



Magazine of the Socialist Party USA

The **Socialist**

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¡Somos Unidos! We Are United!

EDITORIAL

Since 1980, an estimated 8 million Mexicans have migrated to the U.S. for opportunities denied them in Mexico, where half the population lives in poverty. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is largely responsible for increasing the number of Mexican immigrants who come to the U.S. looking for work.

This “free” trade agreement allows goods and capital to cross the border legally but not the workers whose farm economy has been destroyed by the flood of cheap agricultural products from the U.S. The immigrants enter the U.S. not only to support themselves, but also to send money home to keep their families and communities alive.

At the same time, American popular opinion concerning immigrant laborers, propagated and supported by politicians in Washington, condemns the immigrants themselves, creating something akin to mass hysteria. This is nothing new. It has happened with other groups of people in the past.

This time, the U.S. government proposes to set aside funds to build a wall along the Mexican border to stem the flow of immigrants. If we used that money instead to aid economic development in Mexico, fewer people would risk their lives trying to cross the border.

But of all the industrialist countries, the U.S. gives the least amount of foreign economic aid.

Immigrants have always been an important part of the workforce in the U.S. and remain so today.

It is ironic that the politicians in Washington most averse to granting citizenship to workers who contribute so much to our economy are the self-same politicians who are most unwilling to raise the national minimum wage above \$5.15 per hour. We call for a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

These are issues that we hope SP-USA candidates will speak up about. The Civil Rights Section of our platform calls for an end to the militarization of the border and an end to police raids where immigrants congregate. We defend the rights of all immigrants to health care, education, and full legal rights. ●



San Diego, CA--Protesters at a congressional judiciary hearing on immigration stand in front of a lawn strewn with crosses, each representing one of the thousands of Mexican immigrants who have died trying to cross the border.

From the Socialist Party 2006 Platform

We call for an end to the militarization of the United States/Mexican border, and an increase in the service budget instead of the “military” budget of the INS.

We demand an end to police raids in areas where immigrants congregate.

We defend the rights of all immigrants to education, health care, and full civil and legal rights and call for an unconditional amnesty program for all undocumented people. We further call for full citizenship rights upon demonstrating residency for six months.

We call for an end to the use of “secret evidence” in deportation hearings, a ban on all immigration detentions and military tribunals, and full due process and habeas corpus rights in U.S. courts for all non-citizens on U.S. territory or in U.S. custody.

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Cover Art: Photograph by David Hanks
taken during the May Day rally in San
Francisco.

The Socialist

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The Socialist is always looking for interesting, insightful, well-written stories. In particular, we are looking for work that highlights the struggles and triumphs of the working class. We will accept news articles and stories about organizing and protests, but we are also looking for short fiction, poetry, and music/arts/theater/film review. Please mark all letters to the editor as such and limit letters to 250 words; articles should not exceed 2,500 words. Submit as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word .doc or .rtf format to SocialistParty@sp-usa.org, or by mail to: The Socialist, 339 Lafayette St. Room 303, New York, NY 10012. The deadline is the first of the month preceding each issue date.

Self-Determination or Assimilation: The Future of Chicanos, Mexicanos, and Our Party in the United States

by Raul Cano

For those of us who remember the Chicano civil rights movement and the Chicano struggle to carve out a place in this “nation,” the next phase presents some challenges. The generation at the core of the Chicano movement descended from immigrants who arrived in U.S. in the early 20th Century, before the Treaty of Guadalupe, Mexico.

The Chicanos were a post-WWII generation with renewed interest in their roots and cultural identity as a defense against rampant racism and discrimination. Although the movement identified itself with the concept of Mexicanismo, it was strongly influenced by the cultural experiences that resulted from life in the United States.

In essence, a Chicano was neither Mexican nor American, but someone with a unique cultural identity. The objectives of many in the Chicano movement were self-determination and the internal colonization of the Southwest region of the United States, Aztlán, where Mexicans were the majority.

But the Chicano generation failed to establish a legitimate alternative to the capitalist system. Recent elections show that the burgeoning Hispanic middle class is more than willing to support right-wing agendas. They have voted—and will continue to vote—republican. The Democratic Party maintains a slim majority among Mexicano/Chicano voters generally, based on the misguided notion that the party represents the interests of the poor.

Since the Chicano movement, the United States has had a new influx of immigrants that includes both Mexicanos and other Hispanics. The leadership of the Chicano movement and many older Mexicanos and Hispanics are watching the immigration debate with interest as they try to protect their perceived power within the



Un Dia Sin Migrantes, San Fransisco.

Photograph by David Hanks

capitalist two-party system. On one hand, the new immigrants could provide a voter block to increase political power. On the other, the immigrants could create a backlash of racism and oppression. The immigration debate also has implications for Chicanos who have benefited from serving as intermediary in the capitalist exploitation of the new immigrants.

The new immigrants know little about the civil rights movement and cannot immediately identify with Chicanismo. The Mexicanos who live in the U.S. as undocumented workers have a strong Mexican identity with nationalist ties to Mexico, and all have a clear history as victims of imperialism, colonization, oppression, and rampant racism.

Other Hispanic groups have varying nationalist and political feeling, usually based on perceived status (political vs. economic refugee), and there are distinct cultural differences among the various groups.

So what are the roles of the Chicano generation and our Party in this new battle to secure the civil rights for over 12 million immigrants?

A minority in the Chicano movement still supports the concept of self-determination. They are the only ones presenting options outside the capitalist system. From a socialist perspective, consistent with our own Party's principles, self-determination should be a choice we support.

The “American Way” is synonymous with capitalism. Cultural resistance to assimilation provides an opportunity to create a community that is separate and anti-capitalist in nature. The Mexicano/Chicano communities in the United States should cultivate cultural resistance, capitalize on the positive aspects of their communities, and work toward creating a society free from capitalism, sexism, and homophobia.

The unifying factor for most Hispanics, including Chicanos and Mexicanos, is the issue of labor rights and

their fair treatment as workers. The Party should continue to work for the radicalization of unions and all workers in and out of the United States. A guest worker program should be opposed, and we should continue to stand against so called “free trade” agreements.

Given the recent level of activism among immigrant groups throughout the United States, how will we share with them the possibilities and liberation of socialism as it has developed within our Party?

Will new immigrants be impressed by Debs or Thomas? Will they understand the decades of racist policies that plagued both the left and the unions? It’s doubtful that new immigrants will relate to very much in our Party or in the pale left. So how do we help shape this new phase of political reality?

1. We must declare anti-racism as a component of our struggle in equal standing with feminism and democratic socialism.

2. We must accept a future of multicultural expression and an end to Euro-centric history. The concept of “American” is long dead and has no place in our socialist future.

3. We must encourage local and external support of anti-capitalist and socialist movements trying to free themselves from the stranglehold of world capitalism.

Anti-capitalism, in all its expressions, should be central to our unity with others. International work with radical political organizations should be fruitful ground for open communication with current and future immigrants.

Ultimately, the solution to the current crisis is in the hands of the millions of people who have filled the streets in last few months. We should recognize this as a legitimate grassroots movement and should support it in every way possible as a potential avenue for radicalization. In a national/global political environment that is shifting to the right, the need to present radical alternatives to capitalism is that much more important. ●

Communiqué from the Center of My Revolution

by Raul Cano

Desde el medio de nada

Desde el Valle sin montañas

Desde el río que un día fue bravo

From a place far from white history

Urban mythology

Starbuck politicos

Mochachino Marxist-Leninist

Fashionista revolutionary Strokites

¡Gritamos: Revolución!

On the border between decadence and desperation

Between the Dollar and the Peso

Between the naked essence of brown skin in the summer heat
and the noxious sweetness of privilege

¡Gritamos: Revolución!

Hijos de Guevara y Flores Magón

De Narciso y su acordeón

De Zapata y Villa

De La Virgen Selena

Madres de la Maquila

Padres del azadón

Hermanas de Chávez y Huerta

¡Gritamos: Revolución!

La cruz y tres clavos

dermal altars to the Virgen

eyebrows carefully penciled in perfect arches of resistance

Tongues that refuse to speak the broken English of compliance

Hands mangled but still able to raise the fist

¡Gritamos: Revolución!

Un Dia Sin Migrantes

a photo montage

Pro-immigrant groups around the country poured into the streets on May Day, 2006, for “A Day without Migrants” demonstrations and solidarity actions. The photos here are from May Day rallies and other protests.



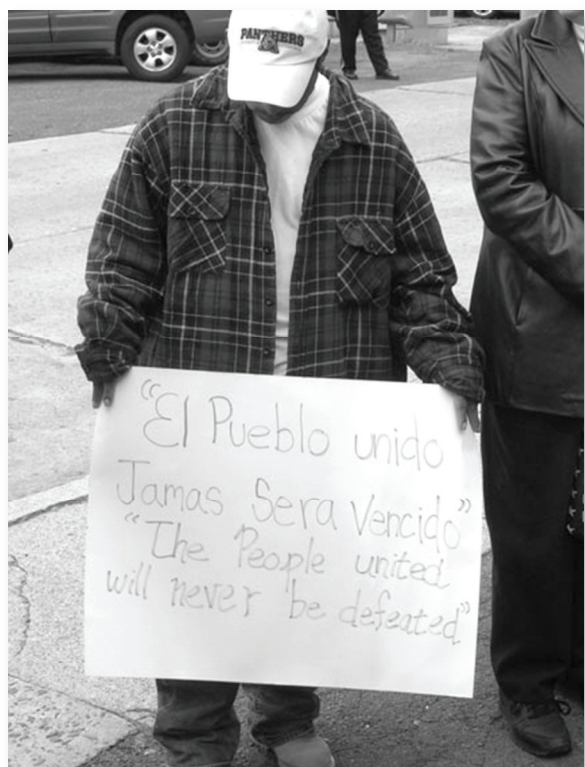
In Bergen County, NJ, Residents Against Racism rally on May Day. Andrea Pason holds a Residents Against Racism banner with Greg Pason, National Secretary of SP-USA.



A young woman protests at a May Day rally in San Francisco. Photo by David Hanks.



In San Diego, CA, the Friends of Day Laborers stage a protest outside the County Administration Building during a federal congressional hearing on immigration.



Bottom right: A man holds a sign that reads, “The people united will never be defeated” at a pro-immigrant rally in New Jersey.

Socialist Summer

This summer, the Socialist Party USA launched three activist campaigns. Here, we provide a report on each. We encourage all Party members to join us in these campaigns.

Fair Food Campaign

by Steven Sears

In the May Day edition of *The Socialist*, we reported the current action against McDonald's by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). On Saturday, April 1, 2006--the fifth anniversary of the Taco Bell Boycott--farmworkers, allies, and Socialist Party members converged on Chicago to send McDonald's a message: no more sweatshops in the fields. The action is also aimed at Chipotle, a quick-service Mexican food restaurant company that is also part of the McDonald's group.

The March in Chicago was a great success. As a follow-up, CIW co-founder Lucas Benitez spoke at the McDonald's Shareholder meeting. The CIW, SFA, and their allies continue to do what they do best, educate and agitate. But McDonald's has not been quiet either. Their long awaited study, *Economic Impact: Tomatoes in Florida*, was released to what could be best describe as utter disbelief. The study was prepared by the Center for Reflections and Action (CREA) and paid for by McDonald's.

McDonald's stands by this study and may be the only party to do so. Professor Bruce Nissen, Director of the Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy, Florida International University, released a report that is critical of not only the study's conclusions, but of the methods and data used to reach those conclusions. He has been joined by over 30 scholars from the fields of labor law and labor relations, including a former General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board and the Dean of the University of Maine School of Law.

The central finding in this report is incredible. CREA concludes that farmworkers working for "grower A" are not poor, but earn an average of \$14 an hour with the highest earners pulling

in well over \$18 an hour. This \$18 per hour would actually put farmworkers above the 70th percentile of all Florida workers.

At the June meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Party USA in Milwaukee, the Socialist Party endorsed the Alliance for Fair Food campaign. This fair food, not fast food, campaign is part of the Socialist Summer activist campaigns.

You can join the Fair Food campaign. Packets of information, which include a DVD with several videos, are available from the National Office. You can also contact me directly at steve@spwi.org.

I admire many things about the CIW. One is how they sum up things so simply. One of my favorites is: C + C = C. Consciousness + Commitment = Change.

Join us in making a change in the fields of Florida.●

Steve Sears is the Chair of the SP-USA Alliance for Fair Food Campaign.

Anti-Recruitment Campaign

by Tina Phillips

The Youth Commission of the Socialist Party has the honor of assisting with the Socialist Party's Anti-Recruitment Campaign for Socialist Summer 2006. We would like to see you become active in anti-recruitment activities in your Locals and in your communities. We are offering assistance to Locals and individuals for getting out and active. We want to do everything we can to ensure that the anti-recruitment campaign is a success.

We have three goals for this campaign: a national day of action, an opt-out drive in high schools, and counter-recruitment tabling and picketing.

In Locals where there is involvement from high school and college students, we would also like to see an opt-out drive in high schools this fall. And finally, we encourage locals and individuals to stage regular counter-recruitment tabling and picketing at schools, colleges, and universities where the military has an active presence.

We are currently developing a campaign tabling guide that may be downloaded from the SP-USA website. This guide explains how to table, picket, and obtain materials for an anti-recruitment action.

We held a workshop at the SP-USA Organizing Conference, facilitated by Ben Schwab with with skill-sharing from attendees. ●

The co-conveners of this campaign are Tina Phillips: tinarphillips@yahoo.com; phone: (510) 304-7881, and Benjamin Schwab: benschwabsocialist@gmail.com, phone: (812) 360-8150. Please feel free to contact one of us with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

NOLA Campaign

by the Common Ground Collective

Residents of the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans have become increasingly concerned with the process, or lack thereof, of the demolition of properties since hurricane Katrina. In any other New Orleans neighborhood, the ECC is required to have a "Right of Entry" consent formed signed by the homeowner.

In the Lower 9th Ward, the City of New Orleans has planned to simply notify the 2,100 homeowners by publishing a list in the *Times Picayune* and the city's website.

The *Times Picayune* is a local newspaper and is not accessible to the thousands of displaced residents scattered around the country, and the City of New Orleans' website is frequently non-functioning. Residents feel this lack of process is a gross violation of their rights as property owners.

The city and FEMA have told residents that they have had six months to return home and collect salvageable belongings from the wreckage and contact the city regarding demolition of their property. From the resident's perspective, the neighborhood was completely sealed off by federal security forces until December. These forces include the Homeland Security Police and the National Guard, which have disallowed homeowners access

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Frank Zeidler's Stubborn Integrity

Book Review

by Quinn Brisben

Editor's note: Frank Zeidler died on September 7, 2006, at the age of 93. This book review was written prior to his death.

Frank P. Zeidler, *A Liberal in City Government: My Experiences as Mayor of Milwaukee*, Milwaukee Publishers LLC, PO Box 14062, Milwaukee WI 53214, 2005, 202pp. \$19.95 (paper), \$35.95 (hardcover) milwaukeepublishers.com

This is not new writing. This account of Frank Zeidler's 1948 mayoral campaign, his daily attendance to his duties during the next twelve years, and his heroic but ultimately futile struggle to keep his city from being dominated by irresponsible wealthy persons who did not live there and had no interest in its viability, was written in 1962, deposited among his papers in the Milwaukee Public Library, and is just now being published by his friends. It is a typically modest work. It barely mentions his work for a war memorial, a sports arena, a new main public library, a new museum, and a new stadium that brought major league baseball to Milwaukee for the first time.

It does not mention his strong support of public schools, the park system, and branch libraries, nor his work for civil rights and decent housing that caused him to be vilified by racist reactionaries. It does not mention that Frank Zeidler spent much of his time during his mayoral years working to promote the United Nations and its Universal Declaration of Human Rights, nor his work for the Socialist Party nationally, nor his church work, nor his exemplary fulfillment of his duties as a husband and the father of six children. He does credit a picture

of him with his wife Agnes and the children walking near what is still the family home with convincing voters that he was not the Stalinist villain that the opposition press claimed him to be.

He was a socialist and had been one since 1932. He met his wife through Socialist Party activities, and he is still a Socialist at age 93. If there are socialists of longer standing, I have no doubt that Frank Zeidler can tell you about every one of them. He is part of a tradition of Milwaukee Socialist mayors that began with Emil Seidel and continued with Daniel Hoan, whose long career ended in 1940 when he was defeated by an independent progressive named Carl Zeidler, Frank Zeidler's older brother. The brothers were never enemies despite differences in political philosophy, and Carl Zeidler was a local hero who had resigned his post to join the Naval Reserve and who had been killed when his ship was torpedoed off South Africa. The people of Milwaukee were thus not afraid of Socialists even at the height of the Cold War and Frank Zeidler had a name well-known locally, but this did not mean that there was a strong Milwaukee Socialist organization nor that victory was possible without a fairly broad coalition.

With the Socialist Party's national decline in the 1930s, many Milwaukee Socialists, like Andrew Biemiller, later responsible for Medicare legislation, had moved over to the Democrats. The once powerful Republican Progressives had effectively disappeared after the senatorial defeat of Robert LaFollette, jr., by Joseph McCarthy in 1946. A coalition of progressive elements called the Municipal Enterprise

Zeidler, continued on p. 9

to their properties for more than three months.

In addition, the absolute lack of transparency regarding the City of New Orleans' intentions for the neighborhood and FEMA's process has left many residents misinformed and confused.

However, residents of the Lower 9th Ward and Common Ground, which stands in solidarity with the community, believe that the six months it has taken for FEMA, the Corp of Engineers, and the ECC to coordinate their process for debris removal constitutes gross negligence.

We also assert that this negligence, which may stem from a myriad of issues, including disorganization and the lack of political will, should not continue to slow the process for the clean-up of the neighborhood.

While residents of the Lower 9th Ward are concerned that their basic property rights are being undermined, they are more concerned that if the demolitions and debris removal do not occur soon, the burden of doing so will fall onto the property owners themselves.

It is our understanding after conversations with the Corp of Engineers, that their contract is only until June and then after that the cost of clean-up will become the burden of the homeowners. Many homeowners are not in a position financially to assume this burden and are afraid that the property will then be seized by the City of New Orleans as a "blighted property," causing owners to lose all rights to their land. ●

If you would like to help the residents of the Lower 9th Ward, you may send a donation, payable to Common Ground, to:

Sean White
c/o Common Ground/
Lower Ninth Ward Project
1415 Franklin Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70117

Committee, later the Public Enterprise Committee which is still active in Milwaukee affairs, backed Frank Zeidler in an open primary and in the run-off election against Henry Reuss, later a US Representative with a generally good record. Like many of Frank Zeidler's one-time political opponents, he remained an admirer and supporter of his former rival.

Frank Zeidler did not use his coalition to build a machine.

"I made every effort to keep my campaign pledge to see that all appointments were based on merit. As a result, some of the appointments went to individuals who had endorsed other candidates in this intense election but who had demonstrated their capacity to serve the public. Some of my own friends were dubious of such appointments. My opponents expected I would take revenge. Revenge was a common practice for those who won elections, but it was not a practice I would follow. The future problems were almost always more important to me than past grievances ..."

Frank Zeidler administered Milwaukee honestly, efficiently, and with a difference:

"At times in various cities of the nation, local government does not exist for the benefit of the people, but for the benefit of the political clique in power ... Under such conditions, improvement in the city is not made because it ought to be done or because it is good for the people. It is done because the party boss of the ruling clique thinks it is good for him and his followers. A street is not paved because it needs paving. It is paved either because it gives work to party henchmen, or because it gives work to a grafting contractor who kicks back money into the party till, or because if the



Frank Zeidler, 1912 - 2006: Chairperson Emeritus, Socialist Party USA; Socialist Party candidate for President 1976; Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee WI 1948-1960

street is not paved it will become a political issue to be used against the party."

Governing for the benefit of the people may win you three terms against the opposition of big money and the press, in the case of Hearst's Milwaukee Sentinel a particularly vicious opposition press, but it will not give you the funds or the self-interested workers to build a permanent party machine in capitalist America. Frank Zeidler is beloved in Milwaukee and a proud part of the heritage of this country's only left party to have a record of governance as well as of advocacy, but even this most determined and tireless worker I have ever known could not change the basis of the system. His twelve years of good government were not socialism, but, unlike even the best efforts of major party reformers, they moved consistently in the direction of socialism

Zeidler, continued on p. 16

Frank Zeidler

by Quinn Brisben

He was, for as long as the most battered
Of us can recall, our oboe's A,
Plain and true, to which we could tune
Our actions, knowing that strong truth
Was embodied in that frail, mild man
Who did so much for so long and
Who sought nothing, not even the honor
We gave him freely; he just worked
For us, for everyone, for a world
Not yet born and for pleasant sidewalks
And well-used parks
Right here and now.

Fall Electoral Campaigns

by Jeff Brindle

This summer members of the Socialist Party took to the streets across the country as part of campaigns supporting Fair Food/Immigrant Workers, Anti-Recruitment, and New Orleans/Ninth Ward Solidarity. Against such an exciting backdrop, it's easy to forget about all of our other campaigns. As we move into fall, the number of electoral campaigns are triple the number of our activist campaigns.

While many of our members are primarily activists, our growing slate of candidates shows that the Socialist Party does not divorce electoral politics from other strategies for basic change. We see activist and electoral campaigns, not as forks in the road to a true socialist society, but as complementary methods of effecting both political and cultural change in our society.

The Socialist Party is a multi-tendency organization. Some candidates believe that socialism can be voted in. Others believe that electoral campaigns serve an important function in educating people about socialism and distinguishing it from capitalist alternatives. All our candidates however are fighting for progressive changes that point the way towards a socialist future, and are doing so independent of the capitalist-controlled two-party system. These changes, as embodied in the Socialist Party's platform, are fundamental and set us apart from those in the Left who talk Socialist but vote Democrat.

Most people know the Socialist Party USA as an organization in which people join, pay dues, work on commissions and organize local

chapters. The dues we pay as members enable our many activist campaigns, support the magazine you are reading right now, and provide for a National Office. All are worthy expenditures by our Party to be sure. It comes as a surprise to a great many members though that none of their dues can go towards supporting our Party's electoral campaigns.

Political parties, under federal law, are nothing more than a collection of ballot lines and bank accounts organized for funding and nominating candidates. As both a political party and a membership-based activist and educational organization, we are compelled by campaign finance regulations to be two separate legal entities under one umbrella.

The Socialist National Committee is our Party's general election fund, and the embodiment of our legal status as a political party. It raises private donations from individuals--separate from their membership dues--then contributes that money to Socialist candidates. It conducts its electoral activity through a Campaign Clearinghouse. While our Party's National Commission controls the SNC fund, the Clearinghouse Coordinator runs the Clearinghouse on a day-to-day basis. The Clearinghouse Coordinator has a similar relationship to party campaigns as the National Office and National Secretary has to Locals.

Fundraising for the Socialist National Committee is an important function, but not the only function, of the Campaign Clearinghouse. Besides providing financial assistance to our candidates, the

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SP-USA Candidates

Florida: Atlee Yarrow is running for Governor.

Georgia: Jonathan Post ran for SGA President at Reinhardt College.

Oregon: Two Socialist Party candidates are running for the OR State House of Representatives. Charley Nims is running for State Representative of the 42nd District, and Cliff Shaw is running for State Representative of the 44th District. Walt Brown is running for the U.S. House of Representatives (3rd District).

Massachusetts: Eric Chester is running for Congress in the 1st District.

Michigan: Matt Erard is running for State Representative in the 53rd District while Jacob Woods aims for a seat on the State Board of Education.

New Jersey: Greg Pason is running again for U.S. Senate while Tommy Silva contested the Mayoral race in Paterson. Willie Norwood is running as the Socialist Party candidate for Congress in the 2nd district.

Pennsylvania: Stanley Hetz is running for U.S. Senate while Gabriel Ross runs Congress in the 12th District. Jeff Brindle is seeking the 26th House District's seat in the PA General Assembly.

Vermont: Peter Diamondstone is running for U.S. Senate while Jane Newton aims for the House of Representatives. Mary Alice Herbert is running for Lieutenant Governor while Jerry Levy tries for Auditor of Accounts.

National Secretary Runs for U.S. Senate

by Gregory Pason

Campaign Clearinghouse works to provide our candidates with additional resources to make their campaigns as effective as possible.

The Campaign Clearinghouse maintains an email discussion list just for Socialist Party candidates to serve as a springboard for electoral action. The intent is to help first time candidates connect with more experienced candidates and with the Clearinghouse Coordinator with the hope that this will facilitate the exchange of ideas and lead to the betterment of Socialist candidacies.

The Campaign Clearinghouse provides each candidate, if they so desire, with free web space and an email forwarder at www.votesocialist.info. The Clearinghouse also offers help creating and maintaining a campaign website. Now none of our candidates will lack the ability to reach people through the Internet, one of the few places left where the playing field is still level.

The Campaign Clearinghouse also works to get SP literature in the hands of our candidates so they can get it in the hands of voters. All of our Party pamphlets can be downloaded individually from the Campaign Clearinghouse and can be obtained in bulk through the Clearinghouse Coordinator. The Campaign Clearinghouse has also adapted our Party's A Lot of What's Best About America Is Socialist pamphlet into a Socialist Values campaign pamphlet. All candidates can request a customized version of this pamphlet from the Clear-



Editor's note: Gregory Pason, the National Secretary of the Socialist Party USA, has been nominated as a Socialist Party candidate for U.S. Senate. This is his personal campaign statement.

I am a 40-year-old husband and father to a 12-year-old son. I'm a social justice activist, a former local union chair (NJ National Writers Union). I am currently active in local labor actions, including the Alliance for Fair Food and Industrial Workers of the World's General Defense Committee, as well as in anti-racist organizations like Residents Against Racism and Anti-Racist Action and other grassroots coalitions and projects.

As an activist, I understand that real change must come from below, from the community, from rank-and-file unionists, students, the poor and working class--groups that have lost influence while big business, corporations and special interests have been given full access to our "representatives."

Today, in the United States, the gap between the richest 10% and the rest of us is growing. Billions of dollars are being spent on imperialist interventions across the globe to create new markets for U.S. corporate interests and thousands of working people are being killed and families destroyed.

While the government--Republicans and Democrats alike--speaks of spreading democracy abroad, democratic structures in the United States are eroding, and basic services are being cut for the poor and working class. **My campaign calls for:**

1. Immediate withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan and ending U.S. intervention abroad.

2. Slashing the military budget and investing that money on basic needs like:

- a socialized healthcare system (including full reproductive health care)
- free education from pre-K to post secondary

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Fall Campaigns, continued on p. 13

- alternative energy and ending our dependence on fossil fuels
 - a guaranteed living wage and jobs for all
 - fully funded mass transit, national rail and national airline systems
 - housing for all, and a real commitment to ending homelessness
 - national childcare, paid family leave and at least 2 weeks paid vacation
 - creating a progressive tax system
3. Ending the “War on Terror” and ending immigrant detentions and harassment.
 4. Empowering unions by repealing Taft-Hartly, the Hatch Act and “right to work” laws and giving amnesty to all immigrant workers.
 5. Working to end racism, sexism, and homophobia.
 6. Abolishing the World Bank and IMF and pro-capitalist agreements like NAFTA, GATT and the FTAA.

There is absolutely no reason why anyone should be without healthcare, housing, a healthy environment or other basic needs. We must end giveaways to the rich and corporations and build a society that is pro-people not pro-profit.

There is absolutely no reason why we should be invading countries across the globe and making enemies everywhere. We must end this policy right now, withdraw troops and close military bases overseas.

If we really want to improve people’s lives, empower working-class people, and change our economic system, we must break with the Democrats and Republicans and build a movement that stands for the rights of people, not profits. The Socialist Party has led the way in the past, speaking up for workers and immigrants rights, against war and for women’s equality.

Important issues will not be discussed or debated without alternative voices. I hope to have your vote in November. ●

A Radical Alternative in Vermont

by Eric Chester and Mary-Alice Herbert

Bernie Sanders has become an icon for progressives throughout the country. He has cultivated an image as a courageous dissenter standing up to the entrenched powers. The reality is very different. This November, as Sanders seeks to enter the U.S. Senate, the voters of Vermont will have a genuine alternative.

Peter Diamondstone has been nominated as a candidate of both the Liberty Union Party and the Socialist Party for the open U.S. Senate seat. Both Sanders and Diamondstone have been active in Vermont politics for more than thirty years, but, starting at a similar point, they have traveled in very different directions.

When Bernard Sanders was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1990, Republican Senator Jim Jeffords summed things up. The election results were about right because Vermont was about one third Republican, one third Democratic and one third Socialist. Unfortunately, Sanders failed to meet these expectations.

During his early political career in Vermont, as a candidate in the Liberty Union Party from 1972 to 1976, and as an independent later in the 1970s, Sanders referred to himself as a socialist. Since then, references to his socialist politics have become more and more infrequent. In his latest incarnation, Sanders has become a pure and simple reformer, and not a very bold one at that.

In 1981, Sanders was elected mayor of Burlington as an independent. After his election, his supporters wore a popular t-shirt that proclaimed “The Peoples Republic of Burlington.” Yet during his eight years as mayor of Vermont’s largest city, Sanders began the “gentrifica-

tion” of Burlington. Much of the lakefront went to big developers, who constructed luxury condominiums and tourist attractions. Welfare rolls halved in Burlington, while they doubled in outlying trailer park towns. As a result, a large section of the Vermont Democratic Party became “Bernie Democrats,” and these voters have supported him ever since.

By this time, Sanders was an up and coming politician on the make. In 1984, he actively campaigned for Walter Mondale as the lesser of two evils. In every presidential campaign since then, Sanders has endorsed the Democratic candidate on the basis of lesser evil politics.

In 1990, Sanders was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, appearing on the ballot as an independent. He soon joined the Democratic Party caucus and voted accordingly. If Vermonters can be said to be almost unanimous about anything, it is being opposed to war. Sanders supported the economic blockade of Iraq that killed hundreds of thousands of women and children. He then supported the military occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq. Sanders voted to fund the war in Iraq as recently as last November. Finally, under overwhelming popular pressure, Sanders has declared his support for a nebulously defined phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. He just voted for HR 282, the Iran Support Act that orders Bush to search Iran for WMDs.

Although Sanders still likes to claim he is an independent, he is closely tied to the Democratic Party. Leading Democrats, includ-

ing Howard Dean, the chair of the Democratic National Committee, have enthusiastically endorsed him for the Senate. Sanders uses Democratic Party bigwigs to raise fund from the affluent. Indeed, Sanders acts to discourage any break with mainstream politics, rather than encouraging it. Some months ago, he brokered a deal

**[Diamondstone]
calls for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.**

with the Vermont Democratic Party under which he would discourage the Progressive Party, which he initiated while mayor, from nominating any candidates for statewide office in 2006, and, in return, the Democratic leadership would actively discourage its politicians from filing for the Democratic primary. Sanders had tried this ploy before, but this time it failed. In spite of the best efforts of the Democratic Party's

leadership, its primary for the U.S. Senate has become hotly contest. Concerned that the Democratic nominee would draw off enough votes to allow the well-heeled Republican to be elected by a plurality, Sanders recently filed for the Democratic primary. He thus made explicit what has been obvious for some time; Sanders is a liberal Democratic politician who seeks to preempt any move toward a truly independent politics in Vermont.

Peter Diamondstone helped found the Liberty Union Party in 1970. As Sanders has opportunisticly sidled into the corporate mainstream, Diamondstone has continued to organize as a radical, in the electoral arena and on the streets. He is one component of a slate of candidates jointly nominated for the coming election by the Liberty Union Party and the Socialist Party. Diamondstone has opposed the occupation of Iraq from the start. He calls for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Diamondstone believes that the United States needs to drastically reduce its military spending, and use the hundreds of billions of dollars thus saved for essential schools, hospitals, mass transit and low-cost housing. He remains a committed democratic socialist working to build a new society through grass-roots activism.

Vermont's voters will have a real choice in November. It should be an interesting election. ●

Eric Chester ran for Congress in the 1st District of MA. He is a member of the Grassroots Tendency. Mary-Alice Herbert is running for Lt. Governor in Vermont.

inghouse Coordinator, tailored specifically to their campaigns.

Many of our members are interested in electoral action and want to run for one office or another but simply don't know where to start or exactly what they'd be getting into. Qualifications and obligations differ depending on where a member would be running, and the Clearinghouse Coordinator works with potential candidates to help them understand what they would need to do. The Clearinghouse Coordinator is there to act as an advisor and assistant to any candidate who requests such help and to help provide them with the tools they need to make their campaigns as effective as possible. ●

Jeff Brindle is the Campaign Coordinator for the Socialist Party USA and is a member of the Fist and Rose Tendency. He is seeking the 26th House District's seat in the PA General Assembly.

For More Information

To learn more about our growing slate of candidates, visit the Campaign Clearinghouse at www.votesocialist.info. If you would like to help our candidates out financially while you're there, click on "Make a Donation" to contribute to the SNC. If you would like to help the Party with its electoral campaigns, either as a candidate or in some other way, email Jeff Brindle at coordinator@votesocialist.info.

Reacting to the Attack on Reproductive Rights

By Tina Phillips

On March 7, 2006, South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds signed HR 1215, a law that criminalizes abortion unless the procedure is necessary to save the woman's life. The law makes no exception in cases of rape or incest.

This is an obvious attempt to provoke a court battle challenging *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. Over the years, anti-choice activists have employed an "erosion" strategy, slowly stripping women of their reproductive rights with the ultimate aim of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. The recent appointments of John Roberts and Sam Alito to the Supreme Court have anti-choice activists hopeful that *Roe v. Wade* will be reversed.

HR 1215 was scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2006, but on May 20, pro-choice activists in South Dakota filed a petition for a measure on the November ballot that would repeal the law. Their measure qualified for the ballot and prevented the law from taking effect as scheduled.

The same activists are now hitting the streets to educate people about the ballot measure. Polls show that the majority of South Dakotans oppose HR 1215, but now Ohio is trying to pass a similar bill. Reproductive rights are in danger in many parts of the county.

Proposition 73

In late 2005, anti-choicers in California tried to deprive minors of their right to privacy with Proposition 73. Proposition 73 would have required all abortion providers to notify parents if a minor

sought an abortion. I campaigned against Prop 73 and did outreach at my local university.

In talking with other women, I came to understand that without safe and private access to abortion

Over the years, anti-choice activists have employed an "erosion" strategy, slowly stripping women of their reproductive rights with the ultimate aim of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

services, women are willing to find other, often dangerous methods for terminating an unwanted pregnancy.

Proposition 73 failed by a narrow margin, but it did fail. It was thwarted by the grassroots efforts of thousands of activists. It was a sweet victory that helped preserve the rights of women and youth.

However, Proposition 73 is back. It will appear on the November ballot in a slightly altered form as

Proposition 85, so we are now gearing up for another campaign.

Currently, 44 other states have notification or consent laws, which require consent of parents for minors to obtain abortions. Most of these states allow for a judicial bypass. However, many minors are too timid to tackle the legal system. We need to work to end these restrictions for young women because they are discriminatory, and because they can lead to the injury and death of young women.

Bans on 'partial birth' abortions

In 2003, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act (the Act) was passed by U.S. congress. It was ruled unconstitutional because it provided no exceptions, even for the health of the woman. However, the Bush Administration wants the Supreme Court review the Act again, and the Supreme Court has agreed.

"Partial birth abortion," so named by the anti-choicers, is actually a procedure called "intact dilation and evacuation." This procedure is generally performed as a late-term abortion in emergency situations. It is used only when the health of the pregnant woman is in jeopardy. Consequently, any ban is essentially useless, except as a political maneuver.

Many states have tried to pass these bans as well, but most have been struck down because they were too broad in scope and did not protect women's health. However, each attempt helps build the anti-choice movement, employing scare tactics to coerce people into supporting anti-choice measures.

Hyde Amendment

The Hyde Amendment prevents Medicaid from paying for abortions for low-income women. The Socialist Party has worked to repeal the Hyde Amendment, and we must continue. Women have died from back alley procedures because they did not have access to safe abortion services. Women will continue dying from unsafe procedures if these restrictions remain in place.

Anti-choice activists support a society that does not focus on reducing unintended pregnancies. If they did, they would support comprehensive sex education and full access to reproductive health care for all women and girls. They would also support making the “morning after” pill available over the counter.

Anti-choice activists don't support a social order that would support women if they chose to have a child—with free childcare, financial funding, or other resources they would need. Our society is set up to encourage abortions. In fact, the United States has the highest rate of abortions of any developed nation. As socialists we are working to stop abortions by supporting and working for a society that would support reproductive rights, health care, and education.

We are also working toward a society that supports women who choose to have and raise children. As socialists we firmly believe that the best thing the government can do for women is to allow them to make their own decisions.

When the governor of South Dakota signed the law to ban abor-

tions in his state, he said he did it to protect the most vulnerable of our society, “unborn children.” However, as socialists we believe that he does not have the power to choose for women what they are to do with their own bodies and lives. That choice is the woman's alone. Socialists believe in privacy for pregnant women and do not believe that judges and legislators should make moral, ethical, or health care decisions for women.

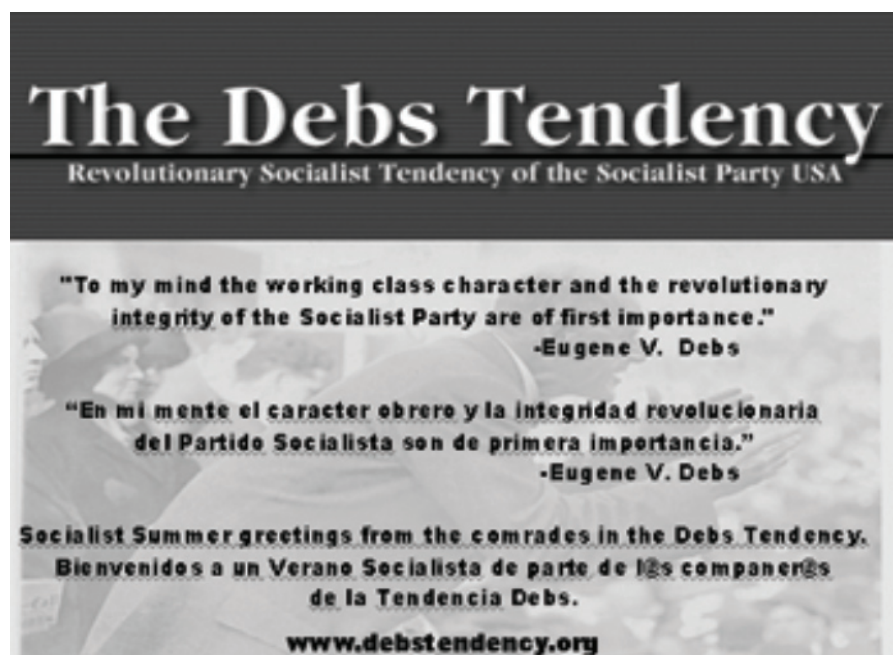
Judges and legislators attack reproductive rights, but the social order creates the framework for such attacks. The capitalist system is based on economic, political, social, and sexual exploitation of women. Capitalism and patriarchy are intertwined. The rallying cry of pro-choice activists seems to be “stop the religious and fundamentalist right wing.” However, the Democratic Party and pro-choice organizations such as the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) and the

National Organization for Women (NOW) will not use militant tactics to fight for reproductive rights of women.

They are content with using the legal and legislative system, which can be slow, not always trust-worthy, and does not always work in pro-choice activists' favor. Democrats are content with keeping things as they are, instead of changing the social order that keeps women oppressed—mainly that of the capitalist system itself. Organizations like NARAL and NOW take on the tactics of reform and forget that we are losing the war even if we win small battles here and there.

The Socialist Party urges Americans to be vigilant in defending the reproductive rights of women. The Socialist Party USA demands that women's right to decide what to do with their own bodies be preserved and that the government protect women's right to privacy. We also

Reproductive, continues on p. 16



demand an end to patriarchy that exists to remove women's power to make their own choices.

The Socialist Party's platform demands full support for every woman's right to choose when, if, and how to have children, including the right to free abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy, without interference or coercion. We demand clinics providing abortion services must have the full protection of the law.

We oppose any law that denies women's rights to choose, particularly low-income women, women of color, and young women. We demand full reproductive freedom for all women by removing all discriminating barriers to reproductive rights and reproductive health care. This is why I am a proud member of this party.

The Socialist Party continues to stand for something the democrats don't: a social transformation in the

United States that would not only fully restore women's reproductive rights and preserve them, but one that would allow a fundamental shift to a democratic society based on compassion, empathy, and respect.

We believe the fight for this new society is on going and call people to join us in this struggle for justice based on socialist feminist principles. We believe that we must get out in the streets and in our communities and organize for the society we deserve.

So do not stand on the sidelines and watch as reproductive freedoms are taken away from women. Act now and start organizing in your community today. Use the principles of democratic socialism and socialist feminism to frame your arguments. The threat of anti-choice activists is real. How we respond is up to us. ●

and helped build the reputation of socialism. Frank Zeidler does not call himself a Marxist because he has never believed in the historical inevitability of the socialist triumph, and he has also insisted on the strictest democratic principles inside the party and out. He has also stood consistently for peace, against imperial aggression, and against the abridgement of anyone's civil liberties, even at the height of the Cold War when he was under personal attack.

Frank Zeidler has never been an optimist about the state of his own health or the future of his city or of the planet. His book reflects these qualities, but it can also give us hope and an example to follow. ●

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Socialist Women

Mujeres Socialistas



Publication of the Socialist Party Women's Commission Fall/Winter 2006



Pictured Left to Right. Front Row Seated: Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott; **Front Row Standing:** Madame CJ Walker, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Katherine Dexter McCormick, Harriet Tubman, Emma Goldman, Margaret Sanger; **Second Row:** Jane Addams, Dolores Huerta, Gloria Steinem, Rosa Parks, Carrie Chapman Catt **Third Row:** Oprah Winfrey, Wilma Mankiller, Fannie Lou Hamer, Betty Friedan

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Socialist Women Mujeres Socialistas

Publication of the Socialist Party
Women's Commission

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Edelstein • Teresa Murphy • Tina
Phillips • Viji Sargis • Breck Guise

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Diane Brand

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Submissions should be no more than
750 words.

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B. Guise has written several articles for vari-
ous socialist publications. She lives in Tex-
as and works in radio.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am writing about Ron Patenaude's
article, "Myths of the Nonprofits,"
that appeared in the Summer 2006
issue of *Socialist Women*. As an exec-
utive director of a nonprofit organi-
zation, I feel compelled to respond
to his generalizations and to defend
those of us that truly serve in the
best interest of the community.

Mr. Patenaude makes a valid point
about the nonprofit sector: there is
sometimes enormous pay disparity
between management and direct
service staff. After reading his article,
one might assume that this is ram-
pant throughout the industry. This is
not necessarily the case. Many orga-
nizations, such as the one I work for,
have equitable pay ratios and offer
employees as much support as is
possible within the constraint of a
tight budget. Furthermore, he does
not address some of the most criti-
cal issues facing the sector: increased
corporate control and imposed
bureaucratization; a growing num-
ber of nonprofit organizations which
indicates increased personal control
along with a lack of cooperation and
coordination of resources; and lack
of knowledge about lobbying rules
among nonprofit leadership that
leads many organizations to abstain
from advocacy altogether.

I thank Mr. Patenaude for bring-
ing attention to the nonprofit sector
and for pointing out that nonprof-
its are not arbitrarily exempt from
corporate tricks. I would also like
to remind SW readers that detailed
financial information about IRS-
recognized nonprofit organizations,
including executive salaries, is avail-
able online at www.guidestar.org at
no cost. Please check there before
making a donation.

Jessica R. Dreistadt
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Ron Patenaude responds:

I don't believe ALL nonprofits are
I corrupt or abuse the system, so
there is no need to "defend" those
that "truly serve in the best interest
of the community." I commend those
individuals and those agencies.

That said, I do believe a large num-
ber of nonprofits abuse the system,
as evidenced by Congressional hear-
ings on the issue and my own experi-
ences. I agree with Ms Dreistadt
that increased corporate control,
and the proliferation, of nonprofits
contribute to abuse. But I disagree
with her contention that many non-
profits don't engage in advocacy due
to lack of knowledge of lobbying
rules. The problem is that the state
doesn't monitor or enforce its own
legislation. Many nonprofits fla-
grantly violate lobbying laws, and
yet are not penalized.

On the other hand, the activi-
ties of unions are constantly being
attacked, restricted, or scrutinized
by the government. This anti-union
stance ends up pervading all work-
places, often resulting in nonprofit
organizations using the same model
(and the same union-busting attor-
neys) as the for-profits for fighting
their workers' right to unionize.

As for Guidestar, it is yet another
"nonprofit" reaping profits off the
system. While it succeeds as a busi-
ness, the scope of what it actually
provides for "free" is extremely lim-
ited, and often outdated. This points
to the fact that the nonprofit report-
ing system itself is riddled with
problems, thus contributing to the
lack of accountability on the part of
nonprofit agencies.

Ron Patenaude
Holyoke, Massachusetts

Speaking Out on Socialist Feminism

by Stephanie Cholensky

If being a woman is not easy, being a radical woman is even harder. With all the things in the world holding us back and shutting us up, the least we can do is stick together and make our message clear.

If you wish to be a radical woman, and I cannot stress this enough, you must remember that what makes you radical is your thoughts, ideas, and way of looking at things. It's not about the kind of music you listen to, or what words are on the T-shirts that you wear. It doesn't matter who you hang out with, what color your hair is, how you dress, or how many body modifications you have. To tell you the truth, the most radical women I have been lucky enough to know don't have enough time on their hands to worry about a radical 'look' beyond where their own eccentricities and the selection at the local second hand stores.

More importantly, and the fact that it's even necessary to say this pains me: pornography and exploitation are far from, if not the very opposite of, radical. There is nothing radical about women being acclaimed as voiceless sex objects, or about the use of a woman's body for profit, or as a marketing tool, if not the object for sale itself. It concerns me when websites like *www.suicidegirls.com* make claims of being a mouthpiece for radical women, when these women are required to do erotic photo shoots in order to be considered one of the "suicide girls." There is nothing original about women gaining attention because of their bodies and not their minds; in fact, this is something that radical women have been fighting against for centuries. A radical notion would be as follows: women should be treated just as successful and powerful men are, that is, regardless of how they look.

What makes a person a radical has nothing to do with whether they are male or female, because a radical believes in the immeasurable value of all human life. A radical is dedicated to humankind itself, all of

it, regardless of age, sex, race, or any other labels that are used to divide those who should most be united. We know that a better way is possible and is our destiny, and that we will fight for this world with every breath and every action we take fully knowing that we will not live long enough to see the fruits of our labor. Our struggle is selfless and grueling, and our glory comes not in commemorative coins or monuments of stone: true radicals are seldom remembered this way. Our memorials lie in the future.

The world has always has been and will continue to be changed by men and woman like us: those who cannot be placated by material gain or glamorous leisure and security, unwilling to barter the things we care about for temporary gains or a lesser cause. The generations after us will look back and wonder how humankind survived through times of such ignorance, oppression, and slavery; we look ahead and wonder what their lives will be like without it.

To be a radical is to see through the clutter of deception those in power use to justify their wars, poverty, hunger, unemployment, and other needless vices of capitalism.

To love your country yet to know the truth of its viciousness and corrupt authority: this is patriotism. To try to change these things for the better, this is radical.

I will not allow my mind to be beaten into submission by fear or hatred. Though I may lose all that I have, everything I care about, and while they may shatter my body and mind, my spirit will not be broken. It is only in an unjust society that standing up to a status quo of tyranny, violence, and oppression is considered radical. To me, it is simply human. ●

Stephanie Cholensky is a student of chemistry at the University of Minnesota. She has been a member of the Socialist Party and the Young People's Socialist League since 2001.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The articles and poetry in this issue are personal. It takes conviction and courage to write this way: to allow opinions and analysis to flow from experience, and to face the vulnerability of this process. Thus, we thank these writers not only for their feminist perspective on a range of social, interpersonal, and organizational issues, but also for their willingness and ability to show us the deep, personal impulse behind their world view. This is what it will take for each of us to find security and meaning as individuals within a collective movement for radical social change: to find our way as socialist feminists, encountering daily the devastating effects of patriarchy, capitalism, and imperialism on our own lives and on those with whom we share our communities and this planet.

ABOUT THE COVER



In this drawing, a group of women from different eras and different backgrounds have come together. If you will notice, many of them are touching, either by proximity, by holding hands or by resting their hand on someone else's shoulder. This is a reminder of two things. One, the Socialist Feminist that you are today would be impossible without these women and two, whatever your struggle is, you are not alone. This is just a tiny representation of those who came before you. Those who fought your fight and those you can learn from. These women flew in the face of challenge and they count on you to do the same. -B. Guise

Feminist Values at Work in a Fourth Grade Classroom

by Susan L. Triolo

There's no end to the challenges presented in a 4th grade classroom. Among these are a variety of behaviors that limit the abilities of the children to relate to each other in positive ways, and that undermine the interests of the group as a whole. Over the 25 years that I've been teaching, I've found that one of my best resources for helping the children establish and maintain a sense of community, caring, and support for everyone in the classroom is my feminist perspective.

As a feminist, I believe in the importance of peace, equality and cooperation. I try to manifest these concepts in my personal life, and build them into all aspects of the curriculum. I begin each year with games, songs and stories that start us on the path of getting to know each other. "We're all a Family under one Sky" is one of the banners the children see when they enter my classroom. It's a phrase that captures the concept that "As a class, we rise or fall together." (It's also the title of a great song by Ruth Pelham.)

In the first week of school, we develop our Class Constitution. This is the set of rules the children think are important to have, so that everyone feels safe and able to do their best work. It is signed by everyone, including me, and then displayed on the wall. These rules are stated positively as "Do's", such as, ALWAYS WALK IN SCHOOL instead of NO RUNNING. In this way, children always get the positive message of what they can do, instead of what they can't do.

Central to the way I incorporate feminist theory into maintaining peace and cooperation is teaching children how to resolve their conflicts. We cannot live in a peaceful world if we cannot learn to talk to each other reasonably and to listen with full attention. This process is learned, for children and for adults, through modeling and practice. When a child comes to me with a problem that involves another, the three of us talk together and I facilitate their discussion. I will often hold each one's hand to make a sort of triangle, and act as a go-between. Each child gets time

to state their side of the problem, while the other listens, and I try to clarify by re-stating, by asking questions.

As time goes by, my goal is for them to talk to each other without me. By mid-year, when a problem arises, my question to the child is: "Have you already talked to him/her about this?" If not, I say "OK, you try first. Then come and get me if you need help." For a solution to be of use, it must come from the children.

Teaching children to communicate with, and be kind to, each other forms the foundation of a community of learners. Children cannot learn when they are distracted by a hurtful comment or fear facing the bully at lunchtime. Once there are classroom systems in place, and we are learning how to use them, we then have a greater possibility for academic success.

My expectations for girls' academic success is always in the forefront of my thinking and planning. Generally speaking, girls have more highly developed social skills, but some need encouragement to reach for highly developed academic skills.

As a feminist and anti-racism advocate, equality of opportunity has been one of my motivations in becoming an educator. I do see education as the great equalizer. I try to focus on everyone's needs. I am always conscious to include all students, and to expect that each child play an important part in our classroom family. In my classroom, much of the children's learning time is spent working with a partner or in a small group. In this way, they learn to communicate and to problem solve with both genders and with all ethnicities, and to move toward greater independence and self-sufficiency.

Children need help to understand the world around them. I like to bring the real world into class as much as possible. We study political elections; we fundraised for Tsunami & Katrina victims; we have community guest speakers; we make connections between math and grocery shopping. African American history and Women's history come alive when they are integrated all year, rather than just in February and March. Education without meaning is dull and boring.

As a feminist educator, I have found my way of making the world a better place through my work with children. It has been amazing to me how young people struggle to understand their world, and to find their own way in it. I see my own role as a facilitator of their learning, and I get to have some fun while doing so. ●

Susan L. Triolo is a long-time educator and community activist in Western Massachusetts.

Yes, It's Fall by Elizabeth Shea

I just hate to see the leaves fall.

It is as if they are once again a perennial call.

Yes it's Fall.

Leaves are now fluttering miserably, a-whirling, a-whistling as the winds that have been at play blowing and exercising their fearless power, hour by hour day by day.

Now, leaves lay all over the lands every which way. Some in heaps, some in hands, some crumpled or crumbling away, and some lie alone all flattened out on the Earth, be as it is, as Nature's way.

They are finished with their assigned task, as they worked hard for seasonal cleansing, the air for all Earth's creatures to share. Curled, splitting, flattened out to dust ready to return to the Earth again.

Yes they have left us with the nostalgic incense

*a lingering smell for the year just bloomed
Just fluttered away*

Yes it is Fall.

Strong Enough To Be Ourselves

by Andrea Pason

Recently, I read two things in a bulletin on Myspace.com that made me start thinking: Are women willing to change their identity and ideas to suit a man? How much are women judged by their partners?

The first thing was a profile of a young woman who seemingly out of nowhere became White Power. When I looked at her friend's space she still had a lot of S.H.A.R.P (skinheads against racial prejudice) emblems from different groups here and abroad on her site. I began to wonder what would make someone change so drastically in a very short period of time.

Then in the same bulletin I saw there was a link to her new boyfriend, a WP skinhead. I thought "Wow. Is that what did it?" There were posts from surprised friends asking what happened. I wanted to send her a message, but I knew it would open me up to a million messages from all her new friends.

So many women change things about themselves, including their views, to fit in with their current relationship. I have also talked with women who are dating someone and allow themselves to be treated in a way they would never accept from anyone else. But when it came to their men, they made excuses, or just accepted the treatment as a given. In conversations with women, I would reverse what they were telling me and ask them "If a friend were treating me in the manner you were describing --someone who says they care-- would that be ok?" and the answer was always no. So the next question would be "If this is unacceptable if it happened to me, why is it acceptable for you to be treated that way? Do you think so little of yourself?" There seems to be a fear that if we are too smart, too opinionated, too inde-

pendent it will somehow threaten our relationships with men.

I believe society as a whole, crossing all class and race lines, has filled our heads with this. Men are taught through peer pressure from family, friends, every aspect of their life being, that if they are not the ones to have "control" of the relationship including the "behavior" of the women they are with, they are less of a man. Chances are if a woman does challenge them, the relationship will most likely not work out. It is a perpetuating cycle.

The second thing I thought about is how many times we as women are judged through our male partners. Even within progressive groups, people associate me with my husband. They assume his opinions and ideas speak for mine. People angered by a point of view he has, automatically attach my name to it. But if I have a separate point of view, it goes unnoticed, and certainly does not reflect on him.

Outside of progressive groups, when people know me without really knowing my husband, or for that matter if I even have one, the situation is different, but equally sexist. They tend to judge me as single. If I am seen with my son, they assume I am a single mom. That goes for both men and women. It is hard to question strangers as to why they would make that assumption, even more so if the woman is a single mom herself. I just nod my head and smile. What I do on rare occasions is to engage them in conversation. When I say I am married, the surprise on their face is priceless.

I have had a person question the fact of my being a mom because I did not look like one. I asked him what a mom was supposed to look like? What special requirements in his mind did I need? I explained I

You and I by Elizabeth Shea

Do you! Remember the Hill?

I remember the Hill.

*I can see it still, up there where one can view, miles of
beauteous land and see down into the
gigantic trees and
craggy places where one finds, to see
exotic wild flowers,
and discarded wood pieces from the
trees.*

*Yes! This is the Hill, and where we
began.*

Is it still not grand?

thought loving and giving your child care, security, and all the necessities to prepare them for life qualified. Before you jump to judgment, this comment came from a black single dad.

When people hear that I'm married, information that often comes up at work, their reaction is always surprise. Then come the questions. Is he like you? What does he think of your tattoos? Does he like your hair? I usually respond with "I don't know. You can ask him when you meet him." I wonder what they are thinking? "Jesus, who she could be married to?" I am all those things women are silently taught not to be. ●

Andrea Pason is a National Committee member of the SPUSA. She has a 12-year-old son named Trevor and has been married 18 years.

Caring in Socialist Groups

by Ruth Greenberg-Edelstein

The mutual helping and exchange that can take place between people has been used as a primary therapeutic tool in treatment groups. It also has been the chief ingredient in the women's groups that flourished during the 1980s when women came out of their isolation to share aspects of their oppression with each other. These groups formed the foundation of the second wave of the feminist revolution, the first wave having centered on the struggle for women to attain the vote.

In early civilizations and in the ancient world, the Mother Goddess symbolized the critical need for continued nurturance. This was often a way of countervailing the male dominance that prevailed. While female deities and oracles were important in Greece and Rome, the power structure remained in the hands of men most of whom had no patience with caring and supportive approaches. The ancient Hebrews emphasized an egalitarian exchange with the deity. Some Christians sought out the Mother Goddess in the cult of Mary, especially when religious practices were highly critical and punitive.

In the sixteenth century, Thomas More envisioned a commonwealth society in which goods were divided among everyone. The underlying and unifying motive was people working together helping and caring about each other. Kropotkin saw the economical and social brotherhoods and sisterhoods that existed in Europe during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries as attempts to reconstruct society on the basis of mutual aid and support.

In various parts of the modern world, communes (such as the kibbutzim in Israel) have been places where members have tried to put egalitarian socialism and self-management into practice by abolishing divisions between the rule and the ruled, establishing direct participation in decision making, and rotat-

ing all authority roles. People shared their lives at work and at home, and the concept of the self as caring evolved into a basic characteristic of those belonging to the collective. Indeed, such formats are operative today in creative socialist groups where a supportive environment is purposely created.

While mutual understanding can be the main force that holds a socialist group together, the emergence of a wide range of political ideas and beliefs can interfere with the development of a mutual reciprocity and understanding between members.

In fact, such developments can be sources of conflict and disharmony which can threaten the very existence of the group. Most often conflicts develop between the desire for uncon-

ditional acceptance and the wish to be in control. This is especially evident when personal needs and social pressures conflict.

History has shown that when a group becomes malfunctioning, for whatever reason, it is often the backup role of nurturant activities, usually carried out by women, that will hold it together and provide the continuity needed while adaptive forces work to mend the situation.

*Based on selected portions of my book on *The Nurturance Phenomenon*, published 1986. ●

Ruth Greenberg-Edelstein is a member of the Central New York Local of the Socialist Party USA and a member of the Editorial Collective of Socialist Women.

I will believe if...

By Daniel R. Conn

In response to recent evangelistic tactics

I would like to simply let you know where I stand

You say if only I would believeth

But I say to you, I will believe if...

I will believe when you have a god who is not sexist

Why does God have to be a man anyway?

I will believe when you tell me your god is love

Homophobia's not love, is what I say

I will believe when your god is not used as a marketing toy

How can giving you money relieve judgment day?

I will believe when your god promotes peace and never war

Your religious wars have made our earth decay

I have been promised a long life and good health

I have been promised material and blessed wealth

I have been promised children and a wife

I have even been promised an eternal life

But when you can promise me

A world of equality and equity

Only then will I have an open ear

For death is not something I fear

Socialist-Feminist Candidate for Green Energy

by *Mary-Alice Herbert*

As a socialist candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Vermont on the Liberty Union Party/Socialist Party-USA ticket, I'm using every opportunity to speak out against the re-licensing of the state's aging Vermont-Yankee nuclear power plant. As a feminist, I'm passionate about working toward a sustainable green energy future for ourselves and our children.

Since January, members of the Brattleboro Local of the SP-USA have held a weekly Green Energy Vigil. Our signs are about VY becoming nuclear-free by 2012 and embracing conservation and renewable energy. The positive responses we've gotten far outnumber the negative ones. Now, as a candidate, I'm taking our message state-wide, countering industry claims that nuclear power plant emissions don't create green-house gasses. I talk about the environmental devastation caused by mining uranium, the pollution caused by refining and enriching it, and the uses our military make of depleted uranium. I let them know that an accident at VT-Yankee would not be just a local disaster but would ruin Vermont's entire economy by destroying our beautiful landscape and the purity of our agricultural products.

Vermont-Yankee came into being by a one-vote majority in the Vermont legislature. In 1972, it was built in Vernon, Vermont, beside the Connecticut River, directly across from New Hampshire and a few miles north of the border with Massachusetts. Activists who had struggled against it were somewhat comforted by the promise that it would be shut down in 2012.

Green, continued on p. 24

Dyke for Choice

by *Tina Phillips*

Isn't it ironic

That I am a dyke for choice?

I'll never know the burden of an unplanned pregnancy

Because I can have sex without fear.

"My body, my life, my right to decide."

I march none-the-less for the choice of others.

Because my mom had to fly to Mexico to get her abortion

Because maybe the teenager down the street won't have that choice

And maybe she'll choose to self-induce

Instead of a safe abortion she could have had.

If she had the choice.

"Right-to-life, your name's a lie,

You don't care if women die!"

I speak up for women's reproductive rights

Because the government has no right to decide.

These right-wing crypto-fascists want to demonize

My choice of lover just as they want to control

Women's bodies in a myriad of ways.

"Not the church, not the state,

Women must decide their fate!"

I demonstrate because I love women.

Because the feminine is sacred

Because the power of women has been taken away

And it's time to reclaim our power.

"If you don't want an abortion, then don't have one."

I shout because coat hangers are for coats, not abortions.

Because back alleys are for trash, not for abortions.

Because butchers cut meat, not women.

Where desperation no longer causes rash decision making.

"We won't go back."

I table because they want to force us back into our kitchens

Because they want to force us back into our closets

Because they want to force us back into bondage

And they want to take away our human rights.

Dyke, continued on p. 24



Socialist Women Mujeres Socialistas

Fall/Winter 2006

Green, continued from p. 23

Both Democrats and Republicans have capitulated shamelessly to the Entergy Corporation of Mississippi which was allowed to buy the plant from the state. Entergy made it clear from the beginning that it would apply for a 20% power up-rate and relicensing to the year 2032. Intense lobbying, political contributions, and corporate largesse have rewarded Entergy. The state and federal agencies which protect the public have also compromised shamefully.

In 2008, the Vermont legislature will vote on whether or not VT-Yankee should be relicensed for an additional 20 years. I'm working hard to convince voters to take the kind of collective action that will compel politicians to vote against relicensing. The fate of Vermont-Yankee, and the safety of much of New England, could well hinge on a single vote! ●

Remembering Rosie Jimenez

Rosie Jiménez was one of the women who gave her life exercising her right to control her body. On October 3, 1977, this young woman from McAllen, Texas, died from complications arising from a back-alley abortion. Ms Jiménez was unwilling to divert the money she had saved to continue her college education to pay the costs of a clinic abortion. She was the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment.

Dyke, continued from p. 23

“Keep your laws off my body!”

I stand in solidarity with my sisters
Because I believe that America should live up to its promises
That we are free
That we are a live and let live society.
That we can all believe whatever we want
As long as we do not force others to do what we believe.

“Free by birth, Woman by luck, Pro-choice by right.”

Because abortions have gone up 25 percent under the Bush presidency.
And our social safety net has been sent to Iraq and into rich people's pockets via tax cuts.
Because women no longer have a choice because
It is harder and harder to raise a child in our society.
Poverty caused by greed.

“What do we want? Choice not war! When do we want it?
Now even more. If you want justice raise up your fist.
If you want choice, we must resist!”

I mobilize and organize because I have to.
Through one struggle for justice.
All women, will liberate, themselves.

We will have choices,
We will have rights,
We will be free.

For a future of no unplanned pregnancies
For a future of sex without fear, guilt, or shame.
To a future of our dawning revolution.
Sisterhood is still powerful.

And this is what a feminist looks like.
And this is what a dyke looks like.