

Detroit remembers



MALCOLM X

A Conference on the 25th Anniversary of
**The League of Black
Revolutionary Workers**

JULY 23-25, 1993 / WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY-DETROIT

**MALCOLM X CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS:
10 West Grand / Highland, MI 48203
313/867-4865**

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A time to plan for

A C T I O N

JULY 23-25, 1993 / WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY-DETROIT

A Conference on the 25th Anniversary of
THE LEAGUE OF BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS

DETROIT REMEMBERS MALCOLM X

People are searching for a radical Black perspective, especially young Black people who want a more militant leadership and a *By any means necessary* type of commitment. Dig the problems we face—homeless people living on the street, whole families without jobs or hope, drugs more common than soap and water, racial violence exploding on the campus and in the community—including vicious murders and police cover-ups. If ever we needed what Malcolm X stood for we need it now!

Brother Malcolm was at home in Detroit in the 50s and 60s, and we have remembered Malcolm ever since. The revolutionary legacy of Malcolm X is found in our mighty rebellion of 1967 and in the history of The League of Revolutionary Black Workers. The young militants of Malcolm's time are the veteran fighters today. We need new fighters to step forward—it is time to discuss what we've learned over the past 30 years and plot our strategy to fight on.

MALCOLM LIVES !

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DETROIT REMEMBERS MALCOLM X

ON THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF
REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY • DETROIT, MI • JULY 23-25, 1993

Welcome to the Conference

This conference has been initiated by the National Organizing Committee — a national organization of revolutionary fighters that had its founding convention April 24, 1993, in Chicago, Illinois. (See Program of the National Organizing Committee on pages 32-33.)

NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
BOX 477113 • CHICAGO, IL 60647 • 312/486-0028

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS UNION
132 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, MI 48203
313/868-3660 and 313/831-1040

NATIONAL UNION OF THE HOMELESS
246 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215/923-1694

NATIONAL ANTI-HUNGER COALITION
c/o Michell Tingling-Clemmons
1875 Connecticut Avenue Suite 540
Washington, DC
202/986-2200

NATIONAL UP AND OUT OF POVERTY NOW
132 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, MI 48203
313/868-3660 and 313/831-1040

PROJECT SOUTH
250 Georgia Avenue Suite 344
Atlanta, GA 30012
404/441-6345

The conference has been planned in an open and democratic manner by a broad based planning committee of diverse forces in the fight for Black liberation and social revolution. The conference is not designed to merely reflect one point of view, but it has been set up to assist in building the practical struggles for the day to day needs of the victims of poverty and police terror. We want to talk that talk, and then walk that walk.

WE REGRET THERE ARE NO CHILD CARE FACILITIES AVAILABLE.

Friday • July 23, 1993

- 1:00 PM Conference Rally
JEFFRIES PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT
Sponsored by: National Organizing Committee
National Up and Out of Poverty Now
National Union of the Homeless
National Welfare Rights Union
National Anti-Hunger Coalition
- 5:00 PM Conference Registration and Reception
Wayne State University - General Lectures Building Lobby
- 7:00 PM Opening Plenary *SEE PAGE 5*



Malcolm X speaking before Wayne State University students in State Hall on October 22, 1993.

Wayne State University Archives

Workshop Questions

10 - 11:30 AM

1. What is the importance of Malcolm X for the education of our youth
2. Why does Hip Hop culture and Rap face the danger of censorship
3. Why did Malcolm X rap down the *Message to the Grass Roots*?
4. Does Black Power exist in Detroit?
5. Is the robot in the factory our friend or enemy?
6. Can religion help get our jobs back, or is god only relevant after we die?
7. Who controls the media and what difference does that make?

1 - 2:30 PM

8. Why are we still fighting for our 40 acres and a mule?
9. Is it possible to build a Black student movement in the 1990s?
10. Why are the police killing us?
11. Why do we have to sleep in the street or in shelters?
12. How can trade unions contribute to the fight for Black liberation?
13. Can Africa survive military governments, AIDS, and debt?
14. What is the bottom line meaning of the drug crisis, suicide or genocide?

2:30 - 4 PM

15. What do youth around the world have in common?
16. Did Spike Lee do the right thing?
17. Why are we killing ourselves?
18. Why are our children hungry and our families at risk?
19. Why are we sick? Is it the fault of government, business, the doctors, or ourselves?
20. Why do we need a Black women's movement? Or, do we?
21. Can we wage our struggle without music and art among our weapons?

Conference Opening Plenary

OVERVIEW

Abdul Alkalimat
National Organizing Committee

WELCOME

Adam Shakoor
Deputy Mayor, Detroit

SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Traditional Libation & Water

Christian

Muslim

Ibn Pori'z Band Unit No. 10

Rev. Archie Rich

Maulana Zubair Abdul Rahman

FAMILY REMARKS

El Hajj Abdul Azia Omar, Imam
Brother of El Hajj Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X)

CHAIRPERSON:

General Baker
National Organizing Committee

SPEAKERS:

Milton Henry
Founder, Republic of New Africa

Leroy Mitchell
Retired, University of Science and Technology (Ghana)

James Boggs
Revolutionary Theoretician and Social Activist

Dorothy Dewberry
Former Head, Detroit Friends of SNCC

Joe Barron
Former Leader Freedom Now Party

Ed Vaughn
Founder, Vaughn's Book Store

Delores Wilson
Former Leader of GOAL (Group on Advanced Leadership)

Muhammad Ahmed
Founder, Revolutionary Action Movement

FILM

Finally Got The News

This film is a revolutionary documentary film of the origin and development of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. It is important because it shows how the Black liberation struggle was redefined by Black workers based in large scale industrial production. It was also these workers who redefined the forces advocating social revolution, and reoriented them towards a scientifically grounded strategy and tactics. This film is about the late 1960s.

Today new proletarian forces are bursting on the scene, notably in the Los Angeles rebellion of 1992. We are now at the birth of a new epoch of social revolution. We learn the lessons of history, not to repeat history because that we can never do, but to become wise in facing our new conditions with the political and organizational strength of our past battles.

DETROIT REMEMBERS



ON THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN OUR FIGHT FOR LIBERATION

What is the importance of Malcolm X for the education of our youth?

A system based on profits will not long educate those who are not producing for it. Like the work force it must serve, public education is being polarized into two distinct systems. In one, the "talented tenth" will receive a 21st century education richer than any the world has seen. In the other, the remaining 90 percent will at best go to schools that operate more like prisons. This reality is the undeniable driving force behind the myriad educational reforms being tried out today. In a system that does not feed, clothe and house its people, the denial of public education is a death sentence by permanent unemployment.

Our children are already dying. The fastest growing section of the homeless are children. Our communities are flooded with drugs and alcohol. Those who cannot find jobs are criminalized and placed under government control. This reveals the future that is being prepared for the children that the public education system has already excluded. The withdrawal of the right to a public education is one of the elements of genocide.

We choose life! There can be no further progress until the needs of this section of our population are met. We stand upon the historic demand of our people for equal, quality education for every child. Public education cannot go back! Its transformation must be part of a general program for jobs, for health care, for adequate and affordable housing. We do not intend to enter the darkness they have prepared for us. The future belongs to all of us! *National Education Committee, National Organizing Committee*

FACILITATOR:

Carter Stephenson
Professor Wayne State University

SPEAKERS:

Clifford Watson
Principal, Malcolm X Academy

SPEAKERS:

Kwame Kenyatta
Detroit School Board

Gail Fahoome
National Organizing Committee

Geneva Smitherman
Michigan State University

THE CRISIS OF CENSORSHIP

Why does Hip Hop culture and Rap face the danger of censorship?

Music reflects the life of the people who make it. Each generation experiments with musical forms and struggles to find a common voice, an adequate reflection of its experiences. In the Black community, the spirituals were created to express the experience of slavery, just as the blues was born as a cultural voice of the sharecroppers life. When the blues moved to the city, urban blues was born. World War II gave rise to Be Bop, a fast paced sophisticated harmony that reflected a big city cosmopolitan life style. And, of course, the Motown sound had as its material basis the urban life of the Detroit Black community wrapped around auto production and life in public housing projects.

Today, the economic revolution has changed things so that there is a growing class of permanently unemployed and propertyless workers, and on this basis a new explosion of musical experimentation is taking place, especially among the youth. The society holds no security, promise, or future for a large section of youth and they are telling their story through musical expression. This is the message of rap, reggae, dub and heavy metal. The mood of the music is militant, and the sounds are often as savage as the social ills we face everyday.

The mainstream elites and their cultural watchdogs see these kinds of music as a direct threat to their domination, cultural expression and consciousness. Therefore they want to implement policies of censorship. Musicians of the victims of poverty and racism are facing a national gag rule. Police violence on tv is promoted while our music is attacked. Censorship is a politics of repression.

FACILITATOR:

Jessica Moore
Host *Just Kickin' It*

SPEAKERS:

Mark Lloyd, Hip Hop D.J.
Tamiaka Lee, Dancer
Lena Frudenthal, Youth Activist (CA)
Kirby Stokes, ROC Out Censorship

MALCOLM X ON BLACK LIBERATION AND WORLD REVOLUTION

Why did Malcolm X rap down the *Message to the Grass Roots?*

The greatest problems facing our fight for Black liberation is leadership. Malcolm X was clear that the leadership had to come from the "grassroots" and not the "big shots." There is no reason why lawyers, doctors, and business ceo's are better able to lead than the victims of poverty and working class people in general. In fact people lead in their own interest, so the only hope for us is in leadership that comes from our own ranks.

Furthermore, the message we need has to do with defining our problem and seeking out a solution. There is a history to what has happened that we need to learn about, including the great revolutions of the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba. Our program for revolutionary change is rooted in the mobilization, organization, and political development of the masses of people victimized by poverty and injustice. We need people with courage. We need people to talk that talk, *and* to walk that walk.

FACILITATOR:

John Williams
National Organizing Committee

SPEAKERS:

Grace Boggs
Veteran Activist

THE REIGN OF COLEMAN YOUNG AND THE SCRAMBLE FOR SUCCESSION

Does Black Power exist in Detroit?

Coleman Young was elected as an expression of Black power, the electoral protest against STRESS and the legacy of racist exclusion of Blacks from power. Additional elections and appointments have placed Black people in the majority of decision making positions in Detroit city government. **BUT THIS KIND OF BLACK POWER IS A FARCE!**

STRESS was disbanded but the police remained on the force, including the dogs who killed Malice Green. Black people got city hall but the auto industry raped the city, polluted our environment and continue to make decisions that force more and more of us into greater poverty than we had before we elected Coleman Young. **WHATS GOING ON?**

We don't need the kind of Black power that means we remain poor. We need a general plan for survival and justice. The next city government (mayor and city council), and the next governor have to be elected on a plan that guarantees a future for the victims of poverty and police violence. **WHAT COLOR IS REVOLUTION?**

FACILITATOR:

Paul Hubbard
Former President, New Detroit

SPEAKERS:

Sam Johnson
Student, Wayne State University

Larry Simmons
Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

Maureen Taylor
Michigan Welfare Rights Organization

THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

Is the robot in the factory our friend or enemy?

This is an era of revolutionary change. Electronic technology is replacing human labor with computers and robots. Human labor is becoming worthless to a system that values only what it can exploit. The economic revolution is turning millions of people in this country into economic refugees.

This system answers our cries of need with blows of terror. It offers unemployment, hunger homelessness, welfare cuts, the AIDS epidemic and the plague of drugs. The government is turning from neglect to attack — police murder and imprisonment of the youth, immigration raids, forced sterilization, executions and other forms of terror.

The millions this system has thrown out face two choices — either accept destruction and murder or set out to overturn this system. Technology is powerful enough to end hunger, homelessness and all want — but only if it is seized from the exploiters and organized in the interests of those this system has discarded. From the Program of the National Organizing Committee.

The main technological innovations of the 20th century have been closely connected to the auto industry. In the early part of the century Henry Ford began the modern assembly line and with it the Taylor system of discipline was imposed on the workers. Now, the auto plants are leading the way with robots and computers as in the new Jefferson and Pole Town assembly plants. The assembly line pulled workers into the factory while the computerized robots are throwing them into the street.

FACILITATOR:

Duane Cook
National Organizing Committee

SPEAKERS:

Clair McClinton
Auto Worker, Flint, MI

SPEAKERS:

Jerry Gillespie
EAP Rep UAW Local 160

Mike Hamlin
Occupational Health Counselor

Eric Mays
Chair, UAW Region IC Unemployment Coalition

THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN OUR FIGHT FOR LIBERATION

Can religion help get our jobs back, or does god only get relevant after we die?

The revolutionary meaning of any religion is the extent to which it contributes to people getting involved in the fight for freedom. God loves those who fight back. What is common to all religions is a morality that can unite the masses of people in their search for justice, respect, and decency. This means that we have to be clear that the greatest evil and wrong in the world is promoted by the greedy capitalists who are prepared to commit genocide against us to protect their system. Our religions must guide us into battle against our common enemies.

Our plan of action must include every major religious group because all of us are needed for this fight. This is a fight to free all victims of poverty and violence, especially those who are suffering from the added burden of racist terror.

How can the church help? Will the church make its witness in the street with the homeless and the hungry? What protest is the church making against the death penalty?

FACILITATOR:

Rev Archie Rich
Detroit Minister

SPEAKERS:

Rev Ed Rowe
Cass Methodist Church

Brenda Matthews
Chicago Organizing Committee

DIS-INFORMATION AND THE CONTROL OF OUR MINDS

Who controls the media and what difference does that make?

The public in virtually every country depends on the mass media to find out what is going on, from local events to international events. The media is usually owned and controlled by the giant corporations, and its programs (including the news) are "managed" to maintain the status quo. This is especially true about television, but equally applies to all forms of the mass media.

It is necessary to fight the mind control methods by actively informing ourselves using alternative sources like the *Peoples Tribune* newspaper on a national level (see the *Peoples Tribune* information table next to conference registration), and on the local level as well with local newspapers, talk radio, local cable tv stations, etc. Malcolm X contributed to this process when he founded *Muhammad Speaks* newspaper.

FACILITATOR:

Ron Scott
Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

SPEAKERS:

Daymon Hartley
Detroit Free Press

Leah Samuel
Freelance Journalist

David Rambeau
Project BAIT

Jim Ingram
Freelance Journalist

Susan Watson
Detroit Free Press

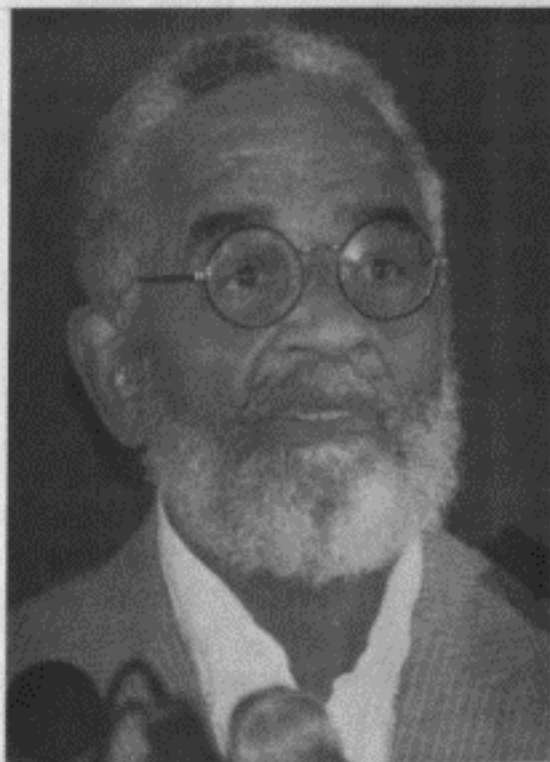
Conference Keynote

CHAIRPERSON: Marian Kramer

Chairperson, National Up and Out of Poverty Now
Chairperson, National Welfare Rights Union
Steering Committee, National Organizing Committee

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

The Spirit of Resistance and the Moral Necessity for Revolution



Nelson Peery

Chairperson, Political Committee
National Organizing Committee

Our Country is entering a political, moral, social, cultural and economic crisis. It is the final stage of the general crisis of capitalism.

Our task is clear. We must win the revolutionary sector of the class to the recognition of revolution. As throughout our history, the Black toilers are the key to the next step. They are in fact the sector most engaged in combat against the system. The question of the Black Belt nation, the oppression of the African Americans as a people, and the exploitation of the workers are inextricably bound together in the form of the modern Black worker.

The historic dialectic has played itself out. The synthesis is being formed amidst the flames in the streets. The decisive battle for the hearts and minds of the combatants has begun.

Forward, comrades, to the work that we must do.

BLACK LIBERATION AND THE ISSUE OF REPARATIONS

Why are we still fighting for our 40 acres and a mule?

The fight for freedom has always been a fight for the reallocation of wealth as well as the reorganization of society. The society had to be reorganized around new possibilities for social equality and improvements in quality of life. To accomplish this it has always been necessary to use the wealth "stolen" from the people who suffer as victims of poverty, and use it for positive ends.

After the end of the Civil War, Black people were promised economic freedom as farmers, but this promise was never realized. This would have been a form of reparations, meaning pay back for slavery. Since reparations is an accepted principle in international law, and since it has been used in other situations, Black people are still fighting for reparations.

African countries are fighting for reparations to escape the debt burden they suffer under. Nigeria has taken the lead to demand reparations on the international level. Congressman John Conyers from Detroit has introduced a bill into the House of Representatives to establish a commission to consider the possibility of reparations for African Americans before the 21st century.

FACILITATOR:

Melvin Evans
Malcolm X Conference Planning Committee

SPEAKERS:

Cindy Owens
Community Activist

Malik Shabazz
New Garvey Movement

Chris Austin
Detroit Reparations Activist

RECRUITING STUDENTS TO THE FIGHT FOR BLACK LIBERATION AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Is it possible to build a Black student movement in the 1990s?

Black students have always fought for an expansion of democratic rights in the area of education, and they have joined with their community in the fight for Black liberation. However, there is also the tendency for students to aspire to the middle class so much that they stop taking up the issues that face the victims of poverty and police terror.

Today students face rising tuitions and a shrinking job market. Even people with a PhD are finding it hard to get a good job. Under these conditions the fight of students has got to be relinked with the community, especially the victims of poverty. The general concern is to get jobs or livable incomes for everybody. And, as the economic polarization is forcing the ruling class to reject these proposals with more and more brutality, we have to build a movement with a revolutionary program.

FACILITATOR:

Ken Jones
Wayne State University

SPEAKERS:

Neal Anderson
Northeastern University (Boston)

Doris Payton
Michigan State University

Avonie Brown
University of Windsor

Chauncey Wyche
Oakland University

PATTERNS OF INJUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF POVERTY

Why are the police killing us?

Every two days for the last decade there has been at least one charge of excessive police force in the city of Detroit. The police are an army of control against the growing number of people forced to live in poverty. Police injustice has been against the Blacks, especially the youth, but is spreading to include everybody forced to live in poverty and hate the system. The police protect the system and not the people forced to suffer because of the system.

The Malice Green case is the clearest example of police abuse. But even being caught red handed in that case has not stopped the murderous cops. We must refuse to accept these death penalty sentences issued by the police without trials. We're facing the pains of a police state. Our only hope is to forge the victims of poverty and police injustice into a revolutionary movement to set up a new system for the people to govern themselves and disband the system that keeps them in poverty.

FACILITATOR:

Carl Edwards
Activist Lawyer

SPEAKERS:

Evelyn Richardson
Mothers Crusade Against Guns

Mary Johnson
Mother ROC (Chicago)

Akua Benjamin
Black Action Defense Committee (Toronto)

Sheila Cockrel
Activist Against STRESS

OUR FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL IN PUBLIC HOUSING,
AND AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

Why do we have to sleep on the streets or in shelters?

Housing is a fundamental social need in every society, especially a place like Detroit where people face the cold of winter and the constant threat of violence. As the factories have closed and/or replaced people with robots, workers are thrown onto the streets or forced to live in public housing projects. Public housing is fast becoming like minimum security prisons, with little funding to maintain a decent quality of life. But being in public housing is better than being on the street or in the shelter.

There are enough empty houses and apartments to take all of the homeless off the streets, but the system that feeds on profits refuses to let this happen. We have to organize a movement to take this housing if we can't get it any other way. We need housing to live and we have to get it by any means necessary. They can stop us if we do this one at a time, but if we mobilize we will out number their cops. There is no way they can stop us.

FACILITATOR:

Willie Baptist
National Organizing Committee (Philadelphia)

SPEAKERS:

Wyvette Linebarger
Cass United Homeless Drop In Center

Walter Johnson
Detroit/Wayne County Union of the Homeless

Ruth Williams
Preserve Low-Income Affordable Housing Now

Karen Shaumann
Washtenaw County Welfare Rights Organization

THE ORGANIZED EMPLOYED WORKERS AND THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL How can trade unions contribute to the fight for Black liberation?

The trade unions fight for the rights of their members, but the high points in their history is when they have joined with other forces and fought for a better society in general. The working class includes people who are unemployed, forced to accept starvation on limited welfare payments, and often forced into homelessness. The trade unions must not turn a cold shoulder to their brothers and sisters.

When you're working you're only a pay check away from welfare and the insecurity of losing health care benefits, etc. Therefore, when the trade unions take up the issues of poverty they are fighting to secure the future of their current and former members. People must live, with or without jobs. Trade unions must hold the corporations to a standard of public responsibility that covers all of the issues of quality of life, from income to health to the environment. Trade union members can contribute to the fight for Black liberation by becoming an activist army against racism and all forms of oppression and exploitation.

FACILITATOR:

Chuck Wooten
Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

SPEAKERS:

Al Lumpkin
Auto Worker, Louisville, KY

Fran Cleave
National Organizing Committee

Chris Austin
Veteran Auto Worker

Jimmy Settles
UAW Region IA Staff

AFRICAN LIBERATION IN THE EPOCH OF SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Can Africa survive military governments, AIDS, debt, and all of the other forms of barbarism of the 1990s?

The recent upsurge of democratic movements in Africa and the upsurge of interest in Africa by African American middle classes should not blind us from the fate of the African masses. Almost 1,000 Black elites from the USA went to the African country Gabon as hosts of its current military dictator. This included everyone from Jesse Jackson, to Louis Fahrenhan, to most civil rights leaders. The masses of Gabon suffer while these elements dream of dual citizenship.

Our connection to Africa is like our connection to each other here in this country. The critical question is who is building mass democratic forms of peoples organizations and leading the day to day fight against the continued rape and plunder of the continent. It is necessary that we build links that strengthen the fight against all forms of corruption and exploitation.

This is the meaning of Panafricanism in the 1990s, massive forces coordinating a common assault against world imperialism and all forms of national oppression and racist terror, class exploitation and male supremacy that attacks people on the African continent and the descendants of Africa throughout the world.

FACILITATOR:

Robert Norfolk
Panafrican Research & Documentation Project

SPEAKERS:

Leroy Mitchell
Veteran Panafricanist

Nana Kofi Otchere
The Asante Cultural Society

R.T. Orende
Editor *Whirlwind News*

CRISIS OF CAPITALISM AND THE SOCIAL CONTROL FUNCTION OF DRUGS

What is the bottom line meaning of the drug crisis—suicide or genocide?

The spread of world imperialism has always been made possible by the use of forms of drugs, from alcohol to opium, to heroin, to cocaine, including its current popular use as "crack." The masses of people who are the victims of poverty and police terror continue to be its greatest users, and this is by design.

The use of drugs involves a multi-billion dollar industry built on linking the exploitation of third world countries and the victims of poverty within advanced capitalist countries. Crops that produce drugs take the place of food in the third world, and the poor take drugs to ease their pain in countries of extreme wealth. No poor people gain much, and what they do is quickly get lost up in smoke.

The end of the drug crisis must involve aiming at the jugular vein of the system, at the corporate investors and managers of this multi-billion dollar industry. Of course we have to fight in our neighborhoods for adequate health care and social forms of rehabilitation. The experience of China is a world of lessons for all to see, both how after 1949 they ended the drug crisis, and about after the fall of Mao how it has returned.

FACILITATOR:

Mike Hamlin
Former League of Revolutionary
Black Workers Member

SPEAKERS:

William Robinson
Drug Counselor

Darnell Dixon
Detroit/Wayne County Union of the Homeless

George Gaines
Retired Asst Dir Detroit Health Dept

Michael London
Anti Drug Abuse Activist

DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE YOUTH OF BELGIUM, CANADA AND THE USA

What do the youth around the world have in common?

The youth of every country are definitions of the future. As the economic crisis deepens, and social degeneration begins to spread, the youth are the first and most severely impacted part of the population. And, they know it. First from the USA, and now everywhere in the world, the cultural expression of rap music and hip hop culture is spreading as a generational political culture of resistance. The youth of the world are being united in this way.

This is also true with the current upsurge of interest in Malcolm X. The youth of the world know the revolutionary signification of the mighty "X." Malcolm X is a revolutionary that belongs to the youth of the world.

We are pleased that at our conference there will be young people from Belgium and Canada to join with youth from the U.S. to have a dialogue about common problems and to explore common solutions. The fight for the future must involve the youth, in their millions, and among the leadership as well.

FACILITATOR:

Pat Zamora
National Organizing Committee

SPEAKERS:

Jesus Guerra
Casablanca (Chicago)

You. from Belgium

James Zuberi
Umoja Young Peoples Collective (Toronto)

Carl Ankrum
Youth Editorial Team *Peoples Tribune*
The Healing Generation

A SPEAK OUT ON THE MALCOLM X FILM

Did Spike Lee do the right thing?

The main focal point of the current upsurge of interest in Malcolm X is the film by Spike Lee. The film has been the center of several points of controversy. What are the main features of the life of Malcolm X? What is the significance of his religious beliefs? What is the significance of his political beliefs? What was the significance of the last year of his life? Was Malcolm X a revolutionary?

These are some of the main questions that we need to continue discussing. The film was not the last word, although it is influencing a large number of people. More people need to read what Malcolm X had to say, and then formulate their own ideas about what Malcolm X was all about. Malcolm X was clear in his teaching that everyone had to consider the facts and make up their own mind after thought and discussion. The purpose of this workshop is for people to speak their mind and clarify the issues.

FACILITATOR:

Ron Scott
Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

SPEAKERS:

Open Mike

YOUTH, VIOLENCE, AND OUR FUTURE

Why are we killing ourselves?

The system works best when the victims take out their anger and frustration on each other. The system makes people act out forms of violence against themselves, so that poverty includes a life of fear. The greatest victims of this are the youth, and they too are the ones who carry it out. The greatest cause of death for young Black men is homicide (murder) and the ones doing it are other Black males. The system is at fault, but we have to accept some responsibility as well. **WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?**

In some cities there is a gang truce movement to get the youth to stop killing themselves. In most cities we need to build revolutionary movement so that the youth can learn who is responsible for this poverty, and who they need to aim their anger towards. We have to answer the terror of the system with mass mobilization. The rap artists must become pied pipers who draw the youth into the streets in a massive movement of militant revolutionary struggle. **NOW IS THE TIME!**

FACILITATOR:

Russell Jackson
Youth Worker

SPEAKERS:

Gial Fahoome
National Organizing Committee

Herbert Kennedy
SOSAD

Ayo Hunter
Kabaz (Black Jewels) Inc.

Ajamu Bandeli
Caring and Sharing Network

OUR FIGHT AGAINST WELFARE CUT BACKS AND INCREASED HUNGER

Why are our children hungry and our families at risk?

It is clear that this society is being polarized into two opposite parts, a small sector of the population who enjoy the benefits of capitalism and the vast majority who are suffering the pain of poverty and injustice. On top of this, Clinton is leading the way toward the criminalization of people forced to live on welfare. Moreover, even though this country produces enough food for most people in the world, hunger is on the rise in the USA, especially for the children.

We need a government that will provide every adult with a decent job and/or an income one can live on. There is enough wealth in this society to do this, but we cant because it is run on the basis of greed and selfishness. We need a militant movement to get **UP AND OUT OF POVERTY NOW!** We need to build the **NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS UNION!** We have to fight for our very survival!

FACILITATOR:

Diane Bernard
National Organizing Committee
Michigan Up and Out of Poverty Now

SPEAKERS:

Sandra Henry
Hunger Action Coalition

Richard Trice
Operation Get Down, Nia House

Tanya Dukes
Washtenaw County Welfare Rights Organization

Njeri Alghance
Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger

THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE U.S.

Why are we sick? Is it the fault of government, business, the doctors, or ourselves?

When you read the statistics on the health of Black people in cities like Detroit you are examining people who live like poor people in Latin America or Africa. The rulers of this society want us to think that we are the cause of our own problems, that we make ourselves sick. We know different: who removes regulations and allows pollution and a toxic environment? who sells poisoned food? who practices medicine for profit and not health care? We know whose fault it is that in the richest country poor people have health like other poor people in the poorest country's in the world.

Clinton is running more con game than anybody up and down Woodward Ave. He is telling us that a universal health care system is about to be put into action. Why is he so late in announcing this plan? There are about 40 million people without any health care, and the public health system is so weak that old and new dangers are on the rise, from TB to AIDS. The mega-businesses of the HMO and insurance giants have to be fought, including their agents in the White House. We have to fight for our lives by pointing our fingers, calling names, and kicking some ass!

FACILITATOR:

Theresa Scott
Southern Region Up and Out of Poverty Now (Atlanta)

SPEAKERS:

Rita Valenti
Former State Representative (Georgia)

Akua Budu Watkins
National Black Womens Health Project

Dr. Ocei
Practitioner of Traditional Medicine

THE FIGHT AGAINST TRIPLE OPPRESSION:
NATIONALITY, GENDER AND CLASS

Why do we need a Black women's movement? Or, do we?

Women have always been a great strength of our community, schools, churches, and movement organizations. But, women have also had to suffer everything men have had to suffer, and male supremacy as well. It is only natural that women would use their organizational and political skills to build a special movement to deal with the special problems faced by women. In the context of the new stage of economic crisis the Black woman's movement is reflecting new class forces.

The main center of gravity of the Black women's movement is in the fight for survival by Black women who make up the vital sector of the victims of poverty and injustice. The National Welfare Rights Union is mainly women. Mother ROC (Reclaiming Our Children) is women leading the fight against police violence and injustice in the courts and prisons.

FACILITATOR:

Dena Guice
National Organizing Committee

SPEAKERS:

Edna Watson
Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

Aretha Hudson
Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

Dorothy Dewberry
Former Detroit SNCC Leader

THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN THE REVOLUTION

Can we wage our struggle without music and art among our weapons?

There is no more important aspect of our fight for freedom than the cultural life of the people. Culture is the concentration of a peoples experience into forms of expression that capture their emotions, values, and life style. Some cultural expression captures how we are victimized, and some of it captures how we become heroes when we fight back and resist the evil we face. **WE NEED SONGS THAT CAPTURE OUR SORROW, AND WE NEED SONGS THAT CALL US TO WAR.**

The public expression of art as a political act is the main guideline for cultural workers. The most recent motion is the spread of revolutionary shrines for the martyrs of our fight for survival and justice that began with Malice Green. We need more artists making public murals that educate our people and motivate them to fight. We need to defeat silence, passivity, and cynicism, by developing new forms of cultural expression, activism and optimism. This is an SOS for all cultural workers to come forward NOW!

FACILITATOR:

Marshall Williams

Former League of Revolutionary Black Workers Member

SPEAKERS:

Norman Richmond

African Liberation Month Coalition (Toronto)

Donald Wardon

Musician

Jeff Henry

Coalition to Stop Show Boat (Toronto)

Doshema Tardzer

Student Artist from Nigeria

A Time to Plan for Action

CHAIRPERSON:

Millie Ankrum

Chicago-Northeast Indiana Co-Chair National Organizing Committee

SPEAKERS:

General Baker

Founding Member League of Revolutionary Black Workers
National Chairperson National Organizing Committee***The Lessons of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers for the Revolutionary Fight We Face Today***

Abdul Alkalimat

Chairperson International Malcolm X Conference Committees
International Secretary National Organizing Committee***On Why the Road from Malcolm X Leads to the National Organizing Committee***

SUMMATIONS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Where do we go from here? Chaos or Community? Ballot or Bullet?

CHAIRPERSON: Jerome Scott
Project South (Atlanta)

LIBATION: Nana Kofi Otchere
Ashanti Cultural Society

SPEAKERS: Jitu Sadiki
National Organizing Committee
Gang Truce Activist (Los Angeles)

Yunnus Collins
Activist Against Police Terror (Detroit)

Brenda Matthews
Chicago Organizing Committee

Willie Baptist
National Organizing Committee
Survival Movement Activist (Philadelphia)



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TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

ON THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK WORKERS

National Organizing Committee Program

This program was unanimously adopted by the National Organizing Committee founding convention in Chicago on April 24, 1993.

This is an era of revolutionary change. Electronic technology is replacing human labor with computers and robots. Human labor is becoming worthless to a system that values only what it can exploit. The economic revolution is turning millions of people in this country into economic refugees.

This system answers our cries of need with blows of terror. It offers unemployment, hunger, homelessness, welfare cuts, the AIDS epidemic and the plague of drugs. The government is turning from neglect to attack — police murder and imprisonment of the youth, immigration raids, forced sterilization, executions and other forms of terror.

The millions this system has thrown out face two choices — either accept destruction and murder or set out to overturn this system. Technology is powerful enough to end hunger, homelessness and all want — but only if it is seized from the exploiters and organized in the interests of those this system has discarded.

We are an organization based on the people this system doesn't need. Those this system has discarded have begun a revolution — an all-out struggle for food, homes, jobs, education, health care, freedom from police terror and drugs. Now is the time to organize and politicize this revolution that is shaking up the country.

A Program of Action and Education

We will get only what we are organized to take. Our program is based on the revolutionary potential of those who have to fight this system in order to live. The decisive step today is to broaden and intensify the activities and influence of that movement. Based on this movement for survival, we will educate and organize revolutionary fighters from all sectors of society to wage war on the capitalist system.

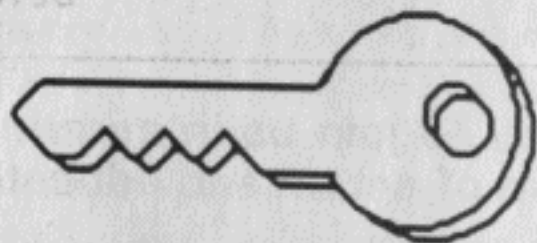
We call on you to join us in carrying out this program of action and education.

Our program is to end poverty by seizing abandoned housing and fighting to secure food, health care and whatever else we need to survive. Our program is to put an end to the state terror by confronting the government through mass mobilization — in the courts and in the streets.

This organized action makes it possible for the millions who are being displaced, discarded and attacked by capitalism to be prepared, organized and trained to lead in overturning the whole system. Our program is to educate the millions of fighters with a blueprint of what we are all fighting for and how society can be reorganized to put an end to poverty and injustice once and for all.

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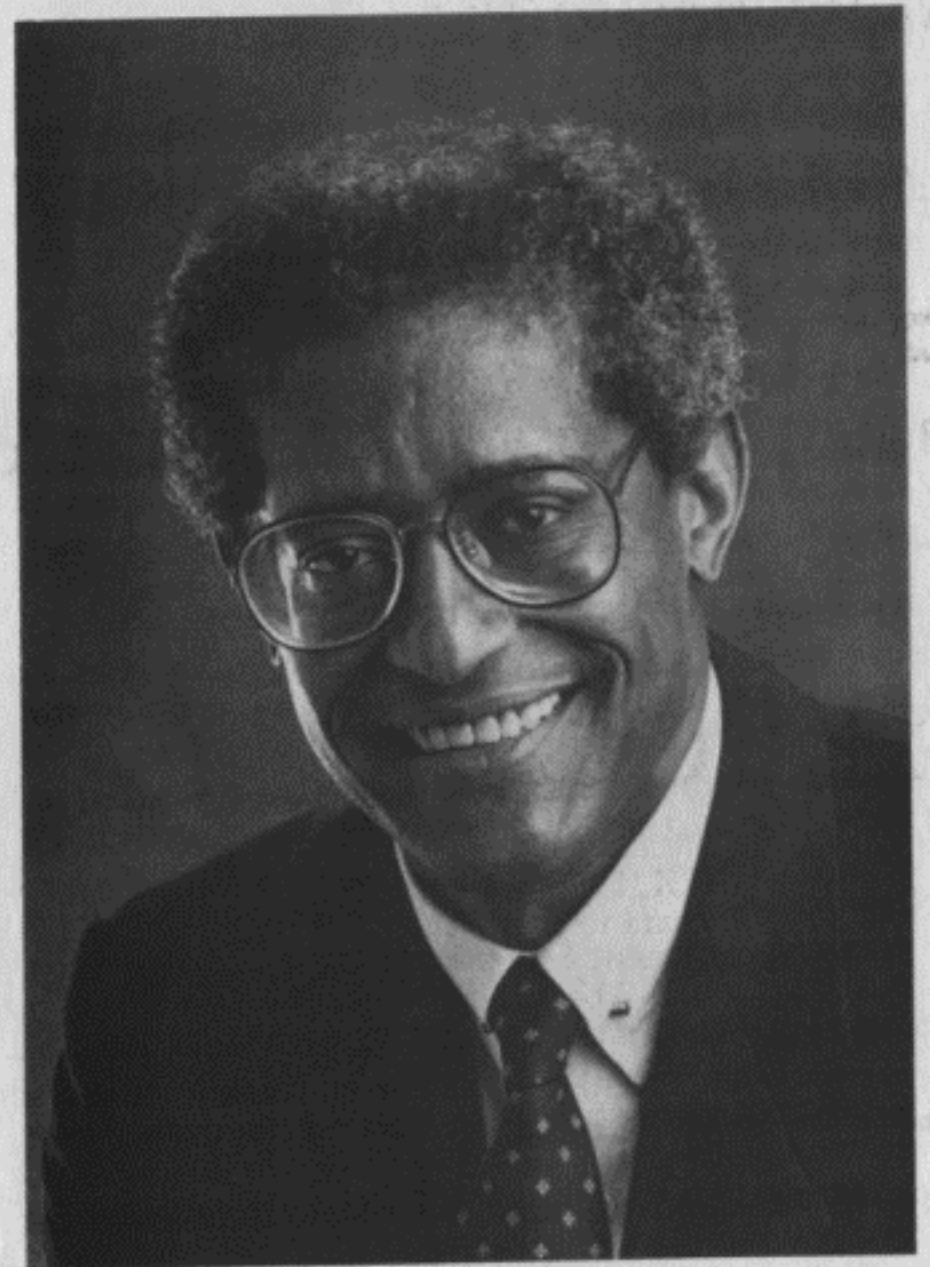
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Conference Evaluation Form

Now is the time to act. The National Organizing Committee calls upon everyone who wants to carry out this draft program (see pages 32-33) to join us in building local organizing committees to build an organization around this program.

Our task is not to be a debating society, but to be a coordinating body of active revolutionary leaders firmly rooted in militant mass forms of struggle. We intend to combine all of our efforts into one common effort, to unite our many specific demands around a general program for revolutionary change.

We need you to join us in organizing committees in every city and rural community, on every battle front, to assist in spelling out how this draft program can be carried out.

General Baker, Chair

CONTACT THE NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
POST OFFICE BOX 477113 • CHICAGO, IL 60647

OR

NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE - DETROIT
10 WEST GRAND • HIGHLAND PARK, MI 48203

CIRCLE ONE # FOR EACH TOPIC

	VERY GOOD				VERY BAD	NO OPINION
1. Conference Theme	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Opening Plenary, Friday PM	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Workshop Topics	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Workshop # _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Workshop # _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Workshop # _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Keynote Address, Saturday AM	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Plenary, Saturday PM	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Plenary, Sunday PM	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. General Attendance	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Level of Discussion	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Location	1	2	3	4	5	6
13. Registration Fee	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. Meeting People	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Videos and Films	1	2	3	4	5	6

We need your input, please take the time to complete both sides of this form.

Conference Evaluation Form

1. What was the best part of the conference?
2. What could have been better?
3. What theme or topic should we choose for our next conference?
4. What political action should be planned based on the conference?
Be specific — What is the issue? What should we do? Why? When?

Fill out if you want to join the struggle.

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We need your input, please take the time to complete both sides of this form.