

What's really going on?

The true cause of a rise in crime in Kalamazoo is increased poverty and economic insecurity. Socialists, through research, study and rationale have formed the belief that this is due to a degenerating system controlled by a ruling class and corporations that do not have loyalty to the communities or the working people who produce their wealth. This system is not based on community values or any kind of democratic accountability, but rather on greed and private profit.

Fascist groups, like the ones we see rallying today, want to make scapegoats of labor groups, oppressed peoples, and all movements of social progress. They want to blame us, the common, everyday workers of all colors and creeds, the people who work for our food and shelter and occasional luxuries (and those who would if they had the opportunity). They want to blame us for failures in social policies and economic conditions that we did not create but simply followed out of need, dignity or even patriotism.

The defeat of poverty, violent crime, exploitation, discrimination, and imperialist war will require a multi-racial mass movement of the working majority to overthrow the ruling capitalist class and bring forth a socialist transformation. This real social transformation must be united and based on discourse, democracy and community instead of on division, hate and profit.

The facts are with us!! According to 2005 census results, 30.2% of the population of Kalamazoo lives under the poverty level (\$10,210 for one person and \$3,480 more per person in the household), up from 24.3% in 1999.

Together we will send a clear message to the NSM and other hate groups:

- Hate is **NOT** welcomed in our community!
- Racism is **NOT** welcomed in our community!
- Fascism is **NOT** welcomed in our community!
- National "Socialism" is **NOT** the answer!
- Democratic Socialism **IS** the answer!!!



**The Socialist Party
of Michigan**



THE SOCIALIST PARTY strives to establish a radical democracy that places peoples' lives under their own control – a non-racist, classless, feminist, non-heterosexist socialist society in which 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 working class is in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling capitalist class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future – to a real radical democracy from below.

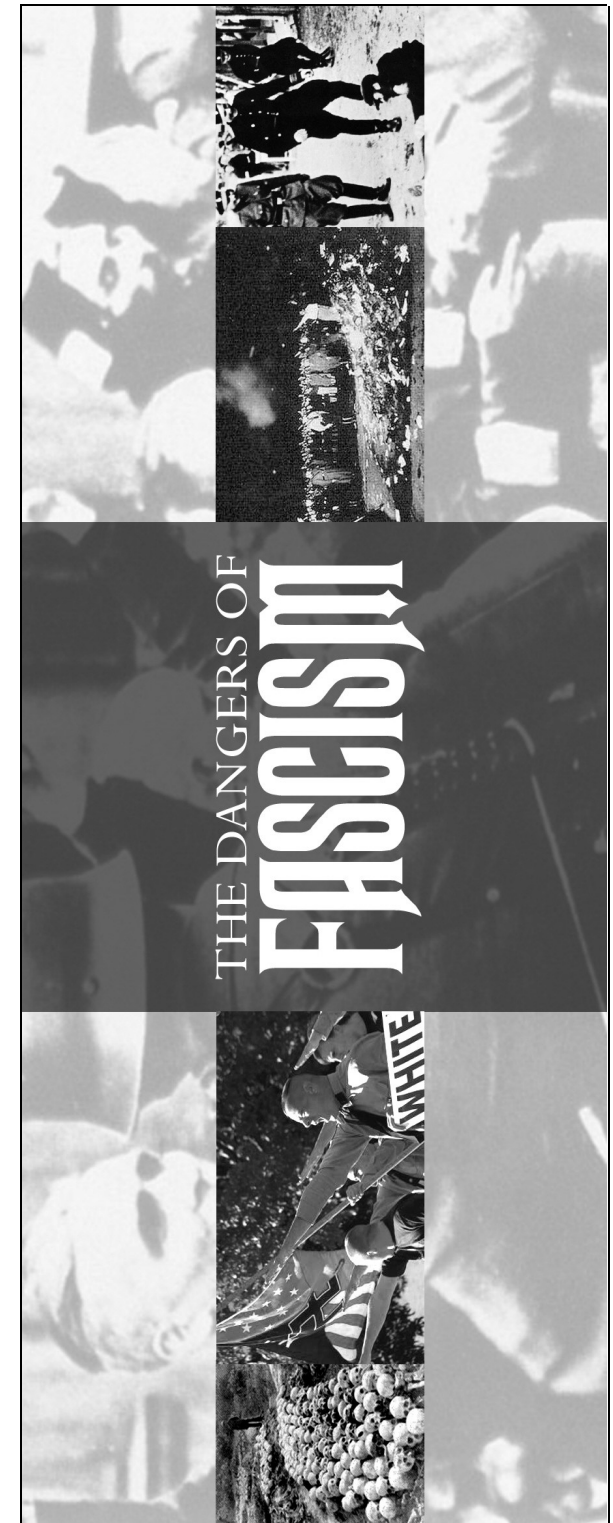
The Socialist Party fights for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. We support militant working class struggles and electoral action, independent of the capitalist-controlled two-party system, to present socialist alternatives. We strive for democratic social revolutions — radical and fundamental changes in the structure 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.

Socialist Party of Michigan:

<http://www.spmichigan.org>

Socialist PartyUSA:

<http://sp-usa.org>



All around us we find evidence of the current economic system's failure to provide what it promised: prosperity for hard work, work for the willing, and the stability, security and safety of all.

low wages	violence	instability
high unemployment	economic insecurity	
fear of others		fear of talking
poverty	fear	crime
fear of violence		fear of people
job insecurity		finger pointing
lay-offs	long hours	anger

At certain times (like now, for example), these symptoms become more exaggerated, resulting in increased support for two groups with completely different purposes:

- **fascists**, who exploit fear to inspire hatred and divide the working population; and
- **socialists**, who try to unite the population from the roots up to face these problems and look for democratic solutions.

Today the fascists march to divide.

We socialists stand with you in unity against these groups!

We are here today because we, like you, know that fascist groups must be confronted wherever and whenever they attempt to mobilize. It is our civic duty to crush their attempts to build a strong right-wing movement.

In this pamphlet we hope to help you in our common goal to weaken fascist groups like the ones found here today. We will provide facts in little boxes like the one below and place them in context to help strengthen our united argument against these groups that through fear, hatred and misinformation try to divide us further.

The facts are with us!! The average income of an African-American is 63.4% that of a European-American.

A magic trick?

The groups rallying here today cite a recent attack on a white homeless man by allegedly black gang members, but ignore entirely the seven incidents (as of July 14th, the date when the flier was posted) where non-white homeless men suffered the same fate.

In magic tricks, this is called sleight of hand. The "magician" distracts you with one hand so that you don't pay attention to what is really happening in the other. Poof!

This fascist sleight of hand is illusion, misdirection and purposeful manipulation in order to distract the "audience" from the real issues and causes of increased violence.

But the claims made today by the rallying fascists groups about rising "black gang violence" are worse than a simple magic trick - they are lies!

The facts are with us!! The Ku Klux Klan, National Socialist Movement, and Council of Conservative Citizens cite 15 incidents where homeless white males were attacked. They ignored 7 incidents where non-white homeless men suffered the same fate.

So, what's new?

Nothing really. When working class populations are no longer willing to tolerate attacks on their standard of living and start to get restless, from Italy to Germany, from Germany to Spain, from Spain to the U.S.A. fascist movements jump in to brutally suppress our movement.

The facts are with us!! As of the 2000 census, 77,145 people reside in Kalamazoo. Of these, 54,617 (70.8%) are white and 22,526 (29.2%) are nonwhite. Simple math (divide the number of attacks by the population) shows that whites were attacked on the basis of 27.464 people per 100,000; non-whites were attacked on the basis of 26.636 per 100,000 as of the 21st attack and 31.075 per 100,000 as of the 22nd.

A joke?

Fascists are for preventing gang violence? That's a joke, right? Yes, it is. It goes like this - Fascists are for

preventing gang violence, such as when:

- The Nazi party in Germany gained power through the SA and SS and their use of gang violence to subdue anyone they saw as an enemy, particularly proponents of democracy and workers rights, such as socialists and unionists.

- The Italian fascists gained power through the use of Black Shirts, who, like the early German Nazis, would violently break up strikes and assault socialists, communists and unionists.

- And the KKK? Well, we all know about their historically pacifist ways.

And the punch line?...

The real racially-motivated violent gangs are the ones rallying here today.

It's a joke, alright, but no matter how it's told, it's just not funny.

There are no coincidences

We see an increase in power of fascist movements when:

- imperialist war intensifies— such as the current war in Iraq. This is not a coincidence.
- the capitalist media and politicians attempt to pass anti-immigrant legislation. This is not a coincidence.
- anti-homosexual demagoguery and attacks on affirmative action are central in legislative and public discourse. This is not a coincidence.

Fascist groups uphold the capitalist system during periods of extreme social unrest—we've seen this before -- from suppression of labor strikes to violent attacks on the civil rights movement. The greater the threat to the dominant class' power, the greater the reaction.

The fascists portray themselves as protectors of law and order, but their law and order is not the law and order of freedom. It is not the law and order of democracy. It is the law and order of the existing ruling class and impersonal corporations.