martin Indyk and Sandy Berger.



Rebel without a clue: John Kerry rides around on a police motorcycle. Honestly, Michael Dukakis looked better in the tank.

a national health care system, they want to expand Medicare coverage to poor and working people.

That is, they want to give the poor access to a substandard, underfunded system that will be gutted over the coming years through privatization.

(For more information on what will be happening to Medicare over the next few years, see "Democracy flatlines," the *Michigan Socialist*, Vol. 2, No. 1, January-February 2004)

On virtually every international policy question — Iraq, Israel/Palestine, North Korea, Cuba, Latin America, etc. — *Our Plan for America* reads like the Bush regime's plan for America.

This is especially true in the area of expanding the power of the government to use the CIA to spy on American citizens, both here and overseas.

The Kerry-Edwards campaign has echoed the calls of the Bush regime and the phony "9/11 Commission" for a Director of National Intelligence — a "spy czar," responsible for coordinating domestic and international spying operations. (p. 13)

In fact, Kerry-Edwards has even called for this new Director to be a Cabinet-level position and have power over personnel and budgets, which puts them at odds with their Congressional colleagues ... and firmly in the camp of the Bush regime.

THIS IS THE "choice" that working people are being offered: a choice between two teams supporting virtually the same proposals.

This is the capitalist consensus in sharp focus.

Many Democratic activists want to portray the November election as something equivalent to a referendum on the policies of the Bush regime, especially since the attacks of September 11, 2001.

However, the reality is that this election is a contest between two management teams.

That is, the "differences" between Bush and Kerry are over who can do a better job of managing the affairs of the ruling class while moderating or suppressing domestic dissent.

This is why Kerry-Edwards' *Our Plan for America* is littered with phrases about how "Bush's actions against terrorism have fallen far short" (p. 11), "the Bush administration has no coherent plan for domestic defense" (p. 38) and "Bush promised the American people that he would be a uniter, not a divider — but he has been nothing of the sort." (p. 121)

And that's the real issue at stake, isn't it? Bush was unable to manage the affairs of capitalism effectively; he has polarized the country and brought millions of people into the streets in protest.

The Kerry-Edwards ticket is offering the capitalists an opportunity to diffuse the protests, silence the protestors and get back to business.

They are offering the capitalist class domestic peace and passivity (and "order" in the streets through more police [p. 41-42]), and continuation of the imperial project around the world.

Is this a choice for working people? Clearly not. And that should not be surprising.

Working people are not those whom the two main candidates are lobbying for votes. That privilege belongs to the so-called "center:" the petty producers and yuppie professionals that make up the "middle class."

The race between the Republican and Democratic candidates is race to see who will be the executive committee of the ruling capitalist class — who will be the overseers in capitalism's wage-slave system.

"HEGEL REMARKS somewhere that all great world-historic facts and personages appear, so to speak, twice. He forgot to add:

the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce." (Marx, *18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*)

The more and more we look at the Kerry-Edwards campaign, the more we can understand what Marx meant when he wrote this statement over 150 years ago.

Almost four years ago, the U.S was pulled kicking and screaming into a nightmare of rampant capitalist brigandage.

It began with the blatant theft of an election, continued with an all-sided attack on the rights and livelihoods of working people, and marches on to the drumbeat of war for profit.

Now we are being given a "choice" of whether to extend the tragedy that has been the Bush regime, or engage in farce by choosing the Kerry-Edwards ticket.

Regardless of which of capitalism's two candidates wins in November, it will be working people who will lose.

We will lose our rights to the "war on terror;" we will lose our livelihoods to maintaining capitalist "competitiveness;" we will lose our lives in wars for profit.

While it would be nice to think that even the victory of the Socialist ticket in the upcoming election would radically alter that situation, the best it could produce is a regime of crisis, where the forces of the state (still led by the capitalists) would be in a virtual state of war with the elected government, with the attacks taking place through "unofficial" channels.

This is why it is more important than ever for working people to begin organizing and mobilizing in its own name for its own interests.

The upcoming Million Worker March should only be the first in a series of mass actions by working people in defense of our common interests against our common enemy.

But we need more. We need a mass movement of working people fighting for democratic socialism, and organized into a mass political party of working people.

This is what the Socialist Party of Michigan, as an affiliate of the Socialist Party USA, is fighting for — in our workplaces, our communities and even at the ballot box (as long as that is possible).

But we cannot do it without you. "Someone else" will not build a movement like this. You have to make it happen if you want it to happen. Join in. Get involved. *Represent yourself!* ★

★ VOTE ★

THE MICHIGAN SOCIALIST SLATE

For PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT



WALT BROWN



MARY-ALICE HERBERT

NATURAL LAW PARTY

For U.S. CONGRESS (House of Representatives)



TOM LAVIGNE
13th District
GREEN PARTY



LISA WELTMAN
14th District
GREEN PARTY



JERRY WHITE
15th District
INDEPENDENT

For MICHIGAN STATE OFFICES



BEN BURGIS
MSU Board
of Trustees
GREEN PARTY



MARGARET
GUSTHALL
WSU Board
of Governors
GREEN PARTY



ANDREA
LAVIGNE
Mich. House
1st District
GREEN PARTY

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Venezuela

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for the Bolivarian Circles and Houses in various districts to begin to come together as “Bolivarian Councils” or “Bolivarian Assemblies,” in order to take on the basic functioning of municipal administration.

Large sections of the military and national guard are already on the side of the Bolivarians, and can be counted on to come to the aid of the Bolivarians if any armed conflicts were to break out between them and the police forces, many of which are loyal to the opposition.

The chief question, and key to the Revolution, however, is economic. That is, *what measures are necessary to advance the Revolution in the economic arena?*

Nearly everything that can be done strictly in the political arena has been done.

Working people in Venezuela are acting as a class for themselves, fighting in their own interests, which at the moment coincide with those of the MVR and broader Bolivarian movement.

For the next *political* steps to be taken, however, it is necessary to begin to take steps in the *economic* arena.

First and foremost, it is clear that, for those industries owned by the government (e.g., PDVSA, the oil industry), democrat-

ic workers’ control of production is essential.

For too long, these industries have been like capitalist ventures, for the benefit of wealthy managers and capitalists.

Even Chávez’s hand-picked managers of the oil industry operate like capitalists. For the Bolivarian Revolution to advance, workers’ control of state-owned industry must be an immediate demand.

Another key element necessary for the advance of the Revolution would be breaking the grip of debt slavery.

Like many “Third World” countries, Venezuela is saddled with a massive foreign debt managed by the International Monetary Fund, runaway inflation and a currency limping from devaluation.

Austerity and “debt restructuring” programs are little more than attacks on the poor. Ending the debt slavery of Venezuela means a wholesale, across-the-board repudiation of IMF programs and the foreign debt.

But foreign debt repudiation is only a small subset of a larger program necessary to break the financial power of the Great Power states over Venezuela.

The most important part of this overall plan would be placing all banking institutions in state hands, and the central coordination of the banking system.

By “statifying” the banks, the ability of

the capitalists (and the Great Powers) to move their capital out of the country will be spiked, and those capitalists who do flee will know they have generously contributed their fortunes to the people of the Bolivarian Republic.

These basic measures are essential for the continuance and advance of the Bolivarian Revolution. Without them, the Revolution will inevitably stagnate and collapse.

IN A PREVIOUS article on the subject (“Revolution or counterrevolution?”, *Michigan Socialist*, Vol. 2, No. 4, July-August 2004), this author raised the tactic of calling on Chávez to convene a National Constituent Assembly to codify the revolutionary changes advocated in that article — to “bang the gavel” on capitalism, so to speak.

As expected, raising this tactic, based on an understanding of the level of respect Venezuelans have for the Bolivarian Constitution (which they consider their own), resulted in a number of concerns being raised among comrades.

It was thought that calling on Chávez to convene the Assembly was somehow “tailoring” the Bolivarian leadership, even though many of these same comrades seem to have no problem raising similarly phrased demands for the U.S. government (i.e., the Bush regime) to invest “money for jobs, not war.”

Some other comrades were concerned about the very idea of calling for a Constituent Assembly, preferring instead that something akin to a “workers’ parliament” be organized for the purposes of shepherding the transition.

These comrades are certainly right to point out the inherent limitations of the classical model of a Constituent Assembly. But no one ever said it had to be a “classical” Assembly.

The Bolivarian Constitution has several provisions for calling a Constituent Assembly (Articles 347-350), including the right of 15 percent of the population to demand one (Article 348).

Based on a review of the Constitution, it appears that the specific organization of such an Assembly — i.e., how delegates are elected and seated, etc. — is to be left up to those making the call, since no procedure is written into the document itself.

Certainly, it should go without saying that Socialists would want a Constituent Assembly to be organized on the basis of



Power: Workers at the state-run oil company, PDVSA, are the key to the success — and the advance — of the Bolivarian Revolution. Democratic workers’ control of production at PDVSA would be the cornerstone of a Bolivarian workers’ republic.

workplace and neighborhood assemblies, with delegates elected by and accountable to them.

Would Chávez call such an Assembly? That remains to be seen. One thing is for certain, though; he would not do it on his own.

A likely scenario may be that Chávez, if confronted by the call for this kind of Assembly, would counterpose the “classical” model — both as a “compromise” to the opposition and as a way to retain the support of the middle and rearguard elements of the working class.

Under such a situation, it would be right for Socialists to help rally the poor and working people of Venezuela to organize under Article 348 and call their own Constituent Assembly, organized as they see fit, for the purposes of deciding the next steps of the Bolivarian Revolution.

The Revolution comes first. And if Chávez wishes to stand in the way of the Revolution he started, then he is well aware

of what he is facing and will be expected to not be shocked at what happens next.

IN THE AFTERMATH of the defeat of the counterrevolutionary opposition, it is now clear to all that the Bolivarian Revolution stands at the crossroads. It must move forward or stagnate and perish.

The opportunity presented by the democratic victory must not be wasted.

There are few who would deny that, given half a chance, the opposition would drown the Bolivarian Revolution in blood.

That kind of brutal alternative should be enough to give even the most wavering elements sufficient cause to consider more decisive action.

It is time that Venezuelans begin to assimilate the lessons of the last five years and decide which direction they wish their country to go.

As Socialists, we believe that it is not possible to make half a revolution. It must either advance until final victory, or face

the revival of all the “old crap” of reaction and counterrevolution.

If democracy really means “majority rule” and “participatory democracy” means direct majority rule, then in order for the Bolivarian Republic to live up to its stated goals, the old forms of capitalist rule (and capitalist “democracy”) must give way to *real* majority rule and control.

Concretely, that means that the Bolivarian Republic would need to become a democratic workers’ republic, with elected assemblies based on the Bolivarian Houses and Circles — in workplaces and neighborhoods — administering all aspects of society.

August 15 was the third great defeat of counterrevolution and a victory for all working people.

But, for that day to mean more than it already does to the working people of Venezuela and the world, it must also be the day that the Revolution began to take its next great steps. ★

March

continued from page 4

Party of the 1920s or the Labor Party of the 1990s, the result was the same.

But, again, there is more to it.

The reason why it was so relatively easy for these movements to be reincorporated back into the capitalist order was because the demands and consciousness of these organizations never traveled far from capitalist doctrine — liberalism and left-populism.

If the organizers of the Million Worker March were to codify their demands as the platform of a new political party of working people, it would place such an organization miles ahead of any of its predecessors.

However, in order to avoid any backslide back into capitalism, it would need to take the final necessary steps.

It would have to recognize that that only way to make the economy work for working people would be to completely remove the capitalists from political power.

That is, it would have to make as its central political demand the establishment of a *democratic workers’ republic*, based on local bodies composed of and led by working people, with state and national representatives elected by those bodies.

Anything less than this would inevitably result in the loss of whatever gains we

may make, and a period of brutal suppression by the capitalists as they reassert their control over society.

We cannot afford to make such mistakes. We must take our time and make sure we do things right, which means discussing and debating these points out until all those involved are on the same political page.

TO GET TO THIS point, however, requires us to make sure that the Million Worker March is an unquestionable success.

This means pulling out all the stops in order to see that the March has the greatest possible participation of our class.

The Socialist Party of Michigan and the Detroit Socialist Party have formally endorsed the March because we see it playing this kind of catalyst role.

Both the DSP and SPMI have already

begun to work on organizing working people to travel to Washington for this event.

Our goal is to bring as many working people from Michigan — especially those from poor and oppressed backgrounds — to Washington for the March.

We are actively encouraging our members, supporters, readers and friends to build, support and attend the Million Worker March.

Without maximum effort and participation, this March could fail — which would please the capitalists to no end and embolden them to stage more attacks.

Join with us to make the Million Worker March a smashing success. Join with us to send a message to Big Capital: *Your days are numbered!*

Join with us to make history. *All out for the Million Worker March!* ★

The Socialist Party of Michigan and the Detroit Socialist Party are helping to organize buses to bring working people from the state to the Million Worker March. For more information on local organizing, contact the SPMI at (269) 599-1248 or at spmi@spmichigan.org, or contact the DSP at (313) 535-4234 or at detroitssocialist@hotmail.com.

For more information about the MWM, check them out on the Internet at

www.millionworkermarch.org

If at first you don't succeed...

School board bait-n-switch

By L. MEYERS

The Michigan Socialist

IN THE WEE HOURS of the morning of August 4, 2004, the Michigan State Legislature passed legislation rewriting the rules by which the people of Detroit can regain control of their public schools system.

The amended legislation, sponsored by Democratic State Senator Buzz Thomas, changed the options of the ballot initiative that will face voters this November.

Originally, the options that were to be presented to voters would have been between the state-imposed "reform board" and the restoration of a fully empowered, elected board.

The "reform board" was established by Republican Governor John Engler in 1999 with the assistance of Democrats in the state legislature, including then-State Representative Kwame Kilpatrick.

The original legislation mandated a vote on whether to keep that board and return to an elected school board after five years.

However, after becoming mayor, Kilpatrick began to look for ways to make sure this democratic overturn of an anti-democratic act never happens.

At the end of 2003, Kilpatrick proposed to hold a special election to have Detroiters choose between the unelected "reform board" and a toothless board, nominally elected by the people but fully controlled by the mayor through an appointed CEO.

(See "Dictatorship 101," *Michigan Socialist*, Vol. 2, No. 1, January-February 2004)

This initial proposal was rejected, due to the opposition of a majority of state representatives and senators from Detroit opposing the plan.

In the months since then, Kilpatrick and his allies in the state legislature have been working on a new plan to keep Detroit residents from regaining their rights.

The result was a "compromise" plan to have voters choose between restoring an elected and empowered board or the one proposed by Kilpatrick nine months ago.

Text of the November ballot proposal

Shall the Detroit Public School District be reapportioned into 9 single-member election districts with district residency requirements, shall a new school board be elected according to these election districts to serve in the district, and shall the school district be governed by a chief executive officer nominated by the mayor of the city with the greatest population located within the boundaries of the school district and approved by this newly elected board?

According to state law, a "yes" vote will result in the establishment of the 9 election districts, election of a school board, and appointment of a chief executive officer as described in this question, and a "no" vote will result in the school district being governed by the governance structure otherwise provided for a first class school district under part 6 of the revised school code, consisting of an 11-member school board for the school district with 4 members elected at large and 7 members elected from election districts and with the school district governed by the 11-member school board.

The Detroit Socialist Party says...



YES



NO

Only half of the Detroit delegation, eight of the 16 state representatives and senators, supported the deal.

Nevertheless, Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm signed it into law, reversing her position requiring a majority of the delegation to support it.

This flip-flop was justified by claiming that because half of the delegation (including State Rep. Ed Gaffney (R-Grosse Pointe), whose district contains a small sliver of far-eastern Detroit), as well as "community" groups like New Detroit Inc. and the Urban League fakers, backed the plan it was supported by the "majority."

Nevertheless, Detroit voters will still have the ability to tell the state government and its bought-off "representatives" in the City what they can do with their plan this November 2.

Below is a statement issued by Martin Schreder, Chairperson of the Detroit Socialist Party, and delivered to a rally sponsored by the Keep The Vote No Takeover coalition, the main community coalition op-

posed to the "reform" system.

The recent decision by the Michigan State Legislature to craft and pass an "alternative" proposal regarding the direct election of the Detroit Public School Board is an attempt to swindle the working people of the City of Detroit.

Like a thief in the night, the state senators and representatives passed a bill that is meant to confuse voters and trick them into approving a plan that gives the City's mayor dictatorial control of the public school system in everything but name.

Only half of the Detroit delegation to the state legislature supported the decision — seven Democrats and one Republican.

This is further proof that the plan, backed by the mayor of Detroit (who was an architect of the original proposal to rob the people of Detroit of the right to vote), is being undemocratically imposed on the City.

The "alternative" proposal is also supported by the Detroit Urban League and New Detroit,

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Candidates

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greater Lansing area.

"I don't believe that fundamental change for the better in our society can come from the maneuverings of elected officials," writes Burgis in his declaration of candidacy.

"Rather, it must come from the actions of ordinary working people rising up to take control of their own workplaces and communities, abolishing the political, economic institutions of the existing society and replacing them with something qualitatively better and more democratic."

In Bay County, Lloyd Clarke, a longtime peace and justice activist in the Tri-Cities area, is running for County Commission in the Eighth District.

At the time of this writing, Clarke could not be reached for comment.

BUT THE THREE SPMI members running on the Green Party are not the only socialist candidates running for office in Michigan. There are also a handful of independent and affiliated socialists also seeking to present an alternative to the two capitalist parties.

In Wayne County, Tom Lavigne is an independent socialist running for the U.S. House in the 13th Congressional District (the district that covers eastern Detroit and the rest of the Downriver area), challenging longtime Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick.



Tom Lavigne

VP candidate

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Herbert was last in Michigan in mid-May, and worked together with members of the SPMI and DSP on local and statewide electoral campaigns, as well as participating in the effort to stop the privatization of the water system in Highland Park, Mich.

For more information on Herbert's campaign swing, or to schedule an interview with her or any other Socialist candidates, please contact the Detroit Socialist Party at (313) 535-4234, or by e-mail at detroit-socialist@hotmail.com. ★

His wife, Andrea Lavigne, is running for Michigan State House of Representatives in the First District, challenging Republican State Representative Ed Gaffney.



Andrea Lavigne

Both Tom and Andrea Lavigne have been working with Weltman's Congressional campaign, in order to present a more unified face to voters this November.

Margaret Gutshall, a member of the Detroit Greens and the revolutionary socialist collective, "Truth," is running for Wayne State University Board of Governors.

Gutshall, a longtime labor and political activist in the Detroit area, has teamed together with Burgis to write statements on how broader national and international issues affect state universities in Michigan.

In Michigan's 15th Congressional District, home to the one of the longest serving members of the U.S. House, Democrat John Dingell, Jerry White is running an independent campaign to unseat him.

White, 44, has been a socialist activist for 25 years and is a leading member of the Socialist Equality Party, a Trotskyist organization based in Oak Park, Mich. White was the SEP's presidential candidate in 1996.

Taken together, these seven candidates are offering the voters of Michigan a real alternative to the policies and practices of the two main capitalist parties.

In addition, there are other campaigns that are worthy of consideration by working people.

In Michigan's Seventh Congressional District, Jason Seagraves, a former Democrat who was forced out of the party and joined the Greens during the primary season, is seeking to replace Republican Congressman Nick Smith, who is stepping down because of a self-imposed term limit.

Pete Ponzetti III, a former member of the SPMI in Kalamazoo, is running for Michigan Board of Education for the Green Party. Even though he is no longer a member, Ponzetti's views on education are generally in line with those of the SPMI. ★



Margaret Gutshall

Presidential

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important in a generation.

Many progressives have betrayed their principles and have swung behind the pro-war Democratic candidate John Kerry.

Poll after poll has shown the American people are becoming increasingly opposed to the war in Iraq.

But both Bush and Kerry are standing firm in their support for the war and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, and potentially preparing for more pre-emptive wars in Syria, Iran and Venezuela.

Brown-Herbert stands firmly with the American people in their opposition to these imperialist wars and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all troops.

Vote against war and imperialism this November! *Vote Brown-Herbert!* ★

School board

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Inc. Both of these entities are well known as being contrary to the interests of the working people of the City.

Both the DUL and NDI have backed this proposal because passage of the "alternative" will mean continued financial enrichment at the expense of quality public education.

It is based on this shallow and self-serving "support" that Governor Granholm has decided to sign the "alternative" proposal into law.

Certainly, this should come as no surprise, since Granholm, who was attorney general at the time the citizens of Detroit were disenfranchised by the state legislature, rejected the demands of the people of the City that she defend their right to vote.

The Detroit Socialist Party is committed to defending quality public education for the people of the City of Detroit, and works for a system administered and democratically controlled by parents, teachers and workers.

The first step to such a system is returning the right to elect a fully-authorized to make all necessary decisions pertaining to the daily functioning of the school district.

To that end, we will unite with like-minded individuals and organizations to form a grassroots labor and community coalition to urge Detroit voters to reject this phony "alternative" and vote NO on the November 2, 2004, ballot proposal. ★



Michigan Socialists run for Congress, statewide office

By **L. MEYERS**

The Michigan Socialist

AFTER THE FAILURE of the Socialist Party of Michigan to achieve ballot status, many members were wondering what kind of options working people in this state would have on November 2.

Thankfully, in the weeks and months following the end of the petition drive, we were successful in putting together a slate of candidates that present a real alternative to the parties and politics of the status quo.

Three members of the SPMI will be standing in the upcoming election as part of the slate presented by the Green Party, for U.S. Congress, statewide and local office.

In addition, there are several more so-

cialists running in the upcoming election, seeking to offer a similar alternative.

Heading the slate is Lisa Weltman, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in the 14th Congressional District (covering western Detroit and some Downriver communities), challenging 20-term incumbent John Conyers Jr.

Weltman, 40, is a part-time instructor at Mott Community College and a member of the Michigan Education Association, one of the two main teachers' unions in the state. She is also a longtime political activist, labor organizer and is currently the Local Sec-



Lisa Weltman

retary for the Detroit Socialist Party.

"I am running for Congress to give working people in my District a real option and alternative," says Weltman, "a candidate who understands what it is like to have to work hard to survive, and what it means to really own nothing but one's ability to work."

SPMI member Ben Burgis is a candidate for Michigan State University Board of Trustees. Burgis, 24, is a graduate student and teaching assistant at Western Michigan University, and also a longtime political activist in the



Ben Burgis

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Socialist presidential ticket on Mich. ballot

By **JOE DeNEEN**

The Michigan Socialist

IN AN ATMOSPHERE of Democratic hostility towards "third party" and independent candidates, and "Anybody But Bush" rhetoric, the Socialist presidential ticket of Walt Brown and Mary-Alice Herbert secured ballot status in Michigan thanks to the hard work of the campaign, Socialist Party members and the Natural Law Party.

After unsuccessfully seeking ballot access, the Socialist Party began work obtaining official write-in status.

To everyone's surprise, presidential candidate Brown was able to receive the nomination of the Natural Law Party and, along

with electors already gathered for write-in status by the SPMI, the Brown-Herbert ticket was placed on the November General Election ballot.

This is the first time since 1972, when the Party endorsed campaign of Benjamin Spock, that we have been able to provide working class voters in Michigan a socialist alternative to the parties of exploitation and war.

(Reporters for the *Michigan Socialist* attempted to contact Doug Dern, the Chair of the Natural Law Party of Michigan for his comments, but our calls were not returned.)

The 2004 election is possibly the most

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SP VP candidate coming to Mich.

SOCIALIST PARTY vice-presidential candidate Mary-Alice Herbert will be making a second campaign swing through Michigan.

Herbert will arrive in Detroit in mid-October, following the Million Worker March in Washington, D.C., and intends to stay in the state through Election Day.

During those two weeks, Herbert will campaign in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, Lansing and Kalamazoo, along with SPMI members running for office.

Herbert, along with Socialist Party presidential candidate Walt Brown, will appear on the Michigan ballot this November on the Natural Law Party line.

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